

August Activity

Max had located some *Watsonia meriana* along the closed track of Orchid Rd extension and part of the group tackled these. Along the track itself the ground was very wet and soft so the bulbs were relatively easy to exhume but beside, where the ground was firmer, they took some work to get out. I also trimmed some and dabbed them with herbicide in an experiment to see if that would have any effect.

At the end of all this we checked the gully going in to the reserve and unfortunately found a large stand growing in deep silt. These would take a lot of work to dig out so I asked for advice and Roger Shaw from Forest to Foreshore, who currently do contract weed control in the reserve, had the following two options (direct quote):

1. Brushoff/Pulse @ 0.5g Brushoff + 20ml Pulse/10lt water. Reasonably selective, best go to in most situations where infestations are dense/large. Time effective. Issues with Brushoff can be persistence in soil to varying degrees and as it can control bulbous/tuberous species, can be an issue for orchids and lilies etc. potential for off target.
2. Glyphosate/Pulse @ 100ml Glyphosate +20ml Pulse/10lt. Non selective, only for use in degraded areas, but far less mobile and persistent in soil so has that advantage.

You need to dab/wipe both sides of each and every leaf on the plant. Wear some good gloves and be thorough and methodical with the process. Time consuming, but it works! Is great in sensitive areas (we use this technique a lot). Especially good in areas where there is quite a lot of Bulbil *Watsonia*, but it's scattered. Just make sure you get a good dab of herbicide each time you press against the leaf. We have done this only 2-3 weeks ago along a section of Courtneys Rd. We have done lots of this combined with spraying in many areas including Locks Way, Belgrave South. It's very effective, less disturbance than trying to dig them out and done right can be very sensitive too. No drama for the orchids etc (unless you dab them!)



Unknown Wattle

This wattle was flowering inside the Orchid Rd/Car Park Loop on 27th August and I am not familiar with it. Is it perhaps a natural hybrid of local species or escaped as seed from a nearby property?



September Activity

During the September meeting we weeded the Freesias in the south of the reserve. The ones outside the fence had been slashed the day before by Forest to Foreshore so they wouldn't set any seed this year. These are not on the species list for the reserve so may not have been present when Graeme Lorimer developed these 15 years ago.

A weed that is on the list is the ubiquitous onion-grass *Romulea rosea*. It is very common and widespread in southern Australia.



Romulea rosea

Coming Up for 2016

Date & Time	Activity
Sat 22 October 9:00AM 10:30AM	Regular working bee. We will be treating the watsonia in the gully with our dabbers (Glyphosate is the herbicide in Roundup). This chemical is now considered a likely carcinogen so be sure to bring suitable gloves. We will hopefully be finished by 10:30AM to meet Ian Kitchen & Robin Drury from the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria who we will help set up some cameras in the reserve (using their permit). We may split into 2 groups.
Sat 26 Novemb 9:00AM	Final working bee of the year.