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<https://www.wallagalakeheightscare.com/>

**14 September 2021**

Dear Wallaga Heights Landcare members,

As we launch into another year and a second grant, it is important to look back and see how much we have learned over the last 18 months. We've done some great work, and that's been recognised by Far South Coast Landcare and BVSC. Both have asked for photos of our work to use in their publicity material.

One thing that's come up is that this time around, the council and Landcare have been more specific about using plants that are locally sourced, indigenous plants and our methods of work. We have to collaborate with them on plant lists and use of herbicides. The aim of council, Landcare and Wallaga Heights Land Care group is to create a reserve that has an indigenous, biodiverse environment, protecting our foreshore and encouraging local flora and fauna to flourish. Using bush regeneration methods we continue to weed and foster the good native vegetation.

If you are unsure of a plant, Rebecca is used as the local member for identification when required. Please do not remove any plants unless you are really sure it is a weed. Also we can't spray herbicides in the Reserve, this needs to be done by contractors. However we do have small bottles of full strength, herbicide (dyed red for safety) for cutting / scraping and pasting for use on weeds such as lantana, olive and ipomoea. These are kept in the black box at Libby's.

Moving forward, only locally grown indigenous plants approved are to be planted on the reserve. We know some of the species we have planted in the reserve are not indigenous and may have to be removed if they threaten to become a weed or overpowering. We have money in our grant to purchase plants and a large number of tube stock plants are kept at Libby's. You can ask Roz or Libby if you would like some for planting and, if we don't know the best plants for that area, we will find out. Rebecca or Alison are our go to people.

Here's a planting method we've found works really well:

Planting around rain has a better outcome;

Dig a small hole, fill with the water crystals made into gel (also at Libby's, directions on packet);

Push tube stock in with fertiliser pellet on top;

Put tree guard up, water in well.

We will continue working on the web site <https://www.wallagalakeheightscare.com/> where the information on weeds and plants is kept.

Please do keep a record of your hours worked outside of Wednesday's sessions and give this to Bill. Please take before and after shots from the same position for the next grant report.

Our reserve is looking great and with your help we can keep it that way! Caring for the planet strengthens us all.

Thanks for all your hard work,

Yours sincerely,

**Heights Care steering group**

Roz Bannon

Libby Bolton

Peter Campbell

Alison Kuitert

Doug Mein

Bill Southwood