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Wallaga Lake Heights community newsletter 18, 6 September 2021

Details of Heights Care's second BVSC Environmental grant

As announced in last month's newsletter, we're delighted to have been awarded a second grant from the Council. The \$4,450 was more than we received last year and covers more of what we did in the last year:

- Community consultation;
- Getting rid of weeds;
- Planting of flora indigenous to Wallaga Lake;
- Habitat restoration and fire hazard reduction

We also plan two new activities:

- A survey of fauna to complement our monthly bird surveys; and
- An estuary health workshop.

As previously, we will be 'auspiced' by Far South Coast Landcare, who have provided invaluable support throughout the year.

The details are set out in the table below:

Project Stage & Date	Activities / Resources
Community consultation	Consult with Wallaga Lake Heights community and other stakeholders (inc. BVSC/ FSCLA). Communication with broader community groups to promote the project,
Prevention, eradication and containment of invasive weed species.	Prevent, eradicate and contain identified weeds at weekly sessions, by volunteers.
	Machine removal and mulching of large stands of cotoneaster by a commercial arborist (estimated cost).
	Tools, protective equipment, brushing poison.
Replacement plantings	Plant acquisition, planting, maintenance, monitoring. Buy native plants and seeds. Plant guards and stakes.
Estuary Health Workshop by December 2021	Estuary Health training workshop by local and national experts (estimated cost). Implement workshop recommendations.
Fauna Survey and habitat improvement planning. By February 2022	Develop and implement a quarterly fauna survey of the project area. Includes buying in fauna survey advice.
Habitat restoration/erosion control and fire hazard reduction.	Bring dead fallen trees to the ground using a chainsaw.
Administration - by March 2022	Recording by group of work done, and reporting.

Visit by Far South Coast Landcare on 4 August

Jess Bettanin, the newly appointed Local Landcare Coordinator, and Jean Bentley from the Landcare office came along to our Wednesday working bee. They were joined by arborist Jens Birchall who had previously led a workshop with the Heights Care group. All seemed well impressed with progress, and had useful advice on many subjects. We will be sending out guidance on planting and weeding separately to our Landcare members. Even more positively Jens' services will be available for practical assistance and advice during the year.

Path to Murunna Point

The council has advised that they are looking into the washaway near the shelter. They are also aware that recent wave action has damaged the path just beyond the bridge by the carpark.

Getting rid of dead timber

Last year we had a fire to get rid of an enormous amount of Elephant Grass, dead timber and other weed material. We're planning another one in September and are in discussion with the Bermagui Rural Fire Brigade over obtaining a fire permit and understanding how best to monitor the fire under COVID restrictions.

WeedWork! How to recognise and deal with the pests

The Landcare group has been diligently identifying and getting rid of weeds along the foreshore. It's satisfying work, but frustrating when they re-grow! Everyone can help, pulling up and disposing of weeds as long as you can a) recognise them, and b) know what to do with them. To help, newsletters will now have a **WeedWork!** Feature.



Turkey Rhubarb with immature seed heads – an ideal weed to tackle in early spring

Turkey rhubarb can be targeted most of the year, but in Spring it really gets rambling and produces huge flower heads.

You can make a big difference by pulling young plants and, in the case of older plants, plucking the new tendrils and seed heads. This photo is of a flower head that has just set seed.... at this stage the seed heads might not need bagging and disposing, but once the seeds start to turn a reddish colour they should be bagged and removed.

The plant has a big tap root, like a turnip and can be levered out with a large flat head screwdriver or something similar that but remember every tuber you get out may leave another one behind. Pulling them up is a better bet – it's very satisfying and you eventually get the upper hand.

Best wishes, Heights Care steering group,

Roz Bannon

Libby Bolton

Peter Campbell

Ivana Gattegno (alternate for Libby)

Alison Kuitert

Doug Mein

Bill Southwood