

HFNC Weed Control Report for Nigretta Falls Scenic Reserve 2021

Rod Bird

African Weed Orchid (AWO)

Disa bracteata is a serious environmental pest and was found on this Reserve in 2009. Work by members of HFNC to control it and other weeds has continued annually in Spring.

The history of attempts to control this pest plant and some others on this reserve has been given in previous reports. A tally of plants removed in each year is given at the bottom of the page.

Roger Thompson has attacked this pest plant on 4 occasions across the site in 2021:

- 07 Oct. – dug 92 AWO (2 hr)
- 21 Oct. – wiped 80 AWO (1.5 hr)
- 08 Nov – dug 38 AWO (1.25 hr)
- 24 Nov – dug 90 AWO, many very small (3 hr)

2021 was a relatively poor year for the AWO, with only 300 plants found.

Ixia maculata

The masses of *Ixia*, some flowering, on the rocks at the lookout above the edge of the falls that were spot-sprayed with glyphosate on 16 October in 2020 seem to have been killed, except for some at a lower level of the rocky slope. In 2020 we took care to avoid the natives, such as Red Parrot-pea (*Dillwynia hispida*) and New Holland Daisy (*Vittadinia cuneata*) and these species are still present. Herbicide-wiping will be the best method of control of *Ixia* now that the numbers of this invasive garden plant has been reduced.

Acacia paradoxa

Marten Chin (Southern Grampians Shire) has tackled this growing problem and has cut out most of the shrubs in the reserve. We will have to assist with the on-going removal of new germinants each year.

Vinca major

Marten has also sprayed this weed, one that HFNC tackled over a number of years. He is well aware of the ability of this weed to persist.

A summary of works to control AWO on this reserve since 2009 is given below:

- 2021 – 300 AWO dug or wiped (7.75 hrs)
- 2020 – 1004 AWO dug or wiped (15.1 hrs) and clumps of *Ixia* spot-sprayed (0.3 hr)
- 2019 – 806 AWO dug or wiped (10.2 hrs)
- 2018 – 725 AWO dug or wiped (approx. 9 hrs)
- 2017 – 603 AWO dug (22.5 hr)
- 2016 – 1618 AWO dug (20.7 hr), incl. 244 in early Jan. 2017
- 2015 – 276 AWO dug (5 hr)
- 2014 – 787 AWO dug and 15 plants pulled (15 hrs) – 38 of those were dug in Feb 2015
- 2013 – 230 AWO dug (2 hr)
- 2012 – 70 AWO, 220 Wild Gladiolus, 50 Grevillea and dozens of *Ixia* pulled (2.3 hrs)
- 2011 – 50 AWO dug and 12 Grevillea plants pulled (4 hr)
- 2010 – 180 AWO dug; 615 AWO, 450 Wild Gladiolus, 70 *Ixia* & 87 Grevillea pulled (12 hr)
- 2009 – 217 AWO dug and 104 AWO and 10 *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* pulled (6 hrs)