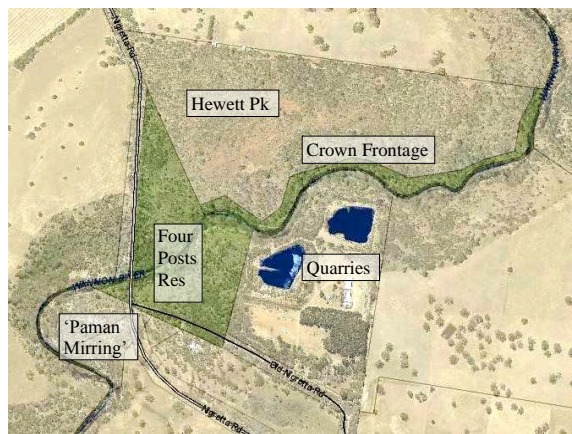


HFNC weed control report for Four Posts Streamside Reserve 2023

Peter Hocking & Rod Bird

The Four Posts Streamside Reserve is situated immediately upstream from the Four Posts Bridge on Nigretta Rd. There is a triangular shaped block on the north bank, adjacent to the road reserve and Hewett Park (SGSC – an old quarry site stripped of gravel by the former Hamilton City Council) and a block on the south bank upstream to two now disused rhyolite quarries (the rhyolite was derived from volcanic acid lava eruptions some 405 ma).



The current list of native vascular flora species is 133. Information on the flora of this reserve may be found in the 2020 report.

Pterostylis plumosa (Bearded Greenhood) was found on the Nth Block of the reserve in Oct. 2019. They flowered again in 2020, 2021 and 2022, but not in 2023.

Caladenia parva (Small Spider-orchid) were found in Oct. 2020 on the Sth block. In Oct. 2022 the orchids were in flower at 3 sites there. There were 10 orchids bearing 2 flowers and about 20 orchids with single flowers. The orchids were not seen to flower in 2023.

Weed Control Activities in 2023 by PH.

9 Oct, Sth Block – 122 AWO wiped (2 hr)
23 Oct, Sth Block – 82 AWO wiped (1.75 hr)
17 Oct, Nth Block – 156 AWO wiped (2.2 hr)
30 Oct, Sth Block – 77 AWO wiped (2 hr)

Summary of works to control AWOs on the Four Posts Streamside Reserve since 2015:

- 2023 – 204 AWO wiped on Sth side and 233 on Nth side = 437 total (8 hr)
- 2022 – 928 AWO wiped on Sth side and 519 wiped on Nth side = 1447
- 2021 – 310 AWO wiped on Sth side and 233 wiped on Nth side = 543
- 2020 – 840 AWO wiped & 400 dug on Sth side, 540 wiped & 60 pulled on Nth side = 1839
- 2019 – 416 AWO wiped on south side, 535 wiped on north side = 951
- 2018 – 67 AWO (29 wiped & 38 dug) on south side, 624 wiped on north side = 691
- 2017 – 199 AWO wiped or dug on south side, 478 wiped or dug on north side, = 677
- 2016 – 1648 AWO dug on north side, incl. part of Hewett Park = 1648
- 2015 – AWO dug but numbers not recorded

The numbers of AWO seen this year at the Four Posts reserve are a little lower than in all 7 previous years but not substantially so, unlike the situation at Nigretta Flora Reserve. The difference between sites may arise from the situation where at least 3 volunteers scan for AWO at Nigretta but only one person at Four Posts. A lone operator, no matter how diligent, always misses some AWO and that allows more seed to carry over to the next year, producing more AWO.