

Wildcare Friends of the Henty Annual General Meeting 2022

Date: 16/07/2022

Time: 6pm

Location: 17 Jack Street, Strahan

Meeting opened 6:20pm

Agenda:

1. Attendance and Acceptance of Previous Minutes

Acknowledgement of Country: timkarik - name for area north of Macquarie Harbour

Attendants:

Luke Cooper

Harriet Brinkhoff

Dianne Coon

Lisa Williams

Scott Green

Beth Millard

Dan Parkhurst

Banjo Barky McBarkface

Apologies:

Sybil Robertson

Jethro Robertson

Acceptance of previous minutes:

Moved by Dianne

Seconded by Lisa

2. Update on current projects (Luke)
 - a. Ocean Beach Trail (See Figure 1 and 2)

Since our last meeting we have removed about 8000 Montpellier Broom plants from along the Ocean Beach Trail - see before and after maps. There are lots of regrowth small broom plants, but these are likely to end up being shaded out. Broom takes two years to produce seed, so we can probably wait for lots of them to die before going back in. There are lupin seedlings popping up along the track, this is something to keep an eye on. Thanks to everyone for your help with this project.

b. Henty Backwater (See Figure 3)

There is quite a range of invasive plants in the area. We have done one day of work weeding mostly large gorse plants along the side of the lagoon. Parks have also sprayed large gorse and blackberry plants in the area. The area will need continual monitoring to stay on top of. Parks generally do spraying there every year but got a bit behind over the last couple of years due to covid. Interesting history of the riverside area being used for tourist picnics during the 1920s - 1940s, connected to railway sidings Koyule and Malana. The property at Koyule predates Strahan. We also did a kayak survey both upstream and downstream of the bridge. There are plenty of established New Zealand flax and pampas grass plants downstream, alongside big radiata pines. Upstream isn't too bad, but there is some blackberry and holly, mostly on the edge of the private block.

c. Henty Dunes Lupines (See Figure 4)

Lupines were first recorded in the Henty dunes in the 1960s. There are about 2000 mature lupines in one section, and several hundred smaller plants nearby (see figure 4). Lupines are not a declared weed. They are choking out the coastal acacias and other native plants. It is also worth keeping an eye on the *Eucalyptus viminalis* (superspecies *Hentyensis*?) in the area. This could be a potential future project if we get a grant and/or an increase in people power.

d. Sea spurge

Biocontrol is still being trialed in a number of sites around Tasmania. There is potential for us to do a community led release here after the trial has been completed.

3. Financial Update (Luke)

We received a grant of 387.24 from the Wildcare Tasmanian Nature and Conservation Fund to purchase tools for FROTH. Of this we have spent 346.20 on loppers, gloves, welding gloves, hi-vis vests and secateurs. The remaining 41.04 was budgeted for purchasing mobile mapping

software however this has not yet been done. We also received 180 from Landcare Tasmania as part of their LAP grants that all member groups receive. 27.27 of this was used to pay for our groups Landcare Tas Membership fee. As of today, Friends of the Henty has 193.77. Businesses in town such as cruise companies and fish farms are very possibly a source of community grants if we need them for any future projects.

4. News about the future of the group (Luke and Harriet)

Luke and Harriet are not going to be living in Strahan anymore, as of September. We are thinking of changing the nature of the group to run annual or biannual weekend events, as opposed to regular or semi regular working bees. We would love to have someone living in Strahan on the committee, and to increase local membership.

5. Nominations and Elections of President, Secretary and Treasurer

President: Dianne nominates Luke, Scott seconds this.

Secretary: Luke nominates Harriet, Lisa seconds this.

Treasurer/Vice President/Strahan Liaison: Harriet nominates Dianne, Lisa seconds this.

6. Renewing Volunteer Program Plan (Luke)

We need to renew this to include multi day activities. We also need to renew it anyway because the plan was for one year. Dan says this should be fairly easy to update. Luke will update our plan, then send it to Parks (Jenna) for approval. Jenna is keen to come down at some point to meet everyone, she is the volunteer coordinator for the North West region. Jenna has also said that there is potential for volunteers to have First Aid, ChemCert. and chainsaw courses paid for by parks. More info to come from Dan.

7. Planning dates for future working bees (Luke)

We would like to have two working bees between now and mid September when Luke and Harriet will be moving away. Agreed on:

- Wednesday 10th August at 9am on the Ocean Beach Track - sign installation
- Wednesday 7th September 9am on either Ocean Beach track or Henty dunes

We also want to decide on dates for the first couple of our weekend events. March/April and September/October are good times considering weather, snakes and flowering times.

- April 1st and 2nd 2023
- September 16th and 17th 2023

8. Grant for signage at the Ocean Beach Trail (Luke)

Within the next year or two we would like to apply for a grant to install signage along the Ocean Beach Trail about Friends of the Henty and flora/fauna of the area. It would be great to get any indigenous naming/info onto the signs. They could also include information about coastal erosion along Ocean Beach. Dianne is happy to help with this project. There is the possibility of a link to a website using a QR code on the signs. We do need to make sure any new signs fit in with the signs made by Active Strahan, which feature the West Coast branding. The content of Active Strahan's signs was done by Fiona Rice, so it might be good to involve her with the development of any new signs.

9. Parks Update from Dan

Some background information is that Active Strahan applied for grants to establish the Ocean Beach Trail (on Parks land) without the knowledge of Parks, so there is some existing tension. The outcome was that Parks want it to be maintained by the community. Active Strahan wanted to give excess grant money to Parks for maintenance of the track, which Parks declined. Active Strahan seems to be completely dormant now.

The signage developed by Active Strahan does exist and is currently in the Parks shed. These signs are about the history relating to a horse that used to take itself for walks along the trail to the beach. These would be fairly easy to install and the installation work has already been approved. There is also an old wharf pylon belonging to Kevin Bailey with plans to put it at the beach end of the track with a wrap around sign about a number of things including sea spurge and keeping the area clean.

Dan said parks should be able to supply the concrete required for the installation. Kevin Bailey is also likely to still be happy for the installation of the wharf pylon to go ahead. Dan to follow up on this, and also to take photos of the existing signs to email to the rest of us. Dianne is going to talk to Richard Morgan (Active Strahan Chairperson) about installing these signs belonging to Active Strahan.

Strahan/Queenstown Parks staff has gone from 11 to 8 to 4. They are getting two new employees within the next couple of months.

Parks do have several backpack sprayers, a 150L spray unit and handheld dabbers, so there are plenty of resources for weed poisoning. The Henty backwater area is not really at the top of Parks' priority list, they are more focused on spots along the Lyell highway in the Franklin Gordon National Park. State growth is responsible for the strip along the road. Parks have a

\$10,000 annual budget for weed management in the area, but staff shortages make it difficult to get much done.

Someone has cut down some blackwoods in the Ocean Beach Trail car park, Parks have installed some bollards to try to stop this.

Meeting closed 8:50pm



Figure 1: Survey of Montpellier Broom as of the Last Working Bee (April). Blue marks small plants, yellow marks medium sized plants, red marks large plants. Yellow marker marks a single large cabbage tree. Red line marks sea spurge.



Figure 2: Survey of Montpellier Broom Prior to Weeding.

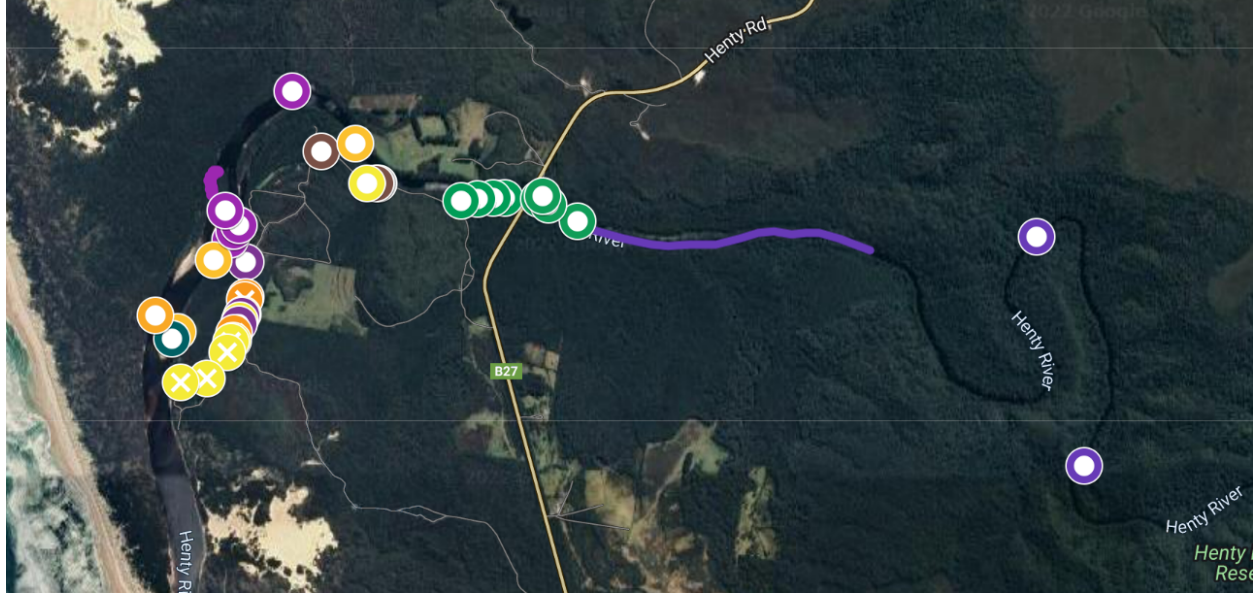


Figure 3: Weeds along the Henty River. Each colour marks a different species. X's mark where we have weeded. O's mark where we have yet to weed. Dark purple=blackberry, green=holly, dark orange=montpellier broom, yellow=gorse, brown=thistles, light purple= pampas grass, light orange=NZ flax.



Figure 4: Lupines at Henty Dunes. Each Red dot marks patches of 1 to 100 mature lupines. Red line marks approx 2000 mature lupines. Green lines mark current lupine-free boundaries.