



THIS ISSUE

What's happening on the PCT – lots in fact!

foxgloves

Photo Gallery

NEWS / EVENTS:

- Invasion of weed species is an issue in many parts of the state and foxglove is one causing concern.

An update:

Petition No.18 of 2022 – by Rosalie Woodruff - Listing of Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) as a declared weed was presented to Parliament.

Response - extract:

“The Government acknowledges that foxglove is a threat to conservation values in Tasmania and that measures need to be implemented to control the further spread of this plant. However, it considers that better outcomes for its strategic management can be achieved without declaration”.

A start but still some way to go. Bio Security Tasmania have listed some things they will do.

What's happening on the PCT – lots in fact!

The good news is that the PCT is starting to take shape again after some challenges with weeds and weather and thanks to our wonderful team of dedicated volunteers.

In Newsletter 06 August 2022, we showed images of damage caused by the extreme wind event in the NW. Since then, we have had another day clearing at Gunns Plains and applied to the Wildcare TNCF for a \$14,000 grant so we could employ specialized contractors to assist in the Leven Canyon area. We were successful with the grant application and armed with our works programme, engaged the contractors ... but things didn't quite go to plan ...

September was a busy time as we were also embarking on a foxglove eradication trial on affected sections of the track. Wildcare and PWS provided chemical training and equipment. A couple of days were spent along the Lobster Ck. Tramway with a combination of hoe / paste and wiping the smaller plants with chemical.

Over 4,000 plants were treated by hand and the results were promising then disaster number two for the year ... the October floods.

The Leven River catchment was affected, Gunns Plains was flooded, the Canyon and part of the Tramway Track sections of the PCT were 2M under water ... the contractors and our work load just increased!

Loongana lost a bridge, so besides being a big problem for residents, it prevented us from doing another foxglove session on a badly affected spot before they produced seed.

There have been more working bees on the track, the contractors have done preliminary clearing in the Leven Canyon and are doing an amazing job with the grant funds available, and our volunteers are happy (although after a couple of tough days some verbal resignations for 2 years' time were offered ... with a smile).

foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*)

Have you seen the common foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) on walks or your travels?

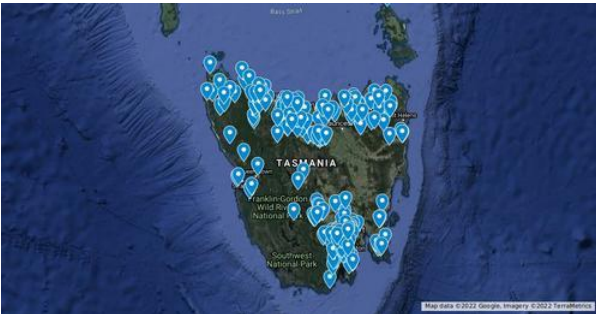


Pretty flower



OR catastrophe (road in the Liffey Falls area)

On recent walks and working bees the number of plants invading roads, tracks, paddocks and cleared or disturbed land is alarming. An area passed recently along the Leven River that had probably several hundred plants two years ago now has an estimated 20,000 plants.



Google map with current known locations

If you have an interest in this topic, have a look at <http://foxglove.net.au> as this is a good information resource.



Some of the 4,000 plants dealt with by the hoe / paste method on the Lobster Ck. Tramway track

PCT track works -Gallery



Restoring track surface ...



Have chainsaw, have dining setting ...



Yep ... we're on the track, it's gotta be here somewhere!



The crew ... afternoon break and still smiling

If you can see yourself in photos like these, enjoy being outdoors, have gear suitable for a day walk, enjoy a challenge and something a little different with likeminded people ... then why not join us for an adventure (you do as much as you wish and the pace is generally slower as work is being done ... and the track looks sooo much better on the return journey).