

AN AMBLE IN AUGUST

A Friends of Freycinet working bee

12-16 August 2024

With the weather warming a small group of Friends met at Freycinet National Park on the Monday for our annual week of removing sea spurge from the nearby beach areas. Our range for the week is Chain of Lagoons to Friendly Beaches, logistics all carefully crafted by Ranger Nick Graham in his new role as Volunteer Co-ordinator. Our numbers had depleted rapidly over the weekend due to a few different ailments and unforeseen circumstances but those remaining were enthusiastic.

After our Monday morning works brief five of us set off to the western side of Coles Bay for a walk along Muirs Beach as far as Edge of the Bay resort checking for sea spurge and collecting any rubbish along the way – 37 juvenile sea spurge plants were found near Edge of the Bay.

Tuesday we all headed off to the east coast. Group One searched from Chain of Lagoons to Piccaninny Point, with Group Two commencing their walk from Piccaninny Point and heading through to Seymour. Overall, 204 sea spurge plants were found (201 juveniles, 3 mature plants).

Wednesday back to the coast. This time Group One started from Seymour and walked through to south of the Denison River to the point where Group Two commenced. Group Two walked from the Denison through to Redbill Beach in Bicheno. The total sea spurge for the day was 309 juveniles and 12 mature plants.



some of the rubbish collected along the way



spurgung along Friendly Beaches

Thursday we are only the one group, and we head south of Bicheno to Courland Bay and walk the coast to Friendly Beaches, south of Isaacs Point. Only 16 juvenile plants found for the day which were found in Courland Bay.

Friday morning involved a pack up of gear, a quick check along Bradley Drive Fire Trail for invading creepers, as well as the removal of sweet pittosporum, which unfortunately there is never any shortage of, and checking the known areas around the campground for Bridal Creeper, before heading home.

Although the sea spurge plant numbers were down from previous years (578 plants in total this year), it was suspected some may have been washed away or buried by sand, as most of the coast that we walked had been eroded by large swells in the past months. A lot of the beach frontage was sand cliffs as well as there were areas where the sand has been removed and the rocks exposed.



sand cliffs enroute (photo Chris)



Fiordland Crested penguin

Our find of the week was a visitor from across 'the ditch'. A Fiordland Crested penguin was discovered resting amongst the dunes. And yes, it was reported, and when checked upon by carers they had returned to the sea for the long swim home.

Overall, a successful week. Thank you to Nick for organising the logistics and Ralph, Peter, Mal, Chris, Bronwyn, John B, Nerida and John A for participating.

Jenny
co-ordinator FOF



a lovely day to go weeding