

**ROCKLANDS ROAD WEEDBUSTERS**  
**“PROJECT DEVINE PHASE 1 – EASTSIDE”**  
**REPORT 2:- 14 JUNE to 30 SEPT 2010.**

Hi there to you all, wherever you are!

The weed team have managed to keep going through the winter and have been very successful in clearing the vines, close to the estimates for the amount of work required, for the various properties. Some properties were very hard going and some vines particularly hard to get to, let alone find their source. They have worked in really hard locations some days and I was very impressed with their perseverance.

The team has developed a good system of reporting and has a good vision of what is required on the different terrains of Rocklands Road. With large numbers of plants in the initial knockdown, naturally a few are missed. These become obvious when the dead ones are fading to a brown colour. As a land owner now is the time to be vigilant for the odd missed mature plant and to expect lots of seedlings where mature vines have been cut. Please, please try and help by pulling up seedlings as it will be a time consuming job for the weed team. The team is unlikely to be able to come back until after the initial knockdown is achieved in the late autumn. As part of the reporting, I am required to indicate the \$ + voluntary hours that you are spending on pest vine control for each 6 month period of the grant, so please make a note of what \$ and or time you spend and e-mail or phone me with details and I will collate it later.

The money came through for the project later than we expected, and this means that the next instalment won't be for 6 months from that payment date. Work will be able to recommence about the end of Feb or beginning of March 2011. This could work well from the temperature point of view. The key thing will be how many of the current weed team are available, as they have been very effective and now have a good knowledge of the different properties that they have worked on.

Nigel Mountfort has been very helpful tidying up the GPS downloads of the tracks the team members made and marking the locations of particular plants (mainly OMB and Wonga Wonga) on to maps. We borrowed GPS machines last winter, but will need to look at buying our own for the next sessions.

The Forest and Bird team, of Jo-Anne and John, have been very supportive in paying all the wages and incidental payments.

**The fun part for me is to now prepare the report, with photos, maps and numbers etc to keep the Biodiversity funding office convinced that we are putting the monies to good use!**

### **PROGRESS REPORT**

**The team managed 20 working days, with an average of 3 ½ people days at each one. A big big thank you to all the efforts of the weed team of Martin, Hobie, Sarah, Brian and Bianca, with additional help from Luke, Matt and Selena.**

**The properties worked on were:-**

#### **1/ Dave Wilkie**

**There were more mature plants found than first spotted, so a full search was done and a large number of seedlings were found. This reflects the next phase, as many of the mature BPV's had been cut previously. It is how the properties, that have been cleared this winter, will probably look next year and why all the help we can get to pull these easy ones will make the best use of the funding available. This will allow the weed team to focus on the hard to access areas. The total hours were 6 (from the previous reporting period) + 25 = 31 hours. 10 hours allowed.  $13 + 86 = 99$  mature +198 seedlings x BPV's.**

#### **2/ Jill Pearson**

**The old track that runs the length of the property, down the valley, was reopened and this allowed the team to use it as an access point to make runs up the slopes and also go the other way, across the valley floor.**

**Some spraying was required in areas thickly carpeted by BPV, especially where it was growing on bracken. There are still 5 hours allowed for one large bracken area to be sprayed once the weather conditions are right.**

**It was very heartening to see the large totaras being cleared of the BPV's, which almost obscured them. The higher land here and on the neighbouring properties was checked for vines and was also part of the outer perimeter search.**

**$156 + 5$  (the spray work to be done soon) = 161 hours. Allowed 160 hours! 500 x BPV's**

#### **3/ John Parkes and Leon Moleta**

**The team did very well, in very trying conditions. Large boulders and large vines tangled into thick regenerating bush, made the going slow. They have achieved a high knockdown rate, but where to stop is the question. With help from the landowners, when the team revisits this area, we hope to be able to have some clearer end points.**

**The one elusive mature vine, one hours scramble up Te Kite Creek and then a roped climb up a bluff, was finally dealt with!**

**$60 + 48 = 108$  hours total. 100 allowed for. 303 x BPV's.**

#### **4/ Romola MacGibbon**

Being a small property, it made this more straight forward to clear. It is difficult to be sure where the boundary with the Pessione's starts, but it all needs to be worked on anyway. Some previous work, by other contractors, helped.

28 ½ hours. 40 hours + 10 (for rope work) allowed. BPV's 194.

**5/ Marco and Karen Pessione**

The team visited most of the 10 zones identified in our break down of the areas with pest vines. The ones that are still outstanding, which will be tackled in the autumn, are the reef adjoining the "Peanut slab" (zone 10), the mature bush area to the East of the house (9) and further work in the large tomo that adjoins Romola MacGibbon's land (7), as well as a perimeter search up Gibson Creek and a final sweep in the gully beneath Rudolph Samper's land (2), that proved harder to clear than expected. There are a further 5 hours allowed for one patch on the South East bluff (5) that needs an access route cut to get to it.

56 + 211 hours = 267 hours so far (includes rope work). 300 + 75 (for rope work) allowed. BPV's 1347, OMB's 5, WW's 14.

It was the hardest property to quantify at the initial assessment and it is pleasing to see that the numbers are going to be close.

No	Name	Hrs to date	Hrs+rope hrs allocated 1yr	BPV's	O M B's	WW's	Comments
1	Shelley	0	80 + 40				Feb to Apr 2011
2	Trent	0	0				Check search only. Mar 2011
3	Snelgrove	0.5	0				Check search only.
4	MacGibbon	28.5	40 + 10	194	0	0	1 <sup>st</sup> run finished
5	Pessione	267	300 +75	1347	5	14	Continue Feb 2011
6	Samper	96	120 +20	550	1	1	1 <sup>st</sup> run finished
7	Rowse	0	0				
8	Wells	0	0				
9	Bettinger	0	0				
10	Coltman-Rogers	0	0				
11	Wilkie	31	10	297	0	0	1 <sup>st</sup> run finished
12	Pearson	161	160	500	0	0	1 <sup>st</sup> run finished
13+	Parkes +	108	40	303	0	0	1 <sup>st</sup> run finished
14	Moleta		60				
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>810 + 145</b>	<b>3191</b>	<b>....</b>	<b>....</b>	<b>955-692=263HRS</b> Still allowed for in this yrs grant.

**PLEASE HELP BY PULLING AS MANY SEEDLINGS AS POSSIBLE!!**