

Working-bee 3 September 2022 – Day notes by Quentin Smith

13 people came to the working bee at the Seymour wetlands on Saturday morning the 3rd of September.

We met at 10 o'clock at the car park when the 4 Utas Landcare Society members arrived. We had a safety briefing and discussed plans for the day.

We worked westward along northern side of Champ Street cutting and pasting all the flowering gorse between Champ Street and the swamp.

From there we worked along the northern side of the swamp cutting and pasting all the flowering gorse, weeding the trees and tending the tree guards.

There is ongoing damage to the trees from deer with numerous sightings being reported in the area recently.

We stopped at 1230 for a drink, cake and biscuits that Kez had prepared for us.

Graeme Beech gave us some PWS approved Shore Bird signs and stakes. Andy took one to put on the northern end of Templestowe Beech, Dave Quon took one to put at the mouth of Templestowe Lagoon. The others have been put up at the North and South Seymour Beach accesses.

We discussed how best to proceed with the project.

Suggestions included having another Field Day/Celebration of Reclassification, Cultural Burning, Developing Chapter 2 of the Weed Management Plan with guidance from PWS, and possibly acquiring our own tractor, Spray unit and slasher.

The need to have an AGM was also raised. It may be possible to organise one with a Zoom link for those unable to attend.

We continued after the break until 4PM with some heading off taking dabbers to deal with gorse on their properties adjoining the Conservation area.

We were grateful to welcome the Utas students again and they are keen to return over the summer.

It was good to have Rob and Sam Kelman join us for the first time.

