

FOOP Working bee: 27 September

The task for the day was to clean up litter and check for weeds at St Albans rail reserve. I arrived a bit late, at 10:15 to find Maelor working alone. Claude had gone off to buy more bags as they had run out of supplies. The three of us worked through the quite hot morning until around 12:45 then decided we had enough, after cleaning up only the two southern strips of the reserve. The quantity of litter that accumulates in this suburb of litterbugs is pretty astonishing – Claude and Maelor filled several Clean-Up-Australia bags with plastic and glass bottles and cans, and many more with bits of plastic and paper, newspaper and candy wrappers and other assorted junk.



St Albans work team at 10:15

The idea of doing this in September was that many of the flowering herbs would be in bloom, so I paused in filling bags with litter every so often to photograph some of the pretty colourful flowers



Flax Lily



Rice flowers and one Bluebell



Daisies – Rutidosia?



Goodenias



Geranium



Beautyheads



Blushing Bindweed



Blue Devil



Wallaby Grass



The carpet of flowers was dominated by the Pimeleas but there are now many large patches of Flax Lily, too
There were also some less welcome things



A long-leaved Wattle, with several young sprouts popped up nearby



Peppercorn – I lopped this to a stump last year but had no poison with me so it has recovered



Feral Friesias starting to invade



Blue Periwinkle along the southwest fence
Some Artichoke thistles looked recently sprayed and the Aloes have not recovered in the southwest corner. There was a small scatter of mustard.



The signpost is in good condition



I found one syringe. Not bad to get just one here.



The fence at the south-eastern end has been buckled – like it was rammed by something large and heavy.



About a third of the collected litter, from just the south-east strip. Around 12:45 Claude and I drove our loads of bagged litter to the park and filled the big dumpster to overflowing, while Maelor just went off home. A hit morning's work, but we left the southern two strips much cleaner and looking very pretty with all their flowers.

Robert Bender