

Redwood Park Report

2026

Redwood Park has continued to benefit from a very dedicated group of 10-12 volunteers weeding once or twice a week as they are available. The drier weather over winter has seen the Madeira weed wilt, but the focus on clearing the underground tuber masses continues unabated.

The three-monthly community Madeira Challenges have been very beneficial in breaking new ground. The focus has been on areas where the Madeira is so prevalent that it was beyond the scope of the regular team. Their interest and hard work have been much appreciated. The Challenge areas from 12-18 months ago are now largely under control, although tuber masses in the area continue to be regularly uncovered. It's rewarding to see the native seedlings make a come-back in these areas. Of the 35 volunteers who have worked in the various Madeira Challenges only one has joined our regular team. Evidence perhaps of a different group of interested environmentalists in our community.

Of interest is the DPI using Redwood Park as a trial site for the release of the Madeira Beetle, on this occasion especially bred for our cooler climate. Their research has shown the Madeira in this park is a different DNA to the ones they have previously looked at. Perhaps this is why we experience periodic seeding events when the weather is optimal – a reproductive method not reported in other Madeira plants in Australia.

Aside from our main focus in the dry rainforest, a small team works in the woodland area west of the Picnic area. They are making good progress on privet, lantana and cats claw amongst others – thankfully no Madeira.

We continue to enjoy the support of various school groups – while they may not produce the same work output as our regular volunteers, their enthusiasm and interest have been appreciated.

Twice a year, a few in the Redwood team visit the endangered Bailey's Cypress stand in the middle of the park – a 20-minute walk from the top entrance. There are now 50 trees in various states of maturity. The team has kept the immediate area clear of privet, prickly pear, lantana and salvia to allow the pines space to naturally propagate.

The tradition of a leisurely cup of tea and the sharing of garden produce and news continues to be a valued part of the team's post-weeding routine.