



Friends of the Beleura Cliff Path

After eight years of work, the sides of the path are now thickly vegetated with plants native to the cliff. They need to be trimmed back regularly so the path looks good and is safe and ready for the public when it is re-opened. This happy day may be two, three or four years away! Our group is committed to this long-term work. The path is looking great. It was a stunningly clear morning to be working in such a magnificent setting.

Note that the Shire has made a firm decision that the central section of the path is not to be accessed by the general public, as the whole path is closed by the Shire with heavy barriers at each end for safety reasons to prevent people approaching the two landslip areas. We are allowed to have working bees under special safety regulations.

Friends of Beleura Cliff Path Working Bee 2nd May 2024

Nine volunteers and two Naturelinks workers, with two aims.

- 1. Trim back** the overhanging vegetation along the sides of the path.
- 2. Plant** some new seedlings, in particular Coast Beard-Heath (*Leucopogon parviflorus*) which is a special project for us.



As well as trimming, we planted some seedlings: kangaroo grass (*Themeda*), *Correa alba*, T-Tree, *Eutaxia microphylla* (egg and bacon), and *Leucopogons* (Coast Beard Heath). We are concentrating now on middle and lower storey



shrubs and grasses. The *Leucopogon* project is special to us because this magnificent coastal shrub has become rare on the cliff in the last 30

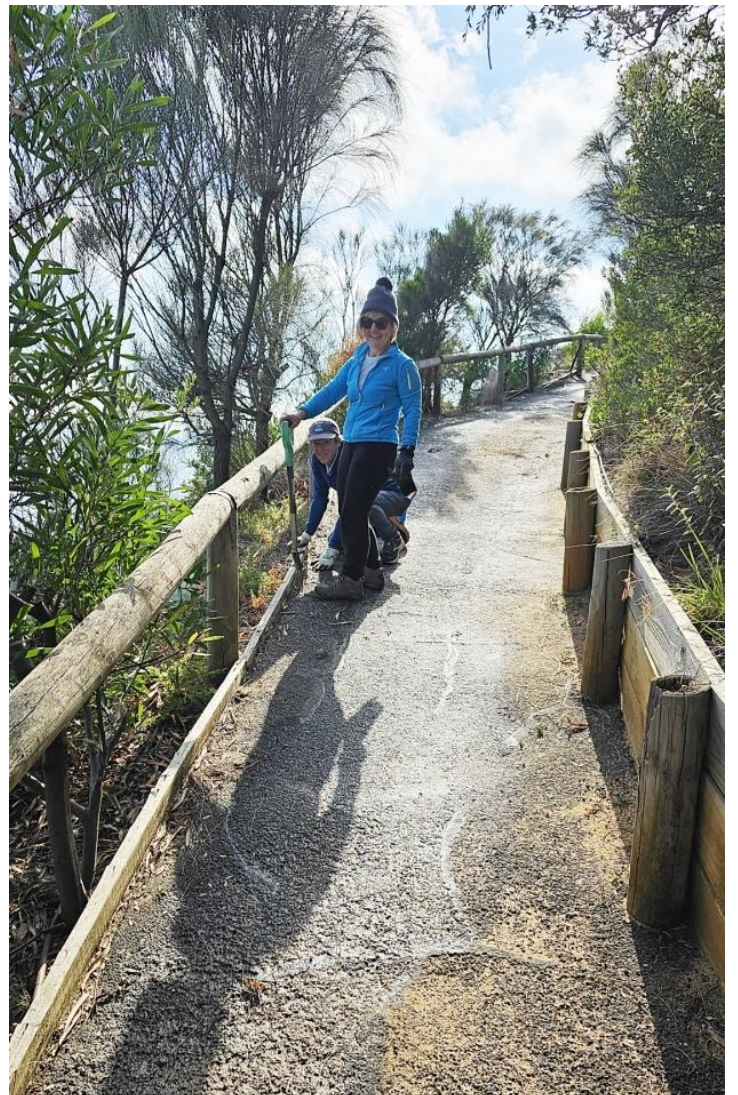


years. It is impossible to buy seedlings of this plant. We have therefore grown our own from cuttings collected on the cliff. Its berries are irresistible to birds and its white blossom is attractive to humans. (Photo left: *Leucopogon* in flower in summer). Its deep, fine roots are exceptionally valuable in stabilizing the cliff.



This working bee is our second bee on the central section of the Cliff Path since the path closure. Following the motion carried unanimously by Shire councillors in April 2024, our working bees on this safe, beautifully vegetated section are now assured for the future.

The Bee was attended by nine volunteers. Ross Kilborn, Sue Ackland, Peter Nicholson, Margrit Abbey, Catherine Warters, Sonia Minzenmay, Jean Mahone, Harry Breidahl and Sally Madsen, and two Naturelinks workers Sally Hook and Zali Clark.





The whole central section of the path is in the safest condition it has ever been in its 102 year history. The banks are thick with deep rooted indigenous plants, many planted by us. The shoulders of the path survived the extra rain without damage. The two landslips were caused by identifiable human-made drainage failures, which must be tackled. We can't control the rain but we *can* control the drains. The cliff is normally a rather exposed, hot, dry area, but in the wake of La Nina it has become almost verdantly green and densely vegetated. This is a great environmental and aesthetic outcome.

