



# HAMILTON FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

PO Box 591  
Hamilton, Victoria 3300

## Report on Weed Control Work at the Fulham Streamside Reserve in Sept.-Oct. 2018

We again concentrated on the area west of the entry track on the western quarter of Fulham SR (see map). This restriction has been needed because of a lack of volunteers to manage a larger area.

We visited the reserve on 5 occasions (9 Sept. to 24 Oct), starting at Area 1. We covered most of the area west from the entry track up to the western bend in the river (Area 8). We were particularly thorough in the coverage of Areas 1 & 2 and a 50-70 m strip along most of the east side of the entry track (Area 9). The western fence (Area 4) and the creek part of Area 10 were also targeted, dense patches of Cape Tulip or other weeds requiring spraying, using *metsulfuron methyl* herbicide.

We did not cover well the following areas:

- The Point (Area 6), except for the southern part near Area 8 at the western river bend
- The area approaching the seasonal closure sign on the River Track (Area 7).
- The NW part of Area 3 (Old Bridge extending along the creek to the river and the western part of the Old Bridge track area)
- The middle part of the channel (Area 5)
- Part of the northern centre (Area 2) adjacent to the channel
- The southern part of Area 10, approaching Edgewood Rd.

We treated *Moraea flaccida* Cape Tulip (CT), *Sparaxis bulbifera* Harlequin Flower (SB), *Gladiolus undulatum* Wild Gladiolus (WG) and small numbers of *Disa bracteata* African Weed Orchid (AWO), *Rosa rubiginosa* Briar Rose (BR) and thistles.

We employed two strategies:

1. Weed-wiping with a *glyphosate-metsulfuron methyl solution* (30 mL *glyphosate*/L and 1 g *metsulfuron methyl*/L solution) that included a wetter (Pulse, 5 mL/L) and vegetable dye (5 mL/L). This approach was used for all scattered plants of CT, SB, WG, AWO & BR.
2. Spot-spraying with *metsulfuron methyl* (3 g/10 L) solution with wetter (Pulse, 50 mL/10 L) and dye (50 mL/10 L). This approach was used for dense infestations of CT along the western fence and on the creek from Edgewood Rd to the old Little Bridge site and for dense infestations of SB on either side of Old Bridge Track.

### Summary

We spent 68 person-hours and applied 48 L of spray herbicide and 35.4 L of wipe-herbicide. On the basis of a count of plants wiped per L of herbicide used (average of 0.8 mL/plant) we estimate that we wiped around 41,000 CT and other weeds. The number sprayed was not estimated but may be similar.

The problem with Cape Tulip and *Sparaxis* continues. Statewide, little attention is paid to the weed problem associated with climate change. There is a lack of staff to manage the reserves and the visitors who continue to drive off-road and spread weeds. Wild Gladiolus is also a major threat and African Weed Orchid is probably impossible to control. While the landowner to the west is now controlling Cape Tulip, that is not happening in the State Forest block in the NW area around the Glenelg River at Fulham. Seed will continue to infest the reserve until that source is removed. The outlook is gloomy.

### Particulars of the volunteer work visits

**Sunday 09 Sept. 2018** – from 10.0 am–03.20 pm, 2 members of HFNC (RB, PH) herbicide-wiped CT and some SB, on the southern third of Area 1 (0.5 km from Edgewood Rd) and adjacent Area 9 (roadside strip). The weather was cloudy and fine, except for 2 very light sprinkles of rain during the day. The CT had no buds but many were well grown. There were also many very small plants around some of the larger plants. A few small AWO were seen.

Work time = 10 hours; Herbicide wipe solution used = 5.3 L. A count of CT wiped per L of solution used indicated that an average of 0.8 mL of solution was applied per plant wiped. Therefore approx. 6,600 CT were wiped.

There were some plants in flower; including *A. verniciflua*, *Hibbertia* sp., *Kennedia prostrata*, *Oxalis perennans*, *Pterostylis nana* & *Wurmbea dioica*. Seventeen species of birds were noted.

**Monday 17 Sept. 2018** – from 9.30 am-4.30 pm, RB & PH worked on Area 1, north from previous work to the edge of Area 2, as well as the eastern edge of the track (Area 9. The creek line and adjacent parts of Area 10 & 1 from Edgewood Rd to the little old bridge was spot-sprayed with *metsulfuron methyl* to control CT. The weather was fine and mild.

Work time = 13 hours; Herbicide wipe solution used = 6 L;

Spot-spray *metsulfuron methyl* herbicide, 10 L applied. Approx. 4,000 CT wiped and possibly a similar number spot-sprayed.

'Next' plants seen in flower included *Craspedia* sp., *Davesia arenaria*, *Diuris* sp., *Glossodia major* (only a few plants), *Hypoxis glabella.*, *Lagenifera* sp. and *Templetonia stenophylla* (1 plant). Seven bird species, including dozens of Tree Martins, were seen this week that were not seen last visit.

**Sunday 23 Sept. 2018** – variously from 9.30 am-5 pm, DL, RB, PH & RT wiped CT, WG & SB in Area 8 (near the western bend of the river), the eastern half of Area 2 (i.e. west from the entry road) and Area 3 (between the Old Bridge Tk and the second creek off the Glenelg River). A 300 m strip between the west fence and the rail line (Area 4) where CT were dense was spot-sprayed. The neighbour on the west side (Geoff Pieta) had sprayed his CT with *metsulfuron methyl* and *glyphosate*.

Work time = 15 hr; Herbicide wipe solution used = 7.2 L (approx. 9,000 CT wiped);

Spot-spray *metsulfuron methyl* herbicide = 10 L applied near the west fence.

Places where SB have been treated for many years (e.g. adjacent to the road, midway in Area 2, and adjacent to the rail channel) continue to show SB plants, possibly indicating a long life of seed in the soil.

Birds not seen last visit included Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo, Stubble Quail, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike and Yellow-rumped Thornbill. Black Wallabies and Eastern Grey Kangaroos were also seen, as was a Common Bearded Dragon.

**Friday 19 October 2018** – from 9.30 am RB & PH worked on Area 2 (a strip along the Old Bridge Tk that is heavily infested with SB, WG & CT) and Area 4 (the western fence strip). The day was fine and warm.

Work time = 13.5 hr; Herbicide wipe solution used = 6.9 L (approx. 8,600 plants wiped);

Spot-spray *metsulfuron methyl* herbicide = 26 L on CT and some SB on the western fence area.

Many of the large CT had flowers and a few had green pods. Many SB were also in flower.

Dense spots of SB infestation that were treated in 2017 were virtually free of SB but other areas were badly infested with SB & WG.

Three Red-necked Wallabies were seen, as well as 1 Black Wallaby and several Eastern Grey Kangaroos. Birds not seen previously this year were Jack Winter and White-winged Chough.

**Wednesday 24 Oct. 2018** – from 9 am-6 pm DL & RB worked on CT, SB & WG on the NW half of Area 2 – working from about half way down the Old Bridge Track to the rail channel and 300 m south. Heavy infestation with CT was encountered. Dense patches of SB near the Old Bridge Track were sprayed with *metsulfuron methyl*. A small area adjacent to the channel further south was not well covered, nor was the channel area. This visit was a little late and many CT & SB had flowered.

Work time = 16.5 hr; Herbicide wipe solution used = 10 L (approx. 12,500 plants wiped);

Spot-spray *metsulfuron methyl* herbicide = 2 L on 4 spots of SB south of Old Bridge Track

Birds seen this visit not seen before in spring included Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoo, Rainbow Bee-eater, Sacred Kingfisher, Common Bronzewing, Grey Currawong and Australian Wood Duck. In all visits, 44 species of birds were noted but time did not permit systematic searches to be made.

Mammals seen included 2 Red-necked Wallaby, 3 Black Wallaby, Eastern Grey Kangaroo and what appeared to be several Western Grey Kangaroo.

Plants not in flower earlier in spring included *Arthropodium strictum*, *Caladenia tentaculata*, *Daviesia brevifolia*, *Dillwynia hispidula*, *Linum marginale*, *Microtis* sp., *Microseris* sp., *Stackhousia monogyna*, *Pterostylis pedunculata*, *Thelymitra antennifera*, *T. rubra* & *T. pauciflora*.

Fulham Streamside Reserve – western quarter map 0

