



HAMILTON FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

PO Box 591
Hamilton, Victoria 3300

Report on Weed Control at Fulham Streamside Reserve in Sept.-Oct. 2021

Summary

We visited the reserve on 5 occasions (12 Sept. to 27 Oct), starting at Area 2, Sth off Bridge Track (see Map). We concentrated on the area west of the entry track on the western quarter of Fulham SR (mainly Areas 1, 2, 5 & 10), plus a margin of about 50 m east of the track (Area 9), a narrow margin Nth side of Bridge Tk in Area 3 and parts of Area 4 (embankment and western side of rail line). We no longer have the capacity to do weed control on Areas 6 & 7, and do limited work on Areas 3 & 8.

We treated *Moraea flaccida* Cape Tulip (CT), *Sparaxis bulbifera* Harlequin Flower (SB), *Gladiolus undulatus* Wild Gladiolus (WG), *Disa bracteata* African Weed Orchid (AWO), *Oxalis purpurea* Purple Oxalis (PO), *Fumaria* sp. 'Carrot Weed' (CW) & *Phalaris aquatica* (PA). We had 3 strategies:

1. Weed-wiping with a *glyphosate-metsulfuron methyl* solution (40 mL *glyphosate*/L and 1 g *metsulfuron methyl*/L solution) that included a wetter and vegetable dye. This approach was used for all scattered plants of CT, SB, WG & AWO.
2. Spot-spraying dense infestations of SB, PO & CW with *glyphosate* (20 mL/L) plus *metsulfuron methyl* (3 g/10 L) and wetter.
3. Hand pulling AWO & CT on the Sth half of the rail & stream strip (Area 5) on the last visit

In total, we spent 78 person-hours and applied 24 L of wipe herbicide and 10 L of spray herbicide. On the basis of the 2018 count of plants wiped per L of herbicide used (average of 0.8 mL/plant) we estimate that we wiped around 30,000 plants (a rough estimate CT 60%, AWO 15%, SB 15%, WG 5%, others 5%). A few thousands of SB, PO and other weed plants were treated with herbicide spray.

We believe that we have greatly reduced the CT problem on most of our target area but question whether, in the long term, the effort is wasted. There appears to have been no control on other parts of this reserve and adjacent forest reserve, and no work elsewhere in developing biological controls.

Sparaxis (SB) continues to be a problem, despite persistent efforts made over the years to eliminate it, and much time was spent in dealing with this weed in Areas 2, 5 & 10.

Wild Gladiolus (WG) is now a major (generally unrecognised) threat here and elsewhere and more attention should be paid to its control. AWO is probably impossible to control.

There is an increasing spread of *Acacia paradoxa* and that will, unless controlled, drastically reduce the ground flora in the reserve heathland and woodland areas. That is a problem in other reserves, too.

A dead tree was found cut down off the Bridge Tk (see photo). Hoons and wood gatherers continue to drive off-road, spreading weeds and destroying vegetation. 4WD vehicles run across the reserve and cut it up. PV has signs in other reserves that state that vehicles must stay on the roads – why not here?

The tracks are in poor condition. Vehicles on the Old Bridge Track go off it to avoid a bog (see photo) and the main entrance track is so rough that it is growing wider in order to avoid the worst parts.

Particulars of the volunteer work visits

12 Sept. 2021 – RB & DL (10.30 am-2.30 pm) herbicide-wiped CT, AWO, SB, WG in Area 2 on the part nearest the Old Bridge Rd. There was a light rain shower at 2.30 and heavier shower at 4.30 pm.

Work time = 7 hours

Herbicide wipe solution used = 2.9 L.

19 Sept. 2021 – RB DL, PH, R & YI (10.15 am-3.30 pm) on Area 2 and parts of Areas 3, 5 & 9.

About 0.5 mm rain after 4 pm..

Work time = 22.5 hours

Herbicide wipe solution used = 4 L

10 Oct. 2021 – RB, DL, PH,RZ, YI & SM (10.30 am-4.30 pm) on Areas 1, 2 and part of 5 & 10. The stream off Edgewood Rd (nominally in Area 10) has an infestation of SB, CT & CW, some of which was herbicide-wiped.

Work time = 30 hours.

Herbicide wipe solution used = 10.5 L

22 Oct. 2021 – RB & PH (10 am-4.30 pm) on Area 10, including spraying CW, SB & PAs in the creek area as far as the Little Old Bridge and patches of SB & PO in the ditch adjacent to the rail line.

Work time = 12 hr

Herbicide wipe solution used = 3.0 L applied to CT, SB & AWO

Herbicide spray solution (*glyphosate* and *metsulfuron methyl*) = 10 L

27 Oct. 2021 – RB & DL (2 pm-5 pm), re-visit NW part of Area 2, channel from Old Bridge halfway to Edgewood Rd (Area 5) – plants wiped. CT & AWO on Sth half of channel area were pulled.

Work time = 6 hrs

Herbicide wipe-solution used = 3.5 L

Birds seen at some time during these visits were:

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| 1. Australian Magpie | 16. Laughing Kookaburra | 31. Striated Pardalote |
| 2. Australian Wood Duck | 17. Little Pied Cormorant | 32. Sulphur-crowned Cockatoo |
| 3. Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike | 18. Long-billed Corella | 33. Superb Fairy-wren |
| 4. Brown Thornbill | 19. Masked Lapwing | 34. Weebill |
| 5. Crimson Rosella | 20. Musk Lorikeet | 35. Welcome Swallow |
| 6. Dusky Moorhen | 21. New Holland Honeyeater | 36. White-browed Babbler |
| 7. Fan-tailed Cuckoo | 22. Pied Currawong | 37. White-browed Scrubwren |
| 8. Forest Raven | 23. Purple Swamphen & chicks | 38. White-plumed Honeyeater |
| 9. Galah | 24. Rainbow Lorikeet | 39. White-throated Treecreeper |
| 10. Gang Gang | 25. Red Wattlebird | 40. White-winged Chough |
| 11. Grey Currawong | 26. Red-browed Finch | 41. Yellow-faced Honeyeater |
| 12. Grey Fantail | 27. Rufous Whistler | 42. Yellow-rumped Thornbill |
| 13. Grey Shrike-thrush | 28. Sacred Kingfisher | 43. Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoo |
| 14. Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo | 29. Shining Bronze-cuckoo | |
| 15. Jacky Winter | 30. Spotted Pardalote | |

Red-necked Wallaby, Black Wallaby, Eastern Grey Kangaroo, Echidna and a number of Shinglebacks were also seen.



Off-road 4WD hoon activities



Off-track driving due to poor road condition



Illegal falling of a standing dead tree

FULHAM STREAMSIDE RESERVE – Western Quarter Sketch Map
HFNC Weed Work Areas 1-10

