



HAMILTON FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

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Report on Weed Control at Fulham Streamside Reserve in Sept.-Oct. 2022

Summary

We visited the reserve on 3 occasions (10 Sept., 25 Sept., 08 Oct). We concentrated on the area west of the entry track off Edgewood Rd on the western quarter of Fulham SR. Our main activities were:

- Areas 2, 5 and Nth half of 1 and 50 m strip along W side of entry track (see map)
- A margin of about 50 m east of the entry track off Edgewood Rd (Area 9),
- E half of Nth side of Old Bridge Tk to the creek in Area 3
- Parts of Area 4 (embankment and western side of rail line) adjacent to Area 2.

We treated *Moraea flaccida* Cape Tulip (CT), *Sparaxis bulbifera* Harlequin Flower (SB), *Gladiolus undulatus* Wild Gladiolus (WG), *Disa bracteata* African Weed Orchid (AWO) and thistles. The treatments applied were herbicide-wiping, as described in previous reports.

In total, we spent 62 person-hours and applied 15.3 L of wipe herbicide. On the basis of an estimate of an average of 0.8 mL of herbicide solution applied/plant we estimate that we wiped around 19,000 plants (a rough estimate CT 75%, AWO 3%, SB 15%, WG 5%, others 2).

Cape Tulip (CT) – we think that we have contained this weed on most of our target area but cannot eradicate it. There is no control on other parts of this reserve and adjacent forest reserve, and no work elsewhere in Australia to develop biological controls.

***Sparaxis* (SB)** – this is a growing problem. Its prevalence this year was worse than in 2021, even in sites where persistent efforts have been made every year to eliminate it.

Wild Gladiolus (WG) – now a major (generally unrecognised) threat here but we saw fewer plants this time than in previous years.

African Weed Orchid – this is probably impossible to control.

Acacia paradoxa – this shrub is rapidly expanding its cover on the reserve. Unless it is controlled it will drastically reduce the ground flora in the reserve heathland and woodland areas.

Other issues

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 and the main entrance track is so rough that it is growing wider in order to avoid the worst parts. Seasonal closure signs on River Track are also ignored; more work is needed to upgrade the surface to stop off-track diversions and widespread damage that is currently being done on the margins (see photo).

Future work – HFNC will reduce its involvement with this reserve from 2023. We do not have younger members to do the work and there appears to be little departmental interest in managing the area. We will aim to visit the area twice in spring and will concentrate on one or two of the map areas.

Particulars of the volunteer work visits

10 Sept. 2022 – RB, DL, PH, YI, RZ worked in Area 2 and margin of Area 3 off the Old Bridge Rd Nth to the creek. Many CT & CT, despite intensive work in 2021.

Work time = 22 hours; Herbicide wipe solution used = 7.5 L.

25 Sept. 2022 – RB DL, RZ, YI worked on Area 2

Work time = 22 hours; Herbicide wipe solution used = 3.5 L

08 Oct. 2022 – RB, DL, PH worked on Areas 2, 9 and part of 1, 4 & 5. The Sth half of Area 1 was not visited, apart from edge of entry track. Many SB & CT in the railway drain (Area 4) and adjacent part of Area 5 near junction of Areas 1 & 2.

Work time = 18 hours. Herbicide wipe solution used = 4.3 L

Birds seen at some time during these visits in spring 2022 were:

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|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Australian Magpie | 18. Jacky Winter | 35. Sulphur-crsted Cockatoo |
| 2. Australasian Darter | 19. Laughing Kookaburra | 36. Superb Fairy-wren |
| 3. Australian Wood Duck | 20. Little Pied Cormorant | 37. Tree Martin |
| 4. Azure Kingfisher | 21. Long-billed Corella | 38. Weebill |
| 5. Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike | 22. New Holland Honeyeater | 39. Welcome Swallow |
| 6. Blue-winged Parrot | 23. Pacific Black Duck | 40. White-browed Babbler |
| 7. Brown Thornbill | 24. Pallid Cuckoo | 41. White-browed Scrubwren |
| 8. Common Bronzewing | 25. Pied Currawong | 42. White-plumed Honeyeater |
| 9. Crimson Rosella | 26. Purple Swamphen | 43. White-throated Treecreeper |
| 10. Dusky Moorhen | 27. Red Wattlebird | 44. White-winged Chough |
| 11. Fan-tailed Cuckoo | 28. Restless Flycatcher | 45. Willie Wagtail |
| 12. Forest Raven | 29. Rufous Whistler | 46. Yellow-faced Honeyeater |
| 13. Galah | 30. Sacred Kingfisher | 47. Yellow-rumped Thornbill |
| 14. Grey Currawong | 31. Scarlet Robin | 48. Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoo |
| 15. Grey Fantail | 32. Shining Bronze-cuckoo | |
| 16. Grey Shrike-thrush | 33. Spotted Pardalote | |
| 17. Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo | 34. Striated Pardalote | |

Red-necked Wallaby, Black Wallaby, Eastern Grey Kangaroo and a number of Shingle-backs were also seen. Forty-eight bird species were seen, including an Azure Kingfisher & Bluewing Parrots.

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



River Track in October 2022 – 4WDs have bypassed bog areas on both sides, churning up the ground there.

