

Report on excursion to Fulham Streamside Reserve 10 September 2011

Rod Bird

Thirteen members attended (RB&DL, RZ&YI, JC&GC, RA&JS, DM&LM, JH, JS, HT) and we had an enjoyable time, despite some light rain.

We noted that Nodding Greenhood (*Pterostylis nutans*) clumps are expanding in the area south of River Track on the Western Block where Sparaxis is being eliminated and a good show of orchids was starting elsewhere. However, it was a little early for the spring-flowering display on the heathland.

Our group managed a little weed work (Sparaxis and Cape Tulip control) in the morning before light rain intervened (that and work later in spring is presented in the Works Reports).

We then drove along Edgewood Rd to the east, entering the reserve at the NE end. That takes one through a woodland of Yellow Box, some Buloke and wattle. Flowering wattles (*A. myrtifolia*, *A. verniciflua* & *A. acinacea* in particular) were very bright in the woodland and the area is presently looking good following a wet summer-autumn (see photo). The track then has a branch down the hillside to the river – a popular camping/fishing spot on the river flats – the main River Track continuing west.

We drove west along the River Track and around the Slender Cypress (*Callitris gracillis*) grove on Pine Hut ridge. We stopped on the west side to look through the grove. The ridge is a relic of a sand dune resulting in ancient times after the sea that occupied much of the Murray-Darling region withdrew. The large, old trees in this enclosure (a rabbit-proof fence was erected around the old remnant stand in early 1980s) have attained a considerable size, and there are many younger trees also present now (see photo). Notable now are the number of trees that have regenerated outside the enclosure following the removal of sheep grazing from the reserve in 1987.

We continued west along the River Track, stopping at the seasonal road block. Aborigine scar trees were found near this point - two adjacent River Red Gums trees that have perfect 'shield' scars (see photos). One tree has 2 scars (GPS Aust84 system 37-08-25.6/141-53-46.0).

The patch of Porcupine Grass (*Triodia bunicola*) that lies ~100 m south of the road block was looking very healthy, too.

Some other things noted during the day:

1. Western Block, wood removal – we saw at least 2 sites in the area west of the entry track where old fallen trees have been recently partly cut up and wood removed.
2. Edgewood Rd, adjacent to the farm house and yard – a strip of land (perhaps 10 m wide and a couple of hundred m long) in the reserve adjacent appears to have been sprayed. That strip lies on the interior (northern) side of the treed verge.
3. Eastern Block, spraying – there appears to have been some large patches of vegetation (Flax-lily?) sprayed recently adjacent to and just east of the River Track block. Spraying of Cape Tulip is evident immediately adjacent and perhaps the Flax-lily has been sprayed in error. Parts of the patches (unsprayed areas?) are apparently unaffected. However, it is equally likely that the effect is from a heavy recent frost (see photo).
4. Eastern Block, FOP for fuel reduction – we note with some concern that there are plans to burn this block. Since much of the Western Block was burned in 2005 that will leave very little recently unburned land in the reserve for survival of small mammals and birds. Also, the Slender Cypress that has regenerated since sheep were excluded from the whole reserve in 1987 would be killed. We do not see that there is any need to burn this area. A fire would hardly run in most of the area unless a very hot and windy day was chosen – and that would be undesirable.
5. In the Western Block, Sparaxis infestation looks to be moderate, with no flowering yet. Quite a lot of Cape Tulip is spots but only a very few with flowers.

Birds seen during the day (or on subsequent days when weed work was undertaken) are indicated in the last column of the following table.

HFNC BIRDLIST Fulham Streamside Reserve (Feb. 1983 to Oct. 2011)

No.	Species	First recorded		Oct	Sep	Sep	Sep	Sep	Sep-	Sep-
		Date	Observer	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Oct	Oct
1	Australasian darter	04/12/1994	J Cleary				*	*		
2	Australian shelduck	18/09/2009	D Luhrs					*		
3	Australasian shoveller	12/09/2008	R Bird				*			
4	Australian magpie	29/03/1986	R Bird	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
5	Australian raven	12/11/1990	R Bird							
6	Australian wood duck	11/06/1990	R Bird	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
7	Azure kingfisher	22/10/2005	R Bird	*						
8	Black swan	11/11/1990	R Bird				*		*	
9	Black-chinned honeyeater	18/09/2006	R Bird		*					
10	Black-eared cuckoo	01/01/1983	K Lakeman							
11	Black-faced cuckoo-shrike	04/12/1994	R Bird	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
12	Black-fronted dotterel	12/09/2008	R Bird				*			
13	Black-tailed native hen	12/09/2008	D Luhrs				*			
14	Brown falcon	04/12/1994	R Bird		*				*	
15	Brown goshawk	12/09/2008	R Bird				*			
16	Brown thornbill	22/10/2005	R Bird	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
17	Brown treecreeper	29/03/1986	R Bird	*	*		*			*
18	Brown-headed honeyeater	15/04/2006	R Bird							
19	Buff-rumped thornbill	15/04/2006	R Bird		*			*		*
20	Clamorous reed-warbler	04/12/1994	R Bird							
21	Collared sparrowhawk	04/12/1994	R Bird			*	*			*
22	Common bronzewing	04/12/1994	R Bird	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
23	Crested pigeon	17/09/2010	R Bird						*	*
24	Crested shrike-tit, e fm	11/06/1990	R Bird		*					
25	Crimson rosella	29/03/1986	R Bird	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
26	Diamond firetail	04/12/1994	R Bird							
27	Dusky moorhen	29/03/1986	R Bird		*	*	*			*
28	Dusky woodswallow	01/01/1983	K Lakeman		*	*				
29	Eastern rosella	04/12/1994	R Bird				*			*
30	Eastern spinebill	16/04/2006	R Bird							
31	Eastern yellow robin	01/01/1983	K Lakeman			*				
32	Eurasian coot	29/03/1986	R Bird	*	*	*	*	*	*	
33	Fairy martin	29/03/1986	R Bird							
34	Fan-tailed cuckoo	29/03/1986	R Bird	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
35	Flame robin	16/09/2007	R Bird			*				
36	Forest raven	18/09/2009	R Bird	*	*	*	*	*	*	
37	Galah	25/10/1987	R Bird	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
38	Gang-gang cockatoo	11/06/1990	R Bird	*	*	*			*	*
39	Golden whistler	15/04/2006	R Bird				*			*
40	Great egret	18/09/2006	R Bird		*					*
41	Grey currawong	04/12/1994	R Bird	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
42	Grey fantail	29/03/1986	R Bird	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
43	Grey shrike-thrush	29/03/1986	R Bird	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
44	Grey teal	22/10/2005	R Bird	*		*	*	*	*br	*
45	Hoary-headed grebe	29/03/1986	R Bird							*
46	Horsfield's bronze-cuckoo	29/03/1986	R Bird	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
47	Jacky winter	29/03/1986	R Bird		*	*	*		*	*
48	Latham's snipe	18/01/1990	R Bird							
49	Laughing kookaburra	29/03/1986	R Bird	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
50	Little black cormorant	17/09/2010	D Luhrs						*	
51	Little eagle	11/10/2010	R Bird						*	
52	Little grassbird	18/09/2006	R Bird		*	*			*	
53	Little pied cormorant	29/03/1986	R Bird	*	*		*			*
54	Little raven	12/09/2008	R Bird				*	*	*	*
55	Long-billed corella	29/03/1986	R Bird	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
56	Magpie-lark	18/01/1990	R Bird		*	*		*		
57	Masked lapwing	22/10/2005	R Bird	*	*		*	*	*	
58	Masked woodswallow	01/01/1983	K Lakeman							*
59	Mistletoebird	22/10/2005	R Bird	*	*					
60	Musk duck	22/10/2005	R Bird	*				*		
61	Musk lorikeet	25/10/1987	R Bird	*	*		*		*	*
62	New Holland honeyeater	29/03/1986	R Bird		*	*	*		*	*

63	Pacific black duck	25/10/1987	R Bird	*		*	*	*	*		
64	Pallid cuckoo	22/10/2005	R Bird	*		*	*	*	*		
65	Peregrine falcon	22/10/2005	R Bird	*					*		
66	Pied cormorant	04/12/1994	J Cleary								
67	Pied currawong	11/11/1990	R Bird			*	*		*		
68	Powerful owl	16/11/2007	J Cayley			*		*			
69	Purple swamphen	29/03/1986	R Bird	*			*				
70	Purple-crowned lorikeet	11/11/1990	R Bird		*		*		*		
71	Rainbow bee-eater	01/01/1983	K Lakeman								
72	Rainbow lorikeet	16/09/2007	R Bird			*			*		
73	Red wattlebird	04/12/1994	R Bird	*	*	*	*	*	*		
74	Red-browed finch	01/01/1983	K Lakeman		*			*	*		
75	Red-capped robin	01/01/1983	K Lakeman								
76	Red-rumped parrot	29/03/1986	R Bird	*	*		*	*	*		
77	Red-tailed black-cockatoo	18/09/2010	R Bird						*		
78	Restless flycatcher	29/03/1986	R Bird		*	*		*	*		
79	Rufous songlark	18/01/1990	R Bird	*	*	*	*	*	*		
80	Rufous whistler	25/10/1987	R Bird	*	*			*	*		
81	Sacred kingfisher	11/11/1990	R Bird	*				*	*		
82	Scarlet robin	29/03/1986	R Bird	*			*		*		
83	Shining bronze-cuckoo	25/10/1987	R Bird	*	*				*		
84	Silvereye	15/04/2006	R Bird		*				*		
85	Southern boobook	22/10/2005	R Bird	*		*	*		*		
86	Southern whiteface	29/03/1986	R Bird					*	*		
87	Speckled warbler	14/07/2001	R Farnes								
88	Spiny-cheeked honeyeater	18/09/2010	R Bird						*		
89	Spotted pardalote	04/12/1994	R Bird	*	*	*	*		*		
90	Straw-necked ibis	10/09/2011	J Hayes						*		
91	Striated pardalote	25/10/1987	R Bird	*	*	*	*	*	*		
92	Striated thornbill	22/10/2005	R Bird	*					*		
93	Stubble quail	28/09/2006	R Bird		*				*		
94	Sulphur-crested cockatoo	29/03/1986	R Bird	*	*	*	*	*	*		
95	Superb fairy-wren	29/03/1986	R Bird	*	*	*	*	*	*		
96	Swamp harrier	25/10/1987	R Bird					*	*		
97	Tawny frogmouth	12/09/2008	R Zollinger				*				
98	Tree martin	04/12/1994	R Bird		*	*					
99	Varied sittella	04/12/1994	R Bird	*	*	*	*	*	*		
100	Wedge-tailed eagle	11/06/1990	R Bird	*		*		*			
101	Weebill	22/10/2005	R Bird	*	*	*	*		*		
102	Welcome swallow	29/03/1986	R Bird	*	*		*				
103	Whistling kite	16/09/2007	R Bird			*	*		*		
104	White-browed babbler	15/04/2006	R Bird		*		*	*	*		
105	White-browed scrubwren	29/03/1986	R Bird		*	*	*	*	*		
106	White-eared honeyeater	15/04/2006	R Bird						*		
107	White-faced heron	29/03/1986	R Bird		*		*	*	*		
108	White-necked heron	18/09/2009	D Luhrs					*	*		
109	White-plumed honeyeater	29/03/1986	R Bird	*	*	*	*	*	*		
110	White-throated gerygone	12/09/2008	R Bird				*				
111	White-throated treecreeper	29/03/1986	R Bird		*	*	*	*	*		
112	White-winged chough	29/03/1986	R Bird	*	*	*	*	*	*		
113	White-winged triller	12/09/2008	R Bird				*		*		
114	Willie wagtail	29/03/1986	R Bird	*	*	*	*	*			
115	Yellow thornbill	04/12/1994	R Bird								
116	Yellow-faced honeyeater	04/12/1994	R Bird		*	*			*		
117	Yellow-rumped thornbill	29/03/1986	R Bird	*	*	*	*	*	*		
118	Yellow-tailed black-cockatoo	29/03/1986	R Bird								
Total number of species seen at each survey period					50	60	51	63	48	60	65

The records for September 2006-2011 were made during the annual weed spot-spraying campouts at Fulham, and only from the western half of the reserve. The October 2005 campout observations were also only from the western half of the reserve.



Photos: (1) Gold Dust Wattle & Brown Stringybark woodland; (2) Gold Dust Wattle; (3-5) Aborigine scar trees; (6) Frost-damaged Flax-lily; (7) *Tetratheca ciliata*; (8) *Callitris gracillis* (Slender Cypress) on Pine Ridge.