

HFNC weed control report for Nigretta Flora Reserve 2010

African Weed Orchid (AWO) were found on this 12-ha Flora Reserve in 2009 and efforts were immediately made in an effort to control the menace. That work continued in 2010.

Plants were wiped with a solution of Metsulfuron Methyl + Pulse + vegetable dye.

26 October – RB wiped 4,700 AWO from 9.30 am-5.30 pm. A slight shower at 5.15 pm halted operations.

A new orchid found (2 specimens) that appear to be *Caladenia gracilis* or *C. moschata*. Petals white, with no reddish tinge on the edges. Top of dorsal sepals was creamy-brown. Inside the flower the column and labellum was white or yellowish, with no red calli. There were hundreds of *T. rubra*, *T. ixioides*, *T. pauciflora*, *Glossodia major* and *D. chryseopsis* flower. *Glycine latrobeana* was also flowering in many parts of the reserve but *Brunonia australis* was yet to flower.

27 October – RB wiped 3,700 AWO and a dozen or so Wild Gladiolus from 11 am to 6 pm. The area covered excluded the NW area and the NE area (east along the north fence to the river). Herbicide-wiped with Ally/Pulse/dye; all dead within 2-3 weeks of application – from southern half.

Echidna diggings were everywhere on the reserve. One large animal wandered down the slope and ambled over a shoe, quite unconcerned by the proximity of people. Several pairs of Shingleback lizards were also seen, as was a Black Wallaby.

19 November – RB wiped 1,740 AWO from 1 pm to 7.30 pm (6.5 hr). At least 1,200 plants came from the southern half that had been treated in October – new plants and plants missed then. The herbicide solution used was Metsulfuron Methyl, wetter and dye. The heads of mature plants were snapped off after wiping and re removed from the site and burned.

From 6 pm-8.30 pm, RZ & YI pulled 32 kg of AWO (estimated to be about 3,580 plants, from a relationship of 112 plants weighing 1 kg). About 5% of the plants pulled came out with corms intact. Most of the plants were removed from the northern half of the reserve.

AWO wiped on 26 or 27 October had died and were dry and brown. It appeared that no seed had set. The Sun-orchids had finished flowering and all had set seed.

Total 13,720 plants, incl. 3,580 pulled to remove seedheads from plants that had not been poisoned.

Volunteers	26 Oct	27 Oct	19 Nov	Herbicide-wiped	Total for 2010	
					Pulled (new plants only)	Overall Total (wiped + new)
RB	4,700	3,700	1,740	10,140		10,140
RZ, YI			~3,580		3,580	3,580
Total	4,700	3,700	1740	10,140	3,580	13,720