



# HAMILTON FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

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## Report on Weed Control at Fulham Streamside Reserve in Sept.-Oct. 2023

### Summary

We visited the reserve on 2 occasions (24 Sept. & 07 Oct.). We concentrated on the area west of the entry track off Edgewood Rd on the western quarter of Fulham SR (see map):

- Area 1
- Area 9 – a margin of about 70 m east of the entry track off Edgewood Rd
- Area 10 (the edge of the creek) and Area 4 (embankment bordering part of Area 1)

Most of Area 1 (all except the western 20 m edge of the track) was not covered in 2022.

Unfortunately, with only 3 volunteers available, we were not able to cover a greater area of the reserve and areas treated in previous years were not covered. We hope to tackle Areas 2 & 5 next year. Support within the club for this work has waned over the years, partly because of a perception that PV does not rank this reserve high on its priorities for management. We also have a declining membership of active younger people able to carry on the work – those who would volunteer are probably deterred by the obvious lack of interest shown by government.

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.

We also found 2 spots of infestation by other weeds: Lavender (by a large log in N-centre of Area 1) and 3 African Boxthorn seedlings (under a tree near the track in Area 1). There were 2 larger bushes and about 100 Lavender seedlings in an area of about 20 m x 20 m. These were wiped but the site needs to be inspected next years.

In total, we spent 30 person-hours and applied 11 L of wipe herbicide. On the basis of an estimate of an average of about 1 mL of herbicide solution applied/plant we estimate that we wiped around 11,000 plants (a rough estimate CT 85%, AWO 5%, SB 5%, others 5%).

### Other issues

*Acacia paradoxa* – this shrub is rapidly expanding its cover on the reserve. We have observed this in many bushland areas, including the Wannan Flora Reserve (we tackled that problem in 2020-23), Wannan Rapids Flora Reserve and Black Range State Park. Unless it is controlled it will drastically reduce the ground flora in the reserve heathland and woodland areas.

Wood gatherers continue to drive off-road, spreading weeds and destroying vegetation – and we reported seeing 4 vehicles with trailer loads of wood leaving the reserve on 23 September.

The tracks are in poor condition and ever-widening as drivers seek to avoid holes and puddles.

### Particulars of the volunteer work visits

**23 Sept. 2023** – RB, DL, PH, worked in Area 1, 10, 4 and 9. The weather was fine.  
Work time = 15 hours; Herbicide wipe solution used = 5.6 L.

**08 Oct. 2022** – RB, DL, PH worked on Areas 1, 4 & 9. There was a light drizzle of rain before we began but none thereafter.  
Work time = 16 hours. Herbicide wipe solution used = 5.4 L.

**Fauna** – Red-necked Wallaby, Black Wallaby, Eastern Grey Kangaroo and a number of Shingle-backs were also seen. Forty bird species were seen, including a Stubble Quail.

Birds seen during these visits in spring 2023 were:

- |                              |                            |                              |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Australian Magpie         | 15. Jacky Winter           | 29. Stubble Quail            |
| 2. Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike | 16. Laughing Kookaburra    | 30. Sulphur-crested Cockatoo |
| 3. Brown Thornbill           | 17. Little Black Cormorant | 31. Superb Fairy-wren        |
| 4. Common Bronzewing         | 18. Little Pied Cormorant  | 32. Wedge-tailed Eagle       |
| 5. Crimson Rosella           | 19. Long-billed Corella    | 33. Weebill                  |
| 6. Dusky Moorhen             | 20. Pied Currawong         | 34. White-browed Babbler     |
| 7. Fan-tailed Cuckoo         | 21. Purple Swamphen        | 35. White-necked Heron       |
| 8. Forest Raven              | 22. Red Wattlebird         | 36. White-plumed Honeyeater  |
| 9. Gang Gang Cockatoo        | 23. Rufous Whistler        | 37. White-winged Chough      |
| 10. Golden Whistler          | 24. Sacred Kingfisher      | 38. Yellow-faced Honeyeater  |
| 11. Grey Currawong           | 25. Scarlet Robin          | 39. Yellow-rumped Thornbill  |
| 12. Great Egret              | 26. Shining Bronze-cuckoo  | 40. Yellow-tailed Cockatoo   |
| 13. Grey Fantail             | 27. Spotted Pardalote      |                              |
| 14. Grey Shrike-thrush       | 28. Striated Pardalote     |                              |

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

