

HFNC Report on Kanawalla Rail Flora Reserve works 2012

Rod Bird

General notes

Much water lying on the central section, on NE area and near MacFarlanes Rd on 2 September. The Club did not visit the area this year and hence little work has been done. No vandalism to report.

Flora

We note that the Natural Temperate Grasslands of the Western Volcanic Plains was listed in June 2008 by the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment as a critically endangered community under the EPBC Act. This area is included.

No new species have been recorded. A young Tree Everlasting was noted near south fence, east of the power line crossing. The list has 86 native species.

Black Wallabies have severely pruned most of the young Silver Banksia and Drooping Sheoaks – these should be guarded to give them a chance to grow. A photo of trees planted in the northern block in 2006 and 2007 is shown below (Photo 2 Sep12 DL).

Fencing

The fence in the NE corner (adjacent to the Blue Gums) has fallen down and has not yet been repaired. A wire has been broken behind the dam and needs to be re-connected.

Track clearance

Overhanging branches were trimmed by RB in June.

Weed control

2 Sep (RB &DL, each 4 hr, 5 L of Glyphosate/Ally spray and 1.5 L of wipe solution of Glyphosate/Ally used):

Oxalis purpurea

- 105 spots wiped on W fence, McFarlanes Rd to Dam
- 75 spots spot-sprayed on W fence, from Dam to SW end of the wide reserve
- 2 m² patch sprayed near sparaxis area on northern section

Sparaxis

- 70 plants spot-sprayed (Ally & Glyphosate) on drain from embankment in north section.

Garden weeds

- Carrot weed and Cleavers pulled out or sprayed near the big Wild Cherry on the SW end of embankment (more weeding needed in 2013)
- Wild Gladiolus – a few sprayed NE from the Wild Cherry Tree.

Briar Rose & Thistles

- Dozens of bushes and plants were spot-sprayed.

Phalaris

- Clumps near the embankment and near McFarlanes Rd were spot-sprayed.

Track slashing – yet to be done

New Bird sightings (2 Sep 2012) – the list now has 44 species (see over)

- Nankeen Night-heron flew from a Blackwood on the reserve, behind the dam
- Willie Wagtail
- Pallid Cuckoo.



Birdlist for Kanawalla Railway Reserve, 2004-12

No.	Species	First record	No.	Species	First record
1	Australian Magpie	28/04/2006	31	Spotted Pardalote	04/09/2008
2	Black-Faced Cuckoo-Shrike	22/09/2007	32	Striated Pardalote	04/09/2008
3	Brown Falcon	27/07/2006	33	Striated Thornbill	10/09/2007
4	Brown Quail	18/06/2009	34	Stubble Quail	24/11/2007
5	Brown Thornbill	09/03/2006	35	Tree Martin	22/09/2007
6	Buff-Rumped Thornbill	06/10/2007	36	Varied Sittella	03/11/2005
	Common Blackbird	11/12 2011	37	Weebill	24/11/2007
7	Common Bronzewing	29/10/2004	38	Welcome Swallow	22/09/2007
8	Crimson Rosella	28/04/2006	39	White-eared Honeyeater	16/11/2008
9	Eastern Rosella	02/09/2006	40	Willie Wagtail	02/09/2012
10	Flame Robin	11/12 2011	41	Yellow-Faced Honeyeater	13/08/2006
11	Galah	28/04/2006	42	Yellow-Rumped Thornbill	09/03/2006
12	Golden Whistler	28/04/2006	43	Yellow-Tailed Black-Cockatoo	09/03/2006
13	Grey Fantail	29/10/2004	44	Yellow Thornbill	04/09/2008
14	Grey Shrike-Thrush	29/10/2004			
15	Laughing Kookaburra	27/07/2006			
16	Little Raven	07/04/2008			
17	Long-billed Corella	11/12 2011			
18	Mistletoebird	07/04/2008			
19	Nankeen Night-heron	02/09/2012			
20	Nankeen Kestrel	13/08/2006			
21	Pallid Cuckoo	02/09/2012			
22	Red Wattlebird	01/09/2007			
23	Red-Rumped Parrot	29/10/2004			
24	Restless Flycatcher	28/04/2006			
25	Rufous Fantail	11/12 2011			
26	Rufous Songlark	29/10/2004			
27	Rufous Whistler	11/12 2011			
28	Scarlet Robin	27/07/2006			
29	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	22/09/2007			
30	Silvereye	27/07/2006			



Rufous Fantail – seen at the reserve in Dec 2011 (The sighting of Rufous Fantails on the reserve is unexpected since the species is rarely seen in this region. It usually prefers wet forests from southern Victoria to northern Queensland).



Pallid Cuckoo – seen in September 2012, possibly soon after arrival from northern Australia (Photo D Luhrs).