



HAMILTON FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

PO Box 591
Hamilton, Victoria 3300

22 October 2011

Report on Weed Control Work at the Fulham Streamside Reserve in Sept.-Oct. 2011

SUMMARY

Activities – 10, 14, 21, 23-25 September and 19 October members of HFNC spent 111 hours treating Cape Tulip (CT), *Sparaxis bulbifera* (SB), Bridal Creeper (BC), Wild Gladiolus (WG) and some other environmental weeds (Phalaris, Briar Rose, Cocksfoot, Thistle & African Weed Orchid), on the western part of the floristically-rich part of the western half of the Fulham Streamside Reserve.

The area worked is shown on the attached map. The defined areas were as follows:

1. **Along the Entry Track to the river**, particularly the former hotspot of SB midway along the track on the western side.
2. **On the east side of the entry track near the river** – a former hotspot of SB & WG along off-road vehicle tracks through the *Pterostylis nutans* site.
3. **The “peninsula”** where BC is a threat.
4. **West to the railway line and old bridge from the Second Creek** (downstream from the bend) on the river – this area is badly infested with pasture grass and isolated CT. The Cocksfoot and Phalaris hotspots near the bridge were treated with Glyphosate.
5. **The western boundary strip outside the channel** running south along the railway embankment – CT has badly affected the northern half as a consequence of massive infestation from the adjacent freehold land. Part of this first section was treated but more work needed next year. CT, SB and AWO (3 plants) were treated on the southern half.
6. **The western boundary channel** running south adjacent to the railway embankment to about mid-way – this section was badly infested with SB and was sprayed (it had not been treated in previous years); CT also treated on this strip.
7. **Area between the Entry Tk and the Railway Embankment** – SB & CT were treated in this area. Odd plants of SB continue in the channel that was once heavily infested. CT is still a major problem and the source appears to be untreated adjacent freehold land to the west.
8. **From the Seasonal Road Closure on River Tk, north to the river**, extending ~ 300 m east – clumps of Phalaris and Cocksfoot were sprayed, to prevent future movement of seed across the track to the heathland. CT and SB also treated on the river-side margin of this track.
9. **River Tk east to the eastern side of the first major watercourse** – this area has been badly infested with SB & CT. A big effort was made this year to treat all plants in and around the *Melaleuca neglecta* ground. Weeds near the former off-road tracks through the swamp and around to the south were treated. (These old tracks are eroding and are a major source of re-infestation of SB). The area west from this point to the Entry Tk was also checked for CT.
10. **The old “diagonal track” from the top of the Melaleuca Swamp to the entrance** of the reserve – this track was severely infested along most of its length with small SB and 5 hotspots of CT, mostly on and near the track. These were all sprayed with Ally.

Application of herbicides – *Sparaxis* in the dense areas of infestation were spot-sprayed with *Metsulfuron methyl* (3 g/10 L), surfactant (50 mL/10 L) and a red vegetable dye (40 mL/10 L). *Glyphosate* (150 mL/10 L) replaced Ally when grass species were treated. In all other cases SB and CT plants were wiped with a concentrated herbicide solution (*Metsulfuron methyl*, 1 g/ L, surfactant 5 mL/ L, dye 5 mL/ L) using a tool (previously described).

Birds – 65 species seen, with a ‘new’ bird (Straw-necked Ibis) – total now 118 species (see Table).

Mammals – Grey Kangaroos, Red-necked Wallaby, Black Wallaby and one Red Fox were seen. A Platypus was seen in the river and a Sugar Glider was seen in a Black Wattle on 23 Sep.

Flora – *Pterostylis nutans* was conspicuous in the treated area near the river and Sun-orchids, Spider orchids, Glossodia and others were prominent. Common Spider-orchid (*Caladenia patersonii*) was discovered near the N end (west side) of the entry Tk. Another ‘new’ species, a single plant of Kangaroo Apple (*Solanum laciniatum*), was seen towards the old bridge. ACB recorded *S. simile* but this plant had divided leaves. The indigenous native flora list now comprises 330 species.

DETAIL OF WORKS UNDERTAKEN IN 2011

Areas treated

1. **Along the Entry Track to the river** - About 12 SB plants found at entrance. Only ~ 50 small plants found on the former hotspot midway along the track on the western side. A few CT found along the way.
2. **On the east side of the entry track near the river** - a former hotspot of SB & WG along off-road vehicle tracks through the *Pterostylis* orchid site. A few dozen SB still present and treated but the orchid colony is expanding now.
3. **The “peninsula”** - BC still present and treated. Some CT & SB occur along the river, especially near the most southerly bend (camp site). Some isolated CT also in central area.
4. **West to the railway line and old bridge from the Second Creek (the major creek downstream from the bend) on the river.** This area is badly infested with pasture grass and hundreds of isolated CT were wiped with Ally herbicide. The Cocksfoot and *Phalaris* hotspots (and many thistles) near the bridge were treated with Glyphosate (25 L spray mix). The infestation of SB adjacent to Bridge Tk sprayed last year had about 100 plants requiring attention.
5. **The western boundary strip outside the channel running south along the railway embankment** – CT has badly affected the northern half as a consequence of massive infestation from the adjacent freehold land. The first 150 m of this first section was sprayed with Ally (5 L) but more work needed next year for that and the extension south. CT, SB and AWO (3 plants) were treated on the southern half. One hot-spot of SB was found and sprayed on the fenceline about mid-way, approx. opposite a group of 3 Red Gums on the embankment.
6. **The western boundary channel running south adjacent to the railway embankment to about mid-way.** This section was heavily infested with many thousands of SB (in some places a carpet) and was sprayed with Ally mix; CT was also treated on this strip. About 15 L of spray was applied in the channel area (14 Sep), 12 L near the fence and in the channel (23 Sep) and 9 L in the channel at the south end of the infestation (19 Oct).
7. **Area between the Entry Tk and the Railway Embankment** – Odd plants of SB continue to be found in the channel, and a more extensive infestation on the west side of the channel towards the bridge. The latter was sprayed (2 L) rather than being wiped. CT is still a major problem in the central area south of the Bridge Tk and east of the channel and the source appears to be untreated adjacent freehold land to the west.
8. **From the Seasonal Road Closure on River Tk, north to the river, extending ~ 300 m east** – clumps of *Phalaris* and Cocksfoot were sprayed (10 L), to prevent future movement of seed across the track to the heathland. CT and SB were also treated on the river-side margin of this track.
9. **River Tk east to the eastern side of the first major watercourse/Melaleuca swamp** – this area has been badly infested with SB & CT. A significant effort was expended this year to treat all plants in and around the *Melaleuca neglecta* ground. Weeds near the former off-road tracks through the swamp and around to the south (including bulldozed trails) were also treated. Most plants were wiped but severe infestations were sprayed (5 L). The area west from this point to the Entry Tk (in line with the southerly bend in the river) was also checked for CT.
10. **The old “diagonal track” running from the top of the Melaleuca Swamp to near the entrance of the reserve** – this track was severely infested along much of its length with small SB and 5 dense hotspots of CT, mostly on and near the track. These were sprayed on 19 Oct. (10 L).

Works

- Sat 10 Sep., 10.30 am-12.30 pm – 13 present (RB&DL, RZ&YI, JC&GC, RA&JS, DM&LM, JH, JS, HT) = 22 hr
- Wed 14 Sep. – RB, 9.30 am-6.15 pm (7.5 hr)
- Wed 21 Sep. – RB, 9.0 am- 5.30pm (8 hr)
- Fri 23 Sep. – RB, 10.30 am-7.0 pm (8 hr)
- Sat 24 Sep. 1 pm- 4.30 pm – 9 present (RB&DL, RZ&YI, JC&GC, DM&LM, HT) = 32 hr
- Sun 25 Sep. – 7 present: from 10 am, RB (7 hr), DL (6 hr), RZ&YI (each 4 hr), JC&GC (each 2 hr), MM (2 hr) = 27 hr
- Wed 19 Oct. – RB, 9.15 am- 3.30 pm (6 hr)

Total = 111 hrs

Table 2. 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.

