



HAMILTON FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

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Report on Weed Control Work at the Fulham Streamside Reserve in Sept.-Oct. 2019

We again concentrated on the area west of the entry track on the western quarter of Fulham SR (see map). This restriction has been needed because of a lack of volunteers to manage a larger area.

We visited the reserve on 7 occasions (15 Sept. to 30 Oct), starting at Area 2 (see Map). We covered most of the area west from the entry track up to the western bend in the river (Area 8). We were particularly thorough in the coverage of Areas 1, 2 and 5; also a 100 m strip along most of the east side of the entry track (Area 9) where heavy patches of infestation with Cape Tulip was found. The western fence (Area 4) and part of Area 10 (mostly along the creek and its edges) were also targeted. Dense patches of Cape Tulip along some parts of the western fence (Area 4) and *Sparaxis* encroachment in areas just south of the Old Bridge Rd (Area 2) required spraying, using *metsulfuron methyl* herbicide. *Sparaxis* continues to be a major problem, despite efforts made over the years to eliminate it, and much time was spent in dealing with this weed in Areas 2 & 5.

We did NOT cover the following areas:

- The Point (Area 6), except for the southern part near Area 8 at the western river bend
- The area approaching the seasonal closure sign on the River Track (Area 7).
- The NW part of Area 3 (from the Old Bridge extending east along the creek to the river)
- The SW corner part of Area 10.

We treated *Moraea flaccida* Cape Tulip (CT), *Sparaxis bulbifera* Harlequin Flower (SB), *Gladiolus undulatum* Wild Gladiolus (WG) and many *Disa bracteata* African Weed Orchid (AWO).

We employed two strategies:

1. Weed-wiping with a *glyphosate-metsulfuron methyl solution* (40 mL *glyphosate*/L and 1 g *metsulfuron methyl*/L solution) that included a wetter (Pulse, 5 mL/L) and vegetable dye (5 mL/L). This approach was used for all scattered plants of CT, SB, WG & AWO.
2. Spot-spraying with *metsulfuron methyl* (3 g/10 L) solution with wetter (Pulse, 50 mL/10 L) and dye (50 mL/10 L). This approach was used for dense infestations of CT along the western fence and on the creek from Edgewood Rd to the old Little Bridge site and for dense infestations of SB south of the Old Bridge Track.

Summary

We spent 108 person-hours and applied 52 L of spray herbicide and 39.5 L of wipe-herbicide. More effort was made this year than in any previous year to control the weeds. On the basis of the 2018 count of plants wiped per L of herbicide used (average of 0.8 mL/plant) we estimate that we wiped around 49,000 CT, SG, WG and AWO. The number of CT and SB sprayed was not estimated but there would have been many thousands of plants treated.

The problem with Cape Tulip and *Sparaxis* continues. Wild Gladiolus is now also a major threat and AWO is probably impossible to control. Hoons continue to drive off-road and spread weeds. The landowner to the west is now controlling CT but that is not happening in the State Forest block in the NW area at Fulham. Seed will continue to infest the reserve until that source is removed. HFNC will decide in 2020 whether to continue this work, given that after 14 years trying we have been unable to rid 'our' area of CT and SG, although the problems there is less now than in other parts of the reserve.

It also seems that PV policy is not to adequately protect the environmental values of the reserve. Hoons, with their chain saws, 4WDs and motorcycles, run wild. They have made a huge mess of the River Track and created new tracks through the flora areas away from the river. The reserve appears to come under the Ngootyoong Gunditj Ngootyoong Mara South West Management Plan (May 2015). Nothing has been done about the tracks in the reserve in recent years, or to install some effective management signs, or to contain camping, off-road traffic and illegal cutting down of trees. We encountered campers and other visitors every day we worked there. There is still no toilet provided near the river. It seems that PV policy is to treat this reserve as a wasteland, handing it over to hoons.

Particulars of the volunteer work visits

Sunday 15 Sept. 2019 – HFNC volunteers RB, DL, PH, RZ, YI worked from 10.30 am-3.50 pm herbicide-wiping CT and some SB:

- Area 2, strips about 150 m wide along the east side and about 75% of the north side
- Area 3, the eastern half
- Area 8

Work time = 23.5 hours

Herbicide wipe solution (1 g metsulfuron methyl + 40 mL glyphosate per L) used = 6.0 L.

There were many plants in flower; included *Acacia. verniciflua*, *Glossodia major*, *Davesia brevifolia*, *Pterostylis nana*, *Caladenia parva* (a new record), *Microseris* sp., *Wurmbia dioica*, *Bulbine bulbosa*, *Chaemescilla corymbosa*, *Ranunculus robertsonii*.

Birds noted: Australian Darter, Australian Magpie, Brown Thornbill, Crimson Rosella, Eurasian Coot, Grey Currawong, Grey Fantail, Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo, Jacky Winter, Laughing Kookaburra, Pallid Cuckoo, Red-rumped Parrot, Shining Bronze-cuckoo, Spotted Pardalote, Striated Pardalote, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Pacific Black Duck, Pied Currawong, Superb Fairy-wren, Weebill, White-browed Babbler, White-throated Tree-creeper, Willie Wagtail, Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoo.

Other fauna: Echidna, Western Grey Kangaroos, Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Shingleback Lizards.

Wednesday 18 Sept. 2019 – RB worked from 9.15 am-5.30 pm-4.30 pm:

- Area 2, NW part (about 100 m wide from midway along Old Bridge Tk to the Old Bridge).
- Area 5, the channel area, extending about 200 m south from the Old Bridge)

Work time = 8 hours

Herbicide wipe solution used = 4 L applied to CT, SB & WG

Spot-spray *metsulfuron methyl* herbicide (3 g/10 L), 10 L applied to SB & WG.

Birds not seen earlier: Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Rufous Whistler, White-faced Heron, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Yellow-rumped Thornbill.

'Next' plants seen in flower included *Craspedia variabilis*, *Hypoxis glabella* & *Microtis* sp.

Sunday 22 Sept. 2019 – DL, RB, PH, RZ, YI, SP variously worked from 10.30 am-4 pm:

- Area 3, near the western bend of the river
- Area 2, the western quarter
- Area 5, the part adjacent to Area 2

Work time = 26 hours. A light shower fell at about 5 pm, accompanied by strong wind and some hail.

Herbicide wipe solution used = 11.0 L applied to CT, SB & WG

SB was found in large numbers in several places in Area 2 melaleuca clumps, old tracks near channel, kangaroo trail near the large log and near a Red Gum towards the centre, wet areas off Old Bridge Tk.

Birds not seen last visit: Gang-gang Cockatoo, Long-billed Corella, Musk Lorikeet, White-winged Triller (4).

Other fauna seen included a Red-necked Wallaby.

Thursday 26 Sept. 2019 – RB & PH worked from 9.45 am-4.30 pm:

- Area 2 (a re-visit to the strip along the Old Bridge Tk; a strip along the west side of the entry Rd; completed the SW quarter). A few dozen small SB were found along the old road on the west side of the present entry track in the SE quarter.
- Area 5 (channel and banks near Area 2 and halfway down Area 1) – quite a lot of SB & CT
- Area 4 (the western fence strip, from the Old Bridge to near the buildings on the west
- Area 9 (from Old Bridge Tk towards south end of Area 2, going ~100 m east of the rd)

Work time = 12.0 hr. A very light shower occurred at 4.30 pm.

Herbicide wipe solution used = 3.5 L

Spot-spray *metsulfuron methyl* herbicide = 22 L on CT and some SB on the western fence (Area 4) and 10 L on parts of Area 2 (boggy area south of Old Bridge Tk; along old track near channel; near Red Gum in centre of area; along kangaroo trail near big log).

Bossiaea prostrata and *Caladenia carnea* were seen in flower.

Birds not seen earlier were Purple Swamphen, Grey Teal, Australian Reed Warbler, Stubble Quail, Whistling Kite.

Tues. 1 Oct. 2019 – DL, RB & PH worked on CT and SB from 10 am-5 pm:

- Area 1, a strip about 75 m wide on the west side of the entry rd. Some SB was found on an old track and also about 50 plants on the Edgewood Rd reserve/Area 1 boundary west of the entry.
- Area 9, a strip about 100 m wide adjacent to Area 1 (some dense patches of CT found).

Work time = 18.75 hr

Herbicide wipe solution used = 7.0 L

Plants not seen in flower earlier in spring included *Caladenia pusilla* and *Stackhousia monogyna*. There were many orchids in flower, especially *C. carnea* and *Glossodia major*. Birds not seen earlier were Galah and New Holland Honeyeaters.

Fri. 18 Oct. 2019 – RB & PH worked on CT and SB from 10 am-4.30 pm:

- Area 10, along the creek from Edgewood Rd to Little Old Bridge and a strip about 15 m wide on the west side of the creek. Also, about 3 L of metsulfuron methyl spray on CT on west boundary.
- Area 4, 7 L of metsulfuron methyl spray along the west boundary from the Little Old Bridge to near the buildings on adjacent land.
- Area 1, from Edgewood Rd in a strip about 50 m wide east from (and including) the channel, north to enter Area 2. Also the remainder of the north-central part of Area 1 not covered earlier.

Work time = 12 hours

Herbicide wipe solution used = 5 L applied to CT, SB & AWO

Spot-spray *metsulfuron methyl* herbicide, 10 L applied to CT and some SB

Plants not seen in flower earlier in spring included *Thelymitra antennifera*, *T. rubra*, *Calochilus robertsonii* (1 plant), *Microtis* sp. and *Calytrix tetragona*. Birds not seen earlier were Shining Bronzecuckoo, Brown Falcon and Scarlet Robin.

Thurs. 31 Oct. 2019 – RB worked on CT, SB, AWO & WG from 8.30 am-5.15 pm:

- Area 2 – a strip approx. 100 m wide on the south side of the Old Bridge Tk, running from the Entry Rd to the channel and Old Bridge. Many 'new' CT yet to flower were wiped, along with older plants (perhaps 50%) mostly with flowers or seed heads that had obviously been missed earlier. The flowers and/or heads were mostly pulled off after wiping. Hundreds of AWO with flower heads were also wiped, along with many SB (many now with flowers or seed heads) missed in earlier work.

Work time = 7.75 hours

Herbicide wipe solution used = 3 L applied to CT, SB & AWO

Plants not seen in flower earlier in spring included *Arthropodium strictum*, *Arthropodium minus*, *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, *Burchardia umbellata*, *Dianella revoluta*, *Dianella* sp., *Dillwynia hispida*, *Hibbertia* sp., *Linum marginale*, *Microseris* sp., *Neurachne alopecuroides*, *T. pauciflora*, *Podolepis jaceioides*, *Vittadinea cuneata*, *Wahlenbergia* sp.

Birds not seen earlier were Red-browed Finch, White-browed Scrubwren and Magpie-lark.

Fauna seen included 6 Black Wallaby.

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

