



HAMILTON FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

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Report on Weed Control Work at the Fulham Streamside Reserve in Sept.-Oct. 2020

We concentrated on the area west of the entry track on the western quarter of Fulham SR (Areas 1, 2, 4 & 5 – see map), plus a margin of about 50 m east of the track (Area 9). Due to a shortage of volunteers we did not work on the areas north of the Old Bridge Track to the river (Area 3), except for a marginal strip of about 30 m on the north side of that track, nor in the other sections (Areas 6-8) or the SW corner from Edgewood Rd to the stream and the ruins of the small bridge (Area 10).

We visited the reserve on 6 occasions (25 Sept. to 21 Oct), starting at Area 1 (see Map). *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 treated *Moraea flaccida* Cape Tulip (CT), *Sparaxis bulbifera* Harlequin Flower (SB), *Gladiolus undulatum* Wild Gladiolus (WG) and many *Disa bracteata* African Weed Orchid (AWO) and *Oxalis purpurea* Purple Oxalis (PO). A patch of Lavender (*Lavandula* sp.), Box Thorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*) and several large patches of OP and Snow Drops (*Galanthus* sp.) were also treated.

We employed three 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 was used for dense infestations of SB.
3. Spot-spraying Lavender, *Oxalis purpurea* and Box Thorn with *glyphosate* (20 mL/L) plus *metsulfuron methyl* (3 g/10 L and wetter.

Summary

We spent 80 person-hours and applied 30 L of wipe herbicide and 8.5 L of spray herbicide. 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 38,000 plants (a rough estimate CT 60%, AWO 20%, SG 15%, WG 5%).

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 environmental values of the reserve are not adequately protected. The reserve appears to come under the Ngootyoong Gunditj Ngootyoong Mara South West Management Plan (May 2015). The tracks in the reserve are in very poor shape and there are no effective management signs, or attempts 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.

Particulars of the volunteer work visits

28 Sept. 2020 – (Covid restrictions caused the cancellation of 13 Sept. working bee and rain the planned 26 Sept visit). RB & DL (10.30 am-3.50 pm) herbicide-wiped CT, AWO (one very bad patch), a few SB, patches of OP and Snow Drop on Area 1.

Work time = 12 hours

Herbicide wipe solution used = 2.0 L.

Plants in flower included *Glossodia major* (a few), *Pterostylis nutans* (a few), *Caladenia parva* (many), *C. carnea* (many), *Calochilus robertsonii* (2).

An Australian Owlet Nightjar was seen (first record), flushed from a hollow in a Brown Stringybark. In all, 29 species of birds were noted. Other fauna: Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Shingleback Lizards.

01 Oct. 2020 – PH & RB, 10.30-4.30 pm on Area 1 and parts of Area 9 & 4. Sprayed a 5m x 10m patch of OP and a bush of Box Thorn. Patches with a hundred or more AWO were found.

Work time = 11 hours

Herbicide wipe solution used = 1.5 L

Herbicide spray solution (*glyphosate & metsulfuron methyl*) = 2 L

Plants in flower included *Caladenia pusilla*, *Cyrtostylis reniformis*, *Kennedia prostrata*, *Goodenia geniculata*, *Glycine clandestine*, *Caesia calliantha*, *Hibbertia* sp. & *Chaemaescilla corymbosa*.

03 Oct. 2020 – RB & PH, 10.15 am to 4.30 pm on Areas 1 & 2, Nth from the second mass of *A. paradoxa* bushes to a line of logs about half way to Old Bridge Tk.

Work time = 12 hours.

Herbicide wipe solution used = 2.0 L applied to CT, SB & AWO

Plants now in flower included *Thelymitra rubra*, *T. antennifera*, *Caladenia tentaculata*, *Microtis* sp, *Dillwynia hispida*, *Pultenea pedunculata*, *Bossiaea prostrata* and *Craspedia variabilis*.

Birds of note not seen on previous visits this season: Red-browed Finch, Whistling Kite.

6 Oct. 2020 – RB & DL, 9.45-5.45 pm on Area 2, Sth of Old Bridge Tk but including a strip on the Nth side of the track. There were masses of CT and also plenty of SB in flower. A site of Lavender infestation by a log between the two *A. paradoxa* masses to the Sth of Area 2 was sprayed.

Work time = 15 hr

Herbicide wipe solution used = 3.0 L applied to CT, SB & AWO

Herbicide spray solution (*glyphosate and metsulfuron methyl*) = 0.5 L

Plants in flower not seen earlier included *Thelymitra ixioides*, *Glycine latrobeana*, *Arthropodium* sp. & *Ranunculus* sp. & *Microseris* sp. A yellow spider-orchid was also seen.

Fauna seen included a Tiger Snake, several Shinglebacks, Eastern Grey Kangaroo and Black Wallaby.

12 Oct. 2020 – DL & Rb, 9.30 am-5.45 pm on Area 2, within 150 m of the rail line. Hundreds of AWO found, along with masses of CT. SB incursions found along kangaroo trails up to 150 m Sth from the Old Bridge Tk. Also SB Sth of the Old Bridge Tk at the copse and old track by the Entry Tk. Some CT in full flower, along with many SB. Some WG & thistles found and also wiped.

Work time = 15 hrs

Herbicide wipe-solution used = 8.2 L

Flora seen included *Thelymitra chasmogamma* (Globe-hooded Sun-orchid), a hybrid between *T. magecalyptra* (blue) and *T. luteocillum* (pink).

20 Oct. 2020 – PH & RB, on NW of Area 2. Thousands of CT and many hundreds of SB and some WG wiped. The SB has ventured further into the heathland, mainly along kangaroo trails and old tracks and much of it was in flower.

Work time = 14 hr

Herbicide wipe used = 8L

Arthropodium strictum now just starting to flower, along with *Stackhousia monguna* and *Burchardia umbellata*. *Thelymitra rubra* and some *T. antennifera* & *T. ixioides* were in full flower.

Birds not seen earlier included White-browed Scrubwren, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Rainbow Lorikeet, Spotted Pardalote and Sacred Kingfisher. Two Red-necked Wallabies, Eastern Grey Kangaroos and a number of Shingle-backs were also seen.

21 Oct. 2020 – DL & RB, 10 am-6 pm on Area 2. This year there were many thousands of AWO. For SB, there were at least 8 outbreak spots up to 100 m or more into the heath areas Also some in the stream bed. The SB also occurs on the boggy Nth & Sth side of the Old Bridge Tk. This was sprayed with *metsulfuron methyl*, as were dense patches towards the embankment.

Work time = 15 hr

Herbicide wipe solution used = 5.6 L

Herbicide spray (*metsulfuron-methyl*) = 6 L

Overall, 43 bird species were noted (see 'Fulham Streamside Birdlist for 1983-2020' on our website).

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

