

THE GECKO



Edition 42
January 2024

Welcome to the January 2024 edition of The Gecko.

Summer is definitely here and the hot, dry conditions already appear as if they're here to stay. While that can mean that our native plants are

stressed, and there is more watering required, it also means that there is nothing to trigger the germination of the weeds.

Wishing you and your patch a happy new year.

October to December 2023

29 October 2023

Five members met to pull up some Pink Gladiolus, *Gladiolus caryophyllaceus*, on a beautiful spring morning. The flowers had turned to seed pods and we were trying to remove them before they dropped their seeds.



26 November 2023

Five members met to water some of the seedlings we planted during winter. While some had died, many were thriving and it was a joy to see how big they'd grown.

Not only were we happy with the way our seedlings were growing, we found two native plants that had grown themselves in the revegetation area. One was a Chenille Honey-

myrtle, *Melaleuca huegelii* (the same species we had planted), and the other was a Native Wisteria, *Hardenbergia comptoniana*. Neither of these species are unusual, as they both occur naturally within a few metres of the seedlings, but what is noteworthy is that they are now starting to reclaim an area that had previously been over-run with Bridal Creeper, *Asparagus asparagoides*, and Brazilian Pepper trees, *Schinus terebinthifolia*. It is so much easier, not to mention satisfying, to revegetate an area when nature gives you a hand.



31 December 2023

The last group activity for the year was a quiet affair with only four members attending. We watered the same seedlings we watered in

November. It was sad to see that some more seedlings had died since last month but we had planted more than needed so some natural attrition was expected and would ensure that only the fittest survive.



Five litre bottles of water stand next to every seedling.

A big THANK YOU goes to Barbara, Ian, Jackie, Kade, Ronnie, Rosemary, Sian and the City of Canning's Natural Areas Team for helping out with these, and other, activities in the bushland.



Before and after

There is a small patch of bushland on Gibbs Street, East Cannington, opposite the intersection with Elizabeth Street, which Jackie and Ian started working on intensively in 2019. Below are two photographs of one view of the patch. They give an insight to the change that can be achieved with a bit (okay, a lot) of effort.

2019



2023



There is still a long way to go but seeing positive changes like this provides the motivation to keep working.