

# THE GECKO



Edition 48  
Jul 2025

Welcome to the July 2025 edition of The Gecko.

Everything changes in the bushland when you add water! It's planting time and seeds start germinating.

Unfortunately, the weeds start germinating too and will soon start ruling our activities. But until that time, let's focus on the good things – watching the bushland renew after another long, hot summer.

## April to June 2025

### **Rubble removal**

Several decades ago, someone dumped a truck-load of concrete in the bushland. Fences were put up in the 1990's to stop more dumping, but nothing was done about the concrete that was already there – until now!

Over the last 30+ years, the track used by the dumpers has revegetated, so the rubble couldn't be removed by machine. That only left one option so, during the summer of 2024-25, the concrete was carefully removed from the bushland by hand, one piece at a time. It was lined up along the nearest path until it was all out.



The rubble lined up along the path.

On 8 April, the City of Canning's Natural Areas Team helped us load the concrete onto vehicles and drive it to the main gate. From there it was easier to access by a skid steer and was taken to landfill. We estimate that there was around 2.5 cubic metres of rubble.



The volunteers and Canning staff admire the results of their labour after moving the rubble closer to the gate. Photo: Janelle



The rubble was picked up by a skid steer and placed in a truck.

The only problem we encountered during the process was a welcome one. A pair of Rainbow Bee-eaters decided they would build a nest right next to the dumped concrete. So as not to disturb them, removing the concrete from the bushland was put on hold for two months over December and January. This gave the birds enough time to raise their chicks and leave the nest.

The area from where the rubble was removed has now had native seed sown into it. The seed was collected from the trees and shrubs nearby in the hope that local genes will suit the area best and cover the bare area quickly. Thanks to the good rainfall at the end of May and beginning of June, the first seedlings had started to germinate by the end of June.



A Firewood Banksia seedling, *Banksia menziesii*, germinating in a cleared area.

### Planting

Winter seems to have started well this year with decent rains beginning in late May and continuing into June. With the soil nicely moistened, we wasted no time in getting seedlings in the ground. Over four sites, and many hours, we have planted close to 1,000 seedlings. The plants are both ones that we've

grown ourselves, plus some given to us by the City of Canning.

Many thanks are given to the City for the plants and for the physical help and extra materials provided with our largest planting effort.



Volunteers and City staff planting in Gibbs St Reserve.

A big THANK YOU goes to Ian, Jackie, Joanne, Kade, Katie, Sian, Bryce from SERCUL and the City of Canning's Natural Areas Team and other environmental staff for helping out with these and other activities in the bushland.

## Vale Terry Brennan

07.05.1934 - 19.05.2025

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of Terry Brennan. Terry, with his late wife Gill, was instrumental in preserving an area of remnant native vegetation near his Queens Park home in 1992, when it was earmarked for destruction. Together, they were the driving force behind the formation of this group, The Friends of Queens Park Bushland.

Although Terry has not been able to join us in the bushland for some time, we know that protecting the environment was still at the forefront of his thoughts. As recently as October 2023 he contacted us asking which candidates standing in the local government elections would best support the bushland.

We cannot thank Terry enough. Without his call to action all those years ago, the bushland in the Queens Park area would not be the expansive oasis in an urban jungle that it is today.

Terry passed away peacefully at the age of 91, surrounded by loved ones. He is survived by his family spanning five generations.

You can watch Terry's funeral service here - <https://leanneodea.com.au/tribute-page/?nid=1f4098a2-f5d3-46a1-aaba-651506e0f7b8#tab2>



Gill and Terry Brennan. Photo supplied by the family