

THE GECKO



Edition 25
October 2019

Welcome to the October 2019 edition of The Gecko.

This issue demonstrates the power of co-operation. All of our activities this quarter were held in conjunction with other organisations. Our bird watching walk was held with BirdLife Australia while

our planting and rubbish removing was supported by the City of Canning.

But let's not forget that the most important contributions came from you – our volunteers. Without you none of this would have happened at all.

July to September 2019

28 July 2019

What a turnout! Well over 200 people came to the City of Canning-organised National Tree Day event. What started as worrying whether we would get the plants in the ground, turned into worrying about how to keep so many people busy.

Perhaps the greatest concern was in trying not to trample the seedlings that had just been planted while getting the rest in the ground. But, with guidance provided by the City of Canning's Natural Areas Team, the 5,000 plants were happily in the ground in 1 hour.



The City also provided everyone with a hot cuppa and muffin from the coffee van and the Lions Club did their magic with the sausage sizzle.

By the looks on their faces, everyone attending had a great time.



Please accept our apologies if you attended the day and your name doesn't appear in the 'thank you' list below. There were so many people that we couldn't keep track of everyone who helped on the day. Be assured, though, that you do have our sincere thanks for joining in.

18 August 2019

Our bird watching walk, in conjunction with BirdLife Australia, was well attended with 22 people getting out and about early on a 3C morning.

The birds were vocal from the beginning with Brown Honeyeaters making it hard to hear anything else. We had good views of the Grey Fantail, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes and nine species of waterbirds.

A Shining Bronze-cuckoo could be heard for most of the morning but only showed itself towards the end. A Galah stuck its head out of a hollow while its partner kept an eye on us, but we couldn't tell if it was breeding or just trying to keep warm.

The Western and Red Wattlebirds were seen feeding side by side in the same tree. This gave those who were not so familiar with them the opportunity to spot the differences.



We did some wildflower spotting along the way, too. While it was still a bit early in the season for a bold display, six different orchids were seen flowering.

The bird count at morning tea came to 40 species but was increased to 42 while we sat chatting. First, some Straw-necked Ibis flew overhead and then the honeyeaters drew our attention to a Brown Goshawk – the only raptor for the day.

29 September 2019

This was our first visit to this piece of bushland and it had suffered a lot of rubbish dumping over the years. Thankfully, we had a fine day (although it was a bit too warm) and nine pairs of willing hands to move as much rubbish as we could find onto the verge.

As you can see in the photos, we managed to find quite a bit of rubbish – including the rusted remains of what was once a Volkswagon Beetle! That was the largest single piece of rubbish but there was also a fridge, filing cabinet and at least five chairs.

Mandy, from the City of Canning, was also on site to talk to us about the plans for the block and to get a firsthand look at the work that needs to be done. The neighbours were invited to help out, or just come to chat, and we met three people who were very happy that the bushland will be retained.



This is all that remains of a VW Beetle that had been dumped.

A special thank you goes to one neighbour, Vince, who helped with the rubbish clean up and was instrumental in getting the car and fridge out of the bush. We couldn't have done it without him.



This pile of rubbish contains the fridge, filing cabinet and chairs.

We now look forward to removing the weeds and liberating the native plants. The flora list for the site is being compiled and a new native species was identified on the morning – *Burchardia congesta*. This brings the list to 77 species in total – 43 weeds and 34 natives. The number of weed species identified on the block won't ever go down, but we hope to reduce their numbers and them much more difficult to find in the future.

Also recorded using the block are 11 bird species and two reptiles. These totals are expected to increase as we spend more time surveying the block and the vegetation is rehabilitated. A list of what we've seen so far is attached for your information.

A big THANK YOU goes to Anne, Barbara M, Bev, Collette, Frank, Ian, Ikhlalas, Jackie, Jelena, Jenni, Kade, Katrina, Koda, Mandy, Mark, Merise, Ronnie, Rosemary, Shirley, Sian, Ubaydah, Vince and the City of Canning's Natural Areas Team for helping out with these, and other, activities in the bushland.

Upcoming events

Details of our upcoming activities are yet to be finalised but will be distributed by email and advertised on our website.

Also this quarter

We saw bollards installed and rubbish cleaned

out of the small patch of bushland opposite the intersection of Gibbs Street and Elizabeth Street.

After someone attempted to drive through the bushland we asked the City if the bollards either side of the bushland area could be extended to protect the trees. These were installed in September and we are very happy with the extra protection.

We also had two other requests on our wishlist for the area. One was to have mounds, of what could have been dumped garden waste, removed. The mounds appear to have been there for a very long time and were full of decomposed vegetable matter.

The other wish was to have an access gate moved to the other side of a tree. While it was only a move of about 10 metres, it allows us to incorporate a few trees that were separated from the main patch by a dirt track.

We are extremely grateful to the City of Canning who arranged for all of these wishes to come true.

Weed control is the priority for this patch for the next few years. It had a severe problem with Dolichos Pea, *Dipogon lignosus*, which was cleared over the last couple of years. However, seedlings are continuing to germinate in huge numbers. These need to be controlled and the seedbank exhausted before we can look at revegetating the area.

Treating dieback



Every three years, the City of Canning engages a contractor to survey and treat our reserves for dieback caused by *Phytophthora* species.

Phytophthora is a soil-borne pathogen that is able to infect about 40% of WA's native plants. Plants that become infected are unable to absorb water and nutrients from the soil. They then die.

One of our reserves was treated in August and it was pleasing to see that the continued treatment has been successful.

Treatment involves injecting susceptible species with Phosphite. This helps the trees resist infection. Plants that can't be injected, like Grass Trees and shrubs, are given a foliar spray.

The *Banksia menziesii* in the photograph, left, shows the Phosphite being injected. This tree also shows three pieces of flagging tape. Trees on the boundary of the infected soil are marked with tape every time a survey is conducted. The brightly coloured tape is this survey's marking while the other two are from three and six years ago. The tape on this tree shows that the infection boundary hasn't moved in at least six years. This is great news for our bushland.

Credit must go to the City of Canning for ensuring our bushland receives continued treatment. Without the treatment happening every three years we risk losing our Banksias, Grass Trees, many other understory plants and every organism that relies on these plants for survival.

Flora list for 147-151 Gerard St East Cannington

Compiled by FQPB members

Last updated 30 September 2019

* Introduced

(TBC) To be confirmed when flowering

Family	Scientific name	Common name
Alliaceae		
	* <i>Allium triquetrum</i>	Three-cornered Garlic
Anacardiaceae		
	* <i>Schinus terebinthifolia</i>	Japanese Pepper
Arecaceae		
	* <i>Washingtonia filifera</i>	Cotton Palm
Asparagaceae		
	* <i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>	Bridal Creeper
	<i>Thysanotus manglesianus</i>	Fringed Lily
Asteraceae		
	* <i>Conyza bonariensis</i>	Flaxleaf Fleabane
	* <i>Cotula turbinata</i>	Funnel Weed
	* <i>Hypochaeris</i> sp.	Flat Weed
	* <i>Lactuca saligna</i>	Wild Lettuce
	* <i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Common Groundsel
	* <i>Senecio</i> sp.	
	* <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Common Sowthistle
	* <i>Ursinia anthemoides</i>	Ursinia
Brassicaceae		
	* <i>Brassica tournefortii</i>	Wild Turnip
	* <i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	Wild Radish
Casuarinaceae		
	<i>Allocasuarina fraseri</i>	Sheoak
Cyperaceae		
	<i>Baumea rubiginosa</i> (TBC)	
	<i>Mesomelaena tetragona</i>	Semaphore Sedge
Dasypogonaceae		
	<i>Dasypogon bromeliifolius</i>	Pineapple Bush
Droseraceae		
	<i>Drosera glanduligera</i>	Pimpernel Sundew

Family	Scientific name	Common name
--------	-----------------	-------------

Euphorbiaceae

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| * Euphorbia peplus | Petty Spurge |
| * Euphorbia terracina | Geraldton Carnation Weed |
| * Ricinus communis | Castor Oil Plant |

Fabaceae

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| * Acacia longifolia | |
| Acacia saligna | Orange Wattle |
| Acacia cyclops (TBC) | Coastal Wattle |
| Daviesia physodes | |
| Gompholobium tomentosum | Hairy Yellow Pea |
| Hardenbergia comptoniana | Native Wisteria |
| Jacksonia furcellata | Grey Stinkwood |
| Kennedia prostrata | Scarlet Runner |
| * Medicago polymorpha | Burr Medic |
| * Ornithopus compressus | Yellow Serradella |
| * Trifolium arvense | Hare's Foot Clover |
| * Vicia sativa | Common Vetch |

Geraniaceae

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| * Pelargonium sp. | |
|-------------------|--|

Haemodoraceae

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Conostylis sp. | |
|----------------|--|

Iridaceae

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| * Ferraria crispa | Black Flag |
| * Gladiolus undulatus | Wild Gladiolus |
| * Hesperantha falcata | |
| * Moraea flaccida | One-leaf Cape Tulip |
| Patersonia occidentalis | Purple Flag |
| * Romulea rosea | |
| * Watsonia sp. | Watsonia |

Lauraceae

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| Cassytha sp. | Dodder Laurel |
|--------------|---------------|

Myrtaceae

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| * Leptospermum laevigatum | Coast Teatree |
| Melaleuca huegelii | Chenille Honeymyrtle |
| Melaleuca preissiana | Moonah |
| Melaleuca raphiophylla | Swamp Paperbark |
| Melaleuca seriata (TBC) | |
| Melaleuca viminea | Mohan |
| Verticordia densiflora (TBC) | Compacted Featherflower |

Oleaceae

- | | |
|-----------------|-------|
| * Olea europaea | Olive |
|-----------------|-------|

Family	Scientific name	Common name
--------	-----------------	-------------

Oxalidaceae

- * *Oxalis pes-caprae* Soursob

Papaveraceae

- * *Fumaria capreolata* Whiteflower Fumitory

Passifloraceae

- * *Passiflora* sp. Passion Vine

Poaceae

- * *Cenchrus clandestinus* Kikuyu
- * *Cortaderia selloana* Pampas Grass
- * *Cynodon dactylon* Couch
- * *Ehrharta calycina* Perrenial Veldt Grass
- * *Ehrharta longiflora* Annual Veldt Grass
- * *Eragrostis curvula* African Lovegrass
- * *Stenotaphrum secundatum* Buffalo Grass

Proteaceae

- Banksia dallanneyi* Couch Honeypot
- Banksia littoralis* Swamp Banksia
- Hakea prostrata* Harsh Hakea
- Hakea varia* Variable-leaved Hakea
- Petrophile juncifolia*
- Stirlingia latifolia* Blueboy

Restionaceae

- Meeboldina* sp. (TBC)

Solanaceae

- * *Solanum nigrum* Black Berry Nightshade

Xanthorrhoeaceae

- Chamaescilla corymbosa* (TBC) Blue Squill
- Xanthorrhoea brunonis*
- Xanthorrhoea preisii* Grass Tree

Zamiaceae

- Macrozamia riedlei* Zamia

Zygophyllaceae

- * *Tribulus terrestris* Caltrop

Fauna recorded at 147 - 151 Gerard Street

Compiled by FQPB members
Last updated 30 September 2019

BIRDS

Common name	Scientific name	Notes
Crested Pigeon	<i>Geophaps lophotes</i>	
Carnaby's Cockatoo	<i>Calyptorhynchus latirostris</i>	
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	<i>Chalcites lucidus</i>	
Willie Wagtail	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>	
Singing Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus virescens</i>	
Brown Honeyeater	<i>Lichmera indistincta</i>	Breeding
New Holland Honeyeater	<i>Phylidonyris novaehollandiae</i>	
Mistletoebird	<i>Dicaeum hirundinaceum</i>	
Striated Pardalote	<i>Pardalotus striatus</i>	
Silvereye	<i>Zosterops lateralis</i>	

REPTILES

Common name	Scientific name	Notes
Fence Skink	<i>Cryptoblepharus buchanani</i>	
Bobtail	<i>Tiliqua rugosa</i>	

INVERTEBRATES

Common name	Scientific name	Notes
White-cheeked Longicorn	<i>Ancita marginicollis</i>	
Crusader Bug	<i>Mictis profana</i>	