

# THE GECKO



Edition 45  
October 2024

Welcome to the October 2024 edition of The Gecko.

Following the rain of winter, some of the trees we thought lost to the extreme heat and dry of last summer have started resprouting. Unfortunately, the consistent rainfall also led to rampant weed growth and fewer days during which the required treatment

could be applied. We are now trying to get the weed growth under control before it becomes a fire hazard.

Sometimes it seems like we can never win. Which is why it's so important to take time out to look at what the bushland still has to offer.

## July to September 2024

### **28 July 2024**

With threatening clouds overhead, only three volunteers met to do some weeding. However, after only 30 minutes, the clouds made good on their threat and, quite suddenly, finding shelter and coffee became the top priority.

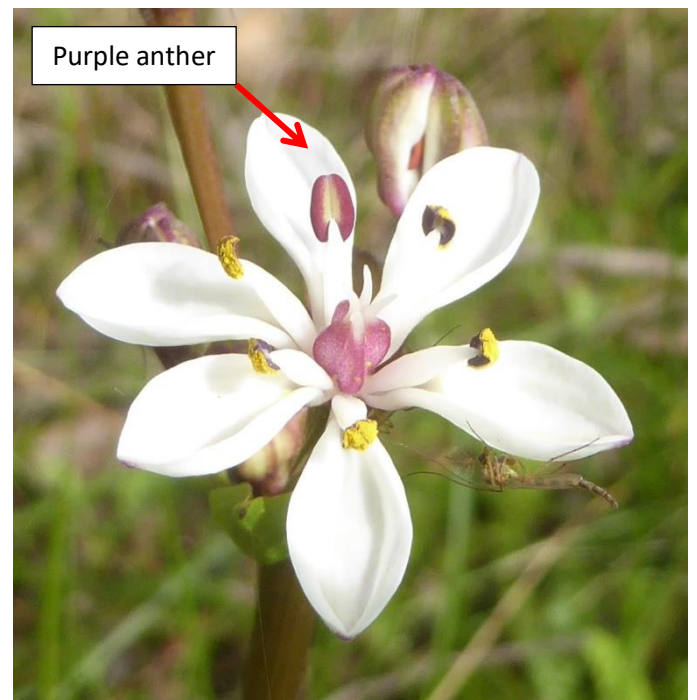


### **25 August 2024**

The clouds threatened again but failed to deter the three volunteers who met to do some weeding. After a few bags were filled, we went for a walk to see what we could find.

While there were many orchid leaves with flowers coming, we only found the Common

Donkey Orchid, *Diuris corymbosa*, in flower. Although not an orchid, we were pleased to find a Milkmaid, *Burchardia multiflora*, also in flower. There are two types of Milkmaid in our bushland, *Burchardia multiflora* and *B. congesta*. They can be separated by the colour of the anther on the stamen tips – *B. multiflora* has purple anthers while *B. congesta* has yellow ones.



## 29 September 2024

A beautiful day was met by nine members eager for a nature walk and to learn more about the redevelopment of the Queens Park Open Space.

While the weather was perfect for us, it was a bit too cloudy for the Scented Sun Orchids, *Thelymitra macrophylla*, to fully open. And it was a bit too cool for the native bees to be out and feeding on the *Daviesia* flowers. But we did see Pink Fairy Orchids, *Caladenia latifolia*, Mangles' Fringed Lily, *Thysanotus manglesianus*, a bright yellow caterpillar and lots of dragonflies that were too fast for us to identify.



Scented Sun Orchid, *Thelymitra macrophylla*. Photo: Susan

As we walked we talked about the changes that will be made to the bushland with the redevelopment. Changing our current crushed limestone tracks to bitumen brought out the most diversity of comments. Those who found the unevenness of the limestone challenging to walk on welcomed the bitumen, while others saw the bitumen as an enticing place for off-road motorbike riders wanting to lay down some rubber. Only time will tell how the area will be treated in the future.



The caterpillar of Sparshall's Moth, *Trichiocercus sparshalli*. Photo: Katrina



Mangles' Fringed Lily, *Thysanotus manglesianus*. Photo: Katrina

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

## Also this quarter

**At the July** ordinary council meeting, Canning councillors resolved to reimburse our insurance premiums for this year and last year. As insurance costs are more than half of our yearly expenditure, this is a huge financial benefit to us.

Thanks go to Deputy Mayor Amanda Spencer-Teo for raising this issue at council and to all of those who supported the initiative.

**And more thanks** go to the City of Canning for giving us a dieback kit for cleaning our footwear and tools. This will help us in our day-to-day activities as we work to protect the environment.

As mentioned above, the City of Canning has begun the **redevelopment of the Queens Park Open Space** (plan below). It is expected that Maniana Park, with the associated playground and gazebo, will be fenced off from the end of October 2024 for approximately 12 months. The

adjacent bushland will also have periods of restricted access during this time but we shall have to wait to see for how long.

While most of the work will be happening away from the bushland, we will see a new carpark and nature play area built along Wharf Street, some of the bush tracks will become accessible with a bitumen surface and a shelter will be constructed at the Serisier Parkway entrance. To help safeguard the vegetation, boot-wash stations will be installed at every entrance.

Next door to the bushland, Maniana Park will get a major facelift with a resurfaced sports field, a new carpark along Whitlock Road, cricket nets, a half basketball court, a pump track, several new shelters, plenty of play areas and so many new trees.

It is hoped that the work will bring an increase in visitor numbers to the whole area, leading to a greater sense of security and a decline in anti-social behaviour.

