

CAMBRIDGE COASTCARE

www.cambridgecoastcare.com.au

SUMMER 2015/6 NEWSLETTER



Landcare and Coastwest Grants

During 2015, and substantially through the hard work of committee member Dylan Martini, we have been successful in obtaining two significant grants. In January, we were advised we had been successful in applying for a \$19,500 Landcare grant involving removal of woody weed species and plantings to re-establish native vegetation cover and biodiversity. The worksite is adjacent to the multi-million dollar redevelopment of the City Beach Surf Club and new restaurant precinct and will therefore showcase the benefits of ecological restoration to a wide audience.



May 2015 - preparation Dune 1

Coastwest advised us in late October that we had also been successful in obtaining a grant for \$16,700. The project is for part of the Fred Burton dunes on the corner of Challenger Parade with Oceanic Drive, and has similar coverage of coastal dune restoration. It must be completed within 12 months of initial funding, which probably means by March 2017.



Reference plot - Challenger ecozone

Green Army task force

We were fortunate to obtain the services of Conservation Volunteers' "Green Army" for the inside of two weeks' work in September. During the 10 days, they accomplished about a quarter of a kilometer of fencing in several areas including access paths 13 and 16 at the

Floreat Dog-beach and a number of blow-outs in the nearby dunes.



Blow-out at path 16

We have obtained some hessian matting which will be pegged out next winter in time for planting spinifex there to hopefully arrest the march of sand towards West Coast Highway.



Path 16 fencing

Sites for a new secondary school in City Beach

A recent announcement by the Department of Education that 4 sites in City Beach had been selected for consideration for a new secondary school is causing us some concern with respect to Fred Burton Reserve. We are submitting a response drawing the Ed Dept's attention to our BioLINC project and requesting consultation if the site is chosen. The response will be posted on the website with a link to the ED Dept page which calls for comment. If members want to submit their own comments, the link is:

<http://www.education.wa.edu.au/home/detcms/public-education/content/about-us/building-our-schools/western-suburbs-secondary-schooling-strategy.en>

Successful plantings

Whilst we are proud of planting 100,000 plants in our 17 year history, we are mindful that success needs to be measured in terms of survival. Academic studies have shown that the soil of our coastal dunes is more water-repellant than anywhere else in the world where this has been tested. Hence it is likely that watering is the key to survival, at least in the first year or so after planting.

Two recent plantings which stand out as successful give support to one change we have made to our method, and to the need to provide reticulated watering in the early stages of establishment. The change in method is the use of fertiliser tablets, placed in the ground prior to planting on top of the tablet.



Fertiliser tablets

The Challenger ecozone was established in September 2013 in a joint operation with Town of Cambridge, who cleared the ground of weeds, laid woodchips and installed reticulation.



Challenger ecozone Sept 2013

Website

The website now contains an extensive photo library under the caption 'Gallery' along the top of the home page. Photos are divided into planting and busy-bee events and if any member thinks a photo is unflattering, please let us know. All of the photos in a gallery can be seen in a slideshow by clicking on one photo to enlarge it, then clicking the "play" button below it.



Challenger ecozone today

Similar results were obtained from planting at Floreat Kiosk in July 2014 but, in this instance, whilst Town of Cambridge prepared the area for planting, reticulation was not provided and so it was necessary for the area to be hand-watered on a few occasions last summer – thanks Ivo Davies – and that was only possible because it was next to the kiosk and toilets. The results are impressive:



Floreat kiosk from playground



Scaevola plants have been removed to prevent overcrowding

Also on the website are listing of plants and weeds taken from Kingsley Dixon's book "Coastal Plants – A guide to the identification and restoration of plants of the Perth region". For instance the table showing species we have planted has columns for the scientific and common names, a thumbnail showing the plant, and dates and locations of planting. There is a search box, and you can sort the information by name, location etc