

CAMBRIDGE COASTCARE

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SPRING 2016 NEWSLETTER



Congratulations Kingsley!



Congratulations to Kingsley Dixon on his award as WA Scientist of the Year. He received the award on 19 August from the Premier who is also minister for science. Curtin University's acknowledgement of his award says that his discovery of the chemical in smoke which causes seed germination is worth \$100 million annually globally in its application to agriculture, conservation and restoration. The government website comments that Kingsley has been the Curtin Professor at Kings Park and Botanic Garden since 2015, but his career in plant research stretches back for more than the 32 years he was the Director of Science at Kings Park, leading its research efforts and building a team of more than 50 scientists and research students. With his trademark approach of turning 'science into practice' he discovered that bushfire smoke triggers the germination of plants in Australia, as well as other parts of the world. He later led an 11-year research project with UWA and Murdoch University colleagues that isolated the secret ingredient that triggered the germination. "This discovery has led to new horticultural products, and the improved restoration and conservation of many rare and threatened Australian plants that are unable to be conserved or propagated by other means," the Premier and Science Minister Colin Barnett said at the awards.

Planting is over!

Many thanks to all members and volunteers who have contributed to planting 6400 plants this winter. The final 900 were planted by the Green Army during the last week in August. We were lucky enough to have 2 Green Army visits this year with about 125 hours of volunteer time per visit – probably 4 times as much time input as each of our busy-bees and

plantings. We may need a busy-bee or two during the warmer months - weeds in Fred Burton south have been sprayed and we will need to remove the dead vegetation to make room for more plantings there. We will give everyone good notice of the date in due course. In the meantime, we have our AGM scheduled for 3 October and notices have been issued.



We planted 38 different species - about 2000 at the City Beach dunes, 2000 in Fred Burton south, and 1000 at each of the Floreat Surf Club and the boardwalk area. The most numerous species planted were between 300 and 400 of each of *Acacia lasiocarpa* (panjang), *Calothamnus quadrifidus* (one-sided bottlebrush), *Hemiandra pungens* (coastal snakebush), *Hibbertia subvaginata* (coastal guinea flower), *Olearia axillaris* (coastal daisybush), and *Rhagodia baccata* (berry saltbush). Planting conditions are probably the best in a decade with over 640mm in a City Beach rain gauge since 1 April.

Green Army minibus break-in

Whilst fencing the blow-outs at path 16 on Floreat dog beach, a thief broke into the Green Army's minibus and stole the personal belongings of some of the team members including ID, house and car keys. The team meets in the City before starting work and drive to their work location in the minibus, leaving their own cars in central car parks. Between towing their cars home and having to get locksmiths to change their house locks, not to mention the hassles of cancelling credit cards and getting replacement drivers' licenses, the robbery caused much inconvenience. After seeking donations from Cambridge Coastcare members, we were able to reimburse about 50% of the monetary losses and the team leader, Adeline Morrissey has sent thanks on behalf of the team to all members who contributed.

Cambridge Coastcare – winter newsletter - continued

Arresting Floreat dog beach blow-outs



We have been awarded a Coastwest grant for \$11,200 for the cost of matting materials to address the blowouts in Floreat dog beach dunes around path 16 (approx opposite Bent St) and between paths 13 and 14 (opposite Oban Rd) in City Beach. The total project cost is budgeted for \$26,500 with Town of Cambridge contributing plants, fencing and logistical support, whilst we provide volunteer labour.

We have started work already – actually the Green Army started fencing of the areas in their September 2015 and finished the job in September 2016. The next task is to lay strips of matting along the blow-outs and to plant within and beside the matting strips.



The path 16 blowouts are at the closest point between the ocean and West Coast Highway. We plan to lay about 1600 m² of coir matting behind fences up the dunes and then plant the strips of matting with tough plants like spinifex to arrest the blowouts and revegetate the dunes. It will take many years for the vegetation to grow back to do the job, but we need to start the process. The blowouts are exacerbated by fitness enthusiasts running up the dunes and other beach users so

signage and other steps are planned to try to limit such damage.

Our own wildflower display

The photos below were taken in the Jubilee Crescent/Boscombe Avenue ecozone in August 2016. The ecozone is a great example of what can be achieved by us given the following parameters:

- Town of Cambridge's assistance in weed clearance and ground preparation
- Tremendous support from our members
- Use of fertiliser pellets
- Installation of watering reticulation after planting to see the plants through the first two summers.

The ecozone was planted on 8 September 2013 - the video of the event is available on the website.



Guichenotia ledifolia



Eremophila glabra