

CAMBRIDGE COASTCARE

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SUMMER 2017 NEWSLETTER



Well, summer's now officially over, but it has left us an enduring present by way of fairly regular rainfall, capped off with over 120mm recorded overnight on 9-10 February. This has been a life-saver for many of our 2016 plantings as the following photos show:

Dune 1 (south of Hamptons, City Beach) – May 2015 vs February 2017



Floreat Surf Lifesaving Club's new shed at Floreat – after matting and planting, May 2016 and February 2017:



Fred Burton Reserve, south side of car-park – after wood-chipping and planting, August 2016 and February 2017:



In each of the foregoing examples, our plantings had some assistance – watering from sprinklers at Dune 1, courtesy of Town of Cambridge, matting and watering after planting at Floreat SLSC, courtesy of Conservation Volunteers Aust's Green Army team, and ground preparation and wood-chipping at Fred Burton, again courtesy of Town of Cambridge. Survival is guessed at over 80% in these locations. By comparison, over quite a few years we have attempted to establish plants on the east side of the "helicopter" car-park at Floreat beach. As the following photo shows, these efforts have largely been in vain mainly because of the lack of any

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of those factors responsible for success in the foregoing areas – watering, matting, ground preparation and wood-chipping:



Some plants at Floreat car-park have survived, but not many and those that have show poor growth and are vulnerable to a hot, dry autumn. Many other planted areas show a mixture of excellent survival and reasonable growth (eg an unprepared but weed-free area in the northeast corner of Fred Burton Reserve, and the watered areas around the boardwalk at Floreat), but in other areas, eg much of the rest of the southern part of Fred Burton and the areas around Floreat beach that are not watered, show poor survival with probably on 25% or so of plants surviving with poor growth, even after the best summer rains in over 20 years.

Coastal Forum, Friday 7 April 2017

A coastal forum is being held at the Ecology Centre in Bold Park on Friday 7 April, 9 am to 5pm, sponsored by Perth region NRM, Northern Agriculture Catchment Council NRM and Curtin University. There are 12 speakers which include committee member and WA Scientist of the Year Prof Kingsley Dixon, former president and committee member David Merritt, Stuart Knott Scholar Sophie Cross, our main nurseryman, Nuts about Natives' Ben Croxford, and our Coastcare Coordinator (on maternity leave) Kate Sputore. A flyer is available on the website, www.cambridgecoastcare.com.au, and registration at \$20pp including lunch and tea/coffee is via a bookings agency: <http://www.trybooking.com/263255>

Other Coastcare news

We are pleased that Adeline Morrissey has been appointed as Coastcare Co-Ordinator for the northern metropolitan region replacing Kate Sputore who remains on maternity leave until later in the year. Adeline was the team leader for Conservation Volunteers' Green Army team last year and supervised her team in its work with fencing on the Floreat dog-beach, matting and planting at Floreat and planting at Fred Burton Reserve. Sadly the Australian Government is winding up the Green Army programme so their free work is no longer available to us – we had two weeks' of CVA team in put in 2016, so they will be missed. However, we have been fortunate to be offered three days' of Woodside-sponsored CVA team-work for 2017. One was recently completed with the team spreading wood-chips in the area between the road and the new Floreat SLSC shed, which has improved the appearance of the area and will help protect our 2016 plantings there which were under stress from lack of moisture and weed invasion. We have two more team days in June and August, the first of which will be utilised in laying the matting for our 2016-7 Coastwest-sponsored project, to prevent further dune erosion around paths 15 and 16 at Floreat dog-beach. Thereafter, we shall need members' help to plant the strips of matting given some wet weather in the winter.

