

CAMBRIDGE COASTCARE

www.cambridgecoastcare.com.au



SPRING 2018 NEWSLETTER

2018 Projects

During the winter months:

- We substantially completed the City Beach Challenger dune project, planting about 2000 plants in the area to the east of Challenger Parade in south City beach, with some plants being put into recently cleared areas on the beach side of the road.
- We assisted Town of Cambridge by planting an area by the car-park at path 16 on Floreat dog-beach – the plants were provided by Town of Cambridge. They are growing well and we will continue to help by weeding the area and removing the plant shields.
- We planted spinifex in the dunes at paths 14 and 16 to augment the previous year plantings and we undertook plantings at several other locations in the Floreat Beach/dog-beach area.

The test for these plants will now be to survive their first summer so fingers crossed for regular thundery showers in the next 4 months.

2019 Projects

a) Improving dune monitoring and management with new technologies



Undertaking this project in partnership with Town of Cambridge, Coastwest and Scientific Aerospace, the first of our high precision aerial surveys using drones was completed on a perfect sunny day on 9th Oct. Future surveys, to be conducted in 2019, will enable fine scale analysis against the data baseline established in October. This innovative technology will help to quantify the effect of dune stabilisation treatments that

have been undertaken adjacent to coastal Path 16 leading to the well-patronised Floreat dog beach. It will also help us to accurately monitor and map dynamic elements (seasonal variability, vegetation cover, human impact) affecting the dunes and the volumes of sand movement through the seasons. The results will help us plan for future restoration efforts.

b) Floreat dog-beach stage 2



The project gets underway during the last week in November when fencing materials will be delivered to the beach and Conservation Volunteers teams will come to put up wind-break fencing as shown by the blue lines in the above satellite photo. The winter storms tore away fencing from the southern end of the rehabilitation area and from the area we are revegetating between path 13 and 14, so those fences will be replaced too.

Sand blown in by the sea breeze has built up over the fore-dune along the fence line in the area at the top of the photo and to a lesser extent at the bottom where the matting strips can be seen. Survival of the plantings in these two areas is good and the infill with spinifex in the southern area this year will help to establish enough vegetation to shelter less hardy species we plan to plant in 2019 to improve diversity.

The area in the middle of the photo, immediately south of path 16, has not been successful in terms of survival. We hope that the windbreaks afforded by fencing will allow the plants to survive the summer and to grow

Cambridge Coastcare – summer newsletter - continued

better than the poor results achieved in this central area to date. The project includes rematting some areas where the matting has been buried under approximately 1 metre of sand and 2000 plants, with this work being performed next winter.

White-winged blue fairy wrens

Can you help Dr Ian Abbott discover if we still host the white-winged fairy wren, north of the Swanbourne rifle range? Next time you are walking past the coastal dunes, and you hear some leaves rustle, it could be the shy little white-winged fairy wren foraging in the low vegetation.



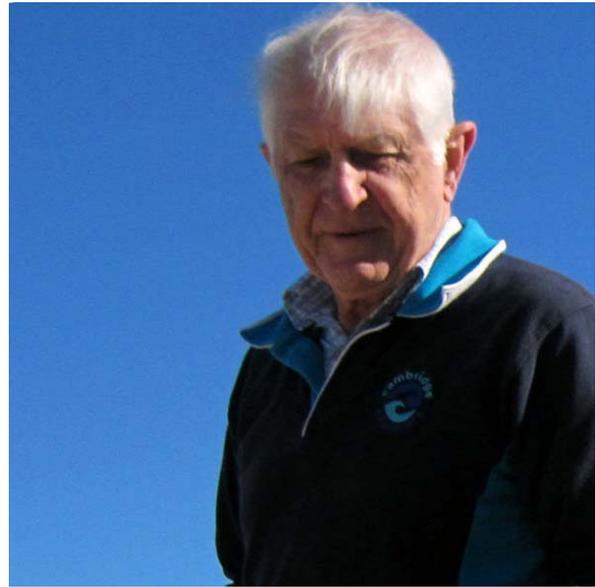
Whilst the males are a spectacular cobalt blue, the female and immature birds are harder to spot with their 'mouse-brown' colouring. If you are lucky enough to see one, please note the location, and time (month, year) and email Ian at iabbott@westnet.com.au. Thank you!

Cambridge Coastcare Christmas Party

Diarise the date – **Monday 10 December** – invitations will go out to members later in the month.

Introducing our committee

Keith Croker



Keith has been a member of CCC for more than 10 years and on the Committee for about 5 years. His son who was then a member of CCC suggested that he should get involved with Coastcare when he was looking at interesting activities before retirement. He was already involved in planting and weeding as a Friend of Kings Park but the idea of rehabilitating the dunes near the beach was interesting even though he lived in Floreat. His professional work spanned a long time in the Department of Agriculture and Food and involved working with animals, mainly sheep. So it was a change for him to become involved with plants and he has spent much time over the last 5 or so years trying to remove white broom from the northern Fred Burton area to get rid of this invasive weed.

Instagram

Come follow us on Instagram! Cambridge Coastcare is looking to share our beautiful Coastline and knowledge of coast plants with the world. Please explore the images and stories that we share via [@cambridgecoastcare](https://www.instagram.com/cambridgecoastcare) and feel free to send or tag us in your images.

Interested in Coastcare?

More information about Cambridge Coastcare, is on Facebook or website (see below). Email to cambridgecoastcare@gmail.com for membership.

