

CAMBRIDGE COASTCARE

Your Community Coastcare Group

SPRING 2010 NEWSLETTER



Chairman's Report - 2010 Annual General Meeting

Chairman: David Merritt



The past year has seen a continuation of Cambridge Coastcare's restoration projects. The major funded activity for the past 18 months is due for completion in the near future. This project is the largest in dollar terms ever undertaken by Cambridge Coastcare and, more importantly, has seen the most ambitious weeding program yet undertaken by the group, with a focus on the pernicious woody weeds Victorian Tea Tree, and White Weeping Broom. Very significant volumes of adult plants (many hundreds of plants, in fact) of Victorian Tea Tree and White Broom have been removed with assistance from contractors, with the numerous target sites being identified in concert with those identified in Town of Cambridge Coastal Natural Areas Management Plan – a Plan developed via a previous initiative of Cambridge Coastcare. Cambridge Coastcare has learnt valuable lessons along the way. It is evident, for example, that White Weeping Broom is a very vigorous re-sprouter that requires diligence in follow up control measures, and that the many thousands of seeds still present in the soil will require Cambridge Coastcare's constant attention over the next few years to ensure eradication.

ISSUE 3: NOVEMBER

As part of Cambridge Coastcare's long-term commitment to biodiversity enrichment, four community planting days were held this past winter. These planting days continue to attract the support of the local community and approximately 4200 plants of 12 local, native species have been planted in four sites within the Town. These include sites where the woody weeds have been removed, as well as road-works sites which provide Cambridge Coastcare the opportunity to profile its work in highly visible sites.

An additional major initiative of Cambridge Coastcare is nearing completion - the much anticipated Coastal plants book "Plants of the West Coast: A Guide to Identification and Restoration." This book, to be published by CSIRO Press this coming spring and authored by Prof. Kingsley Dixon, will provide the first readily accessible synthesis on the theory and practice of coastal restoration, as well as a comprehensive pictorial identification guide to the common coastal plants of the Western Australian coastline. It is sure to profile Cambridge Coastcare as a leading community-based coastal restoration group.

Cambridge Coastcare's community extension and education role has continued to evolve, with a regular newsletter now being produced electronically and sent to all members. This year, three UWA students undertook semester-long research projects at Cambridge Coastcare sites under the supervision of Cambridge Coastcare members Judy Fisher, Kingsley Dixon and myself. Two of these projects assessed vegetation cover at project sites and compared the diversity and cover values to those of undisturbed sites to assist in monitoring and evaluation of restoration activities. The third researched the seed biology of White Weeping Broom to provide some insights into the liability of the weed seed bank.

The past twelve months has seen Cambridge Coastcare continue to contribute substantially towards creating a first-class natural environment along the coastline of the Town of Cambridge and a greater awareness of the need to value natural environments in the community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people and organisations who contribute to Cambridge Coastcare's long term goals and this includes:

- The Town of Cambridge for their continuing administrative, technical, operational and financial support.
- The Cambridge Coastcare committee, members and volunteers for their enthusiasm and commitment to biodiversity conservation.
- Kate Sputore, our North Metropolitan Coastcare Officer.
- Financial sponsors of Cambridge Coastcare's work which over the past 12 months has included the Federal Government's Caring for our Country funding program and BHP Billiton for sponsorship of the Coastal Plants Book.

David Merritt
Chairman, Cambridge Coastcare
16 August 2010



Enjoying well earned refreshments after the last planting



CCC getting into action



Clean Up Australia Day



Sandgropers return to CCC restored dunes



Inspecting vast seedbank of White Broom

2010 Highlights



Volunteers planting



near Challenger Pde



Team in action north of Floreat

A VERY WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to David Foulsham, Bryan and Judy Merritt, and Matt Dalrymple.
Thank you for your support. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Welcome to the third edition of the Cambridge Coastcare e-newsletter. We welcome Coastcare members' contributions of stories, photos, comments, suggestions or questions.

Please contact us at cambridgecoastcare@gmail.com.

www.cambridgecoastcare.com.au