

Koala Beach Bush Regeneration Works October 2018

Bush regeneration works at Koala Beach have continued to maintain areas brought under management and extend primary work in selected areas. Continued funding has allowed rotational visits to zones reducing the time and effort required. Regular maintenance enables development of native biodiversity to replace dominant exotic species which, in turn, strengthens resistance to weeds.



Bush regenerators spot spray Molasses Grass amongst native groundcovers in "Glossy Black"

Although a reduction of garden dumping has occurred, there is still a disappointing incidence of all types of rubbish in bushland at Koala Beach.

Construction of bicycle tracks, rope swings and 'cubby house' type bush shelters have also been encountered. These can range from use of dead branches and trees in place to holes excavated and trees cut down.



Tools and soil disturbed to construct bicycle track at "Glossy Black"

Site Summaries:

Blossom Bat

"Blossom Bat" has seen a reduction in dense exotic grasses and Corky Passionflower. Bush regenerators spot sprayed groundcover weeds. Juvenile Camphor Laurel and other woody weeds encountered were treated by cut-scrape-paint or hand pulled.



Blossom Bat - Regeneration of Casuarina, Eucalypts, Macaranga and native groundcovers.



Banksia integrifolia are amongst species regenerating as exotic grasses are reduced in the “Blossom Bat” area

Glossy Black

“Glossy Black” is currently undergoing works. Native groundcovers are expanding into areas once dominated by Setaria, Broadleaf Paspalum, Molasses Grass and Rhodes Grass. Brush Box, Forest Oak and other native species have established where groundcover allows seeds to contact the soil and germinate without competition. The cracked cones from feeding **Glossy Black Cockatoos** have been noted and several birds have been seen during works. **Bush Stone Curlews** were also seen along the gravel track at the end of Melia Close.



Juvenile native trees take advantage of improved conditions in “Glossy Black”.



Natural regeneration of Forest Oak juveniles overtake struggling planted trees in an opening at the top of "Glossy Black"



Planted Forest Oak in "Glossy Black" struggle compared to naturally regenerated specimens

Muskheart

Exotic Grasses and Passionflower species were spot sprayed. Isolated Lantana, Camphor Laurel were also treated during June. The incidence of weeds was significantly reduced and mostly confined to edges and open areas.

Upper Grey Gum Gully

Native Groundcovers have excelled in the core of this zone. There is some encroachment from residences backing onto the gully and several new houses have been built adjacent. Singapore Daisy escaping from back yards requires ongoing control. An infestation of Black-eyed Susan is threatening from another yard. Coral Creeper has crept under fences above the mown area – these are monitored and treated as required.

Lower Grey Gum Gully

Recent maintenance through Lower Grey Gum Gully was timely to control regrowth of Winter Senna, Giant Devils Fig and Lantana around the pond on the lower edge of the zone.

Passionflower species and exotic grasses were

treated in this area and throughout the rest of the zone. Some outbreaks of Coral Creeper have been treated along the south-east edge of the zone. Regeneration of native species is excellent throughout the zone.



Regrowth of Winter Senna around the pond in "Lower Grey Gum Gully"

Entrance North

Follow up maintenance through entrance north mainly involved targeting isolated weeds through the core and more detailed treatment along edges. Excellent progress has been made in this Zone.



"Entrance North" distorted Umbrella Tree controlled manually

Entrance South

Follow up through "Entrance South" was timely to control regrowth of Senna and Exotic Grasses. Native groundcovers are expanding and the occurrence of weeds is greatly reduced. **Bush Stone Curlews** were spotted around the picnic area in the park.

Tongue

Maintenance through "the Tongue" has been undertaken. Control of woody weeds such as Giant Devils Fig, Tobacco, Lantana and Winter Senna was required prior to spray of exotic grasses. Native groundcovers have increased and regeneration of trees is evident. Significant time and effort has been given to control Winter Senna patches along the northern edge of this zone and extension of primary work along the eastern edge. An infestation of Coastal Morning Glory on the western edge near the gate will require monitoring and control to reduce its occurrence.



Primary control of Winter Senna along the eastern edge of "the Tongue"

Aboriginal (Dunghir)

Woody weeds and climbers were treated and dense grasses were cleared around native seedlings prior to spot spray through "Aboriginal". Corky Passionflower was also treated throughout the zone. This zone will progress well after recent maintenance.



Control of Lantana and other woody weeds prior to spray of exotic grasses in Dunghir - "Aboriginal"



Dense Molasses Grass and Broad-leaf Paspalum were cleared around small natives prior to spot spray in Dunghir - "Aboriginal"

Arthraxon

The Arthraxon patch was mown by council after die-back and seed-drop in June. Dedicated staff raked and removed most of the slashings. Some germination of Arthraxon was observed soon after. Recent wet weather during spring will ensure maximum growth for the season.

The forest behind **Arthraxon** (a section of "Macadamia West") has been spot sprayed, Giant Devils Figs, Tobacco, Umbrella, Siratro, Horsegram and Passionflower species were controlled manually where required around edges and across the drain into council roadside gardens.





An excellent year for Arthraxon after plenty of spring rain.

Additional Areas

Recreational Services drain beside Marsupial Drive gardens

Giant Devils Figs, Winter Senna and dense exotic grasses were controlled along the drain and council gardens beside. Some interference along a section of this drain was noted with all vegetation sprayed out and a narrow channel dug through.



Dead vegetation discovered along section of the drain behind Marsupial Drive 4/6/2018

APZ behind 39 and 41 Macadamia Drive.

At Council's request control of garden plants and other weeds was undertaken behind houses in Macadamia Drive.

Future Plans and Recommendations

Continue to monitor and maintain all previous zones as required.

Check **Endiandra** - maintain as required.

Entrance South - Extend primary work to creek banks along the remaining south-west corner of the zone.

Maintain **plantings** behind sportsfields and continue weed control into **Creek**

Maintain other **plantings** along Tom Merchant Drive – including Section of natural forest in between - (**Macadamia West** adjacent to bridge). Control GDF infestation in planting – 24.

Check and maintain **Barrage**.

Extend primary work into **Macadamia South** – add to maintenance rotation.

Extend primary work into **Macadamia West** (some terrible GDF in this area) – add to maintenance rotation.

Extend primary work into **Compensation** – add to maintenance rotation.