

Lake Seppings voluntary weed control and planting 2016.

Report by Chris Gunby December 2016



Figure 1 Replanted area west of Garden Street 2016 with storm damage not adversely impacting most plants.

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank the ongoing support of the City of Albany, Oyster Harbour Catchment Group and Albany Golf Club who have provided assistance for the works detailed in the report. I would also like to thank the Great Southern Development Commission which made funding available through the Great Southern NRM medal award. Without this support in materials, plants and equipment I would not have been able to complete the work.

Summary of work undertaken in 2016

Just under 100 hours of volunteer work was undertaken, with the main focus areas being-

- Removal of teatree and Sydney wattle on the western boundary of the golf course, bordering Golf links road.
- Removal of weeds, particularly Fleabane, wild turnip and climbing pea in the rehabilitated areas west of the wetland.
- Spraying of Kikuyu all around wetland along the walk trail
- Planting of the former golf course club house site after removal of teatree and wattle.
- Tackling Sydney wattle in the private land west of the wetland.

At a lesser scale in terms of time spent, other work included-

- Removal of Pittosporum seedlings north of Wollaston Road
- Ongoing weed suppression west of Garden Street
- Blackberry control all around wetland, including west of causeway, south east side of wetland.
- Arum lily control west side of wetland
- Taylorina control north west side of wetland
- Nasturtium control on west side of wetland
- Planting to west of Garden Street



Figure 2 Golf course teatree removal has been a major area of work in 2016

A detailed description of the work undertaken is provided as an attachment.

Main successes

The main success has been in removal of weeds within the former rehabilitated/planted areas on the north west side of the wetland, where the dense weed growth has been removed to reveal open areas within the planted areas that were left for nesting by the long necked turtles. Turtle nesting was witnessed in these areas. The transformation of these areas has been considerable.

Similarly, the removal of dense teatree thickets on the west side of the golf course has also opened up areas which have provided ideal breeding grounds for the turtles. Young peppermint saplings in the area should flourish in this area now the competing teatree has been removed.

The Arum Lily removal on the west side of the lake has been extremely successful.

Lessons learnt?

The Nasturtiums are proving difficult to remove, given the dense seed bank, and the areas where they cannot be tackled, (such as within the bracken). Containment rather than removal seems to be a realistic goal.

In some areas the blackberry spraying has been extremely successful (such as west of the causeway) but in other areas such as north of garden street young seedlings are numerous, and ongoing work is



Figure 3 Sydney Wattle ringbarking and spraying with diesel, private land west of wetland



needed.

Taylorina removal is continuing to prove challenging, as only where the kikuyu is very thick are seedlings in small numbers. Otherwise it's a big problem with seedlings after large plants are removed.

Removal of Kikuyu around paperbarks on west side of wetland- just opens up space for other weeds. The control of kikuyu needs serious thought and agreement with City!



Figure 4 removal of weeds in rehab area west of wetland has allowed native plants to grow and open areas to be used by turtles during nesting

Future main priorities?

The removal of teatree along the western boundary of the golf course along Golf Links round will be ongoing and is realistically a 3-5 year program.

In March/April wetter parts of the western side of the wetland need accessing to spray Pampas grass and inspect spraying undertaken last year. Wattle also needs removal on the levee bank to the west of Garden Street.

Teatree and wattle seedling growth will be a major priority on the golf course sites. Planting and protection of young peppermints is a priority.

Removal of taylorina and wattle seedling growth along the drain to the north west of the wetland will be a priority.

Further Sydney wattle ringbarking on the private land west of the wetland,

Ongoing maintenance weed control is needed at all sites and for all target weeds (blackberry, Arum Lily, Fleabane, Thistle, Taylorina, Teatree, Pampas Grass, Sydney Wattle, climbing pea, Nasturtium).



Figure 5 Former golf club house site planting with reasonable survival to date but some plants struggling due to poor soil conditions on former road



Figure 6 Spraying Kikuyu around paperbarks. Seemed a good idea initially but also creates ongoing maintenance. Kikuyu continues to be the main controlling weed on the west side of the wetland.