

# The Fort Bushland

## June 2007 Notes - by John Lahey

During the working bee held on Sunday 3 June we cleared more of the weeds from the Western side of the reserve. Randall used his chainsaw to remove some of the larger weed trees from the area we had previously cleared of Ochna and other shrubby weeds.



Here are a few photos of the action that day.







This month the Council brought in contractors to create a couple of fire-trails which run from the southeast corner to the middle of the western edge of the reserve and back down to the end of Eddystone Road. While I must confess to being a bit ambivalent about the need for these tracks, I do think these guys have done an excellent job with minimal disturbance to the native plants. The machine to the right has a shredder on the end of the mechanical arm that was used to clear the initial path. The Drott below was used to do the earth works to form the fire-trails.



It was amazing to see the number and variety of birds that appeared on the track after the shredder had gone through. They were taking advantage of the bountiful supply of grubs and insects available. Even the normally shy and elusive Whip birds were hopping around on the edge of the trail.

I think the recent rains came just in time to save a lot of plants from dying. Even so I think we will find that quite a few plants have succumbed to the drought, including some mature trees.



One of the very few plants to flower this month is *Flindersia bennettiana* (Bennett's Ash). This is one of the five *Flindersia* species to be found in the reserve and normally flowers from September to October. I assume the exceptionally dry weather has upset the normal flowering pattern. This Ash can be recognised by its very large compound leaves. There are four or five *F. bennettiana* growing in the reserve and at least two of them are in flower now.



***Morinda canthoides* (Veiny morinda)**

This month I found one new plant to add to the list of native plants in the reserve. This vine produces small white highly perfumed flowers and can be found growing near the eastern edge of the reserve.

The next working bee will be held on Sunday 1 July at 8 am.