

JOHN BLACK DUNE PARK, COTTESLOE

VISIT IN MAY 2006

PLANT SPECIES RECORDED

COMMON NAME	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMENTS
red-eyed wattle	<i>Acacia Cyclops</i>	Several specimens, of varying size and age. The larvae of the two-spotted line-blue eat the buds and flowers.
prickle lily	<i>Acanthocarpus preirsii</i>	Many specimens. The silver-spotted ochre breeds on this plant. This butterfly is present in the coastal strip, and probably is sufficiently mobile to visit and breed in John Black Dune Park.
peppermint	<i>Agonis flexuosa</i>	Planted. May or may not be local to the site.
pigface	<i>Cajobrotus</i> sp.	A visit to this reserve in spring would determine whether or not this is the local species of pigface.
old man's beard	<i>Clematis linearifolia</i>	
grey cottonheads	<i>Conostylis candidans</i>	Only a few specimens
knotted club-rush	<i>Finicia nodosa</i>	
Victorian tea-tree	<i>Leptapernum laevigatum</i>	A troublesome weed, but could be controlled in a small area.
moonah	<i>Melaleuca lanceolata</i>	Several planted specimens.
coast daisybush	<i>Olearia a' Ilaris</i>	Many specimens.
berry saltbush	<i>Rhagodia baccata</i>	Many specimens. The saltbush blue breeds on this species.
thick-leaved fan-flower	<i>Scaevola crassifolia</i>	Many specimens.
long-leaved spinifex	<i>Spinifex longifolius</i>	

There are signs on the western and northern borders of the reserve naming it as 'John Black Dune Park', after John Black, Mayor of Cottesloe in 1932-45

The land slopes generally upwards from west (behind the carpark bordering Marine Parade) to east, bordering the tennis courts.

Some signs of use by pedestrians were noted.

Only some of the original plant species remain. However, it would be simple to determine most of the full suite of the original species by examining a vegetated site elsewhere with similar soils and distance from the ocean (for example, in the Swanbourne Rifle Range or Bold Park, west of Challenger Parade), and most of the plant species could be grown from seed or cuttings and planted at the site.

Three of the plant species surviving in the reserve are used for breeding by three native butterflies, as noted in the plant list, above. Two of them, the two-spotted line-blue and the saltbush blue, are mobile, and would be certain to use the site. The silver-spotted ochre is less mobile, but would nonetheless probably fly the short distance between the coastal strip, where it still occurs, and this reserve. If not, it could be encouraged to do so by planting between the reserve and the coastal strip a corridor of low vegetation that includes prickle lily. If two plant species that are likely to have grown in the reserve originally were to be reestablished, native pellitory (*Patieteria debilis*) and quandong (*Santalum acuminatum*), the reserve could be used as a breeding site for two further, highly mobile butterfly species, the yellow admiral and the spotted

jezebel. Pellitory sites established by local groups elsewhere in Perth have readily attracted the admiral, which has bred very successfully at those where there is a good cover of shrubs, in which the larvae and pupae can hide from predators.

If the reserve can be managed for conservation and further local plants re-established, consideration could be given to re-establishing some of the smaller reptiles that would have occurred on the site (especially skinks and geckoes).

The management of John Black Dune Park for conservation is facilitated by the following factors:

- it is of compact shape;
- there are no bordering areas of grass watered by reticulation;
- there are no residential properties bordering the reserve.

Managing the area for conservation would be easiest if there were a group of residents interested to do so. Cottesloe Coastcare may wish to include this area in the lands it manages.

The introduced Victorian tea-tree would need quite a bit of work to keep under control. It is most numerous at the low, carpark end of the reserve. If the area is to be reduced in size, the carpark end, with most of the Victorian tea-tree and least of the local species, would be the best part to sacrifice. A slightly smaller area would probably be easier for a community group to manage.

I am in favour of retaining for conservation the part of John Black Dune Park where most of the local plant species survive, particularly if it can be managed by a group of residents, in accordance with a sound management plan, developed in consultation with the local community. The reserve could thus have educational value as a site where the public can see some of Cottesloe's local plants and some of their associated insects.

R. Powell
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