

WAITE CONSERVATION RESERVE  
**BIOLOGICAL SURVEY**  
SUMMARY REPORT 25/2/09

- Main survey conducted 8-16 November 2008. Additional searching, bird counts, frog survey & spotlighting conducted since.
- 43 participants, mostly for first day trap setup and last day dismantling & open day. Good participation by non-members. Additional attendance by 18 students from Urrbrae High School.
- 14 quadrats surveyed representing all vegetation communities identified by Joseph, 2006 ie. Red gum x 3, Blue gum x 3, Sheoak x 3, Grey box x 5.
- Survey effort:

Pitfall traps: 84 x 8 nights = 672 trap/ nights  
Elliott traps: 210 x 8 nights = 1680 trap/ nights  
Cage traps: 28 x 8 nights = 224 trap/ nights  
Invertebrate micro-pitfalls: 28 x 8 nights = 224 trap/ nights  
**Total trap/ nights = 2,800**

Daytime searches: 115 hours  
Spotlighting: 12.3 hours  
Bird counts: 3 x 20 minute counts x 14 quadrats = 14 hours  
Anabat: 8 quadrats x 9 hours = 72 hours (malfunction, not counted)  
Mist nets: 3 hours  
Frog counts: 1 hour  
**Total search effort: 145 hours**

## Results

### *Frogs*

30 individuals of 2 species recorded at wetlands surrounding reserve before and after November survey. Five spp. known from reserve and periphery.

## Reptiles

- 345 records of 12 species
- Reserve total now 14 species
- Lined Worm-lizard *Aprasia striolata* added to list
- Eastern Striped Skink *Ctenotus robustus* confirmed (not *C. orientalis*)
- Substantial increase in distributional knowledge for most species
- Pitfalls captured 124 reptiles; especially. useful for *Lerista* & *Aprasia*
- Only records of bluetongue & sleepy in Elliotts/ cages
- Most abundant : Three-toed Skink, Garden Skink, Bougainville's Skink
- Blue gum woodland less diverse than all other communities

## Mammals

### Trapping:

- Echidna only native trapped (2 in cages); no *Antechinus*
- Black rats common in olives; House mice common in introduced grasses

### Spotlighting:

- Ringtail possum: 103; no preference between tree spp., even in olive
- Brushtail possum: 15; avoid blue gum
- Koala: 17; prefer red gum, avoid blue gum
- Mean strip width for 102 ringtails = 57 m

## Birds

- 44 species recorded in total, 35 on quadrat counts
- Compare with reserve list of 62 spp.
- 48 rated as moderate, high or very high chance being seen
- Missing birds: Crescent HE, White-plumed HE, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Willie Wagtail, Red-rumped Parrot, Magpie-lark, Common Starling
- 4 new species added to list (to 66 species):
- Common Bronzewing, Rufous Whistler, Cockateil, Aust. Ringneck
- Most frequent: Striated Pard, Rainbow Lorikeet, Rosella, Red Wattlebird
- Evidence of 9+ species breeding