

Exploration walk January 19 2024 Twin Creeks Southern end and southern fire break.

Purpose of this walk was to determine the size of the Balga grass tree (*Xanthorrhoea preissii*) we saw during the walk of July 5 2023 and to have a further look at the area.

We measured the grass tree which is 3.3 meter long and has a diameter of about 320mm.

These grass trees can grow up to 1 to 2 cm a year. We noticed that all the trees in this particular area which is high up the hill, are pretty small, have broken limbs and a lot of regrowth and they also have pretty thick bark. The understory is very open.



This could indicate that everything here is growing slow which can mean that this particular grass tree, the longest/highest we measured here is maybe between 300 and 500 year old.

In this area we found many Balga reaching a height between 2 to 3 meter.

The understory in the bush seems to be remarkable clean of dead wood and other fire hazard material, there were many open spaces used by roos (by the looks of the sandy ground)



- Along the southern firebreak 4 different weevils were found and many spiders and other critters.
- hardly any spider webs were encountered in the bush.
- some shrubs were growing much higher then we had seen else where
- further down the hill (north), the bush is more dense and the trees are a lot bigger and the Balga are not that high.

Lucia Quearry, Judy McKinnon, Bo janmaat