

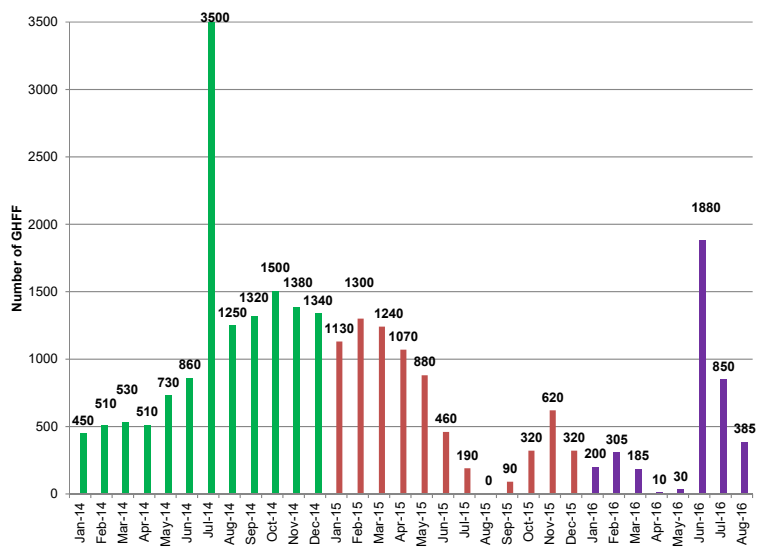
History of the Camp

- GHFF recorded in Cannes Reserve for about 10 years
- Numbers ranged between ~30 and ~3500
- Residents reported a number of impacts on wellbeing and damage to property, community meetings held
- Cannes Reserve is 0.6 hectares with residences in close proximity
- Contains two EEC's – Coastal Littoral Rainforest and Pittwater Spotted Gum Forest, but is also highly degraded with weeds
- Minor ad hoc tree removal prior to 2015

Cannes Reserve Map



GHFF Numbers 2014 to 2016



Management Actions

- Council adopted the Cannes Reserve Flying-fox Camp Management Plan in April 2015
- The Plan outlined two stages of actions
 - modification of vegetation buffer around the reserve
 - active dispersal
- Relevant licences were granted by NSW OEH
- Buffer modification was undertaken by bush regen contractor and mostly completed June 2015, with ongoing maintenance (weed control)

Dispersal Summary

- Commenced 13th July 2015 by Ecosure and Council staff
- Ran 6 days per week for three weeks
- The GHFF were reduced down to zero within two weeks (from 190), with no welfare issues or complaints from residents

Maintenance Dispersal

- The Plan included indicators for dispersal “success” and if/when maintenance dispersal undertaken
- Small numbers of GHFF returned – most likely “uneducated” individuals
- Maintenance dispersal undertaken to good effect on three occasions in August and September 2015
- GHFF returned in October with young present – maintenance dispersal attempted but unsuccessful

Further Actions in 2015

- Cabbage Tree Palm “pineapple” pruning via night works to reduce roosting habitat in mid-November, which appeared to be effective in reducing numbers
- Our licences prohibit management actions between 1 December and 31 March each year

Plan for 2016

- Senior Management Team determined that Council:
 - Will not undertake dispersal in 2016
 - Will undertake further palm pruning to reduce roosting habitat
- Decision based upon:
 - Low numbers a good indicator of success of program that can be maintained with habitat modification
 - Dispersal can't achieve zero GHFF for the long term - problems arise in breeding season when behaviour and response changes
 - Dispersal requires significant resources, takes a toll on staff involved who then struggle to perform core roles

Map showing Palm Pruning



“Pineapple” Palm Pruning



Lessons Learnt

- Smoke, torchlight and a human presence were more effective dispersal tools than noise played from a speaker
- Dispersal is effective as a short term tool to empty a camp if then undertaking habitat modification
- Dispersal is not effective in the long term without a constant and ongoing effort at huge cost and toll on staff
- Management plans need to outline a number of management options and don't specifically rule anything out
- Licence conditions need to be kept as flexible as possible with long timeframes rather than specific periods, daily durations need to account for daylight savings changes
- Engaging with residents and managing expectations is more cost-effective than trying to manipulate nature