



BLACKWOOD BIOSECURITY

Land Lifestyle Livelihood

Newsletter October 2023

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- News and Information

Highlight of the month!

Our Annual General Meeting took place at the Balingup Rec Centre on the 18th of October. Please see the next page for more information



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Highlight of the month!

BBI held its 2023 AGM on 18th October 2023 at the Balingup Recreation Centre.

The meeting was attended by the 2022-2023 BBI Management Committee, BBI staff, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Hampton Partners and members of the community.

Staff provided an engaging presentation on the activities undertaken by the organisation for the year, our 2022-2023 Annual Report was released, and a new management committee voted in.

The 2023-2024 Management Committee are:

Gwendalyn Banks – Chair

Jenny Dewing – Vice Chair

Margaret Morton – Secretary

Leigh Carroll – Treasurer

Julia Boyle – General Committee member

Nominations for general committee positions remain open. Please contact us if you are interested.

If you would like a copy of our 2022-2023 Annual Report, pop into the office for a hard copy.

Our Field Work

Our Operations team were busy this month attending to the Winter weed spraying program and as it started heating up, they commenced the Summer weed spraying program.

Our Operations Manager Jason Dearle and Operations Officer James Moyes assisted private landholders in spraying winter weeds such as Arum lilies and Cleavers and summer weeds such as Blackberries on several properties in Bridgetown Greenbushes Shire as well as the southern part of the Donnybrook Balingup Shire.

We also have been working in collaboration with local government and their bushfire mitigation programs to manage the blackberries in certain parts of Bridgetown by reducing their spread and by minimising rabbit and fox habitats as well as fuel load.



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Our Community Work

On Saturday 20th of September, our Executive Officer Trish McCourt and Operations Officer James Moyes held a Bunny Igloo workshop at the Ashbil Community Garden. They had a fun and productive morning supporting sixteen (16) landholders to construct the Bunny Igloos.

A Bunny Igloo is simply a rabbit feeding station. Rabbits like to feed in the open, so the igloos, designed by our Operations Manager Jason Dearle, are just the thing if you are looking to attract rabbits to a baited feed supply, whilst keeping non target species at bay.



On Thursday 26th October, our Executive Officer Trish McCourt and Jason Dearle facilitated our second LaMING (Land Management Innovative Networking Group) meeting.

This networking group created earlier this year, looks to:

- Achieve a coordinated strategic approach to managing declared pests
- Enhance professional relationships within the industry
- Increase awareness of industry focus across the sector
- Network and act as a conduit to other departments & Private landholders
- Collaborate to achieve a common goal



Invited attendees represent not for profit groups and local and state government organisations who have an interest in land management.

The meeting on 26th welcomed fourteen (14) participants representing the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Shires of Bridgetown Greenbushes and Donnybrook Balingup, Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Forest Products Commission, Leschenault Biosecurity Group, Blackwood Environment Society, Feral Logic and ourselves.

To manage declared pests properly, these networking meetings are incredibly important to the region. The meeting was considerably productive with collaborative actions identified to support management of declared pests.



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Our Upcoming Events

Dinninup Show - Tuesday 7th of November 2023

Blackwood Biosecurity will be participating with a stall to provide information on declared pest management to the local community. Pop over to have a chat on the day and let us help you manage declared pests.

Summer Weeds Workshop Bridgetown - Wednesday 15th of November 2023

As the weather heats up, the weeds start sprouting up - Lots! Learn how to control them by joining us at the Bridgetown Community Resource Centre starting at 10 am. RSVP by either calling us on 0455 522 750 or email admin@bbisouthwest.org.au

Boyup Brook Markets - Saturday 18th of November 2023

Blackwood Biosecurity will be participating in the Boyup Brook Markets to provide information to landholders on how to manage declared pests.

Bridgetown Show - Saturday 25th of November 2023

Blackwood Biosecurity will also be participating at the annual Bridgetown show to provide local landholders information on managing declared pests and weeds. We would love to have a chat on the day!

News and Information

Blackberries

Blackberries (*Rubus anglocandicans*, *R. fruticosus*, *R. laudatus*, *R. rugosus*, and *R. ulmifolius*) are declared pests in Western Australia (WA).

Semi-deciduous scramblers to two metres high with canes up to seven metres long. Spread by seed, rooting of cane tips, and by suckers from lateral roots. The latter two means of spread result in large clumps over time. Fruit is eaten by birds and mammals (especially foxes) that may transport seeds some distance.

Blackberry invades pastures, riverbanks and creeklines, forming dense thickets that harbour pests such as foxes and rabbits. Early blackberry starts flowering in late spring, with white flowers noticeable by October. Other weedy blackberries start to flower in November/December.



Cleavers

Cleavers (*Galium aparine*) is known by its sticky hooked leaves and stems. It sticks to your clothes and boots if you walk through it.

The seeds stick to animals and birds and hence is easily spread. Cleavers is a straggly scrambling or climbing plant that germinates in Autumn. It appears in crops as well as riverbanks, fence lines and bush reserves. Cleavers is a declared pest in WA and one of our focus weeds.

As the landowner you are required to report Cleavers before undertaking control measures. Please contact us if you identify the weed.

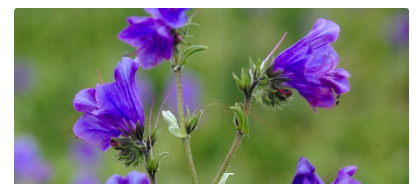


Paterson's curse

Paterson's curse is also sometimes called salvation Jane, blueweed, Lady Campbell weed or the Riverine bluebell. It is understood that the weed was planted by the Paterson family of Cumberoona, New South Wales in the 1800s.

Paterson's curse now covers millions of hectares of land in southern Australia (from WA to northern New South Wales). Paterson's curse is a bristly, annual plant that usually germinates in early autumn and flowers in spring but it can germinate at any time of year if conditions are favourable. It is found from north of Geraldton to the south coast.

Around Perth and Northam it prefers heavier soils and is common in the Swan and Avon Valleys, but it is found on sandy soils in the northern agricultural region.



For more information, please contact us on 0455 522 750 or go to the DPIRD website.

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