



BLACKWOOD BIOSECURITY

Land Lifestyle Livelihood

Newsletter November 2023

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At a glance

- Our Field Work
- Our Community Work
- K5 Release ALERT
- News and Information

Highlight of the month!

On Saturday November 25th, Executive Officer Trish McCourt, Communications & Events Officer Max Cornish, Operations Officer as well as some of our committee member; Jenny Dewing, Margaret Morton and Leigh Carroll operated our stand at the Annual Bridgetown Show. We attracted approximately 70 enquiries from landholders for support in managing declared pests on their properties.



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- 1 WE ARE A COMMUNITY RUN NOT-FOR-PROFIT
- 2 WE HELP YOU TO MANAGE DECLARED PESTS
- 3 WE HAVE FREE LOAN EQUIPMENT
- 4 WE DO ONSITE VISITS, WORKSHOPS AND MORE
- 5 WE PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ADVICE
- 6 WE CAN ADVOCATE ON YOUR BEHALF

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Our Field Work

Our Operations Manager Jason Dearle and Operations Officer James Moyes have been busy with spraying some pesky weeds this month such as Blackberries and Cleavers.

They were also busy supporting landowners to gain their 1080 permits, baiting feral pigs in the area and attending to rabbit problems.



K5 WARNING - KEEP YOUR PET RABBIT SAFE

Got pet rabbits? Keep them secure especially over the summer months. Please be aware that in the first week of December 2023, we will be commencing the release of RHDV1 K5 (Calicivirus) throughout the region. This will be in collaboration with those landholders who have already registered to participate.

Calicivirus, also occurring as a wild strain and spread by flies and fleas, is fatal to all rabbits - feral, commercial or pet. It is completely harmless to any other species including humans.

Please keep your pet rabbits secured and remember that you can take further precautionary measures by having them vaccinated.

This year the number of landholders registered to participate in the programme has doubled. To cater for this, we have had to purchase increased supplies of expensive K5 vials. There will be no further vials available to us for purchase for the season. We anticipate that we will completely exhaust our current supplies on those properties currently registered for the programme. However, K5 is just one tool in the bag, so if you are not on the register but experiencing rabbit problems, you can still contact us for advice and support. Call 0455 522 750 or email admin@bbisouthwest.org.au

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Our Community Work

On Tuesday 7th of November, our Community Engagement Officer, Max Cornish, Operations Manager Jason Dearle, Operations Officer James Moyes and Committee Member Leigh Carroll attended our stall at the Dinninup Show. We had 'Foxy Loxy', our taxidermy fox which was a big hit with the kids eliciting many questions. We had an awesome time chatting with a few locals about their declared pest problems and how we can support them.



On Wednesday 15th of November, we also held an information session about Summer declared weeds and how we can help keep the weeds down on ones property. We had 5 attendees and they asked a lot of questions of which Jason was expertly able to respond to. The session was followed by a light lunch.



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Lifestyle

Livelihood

News and Information

Cotton bush

Narrow Leaf Cotton bush is detrimental to our environment in many ways. Native to South Africa and Ethiopia, it was introduced to Australia as a garden plant.

Cotton bush displaced native plants and pastures and is toxic to livestock and humans as it contains cardiac glycosides. Plants can grow to 2m tall, and seeds are dispersed by wind. Cotton bush is also food for the wanderer butterfly.

It can also be found in around Perth Hills all through the south west region.



Pokeweed

It is also an environmental weed, and can impact agricultural activities where it can contaminate produce.

The weed was found in December 2018 in the Balingup area, in the South-West region but has not previously been recorded in Western Australia by our Operations Manager Jason Dearle.

The department's annual targeted surveillance and eradication program is underway (Nov to Feb) around Balingup, Mullalyup, Bridgetown and Pemberton. Access to grounds by DPIRD inspectors may be required.



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

If you would like to subscribe to our newsletter, pop into our office at Hampton St, Bridgetown or call us on 0455 522 750

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