



# BLACKWOOD BIOSECURITY

Land Lifestyle Livelihood

## Newsletter August 2023

104 Hampton Street, Bridgetown  
email: [admin@bbisouthwest.org.au](mailto:admin@bbisouthwest.org.au)  
0455 522 750



### At a glance:

- Out and about in the Community
- Coming events
- Weeds to watch out for: Cape tulip
- Vertebrate pests: Rainbow lorikeet
- Future feral focus: Red dwarf honey bee

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. If you would like to subscribe to the newsletter please join the mailing list on our website: [www.blackwoodbiosecurity.org.au/contact-us](http://www.blackwoodbiosecurity.org.au/contact-us), or pop into the office.

## Out and about in the Community

We enjoyed meeting community members at our Meet & Greet Sausage Sizzle in Balingup this month. Great to see new residents interested in biosecurity and learning about what they can do and how we can help. Watch out for more sausage sizzles in the coming months.

In the meantime, we'll be out and about in your community on a regular basis. Our operations team are out in the field daily across our operational area. You might not always see them as they're usually working with landowners on private property, but they're having a significant impact, as seen recently with our successful feral pig programme. If you have any declared pest queries please don't hesitate to pop into the office, phone or email us.



Land lifestyle Livelihood

Our Operations Manager Jason Dearle attended the Lower Blackwood Landcare event, Ferals in the Frame, last week. Lower Blackwood Landcare have the same issues with feral pigs as we do, and it's great to look out for opportunities to work together with our regional neighbours.

We continue to receive regular inquiries about rabbits. The middle of winter is a difficult time for rabbit control. This is because wet weather and abundant feed often render laced oat programs ineffective. We will be releasing the K5 virus again next summer. Watch this space for the opportunity to join the program.

## Coming events

### **Bridgetown Gardens AGM Saturday 2 September**

Our Executive Officer, Trish McCourt, will be presenting at the Bridgetown Gardens AGM. We assist many landowners in the Bridgetown Gardens, and residents are engaged with some of our programmes, especially the annual K5 rabbit management programme which requires a dedicated group of participants to pre-feed rabbits. If you're a Bridgetown Gardens resident, come along and hear more about what we do and how we can assist you.

### **Rylington Park Field Day, Thursday 14th September**

This annual Field Day is an informative and fun event. Blackwood Biosecurity will be attending with our stall to provide information on declared pest management. Look out for promotional posts coming up soon on the Rylington Park Facebook page.



### **Regen Agricultural Conference 2023, 6-8 September, Margaret River**



The Shire of Augusta Margaret River, in collaboration with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), will deliver a dynamic conference on regenerative agriculture. The conference will include international, national and local keynote speakers over two days, with field trips on the third day at farming enterprises around the Margaret River Region.

For more about the conference and to purchase tickets go to the website:  
<https://regen2023.com.au/>

### **Make a Bunny Igloo, Saturday 30th September, Ashbil Community Garden 10.00am – 11.00am.**

What the hop is a Bunny Igloo? Bunny Igloos keep birds and other animals from eating your rabbit pre-feed and baits. Rabbits won't take feed from enclosed spaces and the use of netting makes the rabbits think they are out in the open. We will demonstrate how to make a Bunny Igloo, and some Bunny Igloo packs will be supplied so that you can make one yourself.

### **Blackwood Biosecurity AGM, Wednesday 18th October**

All welcome. 5.00pm at the Balingup Recreation Centre. Light refreshments provided.

Land lifestyle Livelihood

# Weeds to watch out for: One-leaf cape tulip



One leaf Cape tulip (*Moraea flaccida*) is a noxious weed and declared pest in WA. Like many of our declared weeds, Cape tulip is native to South Africa and was introduced as a garden plant. It can be found in pastures and public reserves.

Cape tulip matters because it is toxic to grazing animals, with cattle being the most commonly affected. It can often be found in cut hay and remains toxic in this form. It is difficult and expensive to eradicate, with some herbicides also damaging pasture legumes. It is also toxic to humans.

Cape tulip reproduces from seed spread and regrowth from the corms. The flowering season is from August to October, and fruiting occurs towards the end of this period. It is best to treat during the plant's growing and flowering activity.

What you can do. Practice good biosecurity to avoid introducing Cape tulip to your property. Make sure bought hay is not contaminated and do not allow contractors with dirty machinery to work on your property.

For information about identifying Cape tulip and training course opportunities see the DPIRD website: <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/declared-plants/one-leaf-cape-tulip-declared-pest>  
For control methods see <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/herbicides/one-leaf-cape-tulip-control>



## Vertebrate pests: Rainbow lorikeet



Rainbow lorikeets were introduced to WA from the eastern states in the 1960s. Legend has it that a handful of birds escaped or were released from somewhere in Nedlands, and by 1968 they were well established in Perth. Famously they appear in huge flocks to the Norfolk Island pines at Cottesloe Beach every evening. As a species they now outnumber common native bird populations in the metropolitan area.

Rainbow lorikeets are a major agricultural pest, significantly damaging commercial grape and orchard crops, as well as vegetable and field crops. Rainbow lorikeets are also a threat to native WA birds, aggressively competing with native birds for nesting holes, chasing away other birds from their nests. They are also carriers of Psittacine beak and feather disease and pose a potential disease risk to wild and captive parrots. Rainbow lorikeets are a declared pest in the southern part of WA, and so prolific in Perth metropolitan area that eradication is unlikely.





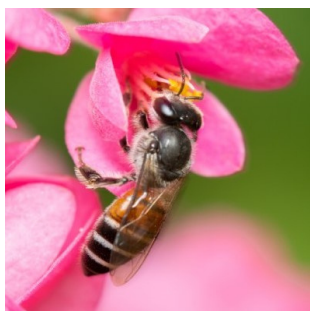
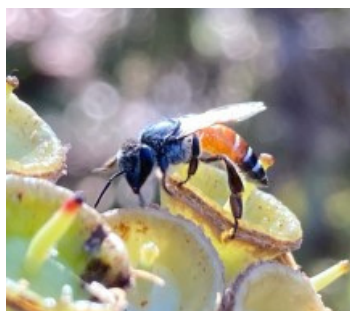
You can read about Rainbow lorikeet management on the DPIRD website at <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/birds/rainbow-lorikeet-management>.

Any sightings outside of Perth must be reported immediately so that they can be safely retrieved. It is crucial that this bird doesn't establish in the southwest.

If you spot a Rainbow lorikeet outside of the metropolitan area please report to the Department of Regional Development and Primary Industries by phoning 08 9368 3080 or by using MyPestGuide Reporter app: <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/apps/mypestguide-reporter>

## Future feral focus: Red dwarf honey bee

The Red dwarf honey bee (*Apis florea*) is native to South Asia and parts of Southeast Asia. The Draft dwarf is a threat to Australia due to the likelihood that it carries parasitic mites. Testing of the bees from a colony discovered in northwest WA has uncovered the presence of 28 brood mites (*Euvaroa sinhai*). These are not to be confused with the Varroa mite which is under a major eradication programme in New South Wales. The discovery of this bee at the Burrup Peninsula near the Port of Dampier has prompted a surveillance program in the area. The Federal Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (DAFF) has destroyed the established colony. Following this treatment other Red dwarf honey bees have been discovered nearby.



The Red dwarf honey bee is one of the smallest bees and has distinct red/brown and white and black bands on the abdomen. Worker bees have a body length of 7-10mm.

DPIRD Chief Plant Biosecurity Officer Sonya Broughton said exotic bees could be a pathway for bee pests and viruses, and it was important to report all sightings to the national Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881 or through the department's My Pest Guide: <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/pests-weeds-diseases/mypestguide>

Find out more about this biosecurity threat here: <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/red-dwarf-honey-bee>