

## September Newsletter 2023



### At a Glance :

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### Highlight of the month!

We had our Bridal creeper workshop this month and it was a great success. What we love most is educating our landholders and the positive feedback we get in return when they have learnt something new about the declared weeds.

Our Project Officer James, and Executive Officer Trish ran the workshop and together with the landholders, they made Bridal creeper rust spray to help manage the declared weed.



## Our Field Work

Jason Dearle, our Operations Manager and James Moyes, our Operations Officer, have been busy in the field supporting landholders with declared pests with rabbits being the dominant issue. This month, they attended several landholder properties for support with rabbit, pig, foxes, cotton bush, Bridal creeper, Cleavers and Arum lily issues. Site visits were located through the region including Bridgetown, South Hampton and West Arthur.



Feral Pigs appear to be a continuing issue in the Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes. We have and will continue support and educate landholders on the 1080 baiting program to help reduce the ongoing feral pig problem.

Bridal creeper, False cleavers, Cape tulips and Arum lily control will start in the next few weeks as they will be flowering soon. Weed hire equipment including the weed wiper are available for free loan to landholders, so pop in and take your pick.

**BLACKWOOD BIOSECURITY**  
LAND LIFESTYLE LIVELIHOOD  
0455 522 750

- 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



Land lifestyle Livelihood



## Our Community Work

On Saturday 2nd of September, our Executive Officer Trish McCourt attended the Bridgetown Gardens AGM as guest speaker. Over 50 residents were in the room and Trish's presentation was well received.

On Tuesday 12th of September, our Operations Manager Jason Dearle and Operations Officer James Moyes attended the Bridgetown Highschool Year 7 Science and Sustainability class. Jason presented to approximately 40 students on introduced species, ethical weed and animal management practices. The students were very inquisitive and were especially interested in Jason's previous 'helicopter' work!

On Thursday 14th of September, Jason and Trish attended to their own stand at the Rylington Park Field Day. They had a great day engaging with the local community, educating and supporting landholders on declared weed and pest management. They also had a great opportunity to meet a few local organisations including the Boyup Brook Shire President Richard Walker.



## Our Special Program

As a means to control the rabbit population in Australia, RHDV (Rabbit Calicivirus) or K5 was introduced in 1996. This virus affects only rabbits and is not transmissible to any other animal or plant.

The K5 programme will start in December and if you are on the register, we will contact you in due course to attend an information session about pre-feeding the rabbits and the release process.

Due to high demand and limited stock, it will be first in best dressed and offered free to landholders within our catchment area; Shire of Bridgetown - Greenbushes, Boyup Brook, West Arthur and lower parts of Donnybrook - Balingup.

Pop into our office at 104 Hampton Street, Bridgetown, phone 0455 522 750 or email [admin@bbisouthwest.org.au](mailto:admin@bbisouthwest.org.au) to be added to the register.

## Our Upcoming Events

### Blackwood Biosecurity AGM - Wednesday 18th of October.

All welcome to attend our annual general meeting, it will be starting at 5.00 pm at the Balingup Recreation Centre. Come and hear what we have been up to. A representative from 'The Department' will be there to support question time. Light refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP by 13th of October to ensure that you are catered for.

### Dinninup Show - Tuesday 7th of November

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.

### 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 weed. We would love to have a chat on the day!

## News and Information

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

### Arum Lily

Arum lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*) is a declared pest in Western Australia (WA). It is a robust, dark green, succulent herb, also known as calla or white arum lily. It was introduced to WA from South Africa as a garden plant and subsequently escaped to become established as a weed. It is found in creeks, irrigation ditches and areas of summer-moist land in the higher rainfall south west of WA, often forming large dense clumps.

Arum lily competes with valuable perennial pasture plants on summer land. It has been claimed to cause eczema in humans. Stock deaths have occurred from grazing arum lily.



### Bridal creeper

Bridal creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*) is a declared pest in WA and prolific in the Blackwood Valley region.

Bridal creeper is a climbing vine to 3 metres. It has tuberous roots, known as corms, which can be large in relation to the plant. The leaves are small and shiny green, and the flowers are small creamy white with 6 petals. The fruit is bright red with shiny black seeds. The creeper is spread by birds and can often be found under trees and bushes where birds sit.

What you can do. Bridal creeper can be managed with biological control, see the DPIRD website for what treatments to use. To treat without the use of herbicides you can use a homemade Bridal creeper rust solution.



### 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.

