

Strategic & Action Plan 2018 - Tarrangower Cactus Control Group Inc.

Goal	To effect and support the eradication of Wheel Cactus (<i>Opuntia robusta</i>) on private and public lands.
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Over-all Objectives	Short-term: to treat 50% of the current major infestations of Wheel Cactus, and prevent any new infestations, in the Maldon, Baringhup and Nuggetty areas.
	Long-term: to eradicate all major Wheel Cactus infestations from the Maldon, Baringhup and Nuggetty areas.

Area of Concern	Area is bounded by Cairn Curran Reservoir to the west, Bradford Road to the north, Maldon-Lockwood Road and Maldon-Newstead Road to the east, and Trudgeons Road to the south.
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Strategies	Increase the number of landowners actively controlling Wheel Cactus infestations on their own properties.
	Encourage more volunteers to actively control Wheel Cactus on private and public land in our area of concern.
	Provide 6 community field days per year.
	Promote and financially sustain our group.
	Assess the effectiveness of control methods and integrated management strategies by participating in research.
	Encourage the participation of other groups, such as local Landcare, Connecting Country, Scouts, government work crews.
	Develop and maintain partnerships, such as Parks Victoria, Mt. Alexander Shire, DEWLP, DEDJTR, NCCMA, Weed Society Victoria.

Actions

Community Awareness & Support	Education and Information	Group Promotion & Sustainability	Research and Development	Partnerships and Support
1. Conduct 6 monthly field days each year (May to Oct) to raise awareness & demonstrate effective control techniques to our community members. 2. Maintain injecting & digging equipment & the supply of herbicides.	1. Distribute brochures to inform and educate landowners & community members. 2. Update technical advice in brochures on best practise to destroy & dispose of wheel cactus plants. 3. Redesign a current and informative website.	1. Prepare calendar of available grants and maintain a group template. 2. Maintain annual budget. 3. Seek funding from various funding bodies. 4. Participate in local fundraising events. 5. Promote group at local community events.	1. Investigate improvements in integrated management, equipment & herbicide by collaborating with other groups & institutions. 2. Share knowledge with other Wheel Cactus groups. 3. Attend appropriate workshops & conferences.	1. Seek support from other local Landcare groups. 2. Maintain partnership with Parks Victoria to protect our parks & public lands. 3. Seek and host available government work crews. 4. Collaborate with Mt. Alex. Shire to treat roadsides.

<p>3. Provide local landowners with free equipment loans.</p> <p>4. Provide one on one technical advice and support as requested to property owners in our area.</p> <p>5. Encourage and appreciate our volunteers.</p> <p>6. Provide free disposal of wheel cactus plants at the Maldon Transfer Station.</p>	<p>4. Reply to email enquiries.</p> <p>5. Warn nearby communities of the threat of wheel cactus using local media.</p> <p>6. Erect Wheel Cactus warning signs on local property fences.</p>	<p>6. Promote group with sale of 'cactus warrior' t-shirts, pens & coffee mugs.</p> <p>7. Promote group using regular media releases.</p>	<p>4. Collate photographic records & documents of wheel cactus interest.</p> <p>5. Collate map of site locations of treated wheel cactus infestations.</p> <p>6. Monitor growth at trial cochineal sites & distribute cochineal to new locations.</p> <p>7. Maintain a Cochineal Nursery.</p>	<p>5. Collaborate with Local and State Government to increase compliance of local property owners.</p>
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Measures

<p>1. Record property location & number of volunteer participants at field days & before- after photographs at field day sites.</p> <p>2. Maintain record of equipment & herbicide purchases.</p> <p>3. Maintain a register of equipment loans.</p> <p>4. Record landowners who contact group for information or assistance.</p> <p>5. Provide end of year celebration with volunteers in November.</p> <p>6. Maintain record of disposal volumes from Maldon Transfer Station records.</p>	<p>1. Record number of brochures distributed via field days, mail-outs & events.</p> <p>2. Distribution of updated technical brochures.</p> <p>3. Completion of redesigned website and training of admin volunteers.</p> <p>4. Record of email enquiries and responses.</p> <p>5. Publication of press releases in local newspapers and newsletters, and radio and T.V. interviews.</p> <p>6. Print and distribute more farm fence warning signs to local property owners.</p>	<p>1. Maintain and update grant calendar and group template.</p> <p>2. Present monthly and annual financial reports.</p> <p>3. Submit regular grant applications for funding.</p> <p>4. Participation in fundraising events such as the Maldon Market.</p> <p>5. Participation in local community events such as Maldon Easter Parade.</p> <p>6. Record sales of t-shirts, pens & coffee mugs.</p> <p>7. Monthly publication of articles in local newspapers and newsletters.</p>	<p>1. Updated research & technical news on website & in press releases, & file copies of reports & results.</p> <p>2. Field trips with other wheel cactus groups.</p> <p>3. Document conference & workshop attendances & presentations.</p> <p>4. Maintain electronic and hardcopy files of documents & photographs of interest.</p> <p>5. Maintain NCCMA web-based map of treated site locations.</p> <p>6. Photographic & map records of cochineal growth & spread at trial sites.</p> <p>7. Apply for grant funding to establish a cochineal nursery.</p>	<p>1. Field day demonstrations with local Landcare groups.</p> <p>2. Reduced wheel cactus infestations in our local parks.</p> <p>3. Documentation of work crew activities.</p> <p>4. Photographs and maps of treated local roadsides.</p> <p>5. Record of meetings & correspondence with local & state government personnel.</p>
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