

President's Report - Lee Mead, Tarrangower Cactus Control Group Inc.,

AGM 25th Nov. 2018 – Another very successful year. Continue increasing Wheel Cactus awareness, education, control. Very proud of everything we achieve.

1. Community Awareness and Support:

Community Field Days - organising locations, catering, publicity, and purchasing and maintaining equipment and herbicide. Six field days with attendance ranging 23 – 31 with average 27.

Loans of Injecting / Digging equipment – increased purchases equipment and herbicide.

Community Events – Maldon Easter Parade (winner Best Community Entry, thanks Maldon Primary School), stalls at Maldon Baringhup Agricultural Show and Maldon Market for Landcare Week.

Volunteer Safety – increased with new A-frame warning sign, new goggles and gloves.

Community Engagement: engaged several new local landowners and properties.

Free Disposal Tip – ongoing free disposal of Wheel Cactus plants at Maldon Transfer Station.

2. Education and Information:

Website – Redesigned and updated website, Replied to email enquiries and actioned.

Media Releases - local newsletters and newspapers, Carisbrook newspaper, Landcare magazines.

Information Brochures – mail-out distribution of 700 'Warning' leaflets (Maldon, Newstead, Harcourt), new 'Cochineal' brochure and launch event of Ward-Specific Weed Brochures.

Farm Fence Signs – 20 more printed and distributed locally.

Demonstrations – Barkers Creek & Harcourt Valley Landcare groups, delegation of USA politicians.

Campaigning- protesting Royal Auto article promoting cacti in gardens, letter and response in RA.

3. Group Promotion and Sustainability:

Grant Funding - successful for grants from Mt. Alex. Shire Council and North Central CMA.

Promotional materials - more stickers, pens & mugs purchased and distributed.

Video – new 2-minute video produced (thanks Geoff Palmer).

Awards - winners Tarrangower Aust. Day Community Group Award 2017, and finalists in the National Landcare Community Group Award 2018.

4. Research and Development:

Green Army – organised work for team for 5-month project (thanks Ian Grenda).

Cochineal Nursery – propagated insects and distributed cochineal on Goughs Range Rd. property.

Botanical Audit – assessment of native plant species in Nuggetty Ranges by CC botanist.

Workshops - Lee & Ian attended DELWP 'Opuntoid Workshop' in Bacchus Marsh.

5. Partnerships and Support:

Conferences - Lee, Ian, Tony and Jan attended the National Landcare Conference in Brisbane.

Presentations- Lee at Hume Shire 'Beyond the Boundary Fence' Forum and Opuntoid Workshop.

Networking - Landcare Linkup meetings with Connecting Country

Students - Monash University student field trip for several days in July (thanks Ian Grenda).

Compliance - Met with DEDJTR Biosecurity Officer and provided info for development of extension program, DEDJTR Reporting Form template, Letters to State election candidates and local Shires, negotiations with MASC to contribute to review of Local Laws.

Many thanks:

- **Dedicated committee members and volunteers**- for so much hard work.

All our valued partners and supporters

- **Parks Victoria** – help with community field days.
- **Mt. Alexander Shire** - funding for community field days.
- **Connecting Country** - networking opportunities such as workshops & Landcare Link-ups
- **North Central CMA** – providing mapping workshops and funding
- **Tarrangower Times** – for dependably publishing our media releases
- **Sandy Creek Landcare Group** – for generous donations