

**Tarrangower Cactus Control Group Inc.**  
**AGM - 29<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2020**

**President's Report (Lee Mead)**

- 2020 was an 'unprecedented' year, however our community-minded, flexible volunteers adapted to the new challenges. Thankyou to our volunteers who continued making positive impacts on our environment.
- Many thanks to our committee members. Even though Covid-19 restrictions were unpredictable and changeable, we managed to meet a couple of times during the year and have still achieved a great deal.
- The pandemic has confirmed we are a team of dedicated, resilient and enthusiastic community members.

Our activities during 2020, based on the five objectives of our Strategic Plan were as follows -

- 1. Community Awareness and Support:** (to increase awareness & assistant to local community)
  - Community Field Days – cancelled providing a well-earned rest, but some 'lone warriors' continued to treat infestations on areas of crown land and neighbouring properties as sole operators.
  - Injecting / Digging equipment – equipment was maintained and supplied to the 'lone warriors'.
  - Community Events – online Maldon Easter Parade, TCCG were winners 'Community Group' award.
  - Community Engagement - contact and assistance provided to several new property owners.
  - Landcare Group Demonstration – field day demonstration for Barkers Creek Landcare Group.
  - Maldon Tip Disposal: increased the annual funding available for free disposal of wheel cactus plants.
  - Daconate Permit – successful application to extend permit for use on wheel cactus to June 2025.
  
- 2. Education and Information:** (to increase community capacity, skills & knowledge)
  - Website – maintained posts and email enquiries during 'lockdown' periods.
  - Media Releases – Local newsletter and newspaper articles, Volunteer Week & to stay informed.
  - Presentations – Lee presented a Webinar about our Cochineal Biocontrol project work in October.
  
- 3. Group Promotion and Sustainability:** (to maintain a viable, legal and productive group)
  - Grants – ongoing program funding from Mt. Alex. Shire Council
  
- 4. Research and Development:** (to improve knowledge & methods)
  - Integrated Management Project – completed acquittal report & hosted review visit by NCCMA Landcare Coordinator in January. Now ongoing monitoring of biocontrol Cochineal sites.
  - Cochineal Nursery – restocked Cochineal insect population and distributed to several new locations.
  - Conference – Australasian Weed Conference cancelled but rescheduled in S.A. in Oct. 2021
  
- 5. Partnerships:** (to share & network with other environment groups and organisations)
  - MASC – negotiated changes to Local By-Laws to include a new separate 'Noxious Weeds' clause. Submitted 'Wheel Cactus infestation' map to Planning Dept. to impact on planning permit decisions.
  - Budget 2020-21 – submission requesting increased funding and staff for natural environment dept.
  - Landmate – successful application for crew to treat infestations of Snake Cactus and Prickly Pear.
  - Loddon Plains Landcare Network – provided letter of support for Fed. Govt. project application.
  - Connecting Country – participated at the Landcare Linkup meeting in February.
  - Students – annual Monash University student field trip cancelled.

**Many thanks:** to all committee members, especially Sharon for her excellent work as secretary, but is now stepping down.

**Many thanks:** All our valued partners and supporters

- **Mt. Alexander Shire** - funding for community field days, equipment and herbicide.
- **Parks Victoria** – help with community field days and volunteer safety.
- **Connecting Country** - networking opportunities such as online workshops & Landcare Link-ups
- **North Central CMA** – providing funding for ongoing maintenance.
- **Tarrangower Times** – for so willingly publishing our media releases.