

## Strategic & Action Plan 2021 - Tarrangower Cactus Control Group Inc.

<b>Goal</b>	To effect and support the eradication of Wheel Cactus ( <i>Opuntia robusta</i> ) on private and public lands.
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<b>Over-all Objectives</b>	<b>Short-term:</b> to control current infestations of Wheel Cactus and prevent new infestations in the Maldon, Baringhup and Nuggetty areas.
	<b>Long-term:</b> to contain Wheel Cactus infestations to the Tarrangower area and prevent spread to outlying areas in the Mt. Alexander Shire.

<b>Area of Concern</b>	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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<b>Strategies</b>	Encourage local landowners to actively control Wheel Cactus infestations on their properties, and especially to engage new landowners.
	Encourage volunteers to actively control Wheel Cactus on public and crown lands in our area of concern.
	Provide six community field days per year to educate, demonstrate techniques, & motivate landowners & volunteers to control infestations.
	Promote and financially sustain our group.
	Assess the effectiveness of control methods and develop improved integrated management strategies.
	Encourage the participation of other groups, such as local Landcare, environment and community groups and government work crews.
	Develop and maintain partnerships with Parks Victoria, Mt. Alexander Shire, Victorian Govt. departments, NCCMA & Victorian Weed Soc.

### Actions

Community Awareness & Support	Education and Information	Group Promotion & Sustainability	Research and Development	Partnerships and Support
1. Conduct 6 field days each year (monthly May to Oct) to increase awareness & demonstrate effective control techniques to our community members. 2. Maintain injecting & digging equipment, supply	1. Re-design "How to Kill" brochure to update advice & best practise techniques to destroy & dispose of wheel cactus plants. 2. Distribute new version of brochure via mailout to local landowners & community,	1. Apply for suitable grant funding when required. 2. Maintain annual budget. 3. Participate in local fundraising events when necessary. 4. Promote group at local community events.	1. Monitor the progress in control strategies on the six properties involved in our 2019 'Multi-pronged Management' project. 2. Distribute cochineal insects at Field Days & other new local locations.	1. Promote Wheel Cactus control & support to other local Landcare groups. 2. Maintain partnership with Parks Victoria to control infestations in local parks. 3. Maintain Partnership Agreement with MASC.

<p>of herbicides &amp; biocontrol insects for use at field days.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Provide local landowners with free equipment loans.</li> <li>4. Provide individual control advice &amp; support to local landowners if requested.</li> <li>5. Encourage &amp; appreciate our volunteers.</li> <li>6. Provide free disposal of wheel cactus plants at the Maldon Transfer Station.</li> </ol>	<p>Welcome Kit, Maldon V.I.C. &amp; P.O. &amp; Real Estate Agents.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Maintain an up-to-date and informative website.</li> <li>4. Reply to email enquiries.</li> <li>5. Warn nearby communities of the threat of wheel cactus using local media.</li> <li>6. Erect Wheel Cactus warning signs on local property fences.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Promote group via sale of 'cactus warrior' t-shirts &amp; coffee mugs, &amp; distributing pens &amp; stickers.</li> <li>6. Promote group using regular media releases.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Maintain the permanent Cochineal insect Nursery.</li> <li>4. Share the results of our 2019 project.</li> <li>5. Attend appropriate workshops &amp; conferences to share &amp; acquire knowledge.</li> <li>6. Collate map of site locations of treated wheel cactus infestations.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Collaborate with MASC to increase compliance of new By-laws by sending letters to individual landowners.</li> <li>5. Collaborate with State Government to increase compliance of the 'Catchment and Land Protection' Act.</li> <li>6. Encourage networking and shared activities with other community groups.</li> </ol>
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## Measures

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Record property location, number of volunteer participants &amp; before- after photographs at each field day site.</li> <li>2. Maintain record of equipment &amp; herbicide purchases.</li> <li>3. Maintain a register of equipment loans.</li> <li>4. Record contact with landowners who request information or assistance.</li> <li>5. Provide rewards and end of year celebration with volunteers in November.</li> <li>6. Record disposal volumes at Maldon Transfer Station.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Print new version of brochure &amp; upload to website.</li> <li>2. Record mail-out, V.I.C., P.O. &amp; Real Estate Agent distribution.</li> <li>3. Regularly post new information &amp; documents on website.</li> <li>4. Maintain record of email enquiries and responses.</li> <li>5. Publication of press releases in local newspapers and newsletters, and radio and T.V. interviews.</li> <li>6. Distribute more farm fence warning signs to local property owners.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain watch for suitable available grants.</li> <li>2. Present monthly/annual financial reports at all committee meetings.</li> <li>3. Record participation in fundraising events (such as the Maldon Market).</li> <li>4. Record participation in local community events (e.g. photographs of Maldon Easter Parade).</li> <li>5. Record sales of t-shirts &amp; coffee mugs.</li> <li>6. Record monthly publication of articles in local newspapers and newsletters.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review treatments and photograph wheel cactus infestations from marked locations on properties involved in the project.</li> <li>2. Maintain list of Cochineal release sites and record sites on the ALA 'Biocontrol Hub' App.</li> <li>3. Keep photograph records of cochineal nursery.</li> <li>4. Share project report via website, media &amp; meetings.</li> <li>5. Document conference &amp; workshop attendances &amp; presentations given.</li> <li>6. Maintain NCCMA web-based map of treated sites.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide individual field day demonstrations with local Landcare groups.</li> <li>2. Hold partner field days with Parks Victoria in MHR.</li> <li>3. Maintain before/after photos of field days and monitor local roadsides.</li> <li>4. Record of individual landowner correspondence from MASC By-law officers.</li> <li>5. Record correspondence with DEDJTR personnel and other environment groups.</li> <li>7. Keep media and photographic record of shared events with other local groups.</li> </ol>
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