

Strategic & Action Plan 2022 - Tarrangower Cactus Control Group Inc.

Goal	To effect and support the eradication of Wheel Cactus (<i>Opuntia robusta</i>) on private and public lands.
-------------	---

Over-all Objectives	Short-term: to reduce current infestations and prevent new infestations of Wheel Cactus in the Maldon, Baringhup and Nuggetty areas.
	Long-term: to contain Wheel Cactus infestations to the Tarrangower area and prevent spread to outlying areas in the Mt. Alexander Shire.

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.
------------------------	--

Strategies	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, especially the Maldon Historic Reserve.
	Provide community field days & events to educate & motivate local communities, following Covid-19 and Child Safe policy & procedures.
	Promote and financially sustain our group by obtaining grant funding and fundraising events.
	Assess the effectiveness of control methods and help 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 field days (between April & Oct) to increase awareness & demonstrate effective control techniques to our community members. 2. Maintain injecting & digging equipment, supply	1. Distribute new brochure to local landowners & community via mailout, Welcome Kit, Maldon V.I.C. & Post Office & Real Estate Agents, & Mt. Alexander Shire mailout with rate notices.	1. Maintain Mt. Alexander Shire partnership & apply for suitable grant funding when required. 2. Maintain annual budget. 3. Participate in local fundraising events when necessary.	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 & biocontrol insects for use at field days.</p> <p>3. Provide local landowners with free equipment loans.</p> <p>4. Provide individual advice & support to local landowners if requested.</p> <p>5. Encourage & appreciate our volunteers.</p> <p>6. Provide free disposal of wheel cactus plants at the Maldon Transfer Station.</p>	<p>2. Maintain an up-to-date and informative website.</p> <p>3. Reply to email enquiries.</p> <p>4. Warn nearby communities of the threat of wheel cactus using local media.</p> <p>5. Erect Wheel Cactus warning signs on local property fences.</p>	<p>4. Promote group at local community events.</p> <p>5. Promote group via sale of 'cactus warrior' t-shirts, windcheaters & coffee mugs, & distributing pens & stickers.</p> <p>6. Promote group using regular media releases.</p>	<p>3. Maintain the permanent Cochineal insect Nursery.</p> <p>4. Share the results of our 2019 project.</p> <p>5. Attend appropriate workshops & conferences to share & acquire knowledge.</p> <p>6. Collate map of site locations of treated wheel cactus infestations.</p>	<p>4. Collaborate with MASC to send letters to individual landowners re By-Law 19.</p> <p>5. Collaborate with Dept. Ag Biosecurity to establish extension programs with individual property owners re 'CaLP' Act compliance.</p> <p>6. Encourage networking and shared activities with other community groups.</p>
--	---	---	--	--

Measures

<p>1. Record property location, number of volunteer participants & before- after photographs at each field day site.</p> <p>2. Maintain record of equipment & herbicide purchases.</p> <p>3. Maintain a register of equipment loans.</p> <p>4. Record contact with landowners who request information or assistance.</p> <p>5. Provide rewards and end of year celebration with volunteers in November.</p> <p>6. Record disposals at Maldon Transfer Station.</p>	<p>1. Record mail-out, V.I.C., P.O. & Real Estate Agent distribution.</p> <p>2. Regularly post new information & documents on website.</p> <p>3. Maintain record of email enquiries and responses.</p> <p>4. Publication of press releases in local newspapers and newsletters, social media, and radio and T.V. interviews.</p> <p>5. Distribute more farm fence warning signs to local property owners.</p>	<p>1. Maintain watch for suitable available grants.</p> <p>2. Present financial reports at all committee meetings & AGM.</p> <p>3. Record participation in fundraising events (such as the Maldon Market).</p> <p>4. Record participation in local community events (e.g. photographs of Maldon Easter Parade).</p> <p>5. Record sales of t-shirts, windcheaters & coffee mugs.</p> <p>6. Record publication of articles in local newspapers and newsletters.</p>	<p>1. Review treatments & before/after photographs from marked locations on properties involved in the project.</p> <p>2. Maintain list of Cochineal release sites and record sites on the ALA 'Biocontrol Hub' App.</p> <p>3. Keep photograph records of cochineal nursery.</p> <p>4. Share project report via website, media & meetings.</p> <p>5. Document conference & workshop attendances & presentations given.</p> <p>6. Maintain NCCMA web-based map of treated sites.</p>	<p>1. Provide individual field day demonstrations with local Landcare groups.</p> <p>2. Hold partner field days with Parks Victoria in MHR.</p> <p>3. Maintain before/after photos of field days and monitor local roadsides.</p> <p>4. Record of individual landowner correspondence from MASC By-law officers.</p> <p>5. Record correspondence & actions with Dept. Ag & Biosecurity personnel.</p> <p>7. Maintain media and photographic record of shared events with other local groups.</p>
--	---	---	---	--