

## Strategic & Action Plan 2023 - Tarrangower Cactus Control Group Inc.

<b>Goal</b>	To provide advice and support to private landowners and public land managers to control Wheel Cactus ( <i>Opuntia robusta</i> ) infestations.
<b>Over-all Objectives</b>	<b>Short-term:</b> to reduce current infestations and prevent the spread and new infestations of Wheel Cactus in the Maldon region. <b>Long-term:</b> to contain Wheel Cactus infestations to the Maldon area and prevent spread to outlying areas in the Mt. Alexander Shire.
<b>Area of Concern</b>	Area 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.
<b>Strategies</b>	<p>Encourage local landowners to actively control Wheel Cactus infestations on their properties, and especially to engage new landowners.</p> <p>Encourage volunteers to actively control Wheel Cactus on public lands in our area, especially the Maldon Historic Reserve.</p> <p>Provide demonstration field days &amp; information events to educate &amp; motivate local community members to control Wheel Cactus.</p> <p>Promote and financially sustain our group by obtaining grant funding and fundraising events.</p> <p>Assess the effectiveness of control methods and help develop improved integrated management strategies.</p> <p>Encourage the participation of other groups, such as local Landcare, environment and community groups and government agencies.</p> <p>Develop and maintain partnerships with Mt. Alexander Shire, Parks Victoria, Victorian Govt. departments &amp; Victorian Weed Society.</p>

### Planned Actions

<b>Community Awareness &amp; Support</b>	<b>Education and Information</b>	<b>Group Promotion &amp; Sustainability</b>	<b>Research and Development</b>	<b>Partnerships and Support</b>
<p>1. Conduct field days to increase awareness &amp; demonstrate effective control techniques to new local landowners (following Child Safe policy)</p> <p>2. Maintain injecting &amp; digging equipment, supply of herbicides &amp; biocontrol</p>	<p>1. Distribute information brochures to local community via Welcome Kit, Maldon V.I.C., Post Office &amp; Real Estate Agents.</p> <p>2. Maintain an up-to-date and informative website and reply to email enquiries.</p>	<p>1. Negotiate new Mt. Alexander Shire partnership, including information brochure mailout to ratepayers &amp; targeted compliance letters.</p> <p>2. Maintain annual financial budget.</p>	<p>1. Maintain the propagation of Cochineal insects in permanent Nursery.</p> <p>2. Distribute cochineal insects at local Field Days &amp; to other requests at new locations, both locally and other Shires.</p>	<p>1. Promote Wheel Cactus control &amp; support to local Landcare groups.</p> <p>2. Encourage networking and shared control activities within neighbourhood groups.</p>

<p>insects for use by landowners &amp; volunteers.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Provide local landowners with free equipment loans.</li> <li>4. Provide individual 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>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Hold information stall events to distribute info and raise awareness.</li> <li>4. Warn nearby communities of the threat of wheel cactus using local print and social media.</li> <li>5. Create new Wheel Cactus farm fence signs.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Participate in local fundraising events when necessary.</li> <li>4. Promote group at local community events.</li> <li>5. Promote group via sale of 'cactus warrior' windcheaters &amp; coffee mugs &amp; distributing pens.</li> <li>6. Promote group using regular media releases.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Attend appropriate workshops &amp; conferences to share &amp; acquire knowledge.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Maintain partnership with Parks Victoria to control infestations in local parks.</li> <li>4. Maintain Partnership Agreement &amp; roadside monitoring with MASC.</li> <li>5. Lobby Dept. Agriculture Biosecurity to establish extension programs with individual property owners re 'CaLP' Act compliance.</li> </ol>
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## Records & Measures

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Record property location, number of volunteer participants (meeting minutes) &amp; before- after photographs at field days.</li> <li>2. Maintain record of equipment &amp; herbicide purchases (Treasurer records).</li> <li>3. Maintain a register of equipment loans.</li> <li>4. Maintain record of landowners who request information or assistance.</li> <li>5. Provide rewards and celebration for volunteers.</li> <li>6. Maintain record of disposals at Maldon Tip.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Regularly distribute more copies to Maldon V.I.C., P.O. &amp; Real Estate Agents.</li> <li>2. Regularly post new information &amp; documents on website, &amp; file email record of responses.</li> <li>3. Maintain photo &amp; social media record of events.</li> <li>4. Record publications of press releases in local newspapers and newsletters, social media, and radio &amp; T.V. interviews.</li> <li>5. Distribute farm fence warning signs to local property owners.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain file of partnership agreement and financial payments.</li> <li>2. Present financial reports at all committee meetings &amp; AGM.</li> <li>3. Record participation in fundraising events (Treasurer records)</li> <li>4. Record participation in local community events (e.g. photos of Easter Parade).</li> <li>5. Record sales of windcheaters &amp; coffee mugs (Treasurer records).</li> <li>6. Record publication of articles in local newspapers and newsletters.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain photographic record of nursery developments.</li> <li>2. Maintain list of Cochineal release sites and record sites on the ALA 'Biocontrol Hub' App.</li> <li>3. Document conference &amp; workshop attendances &amp; presentations given.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide demonstrations with local Landcare groups.</li> <li>2. Maintain media &amp; photo record of shared events with neighbourhood groups</li> <li>3. Record partner field days with Parks Victoria in MHR.</li> <li>4. Maintain record of partnership actions &amp; roadside requests.</li> <li>5. Record correspondence &amp; actions with Dept. Agriculture &amp; Biosecurity personnel.</li> </ol>
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