

Tarrangower Cactus Control Group Inc.

AGM - 26th Nov. 2023

President's Report (Lee Mead)

Our many devoted volunteers have rallied together again this year to maintain our war on wheel cactus. The committee would like to thank all these volunteers for their ongoing commitment, energy and support. And I would like to sincerely thank all our dedicated committee members, who have all contributed in different ways, helping us to achieve many effective activities during 2023.

This year we've very successfully begun the transition to our new strategy, of holding smaller working bees, encouraging neighbourhood networks, focusing on new landowners and information stalls, rather than the regular huge field days on familiar private properties. We've been no less active, just downsized the events.

We started the year with a very Special Event – Life Membership to Ian Grenda – Ian was one of the founding members of TCCG, President for 10 years and Vice President for 8 years and our "Guru", but has decided to retire from his many volunteer roles to focus on his health, we again thank him enormously!

Our other activities this year included -

1. Community Awareness and Support: (to increase awareness & assistant to local community)

Working Bees – 2 x neighbour networking (1 new landowner) & 2 x to help ailing landowners

Equipment Incentives – 8 x free loans of injectors to local property owners as requested and other equipment and herbicide top ups supplied to individual cactus warrior volunteers

Equipment Maintenance – supply of injecting kits continually repaired and prepared for use as required, group's trailer serviced

Free Plant Disposal – maintained arrangement of free disposal of plants at Maldon Transfer Station

Farm Fence Signs – designing new version of signs

2. Education and Information: (to increase community knowledge)

Website – regular news posts and responding to enquiries for advice, provided to local and regional Victorian landowners and organisations

Brochure Mailout – 650 copies new brochure delivered to local properties and mail boxes

Media and Facebook Releases – regular local newspaper & Facebook posts, ABC radio interview

Information Stalls – 3 x stalls held at Easter Fair, Maldon Market & Maldon-Baringhup Ag Show

Monash Uni Student Field Trip – hosted field day for 25 x students in Maldon Historic Reserve

Mawson's Quarry Development – met with management to advise re future control treatments

3. Group Promotion and Sustainability: (to maintain a viable, legal and productive group)

Grants – program funding from Mt. Alexander Shire Council and admin grant from Landcare Victoria

Windcheaters – new order and sale of group's promotional windcheaters

Administration – preparing new digital operations manual document & ABN register updated

4. Research and Development: (to improve techniques & efficiencies)

Cochineal Nursery – Ongoing Cochineal insect propagation in special nursery

5. Partnerships: (to share & network with other environment groups and organisations)

MASC – ongoing negotiations to increase awareness with new and absentee landowners within the Shire, budget submission to increase staff & maintaining regular control treatments on roadsides

Vic. Govt. Biosecurity Dept. – ongoing meetings & negotiations for support from extension staff and programs with non-compliant landowners

Landmate Crew – new project to eradicate Cane Cactus infestations in Maldon Historic Reserve

Also, much thanks to all our valued partners and supporters

- **Mt. Alexander Shire** - funding for working bees, equipment and herbicide, and promotion
- **Parks Victoria** – help with student field day
- **Connecting Country** - networking opportunities and Landcare support
- **Tarrangower Times** – for so willingly publishing our media releases