

# Tarrangower Cactus Control Group Inc.

AGM - 24<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2024

## President's Report (Lee Mead)

Firstly, I would like to sincerely thank all our volunteers for their ongoing commitment and support. But I'd like to especially thank our dedicated committee members, who have all helped us, with various skills, to continue as a very active and effective community group during the past year.

This year we've again very successfully implemented our Strategic Plan, with the following achievements:

### 1. Community Awareness and Support:

- Information stalls were held at Maldon Market (May) and Maldon-Baringhup Ag Show (October)
- Website information updated and several posts posted
- Regular media articles written and published in Tarrangower Times and on our Facebook page
- Designed, printed and distributed 20 new Farm fence signs
- Responded to numerous emails and enquiries received from interested warriors/owners statewide

### 2. Community Engagement:

- Continue to encourage neighbourhood networking and holding smaller working bees
- Continue to provide incentives to landowners and volunteers by providing equipment loans and maintenance, including 24 x injector swaps, 6 x injectors to new contacts, 5 x Glyphosate top-ups
- Provided 3 x Individual demonstrations to new landowners
- Maintained Cochineal insect population in nursery by replenishing with new plants and insects
- Updated our Free Tip Disposal system with new staff at the Maldon tip and installed new signage
- Maintained contact with staff at the new Mawson's Quarry development

### 3. Group Collaborations and Sustainability:

- Individual volunteers continue to treat Wheel Cactus plants in Maldon Historic Reserve for Parks Vic
- Renewed project application to Landmate Tarrangower to eradicate Cane Cactus infestations in Maldon Historic Reserve
- Awarded an ongoing Mt. Alexander Shire partnership grant
- Landcare Support Grant was applied for and awarded
- Continue to collaborate with Mt. Alexander Shire to maintain control of Wheel Cactus on roadsides
- ACNC Charity status application was completed
- ABN register was updated and corrected
- Held the annual Monash University field trip with 20 students (June)
- Participated in Loddon Plains Landcare Network Workshop with TCCG presentation (May)
- Met with a Swan Hill Shire Environment Officer to advise on Cochineal Biological control (October)
- Participated in Mt. Buckrabanyule Field Day with TCCG presentation (November)

### 4. Partnerships:

- Mt. Alexander Shire Budget Submission lodged requesting a new Biodiversity Officer position to provide support to TCCG with increased awareness of Wheel Cactus control to new and absentee landowners within the Shire
- Victorian Government for enforcement of CaLP Act, held two meetings with Biosecurity department officers negotiating for support from extension staff with local non-compliant landowners.

Also, many thanks to all our valued partners and supporters

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