

October 2018, Issue #12

## Welcome to the Spring edition of the Early Invader Update

### Kate Blood recognised as a legend in the weeds world with CAWS Medal for Leadership

We're very excited to share with you that our very own Kate Blood has been awarded the prestigious *Council of Australasian Weed Societies (CAWS) Inc Medal for Leadership*. The medal recognises Kate's outstanding contribution to the science, technology and practice of weed management across the nation.

This award is an amazing achievement for Kate having worked in this field for more than thirty years, being the first Victorian to receive the award in the last twenty-six years and one of only four women since the first medal in 1984.

As many of us have seen, Kate is an ambassador of best practice weed management, collaboration, and supporting and enabling others in identifying and managing weeds, in particular early invaders. These qualities and more make Kate a perfect recipient of the CAWS medal and we congratulate Kate on this very special accomplishment!

For more information on CAWS and making a medal nomination visit the [CAWS website](#).

DELWP staff can also find an article on [ADA](#).



Figure 1 (left): Kate accepting the CAWS Medal for Leadership

Credit: Bianca Gold (DELWP)

Figure 2 (right): Kate with her CAWS Medal for Leadership

Credit: Bec James (DELWP)

### Australasian Weeds Conference 2018

The WESI team ventured interstate to NSW during September to attend the 2018 Australasian Weeds Conference (AWC).

The conference is a jam packed three-day event followed by a full day tour, bringing together “weedos” from all over the country and internationally.

The WESI team, including our past project officer Bec James, displayed two posters (pictured) and a presentation on the “Project Pilot Evaluation”. Bec did a wonderful job of presenting one last time on behalf of the WESI team. We thank Bec for her time and efforts to do this and for continuing to spread the WESI word!



Figure 3: Kate Blood and Bec James with WESI poster display  
Credit: Bianca Gold (DELWP)



Figure 4: Bec James presenting on the WESI Pilot Evaluation  
Credit: Bianca Gold (DELWP)



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This was Bianca's first experience at the AWC and she found it very interesting and informative, a fantastic avenue for connecting with others in the field, and inspiring to hear the good work and successful projects happening around Australia.

Bianca's highlights from the AWC included:

- Using detector dogs and drones for locating Orange Hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*) and Alligator Weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*) in NSW parks by Hillary Cherry (NSW Office of Environment and Heritage) and Mark Hamilton (NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service)
- Floating Landcare a unique landcare project with a very successful uptake of volunteers. Presentation by Rebecca Mooy (Greater Sydney Local Land Services) and Tegan Burton (NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service).
- Improving weed management using community based social marketing, using motivational messaging and plain language. Presentation by Elissa Van Oosterhout (NSW DPI)
- No Space for Weeds Campaign by DPI NSW.
- Biocontrol Hub a portal for collection and sharing of biocontrol agents and information in Australia using the Atlas of Living Australia by Rae Kwong (Agriculture Victoria)
- The tour and much more!



**Figure 5: Cact-eyes!** From left: Kate Blood, Bec James and Bianca Gold (all DELWP)  
Credit: Sandy Lloyd (WA)

## Tour Reminds us why we do what we do

The final day of the AWC2018 was spent going on a tour. Bianca visited the Muogamarra Nature Reserve on the northern outskirts of Sydney for the "Waratahs and Wildflowers" tour.



**Figure 6: Listening to our Discovery Guides ready to head off on a nice bush walk (Muogamarra Nature Reserve)**  
Credit: Bianca Gold (DELWP).

We joined NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service Discovery Guides for two short walks. We were very lucky to have Muogamarra to ourselves, the reserve is closed to the public most of the year and has limited numbers visiting over only 6 weekends during Spring.



**Figure 7: Rock formations at Muogamarra Nature Reserve, NSW**  
Credit: Bianca Gold (DELWP).

Muogamarra Nature Reserve showed us the value of quick intervention to remove early invaders as soon as they are discovered which has preserved the rich biodiversity of this area.



The sun was shining, the birds were singing, the native plants were blooming and there were practically no weeds in sight! This was a great way to end the AWC 2018 trip and a refreshing reminder as to why we do the work we do!



Figure 8: As far as the eye can see, Muogamarra Nature Reserve  
Credit: Bianca Gold (DELWP).

## WESI goes to Rushworth, Central Victoria

The WESI team have been out and about in Rushworth, Central Victoria conducting Opuntoid Cacti identification training with the members of the DELWP Statewide Weeds and Pests Team (SW&PT) and Rushworth DELWP Depot field staff.

We visited several sites close to Rushworth and covered a range of *Opuntia* species including Tiger Pear (*Opuntia aurantiaca*), Drooping Tree Pear (*Opuntia monacantha*), Blind Cactus (*Opuntia puberula*) and Common Prickly Pear (*Opuntia stricta*).



Figure 9: Participants studying their identification guides and manuals to identify the *Opuntia* species at the site.  
Credit: Kate Blood (DELWP).

The field trip was part of our quarterly SW&PT meetings that bring the weeds and pests team together to share information, success stories, tools and advice.

WESI took the opportunity to introduce the "Weeds of National Significance Managing Opuntoid Cacti in Australia Best Practice control manual" and "Field Identification Guide: *Austrocylindropuntia*, *Cylindropuntia* and *Opuntia* Species (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)" to participants to assist them with learning the differences between Opuntoid cacti species.



Figure 10: Participants checking their identification guides and manuals to identify the *Opuntia* species at the site.  
Credit: Kate Blood (DELWP).

## WESI training notification – Weed ID sessions coming soon to Otways & Port Phillip regions

The WESI team is busy working away to organise two weed identification training sessions to be held in the Otways and Port Phillip regions this November.

WESI has conducted a number of these sessions across the state in various locations in the past and has identified Otways and Port Phillips as areas that we'd like to visit this Spring to assist participants in becoming confident in identifying a selection of early invader species in their area.



Figure 11: Weed displays at previous training sessions  
Credit: Kate Blood (DELWP).

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The training is a 4-hour session (including lunch break) delivered in a classroom situation with a hands-on component accompanied by a presentation.

Stay tuned to our social media and your emails for more information about these training sessions coming soon!

## Update: Advisory List of Environmental Weeds

The Advisory List of Environmental Weeds in Victoria (April 2018) has now been linked to the DELWP website under the Invasive Plants and Animals – Weed Risk Ratings page.

There is a report with abridged advisory list, and an Excel file with the full list for easy searching. The advisory list has over 1,780 species including early invaders.

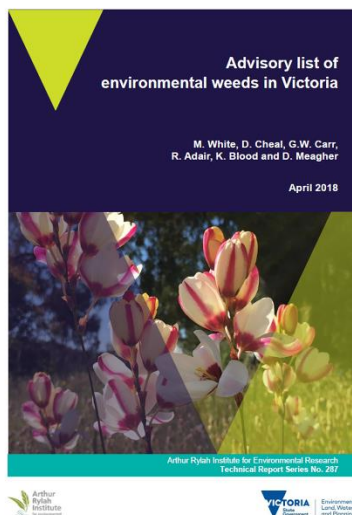


Figure12: Cover of the Advisory list of environmental weeds in Victoria [www.environment.vic.gov.au](http://www.environment.vic.gov.au)

### Advisory list of environmental weeds in Victoria (abridged version April 2018)

The following abridged list is a fixed ranking of weed species for Victoria at the date of this publication. This list ranks environmental weeds based on Risk Ranking Scores – highest to lowest – and then sorts by scientific name for those species with equivalent scores. The advisory list, with the complete set of annotations and attribute scores, is available online as a searchable and sortable spreadsheet at: <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/invasive-plants-and-animals/weed-risk-ratings> (or use the search term 'Victoria weed risk ratings' in your browser).

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family	Weed status in Victoria	Impact on natural systems	Area of potential distribution remaining	Potential for invasion	Rate of dispersal	Range of susceptible habitat types	Risk Ranking Score	Risk Rating
<i>Banksia laurifolia</i>	Australian Bluebell	Pittosporaceae	Environmental weed	Typically significant	Extensive potential for further spread	Highly invasive	Rapid	Extensive	33.3	Very high
<i>Cotoneaster paniculatus</i>	Velvet Cotoneaster	Rosaceae	Environmental weed	Typically significant	Extensive potential for further spread	Highly invasive	Rapid	Extensive	33.3	Very high
<i>Cotoneaster amoenus</i>	Himalayan Cotoneaster	Rosaceae	Environmental weed	Typically significant	Extensive potential for further spread	Highly invasive	Rapid	Extensive	33.3	Very high
<i>Cotoneaster - waterlily</i>	Water's Cotoneaster	Rosaceae	Environmental weed	Typically significant	Early stage of invasion	Highly invasive	Rapid	Extensive	33.3	Very high
<i>Disa bracteata</i>	South African Orchid	Orchidaceae	Environmental weed	Typically significant	Extensive potential for further spread	Highly invasive	Rapid	Extensive	33.3	Very high
<i>Hedera helix</i>	English Ivy	Araliaceae	Environmental weed	Typically significant	Extensive potential for further spread	Highly invasive	Rapid	Extensive	33.3	Very high
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese Honey-suckle	Caprifoliaceae	Environmental weed	Typically significant	Extensive potential for further spread	Highly invasive	Rapid	Extensive	33.3	Very high
<i>Nassella neesiana</i>	Chinese Needle-grass	Poaceae	Environmental weed	Typically significant	Extensive potential for further spread	Highly invasive	Rapid	Extensive	33.3	Very high
<i>Olea europaea subsp. europaea</i>	Common Olive	Oleaceae	Environmental weed	Typically significant	Extensive potential for further spread	Highly invasive	Rapid	Extensive	33.3	Very high
<i>Poa annua</i>	Slender Stalk-grass	Poaceae	Environmental weed	Typically significant	Extensive potential for further spread	Highly invasive	Rapid	Extensive	33.3	Very high
<i>Rubus adpressus</i>	Blackberry	Rosaceae	Environmental weed	Typically significant	Early stage of invasion	Highly invasive	Rapid	Medium	33.3	Very high
<i>Rubus vesiculosus</i>	Blackberry	Rosaceae	Environmental weed	Typically significant	Extensive potential for further spread	Highly invasive	Rapid	Extensive	33.3	Very high
<i>Asparagus decuratus</i>	Endiv. Vail	Asparagusaceae	Environmental weed	Typically significant	Early stage of invasion	Highly invasive	Rapid	Medium	33.2	Very high
<i>Asparagus scandens</i>	Asparagus fern	Asparagusaceae	Environmental weed	Typically significant	Extensive potential for further spread	Highly invasive	Rapid	Medium	33.2	Very high

Figure13: Abstract from the Advisory list of environmental weeds in Victoria

## Weed to watch for:

It's that time of year again! *Disa bracteata* South African Weed Orchid (SAWO) is beginning to flower in Victoria.

If you are dealing with a small number of plants these can be dug out using a screw driver or similar tool. For safe disposal double bag the plant with flower head intact and the 2-3 attached tubers. Flower heads left on site can continue to develop seed even when removed from the main plant.

Be confident not to confuse SAWO with native orchid species such as *Microtis* spp (Onion Orchid) and *Prasophyllum* spp (Leek Orchid) as pictured here.



Figure14: From left invasive *Disa bracteata*, indigenous *Microtis* spp. and indigenous *Prasophyllum* spp.  
Credit: From left: Kate Blood (DELWP), Andre Messina (RBG) & Marc Freestone (RBG)

## Social Media – What's hot right now?

Don't forget to follow and interact with us on social media. You can find us at [@weedyk8](https://www.facebook.com/weedyk8) on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and also follow us on Yammer (for DELWP staff). Some hot topics making the rounds are:

- ❖ [@weedsofmelbourne](https://www.facebook.com/weedsofmelbourne) is a professional observer of derelicts, pavements and unmanaged margins, collecting a visual glossary of Melbourne's weedy heritage on Instagram.
- ❖ [@weedyk8](https://www.facebook.com/weedyk8) Biocontrol hopes for Hudson Pear Lightning Ridge, NSW. Researchers identified Cochineal insect from US particularly destructive to Hudson Pear.
- ❖ [@alienseurope](https://www.facebook.com/alienseurope) Trial results on long term survival of [Heracleummantegazzianum](https://www.facebook.com/Heracleummantegazzianum) seeds. Seed persistence influenced by soil nutrients and carbon content.



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- ❖ **@weedyk8** Solving Pampas Puzzles intriguing challenges in work to find biocontrol agents for pampas in NZ.

## WESI Tools

The WESI Decision Making Framework (DMF) is designed to help public land managers determine when to manage high risk invasive species at the early stage of invasion that threaten biodiversity.

The DMF can be found in each of the WESI guides and is a step through process from finding and identifying a weed (search and detect, name and notify) to determining the risk (assess the risk, delimit the invasion) through to planning and implementing eradication (decide the response, implement eradication) where feasible.

For more help using the DMF and WESI guides please contact Bianca or Kate.



**Figure15: WESI DMF Template**  
Credit: WESI Project

Til next time!

Follow us on social media @weedyk8

<https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/invasive-plants-and-animals/early-invaders>



Your friendly WESI Project Team,  
Kate and Bianca (aka Goldie)

*If you do not wish to receive these updates, please reply 'unsubscribe' to our email and we will remove you from the list. We will not be sharing your details beyond our project.*

*If you wish to receive these updates via email please contact Bianca at [bianca.gold@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:bianca.gold@delwp.vic.gov.au) to be added to the distribution list with the subject heading "subscribe to early invader newsletter."*

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