

December 2018, Issue #13

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

### WESI early invader weed id training

Over the past month the WESI team has been busy delivering early invader environmental weed identification training in the Otway and Port Phillip regions.

On November 1<sup>st</sup> we headed down to the lovely Aireys Inlet Community Centre in the Otways and delivered the first of our spring id sessions for this year. Participants included DELWP, Parks Victoria and Vic Roads staff along with members of various Landcare and community groups including Great Ocean Road Coast Committee, Friends of the Otways and more.



**Figure 1: Field record sheet activity (Aireys Inlet)**

Source: Bianca Gold (DELWP).

The second session on November 22<sup>nd</sup> was spent at The Briars in delightful Mount Martha presenting to staff from DELWP, Parks Victoria, Vic Roads and local government. We also had a very good representation from community and Landcare groups in the Mornington Peninsula Shire area, including Main Creek Catchment Landcare Group.



**Figure 2: Early invader weed id training presentation at The Briars, Mount Martha**

Source: Bianca Gold (DELWP).

Both sessions were an opportunity for participants to learn about a selection of early invader weeds in their area and to network and learn from others that work with early invaders.



**Figure 3: Checking out the samples at The Briars, Mount Martha**

Source: Bianca Gold (DELWP).

Kate and Bianca put a lot of preparation into running these events. The recipe goes a little something like this: a good glug of planning (choosing a location and



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venue, selecting species, organising catering, map sites to collect from etc.); a generous splash of sample collecting (most of the day prior so they are nice and fresh); stir in some set-up and pack-up time; mix with some travel there and back (often several hours away) and voila! Training happily delivered!



**Figure 4: Collection of samples for display at early invader training, using a sheet to help carry them securely.**

Photo source: Bianca Gold (DELWP).

Thank you to all the participants for attending these sessions! The WESI team thoroughly enjoyed coming to your part of the world and also learning a thing or two from you and the area along the way!



**Figure 5: A tired but pleased WESI team, Kate & Bianca**

Source: Damien McMaster (DELWP).

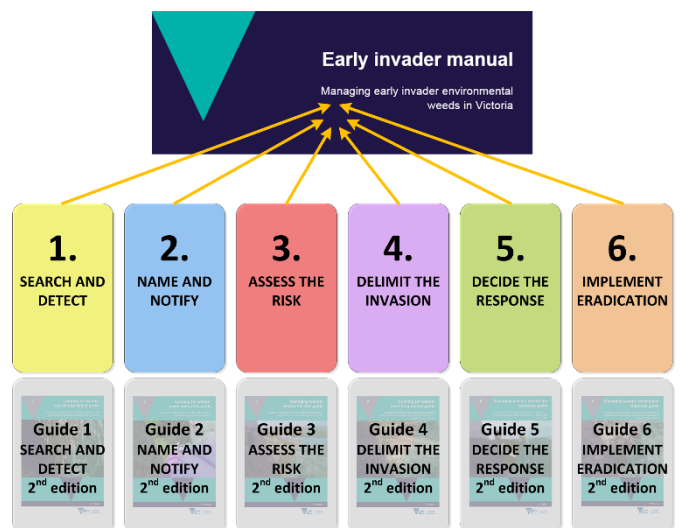
## Early Invader Manual

The WESI team is pleased to bring you our latest tool, the “Early invader manual”. This manual is a summary of the six guides presented in an easy go-to manual.

You can use the “Early invader manual” to guide you through the steps of managing early invaders and then refer to the six WESI guides (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) for more detailed information.

The manual includes the same templates and tools that appear in the guides.

The “Early invader manual” and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the guides will be available on the WESI webpage and STAR (DELWP and PV) in January 2019.



**Figure 6: Steps and related guides in the Early Invader Manual.**

Source: Kate Blood (DELWP) Early Invader Manual.

## The Edens and WESI meet up

Recently the WESI and Eden project teams came together in Noojee in eastern Victoria to discuss current project activities, issues faced and share some of the success stories and learning's.

In Victoria there are three Eden projects, the Otway Eden, Central Highlands Eden and Glenelg Eden. These projects are focussed on targeted weed management on public land.

The Central Highlands Eden project hosted this combined meeting and field trip taking us to several sites. At Tanjil Bren we saw some of the challenges faced to manage early invaders on public land and put our data recording skills to practice using mobile apps Survey 123 and ArcGIS Collector.

We also visited a trial site near Big River State Forest for biological control of Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) using the Soft Shoot Moth (*Agonopterix umbellana*). The Soft Shoot Moth has been successfully used in Tasmania to

control Gorse and the moths released at this site three years ago were sourced from Tasmania. The Gorse at this location is in a difficult to access area and the team are continuing to monitor the impacts of the Soft Shoot Moth.



**Figure 7: Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) site for bio control release.**

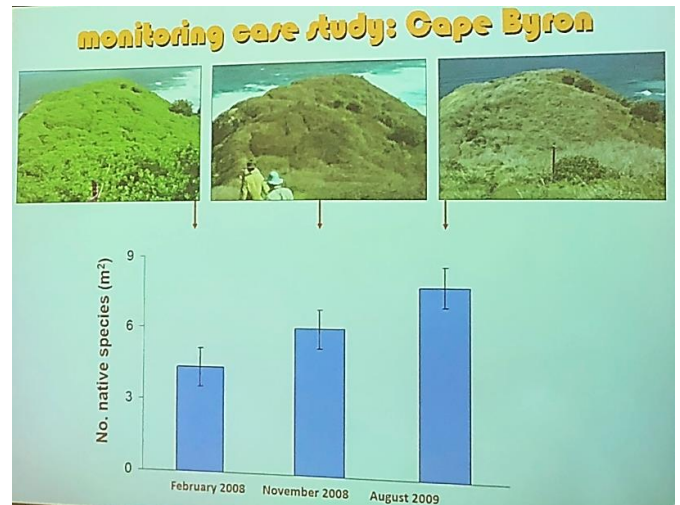
Source: Bianca Gold (DELWP).

The meeting component of this trip allowed the WESI and Eden projects to share ideas and learn from each others' experiences.

We were also lucky enough to hear from a guest speaker, the very knowledgeable and charismatic Paul Downey (from Office of Environment and Heritage NSW). Paul provided us with some tips and tricks when it comes to monitoring the results of the management of early invader weeds. He suggested looking at monitoring as a three-tiered approach. 1) being standard monitoring; 2) advanced monitoring; and 3) research monitoring, with each tier being a little more labour and cost intensive than the previous. For example, tier 1) standard monitoring can be as simple as using photo points and supporting observational data, - whereas tier 3) research monitoring may require assistance from universities and scientists.

It is important to select the monitoring approach that best suits the resourcing you have available.

You can find more information on using this monitoring approach and adapting it for almost any species, in the "Monitoring manual for Bitou Bush control and native plant recovery."



**Figure 8: An example of tier 1) standard monitoring results for Bitou Bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera* ssp. *rotundata*), photo points accompanied by graph.**

Source: Bianca Gold (DELWP) from Paul Downey presentation.

## Weed to Watch for

With the arrival of the festive season we thought we'd highlight a popular Christmas plant with prickly leaves and bright red berries - Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) also known as Common Holly or English Holly - which is often used in festive decorations such as wreaths.

Holly is native to western and southern Europe, western Asia and northern Africa. It has been widely cultivated as a garden ornamental and hedging plant in the cooler higher rainfall areas of Australia.



**Figure 9: Mature berries (fruit) on Holly plant. Note the leaves of upper branches of Holly take on a different shape to the well known spiny leaf of the lower branches.**

Source: Sheldon Navie ([via keyserver.lucidcentral.org](http://via.keyserver.lucidcentral.org)).

In Victoria, Holly is found in the eastern half of the state and is listed as a highly invasive environmental weed with a very high risk rating.



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It is an evergreen shrub that can grow to 10m tall and form dense thickets, crowding and shading out native understorey species and seedlings. The red berries are particularly attractive to birds and other animals which contribute to dispersing it some distance. Holly also spreads via seed, root suckers, in garden waste or sales at small community markets or fetes.



Figure 10: Green berries on Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) Mount Martha area.

Source: Bianca Gold (DELWP).

It is best to remove seedlings which can be done by hand, but root systems are strong so using a weed wrench or similar tool is advised to be sure to get all the roots. For shrub size seedlings and larger plants try cut and paint or drill and fill methods. Be aware when using the drill and fill technique that the remaining dead Holly tree may need to be removed for safety reasons.

## Events to look out for

Weed Spotter Training in Horsham by Agriculture Victoria is proposed for the new year for Wednesday 23 January or Wednesday 6 February 2019. Dates are still to be confirmed. For those in the area please register your interest with Bianca at [bianca.gold@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:bianca.gold@delwp.vic.gov.au)

20th NSW Weeds Conference 26-29 August 2019 in Newcastle. Call for abstracts open soon.

2019 Australian Biosecurity Symposium 12-13 June on the Gold Coast – abstracts and registrations now open.

## Social Media Hot Topics

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. Also follow us on Yammer (for DELWP staff) [#wesiproject](https://www.yammer.com/wesiproject). Some hot topics making the rounds at the moment are:

- ❖ [New Invasive Shrub WA - Pokeweed](#)
- ❖ [Lord Howe Island conservation award](#)
- ❖ [Look out for Gazania seed sales in SA](#)

Til next time!

Follow us on social media [@weedyk8](https://www.facebook.com/weedyk8)

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



Have a safe and merry Christmas time. See you in the new year, 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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