

December 2016

## Welcome to the December edition of the Friends of WESI update.

### Weed ID session success

It's been a whirlwind couple of months for the Weeds at the Early Stage of Invasion (WESI) team. We've been out and about delivering six weed ID sessions across Victoria covering the Wimmera, Goldfields, Gippsland, Far south-west and the Alps. These are in addition to our first session which was held in September 2015 in the Mallee.

Across the seven sessions, 121 people were trained from a broad range of agencies, including our South Australian colleagues. Participants travelled far and wide spanning from 37 different locations.

The sessions focussed on recognition of early invader weeds, an introduction to the WESI project and tools, how to identify weeds, information collection, information sources and hygiene. Participants received various WESI tools and handouts.

For each weed featured, it usually included origin, characteristics, identification, photographs, live sample where available, distribution map, basic treatment techniques, and look-alikes (indigenous and invasive).

An important part of these sessions were the live specimens of weeds from across the local area for people to see in the flesh (see Figure 1).

Over 340 specimens (includes some duplication between sessions) were collected, labelled and displayed across the seven sessions, with 98% of evaluation respondents indicating that having live weed samples in the room helped them to learn the weeds.



Figure 1: Live specimens labelled and on display for weed ID session in Heywood, Oct 2016.

Credit: Bec James, DELWP

The WESI team would like to give a big thanks for all the local hosts who helped out and made the days run smoothly. Also, thank you to everyone who came along and shared their knowledge on the day. It was great to see all the passion for weeds in the room.



Banner photo: Weedy Purple Groundsel (*Senecio elegans*), Bec James, DELWP

## WESI went west

The WESI team headed west in September 2016 to present on the WESI project at the 20<sup>th</sup> Australasian Weeds Conference in Perth. We also had three posters on display.

We were lucky enough to join some local Department staff for an additional field trip to check some different weed species including Velvet Pear (*Opuntia tomentosa*), which we are yet to see in Victoria (see Figure 2).



Figure 2: Velvet Pear (*Opuntia tomentosa*) at Goomalling WA, Sept 2016.

Credit: Bec James, DELWP

## Buffel Grass Project forum

In October 2016 the WESI team were invited to present the Victorian perspective at the South Australian Buffel Grass Project forum in Adelaide.

Bec went along and was a big sponge for the two days, absorbing the extensive knowledge and experience from across Australia that was in the room.

The passion in the room to control this nasty weed was infectious and the collaboration across the states and territories was great to see.

A big thank you to Troy Bowman and the South Australians for inviting us along and hosting the event.

An updated Buffel Grass map will be sent out early in the new year to those who have indicated their interest in the species, along with some notes taken from the forum.

Til next time!

Have a fantastic festive season and a happy new year!

Follow us on social media @weedyk8



Bec & Kate  
The WESI Project Team

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