

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

#### Glenelg Eden and WESI team up

Last month Bec James had the pleasure of spending a couple of days with Mitch Williams from the Department's Glenelg Eden project, to assist with the implementation of the WESI tools.

Glenelg Eden is a landscape scale strategic weed project funded by the Weeds and Pests on Public Land Program and is kicking goals with removing weeds in far south west Victoria. Mitch and Bec conducted a number of delimiting surveys to determine the full extent of weed infestations (Figure 1), with the ultimate aim of eradicating them from the landscape. Some of the target species included Cape Broom (*Genista monspessulana*) at Mt Clay State Forest, and Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*) along the Glenelg River in Lower Glenelg National Park.



Figure 1: Mitch Williams from Glenelg Eden project, conducting delimiting survey for *Genista monspessulana* at Mt Clay State Forest.

Credit: Bec James, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

#### Weed in the spotlight....

##### Himalayan Honeysuckle (*Leycesteria formosa*)

This multi-stemmed shrub is deciduous and can grow to about 2 m high (Figure 2). This garden plant has sweet smelling white or pink tubular flowers with an oval reddish-purple berry (Figure 3). Each berry can contain over 100 small seeds. It's mostly spread by birds which eat the berries and spread the seeds in their droppings. Plants are also spread by people, deer and other animals, water and machinery.

It invades both disturbed and non-disturbed sites, favouring cool high rainfall regions mainly in gullies and protected hillsides. In Victoria, it does particularly well in Gippsland and north east Victoria. Although common in some parts of Victoria, it has potential to become an early invader in new areas.



Figures 2 & 3: Himalayan Honeysuckle (*Leycesteria formosa*) growing next to a track in Gippsland. Credit: Bec James, DELWP.

# Friends of WESI update

## Wimmera early invader pilot

WESI joined up with Parks Victoria staff from the Wail office last month to check out a couple of unusual plants that have popped up at Mount Arapiles-Toooan State Park. The unwanted weeds were Swan Plant (*Gomphocarpus fruticosus*) and Broad-leaf Cotton Bush (*Gomphocarpus cancellatus*). The WESI processes and tools were used to assist in deciding the appropriate course of action. A big thanks to Bianca Gold, Hamish Hollamby, Douglas Hockly and Stuart Harradine for their time and enthusiasm in using the WESI tools.



Figure 4: On the search at Mount Arapiles.

Credit: Bec James, DELWP.

## Project team changes

The WESI project is anticipating continuing into 2017/2018 and have some exciting activities planned.

Bec James has just taken on a secondment as a DELWP Biodiversity Officer in the Loddon Mallee Region. We wish her all the best and thank her for the major contribution to early invader management in Victoria since 2011.

A note from Bec: “A **BIG** thanks to everyone who has been involved in the project. I have met some amazing people and learnt an immense amount over the past 6 years of working on this project with Kate”.

Til next time!

Follow us on social media @weedyk8



Bec & Kate  
The WESI Project Team

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