



# Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

## Newsletter



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Visit our website for latest news: <http://brlg.org.au>

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### ***Next Members Meeting – August 19***

Regretfully, the August members meeting was cancelled in light of the unpredictable Covid outbreak in Victoria at present. We are looking forward to seeing you all soon, ideally face to face at our next members meeting. Stay safe.

### ***Landcare, lockdowns and little 'uns***

Looking for ideas to get your kids engaged in our area during recurring episodes of remote schooling:

### **Become a Hoot Detective!**

Find owls without leaving home! Listen to audio from the wild across Australia and see if you can hear any owl calls.

<https://hootdetective.net.au/>



### **Make a Frog Friend**

Identify your local calls

<https://frogs.org.au/frogs/of/Victoria/>

Become a scientist and participate in frog census

<https://www.melbournewater.com.au/water-data-and-education/get-involved/be-citizen-scientist/frog-census>

### **Identify plants with your Mum or Dad's phone**

Take your nature knowledge up a notch with Seek by iNaturalist! Use the power of image recognition technology to identify the plants and animals all around you. Earn badges for seeing different types of birds, amphibians, plants, and fungi and participate in monthly observation challenges.

[https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/seek\\_app](https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/seek_app)

### ***Take care in these Covid times***

Just a little reminder while we're all under some crazy pressure at the moment, there are various ways you can seek support, even if that's just to read an article for a few tips to make life a little easier or just to take a few moments for ourselves.

If someone has a health problem like diabetes, we make life changes, read articles, research, and talk to people in our lives. Yet, when stress reaches its peak or we're mentally exhausted or struggling we usually say nothing and push on. We may not discuss our concerns, nor google about how we can help ourselves, or take the time to care for ourselves as much as we may need.

A few links to articles are included below which may keep things interesting for you or someone you care about during this lock-down. Even if not for you, it might help you support a friend, family member or community member who is struggling and may assist you if you have children in your life.

[The Best Dad Jokes Of All Time | Interflora Australia](#)

[21 things to do with kids during Victoria's seven-day lockdown | RACV](#)

[101 Best Things To Do When You're Stuck At Home \(timeout.com\)](#)

[5 mental health apps to help you through the coronavirus crisis - BBC Science Focus Magazine](#)

[Looking after yourself during the Coronavirus pandemic \(beyondblue.org.au\)](#)

[myCompass - MyCompass](#) – a personalised self-help tool for our mental health

[Australia's top 100 lockdown baking recipes \(taste.com.au\)](#)

(I think these recipes are all fat free and sugar free, so just go for it! 😊 Although a little fat and sugar in our lives certainly makes things a little more enjoyable)

## ***Landcare Week 2021- August 2 - 8***

Landcare has never been more important and relevant as we manage and plan for the future during uncertain times. This years Landcare Week campaign celebrated and acknowledged the thousands of Landcare networks and groups, facilitators, and other environmental care community groups, and volunteers across Australia working on conservation and sustainable land management activities in their local area.



The virtual program comprised a diverse range of over 60 speakers from the Landcare community, government representatives and academics in 40 sessions across the four conference streams: Sustainable Agriculture; Environment and Climate Change; Community Partnerships in Action; and Landcare Impact. Delegates also had the opportunity to attend panel discussions.

Landscape architect, environmental educator and television presenter with an all-consuming passion for plants and people, Costa Georgiadis was the MC for the event. Costa is a long-time champion of Landcare and also a Junior Landcare Ambassador.

Author, filmmaker and Indigenous fire practitioner, Victor Steffensen was a special guest speaker along with Barry Hunter, for an engaging talk on Country, sharing the advantages and benefits that embracing cultural burn methods can bring to help the Landcare community tackle climate change. The panel included a conversation on how farmers and landowners can get started and have conversations with Traditional Owners.

Did you miss the conference? The powerpoint presentations can be found at:

Day 1: [Presentations - National Landcare Conference](#)

Day 2: [Presentations Day 2 - National Landcare Conference](#)

Examples of the presentations on offer:

[What is Multi -Species Cover Cropping?](#)

Michael Gooden, Resource Consulting Services

[Restoring Degraded Saline Land Through the Development of a Saline Bush Foods Paddock-to-Plate Supply Chain](#)

Ella Maesepp, Katanning Landcare

[Biological Control of Environmental Weeds: A Long-Term Investment to Protect and Manage Natural Assets](#)

Louise Morin, CSIRO Health & Biosecurity

## ***Feeling overwhelmed by headlines of imminent environmental catastrophe?***

One of our members Nina has brought us to the attention of this article in The Age. Here are some suggestions of what you can do.

<https://www.theage.com.au/lifestyle/health-and-wellness/emotions-evolved-to-make-us-act-to-combat-eco-anxiety-do-this-20210817-p58j13.html>

## ***Planting in August***

From the 300 trees donated from 15 Trees, only 70 trees/shrubs remain to be planted at the Balliang East Hall. The rest were either planted at the triangle or donated to local property owners. Thank you again 15 trees for your donation!



## ***Our local farms***



Great to see some more locals taking advantage of trees donated by 15 Trees. See below the images from their recent planting.

These trees were a welcomed addition to some older 15 Trees plantings maybe 4-5 years ago. You can see they are developing a great buffer from Mount Road, hopefully providing a safe environment for our local wildlife while providing Mt Anakie with some further native vegetation.

Daniel, expressed his thanks to "15 Trees who have been a great supporter of BRLG and broader conservation across Victoria; And also thanks to Western Plains Flora who have helped the revitalisation of Silver banksia back to Mt Anakie."



## ***Koala Clancy Foundation***

Koala Clancy Foundation has now made a physical home at our place in Staughton Vale and our resident koala Clem seems to approve the new nursery and plants! He has been in the trees inside the enclosure and in the surrounding trees for a number of days smelling and watching!

Caz and Bart have been living on this shared property since about 2008 and Janine [daughter] and Roger have spent some time here but mostly living and running their international tourism business from Melbourne. Janine is President of KCF and Caz is the Secretary.

***Koala Clancy Foundation was formed in 2015 to help wild koalas. KCF plants trees for koalas on farms and private land, creates new habitat and advocates for better protection of wild koalas.***

***Koala Clancy Foundation is an independent registered charity and not for profit organisation.***

***Our KCF target is to plant 300,000 trees before 2030.***

KCF has many keen members and volunteers who want

to spend the winter planting wildlife habitat and they also come out and remove Boneseed weeds in the You Yangs in the rest of the year. They learn about the koalas and their plight.



*Figure 2 - Koala Clancy Foundation Nursery*

valuable. We buy most of our seedlings from Roger MacRaidl at Moorabool Landcare Network nursery and the Westgate/Bili Landcare Nursery and we source all our materials and services locally wherever possible.

Koala Clancy is a real koala in the You Yangs and we have known him since he was a joey. His mother Pat is now more than 16 and going well. Clancy is very good on the keyboard on Facebook teaching people about him and his wild friends and you can catch up with all the latest news there or on our website.



*Figure 1 - Clem the local*

This winter we are planting 22,000 trees including more trees this year for our local friends/heroes Pam and David Goble and the Sharkey family, and Mt Rothwell homestead and Wurdi Youang as well as some other wonderful properties nearby and we are thrilled to work with these people. It has been a challenge though due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Our KCF volunteers are so keen they wanted to help sow the seeds in summer and look after them ready for planting so our little nursery here is proving



*Figure 3 - KCF tree planting*



Figure 4 – Clem visiting the neighbours

And if you wish to join our landowners or want a local koala checked out and ID'd, or if you have any enquiries at any time please chat with us.

Caz Bartholomew

<https://www.koalacancyfoundation.org.au/target-300000-koala-trees-2030/>

<https://www.facebook.com/koalaClancy/>

### **Barwon River Platypus Search**

The Friends of the Barwon have initiated a platypus monitoring project for the mid reaches of the Barwon River and its tributaries. This monitoring will provide quantitative base line data and add to the data recently collected in the upper reaches of the Barwon and the Moorabool river system.



**Geelong Landcare Network**

This project is being coordinated by members of the Geelong Landcare Network community and EnviroDNA, with generous support from the Tucker Foundation, Geelong Landcare Network and the Bendigo Bank. It will use innovative techniques and assistance from local communities to investigate the current state of platypuses throughout the region so that we can prioritise further waterway health projects to those areas where our platypus need the most help.

and more importantly to determine where platypus are in our neck of the woods, so that we and the Friends of the Barwon can increase awareness about the health of our waterways and the critters that depend on them and to advocate for more investment to help preserve and improve their habitat.

The information we collect will be used in two ways... as part of the National Platypus Search



and more importantly to determine where platypus are in our neck of the woods, so that we and the Friends of the Barwon can increase awareness about the health of our waterways and the critters that depend on them and to advocate for more investment to help preserve and improve their habitat.

There will be 2 information sessions for the volunteers, one at Fyansford and another at

Inverleigh on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October. Volunteers will receive instruction on how to correctly collect the water samples by a wildlife ecologist from EnviroDNA. Samples will be collected

by volunteers from designated sites over the following week before they are collected and analysed by EnviroDNA.

Waterwatch will also be in attendance on the 10<sup>th</sup> and have information on the water quality testing volunteers conduct monthly across our catchment, as well as a hands-on display of macro invertebrates and the different testing equipment and techniques used.

**Please register your interest for planning purposes to Andrea at [GLNplatypus@gmail.com](mailto:GLNplatypus@gmail.com)**

We encourage everyone to contribute to local platypus sightings through [www.platypussPOT.org](http://www.platypussPOT.org) or via the app platypusSPOT.

### ***Agriculture Webinars***

Are you interested in regenerative agriculture? Macedon Ranges have some upcoming webinars to hear about farmers journeys in holistic farming.



24 August, 7-8pm - Join Darren Cater from Monegeetta, a beef cattle farmer.

31 August, 7-8pm - Hear from Paul Righetti from Yandoit who farms sheep, cattle and pasture raised hens.

7 September, 7-8pm – Join Aaron Demeo from Raywood who manages meat and wool sheep, crops as well as dairy heifers.

Meet the farmers on their property after the webinars on September 3, 10 & 17.

These webinars are being delivered as a partnership between Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Hepburn Shire Council, the City of Greater Bendigo, A Healthy Coliban Catchment project (North Central Catchment Management Authority and Coliban Water), Melbourne Water and the Upper Campaspe Landcare Network.

For more info, **[including a further webinar for horse owners:](#)**

<https://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/Live-Work/Environment/Land-Management/Healthy-Landscapes>

## ***Grants, and where to get them***



Here are several ways to keep up to date on the latest grant opportunities:

### **Moorabool Shire Council Grants Hub**

Register with the 'Moorabool Shire Council Grants Hub' to receive emailed alerts on a comprehensive list of grant and funding opportunities. The Council subscribes to a grant

monitoring service and provides a free service for regular grant opportunities across diverse areas of interest. You can also access tips to help with grant applications.

<https://moorabool.grantguru.com.au/>

### **Australian Government**

GrantConnect provides centralised publication of forecast and current Australian Government grant opportunities and grants awarded

<https://www.grants.gov.au/>

### **Melbourne Water Grant Opportunities**

Melbourne Water's Stream Frontage Management Program (SFMP) provides cost-share project funding to private landholders who manage a waterway frontage on their property. For more information:

<https://www.melbournewater.com.au/water-data-and-education/get-involved/apply-funding/stream-frontage-management-program>

Melbourne Water's Rural Land Program provides assistance and funding opportunities for landholders to undertake works that will keep soil and nutrients on their farm and out of waterways. For more information:

<https://www.melbournewater.com.au/water-data-and-education/get-involved/apply-funding/rural-land-program>

Melbourne Water also have a new flexible incentive "Liveable Waterways, Liveable Communities" program that is probably more applicable to us as a Landcare group. Details at the link below. Got an idea that our Landcare group could pursue? Please send it through to the Committee!

<https://www.melbournewater.com.au/water-data-and-education/get-involved/apply-funding/LCLW-program>

If there is a grant of interest to you, but don't know how to start, BRLG is willing to support members with their applications.

Contact us via email: [newsletter.brlg@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.brlg@gmail.com)



### ***Gone to cactus.....***

Prickly pear is the general term used to describe over ten members of the Cactaceae family. Most of these cacti are of the opuntia species, which are indigenous to the Americas and are characterised by their fleshy, spine-covered growth. The term 'prickly pear' is derived from the plant's spiny and pear shaped fruit.

Because of the lack of leaves and the tough outer skin of the pads, the plant is very drought-resistant. Some species grow bulbs under the ground and, should the plant above the ground be destroyed by bush fire or stock, the bulb will usually survive and give rise to new pads.

The first recorded introduction of prickly pear was attributed to Governor Phillip at Port Jackson in 1788. It is thought that the shipment comprised drooping tree pear (*Opuntia monacantha*) and possibly one or two other species.

The reason for introducing the plant was to create a cochineal industry in the new colony. Cochineal is an insect that feeds on certain species of cactus and from which a scarlet dye is obtained. This dye was used to colour the distinctive red coats of the British soldiers at that time. The fate of this first prickly pear plantation is not known; however, other introductions of different species followed and evidence suggests that plants were growing in cultivation at Parramatta prior to 1840 and spread to Chinchilla in Queensland by 1843.

Prickly pear is established from either seed (by germination) or plant segments (by vegetative reproduction). The main dispersal method occurs via the tough, coated seeds that pass undamaged through the digestive system of animals and birds.

The heavy crop of fruit produced by pear plants is particularly palatable to birds such as crows, emus and magpies. Many new infestations probably occurred through the



germination of seed in bird droppings. Plant segments are easily detached from the parent plant by animals, wind or flood waters, and take root where they lodge. It is believed that the flood of 1893 spread seed and plant parts to many new areas. Prickly pear infestations covered 10 million acres (4 million ha) of land by 1900 and 58 million acres (24 million ha) by 1920. Despite every control effort, it was estimated that the plant's rate of advance was 2.4 million acres (1 million ha) per year.

Another Landcare group have had great success in the control of cactus in North-central Victoria. Mt Korong Eco-Watch (MKEW) is a group of 20 landholders and community members who come together to support the biodiversity of Mt Korong and surrounding country in north central Victoria.

Wheel cactus (*Opuntia robusta*) and to a lesser degree prickly pear (*Opuntia stricta*) had been encroaching on large areas of public and private land across Loddon Shire, spread largely by parrots eating their fruits. In 2018, MKEW decided to institute a regime of cactus control at Mt Korong before the infestation grew to uncontrollable levels.

The target area was broken up into clearly marked chunks that could be covered by a handful of volunteers during a three-hour working bee. The cacti were stabbed in each outer lobe with an injection of herbicide (transported in a backpack) using a specially adapted sheep-drenching gun.

MKEW obtained permission from farmers adjoining Mt Korong and Parks Victoria before starting work in August 2018. Parks Victoria Ranger Nic Van Den Bronk joined them for their first working bee and a local farmer donated a drum of herbicide after they treated his cacti. Their injecting gear is borrowed from the Loddon Plains Landcare Network.

After the initial working bee in 2018, (they had three in 2019 and three in 2020), between three and 10 workers would turn up, and managed to cover the day's target area. Participants walked in line-search style, with one person marking the leading edge using GPS tracking. That way they could also document the extent of areas treated.

Cacti were injected, photographed, mapped, and marked with spray paint as they went. Slopes were tackled in stages by placing people up the slope at 10-20 metre intervals and following contours, rather than participants climbing straight up and down repeatedly, which is exhausting.



The next stage of the project they retraced their steps with hoes and buckets to pick up any cacti germinants and to treat any mature cacti that may have been missed. The group is proud of its efforts to rid Mt Korong of wheel cactus and prickly pear. "It's great to see these weeds eradicated from this beautiful landscape."



MKEW also provided some tips for cactus control:

- Strike early before the job is too big.
- Concentrate on the area your group takes responsibility for and do the job gradually, in manageable chunks.
- Don't worry about low numbers in your group. Even a few people can achieve a lot.
- Encourage young family members to come along and join in.
- Treat the project as a fun social occasion and great exercise.
- Plan your project well, follow safety precautions and map your progress.

For more information on cactus eradication, go to the Agriculture Victoria Website or use this link: [Prickly pear \(drooping\) | Priority weeds | Weeds | Biosecurity | Agriculture Victoria](#)

## ***Blanket Weed (Galenia)***



Our June newsletter also featured one of the weeds taking over at the moment - blanket weed or carpet weed often found along roadsides and popping up on properties. BRLG Committee have discussed a working bee for the removal of blanket weed from roadsides and private properties on request. If you have blanket weed on your property and would like some assistance with removal, contact us via email: [newsletter.brlg@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.brlg@gmail.com)

## ***Calling all photographers***

Get your camera out because it's time to get snapping for the Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group 2022 Calendar!!

This a fundraising event for BRLG with all funds raised going back into projects to support our members.

Over the last couple of years of making a calendar, so many fantastic photos have been collected that just fit into the calendar. So this year, we also hope to create a photo collage to be mounted at the Balliang Memorial Hall. Can be any photo snapped in our region that you would like to contribute. The photo collage will be framed and kept at the Balliang Hall for all to view your impressive shots.



Please forward all of your award-winning shots to Nina at [fly2nina@gmail.com](mailto:fly2nina@gmail.com).

## ***In our Regular News.....***

### **Weeds Website**

Weeds Australia website is designed to connect you with knowledge to make informed decisions about managing invasive weeds within Australia. The site includes an extensive list of 398 weeds profiles to help you better identify, plan and manage your weed problem.

<https://weeds.org.au/>



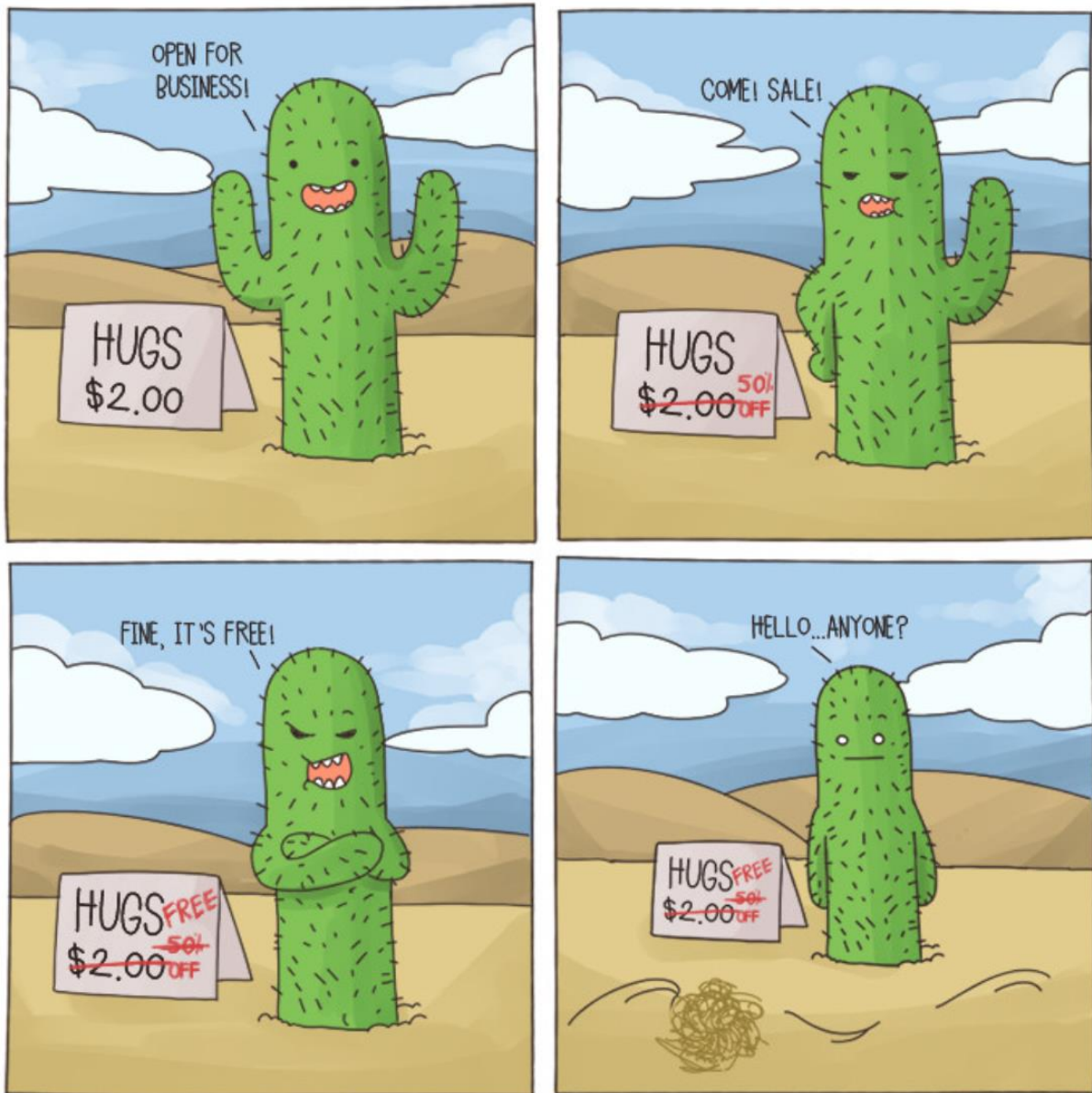
### **BRLG Weed Sprayer**

Available for use by BRLG members. Please contact Chris Winfield on 0429 484 644 to discuss your spraying needs.

## Landcare Resources

I want to know about...	Here is a good place to start...
Aboriginal cultural heritage location mapping	<a href="https://www.vic.gov.au/aboriginalvictoria/heritage/heritage-tools-and-publications/heritage-tools.html">https://www.vic.gov.au/aboriginalvictoria/heritage/heritage-tools-and-publications/heritage-tools.html</a> then select "online map tool"
Biodiversity mapping and recording	<a href="http://maps.biodiversity.vic.gov.au/viewer/?viewer=NatureKit">http://maps.biodiversity.vic.gov.au/viewer/?viewer=NatureKit</a> <a href="http://natureshare.org.au/">http://natureshare.org.au/</a> <a href="http://avh.chah.org.au/">http://avh.chah.org.au/</a>
Boxthorn	<a href="http://weeds.ala.org.au/WoNS/africanboxthorn/docs/African_boxthorn-national_best_practice_manual.pdf">http://weeds.ala.org.au/WoNS/africanboxthorn/docs/African_boxthorn-national_best_practice_manual.pdf</a>
Chilean needle grass	<a href="https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/publications/guidelines/wons/pubs/n-neesiana.pdf">https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/publications/guidelines/wons/pubs/n-neesiana.pdf</a>
Feral goat control	<a href="https://www.pestsmart.org.au/pest-animal-species/feral-goat/">https://www.pestsmart.org.au/pest-animal-species/feral-goat/</a>
Fox control	<a href="https://www.pestsmart.org.au/pest-animal-species/european-fox/">https://www.pestsmart.org.au/pest-animal-species/european-fox/</a>
Gorse	<a href="https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/publications/guidelines/wons/pubs/u-europaeus.pdf">https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/publications/guidelines/wons/pubs/u-europaeus.pdf</a>
Landcare networks	<a href="#">Moorabool Landcare Network</a> <a href="#">Geelong Landcare Network</a>
Melbourne Water Stream Frontage Grants	<a href="https://www.melbournewater.com.au/community-and-education/apply-funding/stream-frontage-management-program">https://www.melbournewater.com.au/community-and-education/apply-funding/stream-frontage-management-program</a>
Rabbit management	<a href="http://www.mln.org.au/images/PDFS/rabbitactionguide.pdf">http://www.mln.org.au/images/PDFS/rabbitactionguide.pdf</a> <a href="https://www.pestsmart.org.au/pest-animal-species/european-rabbit/">https://www.pestsmart.org.au/pest-animal-species/european-rabbit/</a>
Serrated tussock	<a href="https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/publications/guidelines/wons/pubs/n-trichotoma.pdf">https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/publications/guidelines/wons/pubs/n-trichotoma.pdf</a>
Weeds - identification and control	<a href="http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/weeds/a-z-of-weeds">http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/weeds/a-z-of-weeds</a>
Weed status in Victoria	<a href="http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/weeds/invasive-plant-classifications">http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/weeds/invasive-plant-classifications</a> <a href="http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/protecting-victoria-from-pest-animals-and-weeds/legislation-policy-and-permits/declared-noxious-weeds-and-pest-animals-in-victoria">http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/protecting-victoria-from-pest-animals-and-weeds/legislation-policy-and-permits/declared-noxious-weeds-and-pest-animals-in-victoria</a>

*Last Laugh*



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