



## COMMITTEE UPDATE

**The Victorian Gorse Taskforce (VGT) has been busy educating the public about best practice gorse removal through a number of mediums and are excited to tell you about it!**

Firstly, the committee would like to thank Heidi Snow for her dedication to the Extension officer position throughout 2018. The committee were very fortunate to have Heidi's skills and experience, especially in a brand new position, and wish her good luck for her future endeavours. Furthermore, the committee is very pleased to welcome Brydie Murrphy as the new Extension Officer and are looking forward to building on the role with her, into the future.

The Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) forums were held in six locations around Victoria, with Peter Brenton presenting to over 100 people. In addition, four demonstration field days were held across the state, acting as a one-stop-shop for gorse management. It was fantastic to see so many community members engaged in both of these programs.

These last 6 months have had a focus around education for the VGT. This education has been demonstrated through presenting at the Vic Weeds Conference and creating a new Identification guide to name a few examples. The VGT would like to thank all the environmental organisations and departments who have helped us spread this knowledge such as the CMAs, local councils, Parks, DELWP and local Landcare groups. The support is appreciated and together, we will make a difference!

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- COMMITTEE UPDATE
- ATLAS OF LIVING AUSTRALIA FORUMS HELD
- CONGRATULATIONS FOR THE VRAN
- DEMONSTRATION FIELD DAYS A SUCCESS
- VGT PRESENTS AT THE 2019 WEEDS VIC CONFERENCE
- NEW GLOVEBOX IDENTIFICATION GUIDE RELEASED
- 2018/2019 GRANT RECIPIENT STORIES



*Extension officer Brydie Murrphy presenting at the Daylesford demonstration field day held at 'The Farm Daylesford' in May 2019.*

## CITIZENS SCIENTISTS FOR GORSE MANAGEMENT

The Victorian Gorse Taskforce (VGT) has hosted a series of workshops across the state recently to support community members to map invasive species and biodiversity.

The workshops showcased the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) citizen science mapping portal, demonstrating how groups and individuals can use the various applications to log sightings of gorse and other invasive species, and then use data to plan control and monitoring programs.

More than 140 people attended workshops in six locations: Daylesford, Ballan, Beechworth, Drysdale, Portland and Bass.

VGT Chair, Peter Everist, said the ALA portal is an exciting resource for managing the impact of gorse on agricultural productivity and biodiversity, providing groups with an opportunity to map the distribution of gorse and other invasive species, and also the native biodiversity that shares the same ecosystem.

Peter Brenton from Atlas of Living Australia presented to all locations and the VGT want to thank him for his informative and interactive discussions about the online platform. To check out the website, click the link <https://www.ala.org.au/>



## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE VRAN ON PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

The work of the Victorian Rabbit Action Network has been celebrated by being awarded a United Nations Public Service Award in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The VRAN have implemented a long-term, collaborative approach to manage the European rabbit which is one of Victoria's most invasive species. Their program is well deserving and the Victorian Gorse Taskforce would like to wish them a hearty congratulations!



*Kaye Rodden, Gerald Leach and Michael Reid were presented with the award in Azerbaijan on behalf of Agriculture Victoria in June 2019*

## THE VGT PRESENT AT THE VIC WEEDS CONFERENCE

**The VGT Chair, Peter Everist, and the Extension Officer, Brydie Murrphy, presented at the Victorian Weeds Conference in Echuca in May of 2019.**

Peter presented on the success of the VGT obtaining an Extension Officer. He detailed the production of the position, the application process, the objectives and deliverables for the position and the success that has come with the position thus far.

Brydie presented on the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) forums that were held across six locations and funded by the VGT. It was a great opportunity to show how the ALA can help community groups map species in their part of Victoria.

Well done Peter and Brydie!



*Peter presenting at the Victorian Weeds Conference in Echuca, May 2019*

# DEMONSTRATION FIELD DAYS A SUCCESS FOR GORSE MANAGEMENT

The Victorian Gorse Taskforce (VGT) hosted four demonstration field days across April and May where members of local communities came to learn about gorse management.

Demonstrations were held in Portland, Daylesford, Bellarine Peninsular and Bass Coast and saw 70 people in attendance. The field days also saw a number of environmental organisations represented including local councils, CMAs, Parks, Landcare groups and the CFA.

## NEW IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

The new VGT Glovebox Identification Guide is here!

The Glovebox Identification Guide is here to assist community members in identifying if they do in fact have Gorse on their properties.

The Glovebox Identification guide compares gorse with common Victorian native plants with similar characteristics. For simplicity, clear pictures of Gorse is compared to four native plants including the flower, seed pod, leaves/thorns and seedling stages.

The native plants include the Hedge Wattle, Prickly Moses, Sweet Bursaria and the Tree Violet. This guide is a quick and simple way for the community to identify gorse in the field.

Community lead action first starts with education of the problem. The VGT is confident that this guide will improve the general knowledge of gorse and confidence in the community to identify the noxious weed.



The Best Practice guide and the Glovebox Identification Guide

The field days were a great success with members of the public being able to talk to relevant environment professionals about their own gorse journeys and watch a demonstration of best practice gorse removal. Information about the annual community grants program was also discussed at length and the field days acted as a networking opportunity for those interested in applying together.

“Great to see everyone at the Gorse Management field day... it was a great opportunity to catch up and network. The demonstration by John with his EcoBlade generated a lot of interest,” said Margaret Thomas who attended the field day in Daylesford.

The VGT would like to thank the landowners, Landcare groups and contractors involved in the demonstration days including Southwest Environmental Alliance, Westvic Earthmoving, Tony Demarco from The Farm Daylesford, Regional Vic Farm Services, VGT committee member John Cable, the Bellarine Landcare group, Precision Slashing & Groundcare, the Bass Coast Landcare group and McFee Tree services.



Top: John Baulch demonstrating gorse removal with an EcoBlade at the Daylesford Field Day in May, 2019

Bottom: Brydie presenting to the Portland Field Day group in April, 2019

# GORSE EFFECTIVELY MANAGED ACROSS THE STATE BY 2018/2019 GRANT RECIPIENTS

**13 successful groups have controlled Gorse across Victoria over 2018/2019 with the assistance of the Victorian Gorse Taskforce annual community grants program.**

The VGT annual community grants are open to two or more landowners who are committed to controlling gorse and are a dollar for dollar contribution.

The Victorian Gorse Taskforce (VGT) would like to congratulate the 1 private and 12 public grant recipients for their tremendous efforts in controlling gorse in their local areas: the Glenlyon Upper Loddon Landcare group, Tylden Landcare group, Bellarine Landcare group, Barkers Creek Landcare group, Woody Yalock Catchment group, Blampied Kooroocheang Landcare group, Stanley Landcare group, Upper Maribyrnong Catchment group, the Bass Coast Landcare Network, Project Platypus, UMEC Landcare Network Inc and Ashbourne Landcare group.



*Top: section of Gorse along the South Central Curran Catchment that the Blampied Kooroocheang Landcare Group received funding to manage*

*Bottom: the same section of the South Central Curran Catchment after spraying occurred*

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## Mailing list enquiries

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More information on gorse can be found on the Victorian Gorse Taskforce website: [www.vicgorsetaskforce.com.au](http://www.vicgorsetaskforce.com.au) or by contacting the DEDJTR Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

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Gorse Talk is published by the Victorian Gorse Taskforce.

## NEXT ISSUE

The next issue will be published in December 2019.

To make a contribution, please submit by Friday 29th November 2019.

Send contributions to:  
[info@vicgorsetaskforce.com.au](mailto:info@vicgorsetaskforce.com.au)

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