Raising awareness and building capability to manage early invader weeds

Kate Blood, Bianca Gold, Bec James
Victoria, Australia - 27 Oct 2021
Acknowledgment

We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

We are committed to genuinely partner, and meaningfully engage, with Victoria's Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities to support the protection of Country, the maintenance of spiritual and cultural practices and their broader aspirations in the 21st century and beyond.
Victoria

Over 227,444 km²
~6.6 Million people
Highest point 1,986 m
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~6.6 Million people
Highest point 1,986 m

Public land
About 8 million hectares
About 33% of Victoria
Where do we fit?

DELWP’s Forest, Fire and Regions Group

Statewide Invasive Species Programs

Weed Management Program

Weeds at the Early Stage of Invasion (WESI) Project
1.5 FTE $194,000 AUD per year
Established 2011

Weed Data Management Project
1.3 FTE $170,000 AUD 2021/2022

AUD = Australian Dollar; DELWP = Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning; FTE = full-time equivalent
The WESI project aims to prevent the establishment of high risk invasive plants that threaten biodiversity on the public land estate.
Supporting on-ground case management of early invader weeds

Enablers

- Collaborations
- Tools & Resources
- Awareness Raising
- Capability Building
Enablers

collaborations

tools & resources

Supporting on-ground case management of early invader weeds

awareness raising

capability building
Enablers

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Supporting on-ground case management of early invader weeds
Early invader manual
Managing early invader environmental weeds in Victoria
Kate Blood, Bec James, F. Dane Panetta, Matt Sheehan, Robin Adair, and Blanca Gold
February 2019

Advisory list of environmental weeds in Victoria
M. White, D. Cheal, G.W. Carr, R. Adair, K. Blood and D. Meagher
April 2018
Web search: early invader weeds
Early invader manual
Managing early invader environmental weeds in Victoria

1. SEARCH AND DETECT
2. NAME AND NOTIFY
3. ASSESS THE RISK
4. DELIMIT THE INVASION
5. DECIDE THE RESPONSE
6. IMPLEMENT ERADICATION
START HERE:

Early invader manual
Managing early invader environmental weeds in Victoria

CHOOSE YOUR SCENARIO BELOW:

SCENARIO A: work out highest priority early invaders on the public land

or

SCENARIO B: work out what priority a new invader is on the public land

or

SCENARIO C: work out highest priority weeds outside the public land to search for within

1. SEARCH AND DETECT
   - Search existing plant databases for weed records on the public land*
   - Opportunistically detect suspect plant OR Plan & undertake a structured field search within the public land. Focus first on the highest priority species along their most likely local pathways

2. NAME AND NOTIFY
   - List all weeds on the public land and number of records per weed (or area)
   - Name newly detected unrecorded weed on the public land & notify land manager

3. ASSESS THE RISK
   - Determine the risk rating for the newly detected weed AND/OR List risk ratings for all species & decide which of high risk weeds you investigate further

4. DELIMIT THE INVASION
   - Delimit: determine all infestation boundaries of high or medium risk weeds

5. DECIDE THE RESPONSE
   - Decide which management response to use & assess the feasibility of eradication if appropriate

6. IMPLEMENT ERADICATION
   - If feasible, prepare eradication plan & implement

* consider conducting a structured field search if insufficient existing weed records exist
Mornington Peninsula Weed ID Training, November 2018

- 17 workshops from 2015 to 2019
- 324 people trained
- 88 of these about opuntioaid cacti
Training locations

Legend
- Other Public land
- National Park (NP)
- State of Victoria

Map showing training locations across Victoria, including sites like Malchee 2015 (Trained 17), Wimmera 2015 (Trained 26), Goldfields 2 2016 (Trained 22), etc.
Training using the tools
Training using the tools
Training using the tools

100% of respondents agreed that they had more confidence in identifying and working with opuntioid cacti as a result of the session.

Social media: @weedyk8 #WESIProj
Webinars

- four-webinar series
- 1,430 registrations
- 33% joined live
- 14 presentations
- 12 collaborators
- evaluation report
- recordings available

Victorian alps, near Falls Creek, Victoria, November 2016
Webinars

Over the series 93% of evaluation survey respondents agreed that they learned something that they are likely to apply.

- four-webinar series
- 1,430 registrations
- 33% joined live
- 14 presentations
- 12 collaborators
- evaluation report
- recordings available
Newsletter - Early invader weeds update
Welcome to our special feature weed information resources issue

In this issue we are focusing on resources that are readily available to help you with your weed identification, management plans and actions for early invader weeds in your catchment.

These resources are part of the Early Invader Weeds Update (EIIU) Project 2019, which provides useful management techniques and advice, plus linking with other learning opportunities.

May 2021, Issue #22

Feature issue, 14 February 2020 #18

Early Invader Update
Friends of WEIS: Weeds at the Early Stage of Invasion Project

Feature on weed management and fire

There has been great interest in the bubble-topped flowers of the fireweed plant which can be found in early spring. It is also a common sight in the bushland areas of the Weir catchment.

Early Invader Weeds Update
Weeds at the Early Stage of Invasion (WEIS) Project Coordinator

Welcome to the Winter issue of Early Invader Update

Weeds at the Early Stage of Invasion (WEIS) Project Coordinator

Welcome to this issue of Early Invader Update

Weeds at the Early Stage of Invasion (WEIS) Project Coordinator

Early Invader Weeds Update
Weeds at the Early Stage of Invasion (WEIS) Project Coordinator

May 2021, Issue #22

• four issues per year
• about 700 email subscribers
• over 123 pages of content online

• Help with weed ID

The WEIS Project provides resources and support for you to help with plant identification. It is our web-based tool that allows individuals and organizations to identify weeds. We encourage you to use it to help identify weeds in your area.

• Early Invader Update

Early Invader Update is a project that provides information on weeds at the early stage of invasion. It aims to help communities identify and manage weeds before they become problematic. The project includes a newsletter that is published four times a year.

• Feature on weed management and fire

There has been great interest in the bubble-topped flowers of the fireweed plant which can be found in early spring. It is also a common sight in the bushland areas of the Weir catchment.

• Frequently asked questions

Q: What is the EIIU Project?
A: The Early Invader Weeds Update (EIIU) Project is a community-based initiative that aims to help communities identify and manage weeds at the early stage of invasion.

Q: How can I help?
A: You can help by volunteering your time to help identify weeds in your local area, by sharing information with others, or by providing feedback on the project.

Q: Where can I find more information?
A: More information can be found on the project website: www.eiiuproject.org.

We hope you find this issue informative and useful. Please feel free to share it with others and provide us with your feedback.

Your community, your future.

Early Invader Weeds Update
Weeds at the Early Stage of Invasion (WEIS) Project Coordinator

May 2021, Issue #22

earlyinvaderupdate.com.au
95% of the respondents thought the newsletter content had influenced their work.
• Facebook Group
• Scheduled posts
Social media

- Facebook Group
- Scheduled posts
- Individual profiles
  - Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn

Bec Jamesweeds
Works for Victorian Govt. Views my own. #invasiveweeds

Bianca Goldweeds
Working with and learning about early invader weeds in Victoria.

Weed Woman
@weedyk8
Early invader weeds with Kate Blood, works @DELWP_Vic. Views my own. #EarlyInvaders #InvasiveSpecies #Weeds #WESIProy #WeedID #Ecology #Biodiversity #SciComm

SE Australia

Joined September 2013

1,480 Following 1,023 Followers

Join now

Weed Woman @weedyk8 6h
I am speaking at the California Invasive Plant Council Cal-IPC 30-Year Anniversary Symposium 2021 and there are lots of great topics on offer: cal-ipc.org/resources/symp... #CALIPC30year @cal_ipc
Social media

- Facebook Group
  - Scheduled posts
- Individual profiles
  - Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn
- Useful to
  - Promote events
  - Share information
  - Seek help
• Facebook Group
  • Scheduled posts
• Individual profiles
  • Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn
• Useful to
  • Promote events
  • Share information
  • Seek help

Social media

Facebook Group
• ~250 followers in 6 months
• Up to 23,000 Tweet impressions per month
• Views of combined webinar posts over 36,000

I have been so impressed with the invasive species materials put out by this team in Victoria, AU. BIISC has updated our early detection methods based on some of their publications. Recordings to useful webinars (for those that don’t want to try to figure out Aussie time zones) can be found in the links below (scroll through Kate’s message).

Technology and collaboration were two of my father’s professional linchpins. He has influenced much of my career and I have been really enjoying the recent project I have been delivering with Bianca Goldweeds.

Bianca and I, with many collaborators and tech supporters, are half way through running a webinar series. We have been heartened by the level of engagement and interest in the free online events.

The next webinar is next Wednesday.

For more information, recordings and to register: https://tinyurl.com/WeedsAfterFire

Weed management after fire webinar series 
#WeedFireWebinars
Amazon Frogbit (*Limnobium laevigatum*)

- Free-floating aquatic
- From South America and South Eastern USA
- Pond plant in trade
- Assisting awareness raising
- Assisting identification
- Connecting on-ground practitioners
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**Supporting:**
- 90 cases 2020/2021
- 50+ cases 2019/2020
Thank you

- WESI Steering Group
- Friends of WESI
- Statewide Invasive Species Programs
- Central Highlands Eden
- Glenelg Eden
- Otway Eden
- Good Neighbour Program
- Many collaborators

*Cylindropuntia pallida* (White-spined Hudson Pear), Tol Tol, Victoria, April 2012

Victorian Government funders:

*Weeds and Pests on Public Land Program*

*Bushfire Biodiversity Response & Recovery*
Web search: early invader weeds
Facebook Group: earlyinvaderweeds.vic
Weed fire webinars: https://tinyurl.com/WeedsAfterFire