

Raising awareness and building capability to manage early invader weeds



Social media: @weedyk8
#WESIProj

Cylindropuntia kleiniae (Klein's Cholla), Minyip Bushland Reserve, June 2016

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



Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning



Wathaurong Country, near Beaufort, Victoria, 2021

Acknowledgment

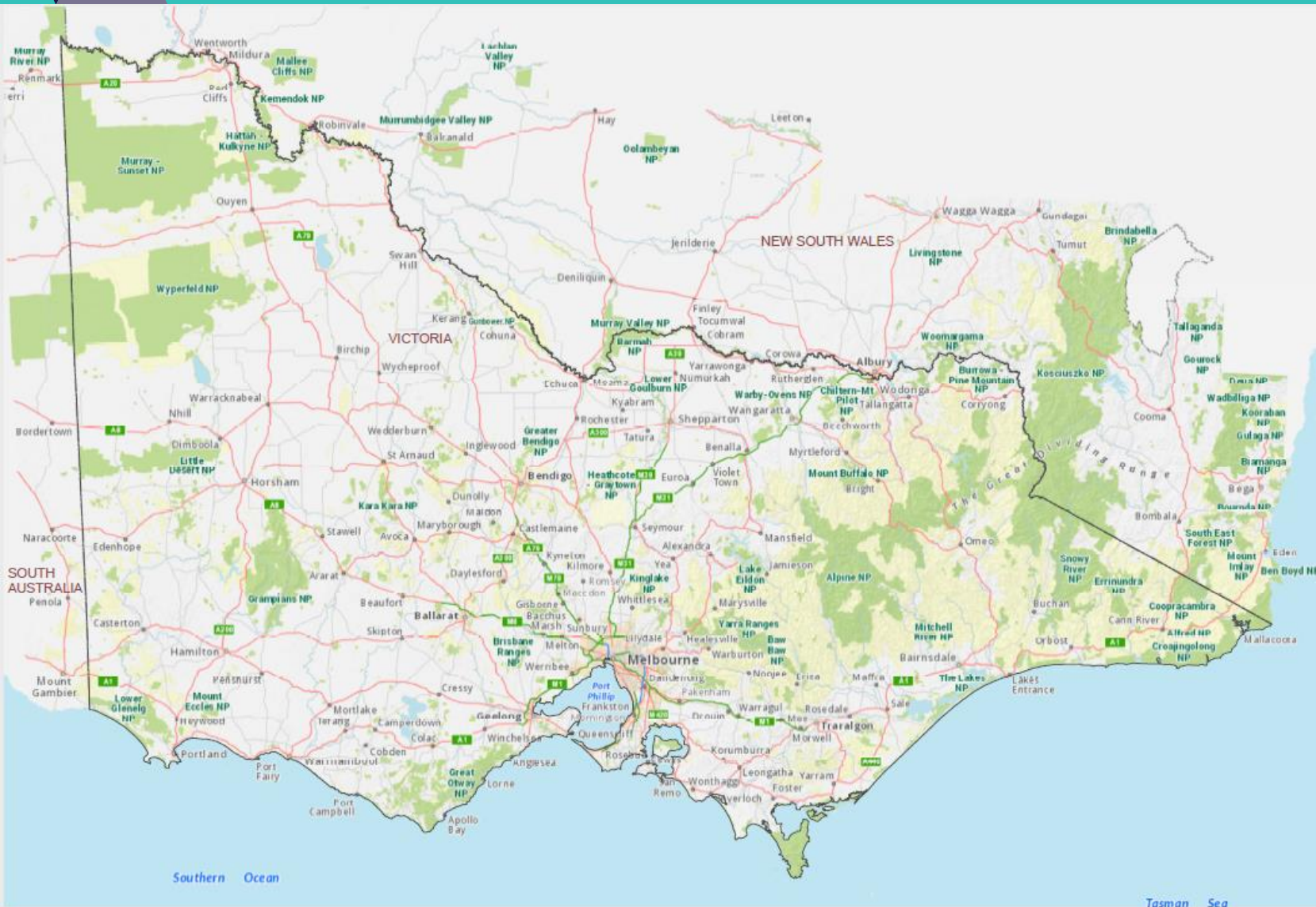
We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional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



State of Victoria, Australia





Legend

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

Regional GIS Desktop

GPW Use Only



15 October 2021

Map Scale: 1:2,572,757

0 15 30 60 Kilometres

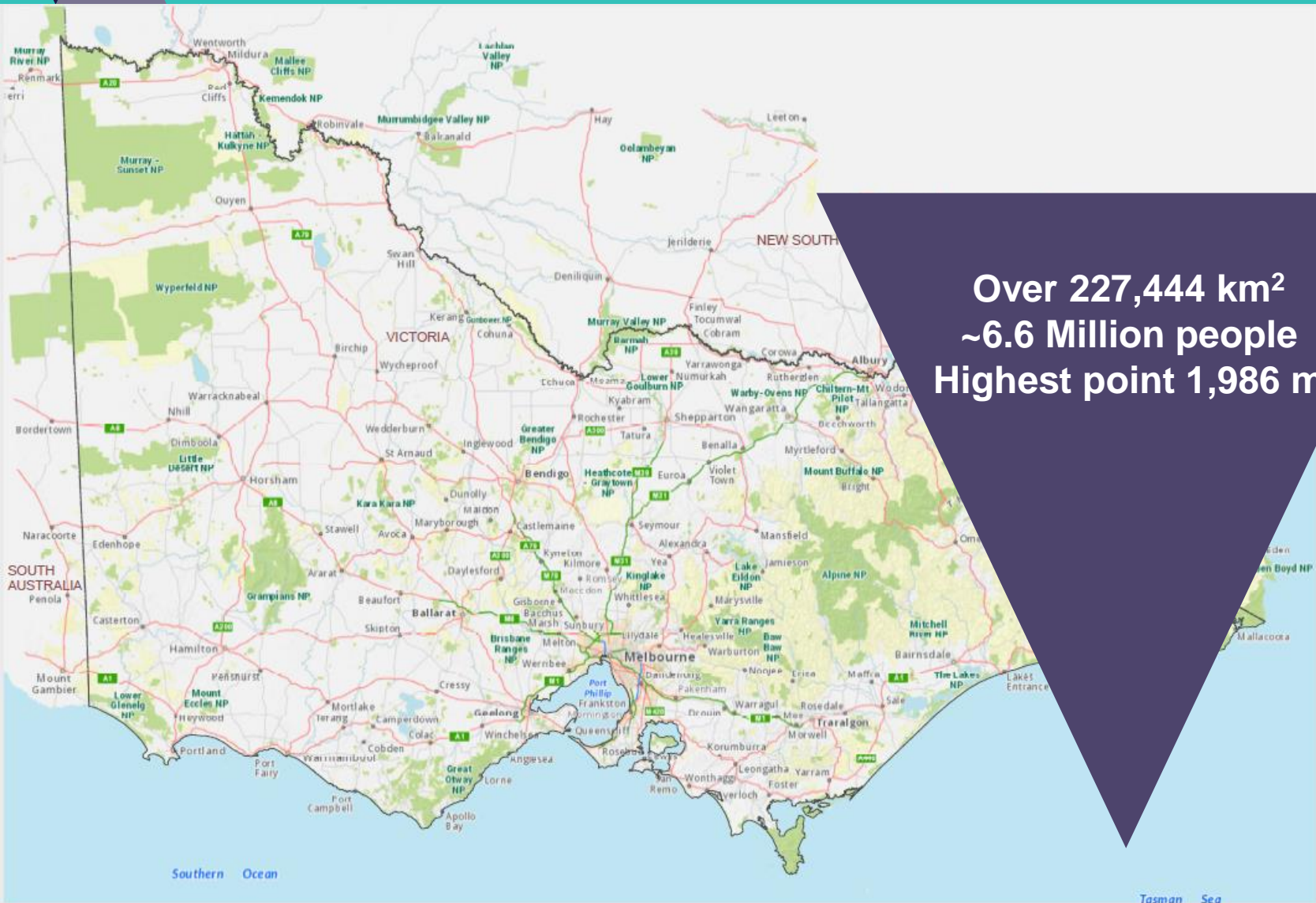
Universal Transverse Mercator Projection
Datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994
GDA94



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Regional GIS Desktop
GIS/Map User Only

15 October 2011

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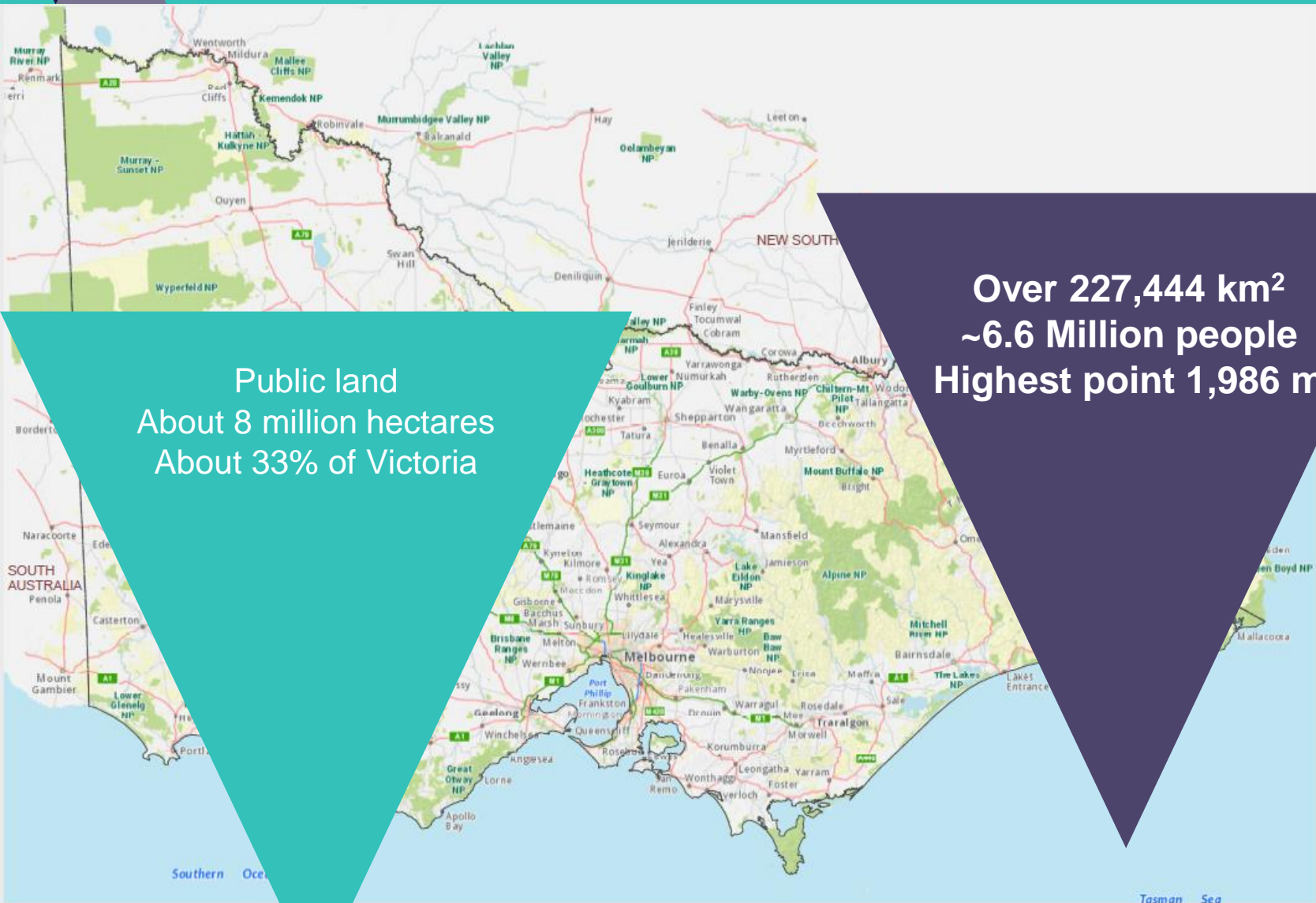
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Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2011



Legend

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- State of Victoria

Public land
About 8 million hectares
About 33% of Victoria

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

Regional GIS Desktop

GIS Desktop User Only



15 October 2021

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Kilometres

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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

Weeds at the Early Stage of Invasion (WESI) Project



The WESI project aims to prevent the establishment of high risk invasive plants that threaten biodiversity on the public land estate

Social media: @weedyk8
#WESIProj

Dimorphotheca species (Cape Daisy), Wimmera, Oct 2016



Supporting on-ground
case management of
early invader weeds



Supporting on-ground
case management of
early invader weeds

collaborations



tools & resources



awareness raising

Supporting on-ground case management of early invader weeds

capability building

collaborations



tools & resources



awareness raising

Supporting on-ground case management of early invader weeds

capability building



collaborations



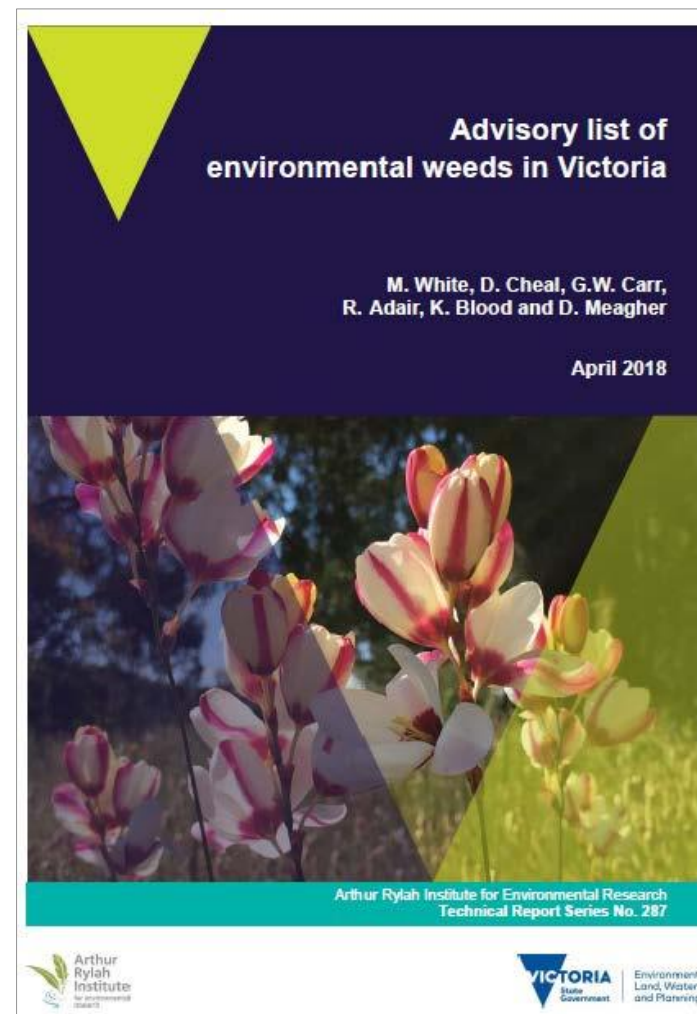
tools & resources

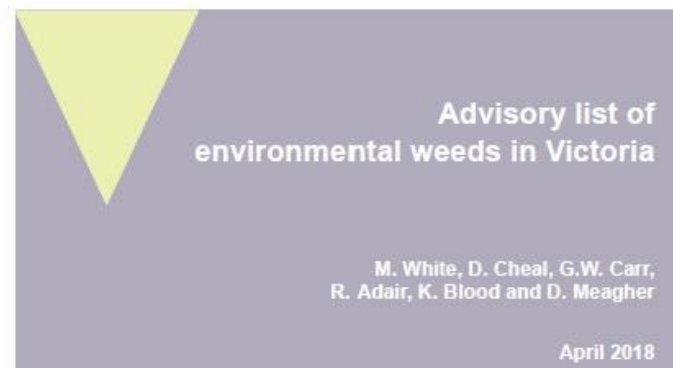
awareness raising

Supporting on-ground case management of early invader weeds



capability building

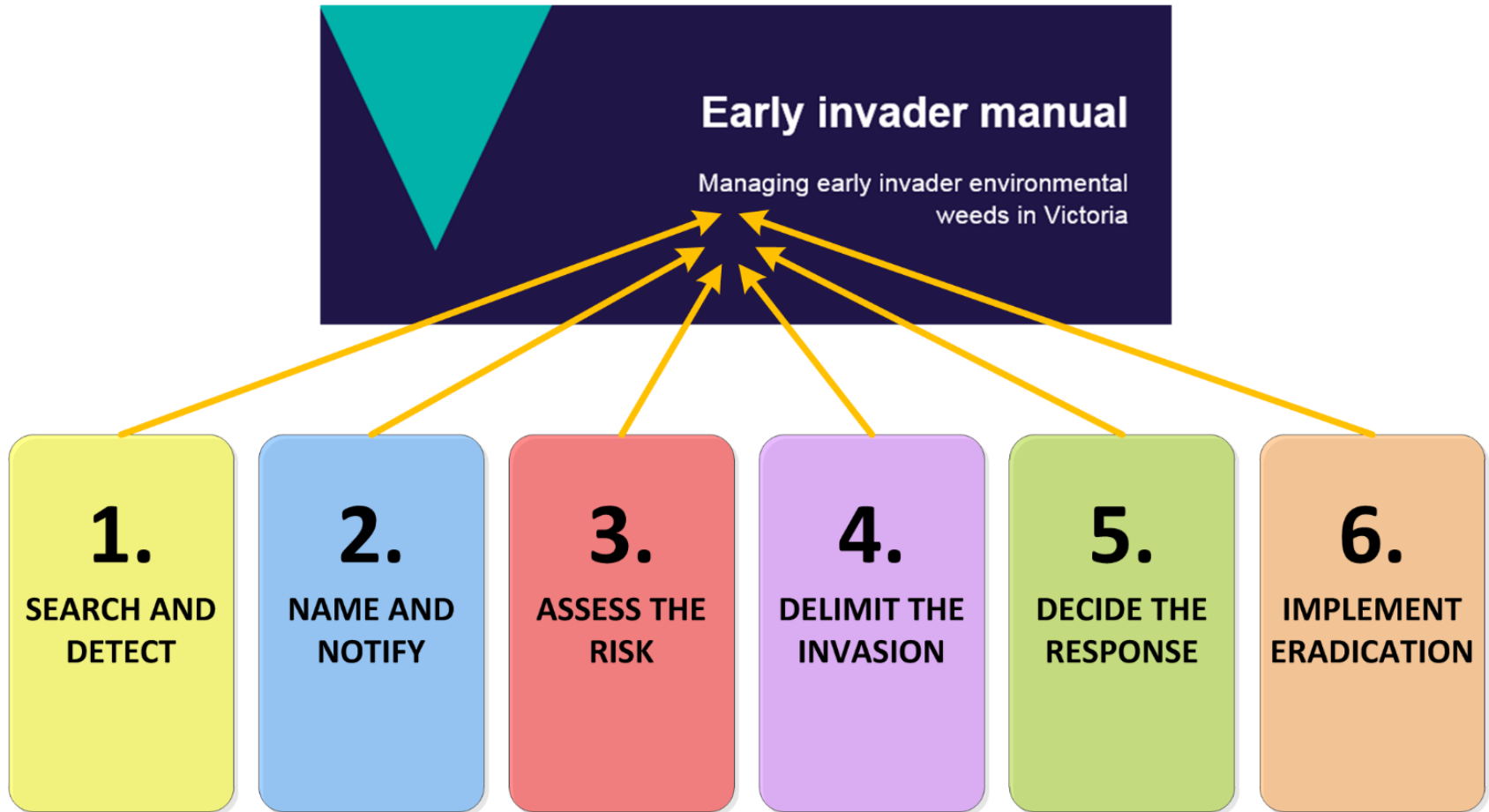


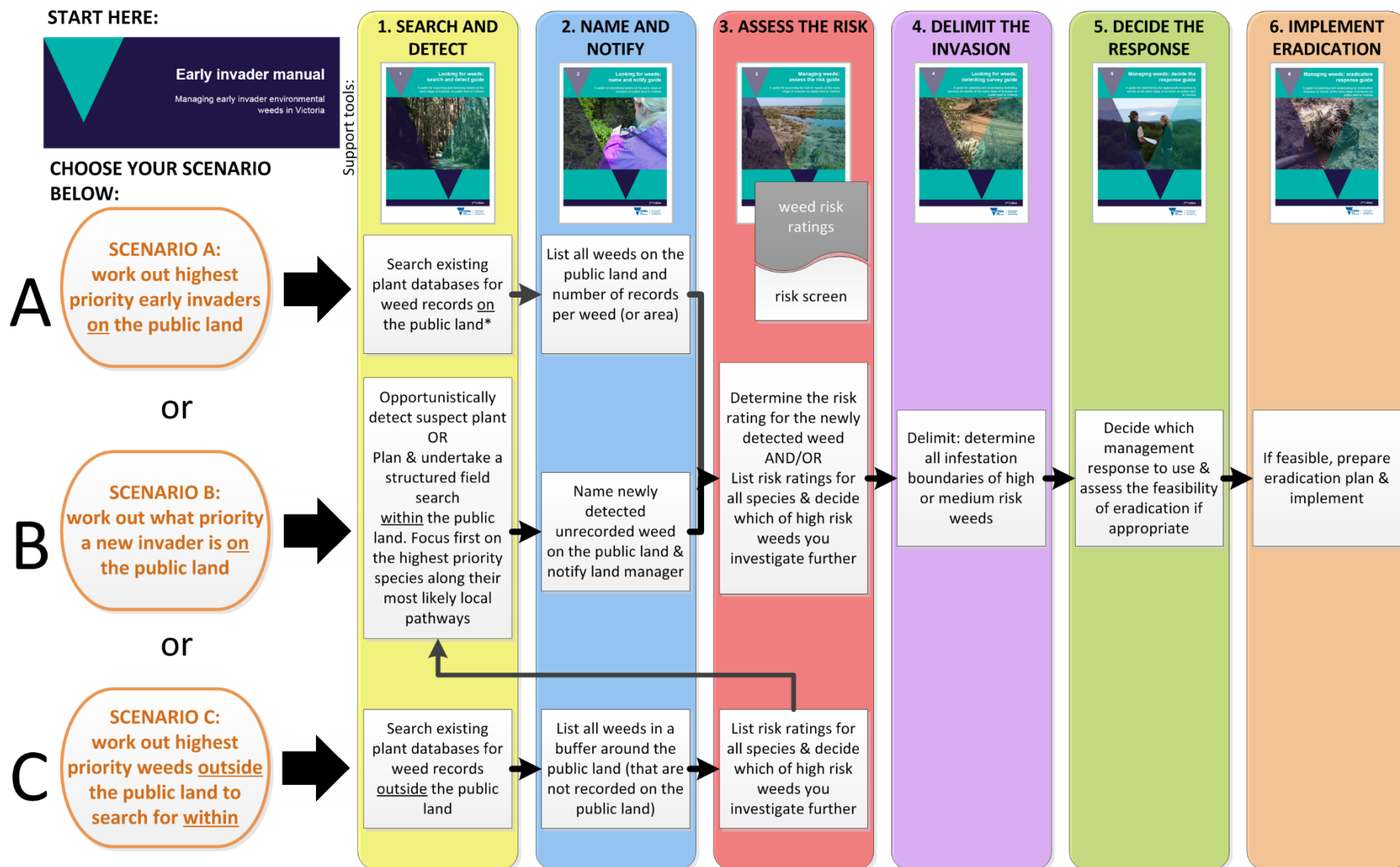


Web search: early invader weeds

<https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/invasive-plants-and-animals/early-invaders>







* consider conducting a structured field search if insufficient existing weed records exist

Mornington Peninsula Weed ID Training, November 2018



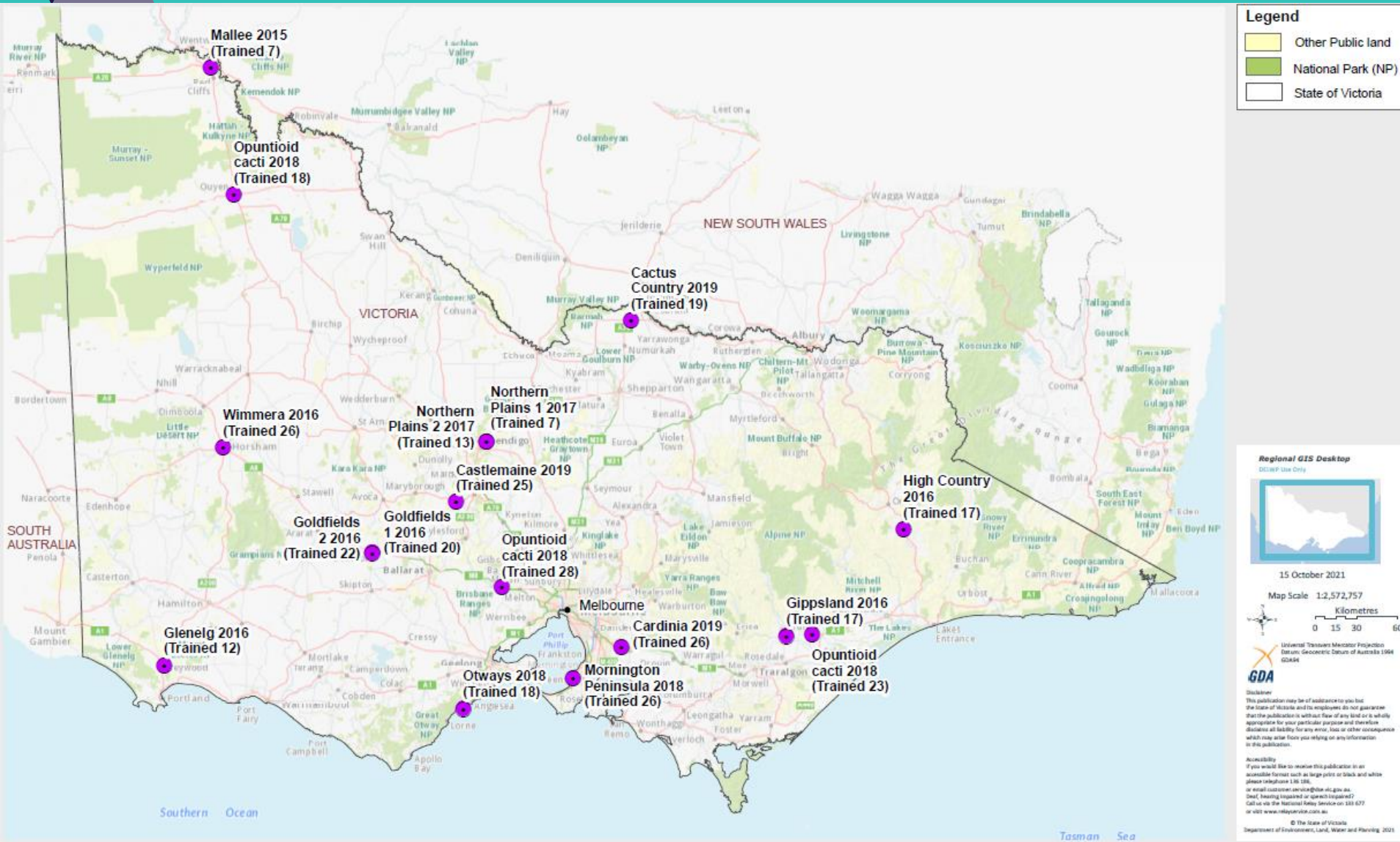
Mornington Peninsula Weed ID Training, November 2018



- 17 workshops from 2015 to 2019
- 324 people trained
- 88 of these about opuntoid cacti



Training locations





Opuntioid Cacti Workshop, Bacchus Marsh, Victoria, May 2018

Training using the tools



Opuntoid Cacti Workshop, Bacchu



Opuntoid Cacti Workshop, Cactus Country, Strathmerton, Victoria, May 2019

Training using the tools



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

Opuntoid Cacti Workshop, Cactus Country, Strathmerton, Victoria, May 2019

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Opuntoid Cacti Workshop, Cactus Country, Strathmerton, Victoria, May 2019



SWIFFT State Wide Integrated Flora and Fauna Teams

Weed management after fire:
supporting native species recovery

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



SWIFFT State Wide Integrated Flora and Fauna Teams

Weed management after fire:
supporting native species recovery

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

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Weed management after fire:
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Newsletter - Early invader weeds update

Early Invader Update

Friends of WESI: Weeds at the Early Stage of Invasion Project

Feature issue, 14 February 2020 #18

Feature on weed management and fire

There has been great interest in the bushfire-weed information sources we have been sharing. This supplement to our summer update is focussed on sharing more of those information sources to help biodiversity managers impacted by fire focus on making a smooth recovery.

- Weeds may be fire-responsive, meaning that they come back with a vengeance post-fire, e.g., mass germination of hard-coated seeds.
- Weeds can maintain establishment in unburnt patches within the fire area where they can set seed and spread into the burnt areas.
- Can be inadvertently spread by firefighting vehicles, machinery and clothing of personnel if good hygiene practices aren't in place.
- Heavy rain can lead to flash flooding down slopes and

Early Invader Weeds Update

Weeds at the Early Stage of Invasion (WESI) Project newsletter

May 2021, Issue #22

Welcome to our special feature weed information resources issue

In this issue we're focussing on resources that are readily available to help you with your weed identification, management plans and activities for early invader weeds in your patch.

These are resources the Weeds at the Early Stage of Invasion (WESI) Project team use regularly when trying to identify a plant, looking for management techniques and advice, and sharing with and learning from others.



Figure 1: Osteospermum or African Daisy (*Dimorphotheca* sp.)

Credit: Bianca Gold (DELWP)

Help with weed ID

The WESI Project Team often receives emails and texts asking for help with plant identification. If it is a weed, it is usually followed by a request for information of how

Sometimes we are able to identify it immediately and other times we need to investigate further as we may not be familiar with it ourselves.



Figure 2: Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) flower and foliage, near Officer, Victoria

Credit: Bianca Gold (DELWP)

TIP: By providing clear images that include the whole plant along with close-ups of its features, you're such as flowers, fruit, seeds and leaves, you're showing us the detail we might see if we were in the field with you at the time. See WESI presentation on photography tips in Webinar #4 at 33mins 10secs via: <https://tinyurl.com/WeedsAfterFire>

Once we have a clear view of what the plant looks like, how and where it grows, we use a variety of resources to suggest identification and provide more information about the type of plant it is.

Early Invader Weeds Update

Weeds at the Early Stage of Invasion (WESI) Project newsletter

June 2021, Issue #23

Welcome to the Winter issue of the Early Invader Weeds Update newsletter.

weed hygiene legend!

cooler wetter weather setting in, it's a good time weeds popping up around the place. We're going through their usual cycles and will be emerging in a location for the first time. We've noticed them before, but the rain has given them an extra boost and their numbers have

these changes with the seasons, it's important to follow them down. You may like to follow up with treatment or continue to help you record such information, it's important you record such information, it's

www.vic.gov.au/invasive-plants

ivers and other waterways are and may be overflowing: our materials in the *Early Invader Manual* (it can also mean for wet and

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Figure 1: Rain on Sweet Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*). Credit: Bianca Gold (DELWP)

• Keep on the lookout for things that appear new or out of place, they might be early invader weeds.

• Be informed of what weeds are in the area and the way in which they can spread.

• Try to avoid working in weedy areas, especially if the weeds are producing seed or can be spread vegetatively.

• Make sure soil, gravel, mulch or other organic materials being introduced for maintenance or re-fill are clean.

• Where possible, limit the number of sites visited at a time and/or visit weedy sites last.

• Try to avoid driving vehicles and machinery off formed tracks.



Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Newsletter - Early invader weeds update



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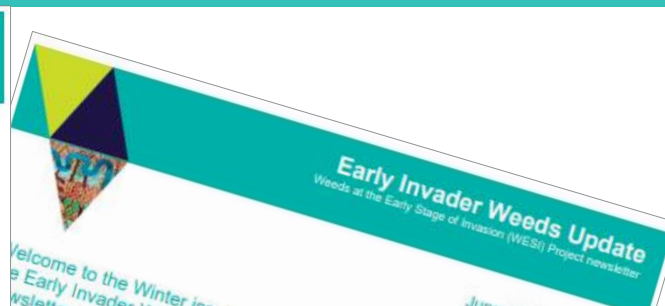
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Credit: Bianca Gold (DELWP)

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Once we have a clear view of what the plant looks like, how and where it grows, we use a variety of resources to suggest identification and provide more information about the type of plant it is.



Welcome to the Winter issue of the Early Invader Weeds Update newsletter

June 2021

weed hygiene

cooler wetter weather means weeds pop up. You may be going through a lot of weeds, but you've noticed them before. It's an extra boost and their

these changes with the season. If you're following them down. You may like to try templates in the Early Invader Weeds Update newsletter to help you record such information, if you can.

ment.vic.gov.au/invasive-plants/leaders

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



Newsletter - Early invader weeds update

95% of the respondents thought the newsletter content had influenced their work

- four issues per year
- about 700 email subscribers
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Feature issue, 14 February 2020 #18



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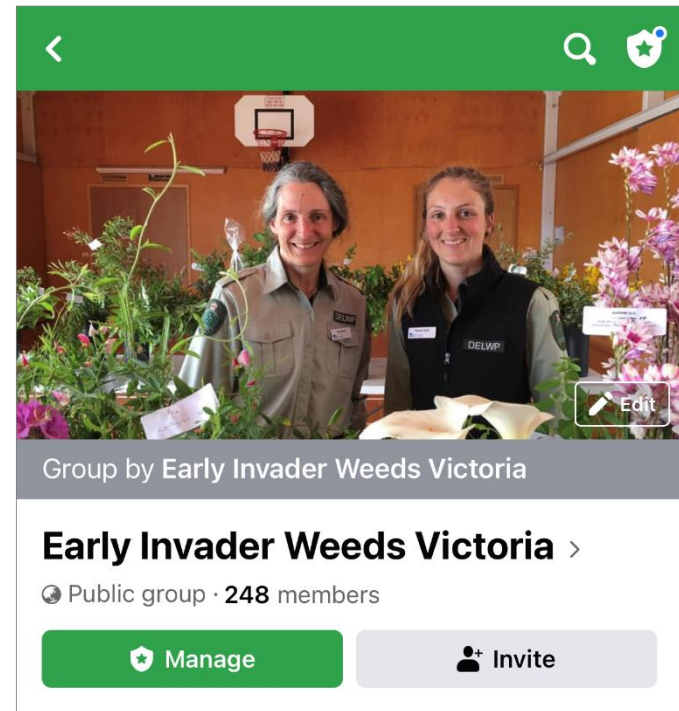


Figure 2: Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) flower and foliage, near Officer, Victoria
Credit: Bianca Gold (DELWP)

TIP: By providing clear images that include the whole plant along with close-ups of its features, you're much more likely to get a correct identification. See WESI showing us the detail we might see if we were in the field with you at the time. See WESI presentation on photography tips in Webinar #4 at 33mins 10secs via: <https://tinyurl.com/WeedsAfterFire>

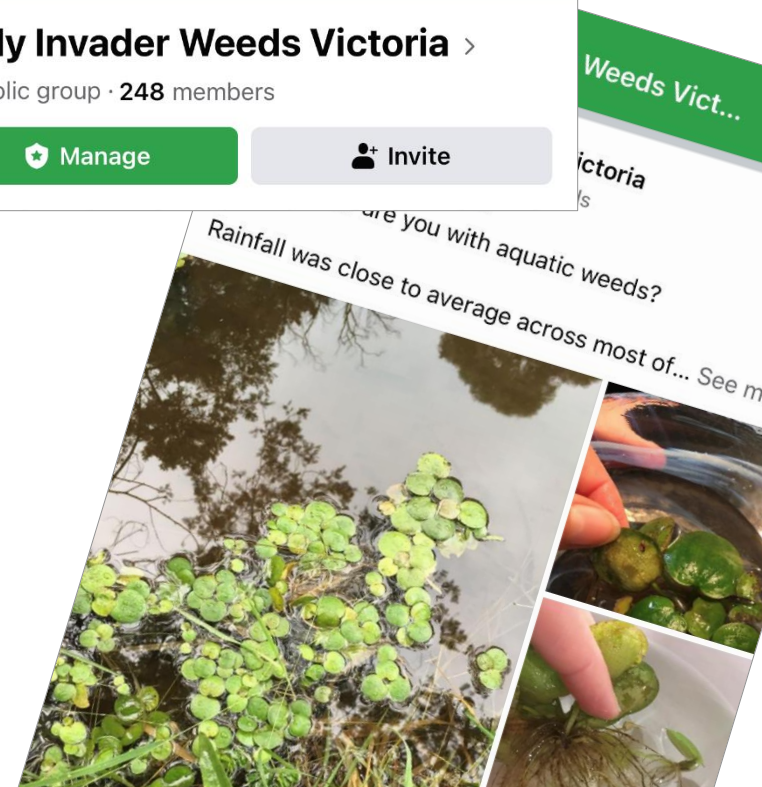
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- **Facebook Group**
 - Scheduled posts



Social media: @weedyk8
#WESIProj

OFFICIAL



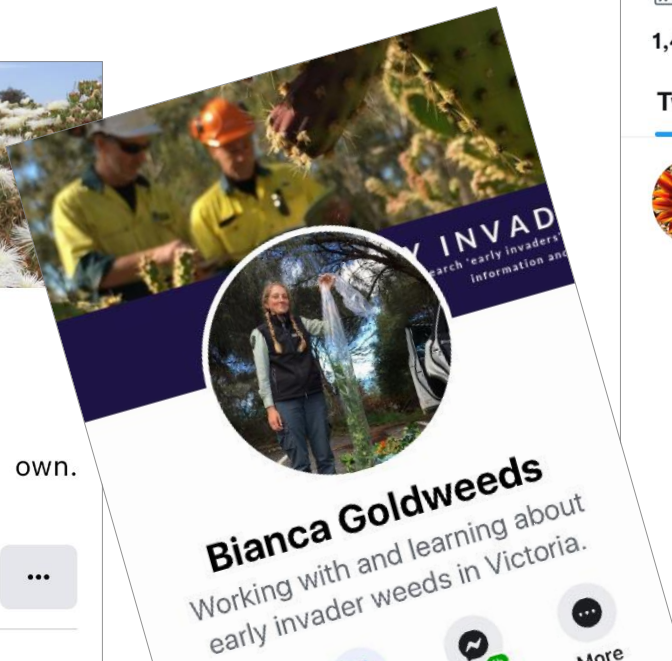
- **Facebook Group**
 - Scheduled posts
- **Individual profiles**
 - Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn



Bec Jamesweeds

Works for Victorian Govt. Views my own.
#invasiveweeds

Message



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



Edit profile

Weed Woman

@weedyk8

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

SE Australia

environment.vic.gov.au/invasive-plant...

Joined September 2013

1,480 Following 1,023 Followers

Tweets

Tweets & replies

Media

Likes

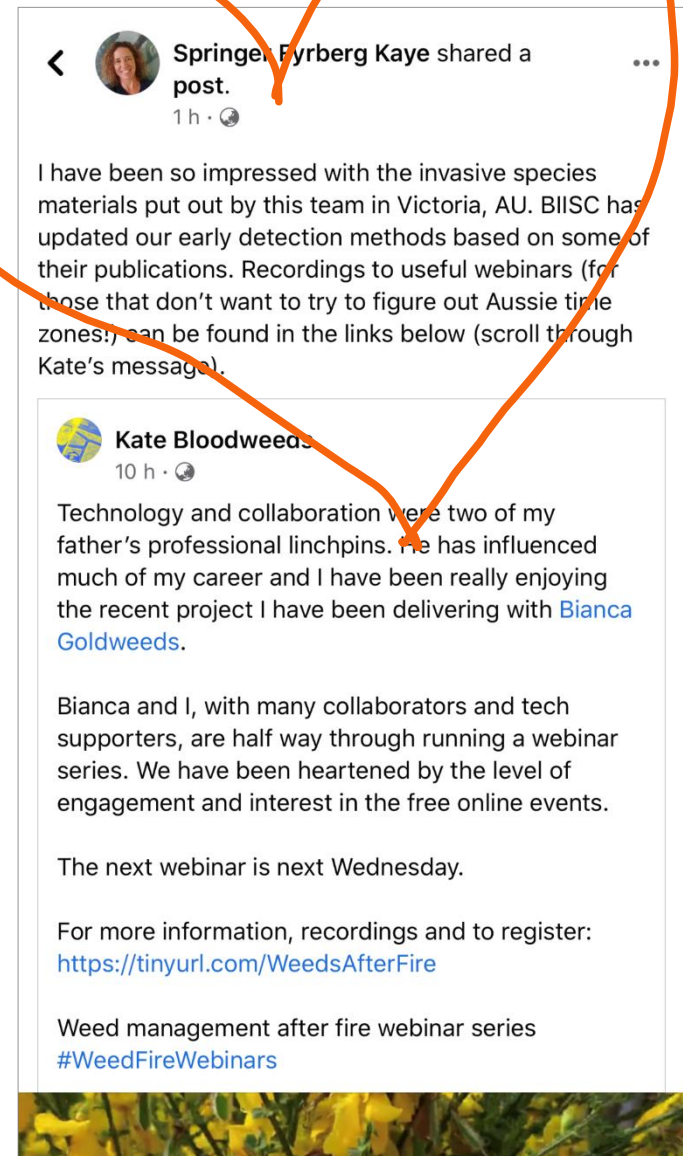


Weed Woman @weedyk8 · 6h

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

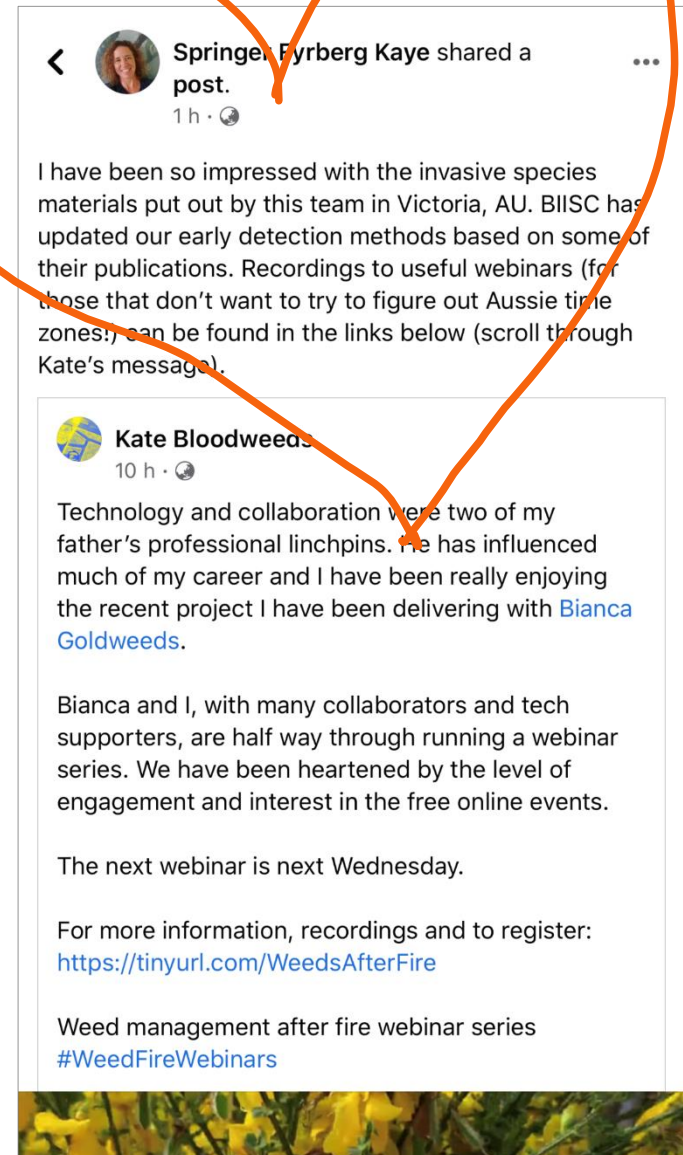


- **Facebook Group**
 - Scheduled posts
- **Individual profiles**
 - Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn
- **Useful to**
 - Promote events
 - Share information
 - Seek help



- **Facebook Group**
 - Scheduled posts
- **Individual profiles**
 - Twitter Facebook

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



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



Amazon Frogbit (*Limnobium laevigatum*)

- Free-floating aquatic
- From South America and South Eastern USA

Supporting:

- 90 cases 2020/2021
 - 50+ cases 2019/2020
- and practitioners



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

Victorian Government
funders:

- *Weeds and Pests on Public
Land Program
- *Bushfire Biodiversity Response
& Recovery



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Bianca Gold

bianca.gold@delwp.vic.gov.au

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Kate Blood

kate.blood@delwp.vic.gov.au

Social media: weedyk8



Web search: early invader weeds

Facebook Group: [earlyinvaderweeds.vic](https://www.facebook.com/earlyinvaderweeds.vic)

Weed fire webinars: <https://tinyurl.com/WeedsAfterFire>