



Boneseed Blitz Report 2016



Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera subsp. monilifera*) is quite common in the Tamar Valley and is a Weed of National Significance.

It can be found in disturbed bushland, housing development blocks and in coastal vegetation. It can invade the understorey of bushland and competes with native plants and reduces biodiversity. Dense infestations can be a significant fire hazard.



Boneseed Blitz Report 2016

Over the months of September and October 2016, Tamar NRM promoted its annual Boneseed Blitz. Boneseed is a Weed of National Significance (WoNS). In the Tamar Region, Boneseed distribution is largely concentrated along the coastal and estuarine strip and the more densely populated urban and peri-urban areas.

The largest infestations are located in Trevallyn, Riverside, Deviot, Hillwood, Swan Bay/Windermere and at Low Head. There is the potential for Boneseed to become widespread across the entire Tamar Region if left uncontrolled.



This year's blitz contained many elements which supported the objective of preventing Boneseed from establishing a major foothold in the region. In 2016 Tamar NRM:

- Continued with awareness raising activities (focus was Boneseed on private land);
- Worked with agencies and councils toward shared responsibility;
- Sourced latest Boneseed mapping and recorded reported sightings;
- Documented and reported private land infestations to compliance organisations;
- Promoted community group weed working bee days;
- Supplied weed treatment information;
- Supplied "Dabbers" for cut and paint treatment (cut stump);
- Followed up works through the Tamar NRM Works Teams;
- Helped with plant identification;
- Undertook risk assessment and safety briefings for volunteers;
- Integrated weed management approach consistent with Tamar Valley Weed Management Strategy; and
- Commenced review of the Tamar Region Boneseed Eradication Strategy.

To get the maximum effectiveness, removal or treatment of Boneseed prior to seeding was the aim. Boneseed is easy to identify when it flowers from mid-spring to early summer. Normally growing as a bushy shrub up to 2 metres in height, the seeds are shed during summer and autumn. After a fire, large numbers of Boneseed seedlings may appear as the heat can crack the hard seed coat.

The community volunteers mobilised by Tamar NRM for the annual Boneseed Blitz came from Landcare groups, family groups and "Friends of Groups" that collectively covered approximately 120 kilometres of roads in the Launceston, West Tamar and George Town municipalities cutting down Boneseed plants and poisoning the stumps to prevent regrowth and pulling out seedlings from the sides of roads, parks and reserves and the foreshore along the Tamar River.

Sunday 11th September 2016 was a dedicated "Blitz Day", where Boneseed was targeted on reserves and roadsides at Punchbowl, St. Leonards, Windermere, Meadows Ridge as well as Gravelly Beach and Rosevears Drive. These areas were chosen to align with known Boneseed sites where previous weed control work had occurred. Launceston sites were targeted in the morning, West Tamar sites in the afternoon with George Town sites visited by the Tamar NRM works team over the preceding weeks. Community groups were encouraged to organise a Boneseed Blitz within their own communities over September/November.

This year's highlights were the total removal of an infestation at Meadows Ridge Reserve and removal of the accessible plants along Rosevears Drive. Some large stands of Boneseed occur on private land, which will require public education to be undertaken for those who unknowingly have Boneseed as a garden plant, and to ensure those sites don't become a regular seed source for the surrounding landscape.

A substantial start was made on the foreshore reserve at Windermere, where residents stopped and showed interest in the community effort. With the exception of Windermere, most reserves visited were fairly clear of Boneseed, in part due to earlier and ongoing removal by the community, council staff and contractors.

Tamar NRM Works Team will be doing some follow up weed control and additional mapping to aid future "Blitz" planning for 2017.

2016 Boneseed Blitz Sites, sightings, mapping and removal

The table below indicates the areas included in this year's blitz:

Sites visited on the 11th September 2016	Treatment method	Notes
Meadows Ridge Reserve, Kings Meadows	Hand pulling and cut and swab (Cut Stump)	Removed all large and small plants. One or two plants sighted on the western end of the reserve about 40 meters east of the rivulet.
Punchbowl Reserve (above Punchbowl Road)	Hand pulling and cut and swab (Cut Stump)	Plants below the walking track removed. Some work above the track approaching private land.
Punchbowl Reserve	Hand pulling and cut and swab (Cut Stump)	Clear of Boneseed except along the school/development boundary
St. Leonard's Sites	Hand pulling and cut and swab (Cut Stump)	Observed and treated.
Abels Road, St Leonards		Reported and recorded as having Boneseed on private land.
Between Windsor Crescent and Old Vermont Road Mowbray	Hand pulling and cut and swab (Cut Stump)	Tamar NRM Works Team removed Boneseed as part of follow up.
Windermere (Estuary foreshore Woodlawn Road)	Hand pulling and cut and swab (Cut Stump)	Tamar NRM Works Team removed as part of follow up.
Windermere (Council reserve north of Los Angeles Road)	Hand pulling and cut and swab (Cut Stump)	About one quarter of the plants cut and swabbed in 2016 (volunteers). Tamar NRM Works Team removed remainder as part of follow up. Hot spot for 2017.
Rosevears (The Full length)	Hand pulling and cut and swab (Cut Stump)	A lot of private land with Boneseed that could not be accessed.
Gravelly Beach	Hand pulling and cut and swab (Cut Stump)	Minimal boneseed present, plants removed.
Stoney Rise / Stony Brook Road		Not investigated in 2016.
West Tamar Highway	Predominately mapping the Boneseed sites	Some sites too dangerous to access.
Glen Dhu Primary School Oval (Rose Lane)		Department of Education or private land.
Bradys Lookout Area (Private Land)		Some large stands of Boneseed, viewed from the Road - Not fully investigated.
Southern Outlet before the Westbury Road overpass		Not investigated. Also known to have Patterson's Curse just south of the overpass.
Greens Beach		Known to be present but not done during Set./Oct. Tamar NRM works team to investigate in November.
Pencost Road, Low Head	Hand pulling and cut and swab (Cut Stump)	Advised Friends of Group. Tamar NRM Works Team removed Boneseed as part of follow up.
In Parks and Along the Lagoon, Low Head	Hand pulling and cut and swab (Cut Stump)	Advised Friends of Group. Tamar NRM Works Team removed Boneseed as part of follow up.
Carr Villa Memorial Park	Hand pulling and cut and swab (Cut Stump)	Not fully investigated but thought to be low densities and land outside the fence to be developed as cemetery extension.
Lawrence Vale Rd./Meredith Cres	Hand pulling and cut and swab (Cut Stump)	Some on private land but some on council land. Follow up with Tamar Works team late September/early October.
Woods Reserve, Granville Street West Launceston	Predominately mapping the Boneseed sites	Not investigated.
Cataract Gorge Reserve	Hand pulling and cut and swab (Cut Stump)	Regularly managed by City of Launceston
McKellar Road		Not investigated.
Public Reserves in Hillwood	Predominately mapping the Boneseed sites	Crown Lands have been advised of an outbreak of boneseed along on Leam Road. Hillwood progress Association has mapped Boneseed and other weeds in and around Hillwood.

Tamar NRM Weeds Working Group:

Tamar NRM's Weeds Working Group comprises Tamar NRM; 3 Councils - City of Launceston, George Town and West Tamar; community and industry representatives; NRM North; DPI/PWE; DIER (Dept. State Growth) and Parks and Wildlife.

The group aims to coordinate the efforts of organisations and groups managing weed issues within the Tamar Region. As such, we are interested in furthering the conversation on areas of shared responsibility to maximise effort and minimise the use of resources for us all, with particular emphasis on cooperation across land tenures.

The Tamar Region Boneseed Eradication Strategy is currently being reviewed by Tamar NRM with support of the Tamar NRM Weeds Working Group.

Compliance and Legislation:

Administration of weed legislation is the responsibility of State and Local Government. The *Weed Management Act 1999* is the principle legislation concerned with the management of declared weeds in Tasmania. For further information on this legislation please refer to the following links:

<http://www.thelaw.tas.gov.au/index.w3p>

Under the Act it is necessary for declared weeds such as Boneseed to have a documented Weed Management Plan. The Weed Management Plan for Boneseed can be found at the following link:

<http://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds/weeds-index/weeds-index-declared-weeds/boneseed>

The low level of enforcement of WONS compliance remains a major obstacle in the fight against Boneseed. While councils and agencies do their best in resourcing of these activities, enforcement to ensure landholders and home owners meet their obligations falls short of the actual need.

Promotion

- Presentation to the School for Seniors Garden Group - 22nd April, 2016.
- Media Release - August 2016,.
- Information uploaded to Tamar NRM Website and Facebook pages.
- Radio Interviews - 30th August 2016 (Tamar FM) and 8th September 2016 (ABC Radio).
- Notice of the Blitz in the Tamar NRM newsletter "Naturally Yours" distributed in September 2016 to over 800 readers.
- Boneseed Blitz flyers and programs distributed (hard copy or via email) to all Landcare and "Friends" groups within the Tamar region, the Weeds Working Group as well as other interested parties.

Conclusion

Tamar NRM in conjunction with three councils - Launceston City, George Town and West Tamar - have a long history of positive and proactive weed activity and management characterised by community engagement, on-ground action, education and the use of best practice support tools. Local Government is at the forefront of weed management. It is clear the only way to combat weeds is through a combined strategic approach involving all land managers and the community.

The 2016 Boneseed Blitz demonstrated that this weed control program is working and worth pursuing in future years. Like the successful Ragwort Raid, mobilising the community and coordinating effort across agencies is a cost effective delivery model that gets results. While it is not possible for us to report the full extent of Boneseed removal over spring or to know the numbers of landholders and community involved, anecdotally we know that there are a large number of residents from our municipalities who clean roadsides and adjoining public lands of weeds like Boneseed. Many of these people have often started as "Boneseed Blitz" or "Ragwort Raid" participants. They have learnt the skills and then keep their lands and other areas clear on their own initiative, even when not involved in an organised event.

While eradication of Boneseed from the Tamar Valley is becoming increasingly unlikely, localised eradication from specific areas (e.g. coastal zone) is still possible. Our objective remains the prevention of Boneseed establishing a major foot hold in the region and to prevent having to deal with the consequences of impacts on bushland biodiversity, as a fire hazard and impacting on agriculture.

The Boneseed Blitz is a community partnership which builds capacity and awareness. It builds community confidence that we can manage weeds and conviction that "something can be done!".



Jim and Suzanne Talbot pulling Boneseed near Punchbowl Reserve during the "2016 Boneseed Blitz".



Jayne Shapter, Gill Basnett and Roger Tyshing after completing the Rosevears Drive section of the "Blitz".

Further information on Boneseed available from DPIPWE:

<http://dpiuwe.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds/weeds-index/weeds-index-declared-weeds/boneseed/boneseed-control-guide>

Tamar Valley Weeds Strategy:

<http://www.weeds.asn.au/>

Tamar Natural Resource Management

PO Box 396, Launceston TAS 7250.

Telephone: 03 6323-3310

web: www.tamarnrm.com.au

www.facebook.com/TamarNRM15/

