



# Boneseed Blitz Report 2018



Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera* subsp. *monilifera*) is quite common in the Tamar Valley and is a Weed of National Significance. This stand in the sand dunes is being worked on by the Low Head Landcare Group and now much reduced.

# Boneseed Blitz Report 2018

Over the months of September and October 2018, Tamar NRM and its partners staged the annual Boneseed Blitz.

This event organised by Tamar NRM, is in its thirteenth year and was supported by the Launceston City Council, West Tamar Council, Georgetown Council, Department of Primary Industry, Water and Environment, Parks and Wildlife Service, State Growth and various community and Landcare groups.

This year's Blitz contained many elements which supported the objective of preventing Boneseed from establishing a major foothold in the region. Actions included:

- Continued with awareness raising activities (focus was Boneseed on private land);
- Worked with agencies and councils toward shared responsibility;
- Obtained the necessary agency approvals to access lands and transport Boneseed;
- Sourced latest Boneseed mapping and recorded reported sightings;
- Revisited 2017 treatment sites;
- Documented and reported private land infestations to compliance organisations;
- Promoted community group weed working bee days;
- Supplied "Dabbers" for cut and paint treatment (cut stump);
- Helped with plant identification and weed treatment information;;
- Undertook risk assessment and safety briefings for volunteers; and
- Took an integrated weed management approach consistent with Tamar Valley Weed Management Strategy.



## About Boneseed:

Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera* subsp. *monilifera*) is an invasive woody weed originating from South Africa and is a Weed of National Significance. It invades natural areas and out-competes native plants. Boneseed's threat to bushland and conservation areas lies in its vigorous, competitive growth and the ability to regenerate prolifically after fire, allowing boneseed to dominate and smother native plants. Once a few bushes have established themselves in an area, any new soil disturbance or fire will trigger off the mass germination of soil stored seed and lead to the dramatic suppression of the native vegetation. Dense stands have significantly affected the available food sources and habitat for native birds and other animals while favouring introduced ones such as blackbirds and sparrows.

It can be found in disturbed bushland, housing development blocks and in coastal vegetation. Some people even plant Boneseed in their gardens, often mistaking it for a daisy.

For maximum effectiveness, removal or treatment of Boneseed prior to seeding is the aim. Boneseed is easy to identify when it flowers, 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.

## 2018 Boneseed Distribution:

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. There is the potential for Boneseed to become widespread across the entire Tamar Region if left uncontrolled. Boneseed is common within the Tamar Valley but remains manageable.

This year, Boneseed has been reported flowering in patches around the Tamar including Windermere, Exeter, Rosevears, St. Leonards with larger outbreaks around Hillwood, Low Head, Mount George, Greens Beach, Beaconsfield, Trevallyn and Riverside. Highways, roads and some reserves are also affected.



## 2018 Community Support:

The community volunteers mobilised by Tamar NRM for the annual Boneseed Blitz came from Landcare groups, family groups and "Friends of Groups" that collectively removed Boneseed from Council and Crown land and roadsides 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.

This year we held a dedicated "Blitz Day" for 2 hours in each of the three Tamar municipalities on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September attracting around 10 people. Other community working bees were held, and we estimate about 40 volunteers freely gave of their time, tackling Boneseed over August-September. Beechford, Hillwood, Launceston area, Beaconsfield, Exeter, Punchbowl and Low Head communities are the ones we know about and there are likely other areas and groups where weed control works have occurred.

Around 12 Low Head volunteers turned up to their regular working bee on Sunday 22nd September and made it a Lagoon Beach Boneseed Blitz. A similar story occurred at Beechford, where on the 25th August the community pulled most of the Boneseed infestation beside the bridge on the Esplanade.

To all who participated in this year's Blitz, well done and thank you.



**Above:** Weeds volunteer Nancy Donnelly at Egg Island Point Hillwood (left) and Low Head volunteers at work at Lagoon Beach

**Below:** Victoria Wilkinson works with Exeter residents on the "Blitz" (left) and it pays to advertise! Thanks to Hillwood Residents and Ratepayers Assn.



**Table 1:** 2018 Boneseed Blitz Sites, sightings, mapping and removal

Sites Visited 2018	Treatment Method	Notes
Brooklyn Street Beaconsfield	Hand pulling and cut and swab (Cut Stump)	Crown land west of Brooklyn Street Beaconsfield Infestation of Blackberry and Boneseed in swale reported to Crown Land Services.
Swan Bay Reserve	Inspect and document regrowth	1.3 km Roadside reserve weeded by Tamar Works Team in 2017
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
Esplanade and Davis Street, Beechford	Hand pulling and cut and swab (Cut Stump)	7 sites dealt with by Beechford Group (ongoing activity agreement with PWS/CLS)
Cataract Gorge Reserve	Hand pulling and cut and swab (Cut Stump)	Regularly managed by City of Launceston
Stony Brook Rd, Gravelly Beach	Inspect and document extent	
Low Head - Southern end of Lagoon Beach off Old Coast Road	Hand pulling and cut and swab (Cut Stump)	Significant patch of Boneseed on Crown Land Reserve 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept by Friends of Low Head (Low Head Landcare). Low Head Landcare and local resident to undertake follow up works.
Low Head - North of William Parish Drive	Hand pulling and cut and swab (Cut Stump)	22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept by Friends of Low Head (Low Head Landcare)
Beechford - Esplanade and Davis Street,	Hand pulling and cut and swab (Cut Stump)	25 <sup>th</sup> Sept by Beechford Group
Egg Island Point along Craighburn Road	Hand pulling and cut and swab (Cut Stump)	Public Reserve area cleared of Boneseed with Hillwood Progress Association.
Foreshore from Hillwood Jetty Road to Leam Road turn	Inspect and document extent	Undertaken by Hillwood Progress Assn and HARRA
Southern Outlet Launceston. End of Peel Street West	Hand pulling and cut and swab (Cut Stump)	Weeding undertaken 20 <sup>th</sup> Sept by volunteers. State Growth commitment to deal with steep bank roadside infestations.
Rosevears - Near Bradys Lookout	Inspect and document extent	Private landholders

*\* Note: Organisers acknowledge and appreciate the contribution of community groups and landholders who control Boneseed on an ongoing basis that we are unaware of and have therefore not included in the table above.*

### **Boneseed is a priority weed!**

The Tamar Region Boneseed Eradication Strategy is being reviewed by Tamar NRM with support of the Tamar NRM Weeds Working Group. Our weeds working group has listed Boneseed as one of our priority weeds which gets reported on when the multi-sector group meets. A website upgrade is planned to reflect the current status and distribution more accurately.

### **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 Weeds of National Significance 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 to meet their obligations falls short of the actual need.



## Promotion

- Media Release - 7<sup>th</sup> August 2018.
- Information uploaded to Tamar NRM Website and Facebook pages August 2018.
- Notice of the Blitz in the Tamar NRM newsletter "Naturally Yours" distributed in August 2018 to over 1,000 recipients.
- Posting on "FarmPoint" DPIPWE website.
- Boneseed Blitz flyers and programs distributed 17<sup>th</sup> August (hard copy or via email) to all Landcare and "Friends" groups within the Tamar region, the Weeds Working Group, West Tamar, City of Launceston and George Town Council elected members, as well as other interested parties.
- Promotion at Beaconsfield Market Day Event

## Conclusion

Tamar NRM, in conjunction with the three Tamar councils have a long history of proactive weed management characterised by community engagement, on-ground action, education and the use of best practice support tools. Local Government needs to remain 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.

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 avoid having to deal with the consequences of impacts on bushland biodiversity, as a fire hazard and impacting on agriculture.

This year the Department of Primary Industry, Water and Environment, Parks and Wildlife Service and State Growth provided additional support, advice and mapping to assist the Blitz.

The end of the Green Army program in July this year has meant follow up work has fallen back to the land managers and to community groups, where they have had to undertake the work with minimal assistance.

The 2018 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 members 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.



### **Further information on Boneseed available from DPIPWE:**

<http://dpiipwe.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 NRM

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