



Boneseed Blitz Report 2022



Volunteers from the Hillwood Progress Association and Hillwood Fire Brigade at the Hillwood Boneseed Blitz on 24 September 2022

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



Summary

From 24 September to 2 October 2022, Tamar NRM and its partners coordinated the annual Boneseed Blitz.

This Tamar NRM organised event is in its seventeenth year and was supported by the Launceston City Council, West Tamar Council, George Town Council, Parks and Wildlife Service, State Growth, West Tamar Landcare Group, George Town Coastal Management Group, Low Head Progress and Heritage Association, Hillwood Progress Association, Hillwood Fire Brigade and various individuals and community groups.



A feature of this year's Blitz was that in addition to the increased number of events supported directly by Tamar NRM (6), there were an increased number of hours devoted by individuals to controlling boneseed in key locations thus ensuring that the impact of the Blitz activity was much greater.

The 2022 Boneseed Blitz contained many elements which supported the objective of reducing the impact of this weed in the region. These included:

- Continuation of awareness raising activities;
- Worked with agencies and councils toward shared responsibility;
- Obtaining the necessary agency approvals to access lands;
- Recording reported sightings;
- Revisiting 2021 treatment sites;
- Promotion of a period of focus for boneseed treatment as the Boneseed Blitz week;
- Documentation and reporting of private land infestations to compliance organisations;
- Promotion of community group weed working bee days;
- Supply of "dabbers" for cut and paint treatment (cut stump) as well as other safety equipment and tools;
- Help with plant identification and weed treatment information;
- Completion of risk assessment and safety briefings for volunteers; and
- Taking an integrated weed management approach consistent with Tamar Valley Weed Management Strategic Plan 2021-2026.

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.

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 bush. The seed is also spread by birds resulting in new plants in residential gardens as well as nearby bushland.



Boneseed is more difficult to identify when it is not flowering

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. The aim of the Boneseed Blitz is removal or treatment of boneseed prior to seeding thus reducing the density and extent of this environmental weed.

2022 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 (see Figure 1). There is the potential for boneseed to become widespread across the entire Tamar Region if left uncontrolled. Boneseed has become more common within the Tamar Valley but remains manageable with greatly increased effort. It also appears that the incidence of boneseed on private land is significantly increasing.

This year, boneseed has been reported flowering in patches around the Tamar including Exeter, Gravelly Beach, Legana, Trevallyn, Beaconsfield, Beechford, Lulworth, Weymouth, Bellingham, West Launceston, Launceston, St. Leonards and Punchbowl with larger outbreaks around Swan Bay, Hillwood, Low Head and Riverside. Highways, roads and some reserves are also affected.

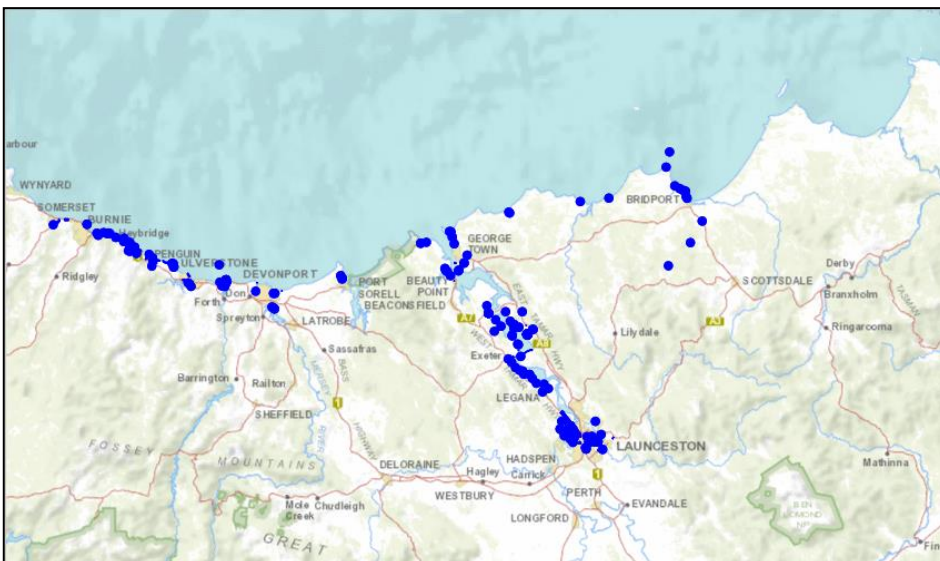


Figure 1: Recorded boneseed distribution in the Tamar Valley and Surrounds (Map generated using data from www.naturalvaluesatlas.tas.gov.au and www.thelist.tas.gov.au as at 7 July 2020)

2021 Community Support:

Community groups, schools, businesses and individuals were all encouraged through social media, the Tamar NRM website, email networks and direct contact to help control boneseed. This year Tamar NRM promoted nine days of the Boneseed Blitz from 24 September to 2 October providing the opportunity for groups to run events to fit in with other work or activities.

Advertising on Facebook, notices at local venues and a letterbox drop of nearby residences, all assisted with the success of the events where large boneseed plants as well as seedlings and mature flowering plants were removed.

Tamar NRM ran six successful events with volunteers and local residents and support of the City of Launceston, West Tamar Council and the George Town Council at Hillwood (24 September with 14 volunteers), George Town Kanamaluka Walking Trail (24 September with 6 volunteers), Swan Bay Foreshore Reserve (25 September with 4 volunteers), Supply River mouth Tamar River foreshore (2 October involving 12 volunteers), Lulworth (1 October with 7 volunteers) and Weymouth (2 October with 2 volunteers). The last two events were coordinated by Jason Orr, George Town Coastal Management Committee in association with the progress association of each location.

In addition, two volunteers removed a large number of mature plants along Deviot Rd and the adjacent foreshore. This area was also targeted by a local resident who complemented the effort undertaken along the foreshore. The Low Head area was again the target of one local resident who both mapped and treated boneseed in public reserves and, in association with the owners, treated numerous flowering plants in private residences in the Low Head area.

All Tamar NRM events ensured that the area controlled in 2020 and 2021 was followed up and extended. At Swan Bay resources available and required this year were significantly less than previously for the repeat areas showing the value of annual repeat events. At that site, dense boneseed infestation was controlled on the remaining 100m of the reserve that had not previously been treated. The 1200m that had been treated in both 2020 and 2021 were redone with significantly less effort to remove boneseed seedlings and a small amount of regrowth.

The Hillwood Progress Association assisted with hand-pulling and cut and paint of mature boneseed along the riparian area along Egg Island Creek in a George Town Council leased block. Awareness of this weed in that area was increased as a result. With the Hillwood Fire Brigade also involved, the increased numbers allowed removal of mature boneseed plants from the roadside along Hillwood Jetty Rd and part of Leam Rd. However, the crown land along the foreshore and private land elsewhere in the Hillwood area remain a significant area for boneseed infestation. A targeted awareness campaign and control effort is required to reduce the problem in the future.

In addition to helping with the George Town Boneseed Blitz, members of the Low Head Progress and Heritage Association controlled boneseed at the rear of Lagoon Beach and around the Low Head peninsula shoreline. This was largely due to the efforts of one local resident. During the Blitz event only a handful of plants were found along the Kanamaluka Walking Trail showing the benefit of the 2021 event. The area surveyed and controlled for boneseed was significantly expanded to include the entire George Town Council block between the Trail and Anne St.

At the Supply River mouth approximately 750m of the foreshore of the Tamar River that was cleared of boneseed by members of the West Tamar Landcare Group and other locals last year was surveyed and retreated, with a much-reduced number of plants removed. The number of volunteers present enabled a further 750m section of the foreshore to be treated. Old, large plants with trunks up to 20cm in diameter were removed by accredited operators with small chain saws. This method is recommended for areas with large plants in the future as it is much quicker and reduces the volunteer effort required.

Blitz events were also undertaken through the George Town Coastal Management Group in partnership with the local progress associations at Lulworth and Weymouth. These events followed up previous control work in those communities with reduced number of plants observed and treated.

At Beaconsfield, a dense germination of seedlings in 2021 over 2 hectares of roadside bush that was only partially able to be controlled by volunteers in that year, was unable to be controlled in 2022 due to lack of volunteer resources. This area requires a control program through Crown Land Services.

During the 2022 Boneseed Blitz, Tamar NRM also targeted awareness raising of boneseed in private gardens. A generic awareness letter and boneseed brochure was placed in the letterbox of approximately 29 private residences where boneseed was observed. This letter informed the landholders of the status of boneseed, the community activity during the Boneseed Blitz and provided details of actions they could take to remove boneseed from their property. This list was provided to the three Councils for follow up. It was pleasing to see that the boneseed was no longer present from a number of residences that received such a letter in 2021.

Reports from around the Tamar were that a substantial amount of work treating boneseed was also completed by individuals – at Low Head, Deviot, Riverside and West Launceston. The efforts of those involved, particularly Will Watts, David Armstrong and David Butler are to be commended. It is likely that other individuals and groups have also been active removing boneseed.

In total it is estimated that over 162 hours of volunteer effort was undertaken during the Boneseed Blitz Week 2022. This is a reduction of 40 hours from 2021 but remains a substantial commitment. Follow up and consolidation of the impact of boneseed control was achieved at the Blitz locations with less resources. A breakdown of the hours involved in 2022 is in Table 1.

Tamar NRM Supported Events	
Hillwood	19.5
Swan Bay	15
Supply River	27.5
George Town	12.5
Lulworth	7
Weymouth	4
	85.5 hrs
Boneseed Blitz Coordinator	54 hrs
Other BB events	
Woods Reserve	2
Deviot Rd	9
Deviot	2
George Town	10
	23 hrs
Total	162.5 hrs

Table 1: Estimated Volunteer Hours during Boneseed Blitz 2022



Above: Volunteers at Supply River Mouth during control and safety briefing.

Table 2: Summary - 2022 Boneseed Blitz sites, sightings, mapping and removal

Sites visited	2022 Notes (Kay Bailey)
West Tamar	
Brooklyn St Beaconsfield	5 Sept inspected. Numerous seedlings and small mature plants. 3 large flowering plants at southern end in the middle of blackberries. 19 plants hand pulled. 100s remain. Reported to Crown Land Services.
Beaconsfield – Holy Trinity Church, 175 Weld St	5 Sept inspected. Nil found
Greens Beach	No Known action
Stony Brook Rd, Gravelly Beach	5 Sept 22. Drive by inspection. Nil found.
Supply River outlet to Tamar Estuary	5 Sept 22 inspected. Nil plants in immediate area. Seedlings would not have been seen. Large plants north of Nindethana area Deviot. WTLG blitz event on 2 Oct 22. 2 Oct 22. Seedlings and a couple of larger plants removed from the 730m of the foreshore north of Supply River that was treated in 2021 plus another 750m to jetty at Marion's Vineyard. Also cleared a 400m strip southwards from opposite 637 Deviot Rd. 12 volunteers x 2 hours. Excellent effort and result.
Deviot Rd, Gravelly Beach	5 Sept 22 inspected. Occ plant in private properties with letter in boxes (see Private Properties Report). Some plants along road verge and foreshore (particularly north of Deviot boat ramp). To be treated on Tues 27 Sept by Kay Bailey and David Armstrong. 27 Sept 22. KVB and DA spent 3.5 hours hand pulling and cut n paint seedlings and mature boneseed along the road reserve and on the foreshore in amongst native veg and blackberries. Foreshore for approx. 200m north of jetty at Marion's Vineyard cleared.
Cnr Deviot Rd & Batman Hwy	5 Sept 22 inspected. Nil found. Roadworks have cleared site.
Rosevears drive	5 Sept 2022. Large flowering plants on a number of private properties. Listed in private properties report. Letters placed for some. Roadside plants at one site south of Rosevears Hotel.
Danbury Drive off West Tamar Hwy	5 Sept 22 inspected. Single plant near Danbury Drive Sth.
Rosevears – from Brady's Lookout to Exeter	27 Sept 22 inspected. Roadside has only a few flowering boneseed – much fewer than last year. Reported to State Growth. Private land to east of roadside still has numerous flowering plants amongst the blackberries.
Legana – Freshwater Point Rd – Beach Rd / Cnr with Jetty Rd	5 Sept inspected. 1 plant in private prop on Beach Rd. See private properties report. Nil plants elsewhere.
Riverside – Ecclestone Rd	Reserve inspected by FoR members as part of monthly busy bee. Nil elsewhere. FOR member reported removing seedlings from Orana Place.
Riverside – Pitt Ave	Mature boneseed removed from units by gardener once pointed out to them. Letter in box of private residence. See private properties report. 2 Sept 22 TasNetworks powerline inspected. Numerous mid-sized plants present. Extensive plants all the way up the hill and under the powerlines on the western side of the Lions Park. 9 seedlings along roadside removed. Planned survey and treatment in next couple of weeks. Christian Church block boneseed.
Riverside – Pomona Rd	Seedlings removed from Pomona Rd North property. Nil remaining. Rankine Rd – letterbox

North, Rankine Rd & Atkinson St – private gardens	drop. 3 Mature plants remain in Atkinson St garden – letterbox drop.
Riverside – Rowsphon Rd (steepest section – private blocks & under power line)	Flowering boneseed under TasNetworks line.
Riverside – Walking track between TailRace and Tamar Marine	1 Sept inspected. 3 mature plants found. Attempt to cut out but too big.
Trevallyn – Cherry Rd (east of junction with Joseph St)	6 Sept 22. Numerous flowering boneseed on southern side in bush block. Rec contact Council to send letter for owner to manage as no letterbox. Block completely covered with boneseed, gorse and blackberry. Opposite (northern) side of Cherry Rd also has numerous boneseed.
Launceston	
Cataract Gorge Reserve	24 Sept 22 inspected. Large number of flowering plants all over Gorge (ZigZag Track side) and near the Kings Bridge end. Greater number of plants than previously seen.
Kings Bridge – South eastern side - gardens	1 Sept 22 inspected. Numerous mature plants. On roadside reserve and Penny Royal Works and GunPowder Mill car park.
Basin View Drive, West Launceston	21 Sept. Numerous large mature boneseed plants observed on bush block to south of road. No letterbox
West Launceston – private garden	21 Sept 22. Observed in gardens. On Legges Cres. Listed in private properties report.
West Launceston – 9 Denison Rd	21 Sept 22. Several plants on vacant block. No letterbox.
198 Hobart Rd, Kings Meadows	No known action
Meadow Ridge Reserve	No known action
Kings Meadows Rivulet Path (between Woolsworths carpark & Punchbowl Reserve	No known action
Between Windsor Cres and Old Vermont Rd Mowbray	No known action
Punchbowl Reserve (above Punchbowl Road)	No known action
Punchbowl Reserve (Punchbowl School property on eastern side)	No known action
Waverley Gorge, St Leonards	28 Sept 2022. Numerous mature, flowering boneseed plants.
Cnr St Leonards Rd and Tasman Hwy	28 Sept 2022. Numerous mature, flowering boneseed plants on roadside to west of St Leonards Rd.
Southern Outlet	Some flowering plants observed. Discussed with State Growth Priority Weed Contractor. Will be treated.
End of Peel St West	21 Sept 22. Flowering plants in development blocks at eastern end of Peel St West. Listed in private properties report
Blackstone	21 Sept 22 inspected. Fewer plants along road reserve. Flowering plants in 5-6 private gardens on Blackstone Rd and Lakeview Crt – see Private Properties report. Letters placed.
Prospect – Prospect Government offices	21 Sept 22. That plant has gone but others present including enormous flowering plants on Westbury Rd (western side) near junction with Normanstone Rd.
Woods Reserve	Volunteer (David Armstrong) pulled all boneseed in Reserve.
Along the North Esk	-
Swan Bay Reserve, Windemere Rd	5 Sept 2022 inspected. Limited regrowth and seedlings. Blitz planned for 25 Sept 22. 25 Sept 22 Boneseed Blitz event – 4 volunteers spent 2.5 hrs and re-treated entire 1.13 km stretch of the foreshore reserve including 100m section not previously treated. Much fewer seedlings and virtually no regrowth. Very pleasing to see.
65 Punchbowl Rd	No known action
George Town	
Low Head – Southern end of Lagoon Beach off Old Coast Road	5 Sept 22 inspected. Nil plants observed on first dune. 3 plants next to boardwalk that could be done during blitz. Boneseed, boxthorn and polygala on private land (? 6 Dune Place – no letterbox) between boardwalk and beach. 24 Sept 22 – 2 volunteers cleared mature plants from native bush along boardwalk off Sandy Ct.

	24 Sept 22 – 2 volunteers cleared 3 huge 3 m flowering plants from backyard of vacant property 17 McKenzie St.
Low Head – north of William Parish Drive	5 Sept 22 inspected Nil found.
Cnr Leads Ave and Low Head Rd	24 Sept 22. 5 volunteers removed seedlings and juveniles from vacant land at 4 Leads Ave and from rear of 178 Low Head Rd (with owners approval)
Opposite 126 Anne St – vacant land and native bush along the walking / bike path adjacent the foreshore on western side	5 Sept 22 inspected. 4 plants found. 1 seedling hand pulled. Blitz event on 24 Sept 22. 24 Sept 22. 4 of the 6 volunteers at the Blitz event re-treated this entire section of the Kanamaluka Walking Track with fewer than 10 plants found (majority seedlings). Also more thoroughly surveyed and treated approx. 150 plants (2m mature plants as well as numerous seedlings) from Council block between the walking track and Anne St.
George Town – Pipe Clay Bay / Stone Quarry Bay	24 Sept 22. Inspected. Numerous mature, flowering plants along high tide line and foreshore from Stone Quarry Bay, around Pipe Clay Bay, past Saltpan Point to Port Dalrymple. Major event needed to remove.
George Town – Victoria St (bush to west of South GT Primary School)	24 Sept 22. Extensive mature plants throughout the large block that is scheduled for development. Also on Dept of Education land.
Esplanade & Davis St, Beechford	No known action
Weymouth - either side of Havelock St car park – along River – Top St	2 Oct – During Blitz event 2 volunteers removed boneseed from along river and along Top St. A few plants in private residences.
Bellingham, Tam O'Shanter	No known action
Lulworth	2 Oct 2022 – Blitz event. 5 adults and 2 children removed seedlings and flowering plants from township and in bush reserve
Egg Island Point	5 Sept 2022 inspected. Nil plants observed in the reserve on the point. Numerous plants in flower on Egg Island. Report to PWS.
Hillwood – Hillwood Jetty Rd	5 Sept 2022 inspected. Same as 2021. No action. No letterbox
Hillwood – Hillwood Rd between West Tamar Hwy and Leam Rd TO	5 Sept 2022 inspected. Infestation in bush has expanded. Letter in letterbox of 49 Hillwood Rd for large number of plants on right.
Hillwood – north along Craighburn Rd	24 Sept 2022. Numerous large plants between road and river. Some are in areas suitable for volunteers to treat – target for 2023 Blitz event.
Hillwood – block with creek on corner of Craighburn Rd and Hillwood Jetty Rd.	5 Sept 22 inspected. Only a few plants along Egg Island Creek observed. 24 Sept 22. 14 volunteers redid the corner block and Egg Island Creek and removed a few seedlings and mature plants in block. Large mature plants removed using chain saw and accredited operator along southern shore of Egg Island Creek. Plants along roadside near Memorial Hall removed. Other plants on steep slope or in centre of blackberry remain on the Crown Land.
Hillwood – Hillwood Jetty Rd – Creek several hundred metres east of cnr with Leam Rd	No known action
Hillwood - Foreshore from Hillwood Jetty Rd to Leam Rd turn and also along Leam Rd	5 Sept 22 inspected. Numerous flowering plants on foreshore and on block to south of Leam Rd (no letterbox) Letters placed in letterboxes of private properties (see separate report).
Headland between Curries Rivulet and Beechford	No Known action

** Note: Tamar NRM acknowledges and appreciates 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 NRM Weeds Working Group continues to list boneseed as one of its priority weeds with the Boneseed Blitz as one of Tamar NRM's signature events. The distribution and treatment of boneseed is discussed whenever the multi-sector Working Group meets. This assists with reviewing community action, updating the Tamar Region Boneseed Eradication Strategy 2012 and informing compliance bodies.

Boneseed is one of the nine priority weeds listed in the Tamar Valley Weed Strategic Plan 2021 to 2026. The Boneseed Action Plan within the Strategic Plan identifies holding the annual Boneseed Blitz as a significant community event to be continued.

Compliance and Legislation

Administration of weed legislation is the responsibility of State and Local Government. The *Weed Management Act 1999* is the principal 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>.

Boneseed is a Zone A declared weed in all three Tamar council areas under the Boneseed Statutory Weed Management Plan with “isolated occurrences” in the George Town municipality and “localised infestations” in Launceston and West Tamar. The management prescription required under that Plan is to “implement integrated control plan for eradication and prevent future occurrences”.

Conclusion

The 2022 Boneseed Blitz demonstrated that this weed control program continues to achieve significant outcomes for managing this weed in the Tamar area and is 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. Forty eight people attended organised "blitz" events this year (compared to 68 in 2021 and 24 in 2020) and our thanks go out to all of them. In addition, individual volunteers also spent significant time removing boneseed from public areas. While it is not possible for us to report the total number of people removing boneseed, anecdotally we know there is a large number of landholders from our municipalities involved. They quietly deal with their own weed issues like boneseed, not only on their own properties, but also help others to do the same.

The inspections that were undertaken in the prelude to the Boneseed Blitz showed that some boneseed sites previously weeded remain relatively free of the weed. However, nature does not operate consistently and the Crown land west of Brooklyn Street Beaconsfield, featuring a threatened vegetation community which was weeded in 2017 and again in 2020 with relatively low regrowth of boneseed seedlings had a bumper crop of seedlings in 2021. Thousands were removed from this area in that year but due to resource constraints were not followed up in 2022. This should be a priority for 2022 for the landowners.

For those areas where continued repeat activity has led to reduction in boneseed plants, even low numbers will lead to reinfestation so constant follow up is vital after the initial Blitz, and this is where community groups play a key role. All 6 Blitz sites showed the results of continued annual follow up.

The key areas with relatively high remaining boneseed density are southern and western Launceston, south George Town, Rosevears and Beaconsfield.

A 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 homeowners to meet their obligations is required.

Each year an updated Table 2 (above) is provided to agencies for follow up. Placing a generic letter in the letter boxes of these residences offers some hope of compliance.

While eradication of Boneseed from the Tamar Valley is not considered feasible, localised eradication from specific areas (e.g. some coastal zones and inland reserves) is still possible. "Follow up, follow up, follow up" is the only means to achieve this. Our objectives remain the prevention of boneseed establishing a major foot hold in the region; localised eradication; and to avoid having to deal with the consequences of impacts on bushland biodiversity, as a fire hazard and affecting agriculture.

Community engagement, on-ground action, and public education remain a potent model for Tamar NRM, in conjunction with the three Tamar councils to pursue in being proactive with weed management. Local Government needs to remain at the forefront of weed management, as it is clear the only way to combat weeds is through a combined strategic approach involving all land managers and the community.

Further information on Boneseed available from NRE:

<http://nre.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
Telephone: 03 6323-3310
web: www.tamarnrm.com.au



Appendix 1: Suggestions for the 2023 Boneseed Blitz

- The 2022 approach of a Boneseed Blitz Week be continued.
- Working with all the community and Landcare groups in the Region results in significant resources implementing the Blitz aim.
- The 2023 Boneseed Blitz be held in mid to late September again – whilst it is difficult to predict future peak flowering (and therefore ease of detection), this would enable maximum awareness and the possibility of follow up activity before maturation of the seeds.
- Inspection of previously reported sites occur in early September allowing for direct contact with relevant landowners and community groups prior to the Boneseed Blitz.
- Encourage follow up of all sites treated in 2022 as value adding to time invested to date.
- Advertise and promote Tamar NRM supported Boneseed Blitz activities (in conjunction with each council and relevant community group) at Launceston (Swan Bay), George Town (Hillwood and George Town walking track to Low Head) and West Tamar Council (primary focus private landholders – activities such as letterbox drop).
- Consideration be given to a community-led boneseed blitz activity at Beaconsfield in conjunction with Crown Land Services.
- Ongoing discussion with Department of State Growth re boneseed in roadside reserve along Southern outlet and West Tamar Hwy between Brady's Lookout and Exeter as these are prime sites for public view and give the wrong message when not addressed. At the same time, the private landholders neighbouring these areas should also be contacted and encouraged to remove this weed on their land.