

Media Alert

Thursday 19 January 2012



Tamar NRM

Weeds - Are They Sexy?

A northern based community group wants to make taking action against weeds 'sexy'.

For ten years, Tamar Natural Resource Management (Tamar NRM) has united to fight weeds with Tamar Region volunteer fire brigades and local community members.

"To take positive action against weeds, we need to make them 'sexy,'" declared Mr Ian Sauer, President, Tamar NRM.

"Unfortunately most people are simply annoyed with weeds and ignore them. We want them to be aware and care about our environment. In the long term, this sort of apathy can cost millions of dollars to eradicate them".

Annual working bees to remove the weed, Ragwort, will be held this year. For the East Tamar the Ragwort Raid is organised for Saturday 28th January - all volunteers can meet at the Pipers River Fire Station at 9.00am. The West Tamar Raid is planned for 9.00am on Sunday 29th January and volunteers can meet at Winkleigh Hall.

Tamar NRM has facilitated these Raids which are supported by about 50 members of the local volunteer fire brigades and landcare volunteers in both the East and West Tamar districts.

Ragwort Raid co-ordinator, Jayne Shapter advised, "Pulling out the weeds while they are flowering has been shown to significantly reduce regrowth."

"There are wider benefits in removing Ragwort - the education and understanding within the community that these apparently pretty flowering plants are weeds, not natives and are also toxic to livestock", Mrs Shapter said

"By pulling out this weed along roadsides, the hope is landholders will also be encouraged to remove Ragwort from their properties. We want each landholder to feel their contribution can assist with our campaign against weeds".

"In 2011 our volunteers cleared roadsides of 1,162 kms of Ragwort during the two Raids. The aim is to match or better the target this year".

"Since 2007 our Ragwort Raids have been funded by BHP Billiton TEMCO. We appreciate their continued support", said Mr Sauer.

Volunteers wishing to participate can call Mrs Shapter on 6394-4376 or turn up at the Pipers River Fire Station or the Winkleigh Hall.

Ends

For more information contact:

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