WINTER NEWS

The Cherryville Fruit Loop

To help you all remember what life in the catchment was like before winter set in, have a read of The Cherryville Fruit Loop write up and view the photos on the website. This successful "cluster walk" was held in April this year and the next walk is planned for the Montacute district in spring.

Stay tuned for the next walk!

Tree Poppers

The Group have purchased 2 new tree poppers available for 6th Creek landholders to use in their battles with woody weeds. What is a tree popper you might ask?

"Designed in direct response to the need for eradicating invasive woody weeds, the Tree Popper is a robust, uncomplicated tool which can be used by one person. A simple concept of leverage has been used to ensure the complete removal of unwanted vegetation providing a permanent solution to a long-standing problem.
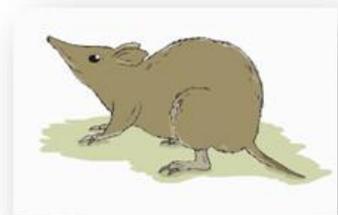
*Manufactured from mild steel, the Tree Popper comprises a lever/handle with a rubber grip and a foot piece firmly held together by a circlip. These two basic parts form a plier-like jaw which is used to grip the plant stem. Pushing down on the handle exerts leverage pressure on the tree and pops it out of the ground." (*taken from the Tree Popper website*)*

The medium sized poppers purchased by 6CCG tackle weeds with a stem diameter up to 40mm and weigh about 5kg. If you'd like to try one out, they can be borrowed **FREE** of charge from the Adelaide Hills Natural Resource Centre (NRC) at Norton Summit.

Contact (08) 8390 1891 or drop in to the NRC to be the first lucky landholder!

Become Andy's friend on Facebook!

The Group now have a Facebook page and you can become a friend of Andy Bandicoot to keep up with news and events from the catchment and the wider Hills community! If you're on Facebook, check out the Group's page here and become a friend!

Weed Swabbers

Are you planning on cutting and swabbing some of your woody weeds over winter (perhaps when the sun comes out)? The NRM Board have weed dabber bottles available **FREE** for landholders to use. Drop in to the NRC and watch your weeds quiver!

Wildlife Camera

With the purchase of a digital wildlife camera, the Group is about to start monitoring fox and wildlife movement at selected bait stations or trapping sites. The state-of-the-art passive infrared motion detector camera will provide us with more information on the behaviour of foxes and how we can best reduce their impacts on native fauna and agriculture. Stand by for happy snaps!

Jobs for Winter

- Winter is a great time for **weeding**! You can cut & swab woody weeds with a suitable herbicide (eg. Erica, Broom, Olive). Hand pulling is another option, but consider saving your back and try out a tree popper available for hire from the Natural Resource Centre.

- Thickets of **Blackberry can be slashed/mowed** over winter but be prepared for regrowth to appear in spring. You can then follow up with a spray of the regrowth or continued slashing.

- Remember it is important to **take before and after photos** of work you have done to improve your property. The effects of weed control work over summer will show up now, or perhaps you have fenced stock away from bushland or creek areas and regeneration is occurring?

- If you're planning on **revegetating land or waterways** in the winter months, now is the time to prepare your sites through slashing or spraying the surrounding grasses to reduce competition for the native plants. Wondering what to plant? Take a look at our Revegetation Species List to help you choose the right plants or look for similar sites nearby for species reference.

- Trees for Life **seedling orders** must be in by 31st July - phone 8406 0500 for further information.

- Get to know your **winter flowering native plants** such as *Acacia pycnantha* (Golden Wattle) and *Epacris impressa* (Native heath - pictured).