

6th Creek Catchment Group Newsletter

February 2004

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(coming soon!)

In this issue...

- News from the Project
- Coming events
- Weeding Techniques
- Adelaide Hills Natural Resource Centre
- Short Courses from 2003
- Land Management Course
- Jobs for Summer



Common Buttercup

Are you a budding photographer?

We are looking for photos of plants (native & weedy) found in our catchment to display on our new website. High quality photographs are preferred, (either digital or printed). You can send them to the Project Officer by post, person or email.

NEWS FROM THE PROJECT

The Sixth Creek Catchment Group continues in 2004 with some new developments.

Our access to the Council's Norton Summit Centre is now assured. Part of the building is being dedicated as a Natural Resource Centre (see back page), where we will be based. Other community groups will have ongoing access to the building.

The second major news item is that it is funding application time again! Having received a fourth year of funding from the Federal Government's Natural Heritage Trust for the 2003/04 financial year, we did not receive the first instalment of actual monies until late October 2003. Hopefully, we will have a full 12 months for its expenditure, but meanwhile a funding application for

2004/05 must be completed in February. We are now zoned together with other projects in the Torrens Catchment section of the Mount Lofty Ranges and Greater Adelaide Region Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, and we must bid for funds together accordingly.

The third item of news is that we now have a full time Project Officer, Katrina Warner for this year. Katrina worked 3 days per week for us last year and will now assist Don Cranwell as on-ground works coordinator as well as running a sites monitoring project, coordinating courses, field days and doing administrative work. We are very pleased to have her services for the 2004 project year.



COMING EVENTS

- FEBRUARY** 21st Uraidla Show: visit the 6th Creek Display
- MARCH** 3rd 6th Creek Catchment Group AGM
7.30pm at AHNRC, all are welcome!
- MARCH** 10th FREE Land Management Course begins (8 weeks)
to
- MAY** 12th last session—drawing up a Property Plan

Check out more events on www.mlrcp.sa.gov.au

Intensive Weeding Techniques

A variety of weeding tools and techniques can be useful to eradicate problem weeds where extensive spraying or slashing is not desirable. This could be in bushland areas or a domestic garden. Weeds left unchecked can flourish at the expense of more desirable plants and create environment degradation or a fire hazard. Some of these techniques might be useful for your situation, but remember to always treat weeds during periods of active growth.

CUT & PAINT

Weeds such as broom or gorse can be painted within 60 seconds after being cut (with a saw or loppers), with neat glyphosate kept clean in a suitably marked container.



CUT, SCRAPE & PAINT

Weeds such as blackberry or dog rose can be cut down to 20cm cane lengths. One side of all canes should be scraped back to the living tissue just below the outer surface, and all exposed surfaces painted immediately. Use neat glyphosate or preferably a Garlon/diesel mix (1:30).

CUT, DRILL & PAINT

Large, mature weeds may need additional chemical applied in a series of drill holes around the base of the trunk. Drill at a steep angle to the bark to penetrate the living tissue just below. Apply a Garlon/diesel mix immediately.

Cutting the tree down may be unnecessary with this treatment, as the dead tree can be useful for perching birds.



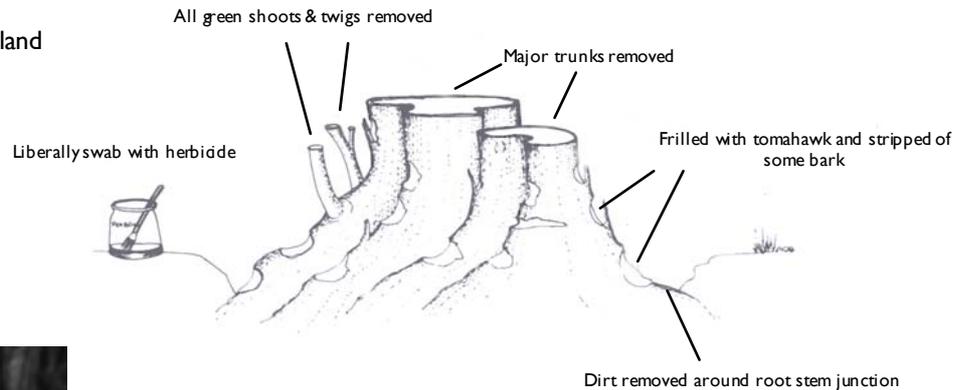
Photo: Trees for Life

CUT, "FRILL" & PAINT

Some weeds such as erica, olive or hawthorn are inclined to sucker from the base even after a stem cut & paint. Use a saw to "frill" the stump with a series of cuts to penetrate living tissue just below the bark. Paint all exposed surfaces within 60 seconds with glyphosate or a Garlon/diesel mix (1:30). Check later for any regrowth and re treat if necessary.



Illustration taken from "Stop Bushland Weeds" by Meg Robertson



SPOT SPRAYING

Spot spraying at low pressure may be best for some weeds. Straggling plants such as bridal creeper may need a newspaper layer beneath to prevent off target damage. Check the best chemical to use for the particular weed and spray during periods of active growth.

This is a demonstration photo. When using chemicals always wear a spray mask & protective clothing.

NOTE: Non-chemical methods can be useful for some weeds for the more energetic! Some suckering weeds will die with repeated breaking off of regrowth. Hand pulling, bulb crushing, grubbing, ringbarking, and covering are all useful techniques to use.

*Clearly mark and store all containers and brushes for chemical application in a locked up cupboard out of reach of children. Always wear protective gloves, long sleeves and goggles when applying chemicals.

*Store chemicals in their original containers and dispose of any uncontaminated, unused chemical safely.

*Refer to Meg Robertson's "**Stop Bushland Weeds**" for further information.

Volunteers needed!

The Adelaide Hills Natural Resource Centre (in the former Council Office at Norton Summit), is opening in March and is already stocked with an array of information on the local environment, tourism, local produce and is also home to the East Torrens Historical Society. Volunteers are needed to help with daily duties such as taking bookings, attending to enquiries, helping with mail outs & newsletters, maintaining the upkeep of the Centre & general maintenance. If you would prefer to help us clean up the outside of the Centre, keep your eye out for our Working Bee weekends. So, if you have a few spare hours and would like to contribute to your local community, drop in to the Centre (during March), and we would be more than happy to find you something to do!



Contact AHNRC on 8390 1891

Short Courses 2003



Propagating native plants with Janet Pedler

Our short courses ran from August-October last year, and proved to be a real hit! Participants learnt how to understand & recognise the local vegetation on their property and control weeds with Andrew Crompton, and propagate native plants with Janet Pedler. Our thanks to the Torrens Catchment Water Management Board for providing these free courses and we hope to continue them in 2004.

Land Management Course

The Land Management Program run these FREE educational courses over an 8 week period, covering topics such as wildlife conservation, pest control (plant & animal), native plant identification, bushland management, watercourse rehabilitation, property planning etc... The Torrens Catchment Water Management Board have offered us funding to run these courses, with all sessions at the Adelaide Hills Natural Resource Centre on Wednesday evenings from 7.30-9.30pm.



Contact the Project Officer to book your place!

Jobs to do...

- ◆ Attend a FREE Land Management Course to develop a better understanding of your property and receive technical help with the preparation of a property plan (contact our Project Officer to book your place!)
- ◆ Slash/spray your summer woody weeds such as blackberry & gorse to reduce fire hazard and protect good patches of native vegetation (consult your local Animal & Plant Control Board Officer for assistance)
- ◆ Prepare any sites for revegetation projects in the winter months
- ◆ Visit the new Adelaide Hills Natural Resource Centre at Norton Summit and find information on a range of topics such as: local flora & fauna, horticulture, soil, water, chemical use, sustainable energy, tourism, local history etc... The 6th Creek Herbarium is housed here too with readily available reference books.

The 6th Creek Catchment Group is supported by:


Natural Heritage Trust
Helping Communities Helping Australia

Department
for Environment
and Heritage




ForestrySA


ADELAIDE HILLS
COUNCIL


Torrens Catchment Water
Management Board


MT LOFTY RANGES
ANIMAL AND PLANT
CONTROL BOARD

The Sixth Creek Catchment Group is a Landcare organisation with private and public landholder membership. The Group's objectives are the protection and rehabilitation of the catchment's natural resources.