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## The Cradle Coast boneseed incentive program

Greg Taylor, Cradle Coast Natural Resource Management Authority,  
PO Box 338, Burnie, Tasmania 7320, Australia.

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### Summary

The Cradle Coast Natural Resource Management (CCNRM) region is located in northwest Tasmania and covers approximately one third of the state. Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera* subsp. *monilifera* (DC.) T.Norl.) is an emerging weed threat in the region and has been recorded at around fifteen sites along the northern coastline and on King Island. Community groups have successfully controlled boneseed at many sites in the region however other sites have had no control.

In 2006, CCNRM initiated a strategic approach to controlling boneseed in the

region. An incentive program was developed to provide financial support and technical advice to landowners. This program enabled boneseed control at eleven sites with a total area of 34.3 ha treated. An area of approximately 60 hectares remains to be surveyed and controlled, and boneseed is known to be present at various densities throughout this area.

In 2007, CCNRM worked together with the other two Tasmanian NRM Regions (Northern and Southern NRM) and the National Boneseed Coordinator to develop a funding application to address outlying boneseed populations in Tasmania. This

application received successful funding from the Australian Government's Defeating the Weed Menace program and will enable the CCNRM region to complete the initial boneseed control programs initiated in 2006, as well as initiate the remaining programs outlined in CCNRM's boneseed strategy.

All on-ground works are governed by a contract, which obliges landowners to continue controlling boneseed on their land for a total of three years. Landowners are supported in this work by ongoing assistance and guidance from CCNRM, and in some cases by local government. All boneseed control sites are mapped, with data stored on a central database. This database is used to generate letters to landowners, providing timely annual reminders for boneseed follow up control. Successful implementation of this program will help deliver on the Tasmanian Boneseed Strategy and will ensure that significant progress is achieved towards the eradication of boneseed in the CCNRM region.

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## Community weed education initiatives in New South Wales: getting school children involved

Alyssa Schembri<sup>A</sup>, Royce Holtkamp<sup>B</sup>, Hillary Cherry<sup>C</sup>, Julie Haeusler<sup>D</sup> and Jane West<sup>D</sup>

<sup>A</sup> NSW Department of Primary Industries, Orange Agricultural Institute, Forest Road, Orange, New South Wales 2800, Australia.

<sup>B</sup> NSW Department of Primary Industries; <sup>C</sup> National Bitou Bush and Boneseed Coordinator, NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change; <sup>D</sup> NSW Department of Education and Training, Centre for Learning Innovation.

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In these days of mounting cutbacks, funding the successful introduction and deployment of weed biological control agents has become increasingly difficult. One of the most successful strategies for achieving deployment success has been coordinating the involvement of community interest groups. Input from these groups has varied from assistance with site selection to rearing and releasing agents as well as monitoring the impact of agents at selected sites.

### Weed Warriors

The latest initiative in community based biological control projects is Weed Warriors, a national program designed for schools that aims to increase awareness and actively involve students in the management of local weed issues. The

program is funded nationally by the Natural Heritage Trust and the Cooperative Research Centre for Australian Weed Management, with State agencies and Natural Resource Management regions contributing on a local level. Students work closely with local weed officers, land managers and community groups to implement a biological control program for a regional priority weed. This program has recently been introduced to schools in New South Wales with bitou bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera* spp. *rotundata* (DC.) Norl.) as a primary target weed and the *Tortrix* sp. leaf rolling moth as the agent.

### Weed resources for schools

In addition to the Weed Warriors program, the NSW Department of Education and Training is developing *Weeds: Educate to*

*Eradicate*. This school education program is being created in partnership with education experts, land managers and weed scientists. The program, which is funded through the Australian Government's Defeating the Weed Menace initiative, uses integrated classroom learning tools to increase weed awareness among young Australians (i.e. upper primary and lower secondary students). Interactive teaching resources, including web-based and multimedia materials, are being developed. One such resource is entitled *Weeds Attack!*, which is a series of computer-based modules that will lead students through a range of educational challenges while teaching them about the impact of weeds. These resources will be incorporated with existing weed education programs such as Weed Warriors to provide a complete