

FEB 2014

Restoring Your Property

Barry Lees

Some properties in this area have lots of privet or lantana or other weeds. Sometimes owners are not sure what to do with them, the problem is too big, so nothing is done. The problem gets worse.

On my place, I have been helped by a politically incorrect question: "How do you eat an elephant?" Answer: "One spoon at a time". This thought has enabled me to tackle large areas of privet, lantana and Trad (wandering jew) on my place. I don't get depressed about the vast bulk of the weed, I feel good about the small area that I have removed this week. Next week I will do another metre, and so on. Feeling good encourages me to keep going.

For privet, cut it off close to the ground and, within 20 seconds, paint the stump with neat Glyphosate. You only need to paint the outside edge, where the sap runs. Adding coloured dye, available from nurseries, to the weedicide makes it easier to see what has been done. I use loppers for plants up to 20mm diameter and a rechargeable electric chainsaw for larger ones. Drag the cut trees into a pile to burn or rot down naturally. Having removed them, thousands of privet seedlings will come up. Let them come for a while then spray. Repeat this process, being careful to miss any native seedlings. This should exhaust most of the seed bed.

For lantana, I use a small petrol hedge clipper to cut the small branches to less than 1 metre long, then a pruning saw, loppers or chain saw until I get to the stump. Treat this the same as privet. I leave the cuttings on the ground as mulch. Some of these will reshoot, but they are easy to pull up again. When lantana is removed, many weeds and maybe natives will emerge. Managing them is another topic.

If you want more information please contact Landcare on www.stillcreeklandcare.com.au or on facebook.



Cumberland Orchid Circle inc.

The next meeting of the Cumberland Orchid Circle will be on Wednesday 26th February 2014 in Barton Hall, which is situated in Gough Drive (off David Road), Castle Hill.



The meeting will start at 8.00pm and will last approx 2.0 hrs. At the meeting, orchids in bloom will be benched for a monthly point score competition. The guest speaker for February will be Steve Faliconi from Organic Crop Protectants speaking on product for the protection of particularly orchids from pests and diseases.

At each meeting there is a sales table selling plants brought along by members, in addition to accessories used for orchid culture. During our supper interval, there will be time to "compare notes" and seek advice from other members.

Visitors & new members are always welcome. For more information, contact the Circle's secretary on 0412 982 830.

The Australian Plants Society

The Australian Plants Society will meet at 7:45 pm Friday February 10th in the Willow Park Community Hall, 25 Edgeworth David Avenue, Hornsby.

Peter Clarke from Ku-ring-gai Council's Wild Things programme will speak about Native Bees. Visitors very welcome.

Further information at www.blandfordia.org.au or Wendy 9144 5600