



September– November 2008 Edition

LAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

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### Help Small Talk be Greener

If you would like to receive Small Talk via email please contact Catherine Austin [catherine.austin@adelaide.nrm.sa.gov.au](mailto:catherine.austin@adelaide.nrm.sa.gov.au). Small Talk can also be found on the AMLR NRM Board website [www.amlnrm.sa.gov.au](http://www.amlnrm.sa.gov.au)



Small Talk is printed on recycled paper using vegetable based inks

## WELCOME TO THE **NEW** LAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The first of July saw the expansion of the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management (NRM) Board's Land Management Program. Our growing team of Land Management Officers and Advisers offer expert guidance to assist in the conservation and restoration of land and all natural assets. As well as some elements of enforcement of the NRM Act 2004, the Land Management Program now incorporates a larger suite of NRM services to assist landholders and the wider community to take positive steps in managing the regions natural resources. These include:

- Targeted education and training opportunities in Land Management (i.e. Workshops, Field Days and Courses).
- Producing and dispersing publications on sustainable land management principles (i.e. Small Talk, Fact Sheets).

- Property visits and assistance with natural resources management planning.
- Financial Incentives for on-ground works that deal with priority threats to priority natural assets. In particular, there is a focus on actions that protect and enhance:

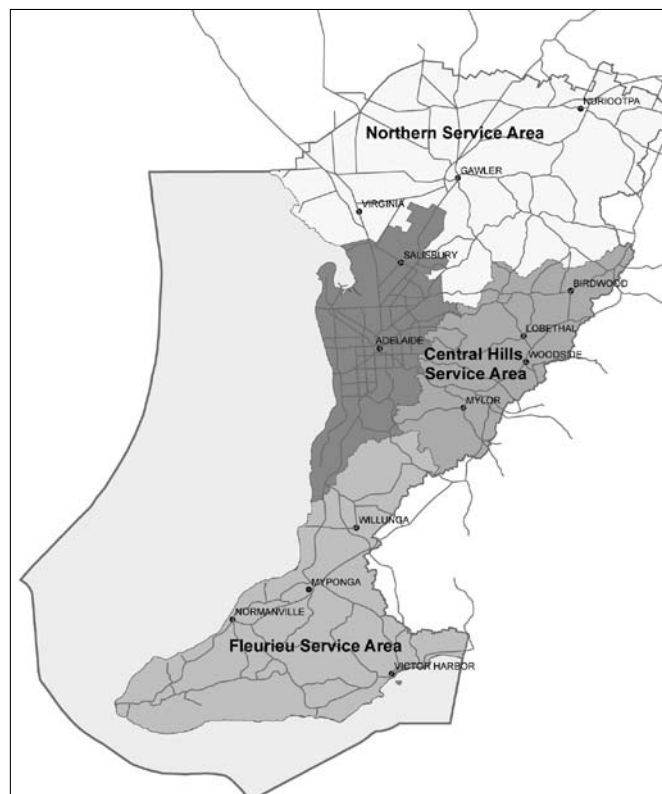
- Surface and ground water quality
- Biodiversity conservation
- Sustainable productivity

For further information **refer to the map below**, and contact your local Service Area hub office:

Northern Service Area:  
Gawler Office – 8523 7700

Central Hills Service Area:  
Lobethal Office – 8389 6166

Fleurieu Service Area:  
Willunga Office – 8550 3400



Map: Shows the Land Management Program Service Areas



## PLAN NOW FOR SUMMER CONTROL OF RABBITS

Dwayne Godfrey – Authorised Officer, South Australian Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

### INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF RABBITS

In order to achieve the best results and minimise rabbit numbers, it is recommended that an integrated rabbit control management plan be developed and implemented. As part of such a plan, land managers incorporate a variety of seasonally and habitat specific methods to make the most of their control efforts.

An effective integrated program should include **poisoning, ripping (or harbor control) and fumigation of warrens**. It is unlikely that such tools will effectively control rabbit populations when used independently. However, the integrated use of these control methods will significantly reduce rabbit numbers, and may even lead to complete eradication. This is particularly true for flat or gently undulating country with low vegetation density.

### Neighbourhood Community Rabbit Control Program

Working together with your neighbours over a large area at a specific time each year will help maximise rabbit control effectiveness, and make it difficult for new rabbits to colonise the area. Your local Natural Resources Management Officer can assist you in developing a community approach to rabbit control.

### WARREN RIPPING

Mechanical ripping or destroying of the rabbit warren takes away their main means of survival...shelter. As part of



Carrot Layer Trailer (Available for free hire from Lobethal NRM Office - Call (08) 8389 6166)  
Photo: Bob Haheisy

an integrated rabbit management plan, ripping should follow an effective bait laying program. This helps to reduce the re-establishment of rabbit populations, and the lack of rabbits at that time makes warren destruction a lot easier to achieve.

It is important to note that when destroying rabbit warrens all due care **must** be taken to protect native vegetation as stated under the NRM Act 2004. It is important to remember that when removing any harbor to get to the warren, you do not cause more damage than good. It is best however, to carefully remove declared pest plants such as African Boxthorn and Blackberries, often used by rabbits to establish their warrens underneath.

### POISONING with PINDONE

Present day poisoning techniques are based on behavioral patterns of rabbits, and are thus directed specifically at the target animals, and not indiscriminately over large areas.

**Late summer or autumn** is the best time to poison. Rabbit numbers are at their lowest as food is scarce. With plant seeds and tubers being a major part of their diet, oats or carrots are the ideal lure, and with little food available, they are far more likely to feed on the provided baits. In addition, rabbits generally do not breed during this period. Hence, they are less territorial and there are no juvenile rabbits that can be left behind after poisoning. This means that

all rabbits are able to emerge from burrows and take the bait.

**Pindone** is an **anticoagulant poison** that can be applied on carrots or oats. It is used for rabbit control because it has a shorter half-life than other anticoagulant poisons. Rabbits are also more susceptible to Pindone than many other species. The sodium salt of Pindone degrades in the carcasses of poisoned rabbits. **Pindone is not meant to work as a single dose.** It prevents the formation of vitamin K1 in the body for about 4 days after ingestion so the rabbit draws on reserves stored in its body. Initially the animal will continue to behave normally until 3 or 4 repeat feeds have been provided and the rabbit runs out of its Vitamin K1 reserves.

It is therefore vital that the following techniques are adhered to for the control method to be effective

**Pindone** can be used without a license in small acreage areas but **CANNOT be used on properties smaller than 1,000 square metres (1/4 Acre Block).**

*\* Please Note that other herbivores such as kangaroos, possums, bandicoots and livestock may be vulnerable to Pindone if they receive a large dose. If the following techniques are adhered to, off-target poisoning will be minimised, and the benefits of your Integrated Rabbit Management Plan, will far out way any negatives.*



Managing rabbit populations is best achieved early as numbers often increase rapidly, and exponentially.

Continues on pg 3 >



## Techniques for a Safe & Effective Pindone Program

### Rabbits may need some time to become accustomed to eating oats or carrots

and this could take a matter of days or in some cases weeks. A free-feed (of oats or carrots without Pindone) phase at the start encourages rabbits to eat the bait before the Pindone is applied.

It is important during the free-feed phase to work out how many oats or carrots, in grams, the rabbits are eating in any one feed. Allow approximately 30 grams of oats or 60 grams of diced carrots per rabbit per feed. If insufficient bait is laid, the dominant rabbits may prevent shy feeders from gaining full access to the bait. If too much remains, native animals or stock may ingest and succumb to the poison.

Once you are certain the rabbits are eating your bait material, and you know approximately how much they are eating, contact your local Natural Resources Management Board officer to collect the Pindone, and adhere to the following instructions.

- Always lay out baits in the evening. Baits will need to be placed out **every three or four nights** for about 14 days. Avoid wet weather or sprinklers as Pindone washes off relatively easily.
- DO NOT place the carrots in one heap – Lay carrots out where rabbits

are feeding. Look for scratchings as an indicator. Rake the baited area to roughen the soil slightly as disturbance can attract rabbits to the site.

- To reduce the chances of any native animals ingesting the Pindone, lay a wire reinforcing mesh over the baited carrots or oats.
- **Remove all livestock from the area to be baited for the period of the baiting program.** Collect any uneaten bait at the end of the program or allow for at least 50mm of rain before allowing stock to enter the baiting area.
- On subsequent mornings check to ensure that there is a small amount of bait material left. If no carrots are left the morning after laying baits, the rabbits are being underfed. Alternatively, if there are many carrots remaining, they are being overfed, and off-target poisoning may be a result. Adjust subsequent feeds accordingly.
- The rabbits should succumb to the treatment 12 to 14 days after the first poisoned feed is laid.
- While it is unlikely that a large dose of Pindone will be ingested by any scavengers that eat a rabbit carcass as the poison is swiftly metabolised in the rabbit leading up to death, it is

always advisable to recover and burn or bury any dead rabbits found during the program.

- Wash gloves & bucket off with water after use, (**Pindone biodegrades in the soil**).

For more information and advice on rabbit control programs, please contact your local Natural Resources Management Board. Go to <http://www.nrm.sa.gov.au/> and follow the links.

## RABBIT CONTROL CALENDAR

### October to December

#### Time to plan

- Many young rabbits have emerged
- Rabbit numbers will reach a peak
- Damage to crops & pasture most visible
- Some myxomatosis may be evident
- Time to contact your local NRM officer
- Organise and maintain equipment

### January to April

#### Optimum poisoning time

- Rabbits hungry, territories undefended
- Rabbit numbers can be cut by at least 95%
- Free feeding prior to poisoning is essential
- Allow 3-4 days between each feed
- Lay poison 3-4 days after free feeding
- Destroy Warrens 2-3 weeks after poisoning

### May to September

#### Follow up & Inspection

- Remove debris to prevent re-colonisation
- Burn or bury rabbit harbour
- Destroy/Rip any exposed warrens found
- Fumigate any warrens not accessible







## HORSES AND SNAKES

Catherine Austin - Land Management Adviser, Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board

Snakes are a fundamental part of many natural ecosystems found in Adelaide and the Mt. Lofty Ranges. It is for this reason that we may have to accept the 'once-in-a-blue-moon' snake encounter as simply a condition of residency. Such an encounter is not often considered an advantageous event. This is particularly true when horses are involved, as snakes are more inclined to act defensively and bite in the presence of a shying equine. Also, horses are susceptible to the venom of a few snakes found in this region, particularly Tiger and Brown snakes.

In saying this, there are a variety of strategies that may be implemented to reduce the risk of encountering a snake, and avoiding a snake bite incident. A number of these, along with the best practice methods of dealing with snake bites in horses are covered below.

### Minimising Risk

To minimise the risk of encountering a snake, we must consider their ecological needs. Snakes are more likely to be found where their favoured fare (i.e. mice, lizards, or frogs) are abundant. It is for this reason that horses should be kept away from infrequently used hay sheds/stacks, feed sheds, or other outbuildings. Consider controlling rodent populations if horses are stabled, or yarded in close proximity to a shed or feed store. Also, the use of lidded vermin proof feed bins is advised.

When moving horses, keep in mind that optimum snake shelter consists of structures, be they natural or man-made, which are extremely low to the ground, or provide small spaces for snakes to hide within. Piles of refuse likely to provide such an environment should be removed, or strategically located away from areas used for agisting and working horses.

Areas where water is readily available often attract snakes. Thus, it is advisable to lead, work, and agist horses in a location away from water bodies. It is also recommended to fix any leaky taps, pipes, or bore pumps located in the vicinity of horses.

Snakes are temperature dependant creatures. It is for this reason you may find them basking on or near roads and rocks. This is more common early to mid afternoon during spring, and late afternoon to dusk during summer. So if you choose to ride in such conditions, be aware and vigilant of a possible snake encounter.



Red Bellied Black Snake, *Pseudechis porphyriacus* Photo: Peter Mirtschin

### Snakebite Diagnosis

The signs of snakebite are not diagnostic and often inconsistent. Without treatment or intervention, in most cases, the condition of the horse deteriorates until it either reaches a point when recovery begins spontaneously (then the signs slowly improve), or it worsens to death. The summary below indicates the progression of signs when deterioration refuses to cease. If death is to occur it will usually take place within 24hrs, so urgent action is necessary to save a horse with a fatal dose of venom. Early veterinary intervention is recommended in all cases of suspect snakebite.

### BROWN & TIGER SNAKE SIGNS

- **Pupil dilation**
- Increasing **muscle tremors & weakness**
- **Red urine**
- **(Brown Snake) General drowsiness/ lethargy and muscle weakness,** particularly of the head (drooping eyelids, lips and tongue dysfunction, and inability to suck, swallow or whinny)
- **(Tiger Snake) Restless/unsettled behaviour:** horse may repetitively lie down, then stand and wander about.
- **Horse may lie down with the inability to stand.**
- **Increasing breathing difficulty** forcing abdominal breathing
- Potential **cardiorespiratory failure and death**
- *Note that swelling of snake bite wound may occur in horses surviving the neurotoxin.*

### RED BELLIED BLACK SNAKE SIGNS

*Envenomation & death are very rare*

- **Local swelling** and sometimes **prolonged bleeding at the bite wound site**
- **Red urine**

### First Aid

If you suspect your horse may have been bitten by a snake the following steps must be taken.

- Stay calm and **keep the horse as still and calm as possible.**
- If there are two or more people present, one must ring a vet immediately, whilst another applies a pressure bandage. If alone, ring the vet directly after applying the bandage.
- **Apply a pressure bandage.** If the horse was bitten on a limb, wrap bandages or strips of material from the hoof to as far above the suspected bite wound as possible (foreleg to above the knee and to the elbow if possible or hind-leg to above the hock).
  - Apply firm even pressure along the entire length of the dressing to restrict, **but not stop**, the blood flow. **DO NOT apply a tourniquet!**
  - Don't attempt to clean, dress or cut tissue from a snakebite wound.
- If it is impossible to get veterinary assistance, arrange transport home. If you cannot get access to horse transportation and the vet cannot come to you, walk the horse out with minimal exertion and seek assistance when opportunity arises.

Keep the contact details of your vet handy at all times (eg. mobile phone, emergency list in your phone book, tack box diary, stable/venue notice). If riding out of your area, be sure to take contact details for veterinarians based near to the localities featured in your travels.

For information on snakebite in horses, contact your local veterinarian. If you don't have a vet, contact PIRSA Animal Health (Mark Groves Ph 82077905).



## SERVICES AND EVENTS

Coming events list at [www.amlnrm.sa.gov.au](http://www.amlnrm.sa.gov.au) under Education & Training; Landholder Education.

\*If you would like the LMP to run a specific field day for your organisation, please contact us on any of the numbers below.

### COURSES

#### **Introduction to Rural Land Management**

Tea Tree Gully – September 2008  
(Melanie Bullers)

#### **Rural Land Management for Horse Owners**

Woodcroft – September 2008  
(Catherine Austin)

#### **Farm Design for Rural Landholders** Norton Summit – 24th September 2008 (Claire Stephenson)

#### **Buying a Small Scale Farm**

Adelaide City – 2nd, 9th & 16th  
November 2008  
(Register through WEA Enrolment:  
8223 1979)

All courses are held one evening a week from 7:30 to 10pm. A Practical Guide to Rural Land Management runs over 8 weeks, providing practical information on soils, land capability, weed identification & control, pasture management, watercourse & dam management, revegetation and property planning. Rural Land Management for Horse Owners runs over 6 weeks and provides practical information on soils, pasture management, weed identification & control and property planning. Both courses incorporate a farm walk.

### **Free land management advice for small property owners**

Land Management Advisers are available to answer queries on a variety of land management issues such as: pasture management, stocking rates, weed identification and control, revegetation, soil conservation and erosion control, soil fertility, watercourse management or property planning. Information can be provided over the phone or by a visit to your property.

### WORKSHOPS, FIELD DAYS & SEMINARS

#### **Escaped Garden Plants Seminar**

Norton Summit - 9th September 2008  
(Melanie Bullers)

#### **Adapting to Climate Change in Agriculture Seminar**

Hahndorf – 15th September 2008  
(Claire Stephenson)

#### **Effective Hay Making Field Day**

Woodside – 20th September 2008  
(Catherine Austin)

#### **Open Farm Day Field Day**

Lower Hermitage – 25th October  
(Claire Stephenson)

#### **Cattle Management Workshop**

Woodside – November 2008  
(Claire Stephenson)

#### **Native Grasses Field Day**

Southern Fleurieu – December 2008  
(Sophie Piron of Normanville Natural Resources Centre 8558 3644)

## LAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM CONTACTS

### **Land Management Advisers**

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#### **Melanie Bullers**

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### **Land Management Program Service Area Hubs**

#### **Gawler Office**

8 Adelaide Road  
Gawler South SA 5118  
Tel (08) 8523 7700

#### **Lobethal Office**

1 Adelaide Lobethal Road  
Lobethal SA 5241  
Tel (08) 8389 6166

#### **Willunga Office**

5 Aldinga Road  
Willunga SA 5172  
Tel (08) 8550 3400

#### **Mount Barker Natural Resource Centre**

Upper Level Cnr Mann & Walker Streets  
Mt. Barker SA 5251  
Tel (08) 8391 7505





## HERBICIDE USE – GET THE TYPE AND TIMING RIGHT!

John Wills – Weed Management Contractor & Catherine Austin – Land Management Adviser, Adelaide & Mt. Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board.

Before embarking on a weed control program several factors need to be considered to ensure a successful result. These include:

- Weed ecology, (seed bank, seed viability, life cycle, growing season etc)
- Site (ease of control, land use, conservation/agricultural values)
- Surroundings (impacts, threats)
- Available resources (funds and or labour)

With these factors in hand, a map and plan can be developed that will enable prioritised, staged and timely weed control within allocated resources.

A successful Weed Control Plan will incorporate as many of the following weed control techniques as possible. **Don't rely on just one technique.**

- Hand weeding – small infestations;
- Slashing – woody weeds to reduce bio-mass;
- Minimum disturbance – native vegetation;
- Burning – woody weeds to reduce bio-mass;
- Competition – improved pasture/re-vegetate;
- Biological control; and
- Herbicides.

Herbicides in weed management are more commonly used than most other control techniques, but for best long term results they should only be used as part of an integrated program. An integrated control program will reduce the reliance on herbicides in terms of the total amount used or the length of time they are used.

Herbicides are often seen to be the best option due to their fast acting nature and relative cost effectiveness. However, there are more risks associated with their use, especially through inappropriate and continual misuse, which may lead to the dominance of herbicide resistant weeds.

Having a clear understanding about appropriate timing of application, and the selection of the correct herbicide for each situation is fundamental in minimising associated risks, maximising effectiveness, and being kind to your hip pocket.

The following is a guide to appropriate herbicide types and spraying times. It has been produced to help you make the right decisions when using chemical control as part of an integrated weed management plan.

**ALWAYS READ THE HERBICIDE LABEL, UNDERSTAND AND FOLLOW LABEL DIRECTIONS, INCLUDING FIRST AID AND SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS and CALIBRATE YOUR SPRAY EQUIPMENT BEFORE EVERY APPLICATION!** Be aware of weather conditions and potential for off-target damage via spray drift and inappropriate herbicide selection. Use a spray contractor if you're not confident in applying herbicide yourself. Please note that suitable periods for herbicide use can vary with season and location. Contact your local Natural Resource Management Board office for further advice specific to your location (see page 5).

## HERBICIDE CONTROL CALENDAR

Weeds and their Groups	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Annual Broadleaf</b>												
Salvation Jane												
Thistles												
Cape Weed												
<b>Annual Narrow-leaf</b>												
Barley Grass												
Silver Grass												
<b>Perennial Narrow-leaf</b>												
Chilean/Texan Needle Grass												
Fountain Grass												
<b>Perennial Broadleaf</b>												
One-Leaf Cape Tulip												
Two-Leaf Cape Tulip												
Guilford Grass												
Watsonia												
Water Dropwort												
Bridal Creeper												
<b>Woody Weeds</b>												
Blackberry												
English Broom												
Cape/Montpellier Broom												
Gorse												
Boneseed												
Hawthorn**												
Willows, Ash, Poplars**												
Olives**												

\*\* Do not use foliar herbicide application method on established trees. Established trees should be either cut down or frilled and swabbed, or stem injected with herbicide. Saplings should be cut down and swabbed. Application of herbicide must be achieved no later than 10 seconds after drilling, frilling, or cutting for the chemical to be effectively taken up by the plant.

<b>Timing Legend</b>	Optimal	Suitable	Seek Advice	Not Suitable
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Continues on pg 7 >





## Plant Groups and Appropriate Herbicides

**Annual Weeds** complete their life cycle in a single year. They germinate from seed, grow, flower, produce seed, and die all in one year or season. They compete extremely well with other plants germinating at the same time and produce very large quantities of viable seed.

For **Broadleaf Annual Weeds** (Salvation Jane, Capeweed, Thistles, etc) appropriate herbicides include **AgtryneM®, Jaguar, \*Tigrex, \*Amine MCPA, Dicamba, Brushhoff, Ally, or Associate**. *Note that Brushhoff should only be used as a spot spray for isolated plants or a salvage operation at flowering to prevent seed set, as continued use will encourage resistant plants. Clovers will be killed with Brushhoff and it will not control Capeweed, however grasses will be unaffected. Brushhoff and Jaguar are the only herbicides that can be used as a salvage spray for flowering Salvation Jane.*

For **Narrow-leaf Annual Weeds** (Barley Grass, Silver Grass, Wild Oats, etc) appropriate herbicides include **Fusilade** or **Roundup** (Glyphosate).

**Perennial Weeds** have a permanent organ in the ground that enables individual plants to survive from year to year i.e. stolons, rhizomes, bulbs and swollen roots. Generally less competitive than annuals in the first year of growth, but once established perennials often become very aggressive and competitive.

For **Narrow-leaf Perennial Weeds** (Chilean & Texan Needle Grass, Serrated Tussock, Fountain Grass, Fog Grass, Phalaris - a desirable pasture plant, but often considered an environmental weed) appropriate herbicides include **Fusilade** or **Roundup**.

For **Broadleaf Perennial Weeds** (Catsear, Dock, Sorrell, etc. Bulbous weeds like Guilford Grass, Cape-Tulip, Watsonia etc are included here) appropriate herbicides include **Brushhoff** or **Dicamba** but note that these will also kill clover.

For **Woody Weeds** (Gorse, Broom, Blackberry, Boneseed, etc) appropriate herbicides include **Trounce + Pulse, Roundup, \*Grazon DS, or Garlon 600**.

**\*Hormone Herbicides** - Do not use within 1km of horticultural/viticultural crops when they have reached bud-burst stage. They may drift and cause the crops severe damage.

*Note: This article does not provide an exhaustive list of herbicide options for all weed control situations. Please seek specific advice from your local retailer, agronomist or your NRM Board Office (see page 5).*

## WILDLIFE HABITAT – WHERE IT’S ALL ABOUT UNDERSTOREY

By Kirstin Long, Project Officer, Bandicoot Recovery Program

### What we know about wildlife habitat

"Trees are good. Bush is better" – keep this in mind when you are revegetating areas to create habitat for wildlife. Often trees seem to be the focus of revegetation projects and we pay less attention to understorey. While trees are important, they are just one part of the bush that is important to our native wildlife. For some animals the understorey plants in the bush are of utmost importance. Understorey plants provide:

- A wide range of food,
- Lots of nesting sites and nesting materials, and
- Protection from predators

### Bandicoots – an example of a species that relies on the understorey

The endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot is heavily reliant on dense understorey vegetation. By making runways through the understorey, bandicoots are able to move much more

quickly through the habitat than most predators can.

The diversity of plants in bandicoot habitat also help to provide year round food. Consider this, a recent survey of bandicoot habitat in the Adelaide Hills found that, on average for every 1 tree there were:

- **35** shrubs from about 6 species ranging in height from 1-3m; and
- More than **500** low understorey plants (like grasses, sedges and small shrubs) of at least 10 different species.

### Different habitats have different understoreys

Different habitats have different types of understorey and support different wildlife. Look at the understorey in patches of native bush near you to see what might have grown on your property. Look at the structure – some understorey is naturally low and more open, while in other habitats the understorey is taller and denser. Also, note how the understorey changes with topography (e.g. hill slope and gully) and aspect (e.g. hot western slopes and cool southern slopes).

### When creating habitat – plant more understorey species!

While we may never be able to replicate the amazing density and diversity of natural understorey in revegetation projects, it is time we put more focus on the understorey.

Many understorey plants are difficult to grow so it's best to order seedlings in advance from specialist native plant nurseries. Remember that if the area is weedy you will need to control the weeds while your new native understorey is getting established - so don't plant more than you can manage!

For information on bandicoots and bandicoot habitat contact the Bandicoot Project Officer, Kirstin Long, on 8336 0901. For further information or advice on revegetation contact the Natural Resource Management Board ph: 8389 6166 or refer to the resources available at <http://www.urbanforest.on.net/resources.htm>



Good bandicoot habitat has dense understorey to at least knee height



## HANDY HINT: The Importance of Earthing in Electric Fencing

Gordon Keech – Electric Fencing Consultant

### Earth Return Wire System

This system overcomes the problem of dry non-conductive soils not allowing sufficient current to flow back to the energiser through the soil to give sufficient shock. By touching both live and earth wires, the animal receives the “full shock”.

The energiser positive (red) terminals must be connected to the fence positive wire or wires (which need to be insulated),

and likewise the earth (green) terminal must be connected to the earth wire (this could be a single wire, ringlock or barb).

The most effective electric fence system has alternating live and earth wires. The earth wires are best connected to a super earth kit (1 super earth kit per 10 Joules). The super earth kit system should be placed in the fence line (no need to find a wet spot and preferably not near large trees) and simply connected to the earth

wires in the fence, within approximately 200 metres of the energiser.

All gates must have two insulated cables (2.5mm) connecting both sides of the gate, continuing both positive and earth wires all round your property. These wires can be buried in poly pipe (or similar) for added protection.

# SMALL TALK

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LAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



## THINGS TO DO

- Monitor new revegetation and pasture for signs of pest damage, and control if necessary.
- Prepare for seed collecting. Many eucalypts produce seed from November to March, acacias in December to January.
- Graze pastures that you intend to spray-top until they begin to form seed heads then de-stock before spraying (allowing more uniform growth).
- Plan to de-stock first year pastures from mid-spring to allow perennials to develop strong root structure, and run to head.
- Review stocking rates - de-stock in late spring if necessary to avoid bare paddocks in autumn.
- Control Salvation Jane prior to flowering to reduce seed set.
- Identify any unknown plants during spring when most are flowering or setting seed. Seek help if required.
- Ensure sheep are clean to avoid flystrike.
- Prepare for the fire season - ensure that you have adequate water supplies and fire breaks, and that fire fighting equipment is in good condition.

## SUBMISSIONS INFO

Comments, enquiries or submissions to Small Talk, or for back issues contact:

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