



# Kurri Kurri Weed Management Plan

**Aim** *To have only local indigenous plants on the property.*

## Background

The most affected areas are, and will always be, the boundary, internal walking tracks and the carpark/BBQ area. Blackberry is uncontrolled on roadsides all around the block and will need on-going monitoring in the block's damp areas. Monitoring and control work on the public roads leading to the block (Couch's Road) and roads along its western (unnamed) and southern (Duffields Road) margins will help protect the block from weeds. Kikuyu is a serious environmental weed invading bushland adjoining Couch's Road and its unmade extension. Its control is a community service.

Pasture grasses, particularly paspalum, fog grass and sweet vernal can be brought into the block by kangaroos. Lawn daisy has long-lived seed and has had many years of seed setting around the BBQ.

All weeds present only need a continuing commitment to quite simple eradication procedures.

## Eradication Techniques Available

1. Hand weeding
2. Herbicide sprays (using species specific herbicides, Fusillade or *Roundup*)
3. Heat wand (only to be used in wetter months because of the risk of fire)
4. Hoe or garden spade (the latter is less disruptive than the hoe when a 'lift and pull' technique is used. The hoe tends to turn up large clods of earth)
5. 'Cut and paint' for woody weeds
6. Inundation (not a 'technique' under our control but natural flooding of wetland areas does remove weeds effectively)
7. Replacement (i.e. where suitable, replace localised, high-density infestations with more manageable materials, e.g. spray out barbeque area surroundings and treat with gravel)

Selection of the most appropriate technique will vary with the weed species, its abundance and distribution, and the season (e.g. is it seeding/spreading or not?). Grass specific sprays should be used among broad-leafed pioneer natives (ie recolonisers of previously sprayed areas such as kidney weed and native geranium). Broad leaf specific sprays will be appropriate when native grasses or sedges are growing amongst blackberry or lawn daisies for example.

Collected weeds that are not seeding may be left upside down at the site. Any seed heads should be placed in durable plastic bags and removed from the block for appropriate disposal.

**ACTION:** *Purchase a supply of durable black garbage bags for this purpose and place them in the shed.*

A record of weed observations and control measures taken should be placed in a weed diary. A map of the block should be available to mark identified weed occurrences. It may be preferable to mark infestations with plastic tape.

**ACTIONS (a)** *Purchase a note book to be labelled as the Weed Diary and placed in the shed.*

*(b) Investigate whether GHCMA can supply a GIS map of the block.*

*(c) Obtain a roll of plastic tape for weed site identification*

## Priority Weeds

The following weeds are identified as more invasive and so are the highest priority for active management. The list is current in 2013 and should be reviewed over time (at least every 2 – 5 years):

1. Kikuyu grass
2. Blackberry (which should not be confused with the native raspberry - *Rubis parvifolius* see photo right)
3. Rat-tail grass
4. Fog grass
5. Ragwort
6. Thistle

**ACTION:** *To aid identification of these weeds and avoid confusing them with "look alike" similar native species an illustrated guide will be prepared and placed in the shed*



Photos by Kevin Sparrow