

# 2016 Growing Connections Biodiversity Forum

## **F** RANKSTON ENVIRONMENTAL R IENDS NETWORK

*Linking groups working for Frankston's natural environment*

- Established in 1996 as a communications forum between Friends Groups and Management Authorities
- Autonomous, determining our own objectives and procedures
- Work cooperatively with management authorities
- Currently have 23 member groups
- Member Groups range in size from a dozen to several hundred members

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## Pest Issues and Control in an Urban Environment

- Foxes:
  - A real issue in urban areas
  - Impact on native animals like the swamp rat and bandicoots
- Issues:
  - Often can't trap or bait due to proximity to housing
  - Dens take up space and can undermine sloping areas
- Solutions:
  - Fumigation of known dens, often has to be repeated to be effective
  - Encourage nearby residents not to leave pet food out, and report any sightings to management authority



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## Pest Issues and Control in an Urban Environment

- Rats:
  - Impact on eggs and baby birds
- Issues:
  - Very difficult to control
- Solutions:
  - Develop a trapping mechanism rather than using baits
  - Encourage nearby residents to minimise food available to rats, and to vermin-proof sub-floor and roof space areas, where rats live in winter



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## Pest Issues and Control in an Urban Environment

- Cats:
  - Hunt birds and lizards during the day, and possums at night
- Issues:
  - Very widespread, with free ranging domestic cats a huge issue in urban areas
- Solutions:
  - Trapping cats and penalising their registered owners
  - Education of registered owners
  - Council to enforce current curfew and introduce a 24 hour curfew



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## Pest Issues and Control in an Urban Environment

- India Mynahs:
  - Predate on small birds and eggs
- Issues:
  - Out-competing native birds for nesting hollows
  - Need holistic approach to trapping and euthanasia procedures
- Solutions:
  - Trapping Mynahs and euthanising them humanely



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## Pest Issues and Control in an Urban Environment

- Weeds:

- Creeping or Rambling Dock (*Acetosa sagittata*)
- Asparagus Fern (*A. scandens*)
- English Ivy (*Hedera helix*)
- Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* aggregate)



- Issues:

- Hard to eradicate due to their roots or tubers
- Very wide spread



- Solutions:

- Intensive hand-weeding and constant revisiting
- Roundup as last resort on roots that won't yield, such as English Ivy and blackberry.



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## Pest Issues and Control in an Urban Environment

- Weeds:
  - Cape Ivy (*Delairea odorata*)
  - Morning Glory (*Ipomoea indica*)
- Issues:
  - Very wide spread
  - Relatively easier to remove due to soft, fibrous roots
- Solutions:
  - Intensive hand-weeding and constant revisiting



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## Pest Issues and Control in an Urban Environment

- European Wasps :
  - Carnivorous insect, autumn is busy time for them as they stock up for winter
- Issues:
  - Increasing wasp population impacting on all caterpillars
  - Subsequent moths, butterflies and beetle numbers declining
  - Reduced number of insects for bats, geckoes and spiders
- Solutions:
  - On private property, contact a professional exterminator
  - In public reserves, contact the management authority

