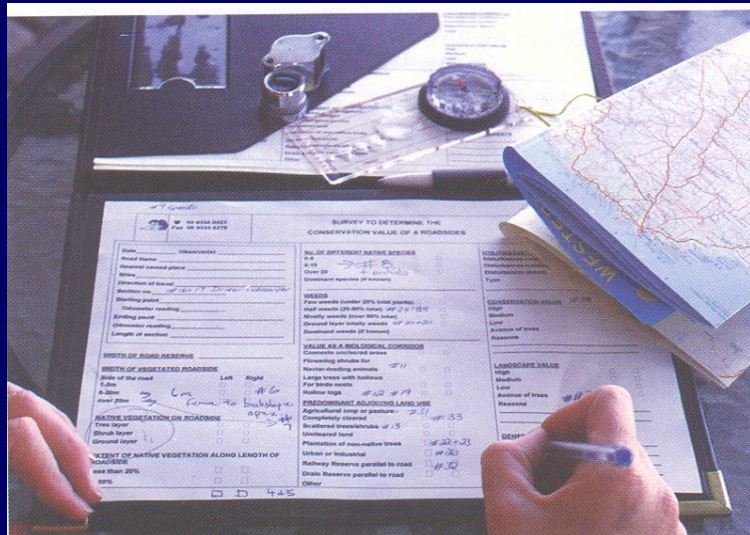


# The Roadside Conservation Committee



Kate Jackson



Roadside Mapping  
Project:

City of Wanneroo

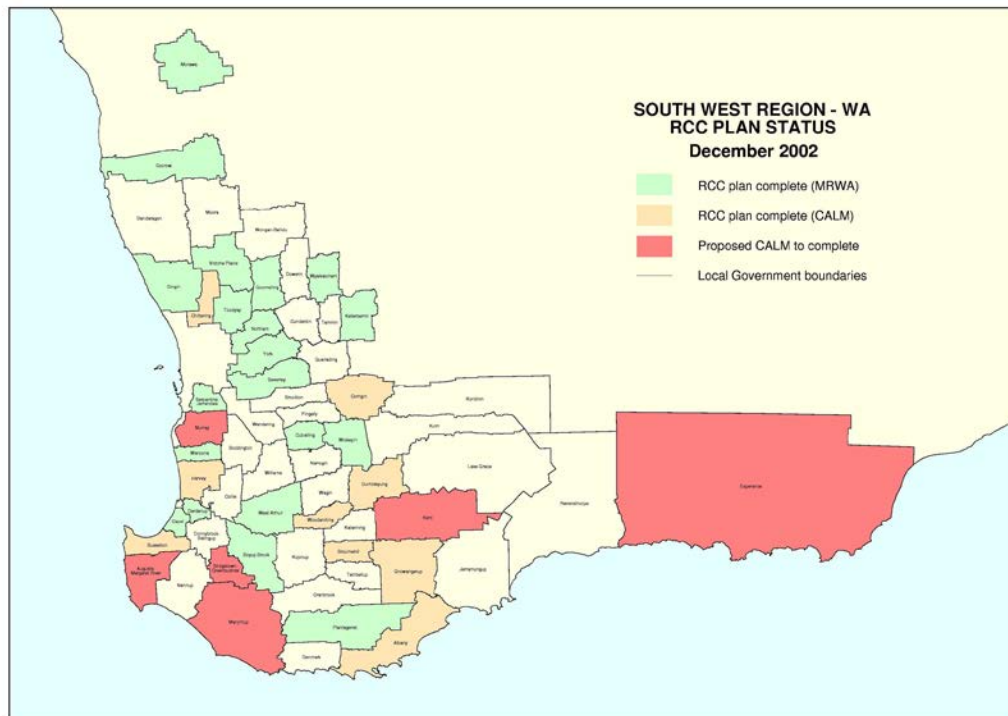
# Where Are Roadside Corridors?

- Since **1989**, the RCC has been working with local communities and Local Governments
- **The aim:** to assess and map all of the roadsides within the south-west land division



# Where Are Roadside Corridors?

▣ Surveys completed in **35 Shires**



▣ The work is mostly carried out by **community volunteers**



# Why Assess and Map Roadsides?

- **Increases awareness** of the conservation status of roads in your local area,

Generally, **high conservation value roadsides** are scenic, weed-free, full of native plants and may connect other remnants



Weedy roadsides have a lower conservation value

- **Enables** more effective management,

# Why Assess and Map Roadsides?

Carnaby's  
Cockatoo  
relies upon  
roadside  
vegetation



□ **Assists** in the protection, conservation and rehabilitation of roadside vegetation,

□ **Identifies sensitive areas**, important for those carrying out roadworks and maintenance activities within the road reserve.



A roadside  
heritage site

# Purpose of the Roadside Conservation Value Map:

- Provides an inventory of the condition of the roadside vegetation.



- The map can be incorporated as a management and planning tool.

- Can be referenced prior to roadworks and maintenance activities.





# Weeds and Roadsides in City of Wanneroo

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Narrow strips of linear vegetation are highly susceptible to weed invasion.



Grassy weeds  
are common  
along denuded  
roadsides

During the Roadside Survey, specific weeds can be recorded and mapped onto clear overlays.

# As a Management and Planning Tool

Example: Degraded roadside areas  
(low conservation value)

- can be identified as areas important for rehabilitation, or
- as areas in need of specific management techniques, such as weed control programs.



Watsonia  
infestations require  
ongoing weed  
control



# As a Management and Planning Tool

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## □ Utilities

- Placement of pipelines, telegraph and power lines to avoid high conservation value roadsides.



# As a Management and Planning Tool



The Map can be used for:

- ❑ Developing regional or district fire management plans,
- ❑ Planning tourist routes,
- ❑ Identifying key areas for Landcare and Bushcare projects.
- ❑ Identifying importance to the Shire's overall conservation network.

# On the Ground:

- Revegetation projects,
- Protect and enhance wildlife corridors,
- Promote significant wildflower areas, historical and cultural sites for tourism,



# On the Ground:

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- Weed control programs,



- Planning roadside maintenance activities.



# Overlays



Examples include:

- **the presence of weeds,**
- **degree of weed infestation,**
- **the location of environmentally sensitive areas, or**
- **future planned developments.**

# Other Information...



- A report and Management Guidelines for the Shire of Murray will accompany the Roadside Conservation Value Map.
  - Results of the roadside survey
  - Legislation
  - Management Techniques
  - Tree roads, Flora roads
  - Special Environment Areas
  - Roadside Action Plans

# Thank You



## □ Contact Details:

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# Weeds

- What are weeds?
- Where do weeds come from?
- Groups of weeds





# What is a weed?



□ National Weeds Strategy :

“a plant that has, or has the potential to have, a detrimental effect on economic, social or conservation values.”

# What is a weed?

- Weeds are plants that are:
  - growing outside their natural range, and
  - competing with native plants for water, space, light & nutrients

Tagasaste often  
invades bushland  
and roadsides,  
growing  
prolifically within  
a few years



# What makes a plant a weed?

- Many of our weeds come from South Africa and other countries with a similar climate as ours.

Eg - Bridal Creeper



- We have the same climate but not the same insects and diseases that keep the growth of the plants under control in their own environment.
- Without these natural predators they can grow unchecked and totally dominate ecosystems.

# Can Australian plants become weeds?

- Even Australian plants can become weeds when they are introduced into new areas.



River Redgum

(*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*),

A local weed in the Shire of Murray, but a great Australian icon.



# Queensland Silver Wattle -

an invasive weed in Perth hills.



# Where do weeds come from?

- ❑ Many weeds have escaped from gardens.
- ❑ Some plants were introduced (unsuccessfully) as pasture for stock and have become weeds along roadsides and in bushland
  - eg, Love grass
- ❑ Weeds are spread in many ways
  - ❑ seeds, corms, rhizomes
  - ❑ wind, water, birds,
  - ❑ soil and machinery



# Different groups of weeds

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- ❑ **Environmental** weeds impact on natural ecosystems such as roadsides and bushland.
- ❑ **Agricultural** weeds impact on production of food, wood, etc.
  - ❑ **Declared** weeds are required under law to be controlled by the property owner.
- ❑ **Sleeping** weeds are plants that are not yet considered weeds but are likely to become so.
  - ❑ Are there any sleepers in the Shire of Wannon?
  - ❑ Report sightings of strange or unusual plants.

# 3 groups of roadside weeds...

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## □ **Impact on Fire**

- many weeds present a **greater fire** threat than native vegetation
- many are annuals, they build up a huge biomass that dies off in summer leaving a highly flammable roadside, eg.?
- some thrive after burning, presenting an even greater fire risk

## □ **Threaten the integrity of the road**

- weed roots undermine the stability of the road by allowing water penetration



# 3 groups of roadside weeds...

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## □ **Impact on biodiversity**

- ***Environmental*** weeds are a threat to our native flora and fauna:
  - compete for space and nutrients and smother our native plants
  - dominate an area, reducing the number of native plant types and numbers
  - this in turn reduces the number and types of fauna the vegetation can support
  - so as weeds take over, many birds, animals and insects disappear as they lose their natural food source.
- That is weeds **decrease** our **biodiversity**

# Something good about weeds...

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- They can help hold soil together and prevent wind and water erosion.
- Lovegrass and watsonia provide habitat for bandicoots, protecting them from foxes.
- However most weeds **do not** support native fauna and do not contribute to the native ecosystems.

# Controlling weeds

- Is expensive
  - don't let plants become weeds
  - dealing with a few plants is the easiest and cheapest way to manage weeds.
- Practice hygiene
  - don't spread weed seeds into areas that are NOT infested
  - work in clean areas first; clean down in infested areas.
- Minimise disturbance
  - weeds easily invade areas disturbed by fire, machinery, etc.
- Replace weeds with local native vegetation