

WEED ALERT

Bridal Creeper - Everybody's problem

by Avril Baxter

ONE year after *Land for Wildlife* members Jodie and Leanne White fenced off their creekline they noticed a large bridal creeper infestation. The bridal creeper had probably been there all along, but was grazed by sheep. In this instance fencing off the bush was not enough, a major weed control program was needed.

And it wasn't just on the White's property. Bridal creeper was firmly established in the creekline on the adjoining disused railway reserve and an undeveloped townsite. The problem seemed too big for the landowners to tackle. That's where the local community and Green Corps came to the rescue in a week long spraying program.

Roundup Biactive® was donated by Westrail, money for safety equipment from the Shire of Williams, backpack spray units from CALM and the Shire of West Arthur, the Williams Land Conservation



Julia Nothin from Green Corps (left) and Martin Clarke from CALM test the weight of a back pack full of water.

District applied for extra funding through the Gordon Reid Foundation and Green Corps supplied the labour.

This massive effort resulted in a first pass at weed control. The Green Corps team will be back again next year with a follow up spray, leaving the landowners in the third and following years to tackle any outbreaks - a manageable target.

Bridal creeper is not considered an agricultural weed as it is grazed

by sheep, however it is able to invade undisturbed vegetation and smother understorey plants. It is present on many of our roadsides and is readily spread by birds who feed on the bright red berries in spring time. As stock becomes excluded from creeklines, bridal creeper infestations could spread. It is imperative that the whole community gets behind bridal creeper eradication now, before the problem gets too big to handle.