



TRAC RECORD

The newsletter of the Thompsons Road Area Community Landcare Group (soon to be MULGa).

NEXT WEED WALLOP

SATURDAY 3 SEPTEMBER.

Coordinators: Douglas Wilson & Stephanie Kruize.

Location: corner of Old Coach Road and McKenzie Grove.

Goal: removing weed species and maintenance.



NEWS SNIPPETS

TO BEE OR NOT TO BEE.

Montrose Environmental Group is holding a working bee at Brickworks Reserve on Sunday 11 September to target our old nemesis, woody weeds. It's just two hours from 10.00 a.m. till noon and a better way to mark the anniversary of 9/11 than moping about the state of the world. We are the source of change, my friends. RSVP: Karen Davies at <kdav246@yahoo.com.au>.

Montrose
Community Bank® Branch
 Phone 9728 3177



The end of the re-beginning.

Depending on how we fare with all the arrangements, this is probably our last TRAC Record. ("Hurray!" say those who deem it as mere junk mail.) Before you celebrate too soon, though, it will be replaced by a rebadged version to complement our change of name.

So, late September, please look out for the **MULGa Post**.

That's also when we'll officially changeover to MULGa: Montrose Upper Landcare Group. Watch this space.



An unreserved offer.

We are always willing to help our neighbours transform the roadside reserves (nature strips) owned by Council back to the way nature intended, full of endemic native plants, rather than exotic and/or weed species. This includes weed removal, mulching and planting. Especially if you're willing to work with us, although there's no obligation to work with us ongoing. Council is formulating new laws about how this land can be used.

BEATING AROUND THE BUSH

RAIN MAN'S RANT.

July brought us 111.2 mm of consistent rain with only four days not recording a drop. The biggest fall was a whopping 23.5 mm on July 21. Wet, wet, wet.



CALL THAT A YABBY?

The 'yabbies' that build chimneys in the wet soil in our gardens aren't yabbies. They're actually burrowing crayfish (*Engaeus*). Unfortunately, they're not edible, either. Unless you're a kookaburra, of course...



WANTED: DEAD OR ALIVE (PREFERABLY DEAD).

Another noxious weed in our garden - and probably yours - is angled onion (*Allium triquetrum*). You'll know it as the little white-flowering bulb that smells of onions when you cut it. Now is the time to pull clumps of bulbs out while the soil is damp and it's easy. Or spray the foliage with glyphosate. Please be mindful if spraying that this weed inhabits wet areas that attract frogs. I'd rather hear them call 'knee-deep' than be knee-deep in weeds.

CONTACTS.

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Glypho-safe?

Some of our members have queried the safety of using glyphosate, the herbicide in brands such as Roundup. We use it in our dabber bottles neat to kill woody weeds and spray it diluted to kill grasses and leafy weeds.

A 2015 report by the International Agency for Research on Cancer classified glyphosate as 'probably carcinogenic to humans', in the same category as red meat & wood smoke. To clarify, however, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority stated this year that:

- Glyphosate products are **safe to use if you follow the label instructions**;
- Glyphosate has **not** been banned in any country; and
- The World Health Organisation concluded it is **unlikely** to pose a carcinogenic or genotoxic risk to humans when used according to instructions.

Let's be clear: if you are not comfortable about using it, do not. We don't expect anyone to do anything with us they don't want to do. If you do find yourself using it with us or at home, please use caution. If dabbing, please wear the disposable gloves we will be providing; if spraying, please wear gloves, face masks, eye protection and cover up.



August 2016 weed wallop.

What a great day! We had nine volunteers turn up, including the return of one of our group's stalwarts: the very cheery Roger Rooks. We attacked the wall of blackberries that smothered the little gully next to 21 Old Coach Road with gusto and gained a significant foothold there. We'll be talking to Council about following up with judicious spraying shortly. Well done, all. Proud of you.