



Media Release

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Say no to garden thugs

Frustrated 'green thumbs' should come to Bunnings in Esperance this Sunday to pick up a free copy of the new *Esperance Weeds Guide*.

Produced by the Esperance Weeds Action Group (EWAG), the monthly guide identifies agricultural and bushland weeds along with common garden 'escapees' specific to the Esperance region.

The weeds appear in full colour with descriptions and are catalogued according to seasonal occurrence. The perpetual guide also features practical information on weed control and handy contacts.

The *Esperance Weeds Guide* is an initiative of EWAG and proudly supported by South Coast NRM, Shire of Esperance, Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), and the Australian Government.

EWAG president Kathryn Little said it was an extremely practical and attractive reference tool for anyone wanting to control weeds in their patch.

"It can be used by anyone because it covers both agricultural weeds and the really pretty plants that we find in our gardens that escape and become terrible weeds in the bush and on our roadsides," she said.

DEC Land for Wildlife officer Wayne Gill said the guide would be handy for professionals in the field.

"I found the guide an interesting project because even as a professional within the field I, and many others like me, have a lot to learn with regard to local weeds, their identification and occurrence. Because of its perpetual nature, the guide will be a relevant source for many years to come," he explained.

South Coast NRM invasive species coordinator Matthew Kennewell hoped the guide would lead to greater community awareness of weeds and a willingness to control them, thereby reducing the risk of future infestations in bushland, farms and on road verges.

"Take a closer look at your garden or farm and you might be surprised at what you find. Many declared and environmental weeds have huge biodiversity, social and economic impacts if allowed to spread."

Research and compilation of the guide began in July 2008 requiring hundreds of hours of volunteer work from EWAG members, in particular Coral Turley (previous President of EWAG), Wayne Gill (Secretary) and Robyn Cail (Treasurer).

Copies are available at the Esperance Natural Resource Management Centre at 113 Dempster Street, or Shire of Esperance and DEC offices.

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