Following the release of the report ‘Salinity and Water Quality Management in the Inman River Waitpinga and Coolawang Creek Catchments 2004’ the Inman River Catchment Group has extended their activities to include the catchments to the south.

Welcome to the first edition of *Moo-oola* (Aboriginal name for the Inman River), the newsletter of the Inman River Catchment Group.

This is the first newsletter since Autumn 2001. We shall endeavor to produce a newsletter regularly to inform landholders of projects, issues and the achievements of the group.

We hope you enjoy reading about your local Landcare Group.

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**2005/06 Projects**

The Inman River Catchment Group (IRCG) is involved with several projects in the region and has received funding through the Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board.

New funding for 2006 combined with The City of Victor Harbor’s continued support has allowed the extension of 3 projects which include The Inman Estuary Restoration Project, The Inman, Coolawang and Waitpinga Salinity and Water Quality Project and The Inman Riparian Restoration Project.

The IRCG believes that it is important to maintain the momentum of projects by constantly seeking landholder involvement and future funding opportunities.

The Inman River Catchment Group is working with landholders and Government agencies to protect and extend native vegetation and improve water quality.

Property owners are offered incentives to fence off watercourses and remnant vegetation and to undertake revegetation and woody weed treatment programmes.

The group also provides advice, design, planning, and technical support as part of the service to landholders undertaking on ground works.

Expressions of interest are sought from landholders with property located in the water catchment areas of the Inman River, Back Valley, Waitpinga, Coolawang Creek, Newland Cliffs and Parsons Beach.

For further details on incentive rates or technical assistance please contact; Tim Parkinson on (08) 8551 0541

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Inman River Catchment Group Website: [http://users.chariot.net.au/~ircg](http://users.chariot.net.au/~ircg)
Salvation Jane we know its no salvation, its the purple pest.
Time to control is now Jul to Nov 2006
Salvation Jane is a proclaimed weed.
Protect the Fleurieu from the purple pest.
Salvation Jane is toxic to stock.
for more information go to:
Inman River Catchment Group website - http://users.chariot.net.au/~ircg

The use of the aboriginal name for the Inman River, "Moo-oola" as the title for our group's newsletter has been encouraged by Jeff Kropinyeri of the Ngurindjeri Heritage Committee

PURPLE PERIL or SALVATION JANE (Echium plantagineum)

DESCRIPTION
It is an erect annual or biennial plant to 1m high, rough with short coarse hairs. Lower leaves broad, stalked, forming a rosette; stem leaves stalkless, lance-shaped. Flowers bright blue-violet, tubular, 2 to 2.5 cm long, with 2 projecting stamens, produced in dense coiled racemes at the top of the plant. Persistent green sepals of each flower surround 4 seeds. It is widespread in the State, from the pastoral zone to the South-east.

PROBLEM
It can replace the more useful plants in heavily grazed pasture, leaving bare ground when it dies back in summer. It is toxic to horses and can cause chronic toxicity in sheep and cattle leading to lost productivity.

CONTROL AIM:
To prevent the spread to clean properties; contain infestations, reduce density by preventing seeding and exhaust seed reserve in soil.

Proclamation: Sale or transport of produce contaminated with Purple Peril is prohibited throughout the State. In control areas, landowners are required to control Purple Peril on their own properties and to pay for control on adjoining road reserves.

MANAGEMENT
Sound pasture management is an important tool in any Purple Peril control program. Vigorous perennial grass and legume pastures compete with Purple Peril for light and nutrients and, importantly, prevent later weed germinations from becoming established. This allows an early herbicide spray to give good season-long control.
If pastures are poor, some form of pasture renovation should be considered.
Hay that is cut from properties infested with Purple Peril must not be sold, and hay should only be fed out into contaminated areas. Stock grazing on paddocks infested with Purple Peril should be withheld from clean areas for 1-2 weeks to allow any Purple Peril seed to pass out of the gut.
Caution should be exercised when purchasing fodder as Purple Peril is easily spread in contaminated hay and grain. It is an offence under the SA Animal & Plant Control Act to sell, transport or move infested hay to a clean property. A penalty of up to $10,000 for each offence applies.

CONTROL OF SALVATION JANE
Growth of Purple Peril, and the effectiveness of control measures, are influenced significantly by land use, particularly grazing management.

Sheep
Best control will be achieved on properties running sheep. Sheep graze closer to the ground and are relatively non-specific in their plant preferences. After spraying with certain herbicides, the palatability of Purple Peril plants to sheep is increased.
Cattle
Cattle properties require improved pastures to provide extra competition for weeds. Cattle do not graze Purple Peril specifically, unless stocking rates are so high that their health is suffering.

Horses
Purple Peril is particularly difficult to control in horse paddocks. Horses avoid grazing Purple Peril, which is toxic to them, allowing early rapid growth of plants. Horses are aggressive and selective grazers and will eat out the competitive perennial grasses. When no other feed is available, horses may be forced to eat Purple Peril and are then at risk of poisoning.

Best Purple Peril control is achieved if sheep graze infested horse paddocks after spraying. Paddocks on horse properties especially, will need to be sprayed at least twice a year for reasonable results (June to Nov).

No grazing
Purple Peril plants grow rapidly, and attain a large size, where there is no grazing. Purple Peril dislikes shading, so the best management decision in ungrazed situations is to revegetate with native species (trees, shrubs, grasses) or wood lots, etc. that will eventually choke out the Purple Peril.

Reference:http://www.mlrapcb.net/pest_salvationjane.htm [accessed 20/05/2006]

The Inman River Catchment Group was successful in gaining a Certificate of Merit award at the 2005 - 2006 National Landcare Awards, in the Murray Darling Basin Commission Rivercare Award category.

The Inman River Catchment Group now has its own website. This provides more information about the group, outlining the history of the group, the aims & objectives of the group and the various projects it has undertaken since it began and those that are still in progress. There are examples of the type of on-ground works the group has been involved with, including photos. The results of the water salinity tests that are carried out within the Inman catchment are displayed in graph format as a PDF file. There is also some background history on Crossman’s Bridge. There are some fact sheets about various weeds that may be found within the catchment to assist landholders with identifying weeds. Also included on the site is the groups’ newsletter. There are also links to other landcare group websites. More information will be added as the site is developed.

To visit the site, log onto; http://users.chariot.net.au/~ircg

Rosetta Rural Agencies
20 Adelaide Road Victor Harbor
Tel: 08 8552 1788
Fax: 08 85521029
is proud to sponsor “Moo-oola”
www.rosetta.ruralco.com.au

Any landholders who wish to receive the Moo-oola newsletter or the minutes of the IRCG meetings via email please send your email address to the Project Officer, Tim Parkinson tparkinson@victor.sa.gov.au

Birds of the Willunga Area and their Habitat Needs
Willunga
Thursday August 3rd
7.30pm - 9.30pm

Croaks and Creeks on the Fleurieu Peninsula
Normanville RSL Hall, Normanville
Thursday August 10th
7.30pm - 9.30pm

City Life: The Biology of Urban Communities
Free Forum
Whale Watch Centre, Victor Harbor
Wednesday September 6th
7.30pm - 9.00pm

Registration Essential: For further details and to register phone Mary Crawford on Mobile 04188 48702 or email macrawford@westnet.com.au
THE INMAN RIVER CATCHMENT GROUP HAS MONITORING WATER QUALITY DOWN TO A TEA

The Landcare and Dilmah Tea Australia partnership will see one water quality testing kit and training provided to landcare groups and schools, with one kit in each of Australia’s 56 natural resource management regions, to assist with community landcare plans to improve water quality.

The Inman River Catchment Group is now able to monitor and improve water quality after the group recently received a Dilmah, The Single Origin Tea 100% Pure Ceylon, water testing kit to undertake water quality monitoring at several sites on the Inman River and the catchments of Waitpinga creek, Parsons creek and Coolawang creek.

The Group will use the kit to gather physical and chemical measurements providing ‘snapshots’ of water quality in the region. The kit will also help to provide baseline data in some of the coastal catchments and tributaries of the Inman River.

Inman River Catchment Group Project Officer Tim Parkinson said that the water quality testing kit would be a major boost for the group’s environmental program. “The Dilmah water testing kits will be a huge help to schools and community groups like us who normally could not afford to get the equipment and training they need to monitor and care for the condition of local waterways” said Mr Parkinson.

New Waterwatch program for the Southern Fleurieu

Community groups, schools and landholders can now join with thousands of others across the region in water monitoring and catchment care education activities.

The popular Waterwatch program has recently been expanded thanks to the support of the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board and the City of Victor Harbor.

Waterwatch is a national water monitoring and education program aimed at improving water and catchment health through community involvement and partnerships. It encourages all Australians to become actively involved in the protection and management of their waterways and catchments.

The Waterwatch network has over 50,000 volunteers and is made up of individuals, community groups and school groups who undertake a variety of biological and habitat assessments as well as physical and chemical tests to build up a picture of the health of their waterways. These monitoring groups use a nationally adopted protocol for nine parameters which include macro invertebrates (water bugs), dissolved oxygen, temperature, pH, conductivity, turbidity, reactive phosphorus, nitrogen and riparian habitat assessment.

The data is recorded using nationally agreed units and national site code systems.

So if you or your group would like to participate in monitoring your local creek or estuary, water quality monitoring training and development sessions are available. Both estuarine and freshwater monitoring kits will also be available for a one day loan from select locations.

For more information on the Southern Fleurieu Waterwatch Program please contact Malinda Roberts on 0407 100 596.