# COMMON WEEDS OF GIPPSLAND

### LATROBE CITY



### **Weed Identification**

This book has been made possible through the combined efforts of your local Councils, State Government, and Landcare. They are pleased to present this Weed Identification booklet to the community in an effort to reduce and control the impact of weeds in our environment.



Energy, Environment and Climate Action





## What is a weed?

A weed is a plant that establishes itself outside its normal environment.

## **Types of weeds**

### ENVIRONMENTAL WEEDS

These are plants which threaten the values of natural ecosystems, can invade native plant communities and out compete them, resulting in reduction of plant diversity and loss of habitat for animals and birds.

### AGRICULTURAL WEEDS

Agricultural weeds threaten sustainable productivity, some weeds are toxic to both humans and stock.

### DECLARED NOXIOUS WEEDS

All land owners have obligations under the **Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994** for the management of noxious weeds. Noxious weeds are categorised into four categories:

#### 1. State Prohibited:

Either don't occur in Victoria or it's reasonable to expect they can be eradicated. It is the responsibility of the Victorian Government to take all reasonable steps to eradicate state prohibited weeds on all land in Victoria.

### 2. Regionally prohibited:

Not widely distributed throughout the region but capable of spreading further. It is the responsibility of the land owner to take all reasonable steps to eradicate regionally prohibited weeds on their land.

### 3. Regionally controlled:

Widespread and well established in particular regions e.g. blackberries and ragwort. It is the responsibility of the landowner to take all reasonable steps to prevent the growth and spread of these weeds.

#### 4. Restricted weeds:

Weeds that pose an unacceptable risk to other states and territories if they were sold or traded in Victoria.

All declared noxious weeds are prohibited from sale.



## Disposal of Garden Rubbish

When disposing of garden rubbish or plant cuttings, it is best to compost or burn the plant material on site.

### DO NOT DUMP YOUR RUBBISH ON THE ROADSIDE OR IN THE BUSH!

## Control

The first step is to correctly identify the weed and the category that it belongs in. Then develop a management program for containment or eradi-cation which:

- Provides a long term approach.
- May use more than one control method (integrated).
- Emphasises strategic rather than continual use of farm chemicals.
- Minimises costs.
- Minimises environmental damage.
- Involves working with the neighbours.

Control methods include non-chemical and chemical. When using chemical methods, keep in mind:

- 1. Some chemical products will require an Agricultural Chemical Users Permit.
- 2. Always read the label on the product and follow the directions on usage and handling.
- 3. Always wear protective clothing and use clean equipment.
- 4. Chemicals should be used on weeds that appear on the product label
- 5. Always mix a fresh amount to do the job. Most chemicals lose their effectiveness within 24 hours.
- 6. Apply herbicides at the appropriate rate as specified on the label and follow safety procedures.
- 7. Spray when plants are actively growing.
- Do not spray in high temperatures or if rain is forecast within 24 hours.
- Beware of spray drift reaching non-target species. Do not spray in strong winds or when wind is blowing towards sensitive areas or crops.
- If in doubt, ring your local Department of Primary Industries office, local council or Landcare co-ordinator.



## **Methods of control**



### USE CHEMICAL CONTROL ONLY IF NON-CHEMICAL CONTROL IS IMPRACTICAL.

Reminder – If chemical control is necessary near drainage lines or streams, use extreme caution as the effects on aquatic life can be devastating even in minute amounts. Always seek expert advice.



### Cut & Paint

Suitable for many woody weeds and some climbing creepers. The plant is cut off close to the ground and herbicide applied immediately to the cut surface. A staggered pruning technique may be used for larger trees with herbicide applied at the last cut.



### Drill & Frill

Chips or frills are made into the trunk of a woody weed close to the base of the trunk with an axe or tomahawk with herbicide applied immediately. Cuts to penetrate through the hard outer bark and just into the soft bark. Alternately, an angled hole can be drilled into the sapwood just below the bark and herbicide applied immediately. Refer to the chemical label.



### Scrape & Paint

A variation of cut and paint that is more appropri ate for treating large woody, vine-like weeds. The outside bark of a vine is removed with a knife and the exposed inner tissue immediately painted with herbicide.



### Foliar Spray

An appropriate herbicide is applied as fine droplets to the surface of foliage using a knapsack or spray unit.

## **Methods of control**

### NON CHEMICAL

### Prevention

Control small weed infestations before they spread and become larger. Remove any weeds before they seed. This will contain the infestation and stop it spreading by seed.



### Hand Pulling

Very effective in small areas or with isolated plants. Some plants will regenerate unless all root material is removed.



### Slashing or mowing

May be used to delay seed production until a more permanent means of control can be undertaken. Care must be taken as weeds can easily be spread.



### Mechanical - Use of heavy machinery

Suitable for initial removal of large infestations of woody weeds. Often followed by other forms of control. Caution: Some weeds are spread through movement of contaminated machinery, ensure machinery is clean before shifting to a fresh site.



### Solarisation

A technique that blocks light and uses the heat from the sun to "cook" weeds. Usually involves a plastic sheet or carpet to cover the area, sealed tight by burying the edges and left in place for four weeks or more.



### Mulching / Smothering

Involves placing a thick layer of material on the ground surface through which weeds struggle to penetrate.

### Pasture Improvement / Revegetation



Plant competition is an important means of weed control. In a pasture situation, increasing competition through good grazing management and by addressing soil fertility will help to control many weeds. Often weed control programs should include revegetation with sui able, local native plants.

### African Lovegrass

Eragrostis curvula NOXIOUS

Status: Regionally Controlled Family: Poaceae

Origin: Southern Africa

Description: Tussock forming perennial grass

Fruit/Seeds: Produces large quantities of seed summer to autumn.

Dispersal: Reproduces by seed. Seed is dispersed by water, wind, animals, vehicles, slashing, on clothing and in soil.

Invades: Open disturbed conditions, roadsides, neglected areas, poor quality pastures.

Control Measures:





Agapanthus

Status: Environmental Weed

Family: Liliaceae

Origin: South Africa

Description: A stout, fleshy-rooted perennial which bears a spherical cluster of sky-blue flowers in summer on 1m high stalks.

Fruit/Seeds: Seeds form after flowering.

Dispersal: Seed is dispersed by birds, wind, water, carried on boots and clothing or vegetatively from dumping of garden rubbish. Invades: Bushland, coastal areas, roadsides.





Alligator Weed

Alternanthera philoxeroides NOXIOUS

### Status: State Prohibited

Family: Amaranthaceae

#### Origin: South America

**Description:** Lance-shaped, dark green, opposite leaves growing on a soft, hollow stem. White flowers mid spring autumn.

Fruit/Seeds: Reproduces by stolons.

**Dispersal:** Stolons are dispersed by water movement, flood and wave action, wind, animals, machinery and in soil.

**Invades:** is a highly aggressive, invasive species capable of spreading in waterways or seasonally moist conditions.

Control Measures:





Angled Onion

Allium triquetrum NOXIOUS

#### Status: Restricted Family: Liliaceae

Origin: Mediterranean region

**Description:** White, bell-like flowers in winter and spring; similar to snowdrop but with a strong onion smell.

Fruit/Seeds: Seeds in summer.

**Dispersal:** Spreads mainly vegetatively from bulbs eg. Through grading of roadsides.

Invades: Water courses, roadsides, waste areas, coastal areas.





Amsinckia

Amsinckia species **NOXIOUS** 

### Status: Regionally Prohibited

Family: Boraginaceae

Origin: North & South America

**Description:** Free-standing, winter growing herb 20 to 70 cm high covered with long and short hairs. Yellow to orange trumpet shaped flowers August to November.

Fruit/Seeds: The fruit consists of a burr surrounding four nutlets, each containing a single seed. A plant may produce up to 1600 seeds.

**Dispersal:** Seed is effectively spread on farm equipment, in contaminated fodder and by birds and animals.

**Invades:** An agricultural weed, has potential to cover a wide range of soil types and climates. Competes strongly with cereal crops.

Control Measures::





### Apple of Sodom

Solanum linnaeanum NOXIOUS

### Status: Regionally Controlled

Family: Solonaceae

Origin: South Africa

Description: An erect shrub to 1m with spines and prickles on the branches, leaves and calyces. Purple to white flowers winter – spring. Fruit/Seeds: Globular berries, green to yellow when ripe. *Poisonous*. Dispersal: By seed - birds, foxes etc.

Invades: Bushland, roadsides, waste areas.





### Arum Lily

Status: Environmental Weed Family: Araceae

#### Origin: South Africa

Description: A large perennial herb with large fleshy green leaves. Garden escapee. All parts of the plant are poisonous if eaten.

Fruit/Seeds: White trumpet shaped flowers with a yellow flower spike followed by a seed head from July to November.

Dispersal: Spread by underground rhizomes. Seed spread by birds, foxes and dumped garden prunings.

Invades: Moist areas and along watercourses.

Control Measures:





### Environmental Weed

Family: Liliaceae

Origin: South Africa

Description: Highly invasive climbing plant with small green leaves along a twining stem.

Fruit/Seeds: Small white flowers in spring develop into orange berries. Dispersal: By seeds or rhizomes, commonly spread by birds or from dumped garden refuse.

Invades: The ground-layer and lower canopy of bushland particularly in sandy areas. Will grow in shaded areas.





Banana Passionfruit

Passiflora mollissima

Status: Environmental Weed Family: Passsifloraceae

Origin: Andean South America

**Description:** A fast-growing woody-stemmed tendril climber which forms dense layered mats. Long tubed pink flowers in summer followed by edible fruit.

Fruit/Seeds: Fruiting is copious over autumn-winter.

**Dispersal:** Seed dispersed by birds or from dumped garden refuse. **Invades:** Damp or seasonally moist locations. Will grow in moderate shade but is prolific in sunny locations.

Control Measures:





*Xanthium spinosum* L **NOXIOUS** 

### Status: Regionally Controlled

Family: Asteraceae

Origin: South Africa

**Description:** Course annual weed, dark shiny divided leaves with whitish under surface. Three yellow spines grow at the base of each leaf stalk.

Fruit/Seeds: Hairy ovoid fruit with numerous yellow-orange hooked spines.

Dispersal: Through burrs carried by animals, clothing, machinery, fodder and in soil.

Invades: Pastures, sale yards, stock yards, woollen mills.





Blackberry

*Rubus fruiticosus* Spp. agg. **NOXIOUS** 

Status: Regionally Controlled

Family: Rosaceae

Origin: Europe

**Description:** An aggressive, prickly, trailing perennial plant which grows into dense thickets.

Fruit/Seeds: Small white flowers late spring – summer followed by berries which change from green through red to black as they ripen. Dispersal: Reproduces from seed, root suckers and via tip rooting. Seeds are spread by birds and foxes.

**Invades:** Roadsides, along disturbed bushland margins, river banks, agricultural land and wastelands.

Control Measures:





### Status: State Prohibited

Family: Asteraceae

Origin: Europe

**Description:** An erect perennial herb with creeping roots and a rough, hairy stem growing to 1 m high. Introduced as an ornamental plant.

Fruit/Seeds: Reddish purple globe shaped flowers in summer, similar to a thistle. Seeds are brown with hairs attached.

**Dispersal:** By seed or vegetatively from root or stem fragments. Spread by slashers and road machinery.

**Invades:** A State prohibited weed only present in limited areas at Mirboo Nth and Neerim. Mainly along roadsides, can invade pasture and stream sides.





Blackberry Nightshade Solanum nigrum

Status: Environmental Weed

Family: Solanaceae

Origin: Europe

Description: An annual herb which varies widely in its growth form. Fruit/Seeds: Small white flowers in spring-summer, with green to black berries.

Dispersal: Seeds are spread by birds and animals.

**Invades:** Waste places, areas of cultivation, and is a common coloniser where weeds such as blackberries have been sprayed and the area not rehabilitated with appropriate species.

Control Measures:





### Status: Environmental Weed

Family: Pittosporaceae

Origin: Western Australia

**Description:** Evergreen, woody based, twining climber with attractive blue flowers. Smothers ground-flora, smaller shrubs and trees.

Fruit/Seeds: Attractive blue flowers spring – summer followed by a sweet sticky green fruit.

**Dispersal:** A garden escapee with the fruit spread by birds and foxes. **Invades:** Prefers lighter soils and is highly invasive in Victorian coastal woodlands.





Blue Butterfly Bush

Psoralaea pinnata

Status Environmental Weed

Family: Fabaceae

### Origin: South Africa

Description: An erect perennial shrub, 2-4 m garden escapee.

Fruit/Seeds: Mauve-blue pea shaped flowers with white centers flowers spring – early summer. Seeds in black pods 3-4 mm long.

Dispersal: Seeds spread by birds, roadworks, slashing and soil disturbance.

Invades: Highly invasive in heath lands, shrub lands, woodlands, coastal, drier forests, swamp edges and riparian areas. Will grow in a variety of soil types.

Control Measures:





### Status: Environmental Weed

Origin: Mediterranean region

Family: Apocynaceae Description: An ornamental creeper which forms dense, intertwining low mats which can completely smother all ground flora.

Fruit/Seeds: Lilac-blue flowers in spring-summer. Seeds contained in tapering follicles 2-5 cm long.

Dispersal: Primarily by stem rooting, often through disposal of garden refuse in the bush and along roadsides. Some reproduction from seed. Invades: Fertile soils, primarily in damp shaded areas in forests, coastal areas, woodlands and along waterways, drainage lines and roadsides. Control Measures:





Boneseed

Chrysanthemoides monilifera NOXIOUS

Status: Regionally Controlled

Family: Asteraceae

Origin: South Africa

Description: An erect perennial shrub to 3 m high with dull green paddle shaped leaves. Young leaves often covered in cottony down. Fruit/Seeds: Bright yellow daisy flowers in winter to summer, green berries in summer which turn into hard black seeds.

Dispersal: A heavy seeder, seeds spread by birds, animals and water. Invades: Coastal habitats, dry forests.

Control Measures:





Lycium ferocissimum NOXIOUS

### Status: Regionally Controlled

Family: Solanaceae

Origin: South Africa

**Description:** A large shrub to 3m with small fleshy oval leaves and thorns along branches. Plants provide an ideal harbour for rabbits and foxes.

Fruit/Seeds: White to mauve flowers which develop into small red berries.

Dispersal: Seeds are spread by birds and foxes.

**Invades:** First introduced for hedgerows, occurs commonly on wastelands, agricultural land, roadsides and coastal areas.





#### Status: Restricted Weed

Family: Liliaceae

Origin: South Africa

NOXIOUS

**Description**: Deciduous, woody based scrambling climber, aggressive and highly invasive, smothering ground flora, smaller shrubs and trees. **Fruit/Seeds**: Greenish-white flowers in spring flowed by green to red berries.

Dispersal: Reproduces by seeds and rhizomes/tubers. Spread by birds and dumping of garden waste. Seed viability is approximately 90% Invades: Most vigorous in lighter soils and shaded positions. Control Measures: Biological control available, contact DPI





### Broom – Cape/Montpelier

Genista monpessulana

NOXIOUS

#### Status: Regionally Controlled

Family: Fabaceae

**Origin:** Europe/Mediterranean

**Description:** Erect perennial shrub with clover shaped leaves and dense clusters of yellow pea-like flowers in spring & summer.

Fruit/Seeds: Five to eight seeds in flat, silky pods which are ejected forcibly from the pods when ripe.

**Dispersal:** Seed is spread by birds, stock, ants, water, machinery, slashing and dumping of garden waste.

Invades: Highly invasive, commonly establishing in disturbed bushland margins and along roadsides & railway lines. Regenerates after fire.





Broom - English

Cytisus scoparius NOXIOUS

### Status: Regionally Controlled

Family: Fabaceae

Origin: Europe/Mediterranean

Description: Erect shrub to 2m high with long dark green angular branches and small inconspicuous leaves. Large pea shaped flowers in October and November.

Fruit/Seeds: Flat, black seed pods are produced, each containing 6-16 seeds which are ejected forcibly when ripe. Parts of the plant, especially flowers and seeds are TOXIC.

Dispersal: Seed id spread by birds, ants, stock, water, machinery, slashing, soil and dumping of garden waste.

Invades: Highly invasive, commonly establishing in disturbed bushland margins, agricultural land and along roadsides & railways lines. Regenerates after fire.

Control Measures:





### Status: Regionally Controlled

Family: Fabaceae

Origin: Europe/Mediterranean

NOXIOUS

Description: Erect woody shrub, light green slender leaves, smooth above and silky white below. Clusters of yellow pea shaped flowers in late spring to summer.

Fruit/Seeds: Two or three seeds in flat silky pods. Seeds are ejected forcibly from pods when ripe.

Dispersal: Seed id spread by birds, ants, stock, water, machinery, slashing, soil and dumping of garden waste.

Invades: Highly invasive, commonly establishing in disturbed bushland margins and along roadsides & railways lines. Regenerates after fire. Control Measures:





Status: Regionally Prohibited Family: Iridacea

Origin: South Africa

NOXIOUS

**Description:** One-leaf Cape tulip has one stem 30 – 75 cm high and salmon pink or orange flowers. Two-leaved cape tulip has stems with a flower on each. Poisonous to stock.

Fruits/seeds. Numerous seeds produced in capsules. Underground corms are produced annually. Two-leaf cape tulip also reproduces by leaf cormils.

**Dispersal:** By underground corms, cormils and seeds dispersed by water, animals, machinery, wind, slashing and in soil.

**Invades:** Agricultural land, native grasslands, woodlands and heathlands.

Control Measures:





### Cape Wattle

Paraserianthes lophantha

#### Status: Environmental Weed

Family: Mimosaceae

Control Measures:

Origin: Western Australia

**Description:** A popular ornamental tree with dark-green fern-like leaves. Greenish-yellow bottlebrush-like flower spikes in late autumn-spring.

Fruits/seeds: Seeds in reddish-brown pods over summer.

**Dispersal:** Seeds prolifically. Seed is dispersed by birds, ants, slashing, machinery, in soil and garden refuse.

Invades: Woodlands, forests, riparian environments, coastal areas.





### Cape Weed

Arctotheca calendula

### Status: Agricultural Weed

Family: Asteraceae

Origin: Africa

**Description:** A widespread annual herb with divided, spreading leaves and yellow, daisy like flowers spring-summer.

Fruits/seeds: Seeds covered in a pink, tangled woolly covering. Dispersal: Seeds spread by animals, wind and machinery. Invades: Bare areas in paddocks and waste places.

Control Measures:





### Status: Environmental Weed

Family: Rubiaceae

Origin: Europe and Asia

**Description:** An annual climbing herb with square stems covered with small prickles which give the plant a sticky feel.

Fruit/Seeds: Small white flowers in summer followed by a round sticky seed pod.

Dispersal: By the seed which readily sticks to clothing and an mals. Invades: Gardens and roadsides in high rainfall areas.





Climbing Groundsel

Senecio angulatus

Status: Environmental Weed Family: Asteraceae Origin: Europe Description: A perrenial climber or large spreading shrub. 5-20m Fruit/Seeds: Has yellow florets which carry seed. Dispersal: Through wind-blown parachutes and birds. Invades: Cultivated areas, coastal areas and bushland. Control Measures:





### Common Purslane

Portulaca oleracea

Status: Environmental Weed Family: Portulacaceae Origin: Unknown Description: Succulent protrate annual. Shiny leaves and yellow flowers. Suspected of causing poisoning in stock. Invades: Cleared and disturbed areas. Dispersal: Ants, soil, water, vegetatively Control Measures:





Cootamundr<u>a Wattle</u>

Acacia baileyana

Status: Environmental Weed Family: Mimosaceae

Origin: New South Wales

Description: Small spreading tree commonly planted as an ornamental plant with profuse, golden, ball-shaped flowers in winter.

Fruits/Seeds: A prolific seed producer with seed remaining dormant in the ground for over 10 years.

Invades: Invades woodlands and forests in drier areas where rainfall exceeds 400 mm.

Control Measures:





### Cotoneaster

Cotoneaster spp.

### Status: Environmental Weed

Family: Rosaceae

Origin: China Description: Popular evergreen garden shrub or small tree with green oval leaves and small white flowers in spring followed by orange-red berries.

Fruits/seeds: Large orange-red berries, potentially poisonous.

Dispersal: Seeds dispersed by birds, foxes and in garden refuse. Will sucker if cut down.

Invades: Invasive in a range of natural habitats. Tolerates wet and dry conditions. Will grow in lightly shaded or sunny areas.





Creeping Buttercup

Ranunculus repens

Status: Environmental Weed Family: Rununculaceae Origin: Europe, Asia Description: Rhizomatous perennial creeper. Large leaves divided into 3 with yellow buttercup flowers. Poisonous to stock. Dispersal: Water, soil and animals (external) Invades: Moist areas and riparian environments. Control Measures:





### Dolichos Pea

Dipogon lignosus

### Status: Environmental Weed

Family: Fabaceae

Origin: South Africa

**Description:** A widely cultivated perennial vine with pink, purple or white pea shaped flowers in spring-summer.

Fruits/Seeds: Seeds are contained in pods and can be ejected many metres from the parent plant.

Dispersal: Seed is dispersed by birds, in soil and garden refuse.

Invades: Highly invasive in woodlands, heathlands and dune systems. Control Measures:





### Drain Flat Sedge

### Cyperus eragrostis

Status: Environmental Weed Family: Cyperaceae Origin: North/South America Description: Erect perennial herb to 80cm. Green to yellow, smooth slender leaves. Clustered yellow to brown flowers. Fruits/Seeds: Tiny brown 3 angled pod. Dispersal: Animals (internal & external) Invades: Moist environments.

Control Measures:





### Fat Hen

Chenopodium album

### Status: Agricultural Weed

Family: Chenopodiaceae

Origin: Europe, Asia

**Description:** Erect annual 1.5m. Leaves with coarsely toothed margins with tiny flowers.

Fruits/seeds: Shiny black seeds. Causes rare occurances of death in livestock. May taint milk from dairy cows.

Dispersal: Water, soil, vegetatively and wind.

Invades: Bushland, cleared areas, roadsides, riparian vegetation.





#### Status: Restricted Family: Apiaceae

Origin: Southern Europe, Western Asia

**Description:** An erect perennial plant to 2 m high with a strong aniseed smell when crushed. Small yellow flowers in clusters grouped in umbrella shapes.

Fruits/Seeds: 3-6 mm long yellow brown seeds.

Dispersal: Seeds are dispersed by water, wind, machinery, slashing and in soil.

**Invades:** A widespread weed of disturbed and degraded areas, especially along waterways, drainage lines and roadsides.

#### Control Measures:





Flaxleaf Fleabane

Conyza bonariensis

#### Status: Agricultural Weed

Family: Asteraceae Compositae Origin: North/South America Description: Annual or perennial herb. Erect in stature, usually less than 1 m in height.

Fruits/Seeds: Flowers in spring-autumn, with white hairs evident. Dispersal: Birds, water and animals (internal).

Invades: Bushland, roadsides, riparian vegetation, disturbed sites.

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#### Status: Regionally Controlled

Family: Fabaceae

Origin: Europe

NOXIOUS

**Description:** A dense spiny shrub to 2.4 m which forms impenetrable thickets excluding all other vegetation and providing a harbour for rabbits.

Fruits/Seeds: Fragrant, bright yellow pea flowers occur in clusters from September to January followed by long, dark, hairy pods containing 2-6 seeds. Seed viability 2-5 years

Dispersal: Seeds are ejected forcibly from pods, spread by machinery, birds, animals, vehicles and in soil.

**Invades:** Disturbed agricultural land, degraded landscapes, coastal areas roadsides. Also woodlands, grasslands, riparian areas and forests.

### Control Measures:





Hawthorn

Crataegus monogyna NOXIOUS

### Status: Regionally Controlled

Family: Rosaceae

Origin: Europe

Description: Erect deciduous small shrub to tree with thorny branches and small serrated bright green leaves. Once widely used for hedges. Fruit/Seeds: White or pink flowers in spring followed by red berries in

autumn.

**Dispersal:** Reproduces by seed which is dispersed by birds, foxes, possums, stock and water.

Invades: Invasive along creeks, rivers and roadsides.





Status: Regionally Controlled Family: Apiaceae

Origin: Europe, Asia

NOXIOUS

**Description:** Erect annual or biannual herb with ferry leaves and masses of small white flowers in an umbrella arrangement. Has an unpleasant smell when crushed. All parts of the plant are toxic to humans and animals.

Fruits/Seeds: Masses of small seeds produced after flowering. Dispersal: Spread by machinery, water and soil movement. Invades: Roadsides, stream-sides and waste areas

Control Measures:





Himalayan Honeysuckle

Leycesteria formosa

### Status: Environmental Weed

Family: Caprifoliaceae

Origin: Himalayas, China

**Description:** Deciduous shrub with many hollow stems to 3-5m tall. **Fruits/Seeds:** Drooping flower spikes near branch tips with purple to white funnel-shaped flowers. Dark crimson berries ripe in Summer-Autumn. Fruit may be poisonous.

Dispersal: Water, soil, vegetatively.

**Invades:** Sheltered locations in gullies, stream sides and protected hillsides.





### Holly

llex aquifolium

### Status: Environmental Weed

Family: Aquifoliaceae

### Origin: Europe

**Description:** Small ornamental tree with dark shiny leaves with prickly margins.

Fruity/Seeds: Small white fragrant flowers followed by red berries in summer, autumn and winter.

Dispersal: Seed spread mainly by birds.

**Invades:** Woodlands and forests with cool moist climates. Very competitive in heavy shade.

Control Measures:





### Status: Regionally Controlled

Family: Labiatae

Origin: Asia, Europe

NOXIOUS

**Description:** A whitish-downy perennial herb with small white flowers in groups next to the upper leaves on the stem. Flowering mainly in Spring.

Fruits/Seeds: Brown or black, ovoid or triangular, slightly roughened. Dispersal: Seeds primarily dispersed by stock, foxes and rabbits, as the fruit readily attaches to wool, fur etc.

**Invades:** A weed of pastures and crops in Southern Australia where it invades poor pastures and waste spaces.





### Ivy—Cape

Delairea odorata

Status: Environmental Weed

Family: Asteraceae

### Origin: South Africa

**Description:** A highly invasive climbing plant which forms smothering curtains over smaller plants and trees.

Fruits/Seeds: Yellow daisy-like flowers in winter-early spring followed by seed with hairs attached.

**Dispersal:** Reproduces by seed and from stolons. Spreads by seed dispersed by wind, machinery, slashing and in garden refuse.

**Invades**: High rainfall areas, occurring in dune systems, woodlands, forests, riparian areas, neglected areas and roadsides.

Control Measures:





## lvy—English

Hedera helix

Origin: Europe

### Status: Environmental Weed

Family: Araliaceae

**Description:** A widely planted ornamental creeper with green lobed leaves. Trailing stems form dense smothering mats.

Fruits/Seeds: Greenish-yellow flowers in autumn followed by black fruit. Dispersal: Seed is dispersed by birds, foxes, and possibly water. Stem fragments disposed of in garden refuse will also grow.

**Invades:** Seasonally moist, shaded or sunny positions in wet forest, dry forest and coastal areas.





Japanese Honeysuckle

Lonicera japonica

### Status: Environmental Weed

Family: Caprifoliaceae

Origin: Japan, China

**Description:** Climbing plant able to form large mats across the ground, can grow to 10m tall.

Fruits/Seeds: Scented yellow/white flowers in pairs near branch tips. Shiny black berry 6-10mm long, which is very poisonous. Leaves may be toxic.

**Dispersal:** Seed; vegetatively - creeping stems (stolons), and stems rooting at nodes.

Invades: Forests, woodlands,

Control Measures:





Kikuyu Grass

Pennisetum clandestinum

### Status: Environmental Weed

Family: Poaceae

#### Origin: Eastern Africa

**Description:** A coarse, matted perennial grass with long stout stolons and light green leaves. Can climb in loose mats over shrubs, fences etc. Used extensively as a summer growing pasture.

Fruit/Seeds: Rarely flowers, reproduces readily from small pieces.

**Dispersal:** Many infestations are the result of dumping garden waste and deliberate plantings for lawns and soil stabilisation. Fragments spread by machinery.

**Invades:** Bushland locations, grasslands, grassy woodlands, coastal areas, riparian areas, moist forests and roadsides.





### Mirror Bush

Coprosma repens

#### Status: Environmental Weed

Family: Rubiaceae

Origin: New Zealand

**Description:** Erect perennial shrub with shiny, bright green oval shaped leaves. It is a hardy, adaptable plant which grows in shade and full sun.

Fruit/Seeds: Inconspicuous flowers followed by green-red berries.

**Dispersal:** Reproduces by seed, which is spread by birds, foxes and possums.

**Invades:** A widely grown plant in coastal areas, commonly invades coastal bushland environments.

Control Measures:





### Montbretia

Family: Iridaceae

Crocosmia X crocosmiiflora

### Status: Environmental Weed

Origin: A horticultural hybrid

**Description:** A popular garden plant with pale green sword shaped leaves and bright red flower spikes to 1 m over summer. The plant dies back to a bulb over autumn.

Fruits/Seeds: Reproduces from seeds, but primarily from corms. Dispersal: Spread by water, slashing, grading and in garden refuse. Invades: An aggressive invader of moist fertile areas forming close stands crowding out other plants.





Morning Glory

Ipomoea indica

Status: Environmental Weed

Family: Convolvulaceae

Origin: Tropical regions

**Description:** Rampant climbing plant capable of smothering low growing vegetation, trees and shrubs. Tubular, blue trumpet shaped flowers in warmer weather.

Fruits/Seeds: Reproduces by seed and stolons.

**Dispersal:** Most outbreaks are spread by dumping of garden refuse. Seed is dispersed by wind and water.

**Invades:** Favours sunny positions in moist locations. Invasions often commence in disturbed bushland margins, expanding as the canopy dies and light levels increase.

Control Measures:





Mullein—Great

*Verbascum thaspus* L. **NOXIOUS** 

### Status: Restricted

Family: Scrophulariaceae

Origin: Europe, Asia

**Description:** A stout biennial herb with erect stems and large rosette leaves. Numerous yellow flowers form along a rod-like structure. A garden escapee still found in cottage gardens.

Fruit/Seeds: Seeds are produced after flowering.

Dispersal: By seed, dumped garden refuse, road machinery, slashing. Invades: Roadsides, railway lines, waste areas, degraded agricultural land.





### Mullein—Twiggy

Verbascum virgatum

Status: Environmental Weed Family: Scrophulariaceae

Origin: Europe

Description: Biennial erect herb to 1 m high. Has an erect flower stem arising from a rosette from which numerous yellow flowers develop. Fruit/Seeds: Seeds are produced after flowering.

Dispersal: By seed through road machinery, grading, slashing.

**Invades:** Roadsides, railway lines, waste areas and degraded agricultural land.

Control Measures:





Oxeye Daisy

Leucanthemum vulgare NOXIOUS

### Status: Regionally Controlled

Family: Asteraceae

Origin: Europe and Siberia

**Description:** A perennial plant with long slender stalks and white daisy flowers with yellow centers in spring-autumn.

Fruits/Seeds: Dark brown, grey or black flat and usually ribbed seeds are produced in summer.

**Dispersal**: By seed, spread by machinery especially slashing and animals.

**Invades:** Wet forest, grassy woodland, riparian, alpine vegetation, agricultural land and along roadsides.





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Pampas Grass Cortaderia selloana Status: Environmental Weed Origin: South America

### Family: Gramineae/Poaceae

Description: Large tussocky perennial grass with white or pink feathery flowers in late summer.

Fruits/Seeds: As seeds fall, flowers appear white.

Dispersal: Seeds are spread by wind, machinery and dumping of garden refuse.

Invades: Open, sunny areas which have adequate moisture. Along stream banks, roadsides and waste places and native vegetation.



produced. Dispersal: A popular aquarium plant, spread by dumping of fish tank water, spreads by stem fragments.

Fruits/Seeds: Only female flowers produced in Australia, fertile seed not

Invades: Shallow water bodies, creeks, dams and drains.

Control Measures:

appearance.





Myriophyllum aquaticum

### Status: Environmental Weed

Family: Haloragaceae

Origin: South America

Description: A highly invasive aquatic weed which grows partly submerged. Leaves above the surface are whorled and feathery in



Paterson's Curse

Echium plantagineum NOXIOUS

#### Status: Regionally Controlled

Family: Boraginaceae Origin: Western Europe, Mediterranean Description: A major agricultural weed. An erect biennial herb to 1m with bluish-purple flowers in spring.

Fruits/Seeds: A prolific seeder with four nutlets surrounded by a persistent stiff calyx.

**Dispersal:** By seed, spread by contaminated fodder, machinery, vehicles, animals. Seed viability over 5 years.

**Invades:** Establishes large populations rapidly, especially on disturbed ground. Competes with pasture and establishes on the edge of bushland. A priority weed through Gippsland.

#### Control Measures:







Pinus radiata

#### Status: Environmental Weed

Family: Pinaceae

**Origin:** Northern Hemisphere

**Description**: A tall, evergreen softwood tree to 40 m. Dark green needle-like leaves in dense clusters.

Fruits/Seeds: Large seed bearing cones are produced at the end of branches.

Dispersal: Seed is dispersed by wind and birds.

**Invades:** Pines reduce soil fertility, produce a dense leaf litter and shade out other species.





Polygala or Myrtle-Leaf Milkwort

Polygala myrtifolia

### Status: Environmental Weed

Family: Polygalaceae

Origin: South Africa

**Description:** An erect rounded shrub 2-3 m high with purple and white pea- shaped flowers. Flowers all year with peak flowering time in spring-summer.

Fruits/Seeds: Fruits are heart-shaped capsules containing 2 seeds.

Dispersal: Seed is dispersed by birds, ants, water, in soil and garden refuse.

**Invades:** A highly invasive weed of coastal areas. Plants tolerate salty winds and will grow in sun and full shade forming dense thickets.

Control Measures:





Privet broad-leaf

Ligustrum lucidum

#### Status: Environmental Weed Family: Oleaceae

Origin: China and Japan

**Description:** A shrub or small tree to 10m high. Leaves are glossy dark green. Cream or white tubular flowers with four petal-like lobes occur during spring / summer in branched clusters 3.5–6.0 mm long. Flowers have a sweet fragrance. Privet berries and leaves have been reported to be mildly toxic to humans and livestock if ingested.

Fruits/Seeds: Clusters of purple berries form following flowering with each berry containing two seeds.

**Dispersal**: Privet seeds are commonly spread by fruit-eating birds with seedlings often germinating in clusters. May also be spread through dumping of garden waste.



### Ragwort

Senecio jacobaea NOXIOUS

#### Status: Regionally Controlled Family: Asteraceae

Family: Asteraceae Origin: Europe Description: An erect biennial or perennial herb, leaves are dark green with a ragged edge. The plant grows from a rosette into a cabbage form then sends up an erect stem. Flowering occurs from October to March with yellow daisy-like flowers. Toxic to stock if eaten.

Fruits/Seeds: Each plant can produce up to 200,000 seeds.

Dispersal: Seeds are spread by wind, water, vehicles, animals and clothing. Viability 8+ years.

**Invades:** Pastures in high rainfall areas, particularly on steep and neglected sites where control may be difficult. A priority weed throughout Gippsland.

Control Measures:





Red Ink Weed

Phytolacca octandra

#### Status: Environmental Weed Family: Phytolaccaceae Origin: Tropical America Description: Perennial herb or soft-wooded shrub to 2m. Fruits/Seeds: Stems red in colour, flowers November-May. Rank smelling. Shining black berries when ripe. Poisonous. Dispersal: Water and vegetatively. Invades: Heath and Bushland Control Measures:





Salvinia

Salvinia molesta NOXIOUS

### Status: State Prohibited

Family: Salviniaceae

Origin: Brazil

**Description:** A free-floating freshwater aquatic fern, one of the worlds most serious aquatic weeds.

Fruit/Seeds: Plants are sterile and reproduce solely by vegetative means.

**Dispersal:** Sold illegally as an aquarium and pond plant. Establishes from discarded aquarium and pond refuse. Physical disturbance disperses plants through water bodies.

**Invades**: Still or slow moving fresh-water bodies. Dense mats exclude all other forms of vegetation, reduce oxygen and light levels and physically disrupt invertebrate, fish and bird habitat.

#### Control Measures:





Serrated Tussock

Nassella trichotoma NOXIOUS

Status: Regionally Controlled (West Gippsland) Family: Poaceae Origin:

Origin: South America

**Description:** A fine-leafed tussock forming perennial grass. Leaves are rounded and rough to touch. Plants are unpalatable to stock, infestations expand as more palatable grasses are eaten out.

Fruit/Seeds: Large, vigorous plants can produce 100,000 seeds annually.

Dispersal: Seeds are dispersed by wind, animals, fodder, machinery, vehicles, slashing and in soil.

**Invades:** A major agricultural weed occurring in areas with 500-900mm annual rainfall. Also invades grasslands, grassy woodlands and drier forests.




### Spanish Heath

Erica Iusitanica

Status: Environmental Weed

Family: Ericaceae

Origin: South-West Europe

**Description**: An erect shrub to 3 m high with numerous pink tinged white flowers in late winter.

Fruit/Seeds: Capsules are produced after flowering containing numerous fine pepper-like seeds. Each plant can produce up to nine million seeds annually with viability exceeding 50%.

**Dispersal:** Small seeds are spread by wind, dumping of garden plants and slashing.

**Invade**s: Highly invasive in high rainfall areas, capable of dominating the shrub canopy in bushland areas

Control Measures:





## Spurge—Caper

Euphorbia lathyris

#### Status: Environmental Weed

Family: Euphorbia

#### Origin: Europe and Asia

**Description:** The juvenile plant has a stout, erect stem with leaves opposite with a bluish-green colour. A white line runs the lengths of the leaf. The mature plant has a bush form. Has a poisonous milky latex. Always wear gloves and glasses during removal.

Fruit/Seeds: Leaf-like flowers during spring-summer.

**Dispersal:** Seed pods explode ending seeds up to 2m, water movement assists.

Invades: Bushland, roadsides and waste areas.





St John's Wort

Hypericum perforatum NOXIOUS

Status: Regionally Controlled

Family: Clusiaceae

Origin: Europe

Description: A perennial herb to 1 m with numerous rust coloured branches. Yellow flowers in spring-summer which have five petals with black dots along the margins. Toxic to stock if eaten.

Fruit/Seeds: Seeds golden brown, pitted in sticky capsules.

Dispersal: By seed or runners, spread by animals, wind, slashing, road machinery.

Invades: Sandy or gravel soils along roadsides, railway lines and degraded agricultural land.

Control Measures:





Sweet Briar Rose

Rosa rubiginosa NOXIOUS

#### Status: Regionally Controlled

Origin: Europe, Western Asia

Family: Roasaceae Description: A deciduous, multi-stemmed shrub to heights and widths of 3 m. Fragrant pinkish-white flowers in spring-early summer.

Fruit/Seeds: Oval fruits about 2 cm long maturing to red-orange over summer-autumn.

Dispersal: Seed is dispersed by birds, foxes and water.

Invades: Forms thickets, crowding and out-competing shrubs, preventing most overstorey regeneration. Invades grasslands, woodlands, rocky escarpments and riparian areas.





Sweet Pittosporum Pittosporum undulatum

#### Status: Environmental Weed

Family: Pittosporaceae Origin: Rainforests in Oueensland, NSW, Vic

Description: Tree which occurs naturally through rainforests in Gippsland. Masses of sweet-scented flowers in spring which develop into orange berries in autumn.

Fruit/Seeds: Seeds develop in orange berries.

Dispersal: Becoming more widespread due to altered drainage patterns, reduced fire frequencies and increased dispersal by birds. Westward distribution due to popularity as a garden plant.

Invades: Dense foliage which reduces light levels which effects the composition of ground flora and leaf litter altering soil chemistry.

Control Measures:





### Sweet Reed Grass

Glyceria maxima

#### Status: Environmental Weed

Family: Poaceae

#### Origin: Europe, Asia

Description: A tall perennial, aquatic rhizomatous grass with stout stems, purple at the base. Has been known to cause cyanide poisoning in stock.

Fruit/Seeds: Seeds are produced on spikelets in mid-late summer.

Dispersal: By seed and rhizomes, was introduced as a pasture plant suitable for wet areas.





NOXIOUS

Status: Regionally Controlled Family: Asteraceae Description: An erect perennial

Origin: Europe, Asia

**Description:** An erect perennial thistle with a creeping rootstock. The leaves are very dissected with spiny margins and white hairs underneath.

Fruit/Seeds: Heads of round purple-pink flowers appear in summer followed by seeds attached to hairs.

Dispersal: Reproduces from seed, creeping roots and rhizomes. Invades: Poorly managed pastures, often rampant after cultivation.

Control Measures:





#### Status: State Prohibited

Family: Asteracaea

Origin: Europe, Asia

**Description:** An erect perennial which grows as high as 2 m. The leaves are grey-green, deeply lobed and spiny continuing down the stem as wings. Large pinkish mauve flowers occur with a drooping head at end of branches.

Fruit/Seeds: Large disc-shaped flower heads contain hundreds of tiny individual flowers. Each plant may produce thousands of straw-coloured seeds adorned with plume-like bristles.

**Dispersal:** Seed is spread by wind, animals, machinery and in contaminated fodder.

Invades: Agricultural land. Control Measures:





Thistles—Saffron

Carthamus lanatus L. **NOXIOUS** 

#### Status: Regionally Controlled

Family: Asteraceae Origin: Mediterranean region, Asia

**Description:** Erect, often much-branched annual with narrow triangular leaves which terminate in a spine. Solitary light yellow flower heads are produced in summer.

Fruit/Seeds: Seeds are brownish-grey, 3 mm long with a pappus of stiff bristles.

**Dispersal**: The large seeds are not carried far by wind, but will float in water and are spread by animals, vehicles and machinery. Contamination of grain has introduced it to new areas.

Invades: Pasture land with a low fertility.

Control Measures:





# Thistles—Shore or Slender

Carduus tenuiflorus and C. pycnocephalus NOXIOUS

#### Status: Regionally Controlled

Family: Asteraceae Origin: Europe, Asia, Africa Description: An erect, annual herb with strongly ribbed prickly stems and spiny leaves. Small purple-pink flowers in summer. Fruit/Seeds: Seeds are grey-brown with barbed hairs attached. Dispersal: By wind, animals, vehicles, machinery and livestock. Invades: Agricultural land. Control Measures:





Thistles—Spear

Cirsium vulgare NOXIOUS

Status: Regionally Controlled Family: Asteraceae Origin: Europe, Asia, Africa Description: An erect biennial plant, 50 cm to 1 m high. Divided leaves with spiny lobes. Purple flowers in summer. Fruity/Seeds: Seeds with hairs attached produced after flowering. Dispersal: Wind, water, vehicles and animals. Invades: Pastures and roadsides. Control Measures:





# Thistles—Variegated

Silybum marianum NOXIOUS

#### Status: Regionally Controlled

Family: Asteraceae

Origin: Mediterranean, Asia, Russia

**Description:** An annual or biennial herb which can grow to 2.5 m. Leaves are variegated and hairy. Large purple flowers are produced at the end of branches in late spring-summer.

Fruit/Seeds: Each flower head can produce up to 200 seeds, each attached to a pappus of fine hairs.

**Dispersal:** Seed dispersed by wind, vehicles, machinery, animals and in contaminated hay.

Invades: Established and degraded pastures and on waste ground. Control Measures:





Thornapples

Status: Regionally Controlled Family: Solanaceae

Origin: South America

NOXIOUS

Description: An erect, vigorous annual with large leaves and much branched stems. Trumpet shaped white - pink flowers spring summer. All parts of the plant, but particularly the seeds are toxic.

Fruits/Seeds: Each species has a four- compartmented seed capsule covered in dense spines.

Dispersal: From seed in fodder and contaminated grain. Invades: Pastures, roadsides and wastelands.

Control Measures:





# Tree Tobacco

Solanum mauritianum

#### Status: Environmental Weed

Family: Solanaceae

#### Origin: Argentina

Description: Erect shrub to 3 m high with large leaves, greygreen on the underside and green on the upper surface. Purple

flowers from autumn to spring. The plant is poisonous if eaten. Fruit/Seeds: Pale yellow fruit.

Dispersal: Seeds spread by birds and dumping of garden rubbish. Invades: Tends to occur along roadsides and railway lines.





Tutsan

Hypericum androsaemum NOXIOUS

#### Status: Regionally Controlled

Family: Clusiaceae Origin: Western Europe & Mediterranean Description: Erect perennial shrub to 1.5 m. Slender reddish stems with opposite leaves. Flowers produced in spring-summer have five yellow petals with numerous stamens.

Fruit/Seeds: Seeds are produced in pulpy, black capsules. Dispersal: Seed is spread by birds, foxes, machinery and in soil and garden refuse.

Invades: Highly invasive in cool moist forest environments. Tolerates deep shade and open sunny environments with sufficient moisture.

#### Control Measures:





### Wall Fumitory

Fumaria muralis

#### Status: Environmental Weed

Family: Fumariaceae

Origin: Europe Description: Rambling herb with much divided, alternate parsley-like leaves. Small tubular elongated pink flowers in Spring.

Fruit/Seeds: Singular seeds contained in small drupes (fleshy fruit). Dispersal: Water, soil and vegetatively.

Invades: Bushland, disturbed environments, and roadsides.





Wandering Trad Tradescantia fluminensis

#### Status: Environmental Weed

Family: Commelinaceae

#### Origin: South America

**Description:** A rampant, smothering creeper with shiny dark green leaves and small white flowers spring-summer.

Fruit/Seeds: Reproduces by stolons which produce roots on contact with the ground.

**Dispersal:** Nodes readily take root if in contact with moist soil. Tends to proliferate along waterways as plant fragments move downstream. Often initiated from dumping of garden rubbish.

Invades: Moist shaded positions along waterways, roadsides.

Control Measures:





Water Hyacinth

Eichhornia crassipes NOXIOUS

#### Status: State Prohibited

Family: Pontederiaceae

Origin: Brazil

**Description:** A free-floating aquatic perennial herb with bulbous stems to 1 m tall. Distinctive spikes of large showy mauve flowers Jan – March. A major weed of waterways around the world.

Fruits/Seeds: Numerous seeds in membranous capsules, can survive in dry mud for 15-20 years.

**Dispersal:** From seed, and vegetative reproduction from stolons and daughter plants. Dispersed by water, birds and through dumping of pond and aquarium material.

**Invades:** Wetlands and waterways. Dense growth reduces fish populations and can block waterways and threaten bridges. Vegetative growth from a single plant can cover 600 sq m in one season.





Watsonia

Watsonia meriana var. bulbillifera NOXIOUS

Status: Regionally Controlled Family: Iridaceae

Origin: South Africa

**Description:** A perennial plant with pale green, sword-shaped leaves. A red-brown flowering stem develops winter-early spring. Red – orange trumpet shaped flowers form from which clusters of stem bulbils develop.

Fruit/Seeds: Reproduces by stem bulbils and corms. Dispersal: By slashing and grading of roadsides, in soil, garden refuse.

**Invades:** Roadsides, railway lines and a variety of native habitats.

Control Measures:





Status: Environmental Weed

Family: Umbrelliferae

Origin: Europe, Western Asia and North Africa

**Description:** A stout, hairy, biennial which grows from 30 to 150 cm high. With fern-like leaves and large white or pinkish flowers that have slender unequal rays which curve inwards at maturity. When crushed the plant smell like carrots.

Fruit/Seeds: Each flower contains two seeds.

**Dispersal:** The fruits are covered in hooked spines, which aid dispersal by clinging to the fur of passing animals. Also spread via machinery and slashers. **Invades:** Roadsides, railway lines and a variety of native habitats.





Willows



#### Status: Restricted Weed (All except Pussy & Weeping Willow)

Family: Salicaceae Origin: Eurasia, Africa, America Description: Dense spreading trees which hybridise easily. Pussy and Basket willows are most common in Gippsland. Widely planted for ornamental and functional purposes, particularly along waterways.

Fruit/Seeds: All willows are either male or female but not all species produce seed.

Dispersal: All willows reproduce vegetatively with twigs, stems and shoots dispersing by water and machinery. Pussy willow also reproduces by seed.

**Invades:** Waterways and wet areas where they compete vigorously for space, water and nutrients eliminating all indigenous vegetation. Willows alter the shape of banks, streambeds and channels through the capture of enormous amounts of sediment. Plants offer little in the way of food or shelter for native flora.

#### Control Measures:



NOTE: All Salix spp.

except for the

permitted species, *S. alba* var. *caerulea, S. alba* var. *matsudana, S. baby-lonica* (weeping willow), *S. x calodendron, S. caprea* 'Pendula', *S. ma-tsudana* 'Aurea', <-> Tortuosa', *S. myrsinifolia* and *S. x reichardtii*.

# For further advice...

Latrobe City Council – 1300 367 700 Website – www.latrobe.vic.gov.au

### **Contacts for advice about Weed** Identification and Control

Agriculture Victoria - 136 186 www.agriculture.vic.gov.au

Latrobe City Council Sustainability and Environment Team RRE@Latrobe.vic.gov.au

Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network – info@lcln.com.au

#### **Chemical Companies**

Phone the 1800 number on the label of the product or go to their website

This information was compiled by a committee comprising Jeff Clark, Carolyn Ferguson, Bill Aitken, Chris Rankin, Derek Hibbert, Kellie Nicols, Susan Tunnell-Jones, Thierry Roland and Natalie Liddell

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