

Another Exotic Weed in Moggill Creek Catchment

The latest exotic weed to be assessed as a serious threat to our ecosystems is *Montoana hibiscifolia* known as Anzac tree daisy. It grows rapidly and invades rainforest margins, gullies, disturbed areas and road embankments (Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, 2010). The plant is a prolific seeder and shows potential to be highly invasive in the riparian zones and fringes of the local dry rainforests and in the more open sclerophyll forests of the ridges across the catchment divides.

A small infestation was identified by a BCC officer in the upper Wonga creek sub catchment in the sclerophyll forest in the mid 1970's. Subsequently several infestations were noted in the dry rainforests of the sub-catchments but not recognised as a major threat to our ecosystems. Approximately 5 years ago several infestations in the upper part of Wonga creek sub-catchment were assessed as being a potential threat to all the ecosystems in the sub catchment, and several landholders have commenced management. In addition, SEQ Water officers have agreed to treat a nearby infestation on the catchment divide in the Gold Creek Water Reserve.

Anzac tree daisy is now well established across the upper Wonga creek catchment and has moved into the gullies and the Wonga creek itself; It has become a mono-culture in several of the dry gullies and has invaded nearby regenerating dry rainforest. There is a lack of readily available information for managing this weed in our environment, but early indications are that cutting and removal, or killing by basal bark spraying with herbicides are effective in removing the initial infestations. At least 2 follow up spraying of seedlings is likely to be required to get some control before attempting to revegetate.

The upper Wonga creek area adjoins very large expanses of remnant forests of private and conservation lands; Anzac tree daisy is now considered by experienced MCCG members and several of the BCC officers as posing a direct threat to the integrity of these remnant forests which are considered high value habitat and regional corridors.

The Queensland Government has provided funds to support a new project initially in the upper Savages Rd area to reduce the threats from Anzac tree daisy. The project is seen as a collaborative effort with Healthy Land and Water, the Brisbane City Council, and SEQ Water.

Activities commenced, include:

- Removal of the weed in a strategic area of the upper part of Wonga Creek sub-catchment in approximately 2 ha.
- Development of a communication plan aimed at alerting landholders and other stakeholders of this relatively new threat to the ecosystems of the catchment and nearby conservation reserves,
- Promotion of management practices to reduce the threats.
- mapping and assessing the Anzac tree daisy infestations across the Moggill Creek Catchment.

Future activities will include:

- Holding of a field day in the priority area to discuss on-site issues and methods, including health and safety aspects, and information on native species suitable for revegetation.