

:: Management Outcomes ::

“Blackwillow” and “Hill Top” have had different management procedures due to ownership in the last sixty six years.

*** Benchmarks for “Hill Top” - 1023 Hectares.**

- **Aggressive weed control began in 1963 to control Blackberry and Sweet Briar**
- **Weeds were targeted at the outset when infestations' were limited**

**** Benchmarks for “Blackwillow” - 508 Hectares.**

- **Aggressive weed control began with the resumption of ownership in 1979**
- **Weeds present were targeted and suppressed to maintain control, seeking elimination**

The owner continues a strict weed control program, realising that invasive species are a key threat to Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

Timeline:

- * **1971: Illyrian Thistle – hand control, from 8Ha – now difficult to find, < 10 plants annually treated.**
- * ** **2006: Cape Weed, total area of several Hectares – now difficult to find, expected < 100 plants annually treated in 2012.**
- * ** **2008: Fleabane – tall and flax leaf, hand pulled – under control and in very limited numbers – 2012. Pigeon Grass (Council Plant spread) now under control.**

With the return to wetter seasons' new invasive threats have been focussed on with success.

- * ** **2010: Thistle – Black, Slender et al, localised control – reduction begun, elimination sought.**
- * ** **2011: Spreading Solanum and Horehound – promising control program in place, elimination sought for a future date – accessibility problems - knapsack treatment.**
- * ** **1981: Blue Heliotrope – new chemical now in promising trial, < 20M² in total area under treatment, all seed annually harvested and incinerated.**
- * ** **2001: Serrated Tussock – spot chemical treatment, all seed annually harvested and incinerated from untreated or new infestations, < 15M² total treatment area - 2012.**

Progress:

- **Grazing practices are being used to advantage natural competition against broad leaf annuals, with the concept showing promise, this is despite the impact on diminishing Agricultural Income returns.**
- **Aerial Feral Animal control program for the 29th of March 2012, despite the unsustainable cost of thirty dollars per minute, a private helicopter and LHPA ranger will carry out a property wide cull, humanely targeting goats, pigs, foxes, cats and deer.**

Neville Mattick – owner
“Blackwillow” & “Hill Top” - since 1880

March the 2nd 2012.