



# Upper Lerderderg Catchment Weed Mapping & Prioritisation Project

Project update provided by:

Blackwood & Barrys Reef Landcare Group & GSW Ecological Consulting



*The Upper Lerderderg Catchment Weed Mapping and Prioritisation Project is supported by the Victorian Government through the Partnership Against Pests program*

# Our catchment is worth protecting

South Bullarto

Newbury

Trentham

Barrys Reef

Blackwood

The Upper Lerderderg Catchment:

- 8,000 hectares
- surrounds Blackwood and Barrys Reef and reaches the outskirts of Trentham, Newbury and South Bullarto
- >80 km of river and tributaries
- contains important flora, fauna, waterways and ecosystems
- used for a broad range of recreational activities
- will exist across the new Wombat-Lerderderg National Park and the Blackwood Regional Park.

# The grant

Agriculture Victoria offers Partnership Against Pests grants annually.

The grants support community groups, Traditional Owner groups, and agricultural organizations in managing established weeds and pest animals.

Our grant application for \$48,000 was successful.

Key deliverables:

- ▶ On-ground weed mapping of Upper Lerderderg Catchment
- ▶ Community and land manager engagement
- ▶ Arts program component for children and families
- ▶ Development of the weed management strategy for the catchment.



*The Upper Lerderderg Catchment Weed Mapping and Prioritisation Project is supported by the Victorian Government through the Partnership Against Pests program*

# Why did we initiate the project?

We recognised:

- ▶ As a Landcare group we have limited resources and there is much more that needs to be done.
- ▶ Weed maps and the weed management strategy are critical to establishing priorities for the coming years.
- ▶ We need to work effectively with our public land managers – building relationships, understanding their responsibilities and how they work.



# Who are our public land managers?

We have multiple public land managers responsible for aspects of the Upper Lerderderg Catchment:



# What are they responsible for?

| Land Manager                                                                                                             | Now                                                                                | Wombat-Lerderderg National Park                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                         | Lerderderg State Park                                                              | Wombat-Lerderderg National Park and Blackwood Regional Park. Roads and tracks in forest(?) |
|  Energy, Environment and Climate Action | Wombat State Forest, Crown Reserves, FFMVic activities, roads and tracks in forest | Crown Reserves, FFMVic activities, fire access roads and tracks in forest                  |
|                                        | Lerderderg River, its tributaries and riparian zones                               | Lerderderg River, its tributaries and riparian zones                                       |
|                                        | Council roads                                                                      | Council roads                                                                              |
|                                       | Council roads                                                                      | Council roads                                                                              |
|                                       | Highway between Greendale and Trentham (C318) and roadside reserves                | Highway between Greendale and Trentham (C318) and roadside reserves                        |

# Building the project



## Request for Quote issued

**December 2025**

Approached 8 ecological consulting firms inviting RFQ responses – 6 responses received.

## Field surveys completed

**March – May 2026**

On-the-ground weed survey work successfully completed from March to May by the GSW team of three. More than 300km of tracks driven and many kms of bush and riparian zone walked. Seeking to get the track work done ahead of wetter weather and seasonal track closures.

## Community engagement & iNat

**August 2026**

Today – briefing community on the project and offering iNaturalist training to participants who want to record weeds on their property and/or in places they care about.

## Joint land manager & community workshop

**September 2026**

This session will bring together representatives from Blackwood and Barrys Reef Landcare Group, local community representatives and the public land managers to discuss and agree weed management priorities and how they can be addressed.

## GSW Ecological Consulting selected

**February 2026**

Steering Committee reviewed and scored responses – GSW selected as the consulting team to undertake the weed mapping and the weed management strategy development.

## Weed maps completed

**July 2026**

The weed mapping data collected was reviewed and data sets developed and mapped – resulting in over 60 maps being produced.

## Family arts workshops

**August – September 2026**

Kath Holowko, local artist, will run workshops for local children and families providing science and art-based activities related to weeds in our environment

## Management strategy developed

**November 2026**

The strategy document developed will include details of the weed management priorities, information about how to engage effectively with public land managers and all the weed maps for the catchment.



# Weeds we set out to map...

Blackberry\*



Blue Periwinkle



Cherry Laurel



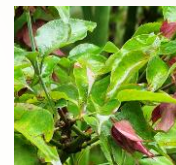
English Broom\*



Gorse\*



Himalayan Honeysuckle



Holly



Ivy



Montpellier/  
Cape Broom\*



Portuguese Laurel



Radiata Pine



Scotch Thistle\*



Spanish Heath



Strawberry Tree



# The weeds GSW found...

## Herbs, Graminoids

- Forget me Not
- Foxglove
- Hemlock
- Montbretia
- Pale Wood Sorrel
- Tutsan

## Scramblers & Climbers

- Atlantic Ivy
- Blue Periwinkle
- Bluebell Creeper
- Common Blackberry
- Cut leaf Bramble
- Scotch Thistle

## Trees & Shrubs

- Cherry Laurel
- Common Elder
- Darwin's Barberry
- English Broom
- English Ivy
- Gorse
- Hawthorn
- Himalayan Honeysuckle
- Holly
- Montpellier/Cape Broom
- Portugal Laurel
- Radiata Pine
- Rusty Sallow
- Spanish Heath
- Strawberry Tree
- Sycamore Maple
- Willows

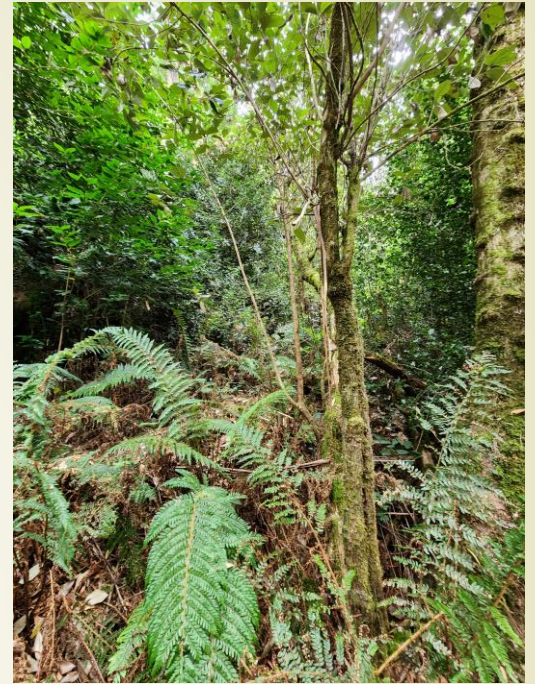


Weed names in **purple** are additions to the original RFQ list on the previous slide.

# What do we now know?

GSW Ecological Consulting have identified:

- ▶ where priority weeds occur
- ▶ emerging infestations
- ▶ areas that remain relatively weed-free
- ▶ locations where management effort will have the greatest benefit
- ▶ changes that community can make to reduce weed infestation impacts
- ▶ Some rare and endangered species... (not weeds).



# Why this project matters



At the end of this project, we'll have:

- ▶ a comprehensive picture of weeds across the catchment
- ▶ priorities for future weed management
- ▶ better information for future grant applications
- ▶ stronger collaboration between landholders, Landcare and public land managers
- ▶ an ongoing way for the community to capture weed data using iNaturalist
- ▶ better ways of engaging our local community to tackle weeds!

# Community knowledge matters

Professional surveys are a vital part of the picture.

But the people who live here:

- ▶ notice new infestations
- ▶ know local properties
- ▶ observe seasonal changes
- ▶ can detect weeds early.

That local knowledge is incredibly valuable and that's why we'd encourage you to map weeds you see in iNaturalist.

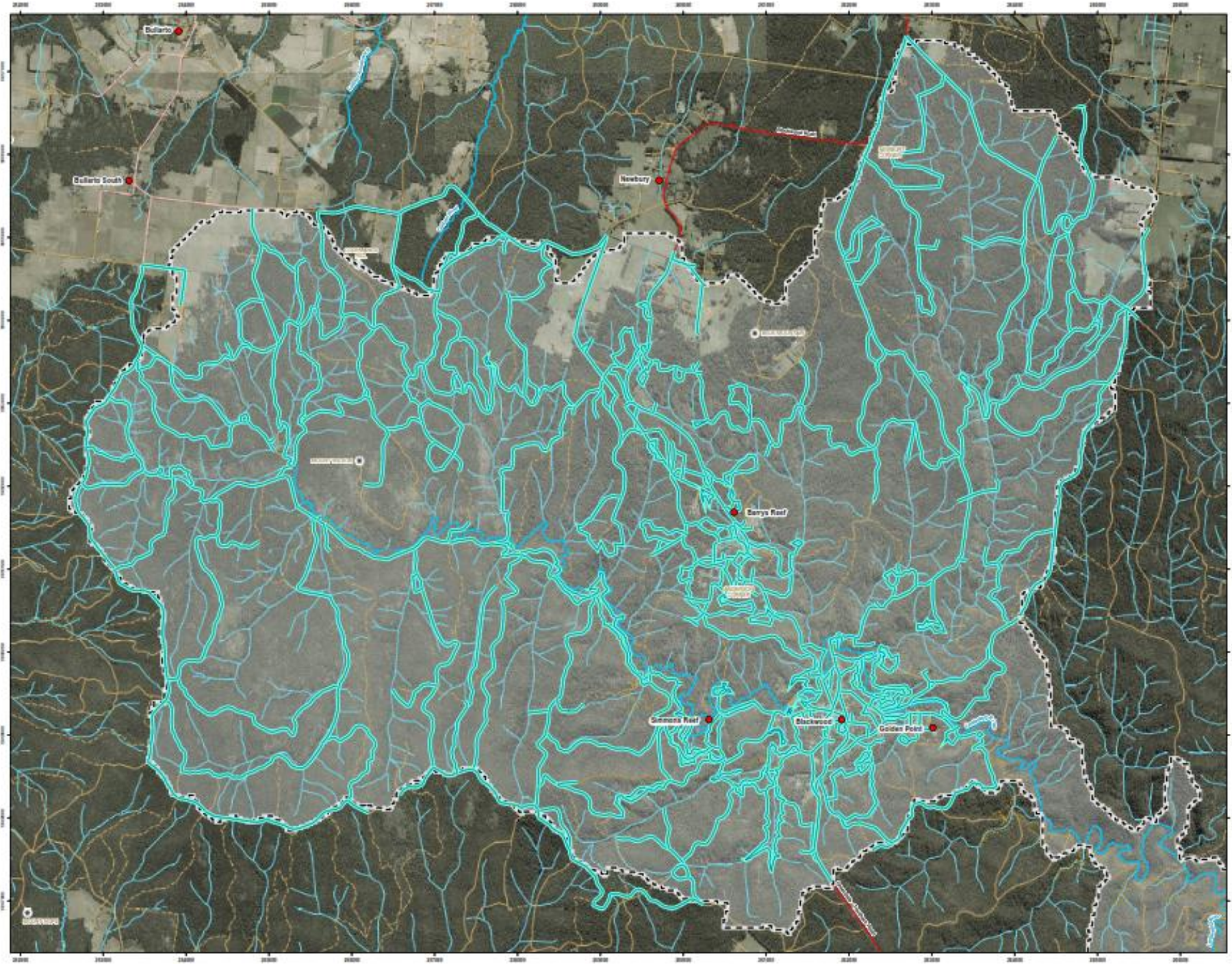


# Field surveys in Autumn 2026

- Objectives
  - Locate and record weed infestations
  - Gain a better understanding of weed distributions
  - Support weed management prioritisation
- Approach
  - 3 ecologists, each had 7 days survey
  - Surveyed from vehicles, push bike or on foot
  - Recorded detailed information and spatial data



Blackwood & Barry's Reef  
**LANDCARE  
GROUP**



# Survey results

- ▶ 482 plant taxa
  - ▶ 276 locally indigenous (57%)
  - ▶ 201 introduced (42%)
- ▶ Over 3600 observations recorded
  - ▶ 1116 indigenous flora and fauna records
  - ▶ 2490 introduced plant records
- ▶ Limitations
  - ▶ Survey timing / dormant plants
  - ▶ Sampling intensity / survey gaps



A photograph of a dense forest. In the foreground, there is a large, textured tree trunk on the left and a fallen log. The ground is covered with lush green ferns and other vegetation. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating dappled light on the forest floor. The background is filled with more trees and foliage, creating a sense of depth.

**Jacksons Gully tributary**



**Mount View Track**



**Stockyard Creek**



**Split Tree Gully**

# Introduced flora

- ▶ 16 Victorian CALP-listed weeds
- ▶ 10 Weeds of National Significance
- ▶ Numerous unlisted environmental weeds
- ▶ Weed distribution patterns:
  - ▶ High weed concentration in and around towns
  - ▶ Common along road corridors / roadside vegetation
  - ▶ Waterways sometimes very weedy

# Significant environmental weeds

species with >20 records from our survey

- ▶ Blackberry (668)
- ▶ Gorse (227)
- ▶ Holly (191)
- ▶ Radiata Pine (116)
- ▶ Cape Broom (97)
- ▶ Spear Thistle (85)
- ▶ Scotch Broom (83)
- ▶ Spanish Heath (53)
- ▶ Atlantic Ivy (50)
- ▶ Himalayan Honeysuckle (46)
- ▶ Blue Periwinkle (40)
- ▶ Cherry Laurel (39)
- ▶ Sycamore Maple (37)
- ▶ Hawthorn (33)
- ▶ Irish Strawberry Tree (31)
- ▶ Common Elder (25)
- ▶ Hemlock (22)
- ▶ Wood Forget-me-not (22)
- ▶ Portugal Laurel (21)





**Spanish Heath**



**English Holly**



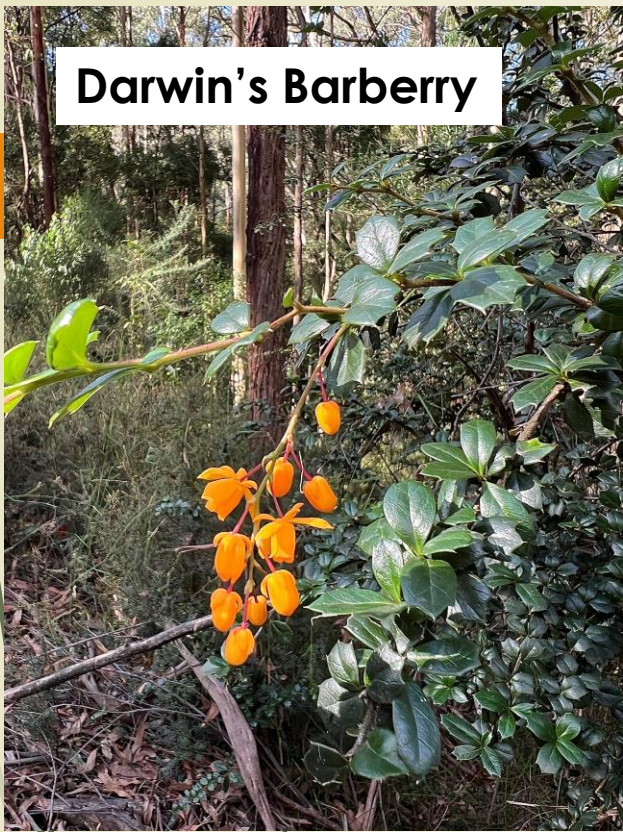
**Gorse**



**Himalayan Honeysuckle**



**Darwin's Barberry**



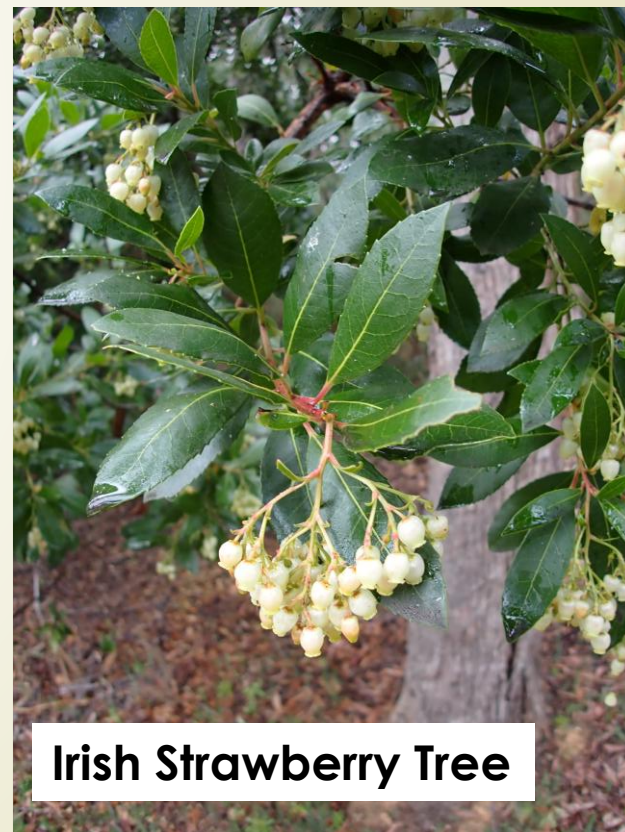
**Bluebell Creeper**



**Pampas Grass**



**Irish Strawberry Tree**





**Montbretia**



**Aluminium Plant and Blackberry**



**Bulbil Watsonia**



**Atlantic Ivy**



**Trailing St John's Wort**



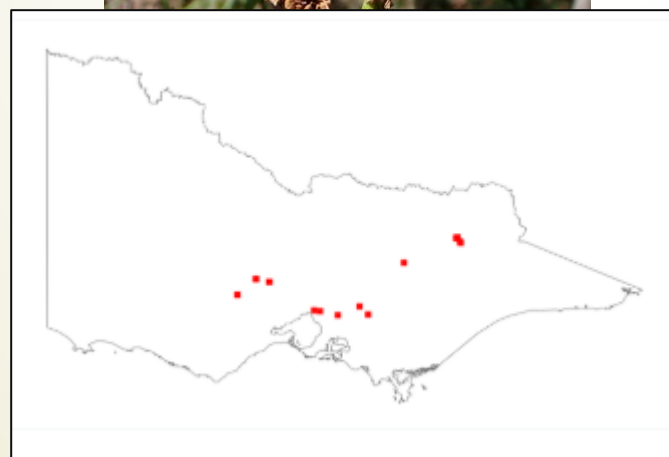
**Sweet Panic**



**Michaelmas Daisy**



**Pincushion**

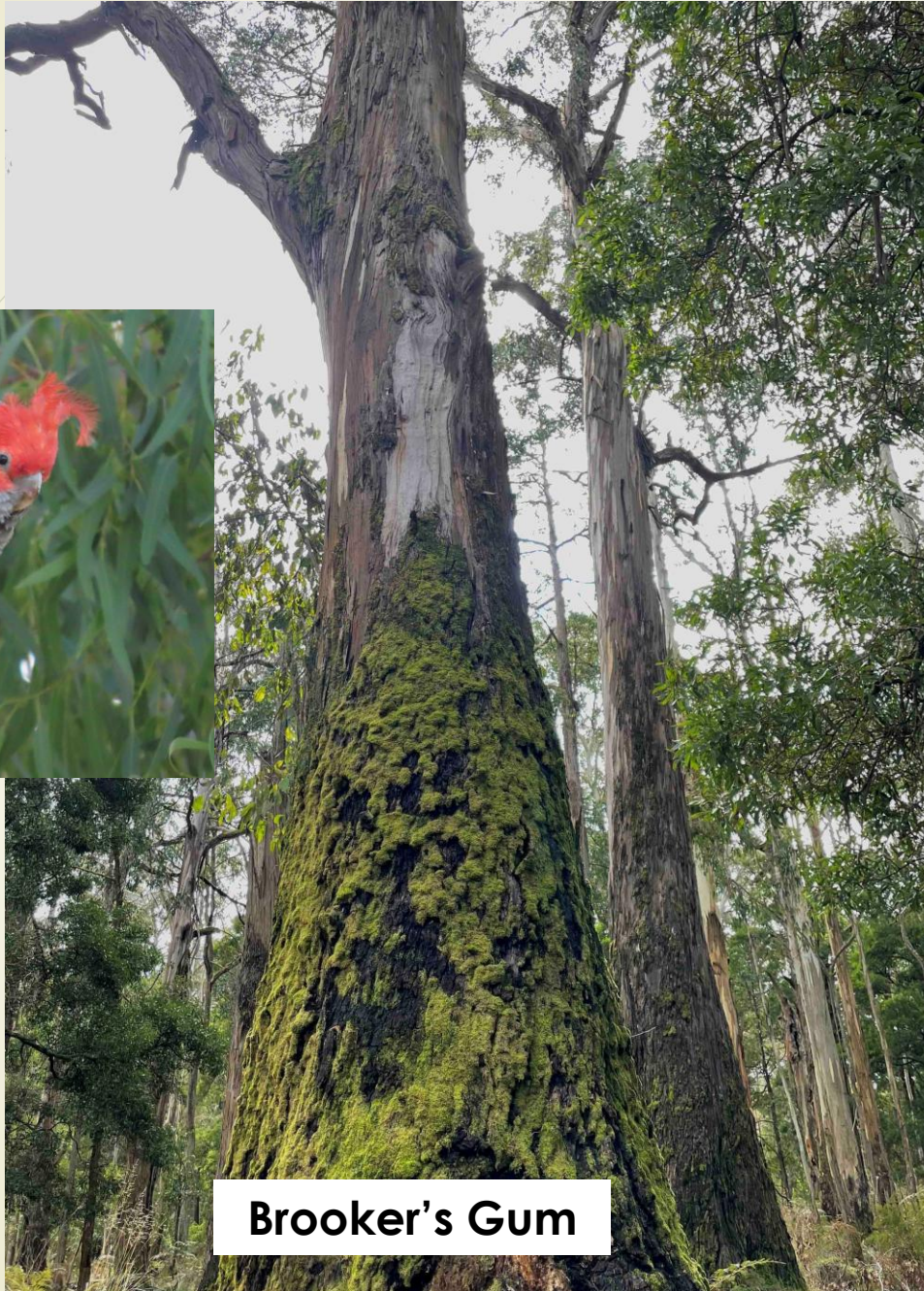


**Michaelmas Daisy**

**Pincushion**

# Significant flora and fauna

- ▶ 10 listed threatened species
- ▶ 18 regionally significant plant species
- ▶ 5 notable fauna species



**Brooker's Gum**



**Yarra Gum**



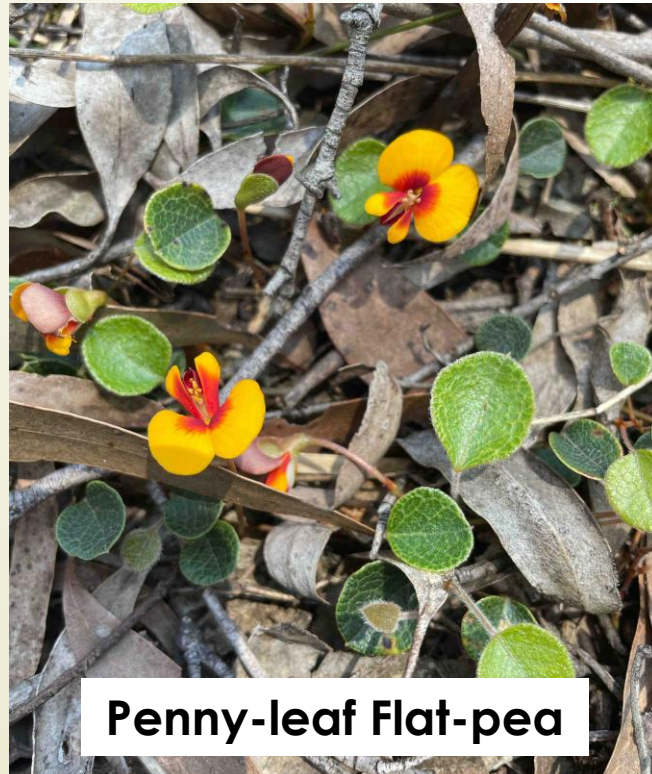
**Wiry Bossiaea**



**Dwarf Silver-wattle**



**Penny-leaf Flat-pea**



**Wombat Bush-pea**



# Any questions?

If you want to get in touch  
please email us at:

[3458landcare@gmail.com](mailto:3458landcare@gmail.com)



*The Upper Lerderderg Catchment Weed Mapping and  
Prioritisation Project is supported by the Victorian  
Government through the Partnership Against Pests program*

# Introducing iNaturalist

Started in 2008 as a student project at UC Berkeley — today one of the world's largest biodiversity platforms.

- < 4 million people contributing
- < 300 million observations of plants, animals and insects
- < 500,000 identifiers
- < 550,000 species recorded.



# Australian iNaturalist stats

- 9 million observations of plants, animals and insects
- 60,000 unique species identified
- 100,000 active observers
- 34,000 identifiers

‘Verifiable’ observations made in Australia are harvested by the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) weekly

ALA is Australia’s national biodiversity database.



# iNaturalist on your phone



We'll demonstrate how you can use your phone to:

- photograph a weed
- record the infestation details – size, density, location
- identify the weed and upload the observation to iNaturalist
- contribute the record to the **Weeds Manager** project.

*Every observation adds to a bigger picture for our current project and for others to see what's happening with weeds locally.*



# The value of community mapping

Geordie's team have mapped many weeds across the catchment – but not everything.

Community-based mapping is valuable because it captures information about weeds you care about – they might be on private property, on your road, at the local sports ground, or out in the bush.



# To load iNaturalist

Go to your phone's app store



Android users have  
one version



iPhone users have two  
– choose iNat Classic



# A few things to know...

- ▶ Location must be activated on your phone so your photos have location details attached
- ▶ iNaturalist behaves a bit differently if you don't have phone reception when you try to log your observation – we'll explain the differences
- ▶ Research Grade (where Community helps confirm an observation)
- ▶ Use same email, username and password wherever you are logging into iNaturalist, ie on your iPhone, your Android tablet and on the web
- ▶ There's also a powerful web-based version at **iNaturalist.org**

# Weeds we are looking for...

Blackberry\*



Blue periwinkle



Cherry laurel



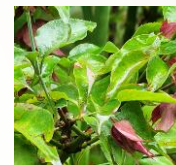
English broom\*



Gorse\*



Himalayan honeysuckle



Holly



Ivy



Montpellier/  
Cape broom\*



Portuguese laurel



Radiata pine



Scotch thistle\*



Spanish heath



Strawberry tree



# ...and more weeds if you are extra keen...

## Herbs, Graminoids

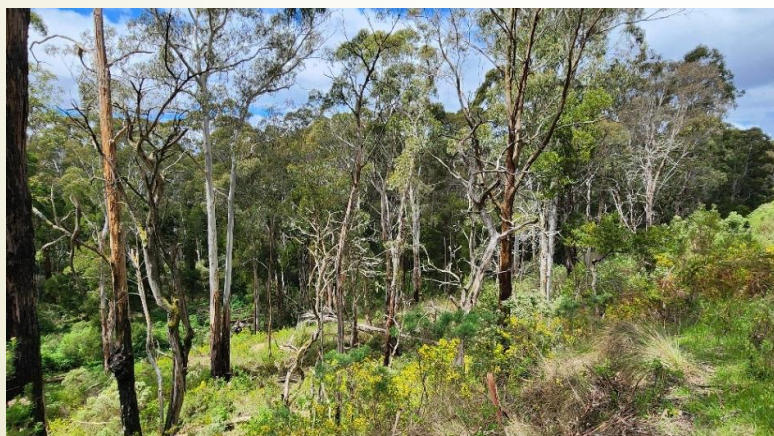
- Forget me Not
- Foxglove
- Hemlock
- Montbretia
- Pale Wood Sorrel
- Tutsan

## Scramblers & Climbers

- Atlantic Ivy
- Blue Periwinkle
- Bluebell Creeper
- Common Blackberry
- Cut leaf Bramble
- Scotch Thistle

## Trees & Shrubs

- Cherry Laurel
- Common Elder
- Darwin's Barberry
- English Broom
- English Ivy
- Gorse
- Hawthorn
- Himalayan Honeysuckle
- Holly
- Montpellier/Cape Broom
- Portugal Laurel
- Radiata Pine
- Rusty Sallow
- Spanish Heath
- Strawberry Tree
- Sycamore Maple
- Willows



Weed names in **purple** are additions to the list on the previous slide.

# Taking photos for iNaturalist



## Critical Plant Features to Capture

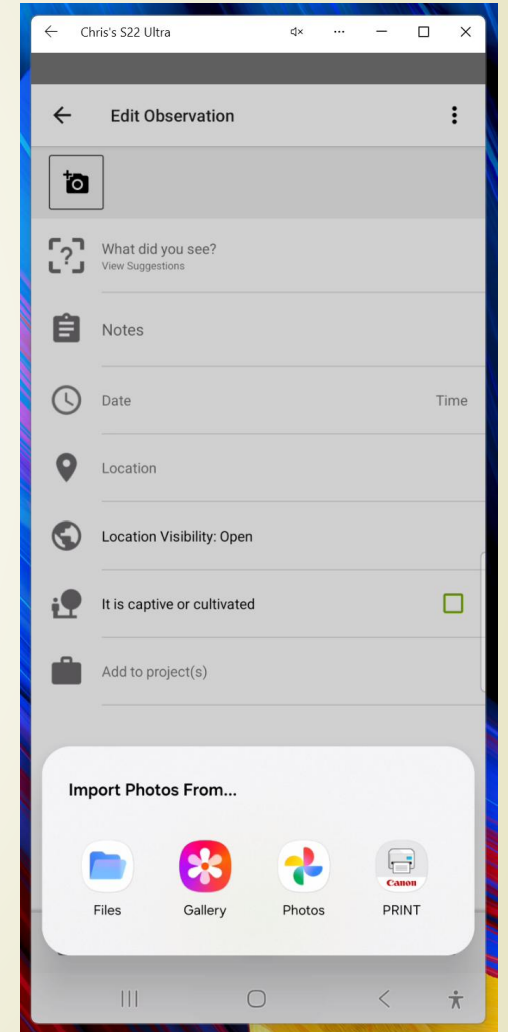
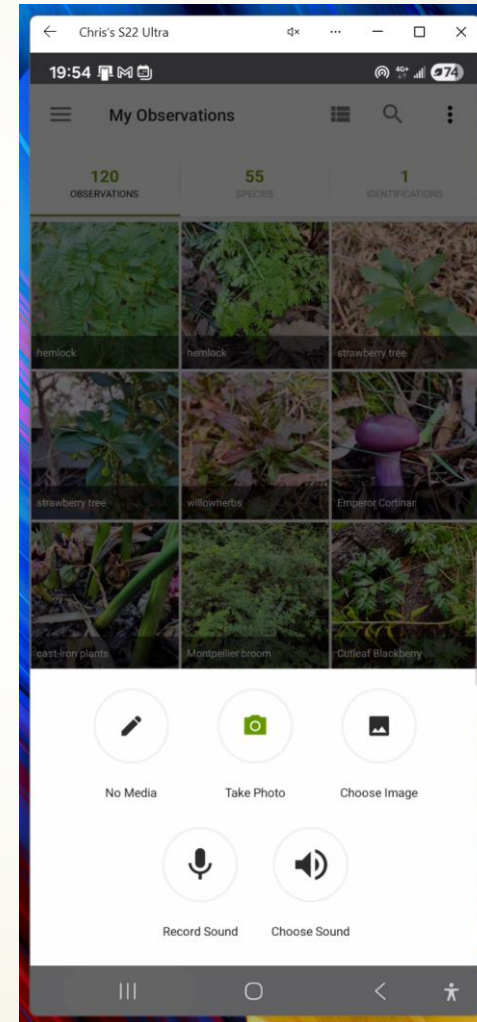
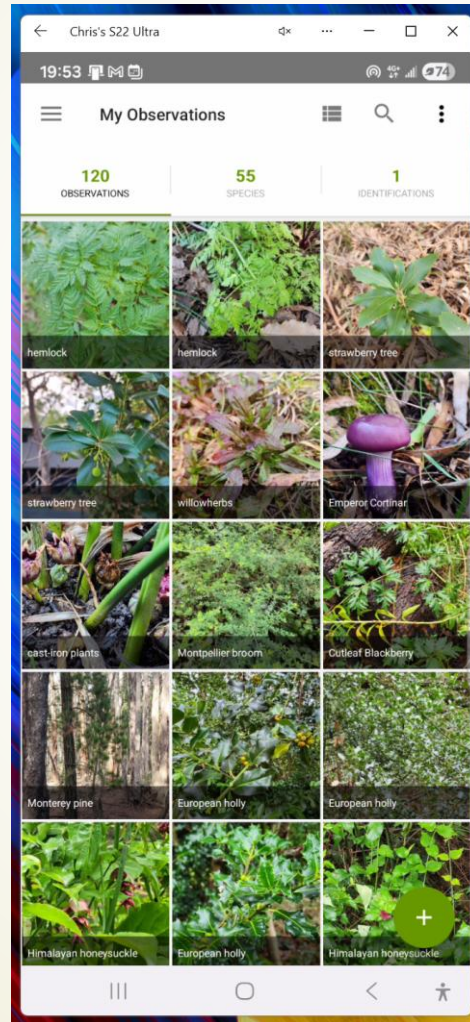
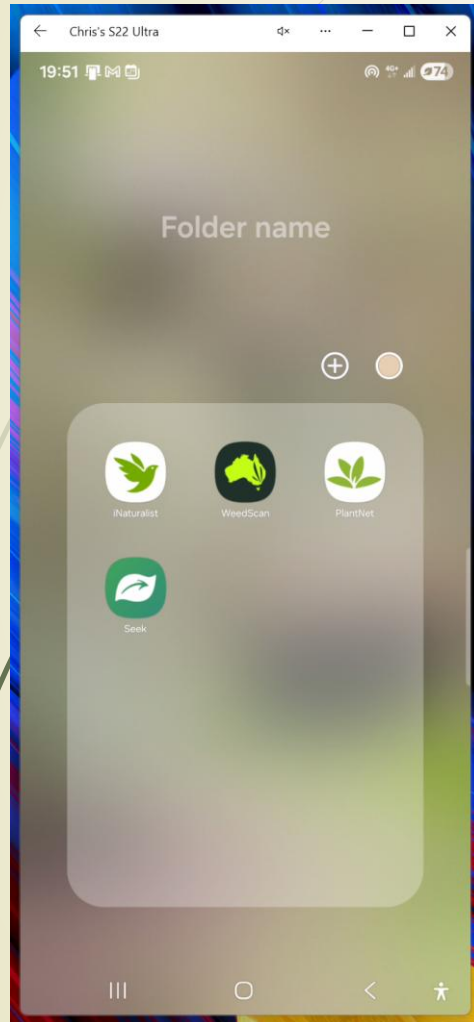
- **Habit:** The overall growth form. Capture whether it is a tree, shrub, vine, or groundcover. Show how it sits in its environment.
- **Leaf Arrangement:** The way leaves connect to the stem. Show clearly if they are opposite, alternate, or whorled.
- **Leaf Surfaces:** Close-ups of both sides. Capture the top and the underside. Look for hairs, glands, or distinct vein patterns.
- **Flower Anatomy:** Deep structural details. Photograph the flower from the front, the side, and from behind to show the sepals.
- **Stem and Bark:** The texture of the woody parts. Document thorns, hairs, or distinct peeling bark patterns.
- **Fruit or Seeds:** The reproductive structures. Capture pods, berries, or cones if they are present on the plant.



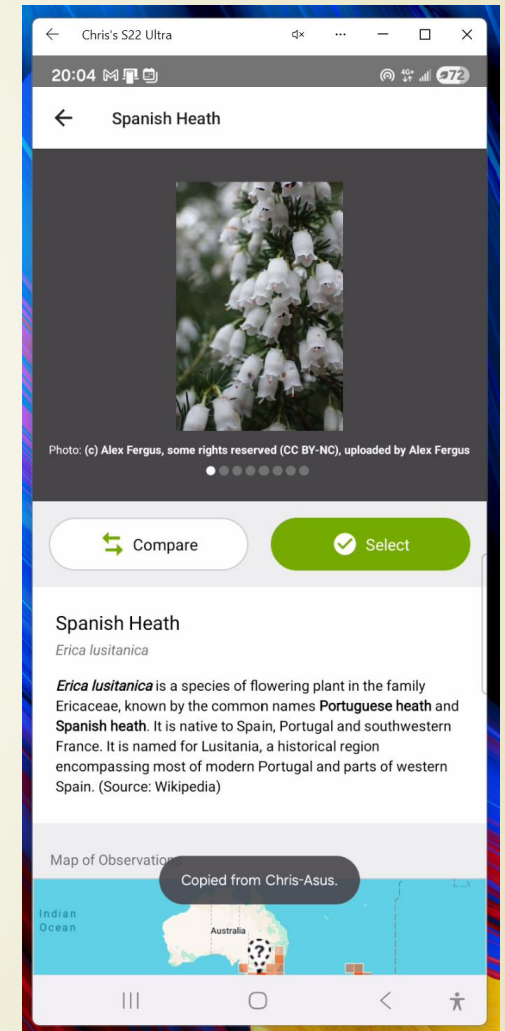
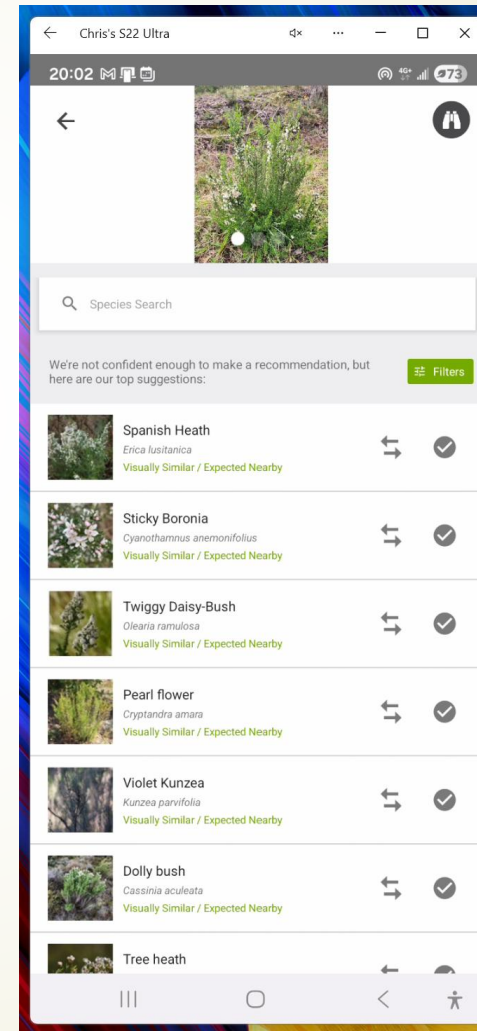
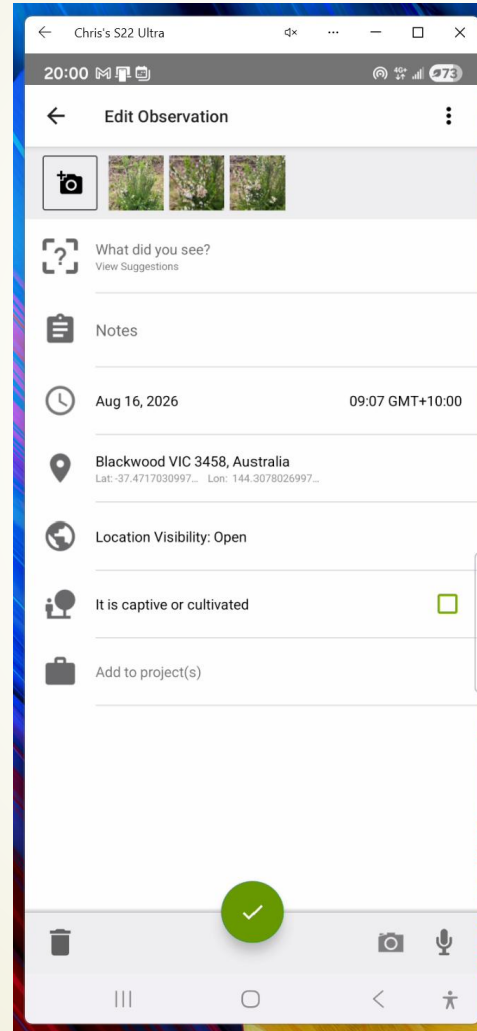
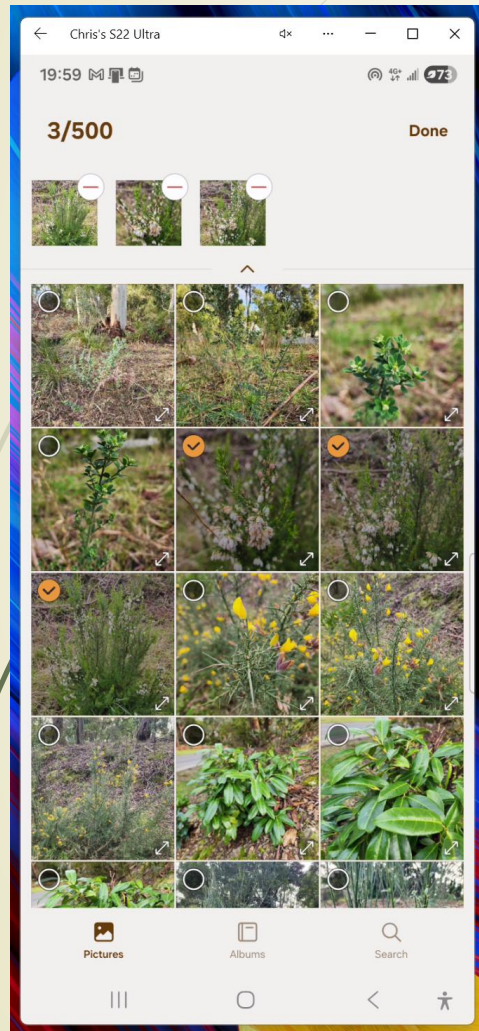
# Taking photos for iNaturalist



# Creating and logging an observation – Android 1



# Creating and logging an observation – Android 2



# Creating and logging an observation – Android 3

Chris's S22 Ultra

20:06

← Edit Observation

 Spanish Heath  
*Erica lusitanica*

Notes

Aug 16, 2026 09:07 GMT+10:00

Blackwood VIC 3458, Australia  
Lat: -37.4717030997... Lon: 144.3078026997...

Location Visibility: Open

It is captive or cultivated ☐

Add to project(s)



Chris's S22 Ultra

20:09

← Select from Joined Projects

Search projects you've joined...

 The Holly Project - Data ☐

 Weeds Manager ☐

Collection and Umbrella Projects

 Blackwood & Barrys Reef Weeds

 The Holly Project

Chris's S22 Ultra

20:10

← Select from Joined Projects

Search projects you've joined...

 The Holly Project - Data ☐

 Weeds Manager ☒

Radius (m) of the observation \*  
Distance from the middle to the edge of the circular observation.  
n/a

Density of the observation \*  
If a circular observation then cover-abundance is within the circle.  
n/a

If controlled, which treatment was used?  
Treatment used in the observation area.  
Not controlled

Date of control work  
If weed species was controlled, date this occurred.

Comments  
Field Value

Voucher Number(s)  
Field Value

Collection and Umbrella Projects

 Blackwood & Barrys Reef Weeds

Chris's S22 Ultra

20:20

← Select from Joined Projects

Search projects you've joined...

 The Holly Project - Data ☐

 Weeds Manager ☒

Radius (m) of the observation \*  
Distance from the middle to the edge of the circular observation.  
2

Density of the observation \*  
If a circular observation then cover-abundance is within the circle.  
n/a

If controlled, which treatment was used?  
Treatment used in the observation area.  
Not controlled

Date of control work  
If weed species was controlled, date this occurred.

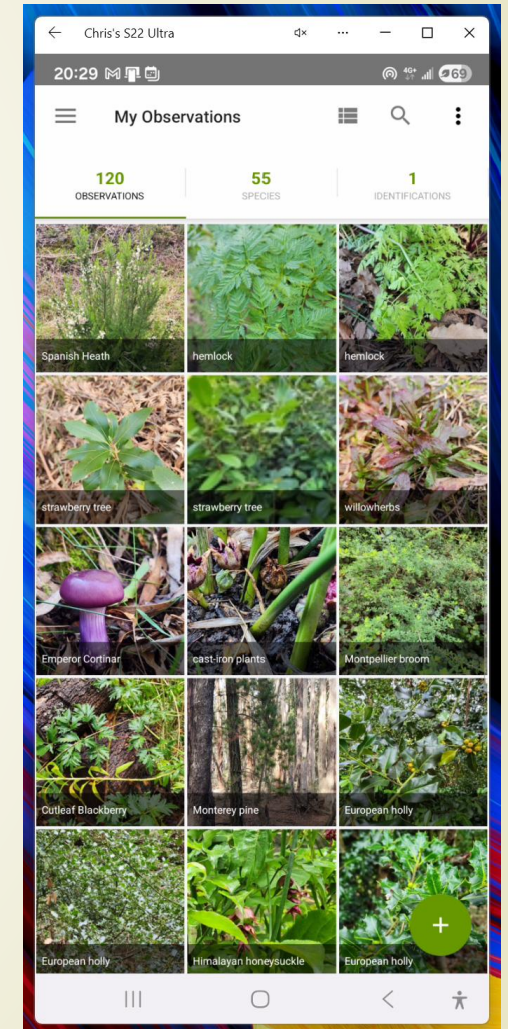
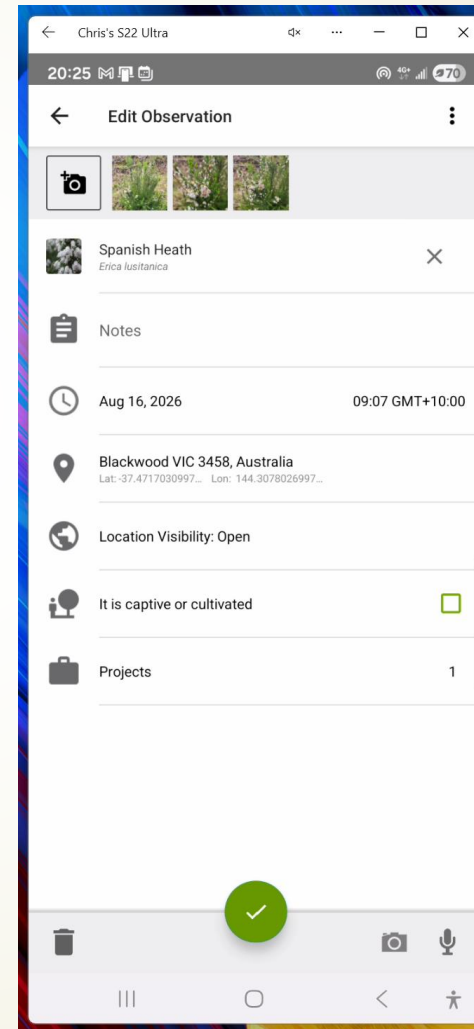
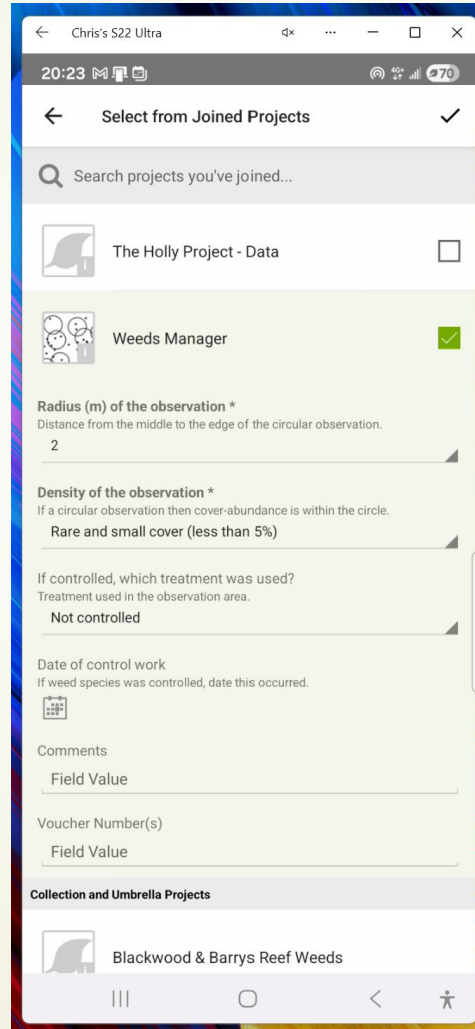
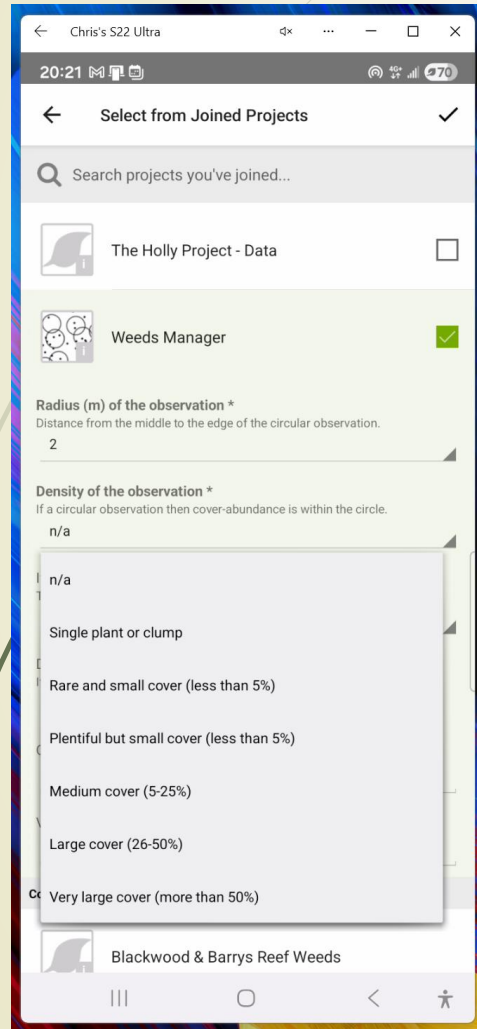
Comments  
Field Value

Voucher Number(s)  
Field Value

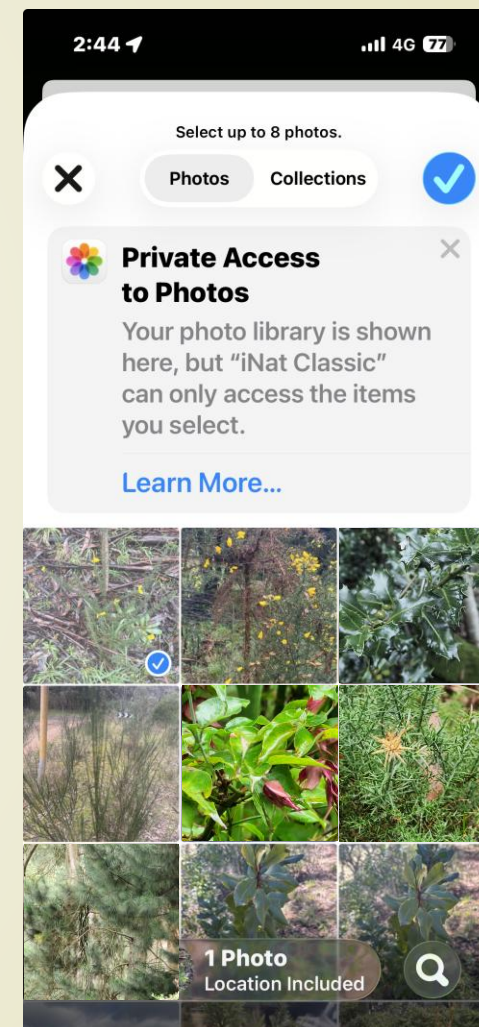
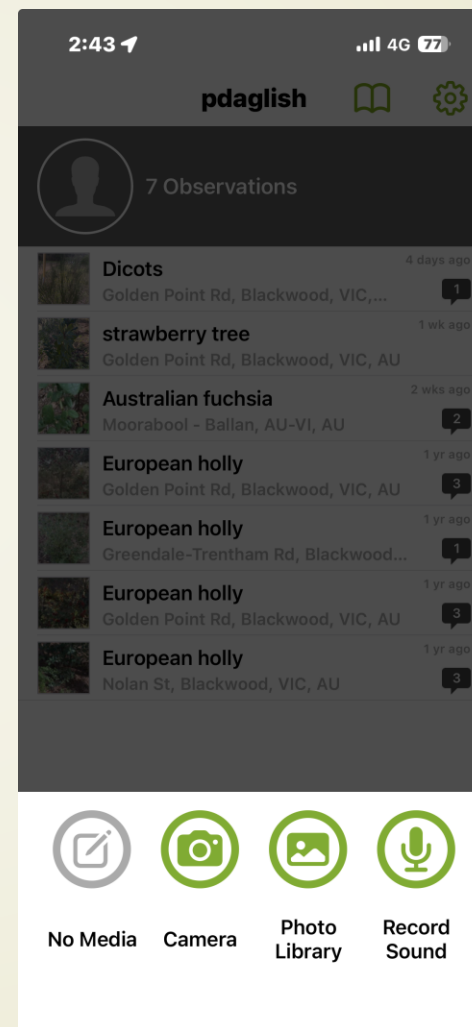
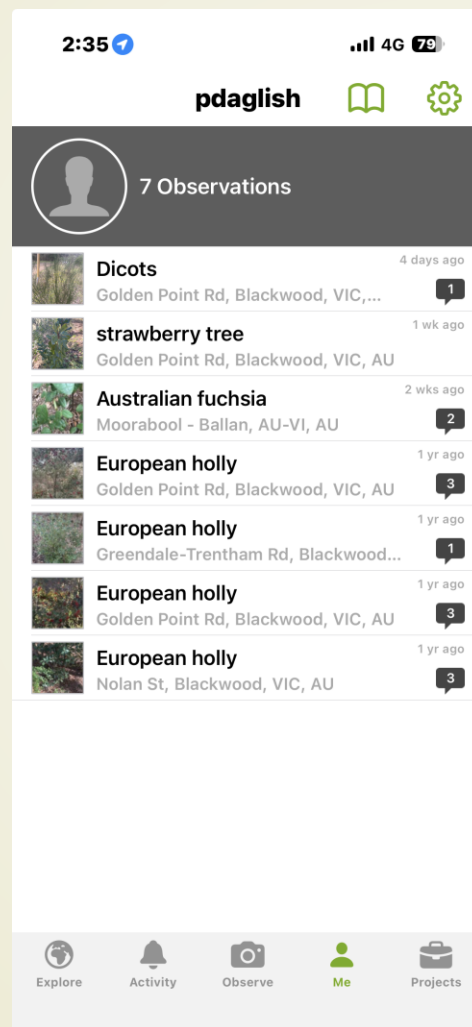
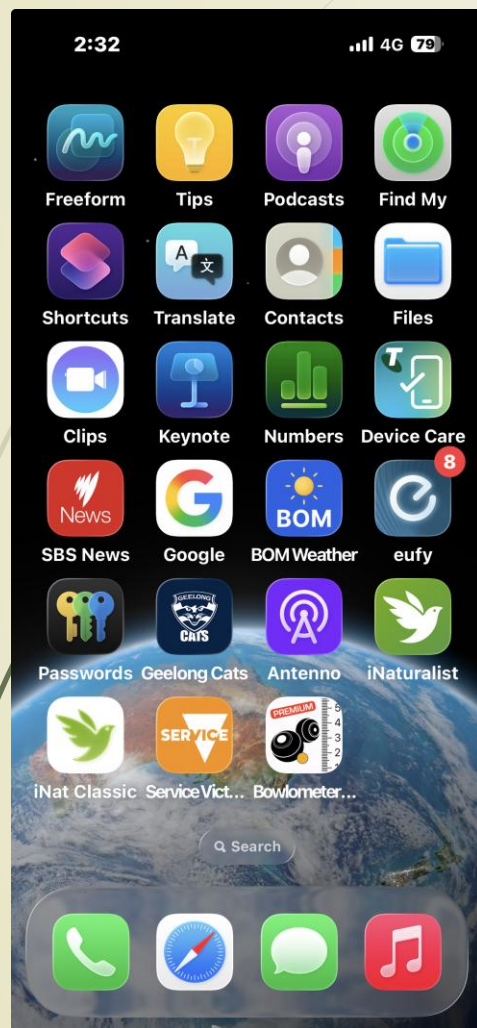
Collection and Umbrella Projects

 Blackwood & Barrys Reef Weeds

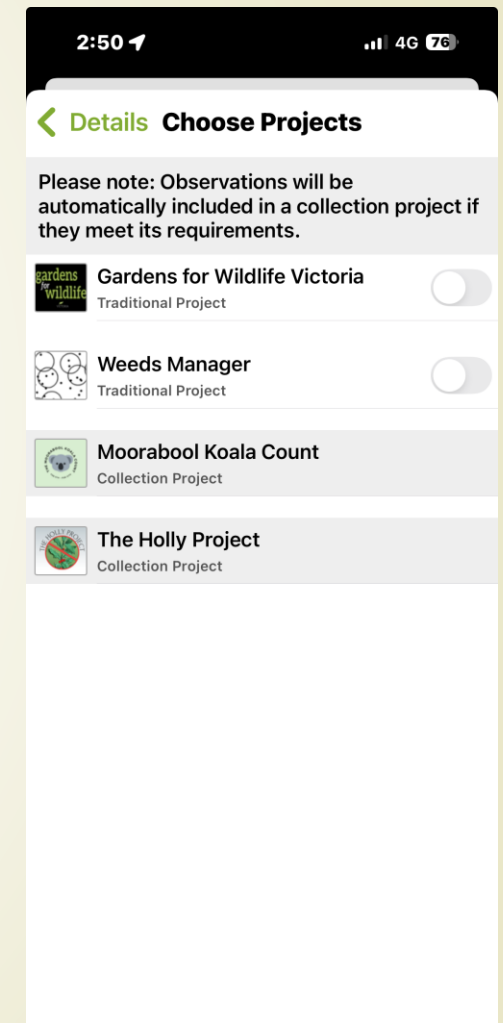
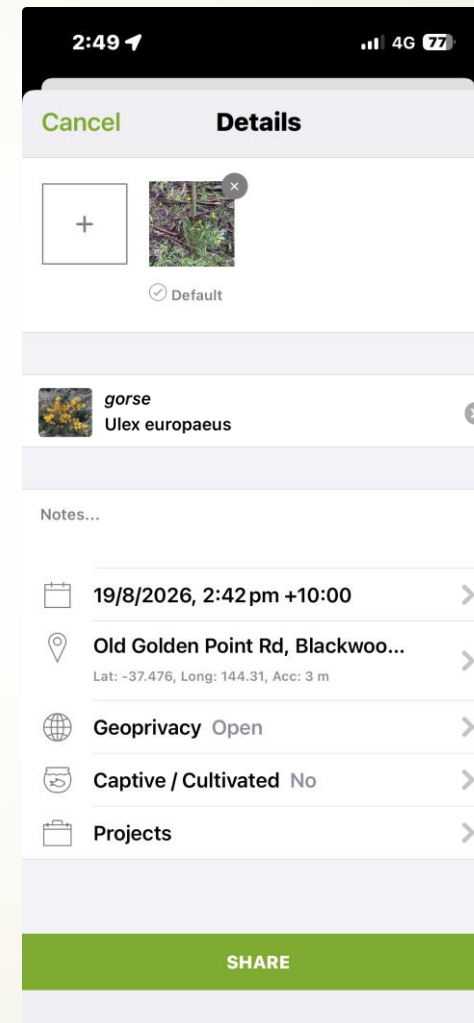
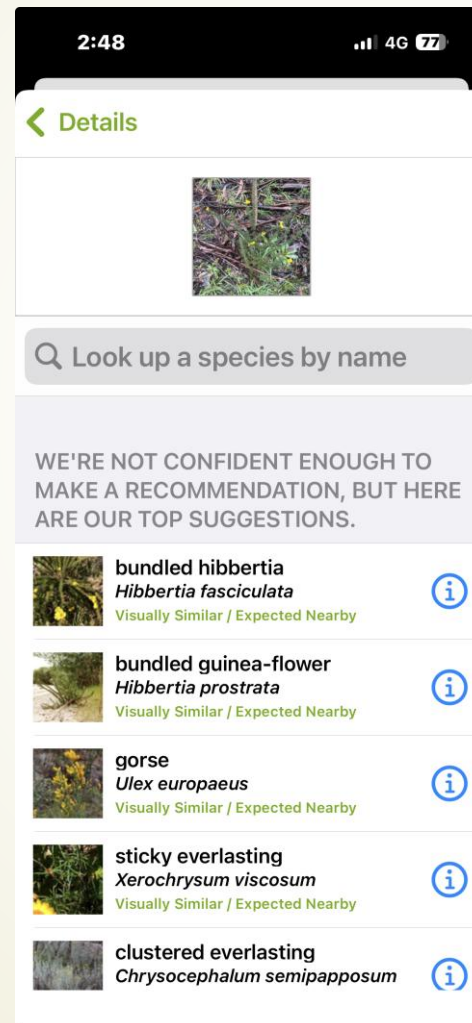
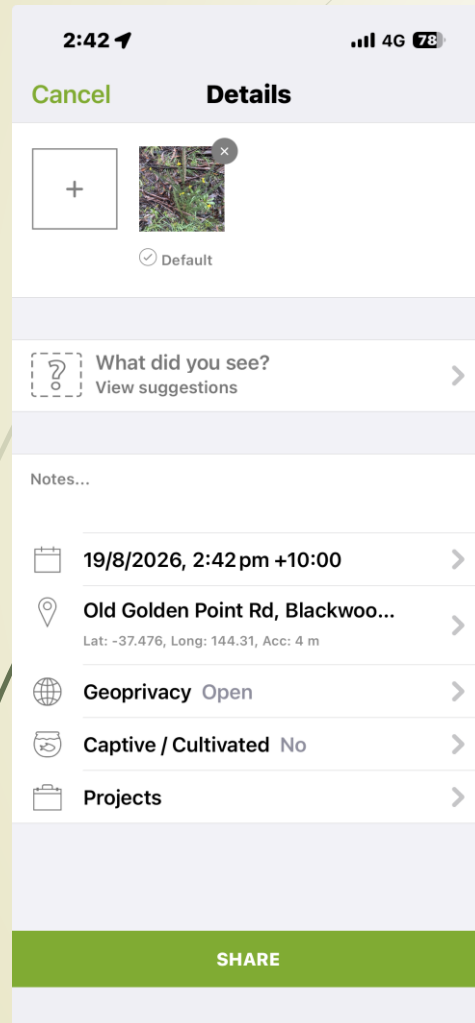
# Creating and logging an observation – Android 4



# Creating and logging an observation – iPhone 1



# Creating and logging an observation – iPhone 2



# Creating and logging an observation – iPhone 3

2:51 4G 76

< Details Choose Projects

 Gardens for Wildlife Victoria  
Traditional Project ☐

 Weeds Manager  
Traditional Project ☒

Radius (m) of the observation n/a >

Density of the observation n/a >

If controlled, which treatment was used? Not controlled >

Date of control work >

Comments  
Your response here

Voucher Number(s)  
Your response here

 Moorabool Koala Count  
Collection Project

 The Holly Project  
Collection Project

2:52 4G 76

< Details Choose Projects

 Gardens for Wildlife Victoria  
Traditional Project ☐

 Weeds Manager  
Traditional Project ☒

Radius (m) of the observation 1 >

Density of the observation Single plant or clump >

If controlled, which treatment was used? Not controlled >

Date of control work >

Comments  
Your response here

Voucher Number(s)  
Your response here

 Moorabool Koala Count  
Collection Project

 The Holly Project  
Collection Project

2:54 4G 76

Cancel Details

  ☒ Default

 gorse  
Ulex europaeus

Notes...

 19/8/2026, 2:42 pm +10:00 >

 Old Golden Point Rd, Blackwoo...  
Lat: -37.476, Long: 144.31, Acc: 3 m >

 Geoprivacy Open >

 Captive / Cultivated No >

 Projects 1 >

SHARE

2:55 4G 75

pdaglish  

 8 Observations

 gorse  
Old Golden Point Rd, Blackwood,... 13 mins ago

 Dicots  
Golden Point Rd, Blackwood, VIC,... 4 days ago 1

 strawberry tree  
Golden Point Rd, Blackwood, VIC, AU 1 wk ago

 Australian fuchsia  
Moorabool - Ballan, AU-VI, AU 2 wks ago 2

 European holly  
Golden Point Rd, Blackwood, VIC, AU 1 yr ago 3

 European holly  
Greendale-Trentham Rd, Blackwood... 1 yr ago 1

 European holly  
Golden Point Rd, Blackwood, VIC, AU 1 yr ago 3

 European holly  
Nolan St, Blackwood, VIC, AU 1 yr ago 3

Explore  Activity  Observe  Me  Projects

# The web-based version of iNaturalist



- ▶ You can access the web-based version at **iNaturalist.ala.org.au**
- ▶ It allows you to:
  - ▶ review and edit your observations
  - ▶ Review others' observations
  - ▶ Explore the whole iNaturalist community
  - ▶ Find out much more about how to use iNaturalist



# Any questions?

If you want to get in touch  
please email us at:  
[3458landcare@gmail.com](mailto:3458landcare@gmail.com)



*The Upper Lerderderg Catchment Weed Mapping and  
Prioritisation Project is supported by the Victorian  
Government through the Partnership Against Pests program*

# The iNaturalist app



Other info in your own time...

81 page guide to all things iNaturalist

<https://www.ala.org.au/publications/a-guide-to-inaturalist-2nd-edition/>

1 hour YouTube – Smartphone Photography for iNaturalist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jL2FDe6cgoo>

iNaturalist channel on YouTube has many other helpful videos