

## **WEED CONTROL AT WCG – A BRIEF HISTORY**

Our site was abandoned for many years before Warrnambool City Council offered it as a possible location for the newly envisaged Warrnambool Community Garden Inc around 2006-2007. Before that it was an industrial site. Both circumstances allowed a nasty group of environmental weeds to get established, but also allowed some remnant native flora to survive as well.

In the intervening years a lot of work and research has been done. A major study into our weeds was completed in 2014 by Environmental Scientist Peter Austin. This guided weed control for some time, although changes to Garden usage and other factors have seen a move away from some recommendations (eg glyphosate is now only used as a last resort rather than as a matter of choice, and using persistent materials like carpet under mulch is no longer done outside of individual plots). The areas worked the most (ie the communal and individual plots) have been cleaned up the best, but still suffer encroachment through either rhizome spread or seed. Weed control was (and is) a community effort requiring a lot of time and effort.

The quarry area and to the west of this were the last areas "tamed". Getting on top of the area to the west and north of the quarry was really only made possible when a ride on mower largely replaced the use of hand mowers around 2017, and some further landscaping was done in 2019. The quarry area still under development, with extensive progress expected in 2019.

Rob Porter, 2019.