

MANAGING WEEDS ON BUNUBA COUNTRY

A FOCUS ON THE FITZROY RIVER

Natalie Davey (Bunuba Rangers)
Kendrick Chungal (Bunuba Rangers)
Tom Bach (Monash University)
Priya Rangan (Monash University)

Session: Indigenous People and Invasive
Species

IUCN World Parks Congress, Sydney
17 November 2014



MONASH University

Our Project: Working together

- Plants and humans: how they interact to change landscapes
- Our shared interest in cultural understanding of landscapes and management of weeds: partnership
- Comparing and sharing knowledge around the Indian Ocean: Kimberley, India, Madagascar, South Africa



MONASH University

Bunuba Country and the Bunuba Rangers

Rangers work on behalf of Bunuba people to manage Country



Weed management is a significant part of Ranger work

Place-based weed management

- Focusing management on particular parts of country
- Benefits of place-based management
 - Identifies values attached to places and Rangers can manage weeds accordingly to protect them
 - Highlights cultural values in management
 - Allows proactive management (as we will see with Noogoora Burr)
 - Is concentrated, strategic and practical

The Fitzroy River as a focus

- Why focus on the river?
- Cultural significance (camping fishing, numerous significant/sacred sites, spiritual significance, place-based language and



Weeds and the River

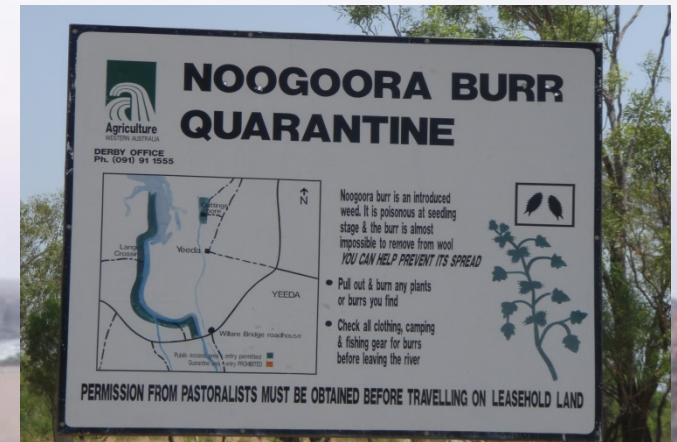
- Parkinsonia (*Parkinsonia aculeata*)
- Calotropis (*Calotropis procera*)
- Passionfruit Vine (*Passiflora foetida*)
- Bellyache bush (*Jatropha gossypifolia*)
- Noogoora Burr (*Xanthium strumarium*)

... among many, many more



Noogoora Burr (ND)

- The plant poses a significant threat to cultural values
- Therefore chosen as a focus



What now? Now what?

- What can we take from this approach?
 - Anchored in cultural values
 - Strategic, focussed, proactive
- Where to?
 - Continue to share knowledge, continue to help each other

