



## **Biodiversity On- Ground Action – Woody Weed Control Project**

This is an important collaborative weed eradication project targeting Blackberry, Gorse and Box Thorn within the Jack River, Albert River and Tarra River catchment areas.

Funding received from DELWP as part of the Biodiversity on the Ground Action program. The project aim is to encourage whole neighbourhoods, including both private and public landholders to control weeds together, greatly reducing the chance of reinfestation and subsequent spread in following seasons.

The eradication of woody weeds throughout a habitat supports a cleaner, more attractive landscape and it helps to deliver a greater native fauna and flora diversity within the forest understory. The presence of these weeds severely limits the ability of native fauna to move unhindered throughout their natural range.

This restriction can have serious consequences on access to their foraging and reproduction territories, which in time will adversely affect overall species dispersal. Typically weed species are dominant competitors and as such, early colonisers of disturbed ground. Removing them will promote recovery and recolonisation of indigenous vegetation through the residual soil seedbank. A further added benefit for woody weed removal will be a reduction in pest pressure as they provide a recognised habitat for invasive and destructive pests such as foxes and rabbits. This has obvious benefits in the form of reduced land degradation and interspecific competition for resources.

The project has been well received within our Network and from the number of signed agreements it is apparent that our local landholders have really appreciated the financial support available to control their weed infestations. Due to the impending cooler conditions, we are now seeing a shift away from Blackberry towards more Gorse and Boxthorn control they will not defoliate like the Blackberry will soon, so the control window is still well and truly open on them. There are however still further opportunities to be involved in this important weed control project. We can provide you with a part payment of 50% of costs (not exceeding a total contribution of \$900 inc. GST per landholder). This can be used to fund herbicide, contractors or your own labour. Participation opportunities are now becoming limited and we are nearing project completion, so be quick to secure your spot.

For further information or to discuss your eligibility in this rewarding project, contact: Jason Pickering, Project Officer at YYLN Mobile: 0429 775 875 Email: [jasonp@wgcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:jasonp@wgcma.vic.gov.au)



Before and after images of blackberry infestation in Madalya

