

February 2019

Clarendon Community Association

eNewsletter

Welcome to 2019 Clarendon eNews

The community would like to extend a warm welcome to all the new Clarendon residents. We hope you take the opportunity to learn about our community through the Clarendon eNews, by attending the Clarendon Community Association monthly meetings or visiting our face book pages – Clarendon Community Forum or the Clarendon Neighbourhood. Clarendon is a welcoming and supportive community and we look forward to sharing with you all that this gorgeous town has to offer.

Santarilla

Clarendon residents once again entered into the 'Santarilla' spirit with many hilarious santas making their appearance along the roads in, through and out of Clarendon. Thank you to the Kangarilla Progress Association for allowing us to join their Santa fun again this year.



Upcoming Events

February 6

Clarendon Community Association meeting – 7.30pm

February 13

Clarendon Historic Hall and Museum meeting – 7.30pm

April 25

Clarendon Community Anzac Day commemoration

May 19 & 26

History month at Historic Hall and Museum – Bridging the Onkaparinga

July 20

Clarendon Bridge –celebrating 100 years

Rainfall

Dec 2018	38mm over 8 days
Jan 2019	nil

Annual rainfall comparison

2018	604mm
2017	796mm
2016	1128mm
2015	607mm
2014	578mm

Thank you to Bill Jarrad for this rainfall information

100 year bridge celebration

Clarendon's bridge will be celebrating its 100 birthday this year and the community are beginning to plan celebrations. Make sure you put Saturday 20th July in your diary to keep it free. Suggestions to date include a family fun day, recreating the photo of the official opening in 1919 and most of all celebrating all that this bridge means to our community.

History month

The Historic Hall and Museum committee will again be celebrating history month in May this year. History month brings together all communities who take the opportunity to showcase their individual yesteryears. Following on (or leading up to....) the bridge celebrations, the Historic Hall & Museum committee has decided to showcase travel, transport and Toondilla – (Aboriginal name for Clarendon and meaning - way through). If you have any photos, stories, memorabilia you would like to share, please contact the Historic Hall & Museum committee.

Anzac Day

Celebrating Anzac Day at Clarendon has become a huge community event. The Clarendon Community Association alongside the Historic Hall and Museum Committee and various other local groups will work together this year to commemorate this special day. More details about this event will be detailed in the coming eNews. If you would like to volunteer your time please contact the Clarendon Community Association email clarendoncommunity@gmail.com

New Clarendon Community website

The Clarendon Community Association has a new domain name for the Clarendon community. It is now www.clarendon.org.au Along with a new site the content will be updated over the next few months. We anticipate that in time community groups will either have their own pages within this website or at least have links to their individual sites. This will ensure that everyone will have easy access to everything Clarendon.

As part of this upgrade we are also working on a new logo which we hope will provide a relevant, easy to recognize and fresh new look for the Clarendon community.

..... When you regard the Onkaparinga in normal times it is a quiet, well-behaved stream, as gentle as a maiden aunt. But there are times when it grows tired of its placid existence. Then it becomes ruffled and angry, and roars and rages like a young Niagara. These days, since the waters have been dammed, even its most furious mood causes no inconvenience to Clarendon.

But there was a time when the temper of the river mattered much — in the days before there were bridges, when coaches and teamsters camped along its banks for a week at a time, staring sullenly and irritably at the opposite bank, so near and yet so far, which the swirling waters prevented them from reaching. That was a common enough experience in early days. In the wet season no farmer dreamt of leaving for the city without first ascertaining minutely the state of the river. If he did the chances were that he would have to sit down on the bank and wait — and sitting in the rain, and sleeping in the rain, when the wood is too wet to produce more than a cheerless smoke, is an endurance test that, once tried, is never repeated. Just above the existing concrete bridge is the old Tally Ho Hotel, now a bakehouse, in sight of which drenched teamsters and stranded coach passengers stamped about impotently, irritably aware that within its walls were warmth, shelter, and good cheer, just beyond their reach. They were like hungry boys with their faces glued to a pastry cook's window.

TOWNS, PEOPLE, AND THINGS WE OUGHT TO KNOW. (1933, August 3) *Chronicle* (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), p. 44. Retrieved July 25, 2013, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article90884121>

Mexican feather grass warning

One of our garden minded Clarendon residents bought some pretty feathery plants from a market stall. The stall holder reassured him they were Australian Natives but couldn't recall the name.

The plants were duly planted on the road verge and grew happily looking fresh and pretty with their lime green foliage and feathery appearance. You may have seen them a little to the west and also across the road from Emprades.

The plants continued to thrive for around 3 years but were then spotted by a passerby who was horrified as they identified them as a noxious weed not yet established in Australia.

So the story continued with a visit from the Natural Resources Management Board (NRM)..... and the plants were cut to remove the seeding heads and then the hunt was on to find any seedlings. These were found in amongst the roadside plantings, popping up in between the footpath pavers and making inroads into nearby gardens. An eradication team has been organised to remove the plants now identified as Mexican Feather Grass.

The storm water in the gutters goes under the road across the road from the Royal Oak and enters the creek to further enter the Onkaparinga. Any residents with the creek in their gardens need to be on the lookout for this weed and notify the NRM if it is found. They don't want us to remove it as they need to know it is totally eradicated. Green Waste dumping or composting is not sufficient.



We need to be really vigilant otherwise this weed will invade our pastures and scrub. Please have a look at the information about this grass supplied by NRM.

Weed alert!

What is it?

- A perennial tussock grass
- Native to central and south America
- A major pasture and environmental weed in temperate Australia
- Similar to serrated tussock, a highly invasive weed in Australia
- Also known as: Texas tussock grass, White tussock, Ponytail grass
- Synonyms: *Stipa cirrosa*, *Stipa geniculata*, *Stipa mendocina*, *Stipa tenuissima* var. *planicola*, *Stipa tenuissima* var. *oreophila*

Why is it a problem?

- A low protein, high fibre grass with no grazing value – pure stands would render a paddock worthless
- Unchecked, it can destroy the biodiversity of native grasslands and riparian areas and open woodlands
- It can survive in extremely variable climates and soil types, and tolerates long periods of drought
- It is highly adaptable grass that could spread throughout most states of Australia, causing major economic and environmental damage

Please contact NRM for more information:

www.nrm.sa.gov.au

Happy New Year from Clarendon CFS

Incidents this month (January 2019)

1 x tree down, small bush fire in Happy Valley and a MVA with no injuries.

It has been a very quiet month considering the heat and TFB days we have had. We are very lucky so far!

How do you plan for something when you don't know what you're planning for?

Around this time of year my focus as brigade captain is to ensure the brigade is ready for the upcoming fire season. This includes preparing ourselves and our equipment.

But what about you – are you really ready? Ask yourself what I would do if:

- The fire pump doesn't work on the day?
- The heat is so intense that it destroys hoses and pipes?
- The roads are blocked due to fallen trees that prevent your escape?
- The electricity is turned off? Phone service won't work?

PLEASE consider the physical (are you fit enough?) and the psychological impact (do you really know how loud it will be? How dark it will be?)

If you are not sure – please plan to leave early on the days where bushfire conditions will be 'extreme' or 'catastrophic'.

Further information can be found on the following sites:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WyJVeTvlI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vqs6i40p7RA>

Have you thought about becoming a CFS volunteer?

We are always looking for new members to join us. Once you have received a "police clearance" you will receive a complete uniform and attend a 2 day training course. You will then receive a pager so that you can be alerted to emergency calls. Training is every Monday night from 7.30 to around 9.30 with the station opening from 6.30pm.

Did you know we have a Cadet Program for children from 11 – 18 years?

This program is run at Kangarilla CFS and is held every Friday night from 7-9pm in the school term. Please contact me if you are interested.

You are always welcome!

We are always there every Monday night (not PH) from 6.30pm and you are always welcome to see what we do. You can join us and that way you would learn valuable skills to protect yourself, your family, your pets and property.

Keep safe!



Important Information

Something to think about!

As firefighters, 2 of our golden rules are that we must know our escape routes and safety zones. Do you know yours?

Do you know the difference between a Bushfire Safer Place and a Bushfire Last Resort Refuge? Do you know where they are?

If you are not sure about any of the above please give me a call or send me an email.

Sue Leslie

Brigade Captain

0423 969 817

sue.leslie@sacfsvolunteer.org.au



Plans for the CFS brigade

We plan to set up a recycled bottle depot as a means of fundraising. Watch this space!

Have you seen this Alert Weed?



Government of
South Australia

June 2011

Mexican Feathergrass

Nassella tenuissima



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WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

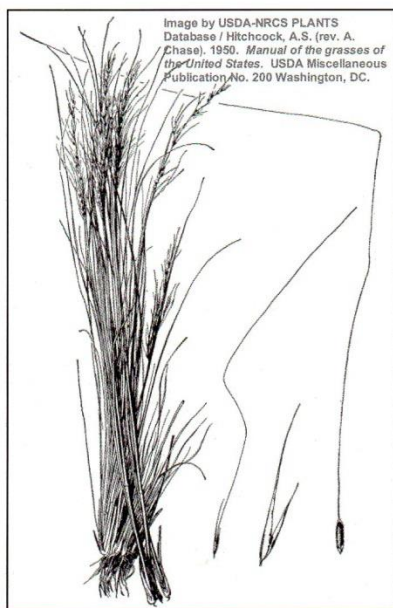
- A low protein, high fibre grass with no grazing value - pure stands would render a paddock worthless
- Unchecked, it can destroy the biodiversity of native grasslands and riparian areas, and open woodlands
- It can survive in extremely variable climates and soil types, and tolerates long periods of drought
- It is a highly adaptable grass that could spread throughout most states of Australia, causing major economic and environmental damage



Nassella tenuissima. Habit. Stan Shebs. (source URL: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:Nassella_tenuissima.jpg)

What are State Alert Weeds?

These are invasive weeds that are not known to be in South Australia, or if present, occur in low numbers in a restricted area, and are still capable of being eradicated. An Alert Weed would pose a serious threat to the State's primary industries, natural environments or human health if it became established here. All Alert Weeds are declared under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*: their transport and sale are prohibited (Sect. 175 and 177), plants must be destroyed (Sect. 182), and if found on your land their presence must be notified to NRM authorities (Sect. 180) – refer overleaf.



DESCRIPTION

A perennial, densely tufted tussock grass, with flowering stems growing up to 70 cm high. Seed heads are 15–25 cm long. Seeds have a small pointed tip and a long bent tail, and resemble a large feather when clumped together at the end of the flower spike. Leaves are thread-like, and roll smoothly between the fingers. The leaves have serrations and feel rough when sliding the fingers down the leaf blade. Tussocks are white in winter, and are very similar in appearance to serrated tussock.

HOW IT SPREADS

Reproduces by seed during mid-spring to summer. Seed tends to fall nearby the plant and can remain viable for up to 4 years. Seeds are not usually dispersed by wind but are spread by flooding, vehicles, clothing on animal fur and feet, and can be transported long distances along livestock routes.

HABITAT

It is capable of surviving in extremely variable climates and soil types, and is able to tolerate prolonged periods of drought.

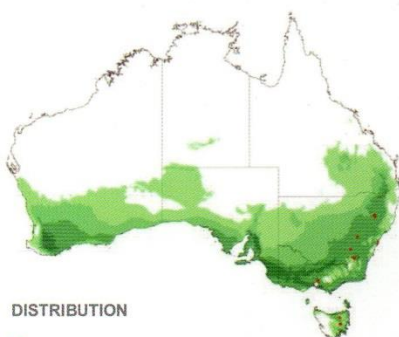
ORIGIN

Mexican feathergrass is native to central and south America, (Chile, Argentina, Mexico, New Mexico, and Texas).

DISTRIBUTION IN AUSTRALIA

Current: Grown in gardens in New South Wales and Victoria, but is not known to be naturalised in Australia to date. In 2009 it was recovered from several gardens in the Fleurieu Peninsula and South-east region of South Australia.

Potential: Based on climate suitability Mexican feathergrass could grow in most of the southern, agricultural zone of South Australia, with the exception of the highest rainfall areas.



DISTRIBUTION

- Current distribution based on herbarium records
- Potential distribution based on climate modelling

HOW IT GOT HERE

First detected in Victorian nurseries in 1998. Mislabelled as *Stipa* 'Capriccio', *Stipa capillata*, or the native grass *Austrostipa elegantissima*, it was sold by hardware chains and garden centres in Queensland, NSW and South Australia in 2008.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Be on the alert for this plant using this Fact Sheet as a guide. If you see a suspicious plant that may be this State Alert Weed, please report it to your local Natural Resources Management (NRM) Board (contact details at www.nrm.sa.gov.au). For more information on weeds, including Alerts, contact your local NRM Board or visit either www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity (phone 08 8303 9620) or www.weeds.org.au.

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