Controlling Boneseed at the You Yangs

The You Yangs is a 2,000 hectare regional park located near Lara in Victoria. The park contains one of the country's densest infestations of Boneseed *Chrysanthemoides monilifera*.

Boneseed is classified as a Weed of National Significance due to its invasive characteristics, capacity for spread, and economic and environmental effects. Without targeted management, boneseed may increase within its existing range, affecting middle and lower storey plant species.

Boneseed established quickly in the You Yangs in the late 1940s, initially dominating the granite slopes and later spreading into the open woodland areas of the foothills. By 1963, reports indicated that approximately 30% of the park, or 650 hectares , had moderate to heavy boneseed infestations, especially in rocky terrain. Currently, boneseed covers more than 1300 hectares of the park and is prominent in the granite hills.

Members of GFNC have been involved in removing boneseed from a section of the You Yangs Regional Park for over 60 years.

In 1990, Rob Beardsley assumed the role of team leader and coordinator for the boneseed removal program, serving in this position for 34 years. In Rob's words "The May 2023 working bee concluded the club's 60th anniversary year of its You Yangs Boneseed Control Program. Working conditions were ideal and with an attendance of ten club members plus five most welcome guest/visitors we quickly cleared regrowth that was easily spotted by early flowering. Many of the 'young legs' went on to grapple with old-growth boneseed bushes in non-priority locations. Our sincere thanks and well done to all who participated. The state of our site is now remarkable, proof that given a clean slate mother nature will look after the rest. The regrowth of indigenous flora is already impressive, and the coming decades will add to the anticipation of its ever-changing state, provided the club's You Yangs program remains intact. It is indeed a great example of what foresight and long-term diligence can achieve over 60 years. 'Our hill' which has always been the primary focus of our efforts, is now clear of all boneseed and back to its showcase condition following the setback caused by the COVID years."