

MEDIA RELEASE

29 September 2017

Have you seen this Purple menace in the Huon Valley?

The Huon Valley Council is seeking your help to locate all patches of the weed Paterson's curse in the Valley this spring.

Locating this weed is the first step in eliminating it entirely from the Huon Valley municipal area. Landholders plagued with the "purple menace" will be provided with support to effectively treat and control the plants on their properties.

Paterson's curse, also known as Salvation Jane, is a weed found in pastures, disturbed land and roadsides that spreads effectively through small, rough coated seeds. It covers approximately 40 million hectares in Australia and costs farmers over \$250 million per annum in productivity losses and control measures.

It is listed as a Priority 1 weed under the Huon Valley Weed Management Strategy, and as a declared weed under the *Tasmanian Weed Management Act 1999*, which means landholders have a legal responsibility to control these plants on their property.

The flowers bloom in spring and summer. The purple, trumpet shaped, flowers are quite distinctive and grow about 2-3cm long. The stems and leaves are hairy. The plants generally grow to 70cm high and flower stems to 25cm long.

Huon Valley Commissioner, Adriana Taylor, says there are four known patches of Paterson's curse in the Huon Valley.

"These are currently being actively and effectively managed by the land managers, so there is a real chance to get rid of this weed completely from our environment.



Contact: Communications & Media Unit, Huon Valley Council
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“The Huon Valley is known for our produce and natural beauty and protecting it from weeds like Paterson’s curse is important for everyone’s ongoing enjoyment of the land,” Commissioner Taylor said.

If you know the location of any suspected Paterson’s curse plants in the Huon Valley, please contact:

Ally Hughes,
Natural Resource Management Coordinator
on (03) 6264 0300 or
hvc@huonvalley.tas.gov.au



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