

MEDIA RELEASE

Our Ref: T15:0032

8 October 2015

Attention: News Editor

New improved dieback fight station

A new and improved version of the Phytofighter dieback cleaning station was launched at the 2015 GSDC Medal Field Day in September.

South coast environmental innovator and educator Gary Muir said the new Phytofighter 3000 could help bushwalkers, wheelchair users, cyclists and horseriders limit the spread of the devastating dieback disease.

Mr Muir's continued development work on the dieback cleaning station was partly supported by the \$12,000 grant he received as the winner of the 2014 GSDC Medal.

At the field day at the WA Museum Co-Op Building in Albany, Mr Muir demonstrated the Phytofighter 3000 and said it overcame several limitations of earlier versions of the cleaning station.

Previous versions catered only for bushwalkers and the walk-through design was considered a trip hazard.

The 3000 model features a wide platform of coarse mesh over a debris collection sump, with two side bays. One bay is for brushing debris off boots and the other is a boot sprayer that applies a disinfectant solution.

"The brush section is separate from the spray section to minimise recontamination," Mr Muir said.

"There's no trip hazard, so you can walk straight through, and you can get through in a wheelchair."



Gary Muir demonstrates the accessibility of the Phytofighter 3000 dieback cleaning station.



Building partnerships for regional prosperity

Albany Pyrmont House, 110 Serpentine Road, PO Box 280, Albany WA 6331. Phone: (08) 9842 4888 Fax: (08) 9842 4828 Email: gfdc@gfdc.wa.gov.au

Katanning 10 Dore Street, PO Box 729, Katanning WA 6317. Phone: (08) 9821 3210 Fax: (08) 9821 3334 Email: katanning@gfdc.wa.gov.au

Web: www.gfdc.wa.gov.au

The wide platform also allows the station to be used on bicycle and horse trails. Cyclists can use the retractable hose to disinfect bicycle tyres, and the hose can extend beyond the station platform to allow disinfection of horses' hooves.

Solar panels power a 12-volt battery pump with a venturi system that automatically mixes the disinfectant with water, and there is an integrated back-up hand pump system.

Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) Chairman Peter Rundle said the further development of the cleaning station was a win for the environment.

"The GSDC Medal supports innovation and leadership in managing the region's natural resources," Mr Rundle said.

"Gary Muir's cleaning station, his educational programs and other environmental projects are inspiring and constructive ways to care for the natural environment."

Mr Muir paid tribute to the students of the Walpole Primary School, whose involvement in dieback education programs, including research on the effectiveness of various cleaning methods, helped to spark ideas for the development of the stations.

He told the field day audience that his current projects also included building a curriculum-linked framework for schools to get involved in projects related to dieback.

The GSDC Medal is awarded every two years and there is a field day every other year to present details of the work undertaken by medal winners. Nominations for the 2016 GSDC Medal will open on 2 November 2015; details will be available at www.gsdc.wa.gov.au or Twitter: @NRM_Medal.

Media contact: Bruce Manning, ph. 9842 4888



Building partnerships for regional prosperity

Albany Pyrmont House, 110 Serpentine Road, PO Box 280, Albany WA 6331. Phone: (08) 9842 4888 Fax: (08) 9842 4828 Email: gsdc@gsdc.wa.gov.au

Katanning 10 Dore Street, PO Box 729, Katanning WA 6317. Phone: (08) 9821 3210 Fax: (08) 9821 3334 Email: katanning@gsdc.wa.gov.au

Web: www.gsdc.wa.gov.au