

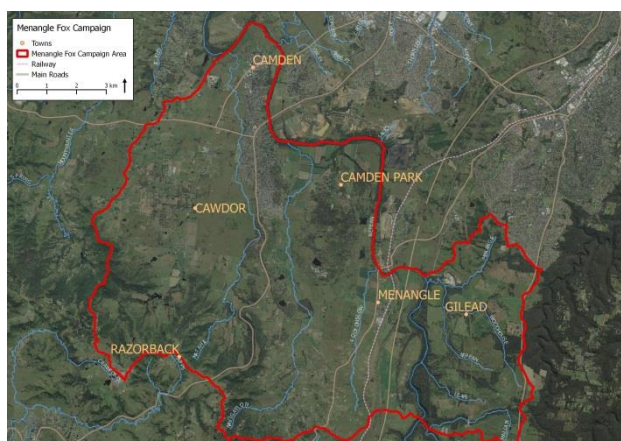
Menangle Fox Campaign

Managing foxes in south-west Sydney - Reducing impacts on livestock and native wildlife

Next coordinated control operation Autumn 2017: 20 March – 30 April

For more information or to register your interest in the Menangle Fox Campaign: visit <http://goo.gl/forms/ahkjaKsBwH> call 02 4724 2128 or email menangle.fox@gmail.com

The **Menangle Fox Control Group (MFCG)** has been formed to coordinate a landscape approach to manage foxes with the aim to protect both livestock and wildlife. The aim is to get as many landholders (rural and residential) in the area to undertake control



Menangle Fox Campaign area

activities twice a year (autumn and spring).

The campaign boundary is somewhat arbitrary but is used for monitoring as well as reporting back to program investors. Foxes will never be eradicated from the area as new foxes will move in from any uncontrolled surrounding (or within) areas. However, this ongoing approach aims to have the largest impact upon the fox population and keep their numbers as low as possible.

A Razorback landholder recently had **success trapping foxes** - three juvenile and one female adult. The successful trap was placed along a line of vegetation near where foxes entered the property under the fence. Fresh lamb bone (de-boned before roasting) was hung in the trigger.



Cage traps can be loaned from the Menangle Fox Control Group.

Rabbits are generally part of the fox diet, so controlling them together is beneficial. CSIRO recently developed a **new strain of calicivirus RHDV-K5**, released by NSW Department of Primary Industries and Greater Sydney Local Land Services **for the control of rabbits**. The latest incarnation of the virus is expected to have a much greater impact in coastal areas than previous strains. Greater Sydney Local Land Services is currently seeking **expressions of interest** from Landcare groups and other landholders about potentially releasing the new RHDV-K5 strain in the area. We are looking for groups of neighbours with rabbit issues willing to work collaboratively to ensure the most effective outcomes from any release of the new virus. If you are interested, contact Vanessa Keyzer on vanessa.keyzer@lils.nsw.gov.au or call 02 4724 2118.

Have you seen a fox

or had a chicken taken by a fox
or trapped a fox?

Please record it in FoxScan to assist our campaign. We now have our own Menangle fox campaign page:

www.feralscan.org.au/foxscan/menanglefox

View instructions on using the Foxscan website or app at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=I55bF7_Sqvk



Ben Stepkovitch is a Masters student from Western Sydney University **studying the diet of urban foxes** across the Greater Sydney region. Ben is looking at fox carcasses and scats (faeces) to find out what the foxes are eating, from mammals and birds to left over dinners and weed seeds. If you are shooting foxes or find a scat on your property please contact us at menangle.fox@gmail.com or call 0457 511 715. Scat collection kits will be available at the workshop.

Workshop – 22 March 2017

7 – 9 pm, Cawdor Public School

Register here: <https://goo.gl/forms/DoB5RqJfO1vE2Dj03>

Disease - *Neospora caninum* is a microscopic parasite which causes abortions in both **dairy and beef cattle**. Cattle (intermediate hosts) are infected by ingesting canine faeces which are infected with *N. caninum* oocysts (eggs), through either water or feed sources or via contaminated soil. Infected adult cows show no clinical signs of illness, however infected pregnant cows can pass the infection onto the foetus via the placenta. Cows will either abort their foetus between four and seven months gestation or calves will be born clinically normal, but will have an 80-90 per cent chance of being *N. caninum* carriers themselves.

Producers within the Menangle area are currently conducting whole herd blood tests to calculate the percentage of their herd which is infected and at what stage they may have been infected. **Dr Keith Walker will discuss the findings at the next workshop.**

Greater Sydney Local Land Services runs **1080/Pindone bait training** throughout the year. This training will allow participants who are able to bait on their property the accreditation to do so. The cost is \$50, however free for a small number of eligible landholders within the MFC area. Please call Annaliese on 02 2724 2134 or email menangle.fox@gmail.com if you are interested.

Menangle fox baiting cluster groups - Landholders who are able to use 1080 poison baits on their properties and have neighbours who also meet the criteria to bait are encouraged to participate in a fox baiting cluster group. This involves five or more neighbours, preferably adjacent to or within a one to two km radius of each other, working with a contractor to set and check baits on their properties during the Menangle Fox Campaign control operation. A risk assessment will first need to be carried out by Local Land Services. Permanent bait station locations would then be identified and used throughout the campaign. Participants agree to allow the contractor to set baits on their property for two years ensuring the cluster group baiting remains as effective as possible. The Menangle Fox Control Group will seek further funding after these two years but it is not guaranteed and cluster group members are asked to consider continuing the control operation at their own expense. Please contact Alison if you are interested on 02 4724 2128 or by emailing menangle.fox@gmail.com

Do you need help controlling foxes? At the next workshop we invite **pest animal control service providers** to leave their details or business card on a sheet at the tea table for attendees.

Remote cameras are widely used to monitor animals including pest species such as foxes. The recent monitoring program across the campaign area found foxes present at 90 percent of sites (29). The percentage of

nights foxes visited a site ranged from seven to 74 percent of nights surveyed. More than 40



species were recorded across the area. Contact us if you are interested in setting up a camera on your property.

Simple tips to reduce fox problems

- Don't leave pet food outside overnight and never feed foxes
- Use enclosed compost bins
- Keep domestic animals secure at night
- Remove fallen fruit around fruit trees
- Keep garbage bins covered
- Block entry points to drains
- Close off access to underneath buildings
- Use fox-proof enclosures for poultry
- Turn-off outside lights that might attract insects
- Reduce weeds that provide food and shelter, such as african olive and blackberries
- Don't feed native wildlife as they will become more vulnerable to predators
- Record sightings in FoxScan.

If you would like to receive the Menangle Fox Campaign **newsletter** or are interested in any of the control or monitoring activities, please register your interest at:

<http://goo.gl/forms/ahkjaKsBwH>

or email

menangle.fox@gmail.com

Fox tip:

Foxes eat anything, including nutritious horse feed

