

Workshop 7-9pm, 23 August 2017
Cawdor Public School

Menangle Fox Campaign

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

Next coordinated control operation Spring 2017 20 August – 30 September

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

There is a lot of fox activity at the moment with males still moving around looking for breeding opportunities and females preparing to rear their young. If you are planning on controlling foxes on your property increase the effectiveness across the landscape by taking part in the **Spring campaign** which will run from **20 August to 30 September 2017**. If you are in a residential area, please help by removing any sources of food or shelter. If you have a fox visiting your backyard, you can contact us to discuss loaning a cage trap.

After a great talk about using large home-made traps at the last workshop some success has been had by another landholder who built their own cage trap. Within one week, three foxes were trapped. More info will be provided at the next workshop.

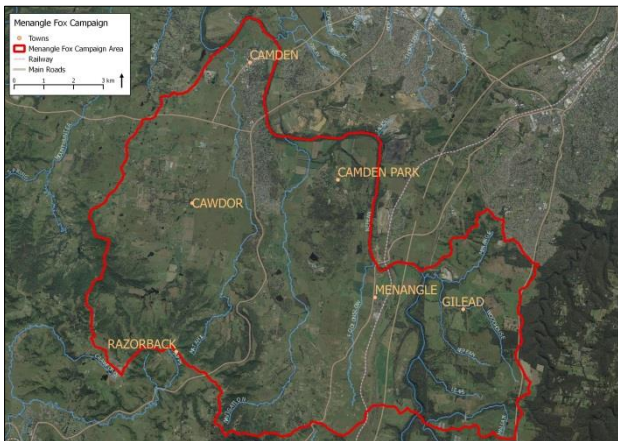


Foxes are more likely to enter a large cage trap.

Do you have foxes on your land?

The **Menangle Fox Control Group (MFCG)** aims to coordinate a landscape approach to manage foxes, protect livestock, domestic animals and native wildlife. The aim is to get as many landholders (rural and residential) in the area to undertake control activities twice a year during Autumn and Spring.

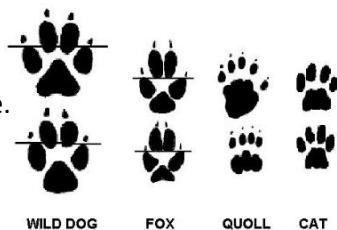
Vanya Jha from Western Sydney University is studying **fox movements** across Sydney. Four foxes were recently trapped and released in the Menangle area after being fitted with GPS tracking collars. The information collected will help us better understand the areas used by foxes and how to manage the resources they are selecting. Some interesting information on what has been found so far will be presented at the next workshop.



Menangle Fox Campaign area



Foxes will never be eradicated as new foxes will move in from any uncontrolled areas. This ongoing approach aims to have the largest impact on the fox population and keep numbers as low as possible.



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 DPI and Greater Sydney Local Land Services to **control rabbits**. Expressions of interest from Landcare groups and other landholders about potentially releasing the

new RHDV-K5 strain in the area are currently being sought. 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@lls.nsw.gov.au or call 02 4724 2118.

Dens – how do you find them?

Come to our next workshop to find out more...

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Register for the workshop <https://goo.gl/forms/1TRJaNFd61c9ZivQ2>

Have you seen a fox

**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 gave a great talk at the last workshop on some of his findings so far. Ben has finished collecting fox carcasses but we will still take any scats (faeces) you find to see what the foxes are eating, from mammals and birds to weed seeds. If you find a scat on your property please contact us at menangle.fox@gmail.com. Scat collection kits will be available at the workshop. We hope Ben can present his final results at next year's workshop in March.

If you listen to the **ABC Radio National** program **Off Track** you may have recently heard the program on Sydney's urban foxes. The story describes the issues faced by participants of the Menangle Fox Campaign. This news article includes the link to the radio program www.abc.net.au/news/2017-06-30/foxes-sydneys-fringe-pose-challenges-for-landholders-ecosystems/8656240



Greater Sydney Local Land Services runs **Vertebrate Pesticide Training** throughout the year. This training gives participants able to bait on their property 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 4724 2134 or email menangle.fox@gmail.com if you are interested.

Menangle fox control 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. Please contact Alison if you are interested on 02 4724 2128 or email menangle.fox@gmail.com

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 with more than 40 species recorded across the area.

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 or register for the workshop <https://goo.gl/forms/1TRJaNFd61c9ZivQ2>