

“RODENATOR” FIELD DAYS

Nicole Maher, Murrumbidgee Landcare

In late July 2015, Phil Sansom of Jansen Farm Services in Ballarat came our way to demonstrate the Rodenator. In conjunction with the Cross Property Planning project, Phil demonstrated the technology at two field days, held at Illabo and Book Book.

The Rodenator R3 unit is designed to humanely control rabbits, and collapse the warren structure. Phil’s technique is to first use a smoker unit (made from a modified leaf blower) to blow baby oil smoke throughout the warren. This allows you to identify all warren openings, which can then be closed in with soil. The portable Rodenator R3 unit is then used to deliver a concussive force throughout the warren, through the detonation of oxygen and LPG.

The concussive force is sufficient to humanely control rabbits and collapse the warren structure (depending on soil type and warren depth). For larger warrens, the Rodenator is most effective if used in conjunction with a baiting program or other control measures.

Phil discussed the importance of destroying warrens, rather than relying solely on baiting or other methods which just control the rabbits. If the rabbit population is controlled but the warrens remain, the population has been shown to be able to quickly rebuild. However if their homes are destroyed, this rapid reestablishment is not possible, giving land holders an opportunity to continue to control the population and prevent it from returning to plague levels, which is a simple and quick solution for the frustrating and costly problem of controlling rabbits.



The Rodenator in action at John and Nicole Hopkins’ Illabo property, “Allawah”



Glen Lucas (left) and Phil Sansom discuss the process for using the Rodenator



Phil presses the button on the Rodenator at Sarah and Steve Palmer's property "Kyeamba Downs", Book Book

Further information

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