



## PRACTITIONER

### **Mozzie Wise School and Community Mosquito Education Program – Achievements and Opportunities for Growth**

Natasha Bowden, South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare (SERCUL)

#### **Abstract**

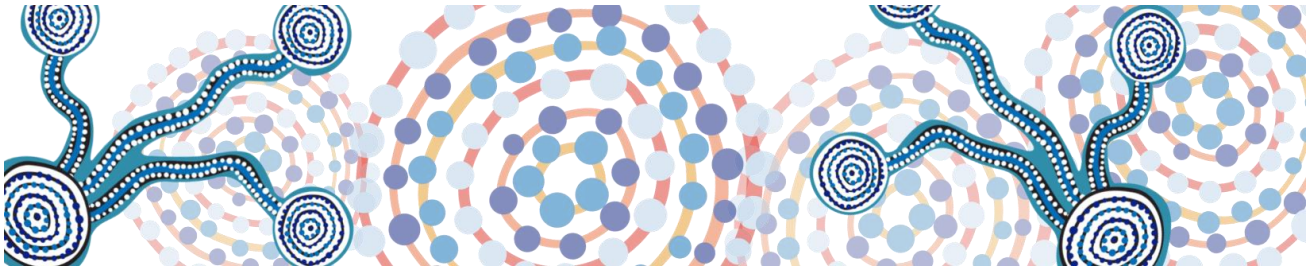
Public education is a key component of any successful Integrated Mosquito Management (IMM) program which aims to balance the objectives of improving water quality, enhancing environmental health, reducing the emergence of adult mosquitoes and protecting human health. An IMM approach is an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of mosquitoes and their diseases through a combination of techniques such as existing biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices and continuous educational programs, in association with chemical management options.

SERCUL developed Mozzie Wise in 2015 as a way of providing an ongoing, uniform and large scale education program to schools, workplaces and the community about mosquitoes, their role in the environment, the risk of mosquito borne diseases and ways to recognise and eliminate potential breeding sites. An informed public helps reduce breeding sites, reduces misinformation, minimises unreasonable demands for chemical application and improves human and environmental health. My presentation will showcase the achievements of the Mozzie Wise program in increasing knowledge about mosquitoes through incursions in schools and in the broader community through community displays, workshops, forums and the distribution of educational materials. We will then discuss the opportunities available to Local Government Authorities, schools and workplaces to extend the program into other communities throughout Western Australia and the potential to adapt the program for use in other areas of Australia.

#### **Speaker Profile**

Natasha Bowden commenced work at SERCUL in 2016 as an Environmental Educator and has been the Education and Promotion Manager for the last 3 years. Prior to this she was involved in environmental education and landcare at The Wetlands Centre and waste education at the City of Cockburn. She also has many years of experience working in the environmental departments of the mining, government, consulting and community (not-for-profit) sectors.

Natasha coordinates the Phosphorus Awareness Project and oversees the other education and promotion projects that SERCUL implements. Natasha develops and implements school environmental education programs and community behaviour change campaigns. She loves her work and enjoys the interaction with like-minded individuals and having the opportunity to educate those who are not so like-minded!



## Acknowledgement

*Dr. Rose Weerasinghe, Ecologist, SERCUL*

*Amy Krupa, CEO and former Education and Promotion Manager, SERCUL*

## Website links

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