

A GOOD WEED



Newsletter of the Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.

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Chondrilla juncea (Skeleton Weed), commonly seen in late spring along road sides and mixed farming areas that have red/brown soil. This stem mutation (fasciation) is common. Image: Tony Cook

Featured stories in this edition

- ♦ **Australian Weeds Conference - highlights**
- ♦ **Society Award recipients present their reports**
- ♦ **African Boxthorn bio-control agents**
- ♦ **AGM and treasurers reports**

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Editor's note

Welcome. Work has seriously delayed this issue. However, I'm intending to produce the summer edition very soon. If you have anything noteworthy for inclusion into the next edition, please contact me.

21 AWC WRAP UP

Weed management experts have been coming together from across the country to share knowledge, insights and strategies for managing weeds at the annual Australasian Weeds Conferences, held at scenic Manly in September 2018.

A special presentation by Mr Costa Georgiadis praised the organising Council of Australian Weed Societies (CAWS) for achieving 21 annual conferences, noting the event's milestone birthday was symbolic of the growing weed control movement around Australia.



With today's capacity to shift large volumes of people and products from one part of the world to another at the speed of a jet aircraft, incredible disturbances were happening to landscapes and exposing entire areas to new potential weed threats.

But with new knowledge and technologies was coming a greater ability to turn disturbances into opportunities to predict outcomes and prepare mitigation strategies.

"Clearly this conference is a 21-year-old," he said.

"It has a head on its shoulders, it knows where it is going, but at the same time it is finding its feet in these new challenges.

"By being together, by coming and sharing these thoughts, both locally, regionally, nationally and internationally, we can see and incubate better

solutions to the problems of nature's rampant invasive capacity when you let weeds loose in landscapes where they have never been or should never have been before."

Costa urged people to share information on weeds on social media to ensure weed issues were understood beyond the tight-knit group of the weed community.

"Make an effort to do a this because the exponential value of it is immeasurable," he said.

"Go forth weedos; love your work."

Over the three days, the conference heard from a wide range of local and international weed management experts, covering topics such as new technologies, systems and tools being used in weed management, new ways of modelling, communication, surveillance and detection; biological, mechanical, and chemical weed control and research, herbicide resistance and the impact of changing climates on future weed distribution.

A special thankyou from the editor: I thoroughly enjoyed the conference and found it to have a special buzz around the venue. This good vibe was generated by many people (well over 300) who were all absorbing and disseminating the range of information at hand.

All this was due to the culmination of many hours of hard work by the conference organizing committee and Abercrombie Management. The venue at Manly's Novotel was well equipped for the various poster displays, trade stalls, multiple concurrent presentations and most importantly food and coffee tables.

Although I was confined away from some of the exciting activities and field trips due to various committee meetings, I got extremely good reports about the field trips. These field trips were an ideal way to finish the conference.

The overall theme of the conference was "Weed Biosecurity—Protecting our Future". All the talks I listened to had this theme as a strong take home message. Speakers were well organized and kept to time. A big thank you to all involved.

Tony Cook, newsletter editor.

Next 3 pages show images from the conference

Most photos by Conference photographer Paul Marynissen



Invited speaker, Professor Antonio DiTommaso talks about climate change & weeds



Dr Pete Turner talks about the quality work that NSW DPI provide



CAWS president Rachel Melland opens the conference



Delegates inspect and read the poster presentations



Leanne Hanvey, Hillary Cherry and Catherine Berger load up on coffee
Image: James Nason



Bianca Gold (Vic department of Land Water and Planning) and Jane Kelly (Charles Sturt University)
Image: James Nason



Peter Harper and Doug Campbell were visiting the trade stalls
Image: James Nason



Paul Comber, Yasuke Koda and Charles Mifsud
Image: James Nason



NZ delegates, Claire Dowsett and Heidi Pene meet with John Clarkson from Qld
Image: James Nason



Leaving the best presentation for last, Kim Hignell commences award presentation
Image: Paul Marynissen



An assortment of the social pictures taken at the 21 AWC. Weedos certainly know how to socialize and network as can be seen below.

Source: Paul Marynissen





**TRAVEL ASSISTANCE
GRANT REPORT
XIAOCHENG ZHU**

The assistance of the 2018 NSW Weed Society Travel Assistance Grant allows me to fund my full registration for the 21st Australasian Weed Conference in Manly, NSW. This is my fourth attendance on the Australasian Weed Conferences since 2012 and I have published eight full proceeding papers and two abstracts so far. I appreciate the Society offers this grant which is an essential support for young scientists to build their capacities and become an independent researcher.

The conference, consisting of three days of presentations and one day of field trip, is very informative, productive and successful. I presented my current research, listened to some excellent presentations including my own students' talks, and networked with other academics and stakeholders. The application of the 21AWC phone app makes this conference stand out.

As a molecular biologist, I am very pleased to see molecular tools have been applied in many aspects of weed researches. The Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) technology has been mentioned in at least three keynote or plenary presentations. Several groups, including James Hereward from UQ, Stephen Powles from UWA and Hanwen Wu from NSW DPI already applied this technology to weed whole genome sequencing and herbicide resistant studies. The whole genome sequencing of fleabane and sowthistle initiated by James Hereward is the pioneer researcher on these species involving herbicide resistance, gene regulation, invasive biology and evolutionary adaptation. Stephen Powles' group applied NGS on transcriptome sequencing and studied the metabolic resistance mechanisms of annual ryegrass, wild radish and wild oat. Hanwen Wu and David Gopurenko used NGS for silverleaf nightshade and fleabane chloroplast and whole genome sequencing in order to find diagnostic gene sequences for fast in-field identification tools.

Other innovative and exciting talks include (but not limited to) using robot for automatic weed management presented by Cheryl McCarthy, drone and weed detective dogs for environmental weed control presented by Mark Hamilton and Andrew McConnachie, and Climate change and weed migration: What do we know and what next presented by the keynote speaker Prof. Antonio DiTommaso. The conference was broken up by five field trips

and I chose the "Garden Ferries Tour". This trip took us to the Royal Botanic Gardens including the herbarium. I was lucky enough to meet with two weed society members Michael Barrett and Peter Michael. Michael had mentioned the weedy issues in the Botanic Garden, as there are many species, for example African Olive, introduced from other countries are currently cultured in the Garden. Peter had emphasized the importance of weed identification. He showed us some precious herbarium samples which have previously been misidentified including *Onopordum*, *Echinochloa* and *Xanthium* species. I am currently involved in a DNA barcoding project on *Xanthium* species identification, which hopefully will result in some fast identification tools. The remaining tour in Taronga Zoo was interesting and relaxing.

I very much appreciate the support from NSW Weed Society. It is an invaluable experience to participate in such a great conference, learn from leading weed scientists and expand my networks.



Xiaocheng Zhu talks at 21AWC about DNA identification of Silver Leaf Nightshade Image: Xiaocheng



Great discussion with Dr Peter Michael at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney Image: Xiaocheng

**TRAVEL ASSISTANCE
GRANT REPORT
HUSAM KHALAF**

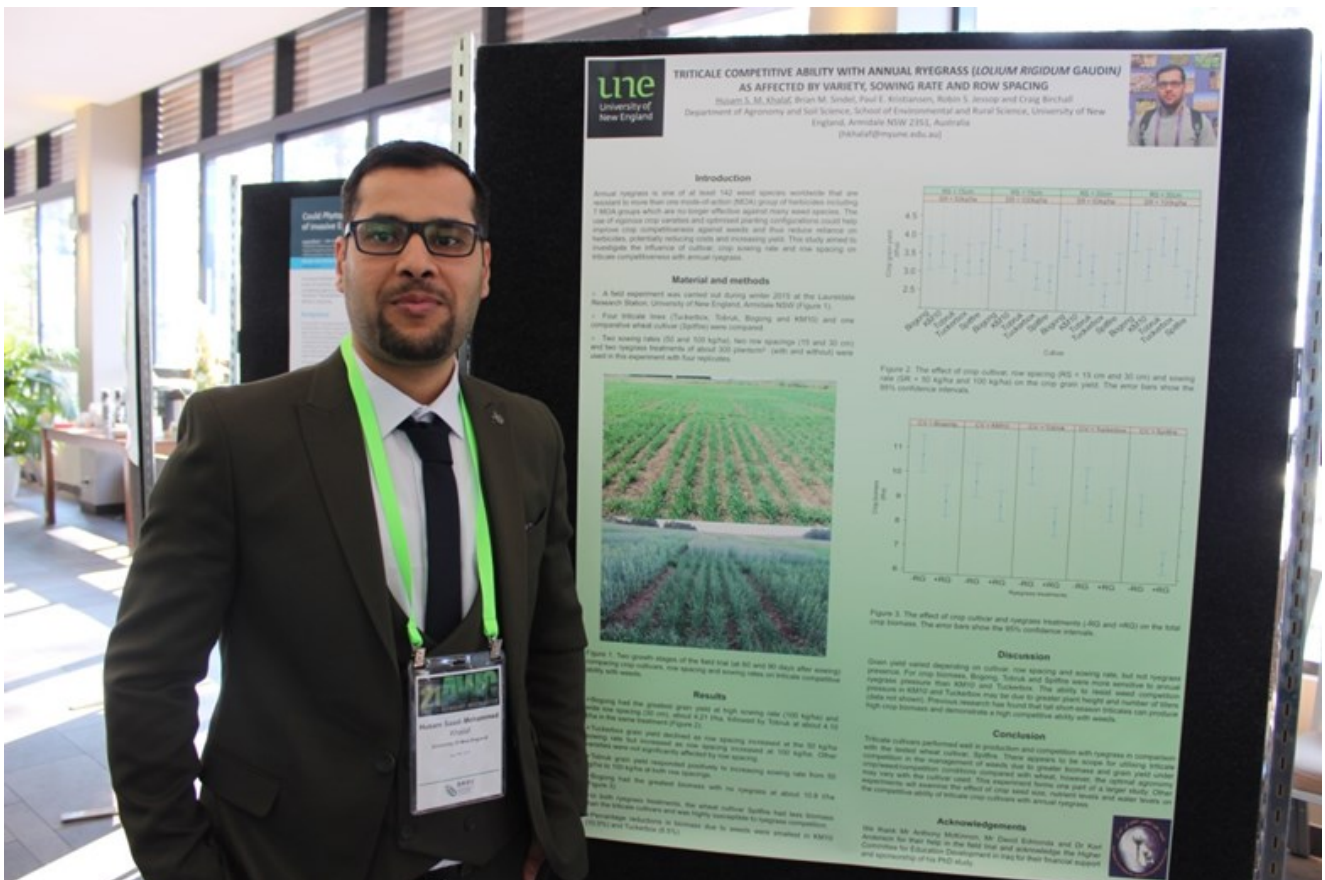
I was delighted to attend the 21st Australasian Weeds Conference recently and to be one of the three travel grant award winners chosen by the Weed Society of New South Wales. I would, therefore, like to thank the Society for this honour and especially the president of the Society, Ms Kim Hignell, who facilitated the granting of the award. I have been fortunate to have attended two other weeds conferences during my PhD study. The first was the 7th International Weed Science Congress in the Czech Republic in 2016 (supported by the International Weed Science Society) and the 19th NSW Biennial Weed Conference in 2017 as a guest of the New South Wales Weed Society. The recent Australasian Weeds Conference was very well organised and has given me a great opportunity to meet a wide variety of scientists and weed managers. I attended many presentations that

were relevant to my PhD study such as on crop competition, annual ryegrass management and herbicide resistance. In my project, I am studying triticale competitiveness against annual ryegrass and was able to write a paper on this topic for the conference proceedings as well as give a poster presentation.

I would also like to acknowledge the hard work and friendly reception provided by the Secretary of the Society, Maria, who organised the payments of the grants for the winners, and for the great organising job that she, Kim and their colleagues did during the conference.

The Novotel Manly Pacific was an excellent venue for the conference and the staff provided exceptional customer service.

I am looking forward to participating in future conferences like the 21st AWC. Finally, I would like to thank my supervisors at the University of New England, Professor Brian Sindel, Associate Professor Paul Kristiansen, Associate Professor Robin Jessop and Mr Craig Birchall for their support, not only for participating in this conference, but also for the whole of the PhD study.



Husam in front of his presented poster at the conference

Image: Husam Khalaf

**TRAVEL ASSISTANCE
GRANT REPORT
HUSHAM ALQADERI**

The 21st Australasian Weed Conference was a great event in which more than 350 delegates and guests participated from different places inside Australia and overseas. Delegates came from diverse backgrounds from within the weeds community such as universities, companies, government, other research organisations, farming and national parks. The conference was held from 9-13 September 2018 at the beautiful Australian seaside beach suburb of Manly at the Novotel Sydney Manly Pacific Hotel.

The conference was very well organized and supported through a number of sponsorships to communicate information useful for improving weed management across Australasia.

It was a good opportunity for students to present their own work on weeds to the weeds community. As a PhD student from the University of New England and a member of the New South Wales Weed Society, I had the honor to participate in this conference to present my paper on the ‘Longevity of blady grass (*Imperata cylindrica*) seeds’ as a conference poster. I enjoyed this event because I acquired a lot more knowledge from the presenters and discussion in weed management, herbicide resistance, and new technology in weed surveillance and detection using GPS, remote sensing, drones and dogs.

I would like to thank my supervisors Professor Brian Sindel, A/Prof Paul Kristiansen and A/Prof Wal Whalley for encouraging me to get involved in this conference. I would also like to thank Kim Hignell, the president of the Society and chair of the 21st AWC Organising Committee for the award of the travel assistance grant to assist me to attend this conference. I’m very grateful to her and the Society for giving me this wonderful opportunity.



Husham in front of his presented poster at the conference
Image: Husham Alqaderi



Husham and Kim Hignell are glad to meet and thanks to the travel assistance award
Image: Husham Alqaderi



Like a proud father: Brian Sindel co-supervises his PhD students Husham and Husam
Image: Husham Alqaderi

AFRICAN BOXTHORN BIOCONTROL—PROMISING AGENTS & PROGRESS TO DATE

African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*) is a widespread and significant agricultural and environmental weed in Australia and a weed of national significance. It was recently nominated as a target for classical biological control (late 2016) and for the past two years CSIRO has conducted research into candidate biocontrol agents for African boxthorn. This research is being conducted in collaboration with South African colleagues from ARC-Plant Health Protection in Stellenbosch and Rhodes University in Grahamstown, and with the support of AgriFutures and the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources' Rural R&D for Profit programme.

Native range surveys for candidate agents in South Africa have revealed four promising agents to date: one rust fungus, *Puccinia rapipes*, and three leaf feeding beetles, *Cassida distingeuenda*, *Cleta eckloni* and *Neoplatygaster serietuberculata*. Here we provide an update on preliminary host specificity results for these candidate agents.



African Boxthorn potential agents: Rust fungus (left) and tortoise beetle (right)

Image: CSIRO

Puccinia rapipes –rust fungus

Cultures of *Puccinia rapipes* were established in Australian quarantine in late 2017, and consequent host specificity testing has been underway since January 2018. Under controlled environment testing conditions in Quarantine in Australia *P. rapipes* has repeatedly failed to infect the Australian native boxthorn, *L. australe*. The nature of this interaction has been investigated microscopically and *L. australe* is considered to be resistant to *P. rapipes*. However, *P. rapipes* has infected all other *Lycium*

species (*L. barbarum*, *L. chinense*, *L. ruthenicum*) which have been exposed to the pathogen, including the target weed (*L. ferocissimum*).

Cassida distingeuenda – tortoise beetle

Adults and larvae are both herbivorous, adults feed on leaves chewing off the leaf edges whereas larvae feed by chewing, creating holes and ultimately cutting off the top half of the leaf. The loss of photosynthetic tissues is anticipated to result in reduced plant vigour and reproductive output. Preliminary host specificity testing indicates that this beetle can feed and survive on *Lycium* species other than *L. ferocissimum* in the laboratory. Open field tests conducted in South Africa indicate that this beetle is only attracted to African boxthorn.



African Boxthorn potential agents: Flea weevil (left) and ladybird (right)

Image: CSIRO

Neoplatygaster serietuberculata – flea weevil

Again, both adults and larvae of this flea weevil are herbivorous but they damage leaves in different ways. Adults feed on leaves making numerous shot-holes whereas larvae feed by mining into the leaf tissue. Larvae remain inside the leaf cuticle until they emerge as new adults. Extensive leaf damage can cause the shrub to excise all its leaves. Preliminary laboratory and open field specificity testing indicate that this insect has a narrow fundamental host range.

***Cleta eckloni* – ladybird**

This ladybird species does not swallow pieces of leaf fragments when feeding, but scrape the soft tissue, masticate it and suck the juices. The larvae feed on the underside of the leaves of host plants, whereas the adult beetles feed on the upper surface. The foliage damage observed to be caused by these beetles ultimately causes extensive defoliation. Laboratory tests carried out in South Africa noted feeding on other *Lycium* species, but survival was only recorded from African boxthorn. Open field specificity testing, conducted in South Africa, found that this beetle did not spill over onto the alternative *Lycium* species tested. Import permits for this species have been obtained and it is anticipated the quarantine screening will commence in early 2019.

Preliminary host-specificity testing to assess the safety and efficacy of these candidate agents has shown that while some of these agents may be highly specific, some have displayed off-target infection and feeding, particularly on the ornamental health food plant, Goji berry (*L. barbarum*). Aside from the Australian native boxthorn *L. australe*, all other *Lycium* species present in Australia (which have been identified as hosts for *P. rapipes* – *L. barbarum*, *L. chinense* and *L. ruthenicum*) are considered to be ornamental non-native plants with little commercial value outside of the nursery and garden industry. Further choice testing of the promising leaf eating beetle agents in the CSIRO quarantine facilities in Brisbane on these same *Lycium* species, and importantly on the Australian native *L. australe*, will be undertaken in the coming months.

For further information and updates on African boxthorn biocontrol research please visit the website: research.csiro.au/african-boxthorn/ or contact the CSIRO Weed Biocontrol team via Dr Michelle Rafter (Michelle.Rafter@csiro.au; QLD, insect agent enquiries) or Dr Kylie Ireland (Kylie.Ireland@csiro.au; ACT, rust fungus enquiries).



African Boxthorn native range surveys

Image: CSIRO



African Boxthorn native range surveys

Image: CSIRO



Host specificity testing of rust fungus in quarantine facilities at Canberra

Image: CSIRO



**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
DELIVERED AT THE 2018 AGM**

I would like to extend a welcome to everyone who has been able to attend this meeting and thank you for being here today. The tireless input from our members who volunteer their time helps this Society to succeed and grow in strength, and attending meetings is a vital part in delivering benefits to our members and a necessity to ensure that we strive to meet expectations. I thank you for your time and effort.

This year was a major year for the Society with us hosting on behalf of CAWS, the 21st Australasian Weeds Conference at Manly. The conference committee worked tirelessly for the past two years to coordinate a very successful conference with the attendance of over 360 delegates. Thank you to each of you for the work that you have done behind the scenes. The members that worked with me on the team were Hillary Cherry, John Cameron, Stephen Johnson, Hanwen Wu, Maria Edmonds, Rex Stanton, Deidre Lemerle, Leslie Weston, Michael Walsh and a couple of extras for the field trips, Nicola Dixon, Jillian Macintyre and Paul Marynissen. What a great bunch of people, thank you team. In addition, a big thanks to Nikki Abercrombie and her staff at Abercrombie Management, for being a great PCO for our conference. I would also like to congratulate our three winners for this year’s Travel Assistance grant to attend our conference. They were from CSU - Xiacheng (Diego) Zhu and from UNE - Husam Khalaf and Husham Alqaderi. I know that everyone at the conference had a great time.

The Society’s newsletter ‘A Good Weed’ and e-newsletter ‘Just a Little Weed’ and the website continues to be the key output for information. I would like to thank Tony Cook, Hanwen Wu and Rex Stanton for their efforts in maintaining the newsletters and website, even though A Good Weed it is a little late at times. Importantly, without sponsorship, the standard of our publications would not be as high, so I would like to thank, Corteva Agriscience, Macspred, ChemCert Australia, Scotts, Australian Catchment Management, Truxor Australia and Hunter Central Coast Weeds. Thank

you sponsors, for supporting the Society during 2018.

Before I wrap up with this review of the last 12 months, I would like to state that today is a sad day for the executive committee and the Society, as our long-term serving life member Rex Stanton is retiring from the committee. He has been with the Society since 2003, serving as President for 5 years, Public Officer, Treasurer and CAWS representative and has spent countless hours working to make the Society the success it is today. A big thank you to Rex. Another committee member Stephen Johnson is leaving as well from his second stint on the committee having served as Secretary for three years. Thank you Stephen. The Society appreciates the input from Rex and Stephen, especially from past and present committee members. Again thank you. Now, the sad truth is that the Society is at a major crossroads, because the committee numbers have dwindled. To be able to achieve the aims and objectives of the Society, the committee needs your help, to step up and be office bearers. Please if no one volunteers their time then the Society could come to a standstill and as your outgoing President, I don’t want to see that happen. So, please help the Society to continue to grow and prosper, become a member of the executive team, be an officer bearer and be part of a great team. Finally, I personally would like to thank the present executive committee for their participation and service to the Society in the various roles that they have played, with a special thanks goes to Maria Edmonds who has help by filling in as the Secretary over the last few months. Having an active executive committee helps ensure the society collectively gets the best outcomes for all members.

Happy weeding

Kim





TREASURERS REPORT - MEMBERSHIP, FINANCIAL REPORT, SPONSORS & CONFERENCE FUTURE FUND

Membership

As at the 30th September 2018, the Society has 160 members compared with 157 members as at 30th September 2017.

Membership is made up of 8 life members, 118 fully financial members and 34 members who have not yet paid their members subscriptions for the 2018 calendar year. These members will receive a reminder shortly and if payment is not received by the 31st December 2018 then they will cease to receive newsletters etc until outstanding membership is paid. Failure to pay the arrears by the 30th June 2019 will result in non-financial members being removed from the membership list.

Membership attrition remains at approximately the same level as recruitment. While over a third of members joined within the last five years, it is pleasing to be able to report the Society still has three members who were either foundation members or who joined soon after the Society formed over fifty years ago.

Length of membership	Number of members
5 years or less	67
6-10 years	29
11-20 years	26
21-30 years	22
31-40 years	7
41-50 years	5
51 years or more	3

Sponsors

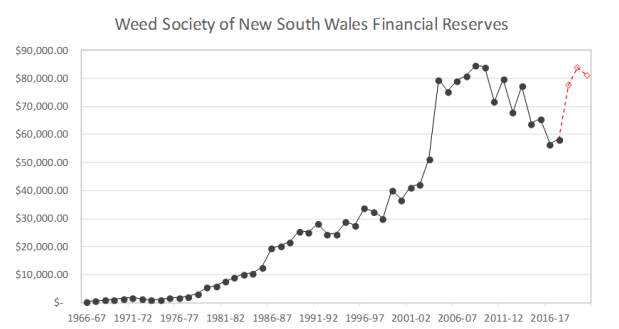
There are seven sponsors of the newsletter *A Good Weed*, viz Australian Catchment Management, ChemCert Australia, Corteva agriscience (formerly Dow AgroSciences), Hunter Central Coast Weeds, Macspred, Scotts Australia and Truxor Australia.

Financial Report

The financial report for the year 30th September 2018 is presented for approval. A full copy of the

financial report can be downloaded from the website: www.nswweedsoc.org.au

The society made an operating profit of \$1,713.53 compared with a loss the previous year of \$9,027.61. During the financial year, the Society provided Travel Grants to three members to attend the 21st Australasian Weeds Conference, representing an expenditure of \$2,979.00. The move to producing the society newsletter, *A Good Weed*, in electronic format has reduced recurring expenditure allowing funds to be directed to other activities such as the Travel Grants.



Conference Future Fund

The Weed Society of NSW Inc is administering the NSW Weeds Conference Future Fund established to ensure the financial success of future NSW Weeds Conferences which are held every 2 years.

The Future Fund balance as at the 22 October 2018 is \$61,553.00 made up of a cheque account with a balance of \$11,553 and term deposits of \$50,000 (yet to be reinvested).

Surplus funds received from the 19th NSW Weeds Conference was \$7,771.74

Two Memoranda of Understanding are current:

- The Weeds Society of NSW to support the upcoming Australasian Weeds Conference in Sydney 2018 (\$10,000 out)
- Newcastle City Council to support the 20th NSW Weeds Conference (\$20,000), to date \$15,000 has been paid to Newcastle City Council



TREASURER'S REPORT: NSW WEEDS SOCIETY INC - REX STANTON

TREASURER'S REPORT – for the year ended 30 September 2018.

INCOME	2018	2017
Members Subscriptions	\$6,100.00	\$6,975.00
AGM Dinner Income	-	\$1,159.00
Income from NSW Weeds Conf	-	-
Sponsors General	\$2,100.00	\$2,100.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$49.41	\$25.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$8,249.41	\$10,259.00
EXPENSES		
Credit Card – Merchant Fees	\$191.66	\$96.86
AGM / Annual Dinner Payments	\$61.73	\$1,567.59
CAWS Subscriptions	\$200.00	\$150.00
Insurance – Public Liability	\$816.42	\$816.42
Buerckner/Stephenson Award	\$60.00	\$148.50
Govt Licence Fees	\$45.00	\$93.41
Postage - General	\$11.35	\$42.02
Postage – Subscription Notices	\$24.63	\$58.10
PO Box Expenses	\$65.00	\$60.50
Treasurers Expenses	-	\$126.54
Travel Grants	\$2,979.00	-
Student Prizes	\$250.00	\$250.00
Members Awards- medals etc.	\$109.30	\$77.70
Sponsorship of the NSW Weeds Conference	-	\$5,500.00
Newsletter Honorarium	-	\$500.00
Executive Teleconference Costs	\$750.17	\$868.54
21AWC Teleconference Costs	\$1,189.77	\$514.52
Newsletter Miscellaneous Expenses	-	\$253.95
Printing Newsletter	-	\$3,545.85
Printing General	\$229.90	\$161.70
Postage Newsletter	-	\$455.13
Website – Maintenance	\$385.00	\$462.00
Special Projects	-	\$4,384.15
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$66.07	\$143.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$8,334.12	\$20,276.48
OPERATING PROFIT	(\$7,435.00)	(\$10,017.48)
OTHER INCOME		
Interest Income	\$899.12	\$989.87
		\$989.87
TOTAL OTHER INCOME		\$989.87
NET PROFIT (LOSS)	\$1,713.53	(\$9,027.61)



**WEED SOCIETY MEDAL WINNER
CONGRATULATIONS
KIM HIGNELL**

Kim is a well deserved winner for 2018, who was utterly surprised by the presentation of this medal at the AGM. Kim is the first female to receive this award within the Society. Below is the nomination which was received by the Awards Committee.

Kim exceeds the challenging requirements and expectations for the Excellence in Weed Management award. Kim's ambitions, intelligence, and accomplishments complement precisely the stellar community of past recipients and make her highly deserving of the honour and opportunity bestowed by the Society Award.

Kim is a smart, caring and fair individual, and people rightly associate those qualities with our institution and our strong tradition of Society values. Kim is a wonderful example of someone who has strengthened our Weed Society through sheer hard work and creativity. We recognise her outstanding abilities and her excellent attention to detail, as well as her willingness to take on difficult projects and see them to successful completion.

Some thoughts from Kim's colleagues in the Hunter Region-

Over the past thirty plus years, I have had occasion to work alongside many Weeds Officers, and my respect for the profession has only grown. I often share my conviction that our Hunter Region has benefitted richly from a talented and dedicated group of professionals such as our Weeds Officers over many decades. Kim's many weed management contributions have only added to the richness of knowledge and experience in our area.

Kim has had many triumphs, successes and even a few 'oh well let's try again' during her many years of involvement with Weeds. Some of Kim's outstanding contributions to weed management include,

- *Her Bitou Bush project which harnesses the involvement of eight Hunter regional councils for control of Bitou Bush along a stretch of 10 kilometres of beach front.*
- *Her starting and cultivating a Bridal Creeper Biological nursery in her council area and distributing her Bridal Creeper biological control agents throughout the Hunter region and throughout NSW.*
- *Kim also initiated Giant Parramatta Grass Biocontrol Trials in the Hunter region involving six council areas.*
- *Her discovery of the new weed incursion of Chinese Knotweed, and instigation of herbicide trials, control and management has provided invaluable results.*
- *Kim is also an active member of the Hunter Weeds Technical Team, the NSW Biocontrol Task Force as well as the long-serving President of the Weed Society.*

Kim's skills do not end with her office and field work. She also projects a warm, cheerful attitude to her clients. She resolves conflicts and handles other difficult situations with remarkable patience and admirable tact. In the community she goes out of her way to help people in need by getting involved and getting things done. She loves people, works hard, and always tries to lift the spirits of those around her. These characteristics represent all that is good in our Society, and there is no one more deserving of this Award.

On behalf of the Weeds Society of NSW, I am thrilled to present Kim with the honour of the Society Medal for Excellence in Weed Management.

Congratulations Kim!





**AUSTRALIA DAY HONOR
CONGRATULATIONS
PETER MCMAUGH**

Australian turf industry icon Peter McMaugh was bestowed the Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the 2019 Australia Day Honours List announced in January.

McMaugh was one of 282 to be invested with the AM and the first member of the Australian turf industry to receive that level of honour. He joins the late Rod Riley, breeder of Greenlees Park couchgrass, and former Adelaide Oval curator Les Burdett who received next tier down Medals of the Order of Australia (OAMs) in 1992 and 2008 respectively.

The Order of Australia celebrates and recognises Australian citizens who have made outstanding and significant contributions to the Australian way of life. McMaugh has had an unequalled and dedicated career in the Australian amenity horticulture and turfgrass industry spanning over five decades and continues to do so.

McMaugh’s nomination for the AM was compiled meticulously by Gary Beehag and former Royal Sydney Golf Club superintendent and AGCSA

board member John Odell. The nomination process first started midway through 2016 and principal referee in their submission to the Governor General’s office was the late great Dr James B. Beard.

A very humble McMaugh, recipient of the 2000 AGCSA Distinguished Service Award and life member of the NSWGCSA, thanked all those with whom he has worked with over the years upon learning of his award.

“I am both surprised and deeply grateful for the award of Member of the Order of Australia, granted to me by the Governor General in the Australia Day Honours List 2019,” says McMaugh. “I see this award as recognition of the turfgrass industry and its special role in providing a safe, healthy environment for our survival into the future and of which I have been privileged to be a part.

“I would like to say thank you to the many collaborators with whom I have worked over the years. Among them are the greens keepers, farmers, scientists, secretaries and especially my wife Rae on whom I have relied for help and inspirations. Without them the body of work that was behind this award could not have been achieved.”

The AGCSA sincerely congratulations Peter on this most meritorious of honours and applauds his dedication to the betterment of our industry over such a long period.



Our Weed Society Medal recipient, Peter McMaugh, receives another award for his contribution to the turf industry. A well deserved Member of the Order of Australia (AM)

***Image:
Gary Beehag***



**NEVER TOO LATE!
CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
NSW WEEDS CONFERENCE**

Apply now to become a speaker at the 20th NSW Weeds Conference. This is a rare opportunity to share your knowledge, research and/or practical experiences with the NSW weeds management community.

We welcome presentation submissions from weeds officers, weed professionals, weed researchers, market and industry analysts, government officials and policy makers. The conference program will include invited speakers, presentations from weed professionals, interactive workshops, a debate and industry trade displays.

The call for abstracts/presentations will close on ~~28th February 2019~~, extended till 15 March 2019. Yes, start writing those abstracts — only need no more than 300 words.

The 20th NSW Weeds Conference is a premier event for NSW weeds officers, researchers, market and industry analysts, government officials and policymakers working towards better weed management across the country. The conference will unite more than 250 weeds management experts in the beautiful beach-side city of Newcastle, Australia.

Weeds are a serious threat to Australia's native flora and fauna and add pressure to our economy. Recent technologies, policies and innovations are helping us manage weeds more effectively - but more work is needed.

This conference provides an opportunity for the NSW weeds management community to showcase new research and ideas for controlling and eradicating weeds. It's a chance to network and build strategic partnerships and invest in a shared vision for our industry's future.

KEY DATES

**ABSTRACTS DEAD-LINE EXTENDED TO
15 MARCH 2019**

**CALL FOR
PRESENTATIONS CLOSE
3 JUNE 2019**

**FINAL PAPERS DUE
14 JULY 2019**

**SPEAKER REGISTRATION CLOSE
26-29 AUGUST—CONFERENCE DAYS**

Conference session themes include:

- Measuring success in weed management
- Weeds in the urban landscape
- Weeds management in rural settings
- Putting the we in weeds: working together





**WEEDS CLASH
NEWSFLASH**

Overgrown Weeds the source of Sydney Black-outs (January 30—source Sydney Morning Herald)

About 45,000 customers in Sydney’s eastern suburbs lost power at the peak of the city’s heatwave thanks to overgrown weeds.

Homes and businesses in suburbs including Double Bay, Edgecliff and Bondi Junction lost power at 11.26am, forcing shops to close, disrupting council services and leaving hospitals relying on backup generators for essential services.

The blackout was caused by overgrown weeds, believed to be shoulder-high in some places, that grew around the equipment in an electrical substation on the corner of Epping and Manning roads in Double Bay.

These weeds came into contact with the 132-kilovolt power cable where it emerges from the ground to connect to the switching equipment in Double Bay.

The recent bushfires that devastated the small NSW town of Tathra were believed to have been started by a short caused by vegetation and tree branches making contact with power lines.



*Weeds getting dangerously close to active circuits
Image: Tony Cook*

Garden escapes threaten natives in wake of blooming season (January 14—source About Regional)

Garden plants in the Bega Valley have been enjoying a bumper season with warm humid days and plenty of rain promoting rapid growth.

Bega Valley Shire Council’s Biosecurity Invasive Species Coordinator, Jamie Dixon-Keay, points out there is a dark side to this blooming season.

“Unwanted or over-enthusiastic garden plants are spreading beyond their boundaries, invading neighbouring land where they may be less than welcome,” Mr Dixon-Keay says.

“Vines, such as Morning Glory and Japanese Hon-eyesuckle to name just a couple, can overwhelm gardens, covering shrubs and trees in a dense mat and climbing over boundary fences where they are doing the same.

“Other plants, including many daisy species, agapanthus, lion’s tail, polygala and the succulents also spread, many beyond gardens into bushland and reserves.

“If you have plants that are rapidly spreading, take care to keep them in your garden and protect the environment beyond your fence.

“Think about what you plant in your garden and consider replacing plants that are unruly with less invasive species,” Mr Dixon-Keay advises.



*Morning glory enveloping all in its path
Image: Bega Valley Shire Council*

In the next edition of A Good Weed we investigate Non-conventional chemicals (couldn't fit it into this edition—sorry) Will they find a good fit for weed control?



The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc. acknowledges the generous support of the following organisation for their sponsorship of the Society and this Newsletter



Agriculture Division of DowDuPont

