

A GOOD WEED



Newsletter of The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.

ISSN 1325-3689

In This Issue

Society Office Bearers & Committee Details	1
President's Column	2
New Members	2
16th NSW Weeds Conference	3
Treasurer's Report	4
NSW Weeds Society Seminar	5
Weed Science Society of America Award	6
Breeding Non-invasive Ornamental Plants	7
Tropical Soda Apple	8
Fireweed in Northern Tablelands Pastures	9
From the Editor	10
Learning from our Mistakes	11
Silverleaf Nightshade Workshops	12
CAWS Report	13
What's On?	14

A Good Weed is published by:
The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.
PO Box 438 WAHROONGA NSW 2076

Secretary: Alan Murphy
Editor: Lawrie Greenup
Assistant Editor: Hanwen Wu

#54 Autumn 2011



Gazania, *Gazania* sp., a popular garden plant has the potential to become a weed threat in south-eastern Australia. Plant breeders are trying to reduce the 'weediness' of some garden plants to enable them to be enjoyed by garden lovers. Image: Hanwen Wu



Society News

Office Bearers for 2010/11

President

Rex Stanton [Wagga Wagga]

Vice President

Birgitte Verbeek [Tamworth]

Secretary

Alan Murphy [Glen Innes]

Treasurer

Jim Swain [Thornleigh]

Public Officer

Mike Barrett [Beecroft]

Committee Members

Newsletter Editor

Lawrie Greenup [Westleigh]

Assistant Newsletter Editor

Hanwen Wu [Wagga Wagga]

CAWS Delegates

Rex Stanton [Wagga Wagga]

Warwick Felton [Tamworth]

Committee

Phillip Blackmore [Armidale]

Tony Cook [Tamworth]

Warwick Felton [Tamworth]

Lawrie Greenup [Westleigh]

Deidre Lemerle [Wagga Wagga]

Brian Scarsbrick [[Dangar Island]

Hanwen Wu [Wagga Wagga]

Contact Details

Postal Address: Secretary
PO Box 438
WAHROONGA NSW 2067

Secretary: secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au

Treasurer: treasurer@nswweedsoc.org.au

Editor: editor@nswweedsoc.org.au

Website: www.nswweedsoc.org.au

Apologies from the Editor

My apologies for the lateness of this Autumn issue. Major problems with my computer hardware and some newly installed software left me twiddling my thumbs for several weeks without access to my newsletter files. Working from home and without the support of an organization there was little I could do but wait until my IT technician could solve the problems.

Please note the deadlines for the Spring & Summer issues have been changed because of the lateness of this issue.

#55 Spring	31 July 2011
#56 Summer	30 November 2011

Again my apologies.

Committee Meeting Dates 2011

- 11 February 2011
- 8 April 2011
- 10 June 2011
- 12 August 2011
- 14 October 2011
- 9 December 2011

Annual General Meeting
17 or 25 November 2011 (to be confirmed)

Front Cover Image

The image on the front cover shows the potential problem gazanias could become in the south east of Australia, in both inland and coastal areas.

A plant breeding program at the University of Sydney is looking at ways to reduce the 'weediness' characteristics of some of the more popular garden plants.

See the article on page 7 of this issue and the short note on page 8 of the #53 Summer Issue.



Society News

President's Column



A warm welcome is extended to all members for 2011, particularly as this year represents the 45th anniversary of the formation of the society. I am aware that a number of our current members have been associated with the society for a substantial period, and I would like to gather

comments and anecdotes regarding notable events and practices of the society during earlier years. If any member would like to contribute information, please contact me. I feel it is important to capture some of the personal perspectives on the history of the society before they are lost.

A recent paper by Pretty et al. (*International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability*, 2010) addressed the top 100 important questions facing global agriculture, as defined by 55 senior representatives from 21 countries. Notably, pest and disease management directly contributed six questions. This sector has traditionally been dominated by insect and disease management, with weeds rated third. However, meaningful engagement between academic and industry focused research to develop the next generation of weed control technologies and strategies can provide substantial contributions to sustainable production.

Late last year, applications were invited for funding through the National Weeds and Productivity Program administered by the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC). Approximately \$11M dollars will be available for research projects to be completed by mid 2012. While this represents a much needed financial boost for weeds research and extension, the short timeframe in which projects will operate may limit the value of returns that will be gained from the expenditure. Only around 5% of the funding is expected to be directed towards planning for future funding and institutional arrangements. Coordinated planning of future weed research is required

to effectively address any weed related issues facing global agriculture.

Planning is proceeding well for the NSW Biennial Weeds Conference in Coff's Harbour later this year. Prof. Jim Pratley, who was awarded the CAWS Medal for Leadership in 2010, will be the keynote speaker for the conference. I would draw attention of society members to the Buerckner and Stephenson Awards that are supported by the society and encourage weed professionals to consider nominating worthy colleagues.

Attention also needs to be drawn to the range of weeds related conferences that will be happening this year, mainly in the second half of the year. A list of conferences is available through the society website. Anyone interested in attending a conference should note that various travel grants are available from the society, the Council of Australasian Weed Societies (CAWS), and agencies such as RIRDC. Please visit the relevant websites for more details.

Finally, I would like to mention that the society's strategic plan was presented to the April committee meeting and was accepted unanimously. The plan will be on the Society's website.

As readers would have noted in the last newsletter, the society performed well last year and achieved many goals. I would welcome feedback from any member on suggestions on the future direction and activities of the society.

Rex Stanton
President

New Members

The Executive & Committee welcomes the following new members:

Estelle Gohen
Kevin Kelly
Reece Luxton
Carmen Muldoon
Keith McPhee
Ian Schwartz



Society News



16th NSW Weeds Conference 2011 18th - 21st July 2011 Coffs Harbour 'Making a difference — from Country to Coast'

The NSW Weeds Conference organising committee has developed a program for the conference to be held in Pacific Bay Conference Centre, Coffs Harbour from 18th to 21st July 2011.



As many as 48 different speakers will provide a wide range of topics. Some of the broad themes that will be covered include, strategic planning, on-ground programs, weed threats to biodiversity, weed management (strategic), technologies, partnerships, garden escapes, education campaigns and new weed issues.

Two significant key note speakers that will present in the opening session are Adjunct Professor Jim Pratley and the Honourable John Kerin. Dr Pratley, a recent recipient of the CAWS medal, will enlighten delegates in 'Weed education – making a difference'. His considerable experience at Charles Sturt University will be pivotal to his presentation. John Kerin will present his viewpoint on national research, policy and political perspectives on weed management.

An interesting session follows later, on the opening day. This session is titled, 'How could reform radically improve weed management?' The purpose of this session is to stimulate and inform people about the need and possibilities for radical improvement in the commercial, institutional and legal arrangements that are used to control weeds. This session is an excellent lead in to a debate that follows. Titled, 'It's about time we realised that we are getting the business side of weed management all

wrong!', two teams of three highly opinionated weed professionals will 'lock-horns' to get their points across.

The majority of speakers will be in split into two concurrent talks, giving delegates a choice of what topics best suits their needs. Furthermore, there will be informative trade displays that can be visited at your leisure.

The afternoon of Wednesday 20th is dedicated to the field trips. Three options are available; *surfers safari tour*, visiting rainforest, littoral and grassland regeneration areas, *fruit salad tour*, inspecting banana and blueberry farms or the *rainforest tour*, journey to Bellinger valley and Dorrigo to inspect world heritage rainforests.

Finally, for those with great focus, shutter speed and an eye for a decent photo, a photography competition will be held at the conference. There are two categories; one for weed identification and weed management. Some great prizes are on offer for successful participants. Details of this competition are available on the website under the conference details hyperlink. Hope to see you at the conference.

All Conference details, including program, registration and accommodation booking forms, can be obtained from the conference website.

www.2011weeds.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au

Closing date for registration **8th July 2011**

Tony Cook





Society News

Treasurer's Report Autumn Newsletter - 2011

Financial Report.

For the period 1st October 2010 to the 11th April 2011 the society has shown a loss of \$13,850.42 which is due to the payment of \$15,000.00 made to the Coffs Harbour City Council as our commitment to the NSW Weeds Conference.

This amount has been debited as an expense as the agreement does not guarantee repayment of the \$15,000.00 - only a share of the profit from the seminar.

All sponsors have committed to continue sponsorship of *A Good Weed* for 2011. With Crop Optics this gives us now 7 sponsors viz Bayer, Dow, Scotts, Crop Optics, ChemCert, Luhrmann and Syngenta.

The Turf seminar showed a profit of \$1064.30 and the Annual Dinner a profit of \$37.50

Account/term deposit balances - as at 11th April 2011.

Club Cheque Account \$5,403.49

Money Extra Cash Management \$1,356.73

Term Deposits

\$24,825.43 – expires 24th September 2011 – 6.00%

\$26,549.97 – expires 24th April 2011 – 5.90%

\$11,100.70 - expires 24th July 2011 – 6.00%

Membership.

145 membership tax invoices were sent out on the 10th February 2011, 19 of whom had not paid their subscriptions for 2010.

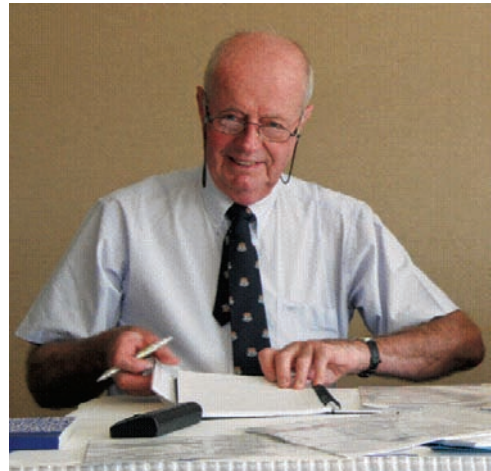
As at 11th April 2011, 68 have renewed for 2011, there has been 1 resignation, 15 have not renewed for 2010 and 2011 and will be removed as members on the 1st July 2011 and 60 have yet to renew for 2011.

With 2 life members this gives a total membership of 145

Budget.

A budget for 2010-2011 has been prepared and shows that the society will show a loss of \$6,497.00 for the financial year which is from the 1st October 2010 to the 30th September 2011.

The budget has adopted a conservative approach in regards to returns from the 16th NSW Weeds Conference and the Epping seminar.



Jim Swain. Hon Treasurer April 2011

Join the Weed Society of New South Wales

There are many advantages in joining the Society such as:

- ◆ four issues of 'A Good Weed'
- ◆ reduced registration fees at the NSW Weeds Conferences, Society seminars and workshops
- ◆ student and travel awards
- ◆ meeting people of similar interests in weeds and developing new contacts
- ◆ working with the Society in promoting a wider interest in weeds and their management

Membership costs (due 1st January each year) are:
Student \$20.00 Ordinary \$40.00

Membership forms are available on:

Society's website www.nswweedsoc.org.au

or from

Secretary PO Box 438 Wahroonga NSW 2076



Society News

Society Seminar 'Environmental Weeds Current Policies & Practices'



Morning glory, an environmental weed of coastal New South Wales, smothering an eucalypt. Image: L. Greenup

Note this date in your diary

The Weed Society of New South Wales will be running a full day seminar at The Epping Club, Epping on Wednesday, 27 July 2011.

Environmental Weeds Current Policies and Practices

The keynote speaker is John Thorp, National Weeds Management Facilitator, who will review Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) and funding opportunities.

Other speakers will discuss biological control agents and community involvement, case studies, prevention of weed entry at national borders and implementation of weed management strategies.

This seminar will appeal to a wide range of land managers and continues our well established tradition of providing essential information that is relevant.

Full details, including the full program, registration and payment form, are on the society's website www.nswweedsoc.org.au

If you need any information regarding this seminar contact the seminar organiser:

Mike Barrett

Phone: 02 9875 3087

Email: mikebarrhort@iprimus.com.au

Vale William (Jack) Burke

Long-time Society member, Jack Burke, passed away in February 2011.

Jack worked in the chemical industry for over 40 years commencing in AgServ, then Geigy Australia. After a short period with Diamond Alkali he returned to Ciba-Geigy working in the area of

chemical registration.

He gave a lot of his time to the Society being president for two years and over ten years as secretary.

The President and committee pass on their condolences to the Burke family



Society News

Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) Award to former Weed Society of New South Wales President



Professor Roger Cousens

The life-time's work of Professor Roger Cousens in leading the search for weeds solutions has been recognised with a prestigious award from the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA).

Professor Cousens has spent 27 years researching the ecology and biology of weeds and in 1995 published the book *Dynamics of Weed Populations*. He is currently a member of the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) Weeds Advisory Committee and works in the Department of Resource Management and Geography at the University of Melbourne,

At the 51st annual meeting of the WSSA on Monday, February 7, Professor Cousens was awarded honorary membership for his research, which has shed light on the population dynamics of weeds and competition between weeds and crops.

RIRDC congratulates Professor Cousens on the achievement, saying the recognition is testament to the importance of the body of work he has produced during his career as only one honorary member is selected each year by the WSSA.

RIRDC is managing the implementation of the Na-

tional Weeds and Productivity Research Program, which is aimed at finding innovative solutions to the economic and environmental costs caused by weeds.

RIRDC Weeds Advisory Committee Chair, the Honourable John Kerin AM, said the honorary members of the WSSA have all made significant contributions to the field of weed science and have been recognised as national or international leaders in their field.

"Professor Cousens' contribution to the RIRDC Weeds Program is incredibly valuable in providing a critical research perspective to its activities," Mr Kerin said. "Weeds cost Australia's agricultural sector alone more than \$4 billion a year in management imposts and lost production, as well as doing immense damage to our environmental assets. "Solutions to weeds in Australia require a long-term, integrated and multi-disciplinary approach.

"The RIRDC Weeds Program is supporting research which will limit the spread of existing weeds and improve the effectiveness of control practices by building on the work of industry leaders like Professor Cousens."

The Australian Government has provided up to \$12.4 million to RIRDC for the first two years of the National Weeds and Productivity Research Program to 30 June 2012 with the goal of reducing the impact of invasive weeds on farm and forestry productivity as well as on biodiversity.

More information on the National Weeds and Productivity Research Program is available at www.rirdc.gov.au/weeds

Media Release from Rural Industry Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC)

Roger was President of the Society during the 1990's. Congratulations, Roger, from the executive, committee and members of the Weed Society of New South Wales.



Plant Breeding

Breeding Non-invasive Ornamental Plants

Graham Brown

University of Sydney, Plant Breeding Institute, Cobbitty

Plant breeders, distributors, landscape architects, councils and retailers are all aware of the need for new plant introductions to be non-invasive. A major factor in “weediness” is abundant seed production. If new plants have nil or significantly reduced seed set then the chance that the new plant will become invasive plummets.

Plant breeders have responded to this requirement by employing a number of common plant breeding technologies to reduce seed set. This also has the added bonus that plants generally flower for a longer period if they do not set seed. Even plants that are generally considered weedy can be tamed.

The first method below illustrates this point.

1. Inbreeding and selection for low seed set.

Inbreeding can concentrate deleterious genes that render the resulting plant sterile or partially sterile.



Agapanthus “Queen Mum” in the foreground is the result of inbreeding, conventional varieties in the background.

2. Interspecific hybridization

This technique can be used to create sterile hybrids. Often the F1 hybrid needs to be embryo rescued just to get it to survive.

NuFlora, an Australian company has bred a series of Verbena called “Terra” which are interspecific hybrids that are virtually sterile.



Verbena “Terra”

3. Intergeneric Hybrids and Triploidy

Intergeneric and triploid hybrids generally are very sterile. Oestespernum is a great example where a genus has been hybridized with another genus which is a close relative. The resulting sterile hybrids “Crescendo” are currently released in America and should be released in Australia soon.

There are other methods such as mutation and self incompatibility which can also be employed by plant breeders to reduce seed set in new varieties. With these tools many new plant varieties will be developed in future years which are much better for the environment.

Further Information:

Graham Brown graham.brown@sydney.edu.au





New Weed Infestation

Tropical soda apple - a new invasive species for Australia?

Syd Lisle NSW Department of Primary Industries Wagga Wagga

In August 2010, the Weed Officer from Kempsey Shire Council submitted a specimen of an unknown plant to the Sydney Herbarium. This specimen was identified as *Solanum viarum*, commonly called tropical soda apple or TSA.

The plant was collected from pasture near Kempsey. This is certainly a new record for NSW and possibly for Australia although there are voucher specimen records in South Australia; it is not known if these specimens were collected in Australia or not.



Tropical soda apple, *Solanum viarum* Image: Tony Cook

Tropical soda apple is a native of north eastern Argentina, south eastern Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. It was first recorded in Florida in 1987 and was known to infest 10,000 ha by 1990 and half a million hectares by 1995. By 2007 it had spread to nine other states in south eastern USA. In the USA it is a Federal Noxious Weed aptly named: "the plant from hell". Tropical soda apple has also naturalised in Africa, India, Nepal, West Indies, Honduras, Mexico and outside its native range in South America.

Tropical soda apple is an aggressive prickly perennial shrub 1–2 m high. It invades open to semi shaded areas, including pastures, forests, riparian zones, roadsides, recreational areas, horticultural and cropping areas. It reduces biodiversity in natural areas by displacing native plants and disrupting ecological processes. Its foliage is unpalatable to

livestock, thus reducing carrying capacity. Prickles on this plant restrict native animal and stock grazing and can create a physical barrier to animals preventing movement to shade and water. The impact of these attributes is yet to be determined. NSW Department of Primary Industries has drafted a weed risk assessment of the plant and it has been assessed as a *medium risk* species.

While local landowners have been aware of the plant since 2004, it was assumed to be a non-invasive related species, *Solanum casicoides*. Due to its recent rapid expansion landowners brought it to the attention of local authorities in August this year.

Reports and surveys indicate approximately 50 hectare in the Macleay catchment is potentially infected, spreading along an estimated 62 kilometres between Georges Creek and Bellbrook. Several satellite infestations of the weed have been found at locations outside of the catchment - notably several infestations in Grafton possibly associated with cattle transfers.

A State taskforce has been initiated. An effective collaboration has been developed between several partners. NSW Department of Primary Industries is coordinating the project, providing technical advice and financial assistance. Local government is the major contributor to survey mapping and eradication efforts, not only from the affected areas but also from surrounding regions. The Livestock Health & Pest Authority (LHPA) will contribute through stock tracing – cattle are a major vector.

The major infestation in the Macleay valley have been treated in a cooperative project which includes weeds staff from the Mid North Coast, North Coast and Northern Inland regions with financial assistance from NSW Department of Primary Industries. The project is coordinated by the Mid North Coast group and involves, apart from the private landholders, National Parks, LHPA, Aboriginal Land Councils and the Land & Property Management Authority.



Weeds Research

How is the presence of fireweed affecting pastures?

Phoebe Barnes & Brian Sindel
University of New England Armidale

A native plant of southern Africa, fireweed (*Senecio madagascariensis*) is the worst weed of temperate and sub-tropical pastures in coastal New South Wales and south-east Queensland. It is poisonous to livestock, and is capable of germinating and flowering through much of the year, reducing the output from beef and dairy cattle production.



Fireweed, *Senecio madagascariensis*

As a result, fireweed is of great concern to farmers. As part of a larger project funded through the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries that includes looking at the potential for biological control of fireweed and its declaration as a Weed of National Significance (WoNS), at the University of New England (UNE) we are currently examining the impact of fireweed on pasture production.

At Dorrigo NSW we have two sites to look at how pasture biomass responds in the absence of fireweed, at a low population cover of fireweed, and at a high population cover of fireweed on a month by month basis. In addition, we are assessing the timing of emergence of fireweed on bare ground and with pasture competition. The experiments commenced in October 2010 and are planned to continue until April 2012. Therefore the results presented here are only preliminary.

Our first assessment when we set up the experiment in mid spring in grazed pastures, showed that there was considerably more standing pasture biomass where fireweed was present than where it was absent, indicating that fireweed presence actually reduced the availability of pasture to livestock grazing i.e. it remained ungrazed in the paddock.

How baring the pasture (achieved through an application of Roundup®) affects fireweed emergence appears to be site dependent. Although both sites at Dorrigo are similar in physical attributes, above ground weed population densities and proximity to one another, only one site has had fireweed emerge following herbicide application. Consequently, site history would appear to be an important determinant of how fireweed will respond where there is baring of pasture and a reduction in pasture competition, and the results suggest that the soil seed banks at the two sites may be behaving quite differently.



One of the fireweed experimental sites - Dorrigo NSW

In addition to the pasture trial a seed longevity trial is underway to examine how long fireweed seeds remain viable in two contrasting climates (in Dorrigo - a warmer and wetter climate; and Armidale -



Weeds Research

How is the presence of fireweed affecting pastures? Phoebe Barnes & Brian Sindel University of New England Armidale

a cooler and drier climate) at different soil burial depths (soil surface, buried at 2 cm and buried at 10 cm deep). At Dorrigo after 1 month, 93% of the fresh seeds on the soil surface had either germinated or lost viability, whereas when buried at 2 cm or 10 cm deep 66% and 59% of the seeds respectively had germinated or lost viability. At the cooler drier Armidale site 72%, 41% and 28% had germinated or lost viability at these depths respectively. These results imply that a high proportion of fresh fireweed seeds will not persist in a dormant state, particularly on the soil surface, and that longevity may be extended in a cooler drier climate.

See our UNE website for updates and further information on this research.

www.ruralfutures.une.edu.au/fireweed/fireweed.htm



Brian Sindel at the Dorrigo fireweed experimental site

From the Editor

We always want material, preferably short & interesting articles, with good quality images which will reproduce well in colour. Any one who has been an editor knows how hard it is to fill the required number of pages so please forward anything you think is suitable for 'A Good Weed'

What do we want? Local & regional news about people & events, new emerging weed species, weed management issues, bushland regeneration, Bushcare, weed research summaries, noxious weeds, legislative issues, book reviews, in fact, anything to do with weeds.

Please ensure your images are in focus, well formatted, with good colour balance, suitable for reproduction in colour. Images should be sent as jpeg files no bigger than 1 MB, preferably 300 – 500 KB. All images will be acknowledged

Letters to the Editor are welcome as long as they relate to newsletter material or pertinent weed issues.

'A Good Weed' is produced by The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc. Material from 'A Good Weed' can be reproduced and circulated with the acknowledgement of the authors. The opinions expressed in "A Good Weed" by contributors are not necessarily those of the Executive Committee of The Weeds Society of New South Wales Inc.



Weeds Extension

If only we learnt by our mistakes - are we still knowingly spreading weeds? Birgitte Verbeek NSW Department of Primary Industries

I commenced working in the weed management field in 1986 and continue to this day. My work career has included various aspects of weed management including research, regional coordination, training, extension, legislation, resource development and community awareness programs.

However throughout all this time, despite the vast amounts of literature I have read and personnel contact with many weed managers and experts, I had never heard or read about this means of weed spread that Tom told me recently during an informal discussion at the Australian National Field Day at Borenore - so I thought it worthy of passing this information on.

It should be noted the purpose of this tale is not to berate bee keepers or others but to prompt all community members to think more carefully about how they might be spreading weed seeds today - at work, at home or at play.

Tom's Weedy Tale – a true account of events that occurred!



Birgitte & Tom

When Tom was 15 or 16 years old in the 1950's he worked for an apiarist (bee keeper) in the Carcoar area of New South Wales. Tom said it was "a long time ago when young men worked!"

At that time he commented that Patterson's curse was not widespread and it was common practice for his boss to collect Patterson's curse seed from the seed cleaning plants and to spread the seed along roadsides and other likely spots so that the

bees could have a further source of pollen to make honey. "All bee keepers did it" Tom said.

In those days there were a lot of white box trees in areas around Greenthorpe. However the white box produced a lot of nectar when flowering but not much pollen. Tom commented that "the trees would be raining nectar but the bees need the pollen to breed and to make honey so the Patterson's curse was sown under the tree canopy and along roadsides to provide the required pollen for the bees in following seasons to enhance good honey production. He said it "was common practice state wide".

Tom also said that saffron thistle although recognised as a serious weed was also spread by landholders. Seed was collected from seed cleaning plants to grow in paddocks. Although the plant itself is spiky the seed is a good source of feed for sheep. The sheep will lick it from the ground once it is shed from the plant.

Tom is a Fish Care Volunteer with the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

This current theme for NSW Weed Awareness programs is '**Make a Difference – At Home, At Work, At Play**'. The program is coordinated by Ms Jessica Grantley, the NSW Weed Awareness Officer (NSW Department of Primary Industries) in partnership with Local Government across

Weedy Facts:

Patterson's Curse can cause an annual net loss of production between \$9 and \$27 million annually in NSW alone.

Saffron thistle is a native of the Mediterranean region and western Asia which has spread to many temperate areas of the world. It occurs in all states and territories of Australia where it is considered as an important weed. It was first recorded in Australia was 1874.

65% of our current weed burden escaped from parks and gardens, 7% from agriculture, 20% unknown, 2% as contaminant and 6% other.

*Source: Cooperative Research Centre for Australian Weed Management, 'Noxious Weeds of Australia', Parsons W.T., Cuthbertson E.G. (1992)



Weeds Extension

Silverleaf nightshade management workshops 'a standout success'

More than 400 farmers, advisors and weed control officers have heard the latest research on the management of the summer growing, perennial weed, silverleaf nightshade (SLN) at 14 workshops held in NSW, Victoria and South Australia. The workshops are the culmination of a five-year EH Graham Centre research project, funded by Meat and Livestock Australia.

Continuing demand for these workshops and farmer feedback highlighted the growing economic, social and environmental cost of SLN to grain and livestock producers, with estimates that this highly adapted weed could infest up to 400m hectares of the most productive farming land of southern Australia.



Farmers attending one of the silverleaf nightshade workshops

Project leader and weeds agronomist, Dr Hanwen Wu, has identified, from the team's research into the ecology and biology of SLN, a combination of chemical and non-chemical control strategies.

The workshops were to designed to combine local

experience and farmer success stories to reinforce the research findings.

The clear message from the workshops is that SLN management is a long-term commitment and requires an integrated 'dual action' approach that focuses on key stages of the plant's life cycle.

Many of the current strategies have been successful in stopping seed set, which may control spread. However, the fact that SLN reshoots very effectively from significant root reserves causes major problems in control.

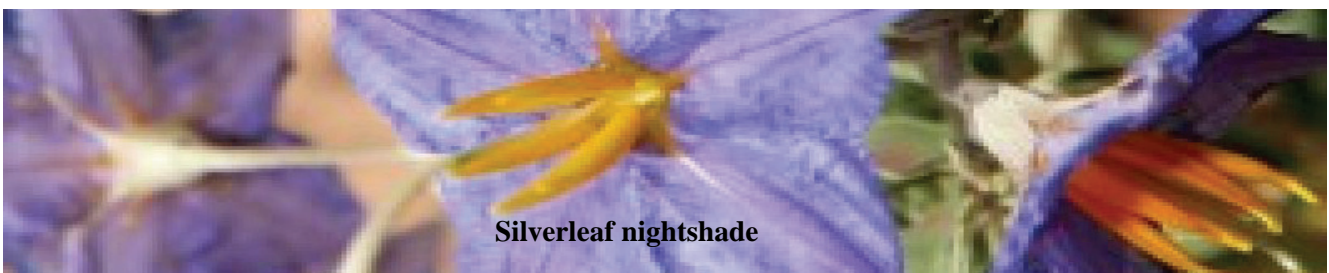
There was strong support from farmers grappling with SLN to quickly contain and eradicate small infestations before they establish and spread.

The feedback from the workshops highlighted the financial and social cost of managing large infestations. Effective management should begin with a map, rating density of infestations and consideration of long-term options to either contain or control the weed."

Farmers need to critically assess the time and cost they need to commit for eradication versus a control target, and then consider what area can be physically managed and the tactics that best suits their system.

A best management factsheet produced as part of the project clearly identifies the key stages of the plant's life cycle that management strategies need to target and reinforces the need for a 'dual action' approach to eradicating the weed.

The Factsheet can be obtained from:
www.csu.edu.au/research/grahamcentre/research/publications/docs/SLN_BMPguide.pdf



Silverleaf nightshade



Australasian News

Council of Australasian Weed Societies (CAWS) President's Report



Firstly I wish to offer condolences both from me and on behalf of CAWS to all those who have been affected, either personally or their work, by the myriad of national disasters our two countries have suffered. Some of these, particularly floods and hurricanes, can also have a major impact on weeds, especially their ingress and distribution, providing new challenges for our often overtaxed resources.

In 2011 there are two tasks for CAWS to complete:

1. Strategic Plan.

As noted in the meeting agenda the current version expired at the end of 2010 and we therefore need to rethink what our objectives are and what we are able to deliver. My experience is that on both sides of the Tasman most of us have heavier workloads and less time to spend on these extra-curricular matters compared to 5 or 10 years ago. If others are feeling this way then we need to limit our strategic plan to what we believe we can achieve. Pipe dreams are nice but it can get quite depressing if as an organization we don't achieve them. We don't need to produce this document in a hurry but we do need to get it about right. And we should do it for 5 years (not 3 like the last one).

2. Re-vamp of the constitution.

Again this needs to now reflect modern practices and practicalities. Two areas of concern have been

raised primarily by NSW, they are fiscal management and voting. I am quite comfortable with the fact that a handshake and "gentleman's" agreement are not really appropriate in today's fiscal environment and so we probably do require more transparency in our procedures and our actions, especially as the amounts of money concerned are getting larger. However I am not so comfortable with changing the voting too much. The Australian Senate with two representatives per state votes very much the same as CAWS, the major difference being in who has the casting vote (in their case if the vote is even (they only require a simple majority) the case is resolved to the negative (in other words the vote fails to pass) or else the Clerk of the Senate resolves it by drawing lots!!). I would be strongly opposed to a 1 state 1 vote system as then a single state could hold us all to ransom by simply not voting or not turning up to vote! By having a larger majority – well if governance of whole countries doesn't require such a margin why should we! The way I look at it is much simpler. Two delegates represent a state society and if that society wants to influence a vote it ensures that its delegates either front up to the meeting or send a proxy. If a delegate regularly fails to attend a meeting their society has the right to replace them at any stage. It is not a matter of redoing the rules because delegates don't attend meetings but rather have responsible delegates who attend meetings and do what they are elected to do! Then the present system will continue to work just fine.

So with that I wish you all well hope that things simply get better for most of us (no fires, floods, hurricanes or earthquakes that is!) after all it is easier to expect no more of those than it is to expect more Government expenditure on weeds!

Trevor James, CAWS President

Weed Society of NSW Delegates

**Rex Stanton
Warwick Felton**



What's on in 2011?

New South Wales



16th NSW Weeds Conference 2011 18 - 21 July 2011

'Making a difference — from Country to Coast'

Pacific Bay Conference Centre Coffs Harbour NSW

Conference details & registration: www.2011weeds.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au



The Weed Society of New South Wales Seminar 27 July 2011

'Environmental Weeds Current Policies and Practices'

The Epping Club, Epping

Seminar details and registration: www.nswweedsoc.org.au

Contact: Mike Barrett Phone: 02 9875 3087
email: mikebarrhort@iprimus.com.au

Queensland



Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre, Mackay, Queensland

Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre, Mackay, Queensland
31 July – 3 August 2011

'Weed Management – Back to basics'

Registration and conference details: wsq@eventcorp.com.au

23rd Asian-Pacific Weed Science Society Conference

Weed Management in a Changing World

The Sebel Cairns, Queensland, Australia
25 – 30 September 2011

For more information and conference updates: www.apwss.com.au

If unable to deliver return to:

**The Newsletter of
The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.
PO Box 438
Wahroonga NSW 2076**

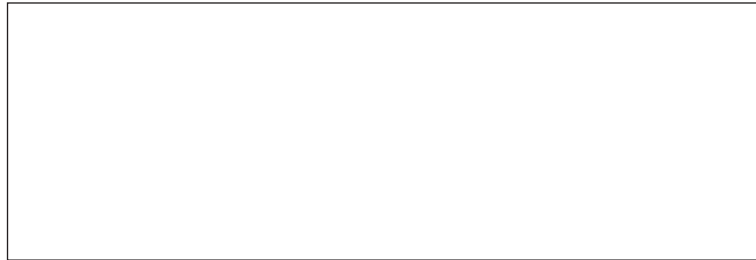
A Good Weed

**Print Post Approved
PP247134/00010**

**PRINT
POST**

PP247134/00010

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**



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



LUHRMANN ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT PTY LTD
Providing Quality Solutions



Dow AgroSciences



Bayer Environmental Science

