

A GOOD WEED



Newsletter of The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.

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In This Issue

President's Column	1
New Members	1
Office Bearers for 2012	2
Travel & Support Awards	2
Medal for Excellence in Weed Management	3
Life Membership - Mike Barrett	5
Life Membership - Jim Swain	6
Tamworth Seminar	7
Annual Dinner & Awards Night	8
New Projects & Call for Ideas	9
Red Lantana - a poem by Peter Michael	10
Biodiversity Priorities for Widespread Weeds	11
18th Australasian Weed Conference	12
Fleabane Workshop & Lantana Study	13
Annual General Meeting 2011	
President's Report	13
Executive & Committee Members	14
New Committee Members	15
Treasurer's Reports	16
CAWS Report	17
From the Editors	18
Season's Greeting	18

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Secretary: Alan Murphy
Assistant Secretary: Warwick Felton

Editor: Lawrie Greenup
Assistant Editor: Hanwen Wu

#57 Summer 2011/12



Red lantana *Lantana camara*.

Lantana varieties are classified by colour and flower shape. There are a number of red forms, the leaves and stems of which are toxic to stock. A poem on red lantana is on Page 10
Image: Lawrie Greenup



Society News

President's Column



It is pleasing to note that there has been an influx of new members this year, and that there are a number of new faces on the committee. I welcome Jonathan Lawson, Kim Hignell and Hillary Cherry to the committee and look forward to having their input into the society over the next twelve months. Not only does this bring new ideas and perspectives to the activities of the society, but also provides the committee with linkages into new weed sectors.

The recent special resolution included on the agenda at the AGM generated much discussion and interaction regards the role and activities of both the society and CAWS. It should be noted that good support was received both for and against the resolution, suggesting that there still are issues that need to be contemplated and addressed. The society exists for the benefit of the members and the committee, a team of passionate volunteers willing to contribute time and effort into providing something back to the society, greatly appreciates input from the wider society membership.

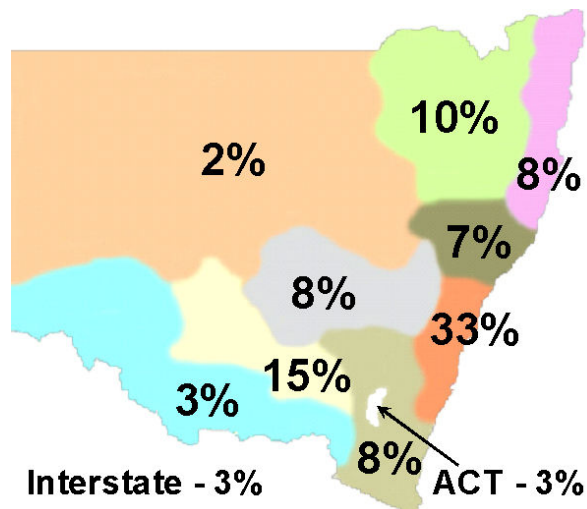
It was pleasing to be able to report to CAWS that Stephen and Annie Johnson will be taking over as editors of *Plant Protection Quarterly* next year. Other news from CAWS includes that planning for the 18AWC is progressing well, and that CAWS will provide financial support for Dr Jason Norworthy as a keynote speaker at the Global Herbicide Resistance Challenge in Perth in 2013.

Several awards were conferred at the society annual dinner that followed the AGM. Warwick Felton received the Medal for Excellence in Weed Manage-

ment in recognition of the ongoing impact of his research on current weed management. Mike Barrett and Jim Swain, longstanding members of the society, were both awarded Life Membership of the society in recognition of their lengthy association with the society and their active participation in the society. More details on all three awards are reported elsewhere in this newsletter.

A recent review of the distribution of our membership indicated that there is still a strong metropolitan base. The society also has a good rural presence, particularly in the eastern half of the state. Lower membership in the far west reflects the overall lower population levels in that region.

Rex Stanton, President



Geographic distribution of weed society members.

New Members

The Society would like to welcome the following new members:

- Terry Harkness
- Bruce Haigh
- Gary Beehag

Members' benefits include a quarterly newsletter, reduced registration fees for Society functions, reduced membership fees for students and the opportunity to become involved in all of the Society activities.



Society News

Office Bearers for 2011/12

President	Rex Stanton	[Wagga Wagga]
Vice President	Birgitte Verbeek	[Tamworth]
Secretary & Public Officer	Alan Murphy	[Glen Innes]
Assistant Secretary	Warwick Felton	[Tamworth]
Treasurer	Jim Swain	[Thornleigh]
Newsletter Editor	Lawrie Greenup	[Westleigh]
Assistant Newsletter Editor	Hanwen Wu	[Wagga Wagga]
General Committee	Hillary Cherry	[Forrestville]
	Tony Cook	[Tamworth]
	Kim Hignell	[Speers Point]
	Jonathan Lawson	[Glen Innes]
	Deirdre Lemerle	[Wagga Wagga]
	Brian Scarsbrick	[Dangar Island]
CAWS Delegates	Rex Stanton	[Wagga Wagga]
	Hillary Cherry	[Forrestville]

Society Contact Details

Postal Address: 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

Fleabane (Conyza spp) is becoming a more prevalent summer weed. Image: © Rex Stanton



Travel Support

CAWS Student Travel Award

Applications are invited from students for attending national or international conferences, or for specific overseas study tours of a short duration. The award of up to \$3,000 is available to assist with part of the total travel costs.

CAWS Early Career Travel Award

Applications are invited from early career weed scientists (within five years of their last degree) for attending national or international conferences, or for specific overseas study tours of a short duration. The award of up to \$2,000 is available to assist with part of the total travel costs.

Applications for these awards should be submitted through an affiliated society to the CAWS secretary by **1st May** each year. The award will be made by 1st July for travel during the following 12 months.

Weed Society Travel Study Grant

Applications are invited for attending national or international conferences, or for specific overseas study tours of a short duration. Applicants must be over 18 years old, reside in New South Wales or the ACT, be involved with weed research, management, advisory, regulation or practice, and have been a current member of the Society for at least one year.

Applications for the grant should be submitted to the secretary by **1st May** each year. Grants will be made by 1st July for travel during the following 12 months.

Applications for awards or grants to attend a conference are expected to be supported by an abstract of the paper being presented. On return, successful applicants are expected to provide a report to the Society for publication in *The Good Weed*.



Society News

The Weed Society of New South Wales Medal for Excellence in Weed Management



The Medal is awarded for “an outstanding contribution to weed management in New South Wales”. The criteria include:

- a major contribution to the technology or practice of weed management;
- the contribution is recognised by peers as exemplary;
- an impact on the work of others, and
- sustained over a substantial period;

The contribution can be based across several categories such as research, teaching, administration, regulation, extension, commercial, or implementation of programs.

2011 Medal Awarded to Warwick Felton



Both Warwick’s parents came from a rural background and his interest in plants and agriculture could arguably stem from his time working after school for Professor Irvin Watson at the Castle Hill Wheat Breeding Research Station, which was located next door to the family home.

After achieving excellent results at Hawkesbury Agricultural College, Warwick joined Amalgamated Chemicals in December 1964 working in cotton at Wee Waa for 3 months. He then took a position with the Department of Agriculture as a cotton agronomist at Yanco Agricultural College and Research Station.

The Department awarded Warwick a scholarship to attend the University of Sydney in 1966. By all accounts, as a slightly more mature-age student War-

wick led the other students astray socially on many occasions, much to their misfortune.

Warwick furthered his weeds career after graduating by taking up an appointment at Tamworth in 1970 investigating weed control in irrigated crops. Much to the consternation of the station manager Warwick sowed plots of castor oil plants as part of his research, work which led to a Masters degree on “Ecology and Control of Thornapple (*Datura* spp) in Irrigated Soybeans in the Namoi Valley of New South Wales”.

Warwick’s knowledge and experience with agronomy and weed control saw him appointed in 1980 to lead the No-Tillage Program. The machinery designed by this team and the knockdown and residual herbicide practices developed through their research, particularly on the long-term regional sites, now provide the basis for many of the practices within minimum tillage and conservation farming today.

Current technological advances in herbicide application include the use of weed detection units. This work was pioneered by Warwick’s team in an attempt to reduce herbicide applications in fallows with scattered weed infestations. Savings of up to 90% reduction in spray application had both financial and environmental benefits, although it took many years for the technology to become commercially available.

Collaboration with international scientists and agricultural practitioners saw Warwick undertake much travel while extending his research.



Society News

This included periods of work in the United States, as well as Warwick arranging for international scientists to complete collaborative work in Australia.

Warwick has been an invited speaker on numerous occasions in Australia, and overseas in Nebraska, North Dakota, Chicago, Kentucky, California, North Carolina and Mississippi in the United States, Canada, and at the British Crop Protection Conference.

Warwick retired in 2004 as Senior Research Scientist still based at the Agricultural Research Centre Tamworth working on no-tillage farming systems, weed management, and weed detecting technology.

In recognition of his work, Warwick has been the recipient of:

- 1991 Brownhill Cup for contribution to conservation farming
- 1991 AgQuip Land Inventor of the Year
- 1991 & 1992 Excellence in Engineering Awards, Australian Institute of Engineers
- 1992 Council of Australian Weed Science Societies Medal for Leadership
- 1998 NSW Agriculture Staff Achievement Award.

In addition to his research, Warwick also contributed to the Advisory Boards for the Faculty of Agronomy and Soil Science at the University of

New England and the CSIRO Division of Tropical Crops and Pastures, and supervised post-graduate students. He has been a member of the Australian Agronomy Society, the International Weed Science Society, and the Weed Science Society of America.

Warwick has been a member of the Weed Society of New South Wales for >35 years, serving on the executive for much of that time. He has held the roles of President (1987/8 and 2005/6), Vice-President, Assistant Secretary and committee member. He also has represented the society as a delegate to the Council of Australian Weed Societies (CAWS).

Warwick's career in weeds continues to have a legacy on cropping practices and weed management. It is with pleasure that I have the honour to award the Weed Society of New South Wales Medal for Excellence in Weed Management in recognition of Warwick's many contributions to weed research and management.

I would like to thank Graham Crocker and John Holland for much of the detail of Warwick's extensive career, and to Tony Cook for coordinating the background investigations.

Rex Stanton
President



Michelle, Warwick & Maureen Felton celebrating Warwick's Society Medal award



Society News

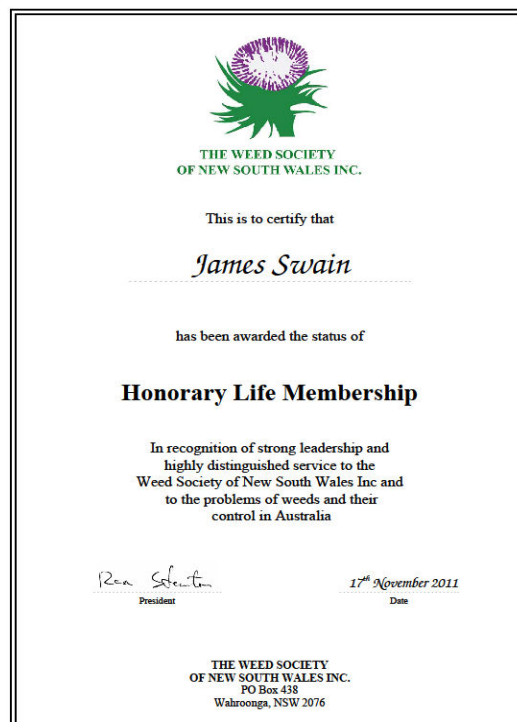
James (Jim) Swain

Jim completed studies at Sydney University before commencing a long career in research and development in the agricultural chemicals industry.

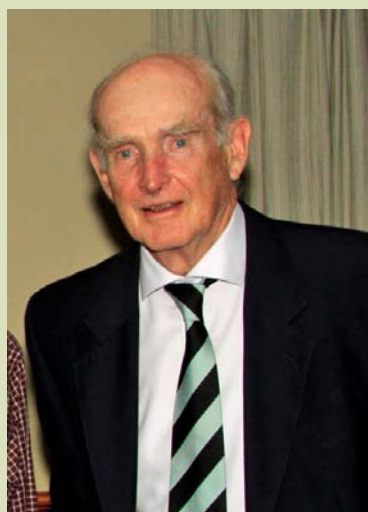
The contributions to weed management made by Jim during his career have already been amply acknowledged. He is a recipient of both the Society's Medal for Excellence in Weed Management, and also of the Council of Australian Weed Science Societies' Medal for Leadership.

Since joining the Weed Society in the 1970s Jim has been a long term dedicated member of the executive committee. He was President in 1981-82, Secretary 2003-05, and has served as Treasurer since 2006.

Jim has represented the Society as a delegate to the Council of Australasian Weed Societies and has also been very active on sub-committees organising society functions.



From the President



Michael (Mike) Barrett

The careers of Mike and Jim working with weeds and their commitment to the Weed Society have been exemplary. It is with much pleasure that I have the honour to award Life Membership of the Weed Society of New South Wales Inc. to Mike Barrett and Jim Swain in recognition of their many contributions to the success and standing of the society.

Congratulations and best wishes from the executive committee and members of the society.

Dr Rex Stanton
President
Weed Society of New South Wales.

17 November 2011



James (Jim) Swain





Society News

Seminar day at Tamworth well attended

A seminar day at Tamworth organised by the Weed Society of NSW proved a resounding success. In a push to service regional NSW, about 35 delegates listened to 5 guest speakers that offered a good range of topics.

This seminar day, courtesy of our society, provided weed professionals up-to-date regional specific research findings, technological advances and future projects. A good mixture of cropping and pastoral/environmental weed issues was presented.

People travelled from many parts of NSW including Grafton, Armidale, Gunnedah, Glen Innes, Lake Macquarie and Sydney. Feedback from some of the audience indicates that the day was well structured and met their needs.

The first speaker was Tony Cook, Technical Specialist Weeds from NSW DPI. He talked about the issues encountered with management of glyphosate resistant weeds, particularly the barriers to adopting new technologies and types of effective tactics available.

Next guest speaker, Troy Crittle, Invasive Species Officer, Namoi CMA, presented the new weed management objectives for his organisation. Essentially they will focus on weed issues that will get them the best return on their investment by preventing incursions or eradicating smaller new infestations.

Jonathan Lawson, Invasive Species Officer, Border Rivers/Gwydir CMA, highlighted the various issues in his region. Some of Jonathan's projects include: reducing the Impact of Weeds of National Significance (WONS), coordinating serrated tussock, Chilean needle grass, gorse and bridal creeper, control and management by education, extension and on ground incentives.

The tropical soda apple eradication campaign and partnership project in the Tamworth Regional Council area was presented by Penne Brazel and Steve Geddes.

To wrap proceedings up for the day, Kevin Bradley from Crop Optics explained the many benefits of WeedSeeker technology in broadacre cropping systems.

Tony Cook
Seminar Organiser



Tony Cook



Troy Crittle



Jonathan Lawson



Kevin Bradley



Steve Geddes & Penne Brazel

To enquire about any of the above mentioned topics, please contact the following people:

- **Tony Cook**
6763 1250 or mobile 0447 651 607
- **Troy Crittle**
6764 5914 or mobile 0427 101 256
- **Jonathan Lawson**
6757 2556 or mobile 0429 914 207
- **Penne Brazel**
mobile 0427 961 983
- **Kevin Bradley**
6760 7756 or mobile 0408 471 311



Society News

**2011
Annual Dinner
&
Awards Night
Tamworth**



L to R: Gary Byrnes, Kim Hignell, Jonathan Lawson, Mike Barrett, Richard Carter, Alan Murphy, Etta Toth, John Toth



L to R: Rex Stanton, President, & life members - Jim Swain, Peter Michael & Mike Barrett



Rex Stanton presenting the Society's awards



Rex Stanton & NSW Weeds Society Medalist Warwick Felton



L to R: Birgitte Verbeek, Bruce Haigh, Jude Cook, Graham Crocker, Tony Cook, Jim Swain, Robin Swain



Society News

HELP!

The committee needs your ideas!

The Society is seeking project ideas from Society members.

A limited amount of funding is available to support projects that would progress the goals of the Society .

The goals of the Society are to:

- *promote a wider interest in weeds and their management,*
- *encourage the investigation of all aspects of weeds and their management,*
- *encourage the study of weed science and the dissemination of its findings,*
- *provide opportunities for those interested in weeds and their management to exchange information and ideas based on research and practice,*
- *cooperate with other organisations engaged in related activities in Australia and overseas, and produce and publish appropriate materials.*

The Committee is keen to hear from members with ideas for consideration.

Please email your ideas or comments to:

Alan Murphy secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au



THE WEED SOCIETY
OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC.

Society takes on a new project

The Society has agreed to fund a project proposed by Dr Peter Michael to move part of the herbarium of weed specimens housed in the former Department of Agronomy & Horticultural Science, University of Sydney to the National Herbarium of New South Wales, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney.

This collection, added to by Dr Michael over many years, has 4000 to 5000 specimens, many un-mounted. It a valuable collection of *Echinochloa* of world-wide significance and various other genera, for example, *Oxalis*, *Amaranthus*, *Conyza*, *Gnaphalium*, *Gamochaeta*, *Senecio*, *Xanthium*, *Onopordum* and *Verbena*. Most of the specimens are in good condition.

Funding will be provided to allow the examination of all specimens, rearrangement and mounting of specimens, culling of inadequate or damaged specimens and rewriting of herbarium labels, using archival materials.

There is urgency in completing this project as the collection is to be moved from its present home to one or two possible new sites and the integrity of the collection could be compromised.

Because the move could be initiated at any time the project will commence in early January 2012 with a completion date towards the end of March 2012.

A sub-committee has been appointed by the Society to draw up a formal contract between Dr Michael and the Society which will ensure the project meets Society's expectations and transparency.

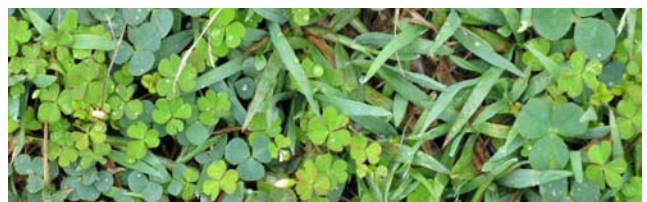


the weed's network

An Associate Sponsorship of The Weed's Network has been taken out by the Society. This sponsorship of \$250.00 recognises the importance of the network to our members.

The Society has also contributed \$100.00 to the weed risk assessment for scotch thistle *Onopordum acanthium*, the weed species featured in our logo.

Read *The Weed's News* online and check out our sponsorship at <http://invasivespecies.org.au>



Creeping oxalis & clover. Where's the couch grass?



Red Lantana - a poem by Peter Michael (Dr)



Red lantana

The Red Lantana (1)

no-one knows how much
I loved the spring appearance
of red lantana
flowering for months and months
below overhanging privet

clear-fellers have come to the road verge
trees cut the stumps poisoned
the earth mulched with shredded timber
planted with native seedlings
to form a roadside garden
making room for signs on the railway fence
hanging skew-whiff promoting school fetes
soccer and cricket clubs and the Rock'n Soul Choir
but my lantana is sending out bright green sprouts
getting stronger day by day

how long must I wait
to see red flowers again
who will come and help
save the shoots of this scarce plant
from the hands of the weeders ?

The Red Lantana (2)

meanwhile the weeds in the roadside garden
kept on growing until the plantings were scarcely visible
the gardeners showed no signs of any further interest
it looks like a text-book ruderal collection
cobbler's pegs, fleabane, black-berried nightshades,
sow thistle, prickly lettuce, plantain and inkweed
offset by a few planted Acacia, Indigofera, Grevillea
and regrowth of privet and Bursaria spinosa
the common lantana is spreading
its untidy prickly arms here and there
but would you believe it

my red lantana
has broken through the spaces
with its tidy crown
displaying its bright flowers
to all who take time to look

"Years of collecting toxic weeds for the veterinary classes at
Sydney University taught me where to find the beautiful red
lantana at a convenient site. Its threatened loss was sad indeed!"

**Peter was a former Senior Lecturer in Weed Science at the
University of Sydney and is a life member of the Society.**



Common lantana



Weed Biodiversity Priorities

Biodiversity priorities for widespread weeds

Leonie Whiffen¹, Mark Hamilton¹, Pete Turner¹ and Stephen Johnson²

¹Pest & Ecological Management Unit, National Parks and Wildlife Service, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage

²NSW Department of Primary Industries

There are over 340 weed species currently identified as impacting biodiversity across NSW. Many of these weeds are listed in Key Threatening Processes under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. That is, these weeds are placing NSW's most threatened native species and ecological communities at risk. Although "prevention is better than cure" most of the weeds in NSW that are having the greatest impact on biodiversity are widespread.

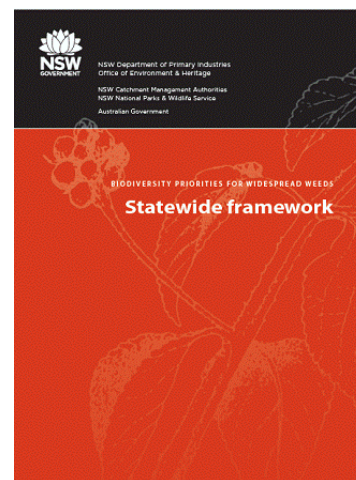
Once a weed is widespread, management programs within the core distribution should become site-led. That is, the purpose of control is to protect or reduce impact on assets at risk at particular sites. Such an approach is consistent with Goal 3 of the NSW Invasive Species Plan. Distinguishing between weed-led and site-led programs keeps the focus on what is to be achieved from the weed management.

Evidence-based decision making and risk assessments should feature in prioritising weed management programs. To reduce the impacts on the environment and to ensure maximum benefit, resources need to be prioritised to sites where control is both achievable and likely to have the greatest benefit to native biodiversity, independent of land tenure

Development of the threat abatement plan (TAP) for *Chrysanthemoides monilifera* (L.) Norl. (bitou bush and boneseed) in NSW (DEC 2006) led to a process for identifying and prioritising biological assets at risk from a widespread weed and sites for control. This TAP approach was subsequently applied to *Lantana camara* L. nationally (NLMG 2010), and was most recently adapted to identify and prioritise widespread weeds and sites for weed management within each CMA region in NSW.

The report entitled 'Biodiversity priorities for widespread weeds' has recently been published (DPI and OEH 2011). It includes a statewide framework detailing the background and process, and 13 region-specific strategies for each CMA region (Parts A–M). The main aim of these strategies is to minimise adverse impacts of widespread weeds on biodiver-

sity. The strategies achieve this through identifying the highest priority programs within each CMA region, ensuring that actions are achievable and deliver measurable outcomes.



The report is made up of 14 parts. This first section (pictured here) is an overarching document that outlines the statewide framework used to develop the regional priorities for management of widespread weeds for biodiversity conservation in each of the 13 CMA regions. The remaining 13 parts (Parts A–M; one for each CMA region) document the specific assessment outcomes for each individual region using the approach outlined in the statewide framework

Thirty nine workshops were held across NSW between 2007 and 2009 and using existing research and workshop outcomes, interim lists of priority weeds and biodiversity at risk were created. Workshop participants and other stakeholders were then asked to nominate sites (across all tenures) for assessment. As a result, each CMA regional strategy identifies:

1. the major widespread weed threats
2. the biological assets (native species and ecological communities) at risk from the weeds identified in step 1, and
3. sites for management where the major weeds are impacting the biological assets at risk.



Weed Biodiversity Priorities & 18th Weeds Conference

Biodiversity priorities for wide-spread weeds (Cont'd)

Identified sites were prioritised based on the threat to biological assets and the likelihood of achieving a positive biodiversity response. To date, information on 2 614 weed management sites across NSW (including those from the Bitou TAP and Lantana Plan) has been collected and prioritised. As this is an ongoing, dynamic process site lists are held electronically so they can be updated as new information becomes available.

The development of these regional strategies now provides land managers and other stakeholders with a strategic approach to widespread environmental weed management across NSW.

Further information:

Leonie Whiffen

leonie.whiffen@environment.nsw.gov.au

Stephen Johnson

Stephen.johnson@industry.nsw.gov.au

Website: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/cmaweeds



Yellow-faced black cockatoo feeding on old man banksia *Banksia serrata* cones. These cockatoos come to feed on banksias every year in late Spring - early Summer at Westleigh and are indicators of the start of the festive season in Sydney.

Season's greetings and all the best for 2012 from the Editors

The 18th Australasian Weeds Conference

The Program Chair, Nigel Ainsworth, is seeking people to help vet the abstracts that are coming in for the conference. If you would like to help with these please contact him on his email, Nigel.Ainsworth@dpi.vic.gov.au

Please can you let Nigel know what your field of interest is so that you are sent suitable abstracts to vet.

Do you have a business that you would like to advertise?

The Weed Society of Victoria is still looking for sponsors for the upcoming 18th Australasian Weeds Conference to be held in Melbourne in October next year. If you feel that you are unable to be a major sponsor but would like to help the Society why not be a minor sponsor instead?

Advertise your business by taking out a place in the Proceedings of the Conference. One half page will cost \$500.00 and a quarter page will cost \$250.00, layout and logos to be provided.

If you are interested please contact the Sponsorship Chair, Organising Committee, Greg Wells at WELLS1@dow.com.

Also, if anyone wants to be a sponsor, or participate in having a trade exhibition then they should contact Sally Ford at SFord@eventcorp.com.au as she is putting together the Trade information during January 2012+.

Conference Website: www.18awc.com

18th Australasian Weeds Conference 2012

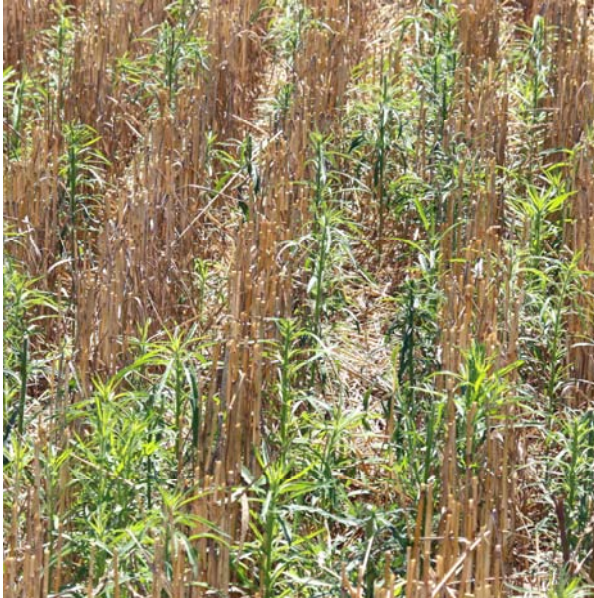
The Sebel and Citigate Albert Park,
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
8 October – 11 October 2012

Developing Solutions to Evolving Weed Problems



Fleabane Workshop & Lantana Study

Fleabane The focus of a national workshop at Wagga Wagga



Fleabane flourishes after harvest Image: Hanwen Wu

The rapid spread of fleabane across the cropping zone of southern Australia has prompted the EH Graham Centre to link with Queensland Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, under GRDC 'Emerging weeds initiative', to host two workshops in Wagga Wagga on 21st and 22nd March, 2012.

Advisors and farmers from southern NSW and northern Victoria will be invited to provide a regional update in the opening session on 21st March, sharing their experiences on fleabane management. This will be followed by presentations by leading national scientists and agronomists on issues ranging from identification to ecology, integrated weed management, resistance management, chemical control and spread/dispersal/invasion. The workshops will provide the basis for management guidelines for fleabane and identify collaborative research opportunities.

For further information: Hanwen Wu Ph: 02 6938 1602 email: hanwen.wu@industry.nsw.gov.au
Helen Burns Ph: 02 6938 1947 email: h.burns@industry.nsw.gov.au

Potential lantana invasion of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area under climate change (From Weeds News)

Invasive weeds represent one of the greatest threats to ecosystem integrity worldwide, with climate change predicted to allow expansion of weed ranges in coming decades. One of Australia's worst weeds is lantana (*Lantana camara*) which, given the potential for climatic change, is of increasing concern to those managing the mountainous regions in the country's southeast.

In order to identify potential additional threats lantana may pose for Australia's valued biodiversity, this research develops a habitat suitability model for lantana in a portion of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area under current and simulated warmer conditions. Minimum temperature was found to be the most important predictor correlated

with potential lantana establishment, explaining over 88% of the variation in lantana presence predicted by the model. Currently, 8% of the study area was found to be suitable for lantana, with this figure reaching 94% after a simulated 2 C rise in temperature anticipated by 2050.

For the full report, see Gold, Alexander; Ramp, Daniel and Laffan, Shawn W. (2011). Potential lantana invasion of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area under climate change. *Pacific Conservation Biology*, 17(1), 54-67.



Lantana invading wet sclerophyll forest Image: Ben Golden



Annual General Meeting

2011 President's Report to the 46th Annual General Meeting The Weed Society of NSW Inc.

Firstly, I would like to thank the 2011 committee for their support and their dedication to the society. The past twelve months have been exciting, and I shall report on the Society's performance in the context of the strategic plan.

Meetings. Six committee meetings were held, with a new teleconference provider making it even more cost effective for committee members around the state to access meetings.

Membership. The efforts of Birgitte Verbeek and Tony Cook have resulted in many new memberships. It is also very pleasing to note that several new members are considering joining the executive committee.

Activities. Seminars continue to be a mainstay of activity, with an environmental weeds seminar held earlier in the year and a seminar series preceding this meeting. Not only do these events provide information for members, but also provide networking opportunities. Thank you to Mike Barrett and Tony Cook for organising these events.

Awards. No nominations for CAWS awards were received by the society. Jim Pratley received a CAWS Medal for Leadership at the 2010 Annual Society Dinner. Consideration should be given to suitable nominations for next year. The society also offers travel awards, but unfortunately these have attracted little interest. The committee may need to consider improving awareness of these benefits to members.

Tertiary Prizes. The society offers student prizes to undergraduates who have made notable achievements in weeds subjects, with Paul Tulk from Charles Sturt University being the recipient this year.

Sponsorship. The society has taken an active role in the NSW Biennial Weeds Conferences, which augurs well for both organisations. I would especially like to note the input from Birgitte Verbeek in championing this issue. Opportunity exists for the

society to work closely with other kindred organisation to build similar collaborative linkages.

CAWS. The society has been represented by two delegates at the last four CAWS meetings. The society has been actively participating though the tabling of several agenda papers. A challenging agenda paper for today on the rationale of CAWS membership summarises the current level of CAWS activities. The proposed resolution may push some members outside their comfort zone. The confronting questions that volunteer organisations have to ask periodically to assess their viability are "*what is the role of the organisation?*", and "*what is the role of the members?*". Maintaining relevance, strategic planning, and sound governance are three hallmarks of organisations with capacity to objectively reflect upon and address these roles. Similar to the 2006 review of this society, considering the CAWS agenda paper within this context should enable positive, informed outcomes to be reached in regards to the expectations our society has of CAWS and what we, as a society, can contribute to CAWS.

Newsletter. The newsletter continues to be key output for the society and a well-regarded benefit of membership. I would like to thank Lawrie Greenup and Hanwen Wu for their efforts in maintaining the high quality of the newsletter. Efforts continue in developing an electronic record of newsletters preceding the name change in 1995 to *A Good Weed*.

Website. The website continues to growth in depth of content and serves as a good electronic point of contact for the society. Hosting of past proceedings of the NSW Biennial Weeds Conferences could be considered by the committee.

The society has successfully met most of the goals in the current strategic plan, although the committee should not become complacent as there are several areas in which progress can be made. The productivity of this society is the sum of the energy and input contributed by the members. I thank the members who have contributed time and energy to the society, no matter how large or small those contributions have been, and encourage more members to take advantage of opportunities to actively participate. Giving can be just as rewarding as receiving.

Rex Stanton
President



Annual General Meeting

New committee members Hillary Cherry & Kim Hignell

Hillary Cherry



Hillary Cherry is a Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) Coordinator, working with the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and WoNS partners across Australia.

The WoNS program works to ensure consistent, strategic management of weeds from the national to the local level, using icon species to raise awareness of weed issues, encourage weed research and improve and implement best practice management.

Hillary currently coordinates the bitou bush and boneseed and asparagus weeds WoNS programs.

Originally from Florida, Hillary obtained a Master's Degree in Botany from the University of Florida.

She served as a director on the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) board and founded the FLEPPC Education Committee. She worked with the University of Florida's Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants on terrestrial weed research, applied management and weed risk assessment before moving to Australia in 2002.

She has been a member of the NSW Weeds Society since 2003 and now is one of the CAWS delegates.

Kim Hignell



Starting her working life as a hairdresser Kim joined Lake Macquarie City Council in 1998 as a supervisor/coordinator in the Parks & Gardens department, whilst working part time as a TAFE teacher at Charlestown TAFE. She was promoted to a new position as the Noxious Weeds officer.

Kim, now a Horticulturist, has completed certificates in horticulture and environmental systems, frontline and project management and an Advanced Diploma of Conservation and Land Management.

Kim has held the position of both Chair and Secretary of the Hunter and Central Coast Region Weed Management Technical Team and Technical Officer representative for the Hunter & Central Coast Region Weed Management Professional Team. Recently, she was a lead participant in the development of the Hunter & Central Coast Regional Weed Strategy and the formulation of the Lower Hunter & Central Coast Weed Management Program. Kim has been involved in bio-control programs including alligator flea beetle, bridal creeper leaf hopper and rust and various noxious weed weevil introductions.

Kim was a nominee for the 2011 Stephenson Award for outstanding contribution to planning and coordinating weed management programs in NSW.



Annual General Meeting

New committee member Jonathan Lawson

Jonathan Lawson



Jonathan is the Catchment Officer Invasive Species working for the Border Rivers Catchment Management Authority and is located in Glen Innes. In this role he develops and manages projects for the catchment to control or eradicate invasive species, both weeds and feral animals.

One of his main weed projects is 'Reducing the Impact of Weeds of Natural Significance', which involves developing and funding weed management projects, the value of which exceeds \$700,000.

In all his projects, both weeds and feral animals, Jonathan's role is to seek and negotiate contributions from partners for project implementation and to ensure they are delivered to agreed technical standards. Projects developed in combination with local shire councils involves finding funding and establishing milestones to measure the project's progress.

Jonathan has a strong agricultural and environmental background having been a jackaroo, stud manager, environmental manager for an abattoir, project manager Greening Australia and property planner for two CMA's.

He has diplomas in farm management and project management and is currently undertaking a Diploma in Spatial Information (GIS, Geographical Information Systems). Jonathan also has a Certificate in Bushland Management (Level IV) and a Certificate in Tour Directing & Guiding.

Treasurer's Reports AGM & October/December 2011

Annual General Meeting

The audited accounts were presented and approved by the meeting.

This year the accounts have been reviewed by an audit committee comprising Warwick Felton – Chair, Lawrie Greenup and Jim Swain, which is in keeping with the Associations Incorporated Act.

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

1 October to 6 December 2011

For the period 1 October 2011 to the 6 December 2011 the society has shown a profit of \$15,481.76. This is a result of the payment to the society of \$18,185.36 which is their share of the profit from the 16th NSW Weeds Conference.

The NSW Weeds Conference Future Fund which is being administered by this society has a balance of \$54,439.18 part of which will be used to provide seed money for the 17th NSW Weeds Conference which will be held in 2013.

The dinner following the AGM which was held in Tamworth on the 17 November 2011 showed a loss of \$148.00.

As is indicated in the Balance Sheet the society is in a very sound financial position and it is suggested that the committee should consider how some of this money should be used to support projects that will benefit the promotion/control/management of weeds in the future.

The society should aim to retain something in the order of \$65,000.00 as available cash which would then give it approximately \$22,000.00 to allocate to projects that meet its objectives.

It is also proposed that an additional \$15,000.00 be placed in a term deposit leaving approximately \$6,000.00 in cash in the statement account.

Jim Swain, Treasurer



Annual General Meeting

2011 Annual Report to the Weed Society of New South Wales on the Council of Australasian Weed Societies

1. CAWS finances

CAWS started the 2010/11 financial year with a bank balance of \$101,713.31 and finished with a balance of \$111,214.00, leaving a net operating profit for the financial year of \$5,226.45

Major expenses include \$2,000 for one of the three early career travel awards (remaining \$3,536.44 paid since June), and \$2,702.01 of teleconference costs. This is lower than the previous financial year as a result of using a new teleconference provider. Honoraria and reimbursement to the Weed Society of Western Australia account for a further \$3,300.00 of expenses.

Major income sources were ; profit share from the 17AWC (\$5,797.71), bank interest (\$3,855.97), repayments from sale of the poisonous plant book (\$2,182.46) and membership fees (\$1,200.00).

2. Awards

CAWS Student Travel Award. No applications were received for a student travel award.

CAWS Early Career Scientist Award. Three applications were received and subsequently awarded.

Dr Jenna Malone (University of Adelaide) received AU\$2,000 to attend the Weed Science Society of America Annual Meeting in Hawaii from 6th to 9th February 2012.

Dr Carol Rolando (Scion Forest Research, NZ) received AU\$2,000 to attend the International Forest Vegetation management Conference in Chile from 7th to 11th November 2011.

Dr Ronny Groenteman (Landcare Research, NZ) received NZ\$2,000 to attend the XIII International Symposium on Biological Control of Weeds in Hawaii from 8th to 16th September 2011.

WeedWise Nursery Award. No nominations were reported from Australia or New Zealand for the 2011 WeedWise Nursery Award.

3. Australian Weeds Conferences

- The final report for the 17AWC is yet to be tabled.
- The 18AWC will be held in Melbourne 8-11 October 2012 at the Seibel, Albert Park.
- The Tasmanian Weed Society indicated they will host the 19AWC in 2014.

4. Notable items of business

- Constitutional changes were implemented after nearly two years of discussion.
- The outdated strategic plan is to be reviewed by a sub-committee formed in March.
- Frequency of conferences was raised, but discussion has been deferred until after the next conference in Melbourne, October 2012.
- The request for support for David Low's *Weed News* website was removed from the agenda after five meetings without a decision being made.
- The concept of a national newsletter was shelved after discussion at five meetings.
- For the first time in at least a decade CAWS has a representative, Steve Walker, on the APWSS committee.
- No action was taken by CAWS in regards to the future editor of *Plant Protection Quarterly*.

5. CAWS Secretariat

At the CAWS AGM held in September 2011 the incumbent executive were returned unopposed.

Prepared by
Rex Stanton and Warwick Felton
CAWS delegates for NSW

The Weed Society of New South Wales Membership Fees for 2012

Membership fees are due 1 January each year

Student \$20.00
Ordinary \$40.00

Membership forms are available on:
www.nswweedsoc.org.au

or from: Secretary
PO Box 438
Wahroonga NSW 2076



From the Editors

It's hard being editors!

That's why we are always pleading for newsletter material. To make the newsletter worthwhile to **all** our members we need articles which would appeal to a wide range of people with different weed interests. Anyone can submit material so don't be reluctant to send something to us.

We want local and regional news about people and events, new emerging weed species, weed management issues, bushland regeneration, bushcare programs, weed research summaries, noxious weeds, legislative issues, book reviews, in fact, anything to do with weeds.

How do we want it? Preferably short & interesting articles of about 200 to 500 words with good quality images which will reproduce well in colour.

About images - 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.

Submission dates for material for 2012 are:

- #58 Autumn 2012 29 February
- #59 Winter 2012 31 May
- #60 Spring 2012 31 August
- #61 Summer 2012/13 30 November

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Are you interested in being a sponsor or advertising in the Society's newsletter 'A Good Weed'?

If you are please contact the editor or treasurer at:

editor@nswweedsoc.org.au

treasurer@nswweedsoc.org.au



Season's Greetings



Christmas bells *Blandiflordia nobilis*

As this is the last issue of 'A Good Weed' for 2011 I would like to take the opportunity to thank the committee for the hard work they have put in ensuring the Society runs smoothly and is financial sound.

I would not like to add up the number of hours that each committee member gives to the Society free of charge. Thank you for your dedication.

Also, I would like to thank the members for their continuing support for the Society, without which the Society would not exist.

May I extend the season's greeting to you all and best wishes for 2012.

Rex Stanton, President

If unable to deliver return to:

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

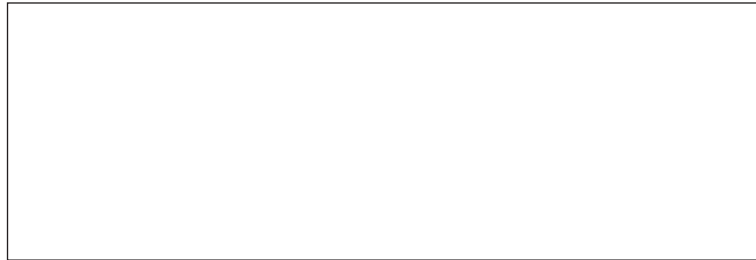
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