

# A GOOD WEED



Newsletter of The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.

ISSN 1325-3689

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A Good Weed is published by:  
The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.  
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## #62 Autumn 2013



*Richardia humistrata*, South American Mexican clover, a common and persistent weed of lawns, footpaths and disturbed areas in the Hunter and Sydney Regions. Page 12 for details.



## President's Report

As readers will now be aware, the Society has commenced a new electronically distributed newsletter, the *Punnet Tray*, to complement *A Good Weed*. The intent of the new newsletter is to provide short, sharp snippets of information that may be of interest to Society members, with contact details for where readers can go to find out more information. Contributions on news, events and other weed related items will be most gratefully received for future editions of the *Punnet Tray*.

Planning is well under way for the 2013 NSW Biennial Weeds Conference, to be held in Corowa, 9-12 September. There was an inaugural Weeds Photography Competition held at the last conference in 2011. It is very exciting news that this competition will be held again this year. A number of photography training courses have been run by NSW DPI in the past twelve months, so this is a chance for everyone to showcase their new skills with a camera. More information on the conference and the photographic competition are available in this newsletter.

There are a number of conferences and workshops this year that may be of interest to members. As usual, the weed societies in Queensland and Victoria will be hosting events. Details on these can be found either through the Society website, or by visiting the other society websites.

A significant event this year will be the International Grasslands Congress, to be held in Sydney in mid September. A number of presentations will deal with aspects of weed management. Further details on this congress are provided in this newsletter.

I also remind all members that the 19<sup>th</sup> Australasian Weeds Conference will be held in Hobart in late 2014. This is an excellent opportunity to network with other weeds workers and listen to a range of presentations on the latest research. Planning for this event is well under way, and it is anticipated that the conference website will be available soon.

With so many conferences on the horizon, it is timely to remind members that one of the membership benefits is access to both Society and CAWS travel awards. **Applications for these awards close at the start of May**, so please hurry if you wish to take advantage of these opportunities this year.

Weed management in NSW is perhaps facing some interesting times with the announcement of the formation of Local Land Services. While the proposed amalgamation of entities such as NSW DPI, the LHPA and CMA's will hopefully lead to some rationalisation and simplification in governmental policy and planning, this may come at the expense of front line services and resources. Long term weed management requires strategic planning and the commitment of a critical mass of dedicated professionals to ensure resources are used to best advantage.

It is pleasing to note that Society membership levels have remained stable for a number of years. Like all associations, there is a slow attrition of members for various reasons. The constant stream of new membership applications is keeping pace with this natural attrition. With the continual turnover of membership, it is important that the Society looks for ways to keep all members engaged, and provide members with opportunities to network and share their expertise and experiences. The committee would welcome any suggestions on new activities that would be of interest to members.

Happy Weeding.



**Rex Stanton  
President**



Silverleaf nightshade *Solanum elaeagnifolium* Image: NSW DPI



## Welcome to our four new members

The Society would like to welcome:

**Barry Shepherd**  
Cessnock City Council

**Maria Edmonds**  
Cessnock City Council

**Terry Schmitzer**  
Windgrass

**Todd Green**

### APOLOGY

for spelling **Alex Mackenzic** name incorrectly in the last issue of 'A Good Weed'.

Members' benefits include:

- a quarterly newsletter,
- reduced registration fees for Society, functions and biennial Weed Conferences,
- reduced membership fees for students &
- the opportunity to become involved in all of the Society activities.

## Membership notices have been mailed out to all members

Membership dues for the year 2013 were sent out in February to all members.

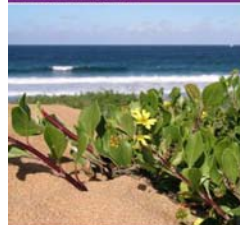
If you are in arrears this is the opportunity to become fully financial again and add support to your Society.

Membership fees are important to provide for the continued operating costs of the Society as well as allowing the Society to finance the Society's various awards, "A Good Weed" newsletter, website and subsidising the Annual General Meeting and dinner.

The committee has decided that members can take out a one (2013) or two years membership (2013 & 2014). If you want to take out the two years option indicate on the renewal notice on your choice.

Further information contact the treasurer.  
Email: [treasurer@nswweedsoc.org](mailto:treasurer@nswweedsoc.org).

## Society launches new e-newsletter - Punnet Tray



**"Weeds have no boundaries"**  
The 17th NSW Biennial Weeds Conference will be held in Corowa, 9-12 September 2013. This conference is regarded as the premier event in NSW to discuss noxious and environmental weeds and related vegetation issues. The organising committee are pleased to advise that Dr Tony Gnice, CSIRO, Townsville will be one of the Keynote Speakers at the conference.

Conference information can be obtained online at [www.nswweedsconference2013.com](http://www.nswweedsconference2013.com) or contact Rachel Robinson-Minogue, Corowa Shire, 02 6033 3221, 0418572649 or [Rachel.Minogue@corowa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Rachel.Minogue@corowa.nsw.gov.au)

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Society's electronic newsletter. As the name would imply, this e-letter is intended to be a collection of short, interesting articles to help keep our membership up to date with weed related activities in between publications of our printed newsletter, *A Good Weed*.

The e-letter will be a maximum of two pages, so articles will need to be brief. Please include contact details so readers know where to obtain more information.

While this volume is dominated by Society activities, we would love to have one or two paragraph contributions from members, or even non-members for that matter! If it has something to do with weeds and may be of interest to Society members, this e-letter will be a great way to distribute information.

Any other suggestions on how to improve the services provided by the Society, or the range of activities the Society supports, would be most welcome.

Happy Weeding  
Rex Stanton, President

Society Details  
Postal Address: PO Box 438  
WAHROONGA NSW 2057

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Website: [www.nswweedsoc.org.au](http://www.nswweedsoc.org.au)

**Buerckner & Stephenson Awards**  
The Society is calling for nominations for the NSW Buerckner & Stephenson Local Government Weed Professional Awards, to be presented at the 17th NSW Biennial Weeds Conference. The **Buerckner Award** – for outstanding contribution to the on-ground control of weeds in NSW. The **Stephenson Award** – for outstanding contribution to planning and managing weed management programs in NSW.

Details and forms for each Award are available from: [www.nswweedsconference2013.com](http://www.nswweedsconference2013.com) or [www.nswweedsoc.org.au](http://www.nswweedsoc.org.au)

**Weed Society Travel Study Grants**  
Due 1st May 2013  
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.

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*.  
Application forms at: [www.nswweedsoc.org.au](http://www.nswweedsoc.org.au)

Have you renewed your Membership subscription ?



The inaugural edition of the Society's electronic newsletter "Punnet Tray" was launched in February this year. The initial feedback from members has been extremely positive.

The e-newsletter is intended to keep our members up to date with weed related activities in between the publications of our printed newsletter, *A Good Weed*.

The e-newsletter will be a maximum of two pages and we would love to have one or two brief paragraph contributions from members, or even non-members, on something to do with weeds and of interest to Society members.

Send material to [editor@nswweedsoc.org.au](mailto:editor@nswweedsoc.org.au) and please include contact details so readers know where to obtain more information.

If you have not listed your email address and wish to be included on the distribution list contact the editor at the above email. Your email will be used only for Society matters and you can unsubscribe at any time.



## Kelvin Green's Life Membership Medal Presentation.

Kelvin Green, a life member of the Society, was presented with his Life Membership medal by Peter Michael. Kelvin was appointed President in 1967 with Peter as his Vice President. Both are inaugural members of the Society.

Kelvin, who is 94 years old, and his wife Margaret were invited to lunch for the medal presentation by Jim Swain on behalf of the Society.



*Kelvin with his Life Membership medal celebrating with his wife, Margaret.* Image: Lawrie Greenup

Kelvin joined the NSW Department of Agriculture in 1938 as a Scientific Trainee. He went to the Division of Plant Industry in 1943 and was stationed at Leeton Agricultural Research Station. In 1947 he was appointed as an Agronomist and in 1950 visited New Zealand to study weed control methods, as well attending the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Weed Conference.

This lead subsequently to promotion to Principal Agronomist (Weeds). In 1968 he visited Europe and USA to investigate weed research activities. Kelvin became Principal Agronomist (Research) in 1969. In this position he established the basis of the weeds research programs which have been continued to this day.

Kelvin had a particular interest in aquatic weeds and did much to assess the water hyacinth problem in the Gwydir River at Moree. He was also involved with the Noxious Weeds Committee and as a referee for efficacy data submitted for herbicide registration.

From 1974 to his retirement in 1980 Kelvin was Deputy Chief, Division of Plant Industry.

Kelvin was the inaugural Vice President of the Weed Society of New South Wales, elected at the first Executive Meeting, 4 April 1966. He was subsequently President in 1967. For many years he has been an active member of the Executive Committee having considerable involvement in the newsletter. In 1970 Kelvin was on a subcommittee to investigate the desirability of forming an Australian Weed Society, an idea which came to fruition with the formation of the Council of Australian Weeds Societies in 1977.

Kelvin has an Agricultural Science degree from Sydney University where he majored in economics. Kelvin's contribution to Weed Science in New South Wales was to establish its importance in the NSW Department of Agriculture, and then to formulate and implement sound research programs.

## 182 years of service to the Weed Society of New South Wales



**Four life members - 182 years for the Society**

**Left to Right**

- Kelvin Green (1966) 47 years**
- Peter Michael (1966) 47 years**
- Jim Swain (1968) 45 years**
- Mike Barrett (1970) 43 years**

**Kelvin, Peter, Jim and Mike have all held the position of President and between them have served as Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and more recently Public Officer.**



## Weed Society of NSW Student Prize Nicole Frost Charles Sturt University student



Nicole Frost, CSU student, receiving her award from Prof. Heather Cavanagh, Acting Dean, Faculty of Science, Charles Sturt University. Image: Dr. Sergio Moroni

### Nicole Frost wins Weed Society of NSW Student Prize

"I'm from Exeter, a small town in the NSW Southern Highlands. I grew up on a property that bred, trained and raced standard-breeds. We also ran sheep and cattle.

My dad owns a spray contracting business and it was through him that I originally became aware of the impact of weeds and the need for their control. I have often assisted him in the identification, chemical selection and application of herbicides. The subject Weed and Pesticide Sciences detailed the significance of weeds in agriculture and provided great practical knowledge for their identification and control.

I am studying Ag Science and will continue to fourth year, though I'm still unsure of whether to do the honours stream.

Although I have no set plans for the future, consulting or whole farm planning has taken my interest."

Well done, Nicole.

**Details** regarding the various awards supported by the Weed Society of New South Wales Inc. can be obtained from the Society's website or contacting the secretary at the following:

**Website:** [www.nswweedsoc.org.au](http://www.nswweedsoc.org.au)

**Secretary:** [secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au](mailto:secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au)

## Are you interested in a Weed Society Travel Study Grant?

### Applications due 1 May 2013

The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc. offers travel study grants. Successful applicants receive financial assistance to attend conferences, or to travel on specific interstate or overseas study tours.

The grant is for the period 1 July to 30 June each year and must be taken up during that period.

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.

Rarely will the grant meet all of the travel expenses so the applicants are expected to contribute, or arrange additional support elsewhere.

Successful applicants are expected to return to service in New South Wales or the ACT and are required to submit a written report to the Society soon after returning to duty.

Applications are to be forwarded by the **1 May 2013**:

Application forms can be downloaded from the Society's website [www.nswweedsoc.org.au](http://www.nswweedsoc.org.au)

Post to: **The Secretary**  
**Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.**  
**PO Box 438**  
**Wahroonga NSW 2076**

Email to: [secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au](mailto:secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au)



## 17<sup>th</sup> NSW Weeds Conference - Update

The 17<sup>th</sup> NSW Weeds Conference will be held in Corowa, 9-12 September 2013. The conference theme is 'Weeds have no Boundaries'.

The committee is pleased to announce the 2 key note confirmed speakers, Dr John Keniry AM, NSW Natural Resources Commissioner and Dr Tony Grice, CSIRO Townsville. The conference dinner guest speaker is Mr Don McLardy, Melbourne Football Club President and Reach Foundation Chair.

The conference sponsorship prospectus is now available on the website and includes a range of packages. The conference will provide an excellent opportunity for organisations and businesses to promote their products and services. This is, in fact, an unrivalled opportunity for sponsors to connect with a wide spectrum of their target market across NSW and Victoria.

The conference organising committee consisting of representatives from NSW Weeds Society, Corowa Shire Council, Central Murray County Council, Greater Hume Shire Council, Wagga Wagga City Council, Urana Shire Council, New South Wales DPI, Victorian DPI, Murray CMA, NSW Weeds Officer Association, Eastern & Western Riverina Noxious Weeds Advisory Groups has been busily putting together an exciting conference program.

The conference venue is the Corowa RSL Club. The Club is centrally located in Corowa and only a few minutes away from the central business and retail precinct.

This conference is regarded as the premier event in NSW to discuss noxious and environmental weeds and related vegetation issues. The conference brings together weed experts from government, business, academic and other backgrounds to discuss past and emerging issues for the control of weeds.

The conference website is now live ([www.nswweedconference2013.com](http://www.nswweedconference2013.com)) and is being regularly updated.

Conference Registration costs have been kept at the same level as the last conference (full registration \$700, early bird \$650, weed society financial members member \$600) and registration opens on 18th March.

### Further information:

Go online - [www.nswweedsconference2013.com](http://www.nswweedsconference2013.com) or contact:

Rachel Robinson-Minogue  
Corowa Visitor Information Centre  
Ph: 02 6033 8974

Email: [rachel.minogue@corowa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rachel.minogue@corowa.nsw.gov.au)

Corowa RSL Club - venue for the 17th NSW Weeds Conference





## Buerckner and Stephenson Local Government Weed Professional Awards

The Society is calling for nominations for the NSW Buerckner & Stephenson Local Government Weed Professional Awards, to be presented at the 17th NSW Biennial Weeds Conference to be held at Corowa in September 2013.

There are two awards.

The **Buerckner Award** – for outstanding contribution to the on-ground control of weeds in NSW.

The **Stephenson Award** – for outstanding contribution to planning and managing weed management programs in NSW.

Details and forms for each Award are available from: [www.nswweedsconference2013.com](http://www.nswweedsconference2013.com) or [www.nswweedsoc.org.au](http://www.nswweedsoc.org.au).

## Photographic Competition Sponsored by the Weed Society of NSW

The challenge is on for keen photographers to get snapping and be in line to win some great prizes! There will be two categories for entries.

(1) **Weed Identification.** A series of images that capture key diagnostic characters for plant identification.

(2) **Weed Management.** A single photograph of any aspect of weed management (e.g. a weed infestation, weed control efforts, on the job action, etc).

A **People's Choice Award** will also be presented for the best photograph as voted by delegates at the conference. All images from both categories will be eligible for this award.

Details and entry forms are being finalised and will be listed shortly on the Society's website [www.nswweedsoc.org.au](http://www.nswweedsoc.org.au) and the Conference's [www.nswweedsconference2013.com](http://www.nswweedsconference2013.com)



The image on the left taken by Josh Biddle 'Tropical soda apple in the understory' was awarded 1st Prize Weed Management and the image above, 'Bitou bush' by Hillary Cherry, was the 1st prize Weed Identification.



## Weed Alert - Have you seen this plant? Tussock paspalum *Paspalum quadrifarium*

Mel Wilkerson  
Ranger/Noxious Weeds Inspector  
Tumut Shire Council

Tussock paspalum, *Paspalum quadrifarium*, is a recent invader to the Snowy Mountain sub alpine areas of Tumut Shire and Tumbarumba Shire. This unpalatable tussock has been recently discovered in large clumps up to 100 metres span on roadsides, as well as individual clumps.



Roadside infestation of tussock paspalum, *Paspalum quadrifarium*, often overlooked as just another roadside grass. Image: Mel Wilkerson.

Although the plant does not key out easily on the standard weed keys, it was readily identified by the state herbarium. After confirmation of the weed's identity. A general notification to landholders was made in an effort to identify, control and, hopefully eradicate this weed. If nothing is done the weed has the potential to pose a serious threat to local graziers as it is a well known menace to graziers in other areas.

Tussock paspalum is often referred to by its common names of blue grass, giant paspalum, golden-top grass, paspalum, and tussock paspalum.

The plant has been classed as naturalised in some parts of eastern Australia (i.e. south-eastern Queensland, some parts of eastern New South Wales and southern Victoria).

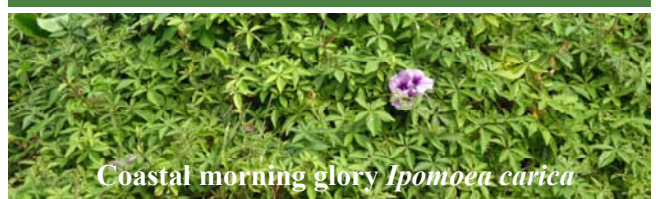
The plant is generally found in warmer-temperate, sub-tropical and tropical regions mainly on disturbed sites, rainforests, closed forests, open woodlands and forest margins. This highly invasive species often establishes on road edges and in other disturbed sites, such as along drainage lines. It spreads from these areas into nearby bushland and along waterways. Tussock paspalum grows in large clumps up to one square metre in size and puts pressure on bushland integrity and native species biodiversity. Once established, it has the ability to form extremely dense infestations that out-compete all other vegetation.

It is relatively easy to identify being a large tussock-forming long-lived grass growing up to 2 m tall. It has long and narrow leaves with the sheaths and blades mostly hairless. Where the leaf sheath meets the blade there is a small membranous structure about 1-4 mm long. The seed heads are usually 10-25 cm long with anywhere from 15-25 branches, each bearing numerous small flower spikelets. These flower spikelets are borne in four rows along the seed head branches and turn golden brown in colour as they mature. The seeds are easily dispersed by water, animals, vehicles and other machinery.

**If you do find what you suspect is a tussock paspalum plant or infestation report it to your local council.**

### Further Information:

Mel Wilkerson  
Ranger/Noxious Weeds Inspector  
Tumut Shire Council  
Email: [ranger@tumul.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ranger@tumul.nsw.gov.au)



Coastal morning glory *Ipomoea carnea*





## Alligator weed in the Floodway causes concern.

**Anthony Berry  
Noxious Weeds Officer  
Griffith County Council**

Flooding in Yenda and the Mirrool Creek during 2012 gave rise to concerns with alligator weed *Alternanthera philoxeroides* spreading down the system to the flood plains west of Barren Box Swamp.

Barren Box Swamp's two storage cells were at capacity. The environmental cell which would normally not have been filled needed to be mechanically breached to allow floodwaters to enter.

After the swamp had been filled there was no option but to open up the Floodway regulators and send the floodwaters through the system.

The amount of water thundering through the system and the Floodway in particular (*200 megalitres per day*) caused a scouring effect in the channel, moving debris downstream toward the Mid-Western Highway (*Gunbar*). These water flows continued for a month and flooding took several weeks to subside.

Property and Floodway inspections over the last month have revealed 4 infestations in the northern channel of the Floodway not previously recorded; the channels had been inspected regularly over the past seven years with no evidence of alligator weed in this location.

These infestations have had "all above surface plant material" bagged and removed for incineration. Regrowth and root systems are to be mechanically removed when the channel dries out, which could be two or three months away.

It is not known at this stage if these plants were old dormant plants or plants brought down with the floodwaters: excavation might well determine this. Intensive inspections of the Floodway west of Cameron's Rd are being organised, this will take in approximately 16 x 2 kilometres of channel; two parallel channels 100 metres apart.

If alligator weed has in fact travelled through the system to the Mid-Western Highway and onto the floodplains, the major concern is that alligator weed may not be detected before it ends up in the Lachlan or Murrumbidgee Rivers.

This flooding event has emphasized the importance and need to keep a sharp eye on the Floodway with regular inspections; it is also an indication that after several years of regular inspections we have still not found all alligator weed plants in the Floodway.



Rodney Charles, Murrumbidgee Irrigation & Kevin Woods, Weed Inspector, Carrathool Shire Council spraying the area around the infestation before doing further inspections in the channel.  
Image: Anthony Berry.

### Further Information:

Anthony Berry  
GCC Noxious Weeds Officer  
Email: [Anthony.Berry@griffith.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Anthony.Berry@griffith.nsw.gov.au)

## 47th Weed Society of Victoria AGM and Seminar

18 April 2013  
AgriBio Centre,  
La Trobe University, Bundoora

The one seminar to attend as there are a host of attractions — ready access, DPI's spanking new research facility, the catering — but the best is our conference theme: *Many ways to manage a weed*. Showcasing diverse topics on weed management scenarios, protocols and legislation, there is something for everyone.

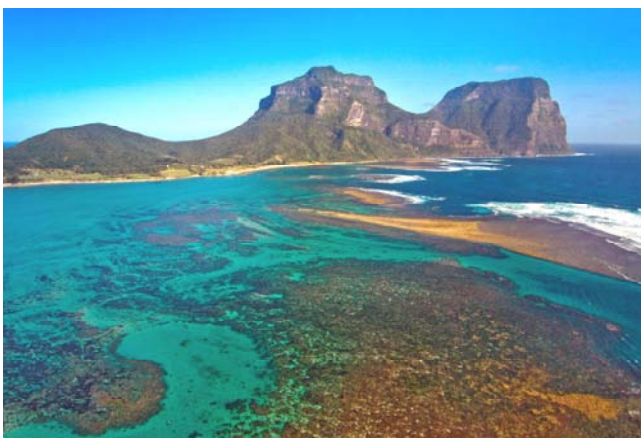
WSV looks forward to seeing you there.  
Go to: [www.wsvic.org.au](http://www.wsvic.org.au)



## An eradication approach to protect Lord Howe Island's Oceanic Rainforests from invasive weeds

**Sue Bower**  
**Flora Management Officer**  
**Lord Howe Island Board**

Lord Howe Island is renowned for its spectacular scenery and is often considered pristine; however it has its own fair share of weed problems. The island, World Heritage listed, is about 1450ha with 80% forested, 70% in permanent park preserve and dominated by two mountains, Lidgbird and Gower.



View from the northern end of the Island looking across the coral reef to Mt Lidgbird and Mt Gower - far right. Image: D. Conner.

To provide long term protection of the island ecosystems and biodiversity, the Lord Howe Island Board (LHIB) has taken an island-wide approach to weed eradication.

Weed Management on Lord Howe Island presents particular challenges. Weed landscapes make up 80% of the low to mid elevations (up to 400m) with 20% covering remote terrain in the southern mountains (with an assumed low to zero presence of weeds)..

Cliff line and remote areas are a challenge and are under constant surveillance and control.. Most of the weed blocks are accessed on foot or by helicopter. Helicopter based winching has been used to access remote areas that may require a 3hr walk in (one way). It allows the team to start afresh and cover a large area within a short period of time. It's about covering hectares quickly but thoroughly.

Aerial spot spray is also used for bitou bush on cliffs and currently the LHIB is investigating a lance style spray unit with the NSW Office Environment & Heritage to assist with vertical cliff lines



Weed Master – Bruce Thompson getting winched onto Mt Gower to undertake remote search and control of cherry guava. Cherry guava is a weed recognized as one of the top 100 global invasive species. Image: D.Conner.

Weed mapping in 2003 demonstrated that weeds had spread extensively and that a localised ad hoc approach is not an option for successfully mitigating the threat of weeds for the long term.

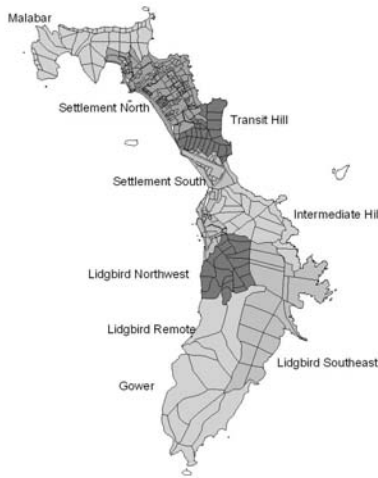
Introduced species (up to 670) heavily outweigh the native plants (up to 240). Sleeper weeds, present in gardens, are a potential problem shown by the recent detection of climbing cactus, *Pereskia aculeata*.

Key ecosystem invaders, including nine weeds of national significance (WoNS), are targeted (i.e. bitou bush, lantana, box thorn, three asparagus species, maderia vine) whilst responding to new weed outbreaks.

Resourcing is the key. Repeated monitoring across a tight grid of 414 marked blocks across 8 main landscape units is providing results. String lines enable teams to trace their steps through areas of low density weeds and across remote terrain. Weed presence and control effort is recorded for each block to monitor changes in weed species and density.



## An eradication approach to protect Lord Howe Island's Oceanic Rainforests from invasive weeds (Contd)



Map of Lord Howe Island weed management blocks.

Recent grants awarded to the LHIB by the NSW Environmental Trust, 'Caring for our Country' and the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority has provided a timely boost to the program. At least half of the island's main landscapes need to be treated each year to break the fruiting cycle of weeds, which is an important step to progress their complete removal.

After implementing the eradication program for eight years, weed populations are on a downward trend. For example, a small infestation of cat's claw creeper has potentially been eradicated, with no emergence detected for six years and cherry guava is now less frequently encountered.



Former LHIB employee Lani Thompson, displaying a cherry guava from weed management block LN-021 (west side Mt Lidgbird at 450m).

Islands only make up 5% of the earth surface yet provide habitat for up to 20% of the world's terrestrial species; the eradication of weeds from Lord Howe Island is certainly worth the investment both locally and globally.

### Further Details:

Sue Bower  
Flora Management Officer  
Lord Howe Island Board  
PO Box 5 Lord Howe Island NSW 2898  
ph: (02) 6563 2066 (extension 26)  
Email: [sue.bower@lhib.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sue.bower@lhib.nsw.gov.au)

### Permit data to feature in second release of APVMA mobile app

The APVMA's mobile app has been very well received by our readers since being released in October 2012. More than 2000 users have downloaded the app from the app store and we are very pleased to read the ratings and comments that users have left on the iTunes page. We encourage users to provide feedback, whether on the iTunes page or direct to the APVMA so that we can take your ideas and comments into account when we are updating the app.

Version 2 of the mobile app will feature a major upgrade to provide access to the APVMA's permits database. The development work for this release is

now well underway, and should be available for download within the next couple of months. As with the initial release version, we are very keen to incorporate user feedback into the development process, so whether you are already a user or would just like to get involved in helping us fine-tune the updated app, please let us know by email.

At this stage, only iPhone (or iPad) users will be able to participate in user testing (and access to the current version of the app).

For other smartphone and tablet users, the APVMA is working on more streamlined access to the PUB-CRIS and permits databases in the coming months.



## Red Lantana

Peter Michael (Dr)

### The Red Lantana ( 5 )

after yet another herbicide application  
and with little rain  
one flowering shoot of the red lantana  
has already appeared  
Bursaria spinosa has many bright green leaves  
clumps of Lomandra have survived  
but more of the planted shrubs and trees have died  
annual weeds are gradually filling the bare spaces  
especially twiggly turnip (*Brassica fruticulosa*)  
introduced from Italy to market gardens years ago  
healthy African love grass is growing  
along the edge of the roadside garden

#### Envoi

what of the future?  
until the summer rains come  
sing the red lantana

Peter Michael  
November 20 2012



9 August 2012



5 March 2013

Peter Michael's final poem in the red lantana series.

This is really a story about poorly planned and executed landscaping. Although the intention was to remove weeds and plant native species. The result is a proliferation of weed species, death of many of the newly planted natives and the regrowth and survival of the red lantana.

Peter's poems, 1 to 4, were published in *A Good Weed*, #60 Spring 2012.



## Do you know these weeds?

### Lawrie Greenup

According to the weeds people in the Hunter Region one of the most common plants brought in for identification are either one of two species of *Richardia* - *R. humistrata*, South American Mexican clover or *R. stellaris* field madder.

There are four species of *Richardia* in New South Wales, all introduced from tropical and sub-tropical areas: *R. brasiliensis*, white eye or Mexican clover; *R. scabra*, white eye; *R. stellaris* field madder and *R. humistrata*, South American Mexican clover.

PlantNET provides a key to the four species at this site: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=gn&name=Richardia>

*R. humistrata* and *R. stellaris* are the most common species in the Sydney and Hunter regions being common in lawns, footpaths and disturbed areas.

Both *R. humistrata* and *R. stellaris* are low prostrate growing perennials, often forming dense mats. The stems are up to 15 cm long with opposite leaves without a stalk. At the end of each branch the leaves form a 4-star around the inflorescence. White flowers, usually with four petals, are in a tight cluster and the fruit is a mericarp i.e. it breaks at maturity into units.

The two species can be separated as *R. humistrata* has hairy stems and broad pear-shaped hairy leaves whilst *R. stellaris* usually has more or less hairless stems with narrow hairless or sparsely hairless leaves.

Because of their prostrate habit they escape the cutting blade of the lawn mower and with the ability to reproduce vegetatively and by seed this weed continues to spread.

There are no registered chemicals for control so mechanical control - hand removal - is the only alternative for lawns and footpaths. Care should be taken to ensure all pieces of the plant have been removed.



Mixed infestation of *R. humistrata* (LHS) and *R. stellaris* (RHS) in a degraded couch lawn. Image: L. Greenup.



*R. humistrata* in a mixed couch and buffalo lawn showing the prostrate habit, 4-pointed star like arrangement of the leaves and the inflorescence clusters of the white flowers with four petals. Image: L. Greenup.



*R. humistrata* flower with broad pear-shaped hairy bracts and hairy leaves. Image: L. Greenup.



*R. stellaris* inflorescence with flowers, bud and fertilised flower. The narrow, pointed and almost hairless leaves and surrounding bracts are characteristic of this species. Image: L. Greenup.

#### Sources:

*Richardia*. Environmental Weed Fact Sheet. Lake Macquarie County Council.

Plantnet FloraOnline (2005)

<http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/>

*Richardia stellaris* Fact Sheet

<http://www.iewf.org/weedid/>



## Noxious Weeds Act 1993 Draft Weed Control Order 30

**Draft Weed Control Order 30** of the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* is currently being prepared for statutory public consultation.

A Weed Control Order is a list of species proposed to be declared under the Act by the Minister responsible for that Act. The draft Order represents the first complete review of weed declarations since Order 19 was gazetted in 2006.

New South Wales Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) staff reviewed the declaration of all **Class 1** (State Prohibited Weeds), **Class 2** (Regionally Prohibited Weeds) and **Class 3** (Regionally Controlled Weeds) using the NSW Weed Risk Management system.

As integral partners in the implementation of the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*, local governments were asked to review the declarations of all Class 4 (Locally Controlled Weeds) that were declared in their areas.

The resulting draft Order proposes a number of new and amended declarations. These include, but are not limited to, new declarations as:

### **Class 1 (State Prohibited Weeds):**

- Frogbit/Spongeplant (*Limnobium laevigatum* and *L. spongia*);
- Heteranthera/Kidneyleaf mud plantain (*Heteranthera reniformis*);
- Hydrocotyl/Water pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*);
- Koster's curse/Clidemia (*Clidemia hirta*); and
- Mikania vine (*Mikania micrantha*).

(The final two species are the subject of National Eradication Campaigns); and

### **Class 2 (Regionally Prohibited Weeds):**

- Aleman grass (*Echinochloa polystachya*);
- Black willow (*Salix nigra*);
- Broad-leaf pepper tree (*Schinus terebinthifolius*);
- Cecropia (*Cecropia peltata*);
- Grey sallow (*Salix cinerea*);
- Hygrophila (*Hygrophila costata*);
- Kudzu (*Pueraria lobata*);
- Long-leaf willow primrose (*Ludwigia longifolia*); and
- Paper mulberry (*Broussonetia papyrifera*).

Members of the community are encouraged to review the proposed declarations for their local government area.

### **Comments on draft Weed Control Order 30**

Upon release for public consultation, NSW DPI, on behalf of the Minister for Primary Industries, will receive submissions on the contents of draft Weed Control Order 30 from members of the general public, and from organisations.

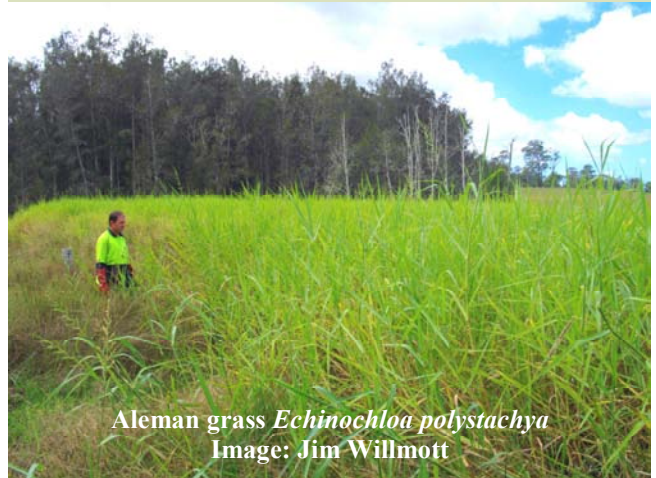
### **Further information:**

Further information on noxious weeds, current weed declarations, the NSW Weed Risk Management system and the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* can be found at various links from

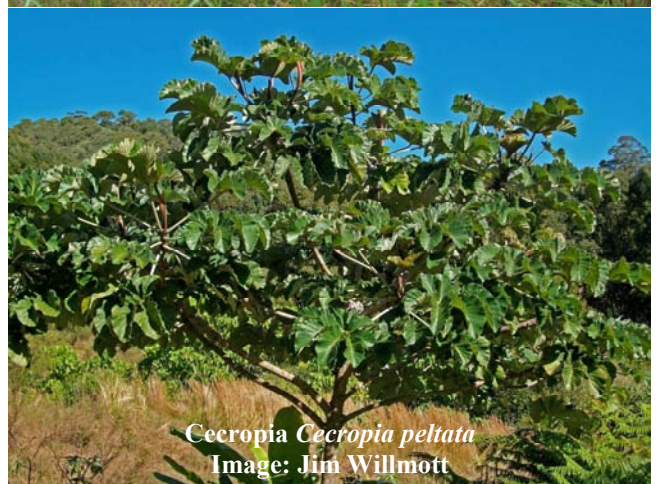
<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/weeds>

Dr Stephen Johnson  
Weed Ecologist, NSW DPI, Orange  
[stephen.johnson@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:stephen.johnson@dpi.nsw.gov.au)  
Ph: 02 6391 3146

## Two Regionally Prohibited Weeds



Aleman grass *Echinochloa polystachya*  
Image: Jim Willmott



Cecropia *Cecropia peltata*  
Image: Jim Willmott



## Herbicide Resistance Conference Highlights



### Ryegrass Integrated Management (RIM) launch.

*'RIM won't replace your expert judgement, but it will give you one more piece of evidence so you can make important changes with increased confidence.'* – Myrtille Lacoste, AHRI.

With funding from the Grain Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) to Australian Herbicide Resistance Institute (AHRI), the RIM bio-economic model has been upgraded and improved, and was launched at the GHRC on Wednesday 20 February by AHRI researcher Myrtille Lacoste.

Integrating ryegrass biology, agronomy and economics in a dynamic and user-friendly framework, RIM is free software which simulates the effect of strategic and tactical control methods on ryegrass populations and paddock economic returns over a 10-year period.

Ms Lacoste said the upgrade included entirely reviewing and updating management options including timing of crop seeding, soil preparation, herbicides, grazing, crop sacrifice, topping and harvest weed seed control.

For more information and to download the free software, please visit [www.ahri.uwa.edu.au](http://www.ahri.uwa.edu.au)

### New design for the Harrington Seed Destructor (HSD).

The Harrington Seed Destructor (HSD), a harvest weed seed control tool designed by Dakan grower and inventor Ray Harrington and progressed by AHRI with GRDC funding, was commercialised in time for the 2012 harvest. On Thursday 21 February, GRDC Manager of Commercial Farm Technologies, Paul Meibusch announced that the next generation of the HSD would be ready for purchase in two years. The new design will incorporate the original tow-behind unit into the harvester itself, reducing the cost for growers.

### WeedSmart launch.

*'WeedSmart is a modern tool for an old problem. If we are to mobilise enough farmers to make significant inroads into this problem then we need to make it second nature for them to take the appropriate action'* – Stephen Hole, grower and WeedSmart Chair.

In order to help combat the cost of herbicide resistance to the Australian grains industry, the agricultural sector has united to establish WeedSmart, an industry-led initiative to enhance on-farm practices and promote the long term sustainability of herbicide use. The campaign was launched on Thursday 21 February. WeedSmart will assemble the latest information for advisers and farmers on sustainable weed control and herbicide use.

For more information visit the WeedSmart website, [www.weedsmart.org](http://www.weedsmart.org)

### RNAi technology.

In a major announcement, senior Monsanto scientist Dr Doug Sammons provided an overview on exciting new RNAi technology for weed and pest control that offers the possibility of an entirely new technology for crop protection.

### Further information:

Brogan Micallef  
Communications Officer | Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative (AHRI)  
Ph: 08 6488 3189  
Mb: 0435 729 420  
Website: [www.ahri.uwa.edu.au](http://www.ahri.uwa.edu.au)





## Weeds Training moved to a one-stop shop

Administration of the courses conducted under the Weeds Training Program has been transferred to PROfarm (<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/profarm>).

This brings the Weeds Training courses into line with other popular courses offered by Tocal College, the Registered Training Organisation (RTO) of NSW Department of Primary Industries. All registrations for weed management training (except Legal 2 & 3) can now be made through PROfarm.

On the PROfarm web-site clients can locate a range of on-line courses, some home study courses and a long list of short courses with a calendar indicating the planned dates and locations. The move from the Weeds Training Program to PROfarm has required many changes, so a few bugs may show up in the system. Let the coordinator Harry Rose ([harry.rose@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:harry.rose@dpi.nsw.gov.au)) know and he'll get them fixed.

Additional courses can be offered on request and initially client should discuss this with Harry Rose.

In 2012 the Weed Movement, Machinery Inspection and Cleaning course was re-vamped and is now available at any location where it is required across the state. <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/profarm/courses/weed-movement-machinery-inspection-and-cleaning>,

Also, in 2013, the Control Weeds materials will be finalised and this revamped course will also be made available more widely in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year.

In 2013 Legal Stage 1 training is now available online, however kits are still available for those without computer access.

Tocal College will continue to deliver the popular suite of full qualifications however funding is more restricted in 2013. These qualifications include i.e.

1. Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management (traineeship)
2. Certificate IV in Conservation and Land Management
3. Diploma of Conservation and Land Management
4. Diploma of Community Coordination and Facilitation
5. Diploma of Pest Management
6. Advanced Diploma in Conservation and Land Management

Some of the courses to look out for in the first half of the year:

- Legal 1 - online anytime.
- Vegetation Survey & Assessment  
13-14 March Wollongbar \$395
- Photography for Field Officers  
3 April Coffs Harbour \$320
- Photography for Field Officers  
4 April Grafton \$320
- Recognising Water Weeds  
10 April Dubbo \$310
- Recognising Water Weeds  
11 April Cowra \$310
- Recognising Grasses  
11 April Wollongbar \$230
- Identifying Grasses  
12 April Wollongbar \$310
- Weed Movement, Machinery Inspection & Cleaning  
14 April Tamworth \$370
- Biological Control of Weeds  
8 May Dubbo \$320
- Weed Officer Induction (once per year)  
14-16 May Camden \$385
- Biological Control of Weeds  
16 May Camden \$320
- Weed Risk Management (once per year)  
17 May Camden \$230
- Legal stages 2 & 3 (once per year)  
17-21 June Canberra \$750 each stage.

**To request additional training courses for specific locations call (Mon-Wed only):**

### Harry Rose

Education Officer Weeds  
NSW Department of Primary Industries  
PO Box 3141, Kempsey NSW 2440.  
Ph: 02 6563 6803 Fx: 02 6562 5614 Mb: 0428 437 158  
Email: [harry.rose@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:harry.rose@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

**For Full Qualifications call:**

### Annette ten Broeke

Education Officer, NRM  
Murrumbidgee Rural Studies Centre (MRSC)  
Tocal College  
NSW Department of Primary Industries,  
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650  
Ph: 02 6938 1671 Fx: 02 6938 1809 or 02 69381 861  
Email: [Annette.tenbroeke@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Annette.tenbroeke@dpi.nsw.gov.au)  
Website: [www.industry.nsw.gov.au](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.mrsc.nsw.edu.au](http://www.mrsc.nsw.edu.au)







## CAWS Report March 2013

Planning for the 19<sup>th</sup> Australasian Weeds Conference is gathering pace. Tentative arrangements are in place for the 2014 event to be held at the University of Tasmania in Hobart. A conference website is expected to be developed in coming months.

CAWS recently provided funding for Prof. Jason Norsworthy to attend both the Global Herbicide Resistance Challenge in Perth and the Herbicide Resistance Seminar at the University of Adelaide's Roseworthy Campus last month. Both events were well attended, with participants providing highly positive feedback on the events.

Discussion on a new CAWS strategic plan continues, with discussions perhaps going back a step or two. It is expected that member societies will be consulted in coming months on what is perceived as the purpose and direction of CAWS, with feedback to be used to draft a new plan that reflects the input and needs of member societies. Should any society member wish to contribute ideas or thoughts, please contact the Society CAWS Delegates or Executive Committee.

Progress is yet to be made on establishing a national strategy to provide support to weeds workers in the Northern Territory.

The Australian Weeds Committee has granted approval for CAWS to host electronic copies of the first five Australian Weeds Conference proceedings. This will provide a complete set of weed conference proceedings via the CAWS website.

CAWS has declined to continue providing \$250 sponsorship for the Weeds News digest, a weekly initiative of the Weed's Network.

### **Report to the Weed Society of New South Wales by the CAWS NSW Delegates.**

Rex Stanton & Hillary Cherry  
March 2013.



## CAWS Awards Due 1 May 2013

### **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 both these awards should be submitted through an affiliated society to the CAWS secretary by 1st May each year.

The awards will be made by 1st July for travel during the following 12 months.

#### **Further information:**

Application forms are available from the CAWS website <http://www.caws.org.au> or write to:

**The Secretary  
The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.  
PO Box 438  
WAHROONGA NSW 2076**

or email: [secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au](mailto:secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au)



## 12th Queensland Weed Symposium 2013

**"Weeds Everyone's Business"**

15-18 July 2013 at The Boat Club  
Hervey Bay, Queensland.  
Details: [www.wsq.org.au](http://www.wsq.org.au)



## Treasurer's Report

### Financial Report.

For the period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012 to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013 the society has shown a loss of \$3,071.20.

The Balance Sheet shows that the society is in a very sound financial position with total equity of \$76,649.90 and thus able to consider allocating additional funds to projects that meet its objectives.

To maintain our ability to support financially viable projects now and into the future it is essential that in 2013 we organise seminars etc which show a profit as we cannot plan on achieving a return from the 17<sup>th</sup> NSW Weeds Conference at the same level as occurred in 2011 from the 16<sup>th</sup> NSW Weeds Conference.

The Weeds Society of NSW Inc - Future Fund set up to provide financial assistance for the running of the NSW biennial weeds conferences currently has assets of \$41,740.71 made up of \$37,540.88 in 4 term deposits and \$4,199.83 in the cheque account after providing \$15,000.00 as seed funding to Corowa Council, the organising body for the 17<sup>th</sup> NSW Weeds Conference.

### Membership.

As at the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013 the society has 185 members which include 4 life members.

Renewal notices for the 2013 subscriptions were sent out by post to members in February and to date – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013, 25 members have renewed for 2013.

22 members who had not paid their 2012 subscriptions received a request for payment of these with their 2013 renewal notice. Failure to pay the outstanding amount plus the 2013 fees by the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013 will mean that these members will be removed from the membership list.

These members are not now receiving the newsletter *A Good Weed* and are not eligible for any of the benefits offered, such as a discount off the registration fee for the forthcoming 17<sup>th</sup> NSW Weeds Conference or to participate in the travel grant awards etc. Payment of the outstanding amount will restore these benefits.

**Jim Swain**  
Treasurer  
4 March 2013

## New WeedSmart website & App

[www.weedsmart.org.au](http://www.weedsmart.org.au)

WeedSmart is an agricultural industry initiative promoting sustainable herbicide use. It provides information on managing herbicide resistance risk and tools to improve weed management strategies.

The regionally specific sustainability guides look remarkably similar, with only the odd sentence suggesting regional tailoring. These guides condense information into a manageable 6-page format. Their compactness necessitates providing less detail than in previous Integrated Weed Management (IWM) Manuals.

The WeedSmart App is user friendly and based on drop-down menus and option buttons. Winter and/or summer cropping is specified prior to nominating a three year crop sequence. It was a bit disconcerting to discover any sequence was acceptable, even the same crop every year.

The target weed is chosen before nominating a range of weed control tactics and there is no internal validation to prevent selection of inappropriate or mutually exclusive tactics.

The number of herbicide Mode or Action (MOA) groups used need to be specified separately instead of being drawn from the nominated weed control tactics. After a few demographics questions, herbicide resistance risk and weed seed bank management risk are displayed.

The App is not user friendly for comparing management combinations. The whole process has to be repeated for each change. Contrary to the WeedSmart 10 point plan, a low weed seed bank management risk can be obtained from the App without rotating crops or herbicides, and without doing any form of weed seed capture at harvest.

Overall, the website is an example of clever marketing. Information has been repackaged and rebadged to provide a fresh and innovative appearance. The App, a neat gimmick to provoke thought about alternative management options, falls short of being a serious tool.



The newsletter is the major source of information to our members and we are sure they want to read about all the exciting, interesting and unusual things you are doing in weed management.

Let us know about local and regional news, people and events, new emerging weed species, weed management issues, bushland regeneration, bush-care programs, weed research summaries, noxious weeds, legislative issues and book reviews.

We prefer short & interesting articles of about 200 to 500 words with good quality images which will reproduce well in colour.

If you want to submit material or discuss possible articles email - [editor@nswweedsoc.org.au](mailto:editor@nswweedsoc.org.au)

Submission dates for material for 2013 and early 2014 are:

- #63 Winter 2013 31 May 2013
- #64 Spring 2013 31 August 2013
- #65 Summer 2013/14 30 November 2013
- #66 Autumn 2014 28 February 2014

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## Society Contact Details



Postal Address: PO Box 438  
WAHROONGA NSW 2067

Secretary: [secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au](mailto:secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au)  
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Editor: [editor@nswweedsoc.org.au](mailto:editor@nswweedsoc.org.au)  
Website: [www.nswweedsoc.org.au](http://www.nswweedsoc.org.au)



The e-newsletter is intended to keep you up to date on weed related activities in between the publications of our printed newsletter, *A Good Weed*.

The e-newsletter will be a maximum of two pages and we would love to have one or two brief paragraph contributions from members, or even non-members, on something to do with weeds and of interest to Society members.

Send material to [editor@nswweedsoc.org.au](mailto:editor@nswweedsoc.org.au) and please include contact details so readers know where to obtain more information.

## Do you wish to be on our email distribution list?

If you have not listed your email address and wish to be included in the distribution list contact the secretary [secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au](mailto:secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au)

Your email will be used only for Society matters and you can unsubscribe at any time.

## Letters to the Editor

The editors welcome members comments on articles that have appeared in 'A Good Weed' or have weed-related issues they would like to bring to the attention of the Society members.

If you would like to contribute a 'Letter to the Editor' it must be under 150 words, submitted by the due date for the issue you would like it to appear and contain your contact details.

The editors reserve the right not to publish a letter. Contact: [editor@nswweedsoc.org.au](mailto:editor@nswweedsoc.org.au)

## Committee Meeting Dates

- |                  |                             |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 12 April 2013    | Executive Committee Meeting |
| 14 June 2013     | Executive Committee Meeting |
| 9 August 2013    | Executive Committee Meeting |
| 11 October 2013  | Executive Committee Meeting |
| 13 December 2013 | Executive Committee Meeting |
| 21 November 2013 | AGM and Annual Dinner       |

All dates need to be confirmed

If unable to deliver return to:

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

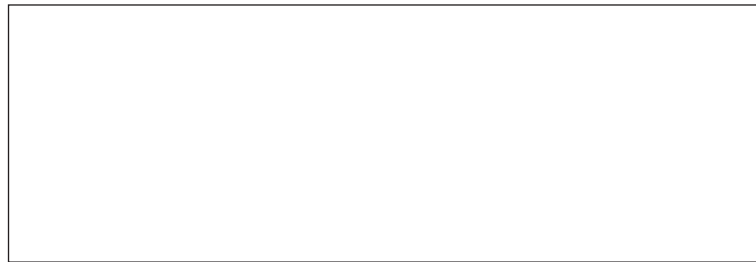
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