

A GOOD WEED



Newsletter of The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.

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#64 Spring 2013



Dillon or nitre bush, *Nitaria billardieri*, is a rigid spreading perennial shrub with tangled and sometimes spiny branches. It can form impenetrable clumps on overgrazed land and flood plains throughout western NSW.
Image: Rex Stanton.



President's Report



As Vice President, I have been asked to step into the role of Acting President while Dr Rex Stanton takes two months leave of absence from his role as President of the Weed Society.

On behalf of the committee and members of the Society I would like to wish Rex all the best while he is on leave.

We have had an eventful two months for Society members with the Weed Society annual seminar in July and the NSW Weeds Conference in Corowa in September.

The seminar "Using Herbicides Effectively in the Future" held recently at the Hornsby RSL Club was a big success and the attendees spoke very highly of the speakers, topics and organisation. I would like to thank the speakers, organising committee and the seminar sponsors for their input into this most informative day.

The 17th NSW Weeds Conference theme "Weeds have no Boundaries" was held at Corowa from the 9 to the 12 September with over two hundred attendees. I like to thank everyone involved in the organisation and running of this very successful conference and hope to see you at the next conference in Cooma in 2015.

Be aware that the Weed Society AGM will be on the 21 November 2013 at Pokolbin in the heart of Hunter Valley Wine Country. Hope to see you all there.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to all new members to the Society over the last couple of months.

Kim Hignell, Vice President.

Welcome to our two new members

The Society would like to welcome:

Helen Worrall
Eclipse Consulting, West Pymble.

Neville Plumb
Weed Officer, Queanbeyan.

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.

Annual General Meeting & Annual Lunch 21 November 2013

The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc. will be holding its Annual General Meeting & annual lunch at Harrigans Irish Pub and Accommodation, Broke Road, Polkolbin on Thursday, 21 November 2013.

The Annual General Meeting will commence at 11.00 a.m. followed by an al-a-carte lunch. After lunch there will be a guided walk of the Hunter Valley Gardens with an emphasis on weeds.

As the venue is in the heart of the Hunter Valley wine country there is plenty to do following the formal activities.

Full details of the Annual General Meeting's agenda will be circulated to all members in October 2013.

Could you let Kim Hignell know if you are coming. Contact Kim at khignell@lakemac.nsw.gov.au



Indian mosaic garden - Hunter Valley Gardens.



John Toth 1935 - 2013 A Passionate Weed Warrior



John died peacefully in Sydney on the 19th of June following a brave fight against prostate cancer over the last ten years.

He was born in Hungary and moved to Czechoslovakia when 10 years old. He obtained a degree in Agricultural Science from the Nitra University and undertook post graduate studies in Prague, where he met his wife Eta a qualified nurse. They were married in Bratislava in 1958. He also did his national service in the Air Force as a pilot. John worked as a Research Scientist at the Academy of Agricultural Science Bratislava from 1960 to 1968.

John and Eta and their two children, John aged 10 and Tania aged 6, arrived in Australia as refugees in 1968 with virtually nothing. They became Australian citizens in 1972.

John worked in the New South Wales Department of Agriculture from 1969 to 1997 as a Senior Research Agronomist located at the Biological and Chemical Research Institute, Rydalmere.

He had a most successful career in weed research where he was blessed with some excellent mentors, who were compelled to support such an enthusiastic and competent scientist. He published 42 research

papers in Australian and International journals on the control of nutgrass, weeds in vegetables, the effects of activated carbon on crop tolerance to herbicides and the control of woody weeds. He commenced research on Bitou bush in 1986. He also invented equipment for use in weed research and control.

When John left the Department in 1997 he continued his work on bitou bush as a consultant. The challenge, taken up by John and others, was to develop an Integrated Weed Management programme which had to be sustainable and economical. They were able to demonstrate that aerial application of glyphosate and metsulfuron methyl at the correct timing and rate would control bitou bush but was tolerated by the native vegetation. This was a critical finding. In the mid 1990's an efficient aerial application technique using helicopters was developed by New South Wales Agriculture. In 2007, 700 ha were sprayed by helicopters along the NSW coast between Jervis Bay and Yamba. John listed 226 native species tolerant to glyphosate and 83 species tolerant to metsulfuron methyl.

He was a member of the Weed Society of New South Wales for many years serving as President from 1991-1992. John and Eta always attended the Annual Dinners which he greatly enjoyed. He was also a Member of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science.

During his life John was a devoted family man strongly supported by his wife Eta, and a wonderful friend to many of us. He was a larger than life personality, who encouraged the best in people, and was always good company. He will be sadly missed by his family and many friends. We extend our deepest sympathy to them all.

Mike Barrett





Hornsby Seminar - a Successful Society Event



Doug Campbell (Upper Hunter Weeds Authority), Kim Hignell (Seminar Organising Committee, Society Vice President & Lake Macquarie City Council) and David Pomery (Southern Councils Group).



Diane Campbell (Speaker & Hornsby Shire Council) with Jim Swain (Society Treasurer & Life Member).



Dave Thompson (Speaker and NSW Environment Protection Authority) discussing minor use issues with Mike Barrett (Life Member).

The seminar “Using Herbicides Effectively in the Future” was very successful. ‘Good topics, good panel session at the end and good time management’ ‘Wish there were more workshops like this?’ ‘Very, very good day’ summed up the audience’s opinion of the day.

A questionnaire was circulated to the seminar participants asking them to assess the day based on a scale of (1) POOR to (5) VERY GOOD. The following is the result: Program - 4.3, Theme - 4.4, Morning Presentations - 4.4, Afternoon Presentations - 4.3, Proceedings - 3.9, Venue - 4.0, Lunch & Teas - 3.9 and Value - 4.4.

At the end of the day each of the speakers was asked for a ‘take home’ message and the following are their responses.

Dave Thompson (Regulatory Specialist, NSW Environment Protection Authority).

- ◆ Effective control of weeds (insects and diseases) involves incorporating all methods of control not just the chemical.
- ◆ Apply for Permits early as it takes some time to gain them and apply for Permits as associations rather than individuals.
- ◆ Have a good read of the label: it contains a lot more than just the quantities to use and species to use it on.
- ◆ Rotate chemicals between efficacy groups, be careful in application and beware of diluting mix strengths without good advice.

Diane Campbell (Manager, Natural Resources Branch, Hornsby Shire Council).

- ◆ Work at developing strategies for weed control in sensitive areas.
- ◆ Understand site constraints. Be aware of all the control techniques available for specific weeds.
- ◆ It’s OK to hold off undertaking control measures and take time to work out the best solution.

Mark Scott (Consultant).

- ◆ Issues with weed control near water is becoming more important.
- ◆ People are using more residuals and these can be mobile in the environment.
- ◆ Be mindful of various application techniques, herbicide formulations so that we can minimise off-target damage/risk.
- ◆ Probably will be a need for more monitoring in environmental situations, similar to QA standards for food producing industries.

Jim Phimister (Marketing Specialist, Dow AgroSciences).

- ◆ Large number of techniques that suits your specific weed situation (ie. get more herbicide into the weed and less on off-target objects).
- ◆ Huge knowledge base with various colleagues in the industry.



Hornsby Seminar - a Successful Society Event

Tom Lamond (Senior Regulatory Specialist, Dow AgroSciences).

- ◆ Cost many millions of dollars to develop new herbicides.
- ◆ Dow Agrosiences still interesting in investing in developing and researching new chemistries.

Jonathan Pearson (ChemCert Course Developer, ChemCert).

- ◆ Always an awareness of training hazard minimization.
- ◆ Continual need for workplace risk assessments.

Karl Adamson (Evaluator, Pesticides Registration Section, APVMA).

- ◆ APVMA is keen to get minor use Permits for clients.
- ◆ Issues may arise when applying for permits, so keep communication active between key stakeholders.
- ◆ The more information on the Permit application the better, making it easier for regulators to assess the situation and grant the Permits.

Andrew Hewitt (Centre for Pesticide Application and Safety, University of Queensland).

- ◆ Technology is moving faster than regulators.
- ◆ Improvements in nozzle technology over the past 3 years (and before).
- ◆ Beware tank mixtures can alter spray patterns and affect driftable fine proportion.
- ◆ Good technology in relation to measuring meteorological variables and prevent drift (nozzles, spray hoods, nozzle orientations etc).

The success of the seminar is due to the way in which all the organising committee members worked together and the Society owes a big 'thank you' to them. Kim Hignell for ensuring Society members and local government were aware of the seminar and getting so many local government people along; Tony Cook (while on leave) for arranging the speakers and putting together the proceedings. Jim Swain for handling the financial side and looking after the registration desk and Lawrie Greenup for arranging the venue and working with the RSL staff to ensure the day went smoothly.

The Society wishes to thank the speakers for their excellent presentations.



Paul Marynissen (Wyong City Council) being shown by **Jim Phimister** (Speaker & Dow AgroSciences) the new app from Dow AgroSciences.



Tony Cook (Seminar Organising Committee & NSW DPI) with **Jonathan Pearson** (Speaker & ChemCert).



Final Session Q&A

Dave Thompson (NSW EPA); **Andrew Hewitt** (University of Queensland), **Mark Scott** (Consultant), **Karl Adamson** (APVMA), **Tom Lamond** (hidden, Dow AgroSciences), **Diane Cambell** (Hornsby Shire Council), **Jim Phimister** (Dow AgroSciences), **Jonathan Pearson** (ChemCert) and chair - **Jim Swain** (Seminar Organising Committee & Treasurer).

Thanks to our Seminar Sponsors





17th NSW Weeds Conference 2013

Weeds have no boundaries!

Buerckner & Stephenson Awards

The Buerckner and Stephenson Local Government Weed Professional Awards were initiated as part of the 2007 NSW Weeds Conference and acknowledge the work of NSW Local Government weed professionals and their outstanding contribution towards protecting NSW from the impact of weeds.

The Awards are named in honour of Parkes Shire Council Weed Officers, Mal Buerckner and Ian Stephenson who were tragically killed on the job in a helicopter accident in 2006, along with the pilot Shane Thrupp.

Both families were invited to the conference and members of the families made the presentation of their specific awards to the winners.

The **Buerckner Award** is for the outstanding contributions to on-ground control of weeds in NSW. In 2013 this award received four high-quality nominations from across NSW. These were Eric Pasenow, Dungog Shire Council; Lee Amity, Gunnedah Shire Council; Neil Boyd, Orange City Council and Peter Giles, Bogan Shire Council.

The winner was Neil Boyd, Weed Management Officer, Orange City Council. Neil was presented with his award by Debbie and Jack Buerckner.

The **Stephenson Award** is for outstanding contribution to planning and coordinating weed management programs in NSW. In 2013 this award received four high-quality nominations from across NSW. These were Doug Campbell, Upper Hunter Weeds Authority, Josh Biddle, New England Weed Authority; Matthew Bailey, Parkes Shire Council and Neville Plumb, Palerang Council.

Doug Campbell was the winner. Doug was presented with his award by the Stephenson family.

The awards are sponsored by The Weed Society of NSW Inc., NSW Weed Officers Association and the Department of Primary Industries.

Buerckner Award



Neil Boyd.
Weed Management Officer, Orange City Council.
Image: Kim Hignell.

Neil Boyd has worked with Orange City Council for just over 10 years. During that time he has achieved a Diploma in Conservation and Land Management and has gained a very strong passion to destroy Chilean needle grass amongst other things. Neil is known as the face of Chilean needle grass in the Central West and has worn out the footpaths of North Orange with his constant vigilance for eradication of this weed. He is always on the lookout for new weed incursions, has sent countless specimens off to the Royal Botanic Gardens for identification, and has discovered a species of *Genista* not found west of the mountain ranges. He was recently awarded the inaugural Macquarie Valley's Weeds Advisory Committee's Tom Knowles Award for his achievements in his role as Weed Management Officer for Orange City Council. (Tom was the Chairman of the committee for 3 years before his death in 2012).



17th NSW Weeds Conference 2013

Weeds have no boundaries!

Stephenson Award



Doug Campbell.
Upper Hunter Weeds Authority.
Image: Kim Hignell.

Doug has been in weeds for nearly 22 years, starting in Gunnedah before moving to Upper Hunter Weeds Authority 11 years ago as the Works Coordinator.

He is currently the project manager for both Upper Hunter and Lower Hunter Central Coast Weeds Action Plan and has total respect from Senior Management of all the regional councils of the Hunter and Central Coast. He is highly regarded amongst his peers for his tireless work to administer all aspects of the Weeds Action Plan and to keep the region abreast of new issues that arise.

There is no stopping Doug with education as he is now undertaking a degree in environmental science at uni.

When not battling weeds he can be found in battle on a bowling green around the state.



Neil Boyd with the Buerckner family.
Image: Kim Hignell.



Doug Campbell with the Stephenson family.
Image: Kim Hignell.

The winners of the NSW Buerckner & Stephenson Awards each receive a book prize, a presentation medal and their name added to a perpetual plaque.

The NSW Weeds Officers Association Inc. and The Weed Society of NSW Inc. (subject to membership conditions) have each generously donated \$500.00 to each winner to be used towards travel costs to attend the 18th NSW Biennial Weeds Conference in 2013 (Buerckner Award recipient) or the 19th Australasian Weeds Conference in Tasmania in 2014 (Stephenson Award recipient).



17th NSW Weeds Conference 2013

Weeds have no boundaries!

Photographic Competition Winners

Weed Management



1st Place
Josh Biddle – control of water hyacinth by air.



2nd place
Ruth Armstrong – The Gun Team.



Honourable mention
Nikki Shepherd – importance of planning.

Weed Identification



1st Place
Nikki Shepherd – harrisia cactus.



2nd place
Anthony Berry – artichoke thistle.



Honourable mention
Kim Curtis – Miconia.



17th NSW Weeds Conference 2013

Weeds have no boundaries!

Photographic Competition Winners

Delegate's Choice



Matthew Bailey
NSW No Space for Weeds.

Weed Management

1st Place

Josh Biddle – control of water hyacinth by air.

Prize - *Wetland Weeds: Causes, Cures and Compromises* and *Australasian Nature Photography* (donated by CSIRO).

2nd place

Ruth Armstrong – The Gun Team.

Prize: *A Traveller's Flora* (donated by CSIRO).

Honourable mention

Nikki Shepherd – importance of planning.

Weed Identification

1st Place

Nikki Shepherd – harrisia cactus.

Prize - *Wetland Weeds: Causes, Cures and Compromises* and *Australasian Nature Photography*. (donated by CSIRO).

2nd place

Anthony Berry – artichoke thistle.

Prize: *Bush Invaders of south-east Australia* (donated by - Richardson & Richardson).

Honourable mention

Kim Curtis – Miconia.

Delegate's choice

Matthew Bailey

NSW No Space for Weeds.

Prize: *Photography for Fieldwork* (donated by NSW DPI and Steven Honeywood).



Weed Society display booth at the 17th NSW Weeds Conference

Images: Kim Hignell.



Posters prepared for the Weed Society of New South Wales' Poster Competition by students from the Corowa Primary School Class2/3. The theme for the competition was ideas on weeds.

Image: Kim Hignell



African boxthorn - old weed, new focus

Michael Noble

**Coordinator (Risk Assessment and Review) Invasive Species Branch
Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment**

African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*) is a weed that once encountered, is not easily forgotten. The sturdy thorns that form at the branch ends of the dense shrub puncture skin and cause festering sores. For land managers, perhaps it is the exceptionally resilient nature of the species that impresses most.



Image showing the sturdy thorns that form at the branch ends of the densely branched shrub.

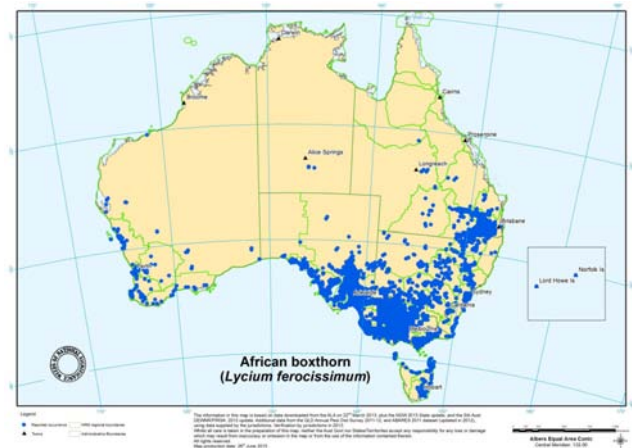
Image: Colin G Wilson & Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.

Boxthorn is a native of southern Africa and was introduced to Australia in the mid-1800s for use as a hedgerow shrub. It has been recorded in every Australian jurisdiction, though is considered eradicated from the Northern Territory.

African boxthorn displaces native vegetation in both coastal and inland situations, reducing biodiversity values. It infests rangelands, farmland and unused lands, excluding stock from grazing and water access, and harbouring pests including rabbits, foxes, starlings, and fruit fly (via its fruit).

African boxthorn is of concern for potato, tomato and capsicum growers as it would host the tomato-potato psyllid (*Bactericera cockerelli*), should the psyllid become established in Australia.

In 2012 African boxthorn was declared a Weed of National Significance (WoNS), and an African Boxthorn Weed Management Guide was completed.



**Current distribution of African boxthorn in Australia.
Image: Christopher Auricht, Auricht Projects.**

An African Boxthorn WoNS National Strategic Plan was completed by early 2013 following consultation workshops that were undertaken across Australia. Some key feedback from national strategy workshops included concern on the lack of background and management information available on African boxthorn, and the query ‘why aren’t there any biological control agents available for African boxthorn?’

On seeking to answer this question, it became apparent that not only were there no biological control agents available for boxthorn, but that boxthorn is not even on the national target list for biological control research.

Action has been taken following this consultation, and an African Boxthorn National Best Practice Manual and comprehensive research report on biological control feasibility for African boxthorn are almost complete.

Some of the key outcomes of this work have been the gathering together of information such as:

- Analysis and compilation of available information on African boxthorn biology and ecology
- Compilation of available national African boxthorn distribution mapping and production of potential distribution mapping



African boxthorn - old weed, new focus (Continued)

Compilation of information from across Australia with regard to the impacts of African boxthorn on the vast diversity of landscapes it occurs on (from offshore islands to the semi-arid inland)

Research and compilation of national experiences on the most effective tools and techniques in managing boxthorn, including four detailed case studies

Detailed investigation into the feasibility of biological control as a management option for African boxthorn



**Potential African boxthorn bio-control rust photographed in South Africa.
Image: Alan Wood.**



**African boxthorn puller in action.
Image: New South Wales National Parks & Wildlife Service.**

As they are completed this year the best practice manual and biological control feasibility documents will be made available in electronic format and posted at www.weeds.or.au/WoNS/africanboxthorn

You can also contact Michael Noble, (former Weeds of National Significance Coordinator – African Boxthorn) Michael.Noble@dpipwe.tas.gov.au or (03) 6421 5100 to send you a copy when they are available.



**Cut stumping African boxthorn, East Beagle Island, Western Australia.
Image: John Fitzhardinge.**



**African boxthorn infestation in North Western New South Wales.
Image: Les Tanner, North West Weeds.**



The effectiveness of community-based approaches to weed control

Brian Sindel and Michael Coleman,
Agronomy and Soil Science, School of Environmental and Rural Science
University of New England.

A RIRDC-funded project recently completed at the University of New England (UNE) explored the impediments to adoption of weed control practices amongst private and public land managers, and the potential of community-based programs to overcome these. The project was led by Brian Sindel, Professor of Weed Science at UNE.

Background

Control of weeds is largely the responsibility of individual land managers. However, the impact of invasive weeds is often felt at a landscape scale, because weed seeds can be dispersed across the landscape, and across property boundaries, by natural processes and human activity alike. From an individual perspective, land managers therefore have little incentive to control weeds, if they are not being controlled effectively on neighbouring properties as well.

Although weed infestations may arise due to lack of action by one land manager, the weed problem will more often derive from collective inaction. Effective control programs of invasive weeds therefore require widespread adoption of control strategies by land managers in order to reduce the population of weeds across the landscape as a whole. Any solution will need to involve collective action, where individuals can trust that a critical mass of their neighbours will be adopting weed control just as they are. Community-based approaches may help to foster this trust by strengthening supportive social norms and informal monitoring and sanctioning.

Method

A case study approach was adopted, involving serrated tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*) control in two contrasting grazing regions of NSW, the Northern Tablelands and the Southern Tablelands. The project commenced with a review of relevant literature. A telephone survey of 100 landholders was completed in each region, followed up with a workshop in each region to discuss the findings of the literature review and survey.

Results

Notable barriers to serrated tussock control included poor management on neighbouring properties, lack of resources to control the weed effectively, a sense of apathy and futility regarding effective management prospects, and difficulty identifying the weed. Important incentives to improve serrated tussock management included controlling new outbreaks early, and ensuring the economic viability of the property. A range of barriers and incentives specific to commercial farm managers, absentee and lifestyle farm managers, public land managers, and staff of relevant government and NRM agencies, were identified.

Improving adoption of serrated tussock control requires preferred modes of learning, differing property management goals, and relevant strategies to be taken into account. New farming residents in rural communities, particularly on smaller landholdings, need to be educated on their weed control responsibilities beginning at the time of sale. Sufficient information on serrated tussock management exists, but this information does not appear to reach all land managers. Many research participants were strongly in favour of stricter enforcement requiring both private and public land managers to control serrated tussock sooner, to backstop educational and incentive approaches. Weed control authorities were highly regarded, but considered to lack the resources to fulfil their role to full effect.

Approximately 80 per cent of survey participants were willing to work with others in a community-based serrated tussock control program. An effective program must involve trust and willingness to reciprocate on weed control behaviour. Several successful community-based land management programs were identified. Their success was based on strong participant interest in program outcomes, converging land management interests, achievable goals, financial or environmental motivation to take part, and external management and/or funding. These networks and cooperative models offer useful lessons for a serrated tussock program.



The effectiveness of community-based approaches to weed control (Continued)

Implications

Community-based approaches offer a valuable opportunity to improve the uptake of effective weed management practices, on top of the improvements available through extension, legislation, and support from local weed control authorities. The capacity of those who are already motivated to manage weeds on their land will be improved by encouraging private and public land managers to build relationships and work together on weed control. Likewise, it will motivate some individuals who have otherwise been apathetic about weeds. Improving adoption rates for weed control across rural landscapes will benefit all land managers.

Further work was recommended to trial community-based management programs for weeds such as serrated tussock, and to apply the successful features of collective action land management programs already in operation. Existing community-based networks, and their applicability to weed management, need to be identified and utilised where possible to ensure program outcomes are ongoing. Different community-engagement models need to be explored for their relevance to different regions in Australia, as well as different weed species.

The final report for this project, *Improving regional adoption of weed control*, is available from RIRDC: <https://rirdc.infoservices.com.au/items/13-016>



Community-based approaches have the potential to improve the willingness and capacity of landholders to manage weeds such as serrated tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*) more effectively. Image: M Coleman, University of New England.

19th Australasian Weeds Conference

Science, Community and Food Security: the weed challenge



1- 4 September 2014

University of Tasmania
Sandy Bay, Hobart



Please make plans to attend the 19th Australasian Weeds Conference in beautiful Hobart, Tasmania, on 1-4 Sept 2014. A call for papers is expected in October 2013. The official website is being developed.



Weeds Herbarium transfer to the National Herbarium of New South Wales

Dr Peter Michael, Senior Lecturer in Weed Science, collected many important weed genera whilst he was at the University of Sydney. From 1970 onwards he built up the Weeds Herbarium, consisting of some 4 000 to 5 000 specimens, comprising plant material from his own collection as well as from students and other sources.



Dr Peter Michael selecting Xanthium specimens in the Weeds Herbarium, Faculty of Agriculture & Environment, University of Sydney. Image: Lawrie Greenup.

The Society provided \$7,000 funding to assist in the sorting, cataloguing and transfer of the Weeds Herbarium from the Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, Sydney University, to the National Herbarium of New South Wales, Royal Botanic Gardens. This was necessary as the future of the collection could not be assured because of the proposed move of the Faculty to a new location at the Technology Park, Redfern. Dr Peter Michael and Michael Barrett were involved in the project

After the funding was approved the National Herbarium of New South Wales requested all specimens be entered on a database which required a significant extension of time to complete the project.

The project funded the following genera which have been sent to the National Herbarium of New South Wales – Oxalis, Echinochloa, Gamochaeta (cudweeds), and Conyza (fleabanes). The following genera have been completed by Peter and Michael without financial assistance from the Society – Xanthium, Onopordum, Senecio and Amaranthus.

To date the following specimens have been catalogued and located in Sydney Royal Botanic gardens Herbarium: Echinochloa 1 923 specimens (51 boxes), Oxalis 474 specimens, Amaranthus 428 specimens (12 boxes), Senecio 639 specimens (10 boxes), Conyza 387 specimens (13 boxes), Xanthium 221 specimens (9 boxes), Onopordum 262 specimens (15 boxes) and Gamochaeta 651 specimens. This is a total of 4 985 specimens.



Michael Barrett, Dr Peter Michael and Dr Richard Jobson examining a 'Weeds Herbarium' Echinochloa specimen now safely stored at the National Herbarium of New South Wales. Image: Lawrie Greenup.

The value of the collection is already evident with an enquiry from Japan regarding the Echinochloa collection; Dr Hanwen Wu used the collection for Conyza identification; ability to review the Victorian classification of Senecio using NSW specimens; the excellent collection of Australian species of Oxalis should enable a proper revision to be made; the provision of many duplicate specimens for use by other institutions.

There are still some genera stored in a secure facility at the new location in Technology Park, Redfern, and they will be catalogued and transferred if the National Herbarium of New South Wales is interested in acquiring them.

The Society wishes to thank Peter Michael and Michael Barrett for successfully completing the project and ensuring a safe home for this important collection.



APPS Weed information at your fingertips

A range of plant identification, weed identification and control apps have been developed. Some have a lot of functionality and can be very useful for identifying plants in the field, while others contain a range of images that the user can browse. The range of weeds and the structure of the information will determine what app best suits the needs of each user.

There is probably an app out there for any aspect of weed management you care to mention. Below is a sample of some of the Australian-based apps available that are relevant to weeds.

APVMA (Apple)

Databases of Australian registered agricultural and veterinary chemical (agvet) products including minor-use and off-label permits
<http://www.apvma.gov.au/products/databases/>



HerbiGuide: the pesticide expert (Android)

Includes information on over 180 crops and 500 weeds with solutions drawn from over 1000 pesticide products.

<http://www.herbiguide.com.au>



WeedSmart (Apple)

Provides a simple tool to gauge herbicide-resistance and weed seed bank management.

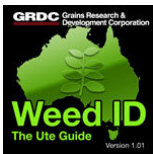
<http://www.weedsmart.org.au/>



Weed ID - GRDC Ute Guide (Apple and Android)

A field tool to assist in identifying the most common, annual, biennial and perennials weeds in Southern Australia.

<http://www.grdc.com.au/Resources/App-Store>



Environmental Weeds of Australia (Android)

App version of "Environmental Weeds of Australia" includes over 1,000 weed images.

<http://www.lucidcentrl.com/>



Weeds of Southern Queensland (Apple and Android)

App form of the highly popular publication "Weeds of Southern Queensland", containing photos and information for 132 weeds.

<http://www.wsq.org.au/WSQ%20app.htm>



PlantFile (Apple and Android)

Horticultural database with information about a range of common plants. Covers 3580 species and 9000 cultivars of garden plants.

Compiled by Rex Stanton & Tony Cook



New digital resource (app) to help in fight against weeds

Dow AgroSciences, the Woody Weed Specialists, has developed an iPad app to support decision making and best practice application methods for managing invasive, noxious and environmental woody weeds.

The app will help weed professionals make the best choices for their situation. It contains information on the basic weed biology, the optimal time of treatment, the range of herbicide options available with labels and safety data sheets as well as application videos.

There is also a useful section on treatment options: what technique to use, what to avoid and why.

The app was showcased to attendees at the recent NSW Weed Society seminar on "Using Herbicides Effectively in the Future" and received very positive feedback.

The iPad app is free and can be downloaded from the Apple store by using the search term **Woody Weed Specialists**. The app will be updated as new products are released and those updates will be available from the app store.

In 2014 an android tablet app will also be released.



Review of 2,4-D HVE completed

As part of the ongoing review of 2,4-D, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has cancelled the registration of 11 high volatile ester products (HVE) products and two active constituents.

The decision means:

- supply of the cancelled 2,4-D HVE active constituent is to cease immediately (21 August 2013)
- from 31 August 2013 the supply of product containing 2,4-D HVE manufactured up to 21 August 2013 is to cease
- people can use products they have already purchased up until 31 August 2014 under the same permit instructions (PER14329) which restricts use to winter only and under strict conditions
- use of these products after 31 August 2014 will be illegal.

The APVMA suspended registrations and label approvals of 2,4-D products containing high volatile ester forms in 2006. This was on the basis of environmental concerns about off-target damage to nearby crops, vegetation and the environment due to its ability to easily evaporate and be carried long distances under certain conditions.

Tight restrictions on the use of 2,4-D HVE products have been in place since 2006 while data about the environmental impact was generated under Australian conditions. The latest assessment of data from the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPAC) determined the risks of the use of 2,4-D HVE products under the suspended label instructions are unacceptable and cannot be mitigated.

Registrants and approval holders were notified last month of the APVMA's intention to cancel the registration of the products and the active constituents used in the products. The DSEWPAC report was also published on the APVMA website in July and completes the review for the high volatile ester forms of 2,4-D.

2,4-D is a herbicide used to control weeds in crops, commercial and industrial areas, turf, forestry and waterways. There are now 220 registered 2,4-D products in Australia, with sales representing about 7–8% of all herbicide sales.

Further information at <http://www.apvma.gov.au/products/review/current/24d.php>

Proposal to amend and replace weed declarations under the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*

Proposed Noxious Weeds (Weed Control) Order 2013 completes the review of noxious weed declarations.

In particular, it fully amends declarations in Weed Control Classes 1, 2 and 3 and replaces previous Class 4 declarations.

A copy of a draft version of Noxious Weeds (Weed Control) Order 2013 pertaining to these changes and an explanatory note is available for download below, or from your local NSW Department of Primary Industries office.

Any person is entitled to make a submission about this proposal. Verbal submissions cannot be accepted. Written submissions are to be sent to:

Invasive Species Support Officer
NSW Department of Primary Industries
Locked Bag 21
ORANGE NSW 2800

Or by email to: admin.weeds@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Or by facsimile to: 02 6391 3206

(Facsimiles must include the sender's name and address and be marked for the attention of the Invasive Species Support Officer)

Submissions must reach NSW Department of Primary Industries by the close of business on Friday 18 October 2013.



Large-flowered wood sorrel *Oxalis purpurea*



Book Review: Photography for fieldwork

When using a camera do you take heaps of photos and hope one turns out alright? Are you scared to take your camera out of Auto mode? Are you confused by all the settings and different equipment? Do you wonder why you have to delete many of your photos? If this sounds like you, help may be at hand!

Tocal College have published a new publication; Photography for fieldwork.

The new book was developed in response to requests from industry seeking resources to enable field officers, project officers and compliance officers to achieve quality photography for their work.

Because cameras are common technology, it is often assumed people can simply pick up any camera and get good results but this rarely happens. Cameras have become important tools in fieldwork so it is worth the effort to develop and improve your photography skills.

The Photography for fieldwork book has been developed from a training course of the same name. The course and book have been greatly appreciated by hundreds of participants, so the publication has been tested and refined in the process.



The book is written for people new to digital photography, but experienced photographers can also gain good information to improve their photography. Photography for fieldwork covers the range of cameras, equipment and accessories used for photography so readers can match the right equipment for their needs. The book covers the basic principals of photography such as aperture, shutter speed, ISO and white balance. By learning how to use these settings, photographers can get great results and feel confident in experimenting with their camera. Getting off “AUTO” setting allows the photographer to take control, rather than hoping the camera will get it right for them.

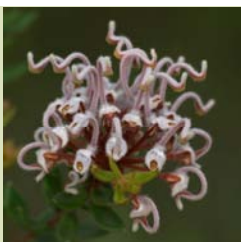
The book also covers aspects of planning and photography for projects and fieldwork. Many projects are never seen by supervisors or funding bodies, so it is vital that photography is used in a way to capture works, changes and achievements over the life of a project. The book provides tips on getting great photos for their intended purpose that stand out and draw attention. Information on reference photography, project monitoring and photography for compliance is also covered.

The book is designed to motivate and inspire competence and confidence in photography, so the reader can enjoy their photography while they develop and improve their camera skills!

Photography for fieldwork can be purchased form the Tocal College bookshop for \$20.00

It is a 58 full colour A4 sized publication and this book can be purchased online:

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/resources/bookshop/photography-for-field-work> or you can order by phone: Call 1800 025 520



**Some images from
“Photography for fieldwork”**

Grevillea flower (LHS)

Fringed lily (RHS)





Treasurer's Report

Financial Report.

For the period 1st October 2012 to 1st September 2013 the society has shown a loss of \$10,014.28.

The loss has occurred because of payments made to upgrade the website and sponsorship of the 17th NSW Weeds Conference held at Corowra.

The Balance Sheet shows that the society is in a sound financial position with total equity of \$69,706.82 and thus able to consider allocating additional funds to projects that meet its objectives. Assets have however fallen by \$10,014.28 since the commencement of this financial year on the 1st October 2012.

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 \$42,374.68 made up of \$38,339.25 in 4 term deposits and \$4,035.43 in the cheque account after providing \$15,000.00 as seed funding to Corowra Council the organising body for the 17th NSW Weeds Conference which will be returned shortly giving total assets of \$53,339.25.

Membership.

Currently the society has 170 members which include 4 life members.

To date 117 members have paid their 2013 subscriptions and the 40 who have yet to pay their 2013 fees were sent a reminder on 9th September 2013.

15 members who have not paid their 2012 subscriptions received a further request for payment of these and their 2013 fees by email recently. Failure to pay the outstanding amount plus the 2013 fees by the 1st November 2013 will mean that these members will be removed from the membership list.

Those who have not renewed their membership are asked to do this as soon as possible so that the society can continue to provide the ongoing services to members.

Jim Swain.
Treasurer.
16 September 2013.

Conference Report

The 17th NSW Weeds Conference was held at Corowra from the 9 to the 12 September with over two hundred attendees. It was a great opportunity to network and learn more about weed management with the theme focused on "Weeds have no Boundaries!" Fantastic choice of key speakers and a wide range of topics discussed over the length of the conference. Topics looked at the aspects of change to the weed industry, the new challenges in weed management and the understanding that there are no boundaries to weeds on a local level. It also highlighted that there needs to be more regional and cross regional co-operation with regard to weed management. The State Government Review on Weed Management was constantly talked about and many delegates found that there is a strong resilient community of weed managers within NSW.

The conference dinner was a great evening with the presentations of the Buerckner and Stephenson Awards and the Photo Competition Congratulations to all the winners. The main announcement that everyone was waiting for was the winning submission to hold the next NSW Weeds Conference The winner to hold the next conference is Cooma - Monaro Region.

The Weed Society display stand had a wonderful collection of posters that the children from class 2/3 of the Corowa Public School created about their ideas on weeds. The grass ID guessing competition was a success. Thank you Birgitte Verbeek for organising this competition with only 3 people guessing the correct grasses. Thank you to Hillary Cherry, Rex Stanton, Lawrie Greenup and everyone who was involved in the Photography competition with the winners deserving their prizes. Lastly, I would like to say thank you to Maria Edmonds and Barry Shepherd who helped me throughout the conference with the displays.

On behalf of the Weeds Society, I would like to thank the regional organising committee, which includes Rex Stanton and Hanwen Wu for their efforts in organising and running this successful conference and to the Companies and Organisations that supplied book donations as wonderful prizes for all the awards and competitions.

Thank you.

Kim Hignell.
Vice President.



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 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

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



Society Information

Contact Details

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Treasurer: treasurer@nswweedsoc.org.au
Editor: editor@nswweedsoc.org.au
Website: www.nswweedsoc.org.au

Committee Meeting Details

11 October 2013 Executive Committee Meeting
13 December 2013 Executive Committee Meeting
21 November 2013 AGM and Annual Lunch

All dates need to be confirmed



Newsletter of The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc. ISSN 1325-3689

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, bushcare 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

Submission dates for material for 2013 and early 2014 are:

#65 Summer 2013/14	30 November 2013
#66 Autumn 2014	28 February 2014
#67 Winter 2014	31 May 2014
#68 Spring 2014	31 August 2014

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

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If unable to deliver return to:

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

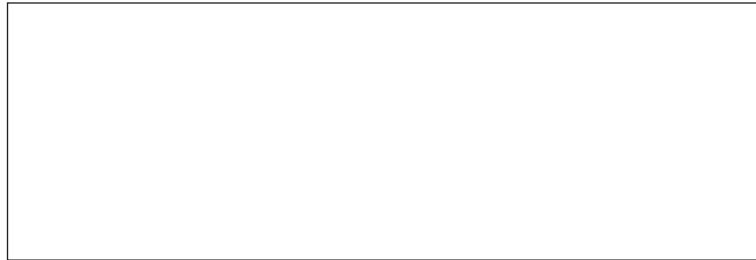
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