

A GOOD WEED



Newsletter of The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.

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In This Issue

#65 Summer 2013/2014

2014 Executive & Committee	1
48th Annual General Meeting	
President's Report	2
Financial Report	3
Peter McMaugh Award	5
Annual Lunch Pictures	6
CAWS Report	7
19th Australasian Weeds Conference	8
Weeds Down Under - Macquarie Island	9
Using Glyphosate for Glyphosate Resistant Barnyard Grass - is it possible?	11
Basal Bark Techniques - Woody Weeds	12
Getting on Top of Silverleaf Nightshade	13
Weed Society Awards	15
17th NSW Weeds Conference Funding	16
Review of Weed Management	16
CAWS Report to Committee	16
Treasurer's Report to Committee	17
Society Details and Information	18

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PO Box 438 WAHROONGA NSW 2076

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Assistant Secretary: Warwick Felton



Large-flowered wood sorrel or four o'clock, *Oxalis purpurea*, is an introduced weed from South Africa and is found in lawns, roadside and vacant lands. It is classed as an environmental weed in several states. Both pink and white flowered forms occur.
Image: Lawrie Greenup.



Kim Hignell
President



Birgitte Verbeek
Vice President



Rex Stanton
Immediate Past President

2014 Committee Members



Ruth Armstrong



Doug Campbell



Hillary Cherry



Tony Cook



Maria Edmonds



Warwick Felton
Assistant Secretary



Lawrie Greenup
Editor



Reece Luxton



Michael Michelmores



Alan Murphy
Secretary



Jim Swain
Treasurer



Hanwen Wu
Assistant Editor



48th Annual General Meeting of The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.

The 48th Annual General Meeting of The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc. was held on Thursday, 21 November 2013, at Harrigan's Irish Pub, Broke Road, Pokolbin commencing at 11.00 am.

The following reports were tabled: Annual Report (Rex Stanton), Financial Report (Jim Swain) and Annual CAWS Report (Hillary Cherry). All reports were adopted.

The election of officers resulted in the following:

President & CAWS delegate - Kim Hignell

Vice President - Birgitte Verbeek

Immediate Past President - Rex Stanton

Secretary & Public Officer - Alan Murphy

Treasurer - Jim Swain

Committee - Ruth Armstrong, Doug Campbell, Hillary Cherry (CAWS Delegate), Tony Cook, Maria Edmonds, Warwick Felton (Assistant Secretary), Lawrie Greenup (Editor), Reece Luxton, Michael Michelmore, & Hanwen Wu (Assistant Editor).

Kim Hignell, President, welcomed the new executive and committee members.

2013 President's Report 48th Annual General Meeting The Weed Society of NSW Inc.



Societies such as this operate thanks to the tireless input of volunteer committee members and other interested parties. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the ongoing success and strength of this society, particularly those who have had to step forward in my absence.

Since first stepping into the president position six years ago, I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to work with a committed and experienced committee to achieve some significant milestones for the society. Firstly, I would like to report on the Society's performance over the past twelve months in the context of the strategic plan.

Meetings. Committee meetings are a vital part of ensuring the society continues to deliver benefits to members, as well as a forum to allow discussion with like-minded groups or forming responses to topical issues. Recent committees have had a diverse membership and been able to deliver good outcomes for the society. Regular meetings are a necessity to ensure the momentum is maintained.

Membership. Like all societies, retaining members is always an issue in today's busy environment. Providing tangible benefits is critical to retain existing members and attract new members. It is pleasing to note that the society continues to be the second largest weed society in the country.

Activities. The annual society seminar "*Using Herbicides Effectively in the Future*" was successfully held at the Hornsby RSL Club this year thanks to the efforts of a dedicated organising committee. A warm thank you to all those involved. The society also played a significant role in the 17th NSW Biennial Weeds Conference in Corowa through sponsorship, administration of the Buereckner and Stephenson Awards and hosting the Photographic Competition.

Awards. The contributions of Peter McMaugh, a society stalwart for many years, have been recognised by conferring of the Society Medal for Excellence.



2013 President's Report (Contd)

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

Sponsorship. I would like to thank all the sponsors of the society, ChemCert Australia, Dow AgroSciences, Scotts and Syngenta, for their continued support. This support contributes to our capacity to provide newsletters and seminars to the members and the wider community in general.

CAWS. The society continues to be a strong, active voice within CAWS, the national umbrella body for state weed societies.

Newsletters. I would like to thank Lawrie Greenup and Hanwen Wu for maintaining the high quality of the newsletter. Digitised copies of past newsletters are available through the website. The *Punnet Tray* is a new initiative this is circulated electronically to keep members informed of society news in between editions of the newsletter.

Website. The Society website has been overhauled and now provides much greater content. The layout of the website provides for easier navigation and more flexibility with managing content.

Over the past six years, the society has remained financially viable, with the sound guidance of the Treasurer allowing for society funds to be managed for the best interests of the society. The society profile has improved through a more dynamic website, increased avenues of communication, and a more active involvement with the biennial state conference. Several life memberships have been awarded in acknowledgment of the sustained input from several members. The strategic plan has provided a focus and direction for these society efforts, but this plan must continue to grow and evolve. The society has built a very strong platform from which new activities and services can be launched. It is time for a new leadership team to set the goals for the next few years.

Rex Stanton
President

2013 Treasurer's Report 48th Annual General Meeting The Weed Society of NSW Inc.



Membership.

The society has, as at the 30th September 2013, 177 members compared with 178 as at the 30th September 2013

Membership is made up of 4 life members with 37 who have not yet paid their 2012 members subscriptions. They will receive a reminder shortly and if payment is not received by the 31st December 2013 then, they will, whilst remaining as members cease to receive newsletters etc.

Those unfinancial for 2013 will be requested to pay the amount outstanding when 2014 tax invoices are sent in the New Year. Failure to pay the arrears by the 30th June 2014 will result in unfinancial members being removed from the membership list.

15 members who were in arrears for 2012 and 2013 had their names removed from the membership list on the 1st November 2013.

Sponsors

There are 4 sponsors of the newsletter, '**A Good Weed**', Dow AgroSciences, Scotts, Syngenta, ChemCert Australia.

Bayer Crop Science, Yamaha and Crop Optics have withdrawn their sponsorship and the society thanks them for their support over the years.

Financial Report.

The financial report for the financial year 1st October 2012 to 30th September 2013 is presented for approval



A full copy of the financial report can be seen on the website: www.nswweedsoc.org.au

The society made a loss of \$11,749.32 compared with a profit the previous year of \$7,900.55.

The loss for this financial year can be attributed to sponsorship provided by the 17th NSW Weeds Conference which was held in Corowra in September 2013 and an upgrade of the society's website.

Our income for the year is \$17,429.49 less than the previous year due to the fact that we did not receive our share of the profit from the 17th NSW Biennial conference future fund during this financial year.

Members' subscriptions are almost on a par with last year. If members paid their subscriptions on time then income would be \$1,480.00 higher than that reported.

We have continued to use the Bendigo Bank at Turramurra for the societies banking and have a cheque account together with the credit card facility.

In addition we have 3 term deposits with a total credit of \$69,124.53 with the Bendigo Bank.

The balance sheet shows that the society is in a sound financial position as total net assets are \$69,971.78. This is \$9,749.29 less than the previous year.

This is the situation at the end of the society's financial year and we can report that the society's share of the profit from the 17th NSW Biennial Weeds Conference will be \$17,485.45 thus increasing the balance sheet to \$87,456.23. This will enable the new committee to consider allocating funds to projects that meet the society's objectives.

In the previous year we had no income from seminars but we can report that the society ran a successful seminar in Hornsby in July 2013 which returned a profit of \$1,420.85.

NSW Weeds Conference Future Fund.

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

The Future Fund balance as at the 31st September 2013 is \$42,596.60 made up of a cheque account

with a balance of \$4,035.43 and 4 term deposits with a balance of \$38,560.17.

As the current treasurer has resigned as a member of the NSW Biennial Conference Future Fund Committee the Future Fund account will be transferred to the CBA at Tamworth as the term deposits mature.

Auditing Procedures

By law we do not need to have our accounts audited by an independent auditor and this year the accounts have been reviewed by an audit committee comprising Warwick Felton – Chair, Lawrie Greenup and Jim Swain.

It is recommended that this procedure continues and that the new committee appoint an audit committee.

Approval of Report

I would like to move that the financial report for the year ending the 30th September 2013 be approved; the statement by members of the committee signed and the recommendation re the appointment of an audit committee be approved.

Jim Swain.
Hon. Treasurer.
11th November 2013

Have you paid your 2012 membership?

Could those members who have not yet paid their 2012 membership subscriptions consider -

- paying them immediately, or
- advise the secretary or treasurer that they do not wish to continue as a member.

These actions will save the society money in chasing those members who are unfinancial and will ensure those that pay will continue to receive 'A Good Weed', e-newsletter Punnet Tray, and the many benefits offered by the Society

Jim Swain Treasurer



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



Peter McMaugh's knowledge on turf management is without peer in Australia. After graduating in Agricultural Science at the University of Sydney 50 years ago Peter came into the turf industry at a time when there were significant changes in demands for better turf management.



Peter McMaugh with his medal and framed certificate for Excellence in Weed Management presented to him on behalf of the Society by Warwick Felton.

Peter started his long and distinguished association with the turf industry in 1964 "trouble shooting for the NSW Bowling Association and later the NSW Golf Association". His first task involved examining the relationship between fertiliser treatments and weeds. His career in weeds and their management in turf had begun. He quickly learned from both his successes and failures that timing in herbicide applications was often more important than the products he was examining.

In 1974 Peter set up a turf production farm, Qualturf, and from 1979 Peter also ran a full-time consultancy, Turfgrass Scientific Services. Through this company he has assisted hundreds of fellow growers increase their productivity and profitability. He has also worked with many golf course architects to develop new courses.

Peter subsequently became interested in turf breeding and production at his property "QualTurf" at Windsor. Wintergreen is one of many widely used commercial couch grasses that he developed.

He also established himself as a highly regarded consultant through "Turfgrass Scientific Services". For example, he was responsible for Kerry Packer's Ellerston polo grounds in the Hunter Valley.

Peter always has had a close association with universities, NSW Department of Agriculture, chemical companies, and the Weed Society of New South Wales. He has been an active member of the Weeds Society ever since his days at the Australian Turf Research Institute. In those days co-operation was the key attitude between chemical providers and end users and samples and information were freely exchanged, and trial work carried out co-operatively.

His scientific expertise, innovation and commercial accomplishments saw many major projects come Peter's way including construction or turfing major sporting venues such as: Sydney Football Stadium, the Melbourne Cricket Ground, Fox Studios, Royal Randwick Racecourse, Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens, and seven polo fields at the late Kerry Packer's property.

Peter says the biggest challenge of his career was setting up turf farms in China. Over a 10-year period Peter established a turf farm in a geographically challenging area of China. It was both a technical and farming success and the model has been replicated all over China.

Peter is unquestionably the most eminent contributor to weed management in turf in Australia and it is appropriate for him to be recognised by the Weed Society of New South Wales.

Peter says "The thing I'm most proud of is still working in an industry in which I was the first scientist to work full time in Australia."

**Warwick Felton
21 November 2013**



Peter McMaugh's 'thank you' for his award presented at the 2013 Annual Luncheon.

Alan Murphy
Secretary
The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.

Alan,

I would like to express my gratitude to the board for presenting me with the 'Society Medal for Excellence in Weed Management'.

The award is one that as a very long-time member I will always cherish. Awards like this unfortunately never reflect all the help I have had over many years by my fellow society members. I cannot thank them enough.

When your peers think enough of you to make the award, it is a very great honour indeed and I thank you very much.

Regards
Peter
Turfgrass Scientific Services Pty Ltd

24 November 2013



Newly elected President, Kim Hignell (RHS) and Vice President, Birgitte Verbeek (LHS) with Rex Stanton, Immediate Past President (Centre).



Warwick Felton (RHS) presenting Peter McMaugh with his Excellence in Weed Management Medal.



Kim Hignell, newly elected President, addressing Society members and friends at the annual lunch. The committee thanks Kim for the effort she put in organising a very successful day in the heart of the wine producing Hunter Valley.



2013 Annual Report on the Council of Australasian Weed Societies for the Weed Society of New South Wales

1. Notable items of business

- A CAWS direction questionnaire was prepared and distributed. The majority of responses nominated that CAWS continue at current capacity in the four major activities of: 1) website, 2) Australasian Weeds Conference, 3) Awards and 4) an overarching body for member societies
- Based on the above survey, the CAWS strategic plan 2013-2018 was drafted and approved. Progress is underway to develop annual operational plans to address the 3 goals of the plan: organisational development, communication and advocacy. Each Action Plan will articulate potential initiatives and activities to achieve the respective strategic goal.
- Planning is underway for the 19th Australasian Weeds Conference. The conference is being organised by the Tasmanian Weed Society and will be held in Hobart, 1 – 4 September 2014. As the Tasmanian weed society is quite small, all members are being asked to please consider how they might be able to assist.
- A survey seeking member (and non-member) opinion on content, direction and timing of the Australasian weeds conference was developed and circulated through member societies (surveys close 10 Dec 2013). This information will be used to inform future direction and assist Tasmanian Weeds Society in planning the 19th AWC.
- A Northern Australia Weed Societies Network has been formed to facilitate communication between weed and pest animal researchers in Tropical Northern Australia
- Support for David Low's *Weed News* website was discontinued due to apparent conflicts of interest

Through a series of communications, CAWS now has closer ties with other Australasian organisations. In particular links were established with the Invasive Species Council and The Australian Weeds Committee, both of which have offered assistance and involvement in future Australasian Weeds Conferences (AWC)

2. Awards

This year we awarded CAWS Student Travel Awards CAWS travel awards to Jasmin Parker (INTECOL) and John Marshall (the 5th joint conference of the New Zealand Ecological Society and Ecological Society of Australia).

CAWS also provided financial support to Dr Roberto Distel who will present the CAWS oration at the International Grassland Congress.

3. Conferences

Planning is underway for the 19th Australasian Weeds Conference. The conference is being organised by the Tasmanian Weed Society and will be held in Hobart, 1 – 4 September 2014. As the Tasmanian weed society is quite small, all members are being asked to please consider how they might be able to assist.

4. CAWS finances

CAWS started the 2012/13 financial year with a bank balance of \$105,334.58 and finished with a bank balance of \$109,427.77. Major expenses include \$4,000.00 for travel awards and \$2,000 for the CAWS Orator.

5. CAWS Secretariat

At the CAWS AGM held in September 2013, Michael Widderick was re-elected as President and Anna-Marie Penna re-elected as Vice-President. The secretary and treasurer remain unchanged.



**Prepared by Hillary Cherry
CAWS delegate for NSW
21 November 2013**



INVITATION TO SUBMIT ABSTRACTS



19th Australasian Weeds Conference

**Science, Community and Food Security:
the Weed Challenge
1– 4 SEPTEMBER 2014**

**HOTEL GRAND CHANCELLOR
HOBART**



For any assistance with your abstract submission or conference details visit the website
australasianweeds2014.com.au or naomi@leishman-associates.com.au



WEEDS DOWN UNDER: Invasion of the sub-Antarctic wilderness of Macquarie Island

Laura Williams, University of New England, Armidale

Supervisors

Paul Kristiansen, Brian Sindel & Susan Wilson (University of New England)
& Justine Shaw (Australian Antarctic Division and University of Queensland)

The sub-Antarctic islands are some of the least inhabited and most protected ecosystems on the planet. Due to their isolation and low human visitation they have escaped the worst effects of alien plant invasion. The sub-Antarctic islands are all nature reserves due to their high conservation values. The sub-Antarctic climate is harsh and the vascular flora is relatively species poor, yet they support a number of endemic species. Despite the isolation of these islands, 108 alien plant species have become established since European discovery, posing threats to their biodiversity. *Poa annua* (winter grass) is the most widespread weed in the sub-Antarctic, present on all major island groups and is also spreading on the continental Antarctic Peninsula. The highly invasive capabilities of the grass are due to its high phenotypic and genotypic variability, wide tolerance of environmental conditions, and high fecundity. Its ability to withstand heavy grazing has enabled it to spread significantly on islands with introduced herbivores and it infests disturbed areas around settlements, seal wallows, penguin rookeries and glacial moraines.

Sub-Antarctic Macquarie Island is listed as a World Heritage Area for its unique geology and outstanding natural values. It has only 42 species of indigenous vascular plants. Since European discovery, five alien vascular plant species have established on Macquarie Island. Two have been eradicated, but *Poa annua*, *Cerastium fontanum* and *Stellaria media* remain. *Poa annua* is widespread on Macquarie Island and readily colonises disturbed areas and competes with native vegetation. It increases in response to rabbit grazing and the associated reduction in native vegetation. However the recent attempt to eradicate rabbits has resulted in another change in vegetation dynamics and now more than ever it is critical to understand the distribution and abundance of *P. annua* in this rapidly changing environment. Its current distribution on Macquarie Island is thought to be unprecedented.

Given the wide distribution of *P. annua* and the high likelihood of its expansion on the Antarctic continent and Australian-controlled Heard Island, this PhD study has been funded by the Australian Antarctic Division of the Commonwealth Government.

We aim to investigate the biology, ecology and management of *P. annua* to broaden the understanding of its invasion biology and assist in the development of non-native plant management protocols in the sub-Antarctic and Antarctic regions.

In situ experiments were established on Macquarie Island last summer which include studying the response of *P. annua* and native species to manual control, quantifying perennality in the population, biomass allocation studies and assessing seed longevity and viability. I will be monitoring these experiments this coming summer as well as studying *P. annua* germination and biomass allocation of the other weed species.

Ex situ experiments conducted at UNE, Armidale, include elucidating characteristics of the Macquarie Island soils, studying competition between *P. annua* and functionally equivalent native species, assessing herbicide efficacy and selectivity on *P. annua* and native species, quantifying the soil seedbank of *P. annua* and evaluating herbicide movement and persistence in sub-Antarctic soils under cold wet conditions.

Ongoing research will contribute to improving management of non-native species in the sub-Antarctic and Antarctic by investigating how invasive species function and the impact of management techniques, such as physical removal and herbicides, in these high conservation environments.

Further information:

Laura Williams

Email: llwilli63@une.edu.au



Poa annua growing on sub-Antarctic Macquarie Island. Image: Laura Williams.



Poa annua infests heavily disturbed areas such as land slips, penguin rookeries, around seal wallows and on walking tracks. Image Laura Williams.



Brian Sindel and Laura Williams working at a highly infested *Poa annua* site on Macquarie Island. Image Justine Shaw.



Using glyphosate to control glyphosate resistance barnyard grass - is it possible?

Tony Cook NSW Department of Primary Industries Tamworth

Previous research has suggested that glyphosate resistant plants, specifically awnless barnyard grass (BYG), can be controlled with glyphosate but only when very small. The critical growth stage when resistance expresses itself is beyond the early tillering stage.

Since then, NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) has indentified some populations with greater levels of resistance compared to the original population from Bellata. With the discovery of these new biotypes it raised the question: Could these plants be controlled at such early stages?

Work is currently underway to determine if some "super resistant" biotypes can be controlled with very high rates of glyphosate at early growth stages. Interim results indicate at survival of some individuals is possible despite 7.2L/ha of glyphosate 450 applied at the three leaf stage (figure 1). Increasing the rate to 12.8L/ha and applying herbicide at the three tiller stage results in more survival (figure 2).

These rates of herbicide are not registered and economically unrealistic. However, the experiment did investigate a more affordable rate of 1.6L/ha at the three leaf stage. A highly resistant biotype was temporarily stunted but regrew rapidly (figure 3). Any early application of glyphosate to control any portion of a GR population should clearly be followed up with an effective and alternative tactic to stop these survivors.

Although the technique of using glyphosate to control a large proportion of small glyphosate resistant BYG was possible, it appears this maybe a thing of the past. Some populations have such elevated levels of resistance that glyphosate rates required to kill a large proportion of small individuals becomes uneconomic. Registered rates of glyphosate seem to have negligible effects when applied to very small BYG.

Further Information:

Tony Cook Technical Specialist Weeds
Email: tony.cook@dpi.nsw.gov.au



Figure 1: 3 leaf BYG treated with 7.2L/ha glyphosate 450. Left: highly resistant biotype Right: susceptible. Note: One plant alive in HR biotype and is likely to recover. Image: Tony Cook.



Figure 2: 3 tillered BYG treated with 12.8L/ha glyphosate 450. Left and Centre: highly resistant biotypes Right: susceptible. Note: handful of plants alive in HR biotypes. Image: Tony Cook.



Figure 3: 3 leaf BYG treated with 1.6L/ha glyphosate 450. Left: highly resistant biotypes Right: susceptible. Plants re-sprouting due to lower rate and no plant deaths! Image: Tony Cook.



Basal bark technique for woody weed control

Jim Phimister Dow AgroSciences

A highly effective yet underutilised method of managing noxious and environmental weeds is the basal bark technique.

For weeds up to 5 cm basal diameter that are single or multistemmed, herbicides like Access™, Starane Advanced™ or Garlon™ 600 that have been formulated to mix with an oil based penetrant/carrier give very high levels of control. The most widely available, cheapest commonly used penetrant or carrier is diesel. Access is used in a ratio of 1 part herbicide to 59 parts diesel in a 60 L mix. With standard basal bark application, you need to make sure you liberally treat the whole circumference of each stem from ground level to a height of 30 cm, wetting thoroughly to the point of runoff. Ensure all stems on multi-stemmed plants are treated.



An alternate carrier, Biosafe, available from Green and Gold lubricants, has been tested on smooth barked species and found to be equally effective as diesel. Whilst more expensive it is more pleasant to use and has a better occupational health and safety profile than diesel.

A new technique called **ThinLine™** has recently been developed.

ThinLine application is a modified version of basal bark application. For smooth stemmed species including some *Acacia* spp. (black wattle, brigalow, hickory wattle, mulga, sally wattle & silver wattle), cockspur thorn, *Corymbia* spp., *Leucaena* and *Parkinsonia*, mix Access or Biosafe at **1:9** and treat the stem of the plant from ground level up to 5 cm high. This technique uses less carrier (78% reduction) and reduces the time (48% reduction) required to treat each stem compared to conventional basal bark spraying.



Further information:

visit www.woodyweedspecialists.com.au



Dow AgroSciences

Dow Agrosciences has been a long-term sponsor of the Society and the Society would like to thank them for their support.



Field madder *Richardia stellaris* in couch lawn. Image: Lawrie Greenup.



Getting on top of silverleaf nightshade

Hanwen Wu NSW Department of Primary Industries Wagga Wagga

NSW Department of Primary Industries and Murrumbidgee Landcare have a new collaborative project funded by Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) which will target perennial summer weeds such as silverleaf nightshade (*Solanum elaeagnifolium*, Cav.) across the five states of Qld, NSW, Victoria, SA and WA.

Silverleaf nightshade has recently been listed as a Weed of National Significance in Australia. It is an introduced perennial weed that can dominate pastures and cropping areas. It can reduce crop yields by as much as 20- 40% by taking moisture and nutrients over summer and autumn that could otherwise be used by the following crops. In pasture paddocks it can reduce growth of productive species and render areas useless for livestock grazing. It reproduces from both seed and root fragments so can be difficult to control by conventional means. Many common farm activities such as livestock movement and cultivation will spread this weed.

Recent surveys of grower practices have shown that many farmers are not fully aware of the extent of the problem on their farms and that adoption of effective control methods has been inadequate. Silverleaf nightshade is often not specifically targeted as it occurs in many situations as scattered infestations and if not treated over the long term will re-establish. It has been a frustration for many farmers that efforts to control it have failed and it has spread to other areas of the farm. Recent research has shown that a systematic “Dual Action” approach over the growing season from spring to autumn is needed. In many cases more expensive residual herbicides may be required to be used in conjunction with normal summer weed programs to give effective control of silverleaf nightshade.

This newly-funded project will utilise the existing Landcare networks and farmer groups to build local knowledge and capacity and to foster the adoption of the research by farm communities. Large scale demonstrations carried out by local farmers will compare current research with the standard farmer practices. A series of workshops and field days complimented by media articles is planned to raise awareness of the problem and to get wider adoption of best practices.

Project officer Phil Bowden from Cootamundra, NSW will be looking for participating growers for on-farm demonstrations across diverse geographical regions. Research data collected from these demonstrations will be shared between farmers across the five states. Research updates will be made available through the farmer groups and Landcare networks.



Silverleaf nightshade, *Solanum elaeagnifolium*, plant with flowers and fruit.



Silverleaf nightshade, *Solanum elaeagnifolium*, young plants.

If you require a workshop on silverleaf nightshade management, please contact:

Phil Bowden on 0427 201 946) or email silverleafnightshade@murrumbidgeelandcare.asn.au.



NSW Weed Awareness Campaign

Jessica Grantley NSW Department of Primary Industries Grafton

Look out for weeds is the call to action for the newest theme in the NSW Department of Primary Industries NSW No Space 4 Weeds campaign. **Look out for weeds** promotes the early detection of weeds and the role of the wider community in looking out for potentially weedy plants.

This new theme is supported by a set of display resources and the weeds vehicle which has been created using a contemporary form of mobile outdoor advertising - known as vehicle wrapping. The weeds vehicle is collaboration between NSW Department of Primary Industries and Clarence Valley Council.

One of Clarence Valley Council's weeds officer's work vehicles has been wrapped to create a strong visual impression around the issue of weeds. The weed images themselves act as an attention grabbing device, rather than representing actual weeds in a technical or scientific way. The vehicle driver becomes a representative of the brand, spreading the word through their daily travel. The idea is that the weeds vehicle will attract people's attention, spark some interest in the issue of weeds, and the weeds officer is then able to provide more technical information or advice.



Reece Luxton's (Society member) wrapped vehicle.

The concept of vehicle wrapping aims to create lasting and meaningful visual impressions. This approach has become increasingly popular in advertising, promotions, marketing and public relations and many corporate branding departments have adopted it as part of their outdoor marketing strategies.

The technique involves completely or partially covering a vehicle in an advertisement, creating a mobile billboard. Large vinyl sheets are custom printed and applied as decals to all external surfaces of a vehicle, and can be removed or changed relatively easily. The effectiveness of this type of advertising is very high - research in the United States shows it to have a recall rate of 97%, with 80% recall of the specific graphics and text used in the wrap. In America, vehicle wrapping has resulted in sales increases of 107%. The vehicle wrap was completed locally in Grafton by Valley Signs and Printing.

The **look out for weeds** theme promotes early detection and surveillance of weeds, and the role of the wider community in looking out for potentially weedy plants. Early detection and surveillance offer the most strategic and cost effective form of weeds management. Early detection of weeds increases the likelihood that control will be successful and reduces costs as infestations can be treated when they are less extensive. The community can help with early detection of weedy plants by knowing what to look for, where to look, when to look, and who to contact.

The theme presents the following information:

What to look for

- plants that spread and take over
- plants you didn't plant
- unusual plants you haven't seen before

Where to look

- gardens, paddocks, fencelines, waterways, bushland, roads, tracks, stockyards, holding paddocks, worksites

When to look

- when cultivating, planting and irrigating
- when moving or feeding livestock
- after floods, fires or introducing gravel sand, soil or turf

Who to contact

- your local council weeds officer
- the NSW Weeds Hotline 1800 680 244
- email: weeds@dpi.nsw.gov.au
- web: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds





Awards of the Weed Society of New South Wales

(Details of all awards at www.nswweedsoc.org.au)

Life Membership



Life membership is a special honour given to recognise outstanding commitment, service, and support to the society for a long period of time - 30 years of continuous membership, five years on the executive and holding executive or committee positions of president, secretary, treasurer or editor for at least two years.

Past Recipients: 2011 Mike Barrett; 2011 Jim Swain;
2003 Alex McLennan; 2002 Kelvin Green;
1999 Nelson Johnson; 1989 Peter Michael;
1976 Eric Cuthbertson.

Medal for Excellence in Weed Management



The Society provides a Medal for Excellence periodically to recognise the sustained and influential contributions made by an individual to weed management in New South Wales.

The Awards Committee calls for nominations from Society members with a closing date of **30 August** each year.

Past Recipients: 2013 Peter McMaugh; 2011 Warwick Felton;
2010 Jim Swain; 2010 Rex Stanton;
2007 Lawrie Greenup; 2004 Alan Murphy;
2003 Mike Barrett; 2002 Alec McLennan ;
2001 Hugh Milvain.

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.

The **Buerckner Award** is for the outstanding contributions to on-ground control of weeds in NSW. The **Stephenson Award** is for outstanding contribution to planning and coordinating weed management programs in NSW.

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 next NSW Biennial Weeds Conference in 2015 (Buerckner Award recipient) or the 19th Australasian Weeds Conference in Tasmania in 2014 (Stephenson Award recipient).

Under-graduate Award

An annual award to under-graduate students at participating universities who teach a weed science course, who have been recognised by the Faculty for excelling in this subject.

The Society offers a \$250 prize with the award but this only will be provided if the weeds course is sufficiently comprehensive to warrant support. Nominations are made by the participating institutions.

Society Travel Grant

Successful applicants receive financial assistance to attend conferences, or to travel on 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, involved in an aspects of weed management, and have been a current member of the Society for at least one year.



17th NSW Weeds Conference Funding

A total of \$15,000 was provided to Corowa Shire Council as seed funding for the 17th NSW Weeds Conference and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was established which incorporated distribution of any surplus funds. The MOU stipulated that surplus funds from the Conference be divided 33.3% to Corowa Shire Council, 33.3% to The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc., and 33.3% to the Conference Future Fund.

\$35,496.93 and a refund of the \$15,000 seed funding was deposited into the Conference Future Fund Account - received from Corowa Shire Council at the completion of the Conference. \$17,748.38 of this was transferred into The Weeds Society of NSW Inc., account as per the requirements of MOU.

The current **Conference Future Fund Committee** consists of Tony Cook and Warwick Felton, representing The Weeds Society of NSW Inc., Birgitte Verbeek, representing NSW Department of Primary Industries, and David Pomery, representing the NSW Weeds Officers Association

Birgitte Verbeek NSW DPI 13 December 2013

Review of Weed Management in NSW

The Weed Society of New South Wales has made a submission to an issue paper - Review of Weed Management in NSW - coordinated by the Natural Resources Commission (NRC). The NRC is undertaking an independent evaluation of the effectiveness and efficiency of weed management arrangements in NSW and is asking for inputs from stakeholders.

The Society asked members to read the review paper and provide their views to Kim Hignell who coordinated the Society's response. Comments were received from a number of members representing a variety of weed management disciplines.

Overall, the Society welcomed the greater focus on preventing the arrival of new weeds or eradicating new arrivals in an area and examining ways to coordinate weed management with broader biosecurity initiatives within NSW.

Council of Australasian Weed Societies (CAWS)

The Australasian Weeds Conference will be held 1- 4 Sept in Hobart, and program development is underway. The **CALL FOR PAPERS** has been released – so get your abstracts in soon <http://australasianweeds2014.com.au/call-for-papers/>

Please note that there are **CAWS Awards** available that support conference attendance, as well as a range of student and travel awards.
<http://www.caws.org.au/awards.php>

Applications are invited from people working with weeds for an award to assist with their travel to the Australasian Weeds Conference (AWC). The award is intended to support people physically working with weed control in roles such as noxious weeds officers, local government staff, weed control contractors and coordinators of community weed control initiatives.

CAWS formed 3 new subcommittees to implement operational plan actions: 1) Communications, 2) Advocacy and Promotion and 3) Organisational development. Each of these subcommittees will refine an annual action plan that will work towards achieving the three goals in the CAWS 5-Year Strategic Plan (NB. I'll attach the draft action plans here and you can copy the goals from each one if you need more text to fill the space).

Over the next year, CAWS hopes to become more proactive in communicating weed issues and acting as advocates of member societies to advocate for improved weed management outcomes. And WE NEED YOUR HELP! If you are interested in working with any of these CAWS subcommittees, please contact Hillary Cherry or Kim Hignell, the NSW CAWS Representatives.



Hillary Cherry CAWS Delegate 12 December 2013



Treasurer's Report

Financial Report

For the period 30th September 2013 to the 9th December the society has shown a profit of \$ 9,106.17 due to the return of \$17,484.45 which is the society's share of the profits from the 17th NSW Biennial Weeds Conference.

As a result of the return from the NSW Weeds Conference \$10,000.00 was transferred to a Bendigo Bank term deposit - 2505.

The AGM meeting and lunch incurred a loss of \$244.10.

The Balance Sheet shows that the society is in a sound financial position with total equity of \$83,577.95 and is in a position to support projects that meets its objectives. However we need to ensure that any activities such as seminars return a profit or at least break even as it will be 2015 before we can expect returns of the magnitude we received for the 17th Biennial Weeds Conference.

It would appear that the society has assumed responsibility for some of the costs that in previous years the DPI paid and this should be taken into account in subsequent years when the contract is being drawn up in regard to funding of the NSW Biennial Weeds Conference.

Membership.

As at the 30th September 2013 the society has 177 members which include 4 life members.

126 members have paid their 2013 subscriptions which were due on the 1st June 2013.

37 are in arrears for 2013 and a reminder notice has been sent to them advising that payment is due.

15 members are in arrears for 2012 and 2013 and their names will be removed from the membership list on the 1st November 2013 – these have been sent a final reminder notice but to date with no responses.

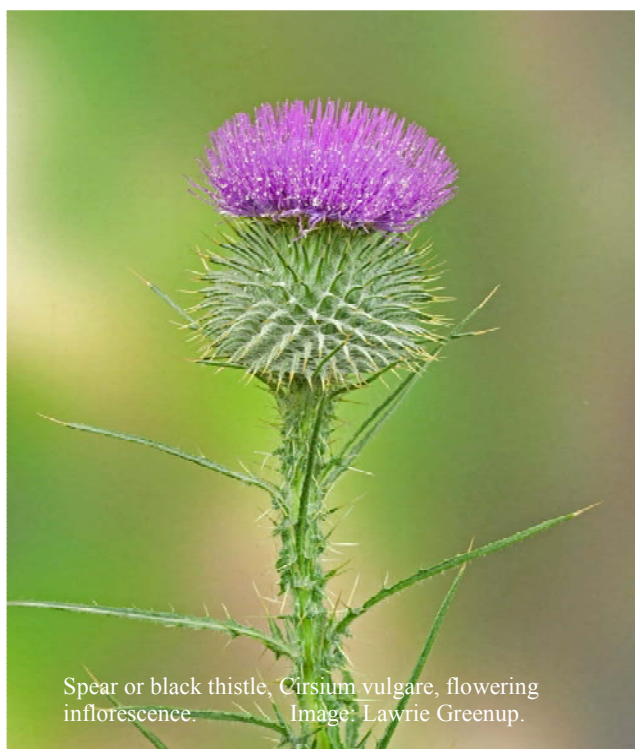
Sponsors.

Bayer Environmental Science and Yamaha Sky Division have withdrawn their sponsorship of 'A Good Weed'. ChemCert Australia, Dow Agro-Sciences, Scotts Australia and Syngenta Crop Protection have continued as financial sponsors.

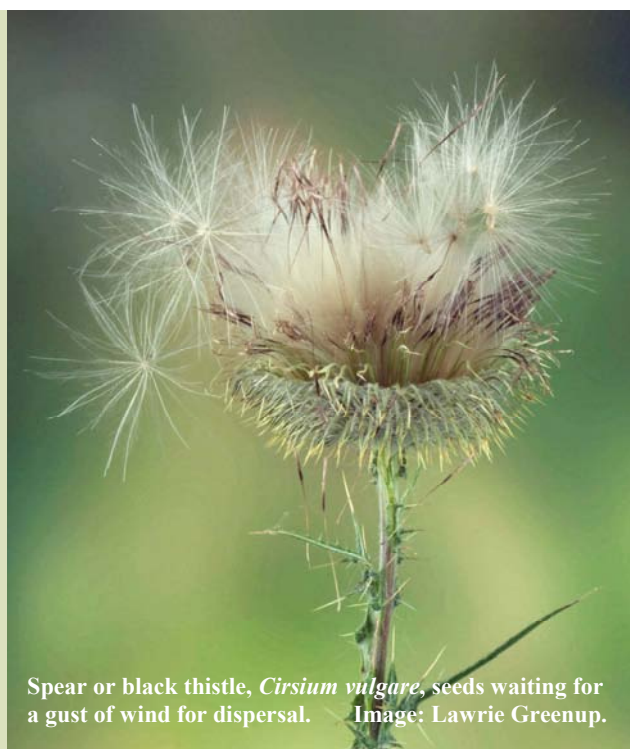
Jim Swain Treasurer 10 December 2014



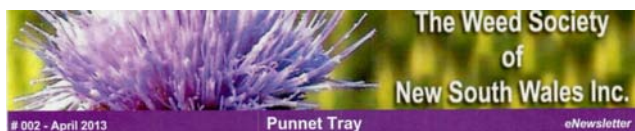
Jim Swain Treasurer 10 December 2014



Spear or black thistle, *Cirsium vulgare*, flowering inflorescence. Image: Lawrie Greenup.



Spear or black thistle, *Cirsium vulgare*, seeds waiting for a gust of wind for dispersal. Image: Lawrie Greenup.



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 & is your email address up-to-date?

Do you wish to be included in the email distribution list? If so, contact the secretary at secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au. Also, let us know if you have changed your email address.

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



Society Information

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

Committee Meeting Details (to be confirmed)

14 February 2014 Executive Committee Meeting
11 April 2014 Executive Committee Meeting
13 June 2014 Executive Committee Meeting
8 August 2014 Executive Committee Meeting
10 October 2014 Executive Committee Meeting
12 December 2014 Executive Committee Meeting
20 November 2014 AGM and Lunch/Dinner



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 2014 are:

#66 Autumn 2014 28 February 2014
#67 Winter 2014 31 May 2013
#68 Spring 2014 31 August 2014
#68 Summer 2014/15 30 November 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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