

A GOOD WEED



Newsletter of The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.

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#67 Winter 2014



King Penguins inspecting the *Poa annua* survey method at Hurd Point, Macquarie Island.

Macquarie Island is a phenomenally wild and beautiful speck of land in the Australian sub-Antarctic. Well-known for the recent successful eradication of all rats, rabbits and mice, and its astounding abundance of wildlife. However it is not pristine – three alien plant species are present including the most common, *Poa annua*, which competes with native species. Image: Laura Williams.



President's Report

Firstly, I would like to congratulate the two students who have won the Society's Undergraduate Award. They are Chloe Roberts, Charles Sturt University and Harry Pye, University of New England. Their award is \$250 plus 12 months honorary membership of the Society. This prize is awarded to a student enrolled in a unit towards a rural science or agriculture degree who have distinguished themselves in a course which must include a weed science component.

The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) has released a draft report outlining findings and recommendations for its review of weed management in NSW. The draft report has been informed by research, consultation and over 200 public submissions in response to the initial issues paper, released in October 2013. The NRC consulted with stakeholders in March with eight public meetings across the state, which hopefully many of our members attended. The Society asked members to read this report and to provide further comments to me so I could write a co-ordinated response on behalf of the Society. Thank you to all the members who provided their comments. The final report was due by end of May and I am waiting impatiently for it to be released.

The 19th Australasian Weeds Conference is getting closer, the preliminary program is now online and I would find it hard to choose which sessions to attend. There are some great topics to be presented. I am looking forward to hear the CAWS Oration from keynote speaker Professor Daniel Simberloff, University of Tennessee with his presentation on "Plant the white flag or raise the battle standards." I hope that you can get the opportunity to attend this conference. The early bird special is still available until 4 July.

The first meeting of the 2015 NSW Weeds Conference Committee was held in Cooma on 7 May 2014. Conference meeting dates were discussed and after considering issues as the end of the 2015 Ski season, the NSW/ACT school holidays and the Labour Day long weekend, it was decided that the dates for the next conference be set for the 12th to 15th October 2015. So place this date into your calendars.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries has released a proposed biosecurity framework for protecting NSW that outlines the legislative tools and powers required to manage pests, diseases, weeds

and contaminants in NSW. The framework will be used to form the basis of the NSW Biosecurity Act, which will support the national agreed principle that biosecurity is a shared responsibility. The NSW Biosecurity Act will wholly or partly replace 14 pieces of existing legislation to form one piece of cohesive, innovative legislation.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries invited biosecurity stakeholders to participate in a webinar on Thursday, 19 June 2014, to be informed about the NSW Government's biosecurity plan, particularly the management of risks and threats.

Our Society will be providing feedback on the draft Framework and more information on the proposed Framework is available at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Last, but not least, I would like to welcome all of our new members to the Society. Hope that you enjoy the benefits of being a member of our wonderful Society.



*Happy weeding 'till
the spring issue.*

Kim Hignell
President

Welcome to New Members

Mal Arney, ACT.

Michael Andrews,
SE Local Land Services, Wollongong.

Craig Gale,
Complete Weed Maintenance, Cabarita Beach.

Tony Gilson, Belmont.

Annabelle Guest,
Agricultural Development, Narrabri.

Mark Hamilton,
National Parks & Wildlife Service, Hurstville.

Alex Kay,
Sensis P/L.

Chloe Roberts, Charles Sturt University.
*Weed Society of NSW Undergraduate Award
recipient.*



Chloe Roberts, CSU, & Harry Pye, UNE Winners of the Weed Society of New South Wales Undergraduate Award

Congratulations to the winners of the Society's Undergraduate Award - Chloe Roberts, Charles Sturt University, and Harry Pye, University of New England.

Chloe Roberts Charles Sturt University

Chloe Roberts is from Molong, NSW, and she is in her 3rd year B Agricultural Science at Charles Sturt University. She was the recipient of the Weed Society of NSW Award as a result of obtaining the highest aggregate mark in AGS301 Weed and Pesticide Sciences



Tim West, Dean, Faculty of Science, presenting Chloe Roberts with her Undergraduate Award.

Chloe is interested in plant and soil sciences and she is particularly passionate about sustainable agriculture and the prospect of an international movement towards greater sustainability in order to maintain our growing global population and increase food security.

Harry Pye University of New England

Harry Pye was the 2013 recipient of the Society's Undergraduate Award at the University of New England.

Harry, enrolled in the Bachelor of Rural Science degree, was judged by the School of Environmental and Rural Science to have distinguished himself in a weed science component in a rural science unit.

The Weed Society of New South Wales Undergraduate Award

Weeds cost the Australian economy billions of dollars annually, so it is appropriate that universities adequately train future agriculturalists and environmental managers on the diversity of weed species, their adaptation and impact, and management. These complexities cannot be learned from just a few first year lectures. Eligibility for the award is based on a 2nd and/or 3rd year module of at least one term of lectures on weeds as the minimum requirement.

The Weed Society of New South Wales supports an annual award to undergraduate students at participating universities who teach a weed science course, who have been recognised by the Faculty for excelling in this subject.

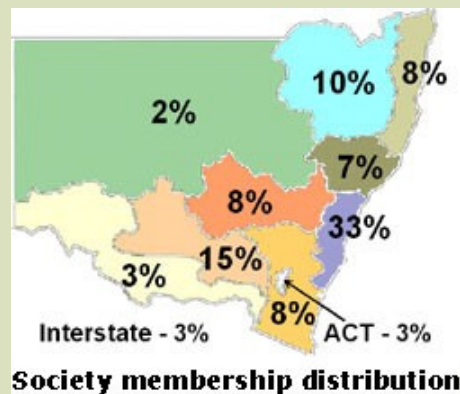
The Society offers a \$250 prize with the award and 12 months complimentary membership but this only will be provided if the weeds course is sufficiently comprehensive to warrant support.

Nominations are made by the participating institutions.

Are your colleagues or friends members of the Society?

The Society welcomes new members to participate in Society activities and to ensure of the future of weed science and weed management. Why not ask your colleagues or friends who are not members to join up and share the benefits of membership.

Check out the website www.nswweedsoc.org.au





19th Australasian Weeds Conference

Science, Community and Food Security: the Weed Challenge

Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart - 1-4 Sept 2014
www.australasianweeds2014.com.au



Keynote Speakers:



DANIEL SIMBERLOFF



KAREENA ARTHY



STEPHEN HOPPER



KEITH PENGILLEY



GREG FRASER



HUGH GRIFFITHS



LUCY WOOLFORD



IAN SAUER

Preliminary Program out NOW!

To view please visit www.australasianweeds2014.com.au

Field Trips:



1. Agricultural Field Day: Southern Midlands & Coal River Valley



2. Weed culture in the wilds of Hobart: Mt Wellington, Rivulet & MONA



3. Southern weeds and island cheese: Kingborough, the Huon valley & Bruny Island



4. Weeds in a post-bushfire landscape: an Expedition to the East. Sorell, Dunalea & Pittwater/Oreton



Have a question? Contact us!
Leishman Associates
emma@leishman-associates.com.au
P 03 6234 7844





18th NSW Weeds Conference October 2015 - Cooma NSW



Preparations for the 18th NSW Weeds Conference 2015 in Cooma are in full swing with a local committee group securing plans, venues and dates for the event.

The 2015 conference will be held in Cooma from 12th – 15th October. This is historically a lovely time of year in Cooma & the Snowy Mountains region – as the snow begins to melt and the blossoms bloom.

The backdrop of the snow capped Mountain ranges usually hangs around until early November and makes for spectacular views from the right vantage point.

We plan to combine the four day informative conference with some of the unique features of Australia's high country. Whilst the conference will be held in the bustling township of Cooma, the planned field trips will get you out and about and will include some special treats that can only be found in this unique part of the world.

Save the date 12th - 15th October 2015 and stayed tuned for more information to come.

Team Cooma



Floriade 2014

13 September – 12 October 2014

Canberra's national award-winning spring festival returns in 2014 with more than one million blooms on display throughout Commonwealth Park.

This year's theme is "Passion". There will be garden beds full of colour, horticultural workshops, engaging demonstrations, children's entertainment and the ticketed twilight event, NightFest.

During **week four** audiences can get up close and personal with nature, take part in sustainability workshops and grab gardening tips from experts in the field, including Q&A on pest control for insects, diseases and weeds.

Further information: www.floriadeaustralia.com



Jenolan Caves - Sycamore Wars Christopher Indyka the bush doctor (nsw) pty ltd

Jenolan Caves is famous for being one of the world's most extensive and elaborate caves systems as well as the world's oldest cave complex at 340 million years old. However what is happening above-ground of late is of equal interest.

The Sycamore maple tree (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) is an introduced deciduous plant that lives for nearly 450 years. It has spread outward into adjacent bushland covering an area of approximately 50 hectares, from original plantings established around Caves House in the early 1890s to help beautify this popular tourist destination. The subsequent seed escape and infestation is impacting upon local biodiversity values of the Reserve as well as the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.



Sycamore maples, bright green foliage, spreading up the slope by wind, Jenolan Caves. Image: Christopher Indyka.

Reaching heights of 35 metres with a dense evergreen canopy, the ability to produce up to 10,000 wind-dispersed seeds at maturity and having a fast growth rate have all helped the Sycamore Maple be successful at displacing native vegetation and taking over adjacent bushland to such a degree that many areas have become a virtual monoculture.

The clever *samara* (a dry fruit where one seed is surrounded by papery tissue) attached to the Sycamore seed acts like a helicopter blade, allowing it to float by itself as far as 80 metres away from its parent and as far as a couple of kilometres in strong winds. This is evident at Jenolan as satellite infestations have been mapped 1.8kms away from the main source-point.



Sycamore seeds which are 5-10 mm in diameter and are paired in samaras, each with a 20-40 mm long wings. Image: mrpbps/Flickr.

Whether bright green during the warmer months, yellow and orange shades during autumn or ghostly white sticks in winter, once you get your eye in for the Sycamores you can easily spot them and appreciate the scale of what is hiding on the hills.

The Sycamore monoculture can be daunting once you enter under the shade of the dense canopy and realise how outnumbered you actually are.

Previous Sycamore control has been undertaken a number of times over the last two decades. Efforts have been made by the Caves Reserve Trust and via external bodies such as the Sydney Catchment Authority. However the absence of follow-up work or the continuity of funding has seen works stall, hindering any lasting success with areas becoming re-infested.

Currently led by National Parks & Wildlife Service, grants from the NSW Environmental Trust and federal government via the Central West Local Land Services (formerly Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority) have now enabled a long term management strategy to be developed and implemented. This has subsequently allowed chemical and seasonal trials to be conducted and monitored in regard to efficacy, and applied to an ongoing strategic attack on the Sycamore problem.



Jenolan Caves Sycamore Wars



Quick regeneration after primary control works.
Image: Christopher Indyka.

Since 2008 the program has developed, incorporating results into an annual works program for professional bush regeneration contract works and volunteer weekends.

These efforts have been able to help contain the infestation, rate of spread and help provide significant inroads into the problem. Works are currently funded until early 2017 with volunteer weekends held four times annually.

Restoring the Jenolan landscape is no longer a matter of if it can be done, but rather how it is being done and by a matter of when.

Further information:

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/parkVolunteering.aspx?id=N0351

2014 volunteer weekend dates are currently posted on the www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/Whats-On/blue-mountains/sycamore-war-volunteer-weeding-jenolan-caves

Development of Invasive Species Plan 2015-2022 update for stakeholders April 2014

The highly regarded NSW Invasive Species Plan 2008-2015 is nearing the end of its lifespan. In preparation for this, Biosecurity NSW has commenced the development of the NSW Invasive Species Plan 2015-2022. A Working Group has been formed with broad partner and stakeholder representation, including National Parks & Wildlife Service, Local Land Services, Local Council and Weeds Officers, State Forests and NSW Farmers.

The Working Group is determined that the new Plan maintains the clarity and concise nature of the original NSW Invasive Species Plan, while including updates on novel control techniques and new management initiatives at the national and state levels. To achieve this, the Working Group will be seeking input from technical experts, practitioners and stakeholders. The new Plan will also seek to clarify roles and responsibilities of partners and stakeholders in NSW.

The NSW Invasive Species Plan 2015-2022 will be closely aligned with the NSW Biosecurity Strategy and will also reflect the final outcomes of the current NRC Weeds Review and the revised Australian Pest Animal Strategy.

The new Plan is expected to be completed in early 2015.

Further information:

Jane Frances
Manager Invasive Species Strategy & Planning
NSW Department of Primary Industries

Email: jane.frances@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Are you interested in a plant collection?

Gary Byrne, Society member, has a collection of weed and street tree specimens assembled for a horticultural course in Canberra some years back. Rather than discard it, Gary was wondering if someone in the Society may like to have it. The specimens are on A4 cardboard sheets in boxed groups and are a bit delicate to post. Scientific names will be from yesteryear.

If interested contact Gary Byrne, 144 Coal Point Road, Coal Point NSW 2283 E: gntbyrne@hotmail.com



Lantana leaf-mining beetle – a blast from the past!

Kim Hignell, Vegetation & Pest Management Coordinator,
Lake Macquarie City Council

In April, while inspecting an established nursery site for a biological agent, I noticed that there was something wrong with the lantana growing in and around the nursery. When I got closer I noticed that there was a lot of leaf miner damage. I wondered what could be causing the damage as I know I had not released any lantana biocontrol agent in my local government area. Upon further investigation I saw what looked like caterpillar droppings on the leaves but on closer inspection they were beetles, not droppings.

I had just found a biocontrol agent that was released in Australia back in 1966, a beetle which I had never seen before.

The beetle was the lantana leaf-miner *Octotoma scabripennis*, one of the most widely distributed and seasonally damaging lantana insects in Australia. The beetle causes the greatest damage in late summer and autumn, when plants can become defoliated, causing plants to become stunted and produce fewer flowers and seeds. The adults feed on the upper surfaces of leaves, leaving small scarification marks. The eggs are laid on the edge of these marks. After hatching, the larvae feeds in the middle leaf layers causing the mining trails over the leaves. When fully fed the larva pupates in the leaf. The life cycle from egg to adult is between 35 to 45 days, the adults living up to 9 months.

The beetles seem to be very prominent on lantana along the central coast this year and let's hope that they continue to increase in numbers in the area.

I, for one, am looking forward to finding them amongst the lantana over the next summer/autumn season.

Further information:

Lantana, *Lantana camara*
Fact Sheet Declared Class 3 Pest Plants.
PP34 June 2013
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Biosecurity Queensland.

www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/publications/guidelines/wons/pubs/l-camara



Lantana leaf-mining beetle, *Octotoma scabripennis*, closely resembling caterpillar frass. Image: Kim Hignell.



Lantana leaf showing mining caused by larvae of the lantana leaf-mining beetle. Image: Kim Hignell.



Extensive leaf mining damage caused by the feeding by lantana leaf-mining beetle larvae. Image: Kim Hignell.



WEEDS - YOU CAN WIN!

A case study in Salvinia Control - Salvinia on Quorrobolong Creek

History

The origin of salvinia infestations on Quorrobolong Creek is not known, although throughout the 1980's there are reports of salvinia infesting Ellalong Lagoon, into which drains Quorrobolong creek. The infestation covers an area of approximately five hectares, with total coverage of the Lagoon up to 200mm thick in the early 1990's. This infestation was eradicated in the mid 1990's and there have been no re-infestations in the Quorrobolong Creek/ Ellalong Lagoon system until this outbreak in 2005.

The Infestation

The 2005 infestation covered a stretch of Quorrobolong Creek between Ellalong and Paxton. This stretch of creek is approximately one and a half kilometres long and varies in width from ten metres up to sixty metres. Quorrobolong Creek drains westward onto Ellalong Lagoon and thence into Congewai Creek. The total area covered by salvinia was estimated (conservatively) at three hectares.

Control Works

Several control options were considered to control this infestation. It was decided that a combination of physical removal with a harvester for the bulk of the salvinia followed by herbicide treatments would provide the most effective control. Cessnock City Council weeds staff coordinated the physical removal and carried out the follow up herbicide treatments.

Approximately 500 tonnes of Salvinia was removed and deposited on an adjoining property to dry out.



Salvinia being sprayed between containment booms.



Quorrobolong Creek 2005, before salvinia removal.



Quorrobolong Creek 2014 - no salvinia!



Harvester at work in the salvinia infestation.

Further information:

Barry Shepherd
Weeds Coordinator, Cessnock City Council
Phone: (02) 49934100
barry.shepherd@cessnock.nsw.gov.au



Ecology and control of *Poa annua* on sub-Antarctic 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 & University of Queensland)

As reported previously in A Good Weed, #65 Summer 2013/14, I am undertaking my PhD field work on sub-Antarctic Macquarie Island, a World Heritage Area where there are three introduced vascular plant species. I am studying the ecology and control of one of these weeds, *Poa annua* or wintergrass.

The ecology side of the project involves studying the longevity of *P. annua*, seed bank dynamics, seed longevity and viability and competition with native species. The control side involves establishing physical disturbance trials, herbicide selectivity trials and studying herbicide persistence and movement through the soil.

This season I spent nearly four months on Macquarie Island, hiking around to check on the sites I established last season. Field work on Macquarie Island is an incredible, though taxing experience. Transport is by foot, through mountainous terrain whilst lugging a heavy pack in often very wet, windy and cold conditions. However the abundant wildlife, stunning scenery and amazing people make up for the hardships.

Some initial results collected over the summer indicate *P. annua* is a perennial (rather than an annual) on Macquarie Island. Analysis of soil cores show seed is highly abundant in sites where *P. annua* cover is high, with several hundred seeds in the top centimetre of a 5 cm diameter soil core! Fresh seed has high viability but analysis of exhumed seed bags indicate the seed is short lived and viability quickly declines over time. The physical disturbance trials show that all of the treatments (scalping; hoeing and churning; hand-pulling and trimming) all promote the growth of *P. annua* over native species, which is to be expected given the plant is favoured by disturbance.

Live plants and soil cores were brought back to Australia for use in experiments at the University of New England (UNE). Some plants will be used to build on a herbicide selectivity experiment in which three herbicides (glyphosate, trifloxysulfuron and rimsulfuron) were found to selectively control

P. annua at cold temperatures. Others will be used to study the competitive ability of *P. annua* against three native grass species. Soil cores will be used to look at the persistence and movement of glyphosate through Macquarie Island soils.

The results from this field season look promising and I hope to return next season to collect another set of data. For anyone travelling to the 19th Australasian Weeds Conference, in Hobart, I will be giving a more in depth presentation on the control of *P. annua* on Macquarie Island.



Surveying a physical disturbance trial at The Nuggets, Macquarie Island, with Royal Penguins in the background. Image: Luis Pertierra.

Further information:

Laura Williams
Email: lwilli63@une.edu.au



Poa annua inhabiting disturbed ground on the coast, Macquarie Island



Macquarie Island, east coast escarpment and featherbed. Image:Kris Carlyon.



Royal Penguin sitting amongst *Poa annua*.
Image: Laura Williams.



Megaherb, *Pleurophyllum hookeri*
Image: Laura Williams.

Macquarie Island

Macquarie Island has outstanding universal value for two reasons. First, it provides a unique opportunity to study, in detail, geological features and processes of oceanic crust formation and plate boundary dynamics, and second, its remote and windswept landscape of steep escarpments, lakes, and dramatic changes in vegetation provides an outstanding spectacle of wild, natural beauty complemented by vast congregations of wildlife including penguins and seals.

Macquarie Island is situated about 1,500 km south-south-east of Tasmania, at around 55 degrees south. The main island is approximately 34 kilometres long and 5.5 kilometres wide at its broadest point.

Macquarie Island was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1997 and was one of 15 World Heritage places included in the National Heritage List on 21 May 2007.
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/629>



Local Councils join forces with North West Local Land Services to defeat *Harrisia* cactus, *Harrisia* spp.

Harrisia cactus (*Harrisia* spp.), a native of the Americas, has thorns that can pierce a tyre or a boot sole, its runners spread out in all directions like octopus tentacles, a single *Harrisia* cactus can produce more than 50 fruit per year, with each fruit averaging around 500 seeds encased in a sweet sugary substance attractive to birds, emus and feral pigs, which assists the spread of the seed, either in their droppings or on their coats. Its spread is so effective it can mat across areas of ground blocking out grazing access and reducing stock carrying capacity.

Harrisia cactus was first recognised as a problem weed in north-west New South Wales in the late 1960s. The then NSW Prickly Pear Destruction Commission continued a major control program to contain this pest until the Commission's disbandment in 1987. Sadly, the *Harrisia* came back with a vengeance when this work ceased, with many landholders pinning their hopes on a biological control option.

In 2010, through the efforts of a group of Moree area landholders and the Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchment Management Authority – in particular Jonathan Lawson – significant funding was secured through the Commonwealth *Caring for Country* scheme to allow Moree, Gwydir and Inverell Shire Council weeds officers to implement an *Harrisia* Cactus Containment Program covering most of the affected areas. Eligible landholders were able to use private spray contractors at half-cost and/or free herbicide to tackle major *Harrisia* infestations on their lands. This treatment work continued over four years, involving approximately 140 properties, and giving these owners real incentive and a realistic chance of maintaining these areas into the future. (Of course, any further funding to continue this assistance package, albeit at a reduced rate, would be most welcome).

Recently, Ken Flower, General Manager of North West Local Land Services (NWLLS) met with the Northern Inland Weeds Advisory Committee (NIWAC), a committee comprising of local government weed officers from across the North West. Ken realised there are large benefits in a collaborative effort to attempt to arrest the advance of this noxious weed utilising everyone's expertise.

Further funding, this time through the NWLLS, has enabled an intensive five week spray program to be conducted on over 772 ha of heavily infested stock reserves in the Boggabilla area, drawing on private contractors and weeds officers from adjoining councils (see below). Another vital aspect of the program will be the ongoing monitoring phase which will be independently assessed over the next couple of years by locally-based noxious weeds consultant, Les Tanner.

The North West LLS program follows the important work done previously which focused on drawing a containment line at Boggabilla in an attempt to reduce the further spread of *Harrisia*.

Though there are biological controls, they aren't as effective as herbicide spraying and researchers are actively trying to find a magic bullet. Herbicide trials are continuing.



The *Harrisia* cactus 2014 response team.

The *Harrisia* 2014 response team includes:

Gunnedah - Lee Amidy and Tony Woods;
Narrabri - Clare Felton Taylor & Geoff Michelle
Quirindi - Mike Whitney;
Armidale - James Browning, Peter Constance & Peter Doyle;
Moree - Ian Schwartz & Nikki Shepherd;
Gwydir - Steve Kneller & Doug Stieger;
North West LLS - Gerard O'Connor.



Local Councils join forces with North West Local Land Services to defeat *Harrisia* cactus, *Harrisia* spp.



A paddock infested with *Harrisia* cactus before control. Inverell Shire, about 2 km from the Queensland border. Image: L. Tanner, North West Weeds.



Harrisia cactus (*H. martinii*) flowers and fruit
Image: L. Tanner, North West Weeds.

Further information:

Ian Schwartz
Chief Weeds Officer, Moree Plains Shire Council
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Weed images:

Les Tanner
North West Weeds
Email: northwestweeds@aapt.net.au
Website: <http://www.northwestweeds.com.au>

Weed Alert Kei apple, *Dovyalis caffra*



Kei apple is a drought and frost hardy shrub or small tree from southern Africa that has become an environmental weed in bushland in western Sydney.

The Sydney Weeds Committee has produced a new **Fact Sheet** on kei apple and for more information on this weed and other Sydney weeds visit the website <http://sydneyweeds.org.au>



New Management and Courses at ChemCert (ChemCert Australia is a long-time sponsor of The Weed Society of New South Wales)

New AQF4 Chemical Risk Management

Hot off the press for ChemCert is a brand new and completely rewritten AQF4 course, mapped to the units of competence AHCCHM401A - Minimise risk in the use of chemicals and AHCCHM402A - Plan and implement a chemical use program.

ChemCert AQF 4 Accreditation is for managers, supervisors and high level spray contractors who take responsibility for developing and implementing pest management programs and chemical use strategies in diverse workplaces and who wish to attain a higher level of accreditation than the highly popular AQF3 program.

The AQF4 program focuses on five key and fundamental areas of managing risk when controlling pesticide application, including:

1. Integrated resistance and pest management – critical given the evolving resistance to glyphosate and other pesticides.
2. Chemical application management. Participants will have to select and justify application equipment, develop equipment pre-operational checklists, and specify key calibration settings for efficacy and control of risk in relation to worker exposure, environmental contamination and residues in food.
3. Work Health and Safety considerations far and above obligation, considering risk assessments for transport, handling, preparation and application, decontamination and disposal; Specification of PPE resulting from the above risk assessments including training in use and maintenance. These risk assessments are used to assess the need for health surveillance and/or occupational hygiene, as well as design appropriate Safe Work Method Statements (SWMS). Checking of chemical storage compliance, completing suitable inventory records as well as procedural development and signage and recording responsibility for entry into treated areas.
4. Environmental risk assessments for off-target damage in terms of formulation, equipment, application site and weather including a detailed application site map based on the risk assessment as well as considering risk controls for residues in the environment or food as a consequence of drift/leaching. Develop emergency spill response procedures.
5. Comprehensive records management and review involving incident reporting to cover both WHS and environment followed by analysis of records to assess efficacy of control measures and continuous improvement.



Boom spray calibration with AQF4 program participants.

The AQF4 Chemical Risk Management course can be completed either as a Distance based model or face to face with a trainer in an 8 hour workshop with 4 to 6 hours pre-course work depending on the individual. Face to face workshops can be delivered in-house where there is 6 or more staff involved.

The course is based on participants compiling beforehand key workplace information about the pests (weeds & diseases) that affect them, the chemicals they apply, where and how the chemicals are stored, the application equipment used to apply the chemicals and the applications sites. This will involve completing records and checklists, and consulting labels and SDSs.



New Management and Courses at ChemCert (ChemCert Australia is a long-time sponsor of The Weed Society of New South Wales)

All this information will be brought to the course and the trainer will assist participants to develop the relevant risk assessments and pull it all together into a spray/application plan that covers the five fundamental areas of risk management mentioned in dot point.

The feedback for the course has been very positive, and varied from challenging and rewarding to taking chemical risk management to a new level. Whether you're involved with council, government road and rail, energy provision, national parks, forestry or broad acre, give the Chemcert office a call to arrange a ChemCert AQF4 Chemical Risk Management course for your workplace today.

New General Manager

The ChemCert Board appointed Brian Halse as the new General Manager of ChemCert and its subsidiary ChemCert Training Group earlier this year in February.

Brian joins ChemCert at a very important time of industry restructuring where his executive skills and industry knowledge will be crucial to safeguard ChemCert's leading position. Brian comes to this position with a high level of agribusiness experi-



Brian Halse, the new General Manager.

ence, having had past positions as CEO of High Security Irrigators, Regional Manager Cotton Australia and Seeds Manager for Elders.

The Board and ChemCert staff looks forward to working with Brian to ensure that the right strategy is in place to secure ChemCert's future.

Jonathan Pearson

ChemCert course co-developer

Freecall 1800 444 228

T: 02 9380 7271; F: 02 9380 7471

Email: info@ChemCert.com.au

ChemCert Training Group Pty Ltd

The Weeds Society of New South Wales Inc. Sponsorship & Advertising Packages for 2014

Society Sponsorship

Annual Sponsorship \$300.00

- Logo displayed on 'A Good Weed' – four issues per year
- Logo displayed in e-newsletter 'Punnet Tray' – several issues through the year
- Logo and sponsor name on the Society's website
- One promotional article in 'A Good Weed' per year (subject to editorial control)
- One free membership per year (optional)

Advertising - 'A Good Weed'

Quarter page \$75.00
Half page \$150.00
Whole page \$300.00

Advertiser to supply copy ready for printing

Seminar Sponsorship

Sponsorship per seminar

\$250.00 + one free registration per seminar
\$500.00 + two free registrations per seminar

Area to mount a display, if venue suitable; distribution of promotional material to attendees; acknowledgement during the Seminar & in the Proceedings.



Legislation

Noxious Weeds Act 1993

Noxious Weeds (Weed Control) Order 2014, also known as Weed Control Order No. 30 of the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 was made or enacted on 26 February 2014.

The new order contains more than 3500 declarations. More than 60% of these were altered in some way: this included new declarations (weeds listed for the first time); changed declarations (weeds listed in new areas and/or different classes); and nomenclature changes (relatively minor, but necessary as taxonomic distinctions change). This does not include changes to 'control measure' wording which would significantly increase this proportion. Further it does not contain the small number of removals of weeds from declaration in areas of, or from the whole state.

The scale of changes made were designed to be generational, i.e. to largely future proof NSW from current and emerging weed threats for the next generation (20-25 years), particularly in light of the multiple biosecurity challenges faced as outlined in the recently published NSW Biosecurity Strategy 2013-2021: increased trade globalisation; population growth; the continued import of plant and animal material; and competing priorities for resources.

In doing so, this review places NSW on a well prepared base for the introduction of any new legislation, i.e. an overarching Biosecurity Act that seeks to manage multiple biosecurity concerns, in the future.

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

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

The resulting draft Order proposes a number of new and amended declarations.

These include, but are not limited to, new declarations as:

- **Class 1 (State Prohibited Weeds):**
 - Frogbit/Spongeplant (*Limnobium laevigatum* and *L. spongia*);
 - Heteranthera/Kidneyleaf mud plantain (*Heteranthera reniformis*);
 - Hydrocotyl/Water pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*);
 - Koster's curse/Clidemia (*Clidemia hirta*); &
 - Mikania vine (*Mikania micrantha*).

(The final two species are the subject of National eradication campaigns); and

- **Class 2 (Regionally Prohibited Weeds):**
 - Aleman grass (*Echinochloa polystachya*);
 - Black willow (*Salix nigra*);
 - Broad-leaf pepper tree (*Schinus terebinthifolius*);
 - Cecropia (*Cecropia peltata*);
 - Grey sallow (*Salix cinerea*);
 - Hygrophila (*Hygrophila costata*);
 - Kudzu (*Pueraria lobata*);
 - Long leaf willow primrose (*Ludwigia longifolia*); and
 - Paper mulberry (*Broussonetia papyrifera*).

Further information:

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

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

Contact:

Dr Stephen Johnson
Weed Ecologist, NSW DPI, Orange
stephen.johnson@dpi.nsw.gov.au
02 6391 3858



Water pennywort *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides* Image: NSW DPI.



Council of Australasian Weed Societies (CAWS) Report

A meeting of the CAWS committee was held on 22 May 2014.

CAWS income comes primarily from membership fees (\$800.00 per year), interest and profit from Australian Weeds Conferences. There has been a steady loss since 7 July 2013 explained partially by a significant drop in interest and outgoings on travel awards. The committee concluded a need to establish a bottom financial line, say \$100,000.00, to have flexibility built into the CAWS awards and grants, and membership fees should be discussed at the annual general meeting.

A proposal concerning **Travel Award** selection committee representation and selection criteria resulted in a lively debate with the committee evenly split. The meeting referred the subject to the appropriate sub-committee to confer and report back to CAWS.

A second proposal for CAWS to have the position of **Immediate Past President** was accepted by the meeting. The Past President will have full voting rights and all other rights if they are one of the two delegates from each member societies. If there is already two nominated delegates from each of the member societies, including the Past President's member society, then the Past President will not be eligible to vote.

Travel Awards (\$1000 each) awarded to Christina Day, Rebecca Grant, Andrew Cox, and Leila Huebner

Student Travel Award – Laura Williams (UNE, Armidale), member of NSW weed society, granted \$3000 to attend and present at two conferences: SCAR (Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research) conference in Auckland, and the 19th Australasian Weed Conference, Hobart.

Early Career Award – Christina Birnbaum (Murdoch University, WA) granted \$1900 to attend and present her PhD work at 4th International Symposium on Weeds and Invasive Plants (Agricultural Weeds and Plant Invaders) in Montpellier, France, followed by laboratory visits in Netherlands and Estonia.

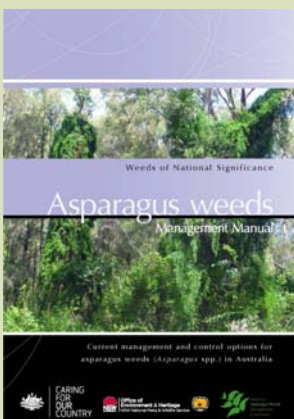
The CAWS Advocacy subcommittee submitted a response to the Draft National Environment and Community Biosecurity RD&E Strategy (2014-2017). Inputs were provided by member societies.

Grains Research and Development Corporation, Dow Agrosciences, Plant Health Australia and Iconyx have become sponsors for the 19th Australasian Weeds Conference.

The nursery award to be removed from the website. It could be added again later.

Hanwen Wu & Lawrie Greenup.

(Proxies for Kim Hignell & Hillary Cherry, CAWS delegates).



WoNS asparagus weeds film, manual, poster & flyers

Nine new films are available detailing ID & control of Asparagus Weeds (the 6 WoNS species plus *A. falcatus*). Each film contains wonderful, clear footage of identification characteristics, root systems and control techniques.

Also available are: **Asparagus Weeds Management Manual** - 120 pages (limited copies available); **A2 asparagus weeds poster** (hard copies available); **A4 colour flyer for 'scramblers'** (*A. declinatus*, *A. aethiopicus* and *A. scandens*); **A4 colour flyer for 'climbers'** (*A. plumosus* and *A. africanus*, with photos of the native asparagus) and **A4 colour flyer for Western Cape bridal creeper**.

All of these are available at www.weeds.org.au/wons/asparagusweeds

Further information: Hillary Cherry, Hillary.Cherry@environment.nsw.gov.au



Treasurer's Report (to the committee meeting, 13 June 2014)

Financial Report.

For the period 1st October 2013 to the 3rd June 2014 the society has shown a profit of \$ 6,677.76. The Balance Sheet shows that the society is in a sound financial position with total equity of \$84,649.54 made up of cash - \$8921.31 and 4 term deposits totalling \$75,728.23.

As advised previously the society is in a position to financially support projects that meet its objectives and it is recommended that we should aim to maintain reserves of \$55,000.00 and as a result we have up to \$27,000.00 available to support approved projects.

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 from the 17th Biennial Weeds Conference.

All accounts – bank and term deposits were reconciled at the 3rd June 2014.

Membership.

As at the 3rd June 2014 the society has 164 members which include 4 life members.

Payment of membership was due by the 1st June 2014 and as at the 3rd June 2014, 108 have paid their 2014 fees. Reminders will be sent out shortly. Nine are in arrears for 2013. They will be removed from the membership list on the 30th June 2014.

It is recommended that a reminder be placed in each issue of the *Punnet Newsletter* and *A Good Weed*, advising that membership fees are now due and that payment be made or advice that membership of the society will not be continued.

Sponsors.

Tax invoices to the sponsors of *A Good Weed* - were posted on the 11th February 2014 with payment due by the 1st June 2014. To date payment has been received from Dow AgroSciences, Truxor Australia, Australian Catchment Management Pty Ltd, Chemcert and Hunter Central Coast Weeds. Syngenta and Scotts are yet to pay and reminder notices will be sent shortly.



**Jim Swain, Honorary Treasurer.
3 June 2014.**

Have you paid your membership dues?

The treasurer forwarded out the 2014 membership remittances in February and would appreciate it if you could pay your 2014 dues as soon as possible. For those who have paid - thank you.

Some members are two years in arrears and, if payment is not received by the end of June 2014, then membership will be discontinued.

Membership income is important to the Society as a major means to provide the benefits available to members, including the cost of producing *A Good Weed* and the *Punnet Tray*.

The committee looks forward to your continuing support for 2014.

Some Membership Benefits

- ◆ Opportunity to network with others interested in weed management.
- ◆ Discounted registration for Society seminars and workshops.
- ◆ Opportunity to apply for Society Travel Awards.
- ◆ The Society newsletter, *A Good Weed*, delivered quarterly.
- ◆ Access to the Society electronic newsletter, the *Punnet Tray*.
- ◆ Discounted registration to attend the Australasian Weeds Conference.
- ◆ Discounted registration to attend the NSW Biennial Weeds Conference.
- ◆ Additional financial prizes for the winners of the Buerckner and Stephenson Weed Professionals Awards.



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 produce 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:

- #68 Spring 2014 31 August 2014
- #69 Summer 2014/15 30 November 2014
- #70 Autumn 2015 28 February 2015
- #71 Winter 2015 31 May 2015

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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Editor: editor@nswweedsoc.org.au
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Committee Meeting Details (to be confirmed)

15 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 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.

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.

If unable to deliver return to:

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

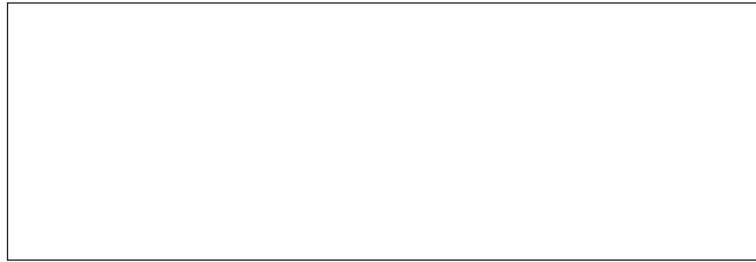
A Good Weed

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



Dow AgroSciences

