

A GOOD WEED



Newsletter of The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.

ISSN 1325-3689

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"A Good Weed" is published by:

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

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Assistant Secretary: Michael Michelmore

#69 Summer 2014/2015



Ochna, *Ochna serrulata*, with its bright red sepals and black berries add a splash of colour during the festive season. Originally from South Africa it is a popular ornamental plant which poses a threat to bushland areas. The seeds are widely distributed by birds and once established the plants are very difficult to eliminate because of its tenacious root system. Image: L. Greenup.



Kim Hignell
President



Birgitte Verbeek
Vice President



Rex Stanton
Immediate Past President

2015 Committee Members



Ruth Armstrong



Hillary Cherry



Tony Cook



Maria Edmonds



Lawrie Greenup
Editor



Stephen Johnson



Reece Luxton



Michael Michelmore
Assistant Secretary



Alan Murphy
Secretary & Public Officer



Jim Swain
Treasurer



Hanwen Wu
Assistant Editor



From the President

I am certainly honoured to be re-elected as president for another year and would like to thank all of you who have worked so hard for the Society during 2014.

The majority of the committee has been re-elected and one of our long serving members, Warwick Felton, has had to stand down because of outside commitments. Thank you, Warwick, for your input as a committee member, assistant secretary and as a member of the Future Fund.

Alan Murphy, Secretary and Public Officer, has been awarded a Life Membership to the Society and was presented with his medal and certificate at the Annual Dinner in Tamworth. Well done, Alan.

2015 will be an exciting year: - the 19th New South Wales Weeds Conference in Cooma in October; the commencement of planning for 21st Australasian Weeds Conference in NSW in 2018; the Society's 50th anniversary in 2016; examination of possible expansion of membership to include both invasive plant and animal workers; continuation and improvement of the Society's two publications - 'A Good Weed' and the e-newsletter 'Punnet Tray' and, finally, making the Society of benefit to members through awards, grants and project funding.

You will see in the following pages on our 49th Annual General Meeting the Society is in a sound financial position. This is largely due to excellent work done by our Treasurer, Jim Swain.

An important issue which I would like you all to think about is to extend the Society's membership to include those involved in invasive animal management. Changes in legislation and the role of those involved in invasive species activities indicate that this is a logical move and one of benefit to all those working in these areas. More information on this issue is in this *A Good Weed*.



**Happy Weeding
Kim Hignell**



Season's Greetings from the Society's Executive and Committee

We would like to thank you for your support throughout 2014 and extend to you all our best wishes for the festive season and may the New Year bring you answers to your weed issues.

Let's look forward to an exciting 2015.

Happy Weeding, Kim & the Committee.



Alan Murphy Awarded Life Membership The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.

Life membership is a special honour given to recognise outstanding commitment, service, and support to the society for a long period of time.



Alan Murphy being presented with his life membership medal and certificate by the Society's president, Kim Hignell.

Alan meets the criteria for life membership of the society by becoming a member soon after the society was founded in 1966.

He has served on the committee for more than 20 years and during that time has held the following executive positions:

- 1992 - Vice president
- 1994 - President
- 1995 - President
- 2006 – Current- Secretary
- 2010 – Current - Public Officer.

Alan has always been an active participant and willing helper at society seminars and functions.

His continuing role as secretary has been carried out with diligence and commitment and has ensured that the affairs of the society are transparent and conducted in accordance with its aims and objectives.

Alan graduated from the Faculty of Agriculture, Sydney University in 1961 and then joined Geigy



Maria Edmonds, Jim Swain, Alan Murphy, Kim Hignell and Iain Jamieson congratulating Alan on his award. Jim, a colleague and friend of Alan since university, spoke about Alan's achievements and commitment to weed management and the Society.



Australia Pty Ltd and worked with Peter Gregory, who was a foundation member of the society.

During the period with Geigy Australia he was involved with the conduct of field trials with triazine herbicides which were relatively new to the Australian scene in field crops and industrial sites.



A proud and reflective Alan Murphy with his life membership medal and certificate.

In 1965 he joined Dow AgroSciences and spent the next 35 years with them until retirement in 2000.

During the time with Dow, Alan worked as a herbicide technical specialist in both Australia and Asia where he was domiciled in Hong Kong from 1973 to 1978.

During this period he managed herbicide and soil fumigant projects for Dow Chemical Pacific Ltd in Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, Thailand, India, Indonesia and the Philippines.

After returning to Australia he worked on improved solutions for blackberry and gorse in Tasmania, Victoria and New South Wales, Eucalyptus, wattle and Brigalow regrowth control in Queensland and *Mimosa pigra* in the Northern territory to name a few.

Alan was responsible for the development of GARLON®, GRASLAN®, TORDON® and STARANE® brands for Dow AgroSciences.

He also had extensive knowledge of cereal and fallow weeds in the grain belt and was widely respected by the research and agronomic communities. He trained and mentored a good number of technical specialists in Dow and when all else failed, the cry was, “Ask Murph”.

Alan has a keen interest in trout fishing and was able to combine this interest with work to such an extent that many unsuspecting trouts were nabbed while he was involved in the control of wood weeds, particularly in Tasmania.

Alan is a worthy recipient of the honour of Life Membership of The Weed Society of NSW Inc.

**Jim Swain & Lawrie Greenup
20 November 2014**

Life Membership



A special honour given to recognise outstanding commitment, service, and support to the society for a long period of time.

The following criteria for life membership were ratified in 2014:

- 1. Membership of the society for 30 years.**
- 2. Served on the executive committee for at least 5 years.**
- 3. Held a position of President, Secretary, Treasurer, CAWS delegate, or Newsletter Editor, for at least 2 years.**
- 4. History of support for society activities/functions.**



49th Annual General Meeting

The 49th Annual General Meeting of The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc. was held on Thursday, 20 November 2014, at the Agricultural Research Institute, Calala Lane, Calala commencing at 4.00 pm.

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

The election of officers resulted in the following:

President - Kim Hignell

Vice President - Birgitte Verbeek

Immediate Past President - Rex Stanton

Secretary & Public Officer - Alan Murphy

Treasurer - Jim Swain

Committee - Ruth Armstrong, Hillary Cherry, Tony Cook, Maria Edmonds, Lawrie Greenup (Editor), Stephen Johnson, Reece Luxton, Michael Michelmores (Assistant Secretary), & Hanwen Wu (Assistant Editor).

CAWS Delegates - Kim Hignell & Hillary Cherry

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

2014 President's Report 49th Annual General Meeting The Weed Society of NSW Inc.

I would like to extend a welcome to everyone who has been able to attend this meeting and thank you for being here today.

I began this position last year, taking over the reins from Rex Stanton. This was not an easy feat to achieve as Rex's knowledge and enthusiasm has been hard to match. It has been a steep learning curve but with help from the committee, I think the Society as a whole has continued to move forward.

This year has seen a major review of weed management within NSW by the Natural Resource Commission, looking at changes to enhance weed management, and the release the proposed framework by the NSW Department Primary Industries which outlines the legislative tools designed as part of the NSW Biosecurity Act. I would like to thank all members who sent comments to support the Society's submissions to both areas. This will likely change the way we approach and deal with weeds within NSW in years to come.

The Society has continued to support undergraduate studies in weed science through academic prizes

with a number of tertiary institutes. Encouraging future weed scientists or weed management practitioners is important if we are to continue to develop and maintain successful weed management programs. Congratulations to our prize-winners for this year: Chloe Roberts from Charles Sturt University and Harry Pye, University of New England.

The 19th Australian Weeds Conference held in Tasmania, had many members from our Society attending this event. Thank you to Hillary Cherry, one of our CAWS reps, for helping the Tasmania Weeds Society and the Conference Committee with the planning and implementation of a very successful conference. Barry Shepherd from Cessnock won the Society Travel Grant with his application to attend this conference and we will be looking forward to his review of the conference in a future edition of *A Good Weed*.

The Society's newsletters *A Good Weed* and e-newsletter *Punnet Tray* continue to be the key output for information. I would like to thank Lawrie Greenup and Hanwen Wu for their efforts in maintaining the high quality of the newsletter. The website continues to grow by the exposure not only from visitors from NSW and Australia but from overseas as well. Thanks to our webmaster Rex Stanton for maintaining and keeping the website up to date and keeping the executive committee informed of the current analysis of the site.



49th Annual General Meeting

Finally, yet importantly, the standard of our publications would not be as high without the support of our sponsors -

Dow AgroSciences,
ChemCert Australia,
Scotts,
Syngenta,
Australian Catchment Management,
Truxor Australia,
Hunter Central Coast Weeds.

Thank you sponsors for your support during 2014.

Our AGM and Annual Dinner this year in Tamworth has given some additional exposure to members especially with the seminar held today adding something a little different to the usual. I would like to thank Birgitte Verbeek, our

vice president, for organising all the events here in Tamworth today.

As I wrap up this review of the last twelve months, I would like to thank all my executive committee for their tireless participation and service to the society in the various roles that they have played. Having such an active executive committee helps ensure the society collectively gets the best outcomes for all members.

Happy Weeding

Kim Hignell
President

The Weeds Society of New South Wales Inc.

2014 Treasurer's Report 49th Annual General Meeting The Weed Society of NSW Inc.

Membership.

As at the 30th September 2014 the society has 161 members which includes 4 life members. 133 members are financial for 2014.

Reminders were sent to 24 members who were in arrears for 2014, advising them that if payment was not received by the 31st December 2014 they would not continue to receive *A Good Weed* and other benefits offered. Their arrears will be included with the 2015 subscription renewal notices to be sent out in the New Year.

Nine, who were in arrears for 2013 and 2014, were removed from the membership list on the 30th June 2014.

Sponsors

There are seven sponsors of the newsletter – *A Good Weed & Punnet Tray* viz Dow AgroSciences, Scotts, Syngenta, ChemCert Australia, Truxor Australia, Australian Catchment Management and Hunter Central Coast Weeds.

Financial Report.

The financial report for the financial year 1st October 2013 to 30th September 2014 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 profit of \$9,304.35 compared to a loss of \$11,749.32 for the previous year. This turnaround is due to the return of \$17,484.45 the society's share of the profit from the 17th NSW Weeds Conference which came for the Future Fund.

Members' subscriptions are slightly higher than last year, however if members paid their subscriptions on time then the income would be \$960.00 higher than that reported.

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

In addition we have four term deposits with a total credit of \$77,162.81 with the Bendigo Bank.

The balance sheet shows that the society is in a sound financial position as total net assets are \$77,276.13 which is \$8,151.60 higher than the previous year because a new term deposit was opened with a portion of the monies from the Future Fund.



49th Annual General Meeting

2014 Treasurer's Report 49th Annual General Meeting The Weed Society of NSW Inc. (Continued)

This will enable the new committee to continue allocating funds to projects/promotional activities that meet the society's objectives. In this financial year \$4,232.10 has been spent in this manner.

In this year financial year we had no income from seminars but received a return from the Future Fund which will not be forthcoming next year so it is essential that any activities conducted show a profit or at worst breakeven.

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:
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 2014 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 2014

2014 Annual Report Council of Australasian Weed Societies



The CAWS strategic plan was revised in late 2013 and adopted in early 2014. As part of the strategic plan, annual operational plans were developed for the three subcommittees of Communication, Advocacy and Promotion and Organisational Development (including a financial plan). This new approach was designed to keep activities focussed and achievable. Further work is being done on the operational plans and they should be in place for 2015.

A major highlight for CAWS in 2014 was the planning and successful implementation of the 19th Australasian Weeds Conference (AWC). Several CAWS members (including a NSW rep) assisted the Tasmanian Weeds Society to develop a diverse and comprehensive program. The sponsorship target was exceeded and over 250 registered for the conference. At the time of writing, final financial information was not yet available, however a profit of over \$12,000 was expected. The 20th AWC will take place in Perth in September 2016.

The Advocacy subcommittee was very active and have submitted responses to both the *Draft National Environment and Community Biosecurity RD&E Strategy (2014-2017)* and the *Senate Inquiry into Environmental Biosecurity*. This has increased the presence and relevance of CAWS nationally, including CAWS being invited to attend Senate hearings on the Environmental Enquiry and being recognised and thanked by the Australian Weeds Committee Chair for ensuring the continuation of the national weeds conference (and for the success of the 19th AWC).



49th Annual General Meeting

The CAWS website continues to get bigger and better. All previous Australian/Australasian Weed Conference proceedings are now available on the website, including the recent 19th AWC. In addition, there is a new secure 'executive only' section which enables the executive to have timely access to reference material for meetings.

There were 8 CAWS awards in 2014. Successful applicants were:

Student Travel Award

Laura Williams (UNE, Armidale).

Early Career Award

Christina Birnbaum (Murdoch University, WA).

AWC awards

Christina Day, Rebecca Grant, Andrew Cox, and Leila Huebner.

CAWS Medal for Leadership

Rod Randall (WA) and John Thorp (Tasmania) for their national contributions.

The CAWS committee met by teleconference four times over the last twelve months. The CAWS AGM was held during 19th AWC in Sept 2014, via a face to face meeting of all but one executive member. Elections results were:

President & Vice-President

Anna Marie Penna (WA) was elected as President and Rachel Melland (SA) was elected as Vice-President.

Secretary and Treasurer

Kerry Harrington (NZ) was appointed and continues as Secretary. Alex Douglas (WA) was appointed and continues as Treasurer.

CAWS executive also voted to amend the Constitution to include an Immediate Past President role on the committee. The Role of Immediate Past President is defined as follows: *Upon election of a new President, the person who formerly held this role may remain on the Executive Committee in an Immediate Past President position if they wish until the new President has completed their term in office. If at any time the Immediate Past President is not a delegate for their Society, they will have the right to speak at meetings, to table agenda items and move motions, but will not have voting rights*

Michael Widderwick (QLD) will become the first IPP in 2015 and has agreed to continue on the committee in that role.

The CAWS Financial position (as of 25/08/14) was reported by the Treasurer:

Funds available at Call	\$ 27,099.61
Funds in Term Deposits	\$ 62,198.63

The next AGM will take place following the CAWS Committee Meeting in September 2015, exact date to be advised.



Hillary Cherry and Kim Hignell
CAWS Delegates

Have you paid your 2014 membership?

Could those members who have not yet paid their 2014 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.

There is a lot planned for 2015 so stay onboard and participate.

Jim Swain, Treasurer



Weed Society Seminar - Morning Session “Weeds and other Invasive Species - Common Issues”

The Society conducted a successful seminar at Tamworth Agricultural Institute on the 20th November covering the topic “Weeds and other Invasive Species – Common Issues”.

The seminar was attended by 28 participants, representing local government, local land services, the University of New England, an agricultural consultant, Tamworth Agricultural Institute management and employees and members of the Weeds Society of New South Wales.

The morning session included presentations on deer, wild dogs, tramp ants – in particular fire ants and invasive aquatic plants and animals.

Across these species the commonality in strategic management strategies with weeds was highlighted. The invasive species curve i.e.: prevention, eradication, containment and asset protection common across all topics.

The population and distribution of deer in NSW and across Australia is increasing, perception of their value as a game animal, amenity, agricultural resource or pest is the source of ongoing debate.

Wild dogs have been of concern and under ongoing management in Australia for decades this is unlikely to change with the emphasis being that wild dogs need to be managed in relation to impact they cause in any particular situation and that control efforts need to be ongoing.

When fire ants become established in an area they significantly affect the community across many areas: including amenity, agricultural production and infrastructure. The efforts of authorities in Queensland to limit and manage the infestation are of considerable benefit to NSW.

The invasive fish species the Mozambique tilapia was referred to as the “insect” of the fish world – mainly because of its ability to expand its numbers very rapidly. There are well established populations in south-eastern Queensland and significant threat that the Mozambique tilapia will infest the entire Murray- Darling basin which will have a very significant impact on aquatic biodiversity.

The Weeds Society is extremely grateful to the presenters who freely gave their time to travel and present at the seminar.

The presenters were:

Troy Crittle, NSW DPI Invasive Species Officer, Phil Gardner (retired) former NSW DPI Invasive Species Officer, Royce Holtkamp, NSW DPI Strategy Leader Invasive Species, Kirk Dahl, NSW DPI Officer Aquatic Biosecurity and Risk Management and Iain Jamieson, Senior Pest Management Specialist, Council of the City of Gold Coast.

**Brigitte Verbeek & Tony Cook,
Seminar Organisers.**

Vigilance key to weed control

By Kylie Galbraith

THE common threads between noxious weeds and pest animals were the focus of a seminar at the Tamworth Agricultural Institute last week, where participants were encouraged to think about better co-ordination of management strategies to tackle the problems that cost the agricultural sector millions of dollars a year.

Organised by the Weed Society of NSW, the seminar featured a series of guest speakers on wild dogs, deer, fire ants, fire weed and invasive aquatic pests.

Participants were from local government, Local Land Services and the tertiary sector, learning the latest about emerging pest animals and common strategies in tackling them and noxious weeds.

Weed society president Kim Hignell, a senior weeds officer from Lake Macquarie City Council, said strategies for control-

ling both animal and plant pests would entwine further under changes to the state's biosecurity measures, with a new biosecurity bill introduced into the NSW parliament in October, which takes in 14 different pieces of existing legislation.

Last week's seminar heard weeds and pest animals could have an almost symbiotic relationship in some instances, with the likes of fire ants able to spread plant seeds, and aquatic weeds facilitating the existence of carp to the detriment of native fish species.

Ms Hignell acknowledged the fight to control noxious weeds was a challenging one; as fast as ground was made in the control of one species, others were sprouting up to take its place.

In this region alligator weed and Chilean needle grass were big problems, while the campaign to stop the spread of parthenium weed was also ongoing.

© Country Leader Tamworth 24 November 2014
Coverage of the seminar by local newspaper with circulation of 29,700 in north west NSW.



Weed Society Seminar - Afternoon Session

“Should The Weed Society of New South Wales expand its scope to include members and events that address pest animal issues?”

Current and proposed changes in legislation at both federal and state levels have major implications for the roles of people involved in pest species management. Whereas in the past there were positions such as weeds officers and vertebrate pest control officers the functions of these positions are now being combined to have biosecurity officers.

The Weed Society of Queensland (WSQ) had recognised this trend in Queensland and expanded its membership to include people working in both the plant and animal pest species areas. Proposed legislative changes in New South Wales indicate that the state is following a similar path to Queensland.

The Weed Society of New South Wales (WSNSW) took the opportunity to invite Iain Jamieson, Pest Animal Representative on the executive committee of the WSQ, to address the Tamworth afternoon seminar session on the processes undertaken by WSQ to bring about this membership change.

In 2006 the WSQ organised the first Pest Animal Symposium, prior to this it had been organised by the state government. The profits from the 2006 symposium provided the WSQ with seed funding for future pest animal symposiums which are run in alternate years to the Queensland Weeds Symposium.

At the WSQ AGM in 2007 the position of Pest Animal Representative was created and at the 2008 AGM the Pest Animal Representative position was continued as well as a discussion on the establishment of an award recognising efforts in weed or animal management. The 2009 AGM discussed the opportunity for a formal inclusion of pest animals. As a result of this discussion, in which the advantages and disadvantages were raised, the meeting resolved “*Executive to survey members to identify if pest animals should become part of the Society*”. At the 2012 AGM the vote to amend the constitution to include weeds and pest animals was passed.

When joining or renewing their membership members are given the options to join the WSQ and/or the Pest Animal Branch.

In 2014 26% of the WSQ were members of the Pest Animal Branch.

General agreement of the meeting was that the Weed Society of NSW should commence a process to allow the inclusion of pest animal members and activities within the scope of its operation.

A membership survey will be undertaken in 2015.



Facilitators and speaker at the afternoon discussion session on the inclusion of pest animals issues in the organisation of the Weed Society of New South Wales. (R to L): Birgitte Verbeek, facilitator; Kim Hignell, President; Iain Jamieson, speaker from Weed Society of Queensland and Tony Cook, facilitator.



Morning session seminar speakers and organisers (Left to Right): Troy Crittle, Royce Holtkamp, Birgitte Verbeek, Ian Jamieson, Tony Cook, Kirk Dahl, Phil Gardner.



18th NSW Weeds Conference "Weeds - The Future, Innovation and Adaptation"

Website open for business
www.weedscooma.com.au



Get the latest on:
Call for Abstracts, Registration Information,
Sponsorship Prospectus, Accommodation and
Travel, Program as it develops, and all About
Cooma and Surrounds.



ALERT

weed



Kudzu

Kudzu, *Pueraria montana* var. *lobata*, is a climbing, coiling, and trailing vine native to southern Japan and south east China. It can climb trees, poles, structures and scramble over other **Outcome:** General agreement that The Weeds Society of NSW Inc. should commence a process to allow the inclusion of pest animal members and activities within the scope of its operation. vegetation. This plant develops tubers below ground and these can reach 3 metres in length or greater.

Distribution: Kudzu is rapidly becoming a major problem in southeast Queensland but there have been only a handful of recorded outbreaks in NSW, near Bellingen, the Clarence Valley, Sydney and now Wyong. In the USA, Kudzu's out-of-control growth - up to 30cm a day - has earned it various nicknames such as the "mile-a-minute vine" and "the vine that ate the South."

Leaves: Trifoliate, centre leaflet has three lobes. The two outer leaflets have only two lobes. Two small "whiskers" are found at the base of the two outer leaflets and two at the base of the centre leaflet. The base of the leaf stem has a fleshy part where it attaches to the stem.

Flowers: Pea shaped flowers, pink to purple with a yellow throat. Cluster can have up to 90 flowers.

Seed Pods: Very hairy, up to 70mm long. Found in clusters after flower fall.

Spread: The plant reproduces from runners, seed and tubers.



You can play an important role in stopping the spread of this invasive weed
For further information contact the Weeds Officer at your Local Council



Diversity arrays technology, annual ryegrass and herbicide resistance; a new solution for an old problem.

Aaron Preston, School of Agricultural and Wine Science,
Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga

Herbicide resistance has plagued Australia since it was first discovered in the 1980s. Since then, the problem has gotten much worse; it has become difficult to find any paddock in Australia that doesn't contain some form of herbicide resistant weeds. The most economically damaging of these weeds is annual ryegrass (*Lolium rigidum* Gaud.). Annual ryegrass was introduced into Australia in the late 18th century as a pasture plant, where it rapidly adapted to Australian conditions and has now become a dominant plant in the southern landscape.

Its rapid growth, high seed number, high genetic diversity and staggered germination made it a particularly troublesome weed that out competes many crop species and that is resistant to many control measures, the foremost being herbicides. Its high genetic diversity means that it can rapidly adapt, resulting in its development of resistance to many herbicides used to control it.



Annual ryegrass: a constant battle in grain industries
Image: Hanwen Wu.

To combat this, herbicide resistance testing has become an important tool for evaluating which herbicides ryegrass is resistant to, and importantly which herbicide they are still susceptible to. Several tests have been developed for the determination of herbicide resistance (glasshouse trials, Petri dish analysis, enzymatic determination etc.) however these methods can take up to 9 months to before resistance is known. Time is a critical factor, as fast herbicide resistance detection allows for earlier control and more effective control options to be employed. In addition to this, the high costs and laborious nature of some tests make them unsuitable for large-scale application. These tests provide limited information about the type of resistance present and the highly selective nature of these tests means that they lack the ability to determine the resistance of the plant to non-selected herbicides.

Due to the complexity and diversity of different forms of resistance, a method to detect all forms of resistance has yet to be developed. A pilot study was conducted to determine whether this issue could be addressed with a new technology called Diversity arrays technology (DArT) as a faster and cheaper method for herbicide resistance testing. DArT works by breaking down DNA into fragments (called genetic markers) and comparing how often these fragments are found in particular samples. The more often a particular fragment is found, the more likely it is linked to a particular trait. In this study we evaluated DArT's ability to identify genetic markers linked to herbicide resistance, and evaluated how accurate these fragments are for identifying resistance.

It was decided that for this test case, we would evaluate whether DArT could identify resistance in annual ryegrass to the herbicide trifluralin.

If this could be achieved identification of other of genetic markers for resistance to other herbicides could be determined later.



Ryegrass samples from South Australia, Western Australia and Victoria were germinated in soil treated with Trifluralin, Survivors of this treatment were deemed to be resistant to trifluralin and had their DNA extracted. As a comparison, DNA was extracted from ryegrass plants with no herbicide resistance, deemed to be susceptible to herbicides. The DNA from the resistant and susceptible plants was compared and contrasted with DArT, the resulting analysis identifying approximately 100 genetic markers linked to herbicide resistance. When assessed, these markers could accurately confirm whether a plant was resistant to trifluralin or not with almost 90% accuracy.

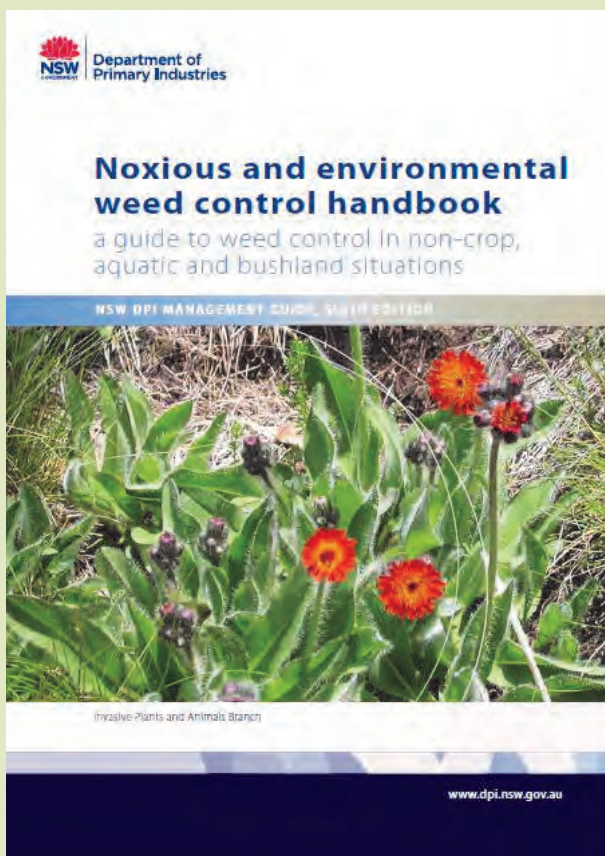
DArT provided discrimination between resistant and susceptible biotypes sufficient to establish proof of concept for the use of DArT as a tool for the rapid identification of trifluralin resistance in annual ryegrass. This analysis was completed in three weeks, providing a fast and accurate method for the determination. Further identification genetic markers linked to other forms of resistance would allow for simultaneous resistance testing to multiple forms of herbicide resistance using DArT.



Aaron being presented with his award at the conference.

Aaron Preston presented these results at the 2014 Australasian Weeds Conference in Hobart.

For his presentation he was awarded the NIWMI Best Agricultural Weeds Presentation delivered by an Early Career Researcher award, funded by GRDC.



Noxious and environmental weed control handbook 6th Edition - a guide to weed control in non-crop, aquatic and bushland situations

This handbook is now available online.

The 6th Edition of this ever-popular Handbook from NSW Department of Primary Industries contains new weeds, new herbicide registrations and new minor-use permits, as well as informative chapters on legal and safety considerations and herbicide application techniques.

View or download at:
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/weeds/publications/noxious-environmental-weed-control

Print copies will be available from your Local Council Weeds Officer or Regional Weeds Advisory Committees from **mid-December 2014**



Awards of the Weed Society of New South Wales

(Details of all awards, including closing dates, 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 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: 2014 Alan Murphy, 2011 Mike Barrett, 2011 Jim Swain, 2003 Alex McLennan, 2002 Kelvin Green, 1999 Nelson Johnson, 1989 Peter Michael.

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 presentation medal and their name added to a perpetual trophy. 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 assist with travel costs to attend the 19th NSW Biennial Conference in 2017 or the 20th Australasian Weeds Conference in Western Australia in 2016.

University Under-graduate Prize

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

The Society offers a \$250 prize plus 12 months free Society membership.

The prize will only will be provided if the weeds course is sufficiently comprehensive to warrant support.

Nominations are made by the participating institutions.



Awards of the Weed Society of New South Wales

(Details of all awards, including closing dates, at www.nswweedsoc.org.au)

NSW Weed Industry Award

“For outstanding contribution to weed management in NSW”

This new Award acknowledges the work of Weed Professionals and their outstanding contribution towards protecting NSW from the impacts of weeds and is for outstanding contributions from a weed professional involved in planning and coordinating weed management in NSW.

Who is eligible?

Any weed professional working in weed management in NSW (eg. State Government, Local Land Services, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Landcare, private enterprise, etc.) is eligible to apply.

Nominees should be employed in a professional role that is involved with the management of weeds in NSW at a local, regional or state level and will have made a significant contribution in managing weeds in their area through planning, coordination, weed control or community education between 2013 –2015. The judges will be looking for evidence of the nominee’s achievements, integrated approach to weed management, strategic planning, and engagement of project partners, technical expertise and professional development.

Judging criteria and process

All nominations are to be submitted by the closing date on **30th June 2015**.

Nominees will be notified by mail of their nomination for the Award and presented with a Certificate of Acknowledgement. A panel of judges will meet to review the nominations and may request more information or documents to support the application.

Finalists and the winner of the Award will be announced and presented at the 18th NSW Biennial Weeds Conference that will be held in Cooma from 12th to 15th October 2015.

Prize

The winner of the Award will be presented with a presentation medal, certificate a perpetual trophy for the next two years.

The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc. has generously donated \$500* to the winner of the NSW Weed Industry Award to assist with travel costs to attend a conference of their choice.

** To be eligible to claim the \$500 prize from the Society, the winner must be a current financial member of the Society, and continuously been a financial member for more than one year.*

Society Travel Assistance Grant

Limited travel funds are available to be allocated each year as a Travel Assistance Grant to assist eligible members with national and/or international travel. A maximum of **\$1000** is available per member for assistance in travel expenses, to be used at the discretion of the successful applicant for payments such as registrations, accommodation, fares and/or meals. Preference may be given to members who will be presenting at the event.

Applicants must be over the age of 18 years must have been a financial member for two consecutive years including the current financial year. Applications are required to be lodged in advance of travelling and funds must be used within 1 year of being approved.

Rarely will the grant meet all of the travel expenses so the applicants are expected to demonstrate that the balance of funding is available from other sources. Funding is NOT available for local travel within 250 kilometres of the applicant’s usual workplace.

Applications must be received by **31st March** each year.



Treasurer's Report

Financial Report.

For the period 1 October 2014 to the 1 December 2014 the society has shown a loss of \$1563.33.

The Balance Sheet shows that the society is in a sound financial position with total equity of \$75,712.80 made up of cash - \$8,701.95 and four term deposits totalling \$67,010.85.

As advised previously the society is in a position to support financially projects that meet its objectives.

As the Society's financial year finishes on 30 September 2015 there is no foreseeable income, other than membership and sponsorship, for the 2015 financial year. It is essential we ensure that any Society activities in 2015, such as seminars, return a profit or at least break even.

Any returns from the 18th Biennial Weeds Conference will be in the 2016 financial year, the magnitude of the return is likely to be reduced due to the change in the terms of the contract with Cooma-Monaro Shire Council compared to the previous contracts.

The cheque account was reconciled on the 1 December 2014.

Membership.

As at the 24th November 2014 the society has 161 members which include 5 life members. 136 are financial for 2014.

18 are in arrears for 2014 and, if payment is not received by the 31st December 2014, they will not continue to receive *A Good Weed* and other benefits offered. Their arrears will be included with the 2015 subscription renewal notices to be sent out in the New Year.

It is recommended that a reminder be placed in each issue of the *e*-newsletter, *Punnet Tray*, 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.



Jim Swain
Treasurer
8 December 2014



Council of Australasian Weed Societies Report

The Council of Australasian Weed Societies (CAWS) meeting was held on Thursday, 11 December 2014, chaired by the new President Anne-Marie Penna. Both NSW representatives were present on the teleconference meeting.

Constitution: CAWS will re-validate the changes to the constitution from 2011 and 2014 as per direction from the WA Fair Trading. This will be done via a Special Resolution at a Special General Meeting. This will take place before the Executive meeting on 26 March 2015.

Seed Funding for 20th Australasian Weeds Conference (AWC) in Perth: The seed funding (\$15,000) was approved for WA. The Conference Facebook page is expanded and is for all AWC events. It will be linked to the CAWS website and can be used by member societies and also linked to member society Facebook pages where they exist.

Senate Enquiry into Environmental Security: Quality of the CAWS submission was very good. Senators agree there is a large gap in Biosecurity in Australia.

Transcripts from public meetings are available online. CAWS will send a submission to the Biosecurity Bill before January 2015 due date.

National-scale Weed Publications: Four new books being developed by Rob and Fiona Richardson, who are seeking interest-free loans from CAWS. They will be similar publications to *Weeds of SE Australia*, but will cover areas where current books are out of date, or don't exist (e.g. Central Australia). The NSW Society will be asked whether it will provide part funding for interest free loans or otherwise and in principle support for CAWS to provide same.

Australian Representative on the Asian-Pacific Weed Science Society (APWSS) needed a nomination from CAWS. Michael Widderick was nominated and supported to be the Australian representative on the Council.

Next Meeting Date: 26 March 2014.

Kim Hignell & Hillary Cherry
CAWS representatives
11 December 2014



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

The e-newsletter is a maximum of two pages and we welcome contributions of one or two brief paragraph from members, or even nonmembers, 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?

If you wish to be included in the email distribution list 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

Contact Details

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

13 February 2015 Executive Committee Meeting
10 April 2015 Executive Committee Meeting
12 June 2015 Executive Committee Meeting
14 August 2015 Executive Committee Meeting
9 October 2015 Executive Committee Meeting
11 December 2015 Executive Committee Meeting
November 2015 AGM and Lunch/Dinner



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

The newsletter is the major source of information to our members and 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.

Material should be sent to:
editor@nswweedsoc.org.au

Submission dates for material for 2015 are:

#70 Autumn 2015 28 February 2015
#71 Winter 2015 31 May 2015
#72 Spring 2015 31 August 2015
#73 Summer 2015/16 30 November 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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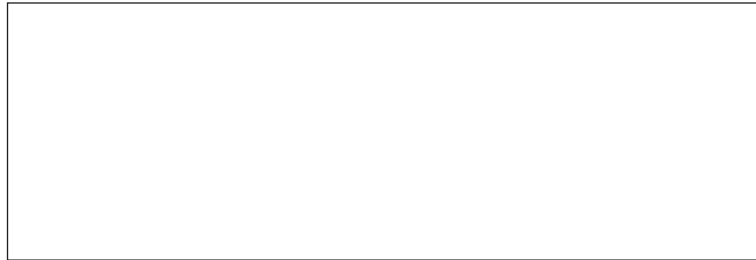
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