

A GOOD WEED



Newsletter of The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.

ISSN 1325-3689

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"A Good Weed" is published by:

The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.
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#72 Spring 2015



Capeweed, *Arctotheca calendula*, heralds the start of the spring weed season in lawns. This infestation is in a kikuyu lawn, Ruddock Park, Westleigh. Capeweed is a wide-spread weed of cultivation and pastures as well. Image: Lawrie Greenup.



President's Report



Welcome to our spring addition of "A Good Weed" and I am sure that most of you are starting to get very busy at this time of year in your field of work or interest.

I have just been to the successful NSW Weeds Conference at Cooma attended by around 240 delegates. A great range of topics were presented and discussed ranging from many aspects of weed management, legislation to on-ground control. There were three assorted field trips with excellent feedback from the delegates on each of the trips. There was a great conference dinner, sponsored by our Society, with Glenn McGrath as the guest speaker. What a wonderful and admired man he is!

Congratulations to Buerckner (James Browning), Stephenson (Terry Inkson) and Weed Industry (Lorna Adlem) Award winners and to the Armidale and New England Weeds Authority for their successful bid for the 19th NSW Weeds Conference in 2017.

I would personally like to thank the committee members who were able to help man the Society display at the conference and hopefully we have recruited many new members and sponsorships.

This years AGM will be held in my neck of the woods in the beautiful Lake Macquarie, with an afternoon seminar session prior to the AGM followed by the annual dinner. All members are welcome to attend and I hope to see you there.

Lastly welcome to our new members to the Society.

Happy weeding, Kim

Welcome to our two new Members

**Andrew Cosier,
Weed Coordinator, Wellington Council**

**Hasan Muhammad Zubair,
PhD Student, Charles Sturt University,
Wagga Wagga**

Member's benefits include:

- 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, and Society's electronic newsletter, the *Punnet Tray*.
- Discounted registration to attend the Australasian Weeds Conference and the NSW Biennial Weeds Conference.
- Additional financial prizes for the winners of the Buerckner, Stephenson and Industry Weed Awards.

Annual General Meeting Annual Dinner 19 November 2015

The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc. will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Thursday, 19 November 2015, in the Lake Macquarie City Council's Work's Depot, Main Training Room - Gatehouse Building, Creek Reserve Road, Speers Point at 4.15 pm.

A seminar will precede the AGM, commencing 3.00 pm, dealing with weeds and their issues in the Lake Macquarie area.

The Annual Dinner will be held at 6.00 pm at Pippis at The Point, 199 Main Road, Speers Point. Accommodation is available at Pippis or other locations around Lake Macquarie.

The Annual General Meeting's agenda has been circulated to members and can be found on Society Website. If you need more information on these two events contact Kim Hignell at khignell@lakemac.nsw.gov.au



18th NSW Weeds Conference 2015 - Cooma

"Weeds - The Future, Innovation & Adaptation"

NSW Weed Industry Award

The NSW Weed Industry Award acknowledges the work of weed professionals and their outstanding contribution towards protecting NSW from the impacts of weeds.



The NSW Weed Industry Award Presentation Medal

The Award is for individuals who make an outstanding contribution in on-ground control, planning or coordinating weed management in New South Wales and are not working in Local Government. The Society believes that there are many people working in State Government, Local Land Services, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Landcare, private enterprise, etc. who make a significant contribution to weed management and need to be recognised for their great input.

The winner of the Award receives a presentation medal and will hold a perpetual trophy for the following two years. All nominees are presented with a Certificate of Acknowledgement.

The Weed Society of New South Wales donates \$500.00 for the winner to use towards travel costs to attend a conference of their choice. The winner of the \$500 must be a current financial member of Weed Society of New South Wales and continuously been a financial member for more than one year. The winner must gain their employer's approval to attend the conference and the money may be used towards training costs if approval is not received.

Lorna Adlem

2015

NSW Weed Industry Award winner



Lorna, Senior Land Services Officer, Hunter Local Land Services, first started working in the environmental / natural resource management field with Greening Australia in Maitland in 1998. Lorna has continued to develop her interests in vegetation and weeds management and is the "go-to" person in Hunter Local Land Services (LLS) for regional and strategic approaches to weeds. She has become the regional authority on African Olive, has developed many enduring relationships with local control authorities and state agencies and is successfully developing a truly regional approach to control and containment of this weed.

She is currently heavily engaged in the establishment of the Hunter Regional Weeds Committee.

A quiet achiever, one who just gets on with the job with little fuss and who has a very professional approach to her work, Lorna is appreciated and valued by all who work with her. She certainly would not be expecting this award and would be altogether embarrassed if she were here.

Congratulations to Lorna and the other finalist, Ken Ferguson, Shelly Beach Coastcare.



18th NSW Weeds Conference 2015 - Cooma

"Weeds - The Future, Innovation & Adaptation"

Buerckner & Stephenson Awards

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

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

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

The **Buerckner Award** is for the outstanding contributions to on-ground control of weeds in NSW. In 2015 this award received five high-quality nominations from across NSW. These were: Andrew Cosier, Wellington; Greg Egan, Kempsey; James Browning, New England; Jordan Skinner, Port Stephens and Mark Tull, Gloucester.

The winner was James Browning, Senior Weeds Officer, New England Weeds Authority. James was presented with his award by Debbie and Jack Buerckner.

The **Stephenson Award** is for outstanding contribution to planning and coordinating weed management programs in NSW. This award received five high-quality nominations from across NSW. These were: Heather Apps, Northern Inland; Terry Inkson, Great Lakes; Karen Jenkins, Hawksbury River; Mel Wilkinson, Tumut and Paul Marynissen, Wyong

Terry Inkson was the winner. Terry was presented with his award by the Stephenson family.

The awards are sponsored by The Weed Society of NSW Inc. and NSW Weed Officers Association Inc.

Buerckner Award

James Browning
Senior Weeds Officer
New England Weeds Authority



James Browning commenced duties with New England Weeds Authority in 1996 working firstly as a casual weed sprayer. His potential was soon recognised and he progressed quickly to a District Weeds Officer then Senior Weeds Officer, the position which he currently holds.

James is a hard working dedicated weed professional who is well respected and highly regarded by his peers and those throughout the industry. With his considerable knowledge and experience James has built up an excellent rapport with landholders in the New England region, with an up front and no nonsense approach to getting results.

He is a valued member of a number of weed related task forces including the NSW Serrated Tussock and Tropical Soda Apple regional group. Amongst other qualifications he holds a Diploma in Conversation and Land Management.

James is also known for his fishing prowess and has some great stories about the fish he has caught and the ones that got away



18th NSW Weeds Conference 2015 - Cooma

"Weeds - The Future, Innovation & Adaptation"

Stephenson Award

Terry Inkson

Noxious & Environmental Weed Co-ordinator
Great Lakes Council



Terry started the life of weeds in 2004 and has amassed 36 years' experience in horticulture providing him with interpersonal and horticultural skills necessary to be a leader in this field. He is a published author of the "Garden Escapees & Other Weeds of Bushland & Reserves" booklet, with 57,000 copies in distribution including TAFE.

With Great Lakes Council, Terry has implemented a Backyard Bushcare Program – Urban inspectorial and education program for raising the profile of Garden Escape plants using a Community Based Social Marketing (CBSM) approach incorporating 'Weed Wine & Dine' education sessions. He is also a subject matter expert – consulting casually for Tocal College assisting the conducting of Recognition of Prior Learning interviews for Conservation & Land Management and Pest Management modules.

Most of you would not be aware that Terry is also a licensed pyrotechnic with worldwide fireworks competition winning experience. It is this passion and 'addiction' for the spectacular, dazzle and flash together with his 'obsession' to all things 'Gadgetry' and new technology that has built his unique personality that he has successfully harnessed in the battle against weeds.



Debbie Grady, James Browning and Jack Buerckner.



Ingrid Stephenson, Terry Inkson, Jay Stephenson and Natalee Stephenson.



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

The NSW Weeds Officers Association Inc. and The Weed Society of NSW Inc. (subject to membership conditions) have each generously donated \$500.00 to each winner to be used towards travel costs to attend the 19th NSW Biennial Weeds Conference in 2017 (Buerckner Award recipient) or the 20th Australasian Weeds Conference in Western Australia in 2016 (Stephenson Award recipient).



18th NSW Weeds Conference 2015 - Cooma

"Weeds - The Future, Innovation & Adaptation"



Mitchell Plumber, Western Local Land Services, Broken Hill, and Reece Luxton, Senior Environmental Officer, Clarence Valley Council. Mitchell was a recipient of the Society's free conference registration.



Robert Stephens, Weeds Officer, Bourke Shire Council, a recipient of the Society's free conference registration.

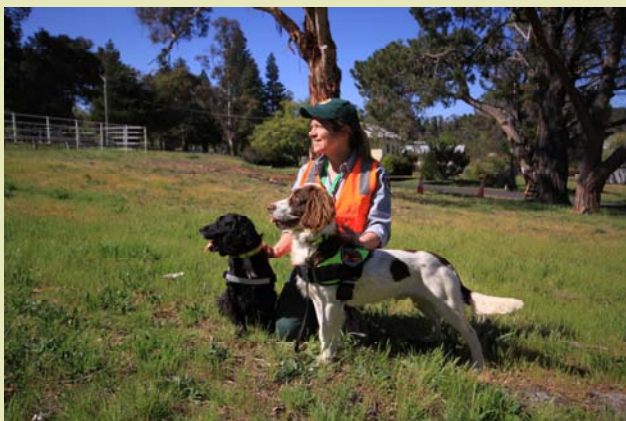


Weed Society display stand.



Glenn McGrath AO, Chairman, McGrath Foundation and former Australian test cricketer, with Kim Hignell, President of the Weed Society of NSW.

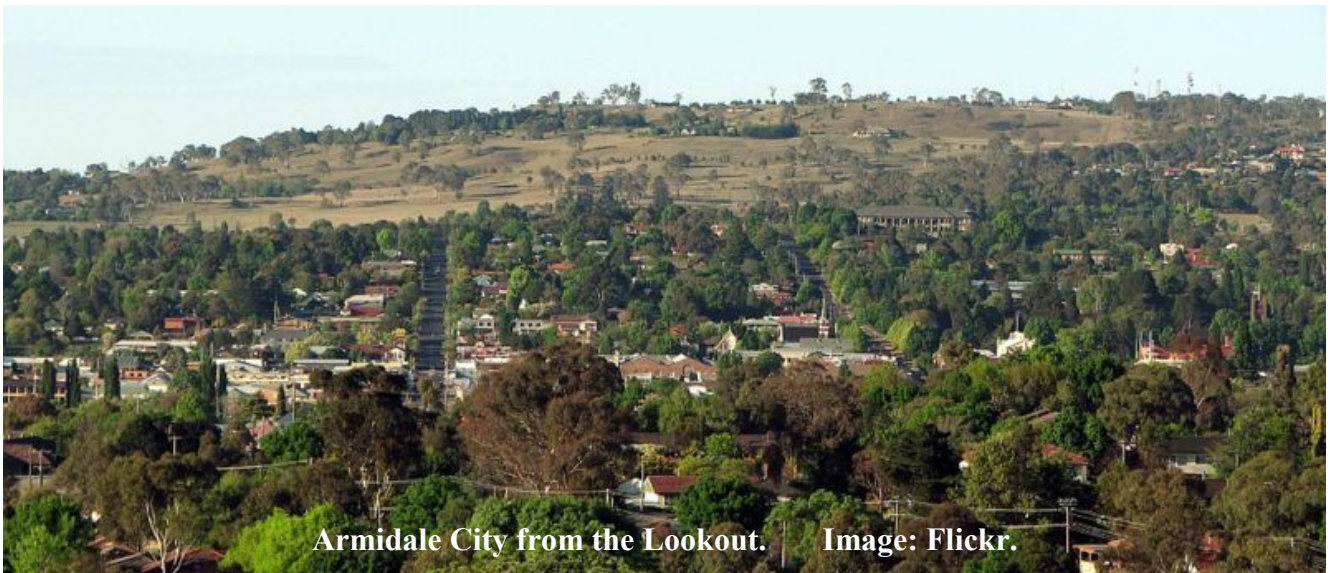
Glenn was the guest speaker at the Conference Dinner.



Hillary Cherry, NPWS, and the NPWS detector dogs, Connor & Sally. Image: Jo Caldwell, NPWS.



New England Weeds Authority to host 19th NSW Weeds Conference in 2017



Armidale City from the Lookout. Image: Flickr.

Following the announcement at the 18th NSW Weeds Conference held in Cooma from 12 to 15 October 2015, New England Weeds Authority is delighted to have been selected to host the 19th NSW Weeds Conference in Armidale in October 2017.

Armidale is a leader in education and agricultural pursuits including research, being situated in the heart of the diverse and picturesque New England Tablelands region of NSW.

The Armidale conference will be held at the University of New England (UNE) which is set in 260 hectares of park like grounds.

UNE has a long established and excellent reputation for being able to ensure that a conference of this size will be well co-ordinated, managed successfully and afford all delegates the opportunity to gain knowledge, forge networks and share experiences to the benefit of their respective communities.

The Authority's General Manager, Mr Wayne Deer said they look forward to working with the Weed Society of NSW Inc, NSW Weed Officers Association and NSW Department of Primary Industries in welcoming delegates and their partners to Armidale in 2017 to what will be a rewarding and enjoyable conference.



Visit the Conference Website: www.20awc.org.au



African Olive

A significant priority weed for the Hunter region, NSW

Lorna Adlem – Hunter Local Land Services

African (or Wild) Olive (*Olea europaea* subsp. *cuspidata*) is an aggressive woody weed with a widespread distribution of varying densities across the Hunter Valley in NSW. It is currently listed as an environmental weed in the region, but is recognised as a class 4 noxious weed across 19 Local Council Areas (LCAs) in the Sydney region and on Lord Howe Island, and a class 3 noxious weed in the Blue Mountains LCA.



Established African Olive hillside infestation.
Image: Lorna Adlem.

African Olive grows in most site situations and tolerates a wide range of environmental conditions meaning that it has the capacity to continue to expand its current range. It has been recorded in the Hunter Local Land Services (HLLS) region growing in coastal sand dunes and along estuaries amongst mangrove habitat as well as drier inland areas on rocky escarpments, hillsides, low lying pastures and riparian zones.

Extensive floristic surveys and mapping of remnant vegetation communities undertaken in the Hunter between 1998 and 2004 provided evidence that African Olive was impacting on vegetation community structure and biodiversity and was stated to be the most serious environmental weed threatening remnant vegetation throughout the central Hunter Valley. Together with this evidence

African Olive was listed as a Key Threatening Process by the NSW Scientific Committee in 2010 due to this ability to completely alter the floristic structure of vegetation communities as it forms dense understories that shade out other species, preventing germination and leading to eventual loss of native seed bank viability.

African Olive also impacts on soils, reducing groundcover to bare soil areas underneath thick canopies. It is encroaching onto grazing land from hillsides where grazing pressure is reduced or removed through destocking and increasing land subdivisions in semi-rural areas. Landholders in impacted areas have labelled African Olive as being worse than Lantana due to the amount of seed it produces, its consequent increasing range, and its life form of being a very long-lived small tree. There is strong field evidence that African Olive is in fact replacing Lantana as the dominant weed in some landscapes.



Emerging African Olive infestation across grazing land.
Image: Lorna Adlem.

African Olive occurrences have been recorded in all council areas in the Hunter LLS region with Singleton and Maitland holding the heaviest core infestations. Many working partnerships with councils, National Parks and Wildlife, Landcare and community groups have focused on addressing this issue over the last 7-8 years. These efforts have



African Olive A significant priority weed for the Hunter region, NSW

included herbicide trials for best control techniques of mature fruiting trees; treatment of roadside infestations to reduce further spread into other areas from these vector pathways; catchment based community projects; field days and education campaigns; and remote sensory mapping.

Current regional work is focusing on treating outlying populations and isolated occurrences of African Olive across tenure in the Upper Hunter County Council area and other council areas where incidences are within a regionally defined 'eradication' management zone. As mapping work continues containment lines are being delineated towards a 'containment' management zone, with a central 'core' zone defined for asset protection. This work is being undertaken in the interim of a Regional Strategic Action Plan being developed so as not to lose momentum.

Opportunities for research are also being explored through agency task groups within the region such as looking into techniques to prevent flowering and fruiting of large trees which may be heritage listed, or deemed of other local significance.

Opportunities for funding are also currently being sought by various partnering agencies. This regional approach to African Olive has brought many organisations together forming important partnerships to address a widespread, threatening issue to natural resources and agricultural production.



African Olive seed set. Seed viability has been found to be around 3 years, with trees maturing at 4-5 years making African Olive biologically more manageable.
Image: Lorna Adlem.

Anyone interested in following this story can join the African Olive Regional Email Network to receive updates on African Olive projects, research and events. To join email me at:
Lorna.Adlem@lls.nsw.gov.au



2015 Annual Conference of the Ecological Society of Australia, will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Adelaide, South Australia, from 29 November - 3 December 2015



13th International Conference of Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions on the Big Island of Hawaii

Society Travel Grant Report Laura Williams, PhD Student University of New England

In October, with assistance from the NSW Weed Society, I travelled to the 13th International Conference of Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions on the Big Island of Hawaii. This was a very informative conference with several hundred delegates from over 30 countries, set in a beautiful location, although with many weeds! I learnt a lot about invasive species and invasion biology in a broader, worldwide context, rather than the more localised Australian context to which I have mostly been exposed. I heard some excellent presentations, networked with other students, academics and stakeholders in the world of weeds, and communicated some of the results and management implications of my PhD to a broader audience.

The conference involved 3 days of talks covering topics such as invasion theory, weed management of specific ecosystems, impacts of plant invasions, genetics of invasive plants, biocontrol, and public engagement. Something that made a real impression on me was the impact that Australian weeds have in so many ecosystems around the world. We hear so much about the damage weeds from South America, Africa and Europe do to our ecosystems but little about how devastating our native plants can be! Eucalypts impair water quality of rivers in Africa, Acacias take over coastal habitat in Portugal and Hakeas invade natural systems in South Africa! One inspiring story was the community involvement in the control of the invasive tree *Falcataria moluccana* in Hawaii. This tree becomes unstable, particularly during storms, and crushes houses, blocks roads and knocks out power. An integrated program has limited funds to remove the species around critical infrastructure, but the community has run with the idea and has removed many trees without assistance! I have a strong interest in the use of new technologies for weed monitoring and control. Modelling is being used extensively to predict where invasive species may occur under future climate change scenarios and specially trained dogs are being used for identifying Hawkweed in the Snowy Mountains. The use of drones is increasing and has interesting and

worthwhile applications - they are being used in thick, difficult to access forest to quickly identify weed outbreaks, to quantify changes in flowering of Acacias in Portugal to determine biocontrol effectiveness and to undertake species cover transect.

The conference was broken up by field trips in search of invasive species. The Big Island is extremely diverse, with 11 of the World's 13 climatic zones and ranges from tropical beaches and arid lava fields to lush rainforest and snow-capped mountains. We visited the Waikoloa Dry Forest Initiative in a lava field on the dry east coast, a reserve created by local residents to preserve some of Hawaii's rare trees. The reserve sits in a sea of invasive Fountain Grass which is a primary coloniser of lava, preventing native species from establishing and providing a huge fire risk. The area is also impacted by feral grazing animals and the removal of rare trees for landscaping! The group has done a great job excluding feral animals, revegetating, and attempting to control invasive species, however they have a limited budget and so have had to be inventive. They allow more 'weedy' native species to flourish as they keep down invasive species and make the system more habitable for the establishment of target species. They also allow less destructive weeds, like *Convolvulus*, to grow in firebreaks as it is low growing and green and presents a lesser fire risk than Fountain Grass. In stark contrast to this reserve, Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge is located at over 2000 m elevation and is home to more lush, alpine vegetation with very different weed problems. Gorse is a major issue which combined with the thick fog made me think I was in the UK or New Zealand! Here they have done extensive work removing pigs and cattle, controlling invasive species and revegetating large areas to provide a refuge for endangered bird and plant species.

This conference provided me with a broader picture of invasion biology and allowed me to expand my networks and I am grateful to the NSW Weed Society for assisting me with this opportunity.



13th International Conference of Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions on the Big Island of Hawaii

Society Travel Grant Report
Laura Williams, PhD Student, University of New England



Outside the Waikoloa Dry Forest Initiative – invasive Fountain Grass presents a huge fire risk on Hawaii and the trees in the background were introduced by the Polynesians but are now widespread and prized for timber, so their removal is controversial. Image: Laura Williams.



Inside the Waikoloa Dry Forest Initiative – rare WiliWili tree, planted and naturally establishing native species. Note the lack of Fountain Grass due to the use of native species to suppress it. Image: Laura Williams.



Invasive gorse nearby the Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge, at over 2000 m elevation. Image: Laura Williams.



Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge – home to numerous rare bird and plant species. Image: Laura Williams.

Further information:

Laura Williams
University of New England
Email: lwilli63@une.edu.au



Always be alert on high risk pathways!

Reece Luxton, Senior Environmental Officer (Weed Management)
Clarence Valley Council

While returning from the NSW Weeds Conference in Cooma recently, Clarence Valley Council Weed Officers Reece Luxton and Shane Landrigan came across an unexpected visitor to the Hunter Region.

Just north of the Hunter River on the Pacific Highway, an unusually suspicious character was seen lurking along the roadside. On first sight it was thought to be a species only found in the Far North Coast of NSW. After reporting it to NSW Department of Primary Industries Invasive Species Officer Rod Ensbey and a couple of emails to the Weed Officer in the Port Stephens Council to report its whereabouts, the weed was confirmed as giant devil's fig.

Giant devil's fig (*Solanum chrysotrichum*) is an erect perennial shrub up to 4m high, with large lobed leaves and thorns located on most parts of the plant. It is declared as a Class 3 noxious weed for the Local Council Areas on the North Coast of NSW.

This was an unexpected find so far south from its previously known distribution in the Far North Coast of NSW. Infestations have been identified in Coffs Harbour recently in a similar situation adjacent to the Pacific Highway.

Weed Officer Jordan Skinner will be collecting a voucher specimen for the State Herbarium and tackling the infestation with his staff in the near future.

It emphasises the need for constant vigilance and surveillance along our high risk pathways to ensure these new and emerging high priority species do not spread unabated across the state. And that it was worthwhile to take a drive from Grafton to Cooma for the Weeds Conference! Even when off duty, a weedo is always on the lookout.

Description – Giant devils fig

Leaves : Large leaves with 7-13 lobes divide half-way up.

Flowers : White - Star shaped and hairy on the outer surface. Autumn through to Spring.

Fruits : Globular fruit, yellow to yellow-orange when mature.

Dispersal: Spread by birds and bats.

Further information:

Reece Luxton on 0427 279 717 or
reece.luxton@clarence.nsw.gov.au



Giant devil's fig location on Streetview Google Earth - 151°41'48.75"E 32° 48'59.41"S.



Always be alert on high risk pathways!



**Giant devil's fig habit.
Image: Jordan Skinner.**

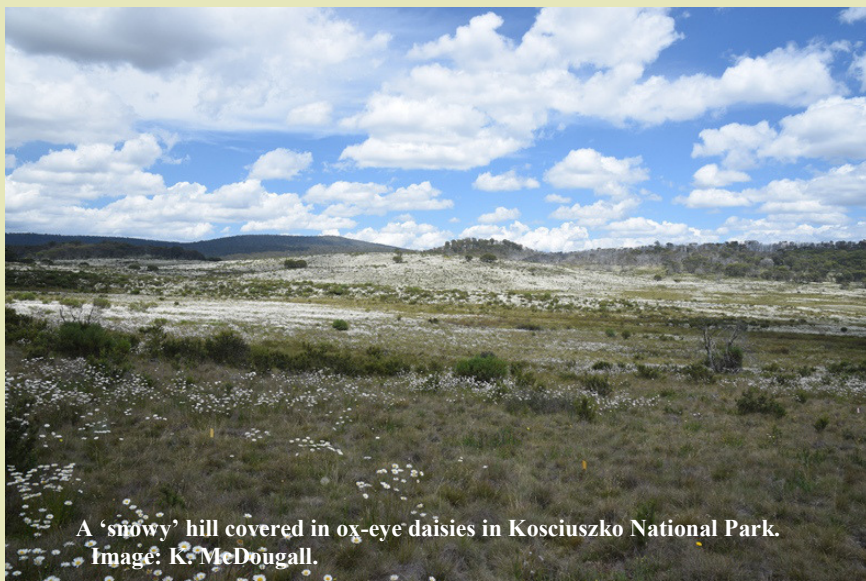


**Large leaves with 7-13 lobes divide
halfway up. Image: Jordan Skinner.**



**Giant devil's plant in situ beside
highway. Image: Jordan Skinner.**

Ox-eye daisy, *Leucanthemum vulgare*, a concern in Kosciuszko National Park.



**A 'snowy' hill covered in ox-eye daisies in Kosciuszko National Park.
Image: K. McDougall.**



The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is undertaking a dual ox-eye daisy containment and asset protection program in Kosciuszko. Within the core infestation, six known populations of threatened flora are being protected, while simultaneously containing the infestation and preventing establishment in surrounding suitable habitat areas.



A Sponsor of the Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.

Hunter Central Coast Weeds - dedicated to weed control

Located approximately 150 kilometres north of Sydney in NSW, the Hunter and Central Coast region encompasses around 25,000 square kilometres and includes 11 Local Government Authorities (LGAs), with various land use patterns, industries and population centres. The region may be further divided into two distinct areas based on landform, land use and floristic patterns:

1. The Lower Hunter - Central Coast region (comprising of Cessnock, Dungog, Gosford, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Newcastle, Port Stephens and Wyong LGAs).
2. The Upper Hunter region (comprising of Singleton, Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter LGAs as Upper Hunter Weeds Authority)

Hunter Central Coast Weeds- A regional partnership for consistent and effective management of weeds

Our aim is to promote cooperative regional partnerships for the consistent and effective management of weeds in the Hunter and Central Coast regions.

The objectives of the team are to help deliver a strategic and realistic approach to the management of Invasive plant species.

The team at **Hunter Central Coast Weeds** strives to:-

- promote understanding of the causes of weed dispersal, invasion and establishment,
- promote integrated strategies for control, develop, initiate and co-ordinate the delivery of collaborative, multi-stakeholder on-ground regional weed management projects, and to
- engage, inform and educate the community in a better understanding of the importance of weed management.



Alligator weed, *Alternanthera philoxeroides*, infests Balickera Canal.



Biosecurity legislative framework to protect NSW

Biosecurity: A shared responsibility

Government, industry and the people of NSW working together to protect the economy, environment and community from the negative impacts of animal and plant pests, diseases and weeds for the benefit of all people in NSW.

The **Biosecurity Act 2015** was assented to in September 2015 and is expected to come into effect in 2017. The regulations, other legal instruments, policies and procedures that will underpin the Biosecurity Act are currently being developed and we are keen to hear from community, industry and our partners on how best to achieve a regulatory framework which can respond to and manage biosecurity risks.

The Biosecurity Act achieves a NSW Government commitment to introduce contemporary biosecurity legislation by 2015, and supports national commitments under the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity.

The Biosecurity Act wholly or partly replaces 14 pieces of existing biosecurity legislation with a single, enabling Act. A consistent approach to managing biosecurity risks to the economy, environment and the community will make it easier for stakeholders and regulators to effectively manage biosecurity risks.

The Biosecurity Act supports industry and jobs growth in NSW by helping us to maintain internationally recognised biosecurity standards, facilitating faster and more targeted government responses in emergency situations, and supporting industry-led biosecurity solutions and market access schemes.

Where to from here?

Before the Biosecurity Act can commence, regulations, other legal instruments and policies and procedures need to be reviewed and developed. This is a big task and will require engagement and participation of stakeholders.

To help with this process, a Biosecurity Advisory Committee has been established. This Committee will play a key role in overseeing the development, implementation and operation of the biosecurity legislation.

Further information

If you have any questions or would like further information about the Biosecurity Act 2015 please email:

Submission.biosecuritylegislation@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Draft State Strategic Plan



We want your feedback on the Local Land Services Draft State Strategic Plan

The Draft State Strategic Plan will help shape future directions for Local Land Services throughout NSW. It sets the vision and goals for the next 10 years and outlines the strategies through which these goals will be achieved. The Plan provides guidance on what success will look like and how stakeholders will be able to measure our performance. Our strategic goals focus on better and more integrated outcomes for the land, the people who manage it and for the communities and environments served. Take a moment to provide your feedback, take part in the online conversation, and ask a question.

Visit the website: <http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/about-lls/state-strategic-plan>

Let us know what you think before 22 November 2015



Annual President's Report Council of Australasian Weed Societies

Overall the past 12 months have been very productive for CAWS and I wish to thank everyone for their contributions.

Since the last AGM, the CAWS strategic plan has been progressed. As part of the strategic plan, the underpinning annual operational plans have been reviewed by the three subcommittees. These Operation Plans have been reviewed with a view to keeping activities focussed and achievable.

The Advocacy subcommittee has been very active and have submitted responses to both the Federal Government's Department of Agriculture *Discussion Paper on Managing Established Pest and Diseases of National Significance* as well as the *Senate Inquiry into Environmental Biosecurity*. A pleasing outcome of the Senate Inquiry is that CAWS is quoted a number of times, with two of the 26 recommendations including those from CAWS. As a consequence, CAWS has continued to increase its presence and relevance nationally. Compiling advocacy submission documents takes considerable time and effort and I thank all those involved.

The CAWS website continues to undergo on-going improvements. Thank you to Kerry Harrington's co-ordination of this work and also to John Kean for his continued efforts in this area and for providing the technical support and advice on the management of the CAWS website.

CAWS has also continued to review and develop policy and procedure guidelines to assist its executive members in decision making processes. This has included reviews of the Regulations for Travel Awards, and the development of a procedure for making constitutional amendments.

The main difficulty for CAWS this year has been in the area of CAWS procedures where we have attempted to change sections of the Constitution. The need for these changes were identified by previous CAWS executive members as well as the WA Department of Commerce and as an organisation we have had a number of unsuccessful attempts to make these changes. CAWS has experienced a number of inadvertent procedural oversights associated with the requirements of the Associations and Incorporations Act regarding specific timeframes for notification of constitutional changes and payment of membership

fees. Unfortunately these oversights have occurred over previous years when these changes have been undertaken by the CAWS executive and have only come to light this year as a result of complaints lodged with the WA Department of Commerce by a society member. Consequently this has resulted in the need to re-run these constitutional amendment changes at this year's AGM.

On a more positive note, this year has been a good year for CAWS awards applicants. Thank you to member societies for promoting these awards. Successful applicants were: • Student Travel Award – Jason Ferguson (University of Qld), and Joshua Buru (Queensland University of Technology), Gayle Somerville (UWA); and Early Career Award – Claire Wainwright (University of Qld).

All in all, this has been a very productive and rewarding year for CAWS. The efforts of the CAWS executive as representatives of the member societies are greatly appreciated. It has been a pleasure to work with a group of highly professional and diligent members who consistently work in a cooperative and supportive manner for the benefit of CAWS and their member Societies. I acknowledge that we all do the best that we can do in the time that we have as volunteers who work on both CAWS matters as well as the issues that our own Societies deal with.

It is therefore with sadness that I have decided to stand down as CAWS President at the end of this term in 2015. In the light of my increased project workload over the past year in my paid professional life, I have realised that I am not in a position to be able to dedicate the time and quality of effort that the role of CAWS President deserves. On this note, I would particularly like to thank Kerry Harrington for his efforts as Secretary, Rachel Melland in her role as Vice President and Michael Widderick as the immediate past President. They have been of great assistance to me and keeping CAWS running effectively in this role during my time as President during what has been an extremely busy year for me.

I would also like to thank the entire CAWS executive for making my time in the role a rewarding experience. I wish the new executive and President every success as they take CAWS into the next term in 2016.



Anna-Marie Penna
CAWS President
10 September 2015





TREASURER'S REPORT (as at 30 September 2015)

Financial Report.

For the period 31 July to the 30 September 2015 the society has shown a loss of \$4,299.35.

For the year to date – 1 October 2014 to the 30 September 2015 (the society's financial year) a loss of \$13,796.00 is recorded.

The Balance Sheet shows that the society is in a sound financial position with total equity of \$63,480.13, made up of cash - \$13,845.24 and two term deposits totalling \$49,634.89.

As advised previously the society is in a position to support financially projects that meet its objectives, but to date despite a note appearing in *A Good Weed* inviting members to apply for funding of projects that meet our objectives, there have been no applications which is somewhat disappointing.

The cheque account was reconciled on the 30 September 2015.

The audit committee will meet in late October 2015 and present its report with the treasurers' annual financial statement at the Annual General Meeting on the 19 November 2015.

18th NSW Weeds Conference.

To date 22 members have applied for the code that is required for them to receive the \$100.00 discount available to them as Weed Society members.

Membership.

As at the 1 October 2015 the society has 157 members which includes 5 life members. To date 122 have paid their subscriptions for 2015 with 30 yet to pay.

Payment for 2015 subscriptions was due by the 1 June 2015 and a reminder was sent to the 30 who have not yet paid. If payment is not received by the 31 December 2015, then those members will not continue to receive *A Good Weed* or *The Punnet Tray* or be eligible for the benefits offered by the society until payment is made.

Progress to resignation of Treasurer.

Currently there are two term deposits and the objective is to have their balances transferred to the cheque account as they mature.

Maturity dates are:

Term deposit 2501 - 24 October 2015

Term deposit 2502 - 24 October 2015

This will then allow an orderly transfer of funds to the new bank account in November 2015 when the new treasurer is appointed. Term deposit 2505 matured on the 25 September 2015 and the final balance of \$10,586.78 was transferred to the cheque account.

Jim Swain
Honorary Treasurer
5 October 2015

Have you paid your membership dues?

The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc. annual membership fees were due for payment on the 1 June 2015 and as at 20 October 2015, 21 members have not paid their 2015 annual fees.

A reminder was recently sent to all unfinancial members and we thank those who have subsequently paid their outstanding membership fee. Unfinancial members have until the 31st December 2015 to pay the outstanding membership fee.

If payment has not been received by this date then unfinancial members will no longer receive *A Good Weed*, *The Punnet Tray* or be eligible for the benefits membership offers you.

Those unfinancial as at 31 December 2015 will receive a Tax Invoice in 2016 which will include the 2015 arrears and the 2016 membership fees and on payment will have their access to the newsletters and benefits restored.

If you no longer wish to continue as a member of the Weed Society of NSW Inc. then it would be appreciated if you could advise the Treasurer so that your name can be removed from the membership list thus avoiding unnecessary costs to the society.

Jim Swain, Treasurer.



Sponsorship Thank You Mitch Plumbe

Thank you to the NSW Weeds Society for their sponsorship of my attendance at the 18th NSW Weeds Conference. This provided me with a great opportunity to not only be exposed to current research and best practice management techniques, but to also network and meet others working in the field. At this early stage in my career, such opportunities are highly valued.

Something I have taken from the Conference is a greater contact base and insight into the field of plant identification and spatial mapping using precision ag technologies. This is something that I believe has great potential in the far west of NSW where I am based, as more traditional methods of plant ID and mapping become limited by landscape scale. Discussion with speakers at the conference also determined that preliminary studies relevant to the use of this technology in my area may have already been done. This informal platform for knowledge sharing is something that I would not have had the opportunity to be involved in without attending the Conference.

The trip to Cooma was not only enjoyable but also very beneficial to my role in weed control in the Broken Hill region.

Regards,
Mitch Plumbe



Mitchell Plumber, Western Local Land Services, Broken Hill, was a recipient of the Society's free conference registration.

'Feral Opuntoid Cacti in Australia. Part I. Cylindrical-stemmed Genera: *Austrocylindropuntia*, *Cylindropuntia* and *Corynopuntia*'

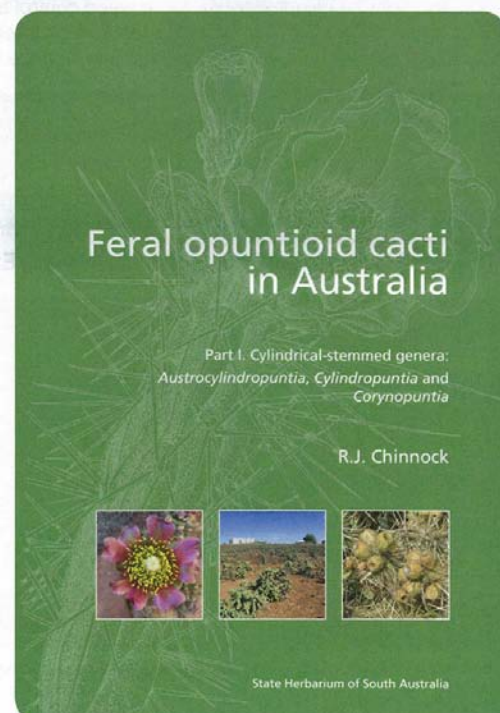
R. J Chinnock (2015)

Published by the Herbarium of South Australia Journal of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens Supplement 3 (2015)

With sixty-nine colour pages, this book is an essential reference tool for land owners and managers, staff of government agencies, conservation groups, people involved in bushcare, and anyone concerned with identifying and eradicating weedy cacti. It will also be a valuable addition to libraries of ecologists and botanists, and people who are generally interested in cacti and succulents.

A field identification section will provide an easy means to identify the plants and the taxonomic section will contain detailed descriptions and notes on every species. Introductory chapters on opuntoid morphology, how to collect and prepare pressed specimens, dispersal and biological/chemical control, and a glossary complete the book.

The cost of the book is \$25 (incl. GST). More information and an order form can be downloaded from <http://know.ourplants.org/cacti/>.





Office Bearers for 2015

President

Kim Hignell (Lake Macquarie)

Vice President

Birgitte Verbeek (Tamworth)

Secretary & Public Officer

Alan Murphy (Glen Innes)

Assistant Secretary

Michael Michelmore (Goulburn)

Treasurer

Jim Swain (Thornleigh)

Newsletter Editor

Lawrie Greenup (Westleigh)

Assistant Newsletter Editor

Hanwen Wu (Wagga Wagga)

Other Committee Members

Ruth Armstrong (Port Stephens)

Hillary Cherry (Forestville)

Tony Cook (Tamworth)

Maria Edmonds (Cessnock)

Stephen Johnson (Orange)

Reece Luxton (Grafton)

CAWS Delegates

Kim Hignell (Lake Macquarie)

Hillary Cherry (Forestville)

A Good Weed



How about providing material for 'A Good Weed'?

If you would like to submit an article contact the editor at: editor@nswweedsoc.org.au

Submission dates for material are:

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| #73 Summer 2015 | 30 November 2015 |
| #74 Autumn 2016 | 28 February 2016 |
| #75 Winter 2016 | 31 May 2016 |
| #76 Spring 2016 | 31 August 2016 |

Committee Meeting Dates 2015

19 November Annual General Meeting & Dinner
11 December Executive Committee Meeting

Contact Details

Postal Address: PO Box 438
Wahroonga

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Treasurer: treasurer@nswweedsoc.org.au

Editor: editor@nswweedsoc.org.au

Website: www.nswweedsoc.org.au

We would love to see you at the Annual General Meeting & Annual Dinner



Come to beautiful Lake Macquarie and enjoy the company of like-minded people. The Annual General Meeting will be preceded by a seminar on Lake Macquarie weed issues. The Annual Dinner will be held at 'Pippis at The Point' right on the edge of Lake Macquarie. Details will be posted to all members as well as being on the website: www.nswweedsoc.org.au

We look forward to seeing you and your friends at the AGM and Dinner. The dinner is always great fun and enjoyable!

If unable to deliver return to:

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

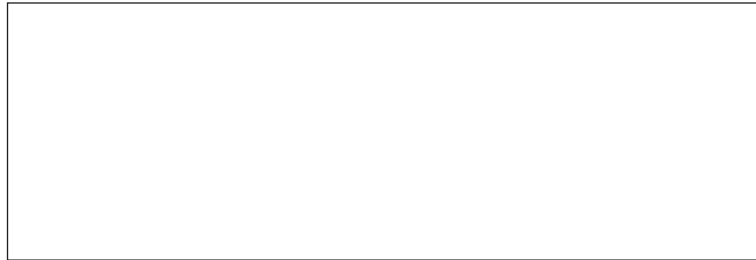
A Good Weed

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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



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