

A GOOD WEED

Autumn 2016 Issue #74

Newsletter of The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.



*Shearwater chicks on Big Island are often entangled and die in the dense mats of kikuyu and morning glory.
Image: Rowena Morris.*

In This Issue

- Weed Management on Big Island, Broughton Island and Lord Howe Island
- Impressive biocontrol agent for Crofton weed.
- Threatened native plants can become weeds.
- Apply for Society & CAWS awards.

ISSN 1325-3689



In this issue

Index & Society Details	1
President's report	2
New member	2
Society awards	
Travel Assistance Grants	3
Under-graduate Prize	3
Society Projects	3
20th CAWS Conference, Perth	4
History of Society newsletters	5
Weed management on NSW Islands	
Big Island (Five Island Group)	7
Broughton Island	9
Lord Howe Island	11
New rust fungus for Crofton weed	13
Threatened native plants as weeds	15
CAWS Medal for Leadership	16
Treasurer's report	17
Membership renewal dues	17
Plant Protection Quarterly membership discount	18

'A Good Weed' & 'Punnet Tray' are produced by The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.

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The opinions expressed in both publications by contributors are not necessarily those of the Executive Committee of The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.



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Committee Meeting Dates

Committee meetings will be held in April, June, August, October & December 2016.

The Annual General Meeting will be held in November 2016.

Dates to be advised.

From the President

It's March already, and the year is moving very quickly for many of us who are time poor with workloads continuously increasing, mine included.

I hope that you like our new magazine cover for 2016, which celebrates the 50th anniversary of our Society. Formed in 1966, the Weed Society of New South Wales Inc. is the oldest weed society in Australia. A special publication is being created to celebrate which will be released later in the year.

This autumn issue of A Good Weed, focuses on Island Weed Management with three great articles enlightening us with their unique management of issues in overcoming weed problems.

The 20th Australasian Weeds Conference to be held in Perth on 12 – 15 September this year has called for papers with the closing date 21 March. Let's hope that you got your papers in on time. The CAWS Oration will be delivered by Professor Steve Powles, Director of the Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative. There will be some special subject workshops and a symposia held over the 4 days of the conference.

Just a reminder that the Society Travel Assistance Grant applications are due on the 1 May 2016. Limited travel funds are available 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. So please get your submissions in on time.

I would like to thank all of our sponsors from last year and hope that they renew their sponsorship for 2016. If any member knows of any potential sponsors for the Society, please contact the Secretary or Treasurer with their contact details.

Membership renewals have now been sent out but if you haven't received your invoice please contact our Treasurer at treasurer@nswweedsoc.org.au. Thank you to all our members who have paid their membership renewal so quickly.

Last but not least, if you have any ideas on what topic you would like to hear about at our next seminar held in Sydney, later in the year, please send me your ideas. A focus on operational works such as herbicides, and where we stand as weed managers and operators under the new weed legislation Biosecurity Act 2015 are a couple of ideas. Remember that this is being held for you and to update our weed issues is best done in this format. I will be looking forward to hearing your ideas.



Happy Weeding

Kim Hignell



Welcome to our New Member

William (Bill) Brown
Charles Sturt University
Wagga Wagga

New members receive all the benefits of Society membership including:

- 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 the electronic newsletter, the *Punnet Tray*;
- discounted registrations to attend the Australasian Weeds Conference and the NSW Biennial Weeds Conference, and additional financial prizes for the winners of the Buerckner Award, Stephenson Award & NSW Weed Industry Award.

Society Travel Assistance Grant

Closing Date 1 May 2016

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 and 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.

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 be provided if the weeds course is sufficiently comprehensive to warrant support.

Nominations are made by the participating institutions.

Call for Funding of Projects

The Weed Society of NSW Inc. is calling for applications from members who require full or partial funding of projects that meet the aims and objectives of the Society.

The aims of the Society are to: promote a wider interest in weeds and their management; encourage the investigation of all aspects of weeds and weed management; encourage the study of weed science and the dissemination of its findings; provide opportunities for those interested in weeds and their management to exchange information and ideas based on research and practice; cooperate with other organisations engaged in related activities in Australia and overseas, and produce and publish such material as may be considered desirable.

Members are invited to submit applications which should include details of the project; how it relates to the aims of the society; the likely outcomes and the level of funding required

Successful applicants will be required to enter a legal and business contract with the Society.

Applications or further details contact:

The Secretary
Weeds Society of NSW Inc.
PO Box 8040, Koorlingal, NSW 2650
or email: secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au



Trailing speedwell, *Veronica plebia*, in buffalo lawn. Taken with a 16 MP Smartphone - fits in the pocket, has GPS, memo, voice recording, and access to weed ID websites & maps. No more heavy SLRs, lenses, tripods & associated gear. Perhaps occasionally for that A3 size image! Image: Lawrie Greenup.



This year the Council of Australasian Weed Societies (CAWS), along with local hosts the Weeds Society of Western Australia, are celebrating the *20th Australasian Weeds Conference*. The biennial conference is being held at the Pan Pacific in Perth, Western Australia, which has traditionally been one of the highest attended AWC's, and over 300 delegates are expected from across Australasia.

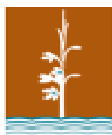
Delegates will come together to meet-up with peers, engage with industry sponsors, and to listen and participate in presentations and field trips on a variety of topics including:

- Herbicide resistance
- Weeds of National Significance
- Agricultural weeds
- Environmental weeds
- Biological control of weeds
- Modelling and new technologies to manage weeds
- Legislation, regulation and policy to manage weed

The CAWS Oration will be delivered by **Professor Steve Powles, Director of the Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative.**

There will be some special subject workshops and symposia including:

- Wattle we do about invasive acacias? Chair: Christina Birnbaum
- Invasive garden plants. Chair: Kate Blood
- New incursions. Chair: Barbara Waterhouse
- The scourge of spurge – invasive Euphorbia species. Chair: TBA
- Have you got the APptitude? Use of apps for reporting, identifying and/or management of weeds. Chair: Dr Rosalie McCauley
- Grains Weeds Advisory Committee. Chair: Dr Chris Preston
- Weeds on islands. Chair: TBA
- Weed legislation, policy and strategy – evolution and revolution. Chair: Dr John Virtue
- Weed management for biodiversity conservation. Chair: Hillary Cherry



THE WEEDS SOCIETY OF WA INC



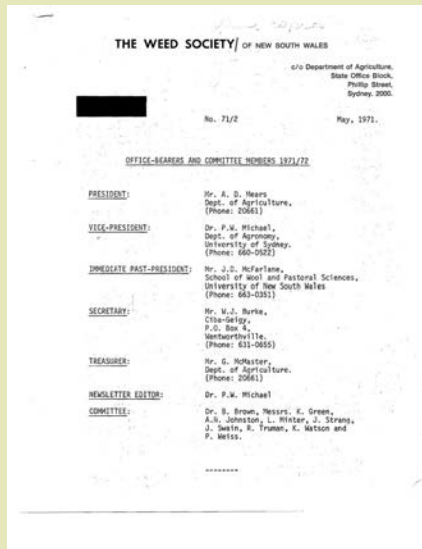
Further information visit the website: www.20awc.org.au



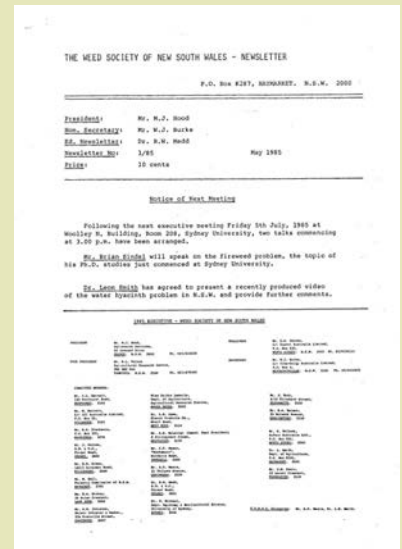
50 Years of the Society Newsletter and 'A Good Weed'



Newsletter Number 1 August 1966 Cost: 5c Editor/Secretary: Peter Ryland

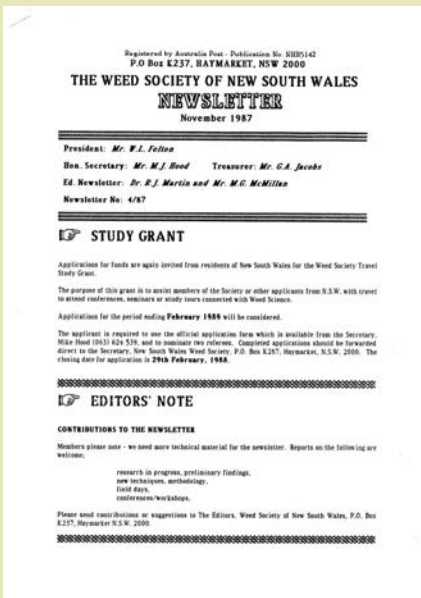


Newsletter No. 71/2 May 1971 Editor: Peter Michael

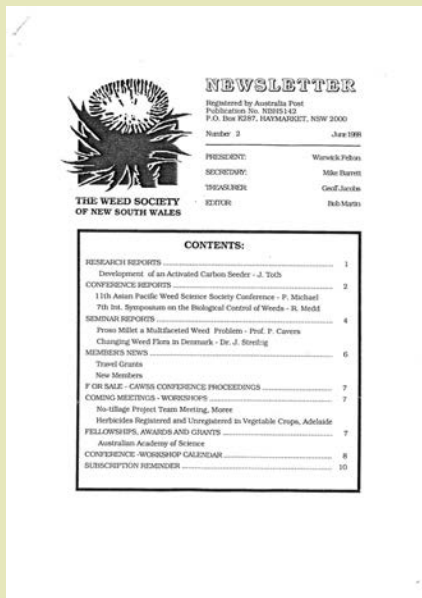


Newsletter 1/85 May 1985 Cost: 10c Editor: Richard Medd

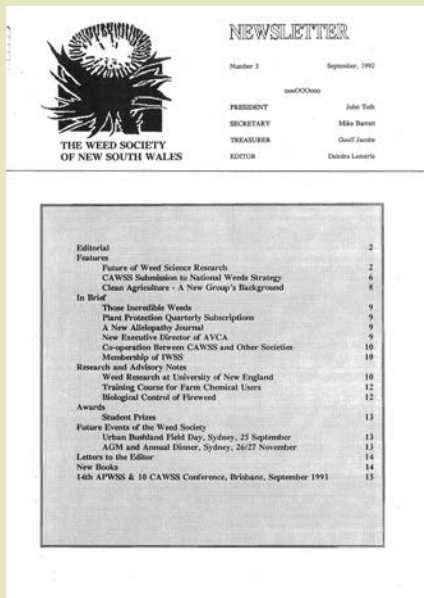
The Society commenced a Newsletter in its inaugural year as a means of effectively communicating with members. The Secretary initially compiled the Newsletter, which was mostly quarto or foolscap in size. In June 1976, Leon Smith was appointed Editor and started to standardise layout, content and frequency. Format moved to A4 size.



Newsletter 4/87 November 1987 Editors: Robert (Bob) Martin & Max MacMillan



Newsletter No. 2 June 1988 Editor: Robert (Bob) Martin



Newsletter Number 3 September 1992 Editor: Deidre Lemerle

The Society logo first appeared on Newsletters in 1988, along with the emergence of a table of contents. The Newsletter remained a black and white publication, but started to reflect the improvements possible with better desktop publishing software.



A Good Weed Issue #1 March 1995 Editor: Brian Sindel



A Good Weed Issue #18 October 1999 Editors: Jim Dellow, Peter Dowling, Bob Trounce



A Good Weed Issue #42 June 2007 Editor: Mike Hood Asst. Editor: Lawrie Greenup

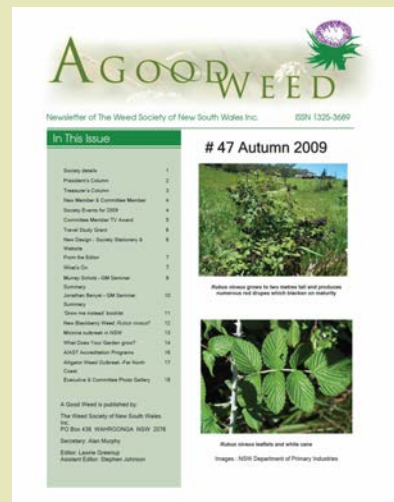
Commencing in 1995, the Newsletter became known as 'A Good Weed', colour was introduced onto the front cover and an ISSN number appeared on the publication. Sadly, Mike Hood passed away unexpectedly while serving as editor.



A Good Weed Issue #43 December 2007 Editor: Lawrie Greenup



A Good Weed Issue #44 Winter 2008 Editor: Lawrie Greenup



A Good Weed Issue #47 Autumn 2009 Editor: Lawrie Greenup Asst. Editor: Hanwen Wu

Commencing in 2007, full colour was introduced throughout the publication. A new cover design was introduced in 2009. Editions are issued quarterly and are generally 20 pages in length. Since 2013, the Punnnet Tray has been introduced to increase communication with members. In 2017 the Society proposes to introduce a new design for the logo and 'A Good Weed', hopefully the start of another 50 years for the Society.

Special thanks to Peter Michael, foundation and life member, for allowing the Society access to his almost complete set of newsletters and to scan them for the Society's archives.

Rex Stanton & Lawrie Greenup.

Restoration of Seabird Habitat on Big Island

Ben Coddington, Berrim Nuru Environmental Services
Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council, Wollongong



Location of the trial area on Big Island, about 600 metres offshore from Port Kembla.

Big Island is the largest island of the Five Islands Nature Reserve and is 17.7 hectares. Big Island is located approximately six hundred metres offshore from the iconic Hill 60 in Port Kembla. The island provides habitat and breeding sites for a variety of birds including burrowing seabirds, wedge-tailed shearwater (*Ardenna pacifica*), short-tailed shearwater (*Puffinus tenuirostris*) and little penguin (*Eudyptula minor*). This habitat is in a degraded condition with exotic species, predominately kikuyu (*Pennisetum clandestinum*) forming a dense matted layer up to one metre thick over the majority of the island as well as coastal morning glory (*Ipomoea cairica*) spreading rapidly over the northern part of the island. Mirror bush (*Coprosma repens*) forms dense clusters around the fringes. The kikuyu and coastal morning glory are a particular issue as the dense cover restricts burrowing habitat and causes death to birds by entanglement.

Big Island or 'Booirodoong' is significant to the local Aboriginal community. Hill 60 and surrounds was a camp and is well known to be an important cultural site for the Wadi Wadi people. The island

was used for fishing and diving for abalone. A large midden on the western shore and stone artefacts found during restoration works are evidence of this. National Parks & Wildlife Services (NPWS) are in partnership with the Aboriginal community on this project and have contracted 'Berrim Nuru Environmental Services', established by the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council to conduct the restoration works. The island's post-colonial history includes grazing, market gardens, inhabitation by a shark fisherman, fire and infestation by rabbits. Kikuyu is thought to have been initially introduced to stabilise the sandy, yet guano enriched soil to deal with erosion. There are currently no rabbits on Big Island.

NPWS have begun a restoration project focusing on restoring habitat for burrowing sea birds. A trial area of 0.9 hectares was aerial sprayed using a glyphosate mix, outside of bird breeding season in April 2014. This left a dense cover of matted dead kikuyu providing an ideal mulch to stabilise the soil. Seabird monitoring since this treatment indicates an increase in the number of shearwater burrows in the 2014/15 breeding season.

In March 2015 Berrim Nuru began hand-weeding around patches of native regeneration such as native wandering Jew (*Commelina cyanea*), Warrigal greens (*Tetragonia tetragonioides*) and fishweed (*Einadia trigonos*). Exotic species, predominately crowfoot (*Eleusine indica*), rapidly recolonised the majority of the trial area. Other common species have been rye grass (*Bromus secalinus*), fat hen (*Chenopodium album*) as well as ink weed (*Phytolacca octandra*) and spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*). Kikuyu has continued to reshoot in patches and is controlled by spot spraying with glyphosate as digging it out usually results in snapping the underground stolons which are very effective at re-sprouting. Coastal morning glory has required repeat treatments of scraping stems and painting with concentrated glyphosate which has been effective.

The trial area was planted with 3,750 native tubestock in July 2015 with the help of volunteers from 'Friends of Five Islands'. Planting was done around and between patches of native regeneration to link these areas and create a core area of native dominated vegetation to work outwards. The majority of tubes planted were spiny-headed mat rush (*Lomandra longifolia*) as well as a mix of shrubs and ground layer species known from historical records to have previously occurred on the island. Following excellent rainfall the tubestock are doing well, native regeneration patches continue to spread and the weeding continues. We are about two years into a very worthwhile restoration project that is likely to take up to 20 years to achieve success over the whole island.

Further Information:

Ben Coddington Mb: 0481 588 004
 Email: bencoddington@yahoo.com.au



Kevin Mills, Ben Coddington, David Lawrence and Rowena Morris hand-weeding around an area of planted *Lomandra* and pigface (*Carpobrotus glaucescens*).



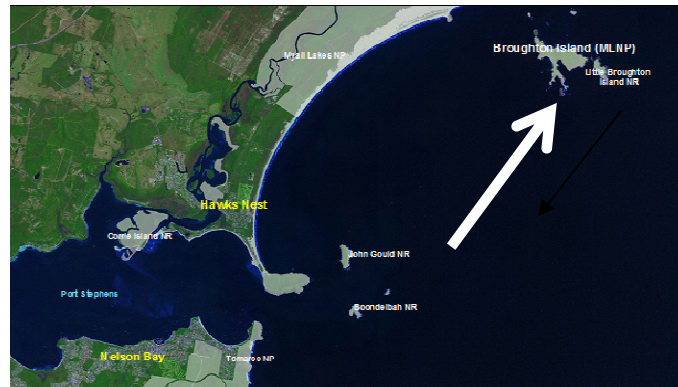
Tony Pagett, Berrim Nuru Environmental Services, tends plantings while avoiding stepping on shearwater burrows in the foreground.



Weed recolonisation following the aerial spraying - crowfoot throughout the foreground and fat hen in the background.

Weed management on Broughton Island

Ruth Armstrong, Pest Management Officer, Lower North Coast Region
National Parks & Wildlife Service, Office of Environment & Heritage
Nelson Bay



Broughton Island is located 14kms northeast of Port Stephens, NSW. It has been part of Myall Lakes National Park, a Ramsar wetland, since it was declared in 1972. Access to the island is by boat, although a helipad is situated on the island. Boat transfer to the island can vary from 40 mins to 1.5 hours from Nelson Bay, dependent on the sea conditions. It is a popular fishing and diving destination, with camping permitted. There are no permanent residences on the island, however there are 8 temporary dwellings, including a recently built National Parks & Wildlife Service hut. All dwellings are serviced by solar-power and rainwater tanks, with mobile telephone reception restricted to elevated points on the island. The island's coastline comprises steep rocky cliffines and white sandy beaches.

Broughton Island (138ha) is a nesting site for migratory wedge-tailed shearwaters (*Ardenna pacifica*), and little penguins (*Eudypluta minor*) close to the northern limit of their range. Green and golden bell frogs (*Litoria aurea* - endangered under *Threatened Species Conservation (TSC) Act*; vulnerable under the *Environment Protection & Biodiversity Act*) inhabit the island. Much of the native vegetation is dominated by bracken species and blady grass (*Imperata cylindrica*), and there are scattered *Themeda* grasslands (Endangered Ecological Community *TSC Act*) and rainforest remnants. Strategic weed control on the island has focused on bitou bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera* ssp *rotundata*) and prickly pear (*Opuntia stricta*). Smothering vine species are also present,

including coastal morning glory (*Ipomoea cairica*) and dolichos pea (*Dipogon lignosus*).

In August 2009, rabbits, rats and house mice were eradicated from Broughton Island. Transects were established to monitor the response of native vegetation to the cessation of herbivory by introduced mammals. Initially some weed species, particularly exotic greases, proliferated but there has been a significant recovery of many native plant species.

An emerging threat is *Watsonia* lily (*Watsonia meriana*), which was first detected in September 2013 at sites adjacent to frog habitat and within the *Themeda* grassland EECs.



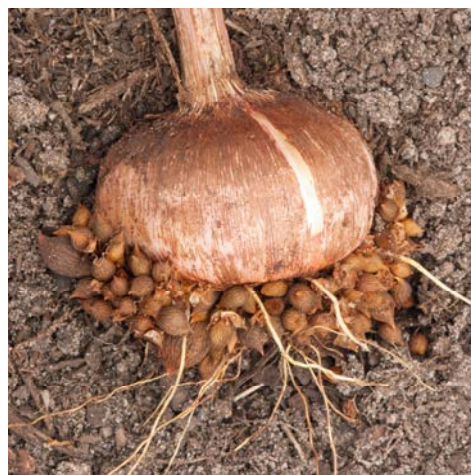
Watsonia lily, *Watsonia meriana*, growing in *Themeda* grassland.

Watsonia lily sprouts from an underground bulb in autumn, actively grows during winter, flowers and sets seeds in spring/summer and dies down in late summer. The plants remain dormant for a number of months which limits the time to undertake treatment. It is highly invasive in undisturbed vegetation and can form dense infestations. Watsonia lily can spread rapidly by seed and production of new plants from bulbils that split from the parent bulb. Individual plants can remain undetected as underground bulbs, presenting a further challenge to its control.

In late 2014 the island vegetation was surveyed and invasive weed species were recorded. Watsonia lily infestations were identified at 7 locations across the island, mostly in damp areas. Various control techniques were applied in October, including herbicide application with the “Tongs of Death” in/ adjacent to *Themeda* grassland EECs, backpack spraying in less sensitive vegetation and hand removal. Revisiting the site to undertake follow-up in October 2015, the infestations were greatly reduced, however some sites were inundated due to previous heavy rainfall. Follow-up treatment of all weed treatments is ongoing on the island.

Further information:

Ruth Armstrong
 Ph: (02) 4984 8214
 Email: ruth.armstrong@environment.nsw.gov.au



Watsonia parent bulb with numerous bulbils which can produce new plants.



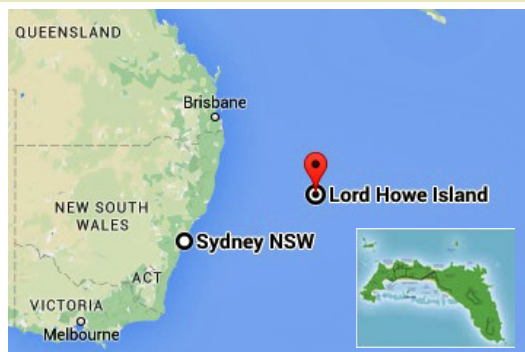
A specially designed hand-held tong-like herbicide applicator called by the control team “Tongs of Death”. The tongs are used to apply herbicide directly to the Watsonia leaves in a manner similar to a wick applicator.



Undertaking *Watsonia* control using the “tongs of death” within a *Themeda* grassland.

Protecting Paradise from Weeds

Sue Bower, Flora Management Officer, Lord Howe Island Board



Lord Howe Island, an irregularly crescent-shaped volcanic remnant in the Tasman Sea, 600 kilometres directly east of Port Macquarie on the mainland. It is 11 km long, 2.8 km at its widest point, 1 km at its narrowest with an area of 14.55 km²

Lord Howe Island is renowned for its spectacular scenery and is often considered pristine; however it has its own fair share of weed problems. The island, World Heritage listed, is about 1,450ha with 80% forested, 70% in permanent park preserve and dominated by two mountains, Lidgbird and Gower

Island ecosystems comprise 5% of the earth's surface yet support up to 50% of the globe's endangered plant and animal species. Islands are a storehouse for global biodiversity but are at threat from introduced species. Their limited size and isolation however provides opportunities to secure and conserve species habitats for current and future generations.

Invasive weeds are identified as one of the most serious threats to Lord Howe Island's biodiversity and World Heritage values and weed management on Lord Howe Island presents particular challenges mostly due to vertical cliffs, elevation and working around migratory seabirds. Target invasive weeds are known to occur across 80% of the low to mid elevations (up to 400m). The remaining 20% of the island includes remote terrain or cliffs in the southern mountains (with low to zero presence of weeds - assumed or through targeted surveys) which require technical applications.

Over 670 introduced plants have been recorded on Lord Howe Island, mostly in gardens. Of these, 270 have recognised invasive characteristics. At least 1,000 introduced plants are likely to occur on the island (LHI Weed Management Strategy 2006).

Currently 68 declared noxious weeds occur on Lord Howe Island and are targeted for eradication.

Lord Howe Island Weed Eradication Program

A Strategic Plan for Weed Management was developed by the Lord Howe Island Board in 2002. The island was divided into 19 management or control areas. Some of these areas were identified as high priority for on-ground weed treatment. The strategy was essentially a control strategy, to try and reduce weed populations in particular areas

The Lord Howe Island Weed Management Strategy (2006) aims to reduce threats posed by invasive weeds to the island's natural environment, to human health and agricultural capacity. Approaches to weed management on Lord Howe Island include prevention, early detection, monitoring, control and eradication.

The Lord Howe Island Board has implemented an ambitious program to eradicate at least 25 priority invasive weeds. Within a short 10 year period between 2004 and 2014, the impact of dense and widespread weed infestations has significantly reduced by 80% (weeds of all life stages) and 90% (mature weeds) across 1,164 hectares of the island.

This has been achieved through investment of \$6.4 million dollars and over 129,000 hours of grid search method. Helicopter winch and helicopter lance spray programs have been successfully trialled to access weeds on cliffs and rugged terrain.

[Http://www.lhib.nsw.gov.au/environment/environmental-programs/weed-eradication-program](http://www.lhib.nsw.gov.au/environment/environmental-programs/weed-eradication-program)



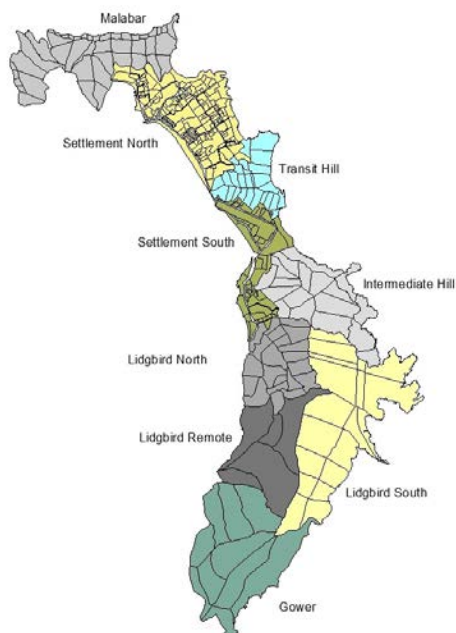
Lord Howe Island Heli-Lance, 2015. Image: D. Connor.

Lord Howe Board achievements.

- **10 Years Ago** The Lord Howe Island Board embarked on the ambitious challenge of eradicating 25 priority weeds.
- **6.4M Dollars Invested.** The Lord Howe Island Board (\$1.8M) and State and Federal Government (\$4.6M) have invested a total of \$6.4 million dollars.
- **2M Weeds Removed.** Over two million weeds have been removed (seedling to mature weeds) from the island since 2004.
- **6 Weeds Eradicated.** Six invasive weeds eradicated - Cats Claw Vine, Cocos Palm, French Broom, Potato Vine, Tipuana, and Turkey Rhubarb
- **80 Percent Reduction.** Weed populations have reduced by 80% comparing year one to year ten.

Some of the weeds targeted for eradication and numbers of individuals removed over 10 years:
 Cherry guava *Psidium cattleianum* (704,266)
 Ground asparagus *Asparagus aethiopicus* (687,404)
 Bridal creeper *Asparagus asparagoides* (110,905)
 Climbing asparagus *Asparagus plumosus* (53,804)
 Bitou bush *Chrysanthemoides monilifera* (3,459)
 Ochna *Ochna serrulata* (501,062)

New weed threats are being removed before they become widespread: silky oak *Grevillea robusta* (271), Kahili ginger *Hedychium gardnerianum* (123), Singapore daisy *Sphagneticola trilobata* (94) leaf cactus *Pereskia aculeata* (5)



Lord Howe Island Weed Management Blocks.

The Next Decade of Weeding

The end point of the weed eradication program was forecast to be achieved over a 30 year period, given adequate resourcing. After 10 years of project delivery and data collection the Lord Howe Island Weed Eradication Program is being reviewed to ensure the program remains adaptable to new technologies, new risks and continues a strong eradication trend. Essentially after 10 years the eradication program is largely in the active phase - with mature weeds being removed. The next decade aims to reduce mature weeds to zero density working towards containment and monitoring phase. The Lord Howe Island Board is preparing a business case to seek ongoing investment and project partners into the next decade to continue this important island conservation program.

The outcomes in protecting “Paradise from Weeds” has been made possible through the dedication of teams on ground including volunteers, the Friends of Lord Howe Island, with the support from the local community and investment from the following key agencies: Caring for our Country (CFOC); New South Wales Environmental Trust (NSWET); North Coast Local Land Services (NCLLS - formerly NRCMA); New South Wales Department of Primary Industries - Weeds Action Plan (WAP); Foundation for National Parks (FNP) and Lord Howe Island Board (LHIB)

Further Details:

Sue Bower
 Lord Howe Island Board Flora Management Officer
 PO Box 5 Lord Howe Island NSW 2898
 ph: (02) 6563 2066 Ext. 35 (shared phone)
 Email: Sue.Bower@lhib.nsw.gov.au



View from Mt. Eliza looking towards the Southern Mountains - Mt. Lidgbird (LHS) and Mt. Gower (RHS). When you fly into Lord Howe Island it is hard to imagine that invasive species are a present problem!
 Image: Ken Lees.

New biocontrol agent for Crofton weed already impresses

Dr Louise Morin, CSIRO Health & Biosecurity, Canberra

Crofton weed (*Ageratina adenophora*) is found in several areas along the NSW coast and in south-east Queensland. It produces copious quantities of wind-borne seeds, spreads rapidly and once established at a site reduces its agricultural or ecological value. Following extensive testing, the rust fungus *Baeodromus eupatorii* (ex. Mexico) was approved in May 2014 for release in Australia for the biocontrol of Crofton weed. It infects young leaves and stems of Crofton weed. It was first released at a handful of sites on the NSW South Coast in winter-spring 2014. Within 6–12 months of these releases, the rust fungus had caused extensive defoliation of Crofton weed and naturally spread to nearby Crofton weed infestations (in one case up to 15 kilometres away from the release site).

In partnership with the community, a large-scale release program of this new biocontrol agent was initiated across NSW in autumn 2015 with financial support from the Weeds Action Program (WAP) of the NSW Department of Primary Industries. The fungus was also released in 2015 at 11 sites in national parks in south-east Queensland with support from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

The community-based release program in NSW is continuing in 2016 with support from the NSW Environmental Trust. Rust-infected potted plants, grown either in pasteurised soil or in rock wool, are distributed to managers of private or public land at field events or via the post. Managers are provided with simple guidelines on how to make the release and monitor establishment and spread of the agent, and are expected to provide feedback. The potential gains from this biocontrol agent for land managers far outweigh the efforts (albeit limited) required to make a release and monitor outcomes.

As part of the WAP project in 2015, 336 rust-infected Crofton weed plants were produced and distributed to land managers. A total of 81 releases (each involving a minimum of 4 rust-infected plants) were made at different sites. Details of release sites, especially coordinates, were obtained for 94% of the releases made. Post-release feedback was obtained from 88% of the participants, with the

agent confirmed established at 79% of the sites monitored. The maximum natural spread of the agent within ca. 1 and 6 months after a release was 5 and 250 metres, respectively.

The partnership with land managers and community groups from different regions of NSW is enabling the new biocontrol agent to be cost-effectively released at several locations across the entire range of Crofton weed in NSW. All signs so far are that this new agent will provide a sustainable tool to reduce populations of Crofton weed. Continued infection of foliage by the agent should considerably reduce flowering in Crofton weed and thus the quantity of wind-borne seed produced. Such reduction in reproduction will decrease likelihoods of new Crofton weed infestations establishing.

Visit our web page for more information on this biocontrol release program:

<http://www.csiro.au/> [enter crofton weed rust fungus in search box].

Contact us if you are interested in participating in the release program:

CSIRO Health & Biosecurity, Canberra

Dr Louise Morin

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The underpinning research on the Crofton weed rust was supported by the Australian Government through the Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation, the Lord Howe Island Board and the Office of Environment and Heritage NSW.



Crofton weed, *Ageratina adenophora*, flowering inflorescences.



Defoliation of Crofton weed by rust fungus at a site on the NSW South Coast.



Severe symptoms of the rust fungus on young leaves of Crofton weed.



Infection of Crofton weed stems by the rust fungus.

Even threatened plants can be weeds when they are out of place

Dr Stephen Johnson, Weed Ecologist, Weed Research Unit
Department of Primary Industries (NSW), Orange

Brush or magenta cherry (*Syzygium paniculatum*) is one of a number of lilly pilly (*Acmena* and *Syzygium*) species introduced onto Lord Howe Island from the New South Wales mainland. Also known as magenta lilly pilly, it is a shrub or small tree that produces globose to ovoid, 15–25 mm diameter, magenta fruit. It is distinct from the Lord Howe Island endemic species *Syzygium fullagari* (scalybark) which is a tree growing to 20 m high with conical-shaped fruit, 20 mm long but deep red.



Magenta cherry fruiting branch. Image Greg Steenbeeke.

In New South Wales, magenta lilly pilly is currently listed as endangered under the soon to be reviewed *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. The species is uncommon in the wild, found mainly in coastal subtropical, littoral and sclerophyll forests on sandy/dune soils between Bulahdelah and Jervis Bay. Fortunately, the species is now widely cultivated throughout NSW as a street and garden shrub/tree.

Mature magenta lilly pilly plants have been grown in several Lord Howe Island gardens. Unfortunately the species is beginning to naturalise with seedlings being found in bushland remote from settlements. Perhaps the seeds have been spread by the Lord Howe Island currawong.

In keeping with the World Heritage listing of the island, and declared as a class 3 weed under the

NSW *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*, all non-native lilly pilly species are being removed from the island. This is part of the broader Lord Howe Island Weed Eradication program. Such management is expected to protect the endemic flora and fauna of Lord Howe Island into the future.

This successful program highlights many useful lessons, three of which are key in general weed management, that is: even threatened plants and animals can become pests in non-indigenous environments (another example is the masked owl, *Tyto novaehollandiae*, a pest of Lord Howe Island but threatened in mainland NSW); native species can become weeds when they are transplanted elsewhere (Johnson 2014); and conflict can result when commercially or economically useful species are introduced, ‘jump the fence’ and become weedy in environmental areas (Johnson 2012).

Thanks to the professional staff employed by the Lord Howe Island Board, particularly Sue and Hank Bower for their assistance.

Further information:

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References

- Johnson, S. B. (2012). Economic tools ≠ policy actions. Why benefit cost analysis are not a policy panacea for weedy but commercially valuable plant species. *Proceedings of the 18th Australasian Weeds Conference*, October 2012, Melbourne, Victoria. pp. 195-198. <http://caws.org.au/awc/2012/awc201211951.pdf>
- Johnson, S. B. (2014). The emerging weed challenge of managing native plant species: what are we doing in New South Wales? *Proceedings of the 19th Australasian Weeds Conference*, ed. M. Baker, pp. 227-30. (Tasmanian Weed Society, Hobart). <http://caws.org.au/awc/2014/awc201412271.pdf>

CAWS Medal for Leadership



CAWS recognises outstanding contributions to weed management in Australasia through the award of the CAWS Medal for Leadership. This is a prestigious award with, on average, no more than two medals being awarded at each of our biennial Australasian Weeds Conferences.

The award recognises a contribution to the science, technology and practice of weed management through research, teaching, administration, extension and implementation of programs, which is:

- outstanding, in that the contribution is recognised by peers to be exemplary in substance, objectives, methods and results;
- influential on the work of others;
- sustained over a long time, perhaps ten years or more;
- substantial in that the contribution is broadly based across several categories listed above; and national in its impact.

Nominations are currently being sought for appropriate members from the Australasian Societies to receive a CAWS Medal for Leadership at the Australasian Weeds Conference being held in September this year.

Nominations close on 11 July 2016.

New South Wales Society members are invited to nominate members that they feel are worthy of this award. All nominations should be submitted to the Secretary secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au or mail to PO Box 8040, Koorlingal, Wagga Wagga 2650.

Allow sufficient time for the application to be assessed and, if suitable, to be forwarded to the CAWS Secretariat before the closing date.

More information on the nomination process plus a nomination form can be found at:

http://www.caws.org.au/caws_medal.php

The Weeds Society of New South Wales Inc. Sponsorship & Advertising Packages for 2016

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)

Seminar Sponsorship

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

(Sponsorship can vary and to be set by each seminar organising committee)

Area to mount a display - area available will be determined by the venue

Ability to distribute promotional material to all attendees

Acknowledgement during the Seminar

Acknowledgement in the Proceedings

Advertising - Newsletter "A Good Weed"

Quarter page \$75.00

Half page \$150.00

Whole page \$300.00

Advertiser to supply copy ready for printing



Chinese violet, *Asystasia gangetica* subsp. *micrantha*, is on the National Environmental Alert List.



Treasurer's Report 4 February 2016



Rex Stanton
Treasurer

Financial Report.

Opening Balance (27/11/15) \$ 60,665.26
Income: \$73.85
Expenses: \$3,769.62
Closing Balance (4/2/2016) \$ 58,851.55

Bendigo Bank account balance \$ 58,817.70
Commonwealth Bank account balance \$ 33.85
Bank Balance \$ 58,851.55

For the period 27th November 2015 to 4th February 2016 the society has shown a loss of \$1,813.71. It is anticipated that membership renewals will generate income over the next few months.

Membership.

One late membership renewal was received at the end of December, leaving 18 members non-financial at the end of 2015, with payment made by direct deposit into the Bendigo Bank account

No new memberships have been received.

Membership Status Number.

Life Members 7
Financial 2015 132
Non-financial 2015 18
Total 157.

Membership renewal have been sent out to all members.

Bank Accounts.

With the change in Treasurer the current Bendigo Bank account has been retained and transferred from the Turramurra Branch to the Wagga Wagga branch. Additionally a Commonwealth Bank account has been established in Wagga Wagga.

New Postal Address.

A new post office box for all Society mail has been established at the Koorungal Post Office. The Wahroonga PO box has been closed and all mail addressed to Wahroonga is being redirected to the new PO box.

Have you paid your membership dues?

Membership of The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc. is based on annual membership fees which are levied on the basis of calendar years.

A reminder was sent to all unfinancial members and we thank those who have subsequently paid their outstanding membership fees for 2015. Members in arrears for 2015 membership fees will no longer receive A Good Weed, The Punnet Tray or be eligible for the benefits membership offers until membership has been paid.

Tax Invoices issued for 2016 include the 2015 arrears, where applicable, and the 2016 membership fees. Please note that membership fees have increased this year to \$50.00 for ordinary members and \$25.00 for students. Students must be full time tertiary students.

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 (treasurer@nswweedsoc.org.au) so that your name can be removed from the membership list.



Plant Protection Quarterly

Discounted subscriptions of *Plant Protection Quarterly*

There is now another benefit to belonging to the Weed Society of New South Wales.

Current members of the society can now receive a discounted online subscription to the journal *Plant Protection Quarterly*, an Australian-based international peer reviewed journal.

Plant Protection Quarterly publishes basic and applied research aimed at the protection of economic, environmental and societal values from weeds/invasive plants, pathogens and disease, and pests, including insects and nematodes. It is well known for publishing the Biology of Australian Weeds series, recently publishing no. 65 in the series on wandering Jew (*Tradescantia fluminensis*).

Current society members are welcome to pay the special online subscription price of \$45, a reduction of 25% on the 2016 individual online subscription rate of \$60 or a print and online subscription for \$60 (usually \$80). Society members who are existing subscribers are welcome to apply for this discount.

To take advantage of this offer, current society members need to contact Society Treasurer at treasurer@nswweedsoc.org.au who will provide them with a discount code that can be used at the checkout of the *Plant Protection Quarterly* subscription webpage www.polymeria.com.au. Purchasing a subscription is an easy procedure but if there are any problems subscribers should contact business@polymeria.com.au in the first instance.

The publishers of *Plant Protection Quarterly* (Polymeria Publishing) look forward to collaborating with the Weed Society of NSW in this new joint venture.

Further information:

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 Managing Editor
Plant Protection Quarterly
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 Email: editor@polymeria.com.au




7TH INTERNATIONAL WEED SCIENCE CONGRESS
 JUNE 19-25, 2016
 CLARION CONGRESS HOTEL PRAGUE
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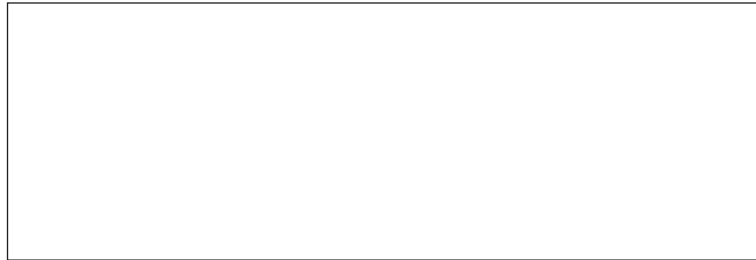
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