

A GOOD AWEED

Winter 2016 Issue #75

Newsletter of The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.



Sweet pittosporum (Pittosporum undulatum) fruits are orange, hard, globular capsules which open to release brown seeds surrounded by a sticky pulp, much loved by seed-eating birds. Image; Lawrie Greenup.

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- Glyphosate – safety and use
- A new weed inclusion – coral creeper.
- Obituary – Kelvin Green, inaugural member

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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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Doug Campbell (Scone)

Hillary Cherry (Forestville)

Tony Cook (Tamworth)

Maria Edmonds (Cessnock)

Reece Luxton (Grafton)

Committee Meeting Dates

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 17 November 2016 in Sydney. Full details regarding the venue and time will be sent to all members in September 2016.



From the President

Welcome to winter, NSW has finally had a cold snap after such a long summer this year. With the end of the financial year, I would like to give you all a little reminder that memberships are now overdue. So if you have forgotten to pay your membership, just pop it in the mail now or by email to the treasurer@nswweedsoc.org.au. I would like to thank all sponsors who have signed to support our Society this year and to also extend a warm welcome to our latest sponsor Macspred.

It was sad to hear that Kelvin Green, an inaugural founding member of the society in 1966, has passed away at the age of 96 years. He fulfilled many positions on the committee including president. Our thoughts go to his family and friends.

Our 50th anniversary events are moving ahead with the preparations for a seminar in Sydney on the 17 November to coincide with the Society’s Annual General Meeting. The wonderful publication on the history of the Society is nearly into its final draft and hopefully will be printed for the November events. More detail to follow in the Spring edition of “A Good Weed” for these events.

The 20th Australasian Weeds Conference in Perth is quickly coming up on 11-15 September with delegates having many choices to choose from a great program. The CAWS Oration will be delivered by Professor Steve Powles, Director of the Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative and there will be some speciality subject workshops and symposia. Let’s hope that the conference is a great success for Western Australia.

Our treasurer, Rex Stanton is urgently seeking pictures, black & white or colour, of past events or people for a publication celebrating 50 years of the Society. If you have any you think may be of interest could you let Rex know. Rex can be contacted at treasurer@nswweedsoc.org.au

Our newsletter ‘A Good Weed’ is a great communication tool for our Society but we are looking for someone to take over the reins from our retiring editor Lawrie Greenup at the end of the year. So, if you would love to become actively involved in the Society, please think about becoming our new editor for the newsletter and help to continue producing this wonderful informative publication.



Until the spring edition,
Happy Weeding
Kim



Welcome to our New Members

Quentin Hart,
Manager Invasive Species Strategy
and Planning
NSW DPI

Sajid Latif
PhD Student
Charles Sturt University, Wagga

Membership Benefits

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.

Congratulations
Tanisha Shields
Under-graduate Prize Winner
Charles Sturt University



My name is Tanisha Shields and I am 20 years old. I am currently studying in my third year of a Bachelor of Agricultural Science at CSU in Wagga Wagga.

I come from a 5000 acre mixed enterprise farm located 25km south of Narrandera in NSW. There is a mix of broadacre cropping of wheat, barley and canola and 1000 Dohne Merino ewes. I am very passionate about agriculture and have been from a very young age. A particular passion of mine is in the management of rangelands, particularly saltbush plains.

Throughout my studies at high school, the bachelor of agricultural science degree appealed to me as it would allow me to pursue my interests and cover a broad range of topics from agronomy, weed control to animal management. I have found my major interests lie in livestock production, predominately sheep. When I finish my studies I wish to work in this industry.

I also have a great interest in weed control and management. I believe this forms the vital backbone of both the livestock and cropping industries. I would ideally like to work with extensive livestock producers to help them understand how integrated weed control strategies could benefit their production.



Tanisha Shields being awarded her prize by Dr Hanwen Wu representing the Society.

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.

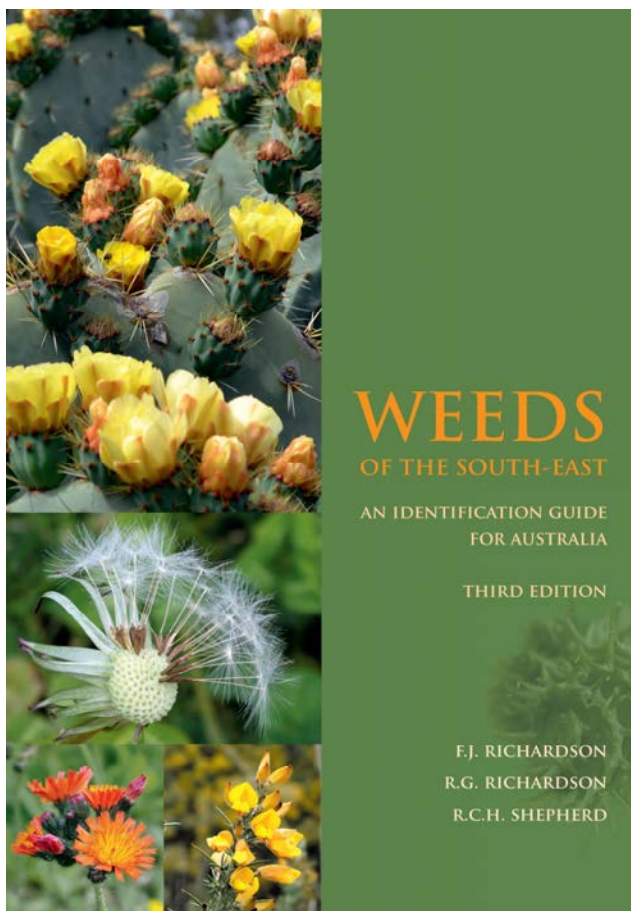
The Society offers a \$250 prize plus 12 months free Society membership. The prize will only be provided if the weeds course is sufficiently comprehensive to warrant support.

Nominations are made by the participating institutions.

**Weed Society of New South Wales
2016 Project**

**Loan to assist in the publication of
*Weeds of the South-East -
an identification guide for Australia***

The Society makes funds available from time to time to fund specific projects that contribute to the advancement of weed knowledge. This year the Society's project is a \$5,000 interest-free loan to Rob and Fiona Richardson, publishers, to assist in the publication of the third edition of their excellent book *Weeds of the South-East – an identification guide for Australia*.



Book price \$79.95
ISBN 9780980388541
Full colour, 576 pages, soft heavy-duty gate-fold cover.
Book is now available.

The third edition of popular *Weeds of the South-East – an identification guide for Australia* by Rob & Fiona Richardson and Ros Shepherd has just been released. Once again, this new edition has been fully updated and reorganised to recognise recent taxonomic changes and includes additional species, many new photographs and the latest distribution information.

- includes weeds of agriculture, bushland, waterways, gardens, roadsides, wasteland and amenity areas, as well as new and emerging problem species
- illustrated with more than 3000 photographs including spectacular close-up shots
- key features are described with relevant measurements for easier identification
- comparisons are made to similar species and easily confused natives
- situations where the species are likely to be found
- distribution by State using the latest herbaria records

Written in easy-to-understand language and beautifully illustrated, this is a field guide for anyone interested in the identification of pest plants and the preservation of our native flora. An essential tool for community land and bushcare organisations, local and state government weed officers and advisers, rangers, agronomists, agriculturists, survey and identification botanists, horticulturists, landscapers and gardeners.

The publication is supported also by the Council of Australasian Weed Societies, Weed Management Society of South Australia, Tasmanian Weed Society and Weed Society of Victoria.

Special Offer
**for Weed Society of New South
Wales paid-up members**

Book price \$64 (20% discount) + postage/
packaging charge of \$13.50

Please order by:

- Email: richardson@weedinfo.com.au
- Fax: 03 5286 1533

Special offer payment by bank transfer or cheque only - an invoice will be sent to you by return email or fax

Offer valid until 30 November 2016

Welcome abroad to our new sponsor - Macspred



Macspred has been manufacturing and distributing specialist herbicides for use in non-agricultural areas since 1985. Macspred introduced granular herbicides firstly to the industrial markets such as Shires, Councils and rail, then to the State-owned and private forestry companies across Australia.

Macspred offers a wide range quality 'specialist' forestry, industrial & crop protection herbicide products and has a national team of herbicide specialists who offer local know how and support. This assists in the delivery of best practice results, often with Macspred branded speciality designed and registered to meet the customer needs.

Macspred has the solutions through our own specialist Forestry, Industrial and Agricultural Range of products and delivery systems.

Macspred Australia can offer:-

- ◆ Specialist pest and weed control products and services for use in forestry and selective urban, rural and agricultural markets;
- ◆ Can develop speciality products and/or delivery systems from the original concept through Development, Registration, Marketing and Sales;
- ◆ Contract formulation and packing to meet specific industry or niche customer needs;
- ◆ Through strategic partnerships, can competitively source a large range of third party pesticides and assist with repacking and labelling to meet specific customer requirements.

Strategic Wholesaling and Distribution

Each year Macspred Australia supplies more than 400 tonnes of products into both domestic and overseas markets. Through strategic partnerships, Macspred wholesales products into the Agricultural and Horticultural Markets and been manufacturing and distributing our products for use in Industrial markets such as Shires, rail and Councils for over two decades.

Macspred has long established distribution conduits into both State owned and private Forestry companies across Australia and New Zealand.

Technical Expertise

Macspred Australia has specialist expertise which is recognised and respected across the industry.

Acquired over many years, this expertise translates into technical and sales support during the initial concept phase, then extends to full field trial evaluations, demonstrations and data recording during the development phase. We maintain a close working relationship with the Australian Pesticides & Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) and work hard to navigate a smooth and timely path through Registration.

Only when this detailed, behind the scenes work is complete, can our sales team market our 'field tested' products with full confidence in regard to their quality and performance.

Contract Manufacturing

Through our subsidiary Macspred Ag Toll we specialise in the following technologies:

- ◆ Coated Granule Technology;
- ◆ WDG Technology (Water Dispersible Granules);
- ◆ Pellet Technology (Clay-based Herbicide Pellets);
- ◆ Powder Proceeding/Size Reduction/Blending Technology, and
- ◆ Formulate/ Fill /Pack /Technology.

Visit Macspred Australia website to see how Macspred can assist you - www.macspred.com.au



Put this date in your calendar now!



**19TH BIENNIAL NSW WEEDS CONFERENCE
16- 19th October 2017 Armidale**

“Experience the Highs – Working smarter, together”

Planning is well underway for the 19th Biennial NSW Weeds Conference to be held in Armidale from 16 – 19 October 2017.



Armidale - the highest city in Australia.

Armidale, in the heart of the New England Tablelands, is situated half way between Sydney and Brisbane on the New England Highway and some 190 km’s west of Coffs Harbour. It is well serviced by a regional airport, country link train services and all major coach lines.

The conference venue of the University of New England is a most fitting venue, having hosted many successful conferences over its history. This magnificent facility has excellent amenities and is the premier conference venue in the New England region, with spacious auditoriums, break out and conference rooms, large campus display areas as well as accommodation, with many services available on campus including catering.

The conference theme is ***“Experience the Highs – working smarter together”*** and will feature Keynote Opening Speaker, Professor David Lamb, Precision Agriculture Research Group, UNE, and amongst other session themes includes Biosecurity in action, Technology, Extension and Collaboration and Working Smarter, together.

Field trips, workshops and an open debate will be integral components of the conference and provide further opportunities for networking.

Host, the New England Weeds Authority, together with the Local Organising Committee and the New England Conference Company will be ensuring that the conference draws on top quality presenters and provide delegates with a memorable experience.

For the latest updates check on the website – <http://conferencecompany.com.au/19th-nsw-biennial-weeds-conference/>



Welcome reception will be held at the historic Booliminbah Homestead, University of New England.

Further information contact:

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Fishtail oxalis, Oxalis latifolia

Fostering weeds-related behaviour change

Wendy Gibney

Development Officer Community Weeds Management
NSW Department of Primary Industries | Biosecurity
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NSW Department of Primary Industries through the NSW Weeds Action Program, is using social science to increase community involvement in weed management. The framework they are using is community-based social marketing (CBSM). Research has shown that although education and media campaigns increase awareness they do not foster behaviour change. CBSM has been successful in fostering sustainable behaviour change around the world. Important features of CBSM include carrying out research into the barriers and benefits of desirable behaviours, having direct contact with people and encouraging a commitment from people to carry out behaviours.

Weeds professionals around New South Wales have undertaken training in CBSM with its founder, Doug McKenzie-Mohr. Training has taught the weed officers the five steps in community-based social marketing which are:-

1. selecting specific behaviours;
2. identifying the barriers and benefits of each behaviour;
3. developing strategies that directly address the benefits and barriers;
4. conducting a pilot; and
5. broad-scale implementation and evaluation.

These techniques are currently being applying it to a variety of weeds issues including tropical soda apple control and eradication, lantana control and containment, and gorse control. A number of new projects are due to start looking at applying CBSM to weed hygiene for vehicles, machinery and bush walkers.

Clarence Valley Council has just started the pilot stage of their tropical soda apple control and eradication project. They are trialling techniques including coaching and call-backs, motivational control cards and signs that all directly address the barriers and promote the benefits of tropical soda apple control activities.

Senior National Resource Management Officer, Reece Luxton, is enthusiastic about starting the pilot stage. Weeds officers regularly hear reasons why landholders cannot manage their weeds and this pilot project uses strategies that directly address those barriers and they are hoping it will be very successful.

NSW DPI has appointed Wendy Gibney, Development Officer, to assist weeds professionals with the application of CBSM around the state. Wendy's role is to help weeds professionals apply the CBSM framework to their serious weed issues so that people become actively engaged in weed management behaviours.

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Reece Luxton with a tropical soda apple weed sign.
Image: Greg Egan.

New chemical research to combat weeds

Tony Cook
Technical Specialist Weeds
NSW Department of Primary Industries Tamworth

The northern grain region stands to benefit from research into finding new uses for existing herbicides, to combat increasing number of glyphosate resistant weeds. The increasing cases of glyphosate resistant weeds are a threat to the large crop areas in northern NSW that rely on regular glyphosate applications to maintain clean fallows and soil moisture.

Prior to 2007 there was only one weed species resistant to glyphosate – today there are nine species. Weeds are a major cost to production in grain cropping systems – on average they cost the Australian grain industry over \$3.3 billion every year.

A new five-year project co-invested with the [Grains Research and Development Corporation \(GRDC\)](#) will target the four top ranked glyphosate resistant weed species; fleabane, common sowthistle, feather-top Rhodes grass and awnless barnyard grass. The aim is to develop new chemical treatments to provide growers with greater choice and flexibility to control these troublesome weeds. The development of new treatments will not just be confined to fallow paddocks as there is scope to develop directed inter-row application between commonly grown wide-row crops such as sorghum and chickpeas.

Identification and development of new uses for existing herbicides will help to maintain the environmental benefits of no-till agriculture, such as improved soil structure, reduced erosion, improved carbon sequestration and better water infiltration and storage. Better weed management that reduces the impact of weeds on production can increase profitability through reduced yield loss, lower costs of control and reduced contamination of produce.

Early experimental work indicates a good range of treatments are able to provide reliable weed control and using alternative chemistries will require new agronomic considerations as they are likely to be less flexible as glyphosate. More attention to herbicide timing and cropping plant-back periods could be a consequence of the change.

The project is in conjunction with the lead agency the University of QLD and in collaboration with Adelaide University.



Poor control of flax-leaf fleabane using glyphosate

Further Information:

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Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) webpages

now reside on the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) and you can access all the WoNS best practice materials, maps, prioritisation tools and other species-specific information on the following link: <http://weeds.ala.org.au/WoNS/>

Thanks to the fantastic efforts of the folks at Atlas of Living Australia, who also host a range of other great weed resources, including the Weed Biological Control Portal. In the near future, the www.weeds.org.au/wons link will automatically redirect to the link above, so previous bookmarks and printed materials will still remain relevant.

Hillary Cherry
Weeds of National Significance Coordinator

New Weed Incursions Where do we go from here for Coral creeper (*Barleria repens*)?

Kim Hignell
Vegetation & Pest Management Coordinator
Lake Macquarie City Council

The discovery of new weed incursions by local government field officers has increased over the last five years. This has resulted from an increased focus on the prevention and eradication of new weeds since the introduction of the NSW Invasive Species Plan. Many field officers now focus on plants that look out of place in the environment more generally rather than targeting a specific known weed only. Once a plant has been discovered, a specimen is collected and is often sent for identification to the National Herbarium of NSW. Further information about the new incursion such as location, features, size and photographs are collected. If there are any concerns with the incursion, the field officer will contact the NSW DPI Invasive Species Officer for their region, and often, a Weed Risk Management assessment will be completed.

An example of a new weed incursion within NSW is coral creeper (*Barleria repens*), a member of the Acanthaceae family. An introduced garden plant from South Africa, coral creeper is a scrambling, shrubby plant to 70 cm tall, though within forest understoreys, it will scramble up surrounding vegetation to 2 metres high (Technigro Australia, 2010). The leaves are opposite, elliptic-oblong and the margins entire. Plants have pink/red coloured tubular flowers with five lobes and light purple anthers (Technigro Australia, 2010). These are followed by club-shaped seed capsules that explode open when dry, ejecting the seeds a fair distance from the parent plant (Kinsey 2016). These attractive, but weedy plants are fast growing and can spread quickly by seed or by rooting stems (Kinsey 2016).

Coral creeper forms dense infestations in the understorey of urban bushland reserves having already naturalised in coastal Queensland (Technigro Australia, 2010). It has the potential to become an invasive weed in riparian zones and disturbed areas (BCC, n.d.).

Coral creeper has recently been discovered within the fore dunes of a central coast beach in NSW, densely scrambling over the dune vegetation for support and covering an area of approx. 0.5 ha.

An assessment with the NSW Weed Risk Management system was completed with the resulting management priority category to contain spread. Being so restricted, the feasibility to coordinated control is very high and this new incursion has since been treated using a Glyphosate 360 product to eradicate the infestation. Monitoring and further treatment over the next few years will occur to ensure the viable seedbank is depleted.

References

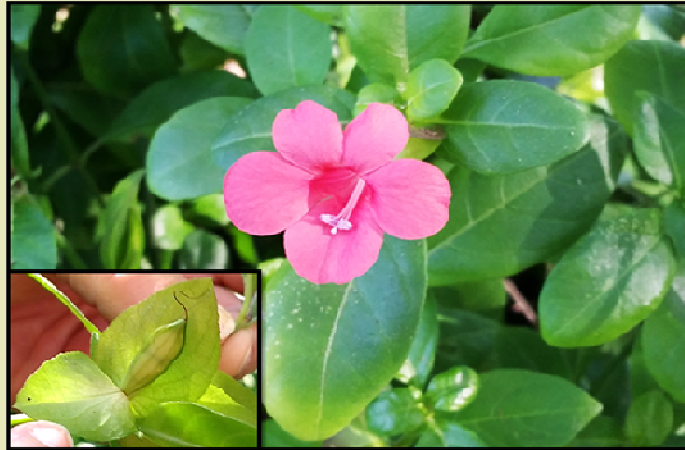
- Brisbane City Council (BCC) (n.d.) Weed Identification Tool - Coral Creeper (*Barleria repens*). Available online <http://eeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au/weeds/coral-creeper> (Accessed 26 July 2016)
- Kinsey, T. B. (2016) **Hawaiian Plants and Tropical Flowers** *Barleria repens* – Coral Creeper. Available online <http://wildlifeofhawaii.com/flowers/1233/barleria-repens-coral-creeper/> (Accessed 26 July 2016)
- Technigro Australia Pty Ltd (2010) Weed Watch - your alert to new and emerging threats. Coral Creeper (*Barleria repens*). Available online <http://www.technigro.com.au/documents/WW%20Coral%20Creeper.pdf> (Accessed 26 July 2016)

Further Information:

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New Weed Incursions

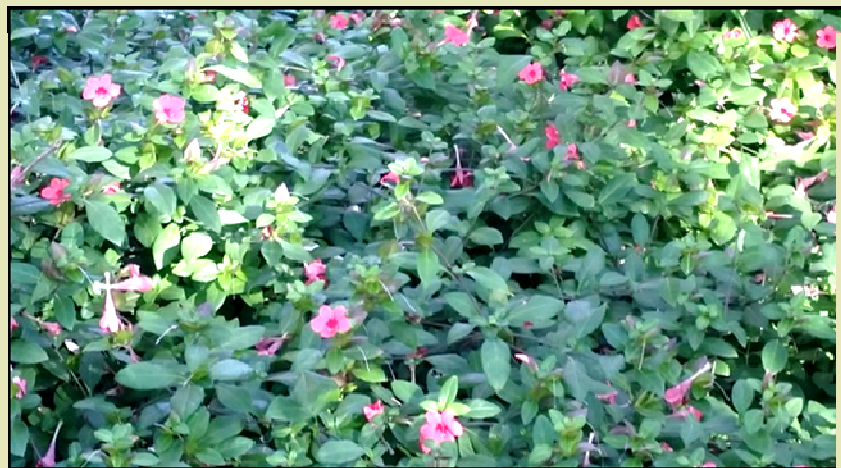
Where do we go from here for Coral creeper (*Barleria repens*)?



The pink/red flower of creeping coral. Inset: showing twin bracts surrounding a club shaped seedpod. Image: Kim Hignell.



Dense infestation in the understory of the foredune. Image: Kim Hignell.



Creeping coral growing happily within the foredune. Image: Kim Hignell.

Allelopathic interference between lucerne, annual ryegrass and annual pasture legumes

Hasan Muhammad Zubair PhD Student
School of Agricultural & Wine Sciences Charles Sturt University

Allelopathy, the chemical interaction between plants, can influence plant community structure. The Equal Compartment Agar Method (ECAM) was used to evaluate lucerne seedling allelopathy on annual ryegrass (*Lolium rigidum*) from a collection of 40 lucerne genotypes. Significant differences were found among lucerne genotypes as measured by an inhibition index which ranged from 3.5% to 45.5% inhibition of annual ryegrass root growth relative to the control. Lucerne genotypes were classified from strong (eg. cv. Sardi 5) to weak (eg. cv. SARDI 7 Series 2) in respect of their impact on annual ryegrass root growth. Annual ryegrass seed germination was also reduced in the presence of strong allelopathic lucerne cultivars. These findings suggest a genetic basis for allelopathic capability between lucerne genotypes.

Allelopathic interference between lucerne genotypes and annual pasture legumes [subterranean clover (*Trifolium subterraneum*) Leura and Riverina, biserrula (*Biserrula pelecinus*) and French serradella (*Ornithopus sativus*)] was also assessed, the effects varied depending on the donor and receiver plant species. Among the 10 lucerne genotypes chosen for the experiment, two genotypes, L70 and L56 stimulated Riverina and Leura subterranean clover root length; L70 increased Riverina and Leura root lengths by 40% and 30% respectively. The other lucerne genotypes

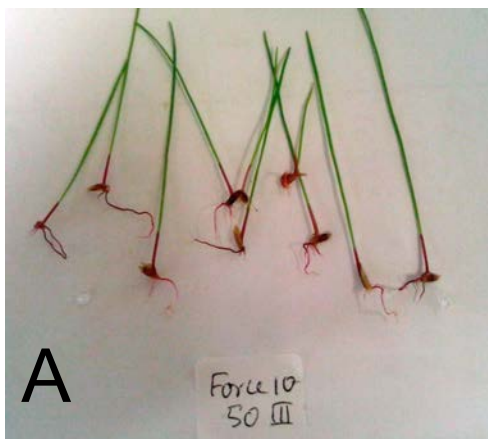
inhibited root lengths of all four annual legumes. The genotype Cropper 9.5 produced the stronger inhibition to the root length of annual legumes compared with Haymaster7 and Sardi 5, with Riverina subterranean clover and Margurita showing the largest reduction of 24% and Leura the least with 14% reduction compared with their control.

On the other hand, annual ryegrass and legumes also had allelopathic suppression on lucerne. The root exudates of all four annual legumes inhibited root length of five lucerne genotypes by at least 49%. L70 was the most tolerant genotype to the allelopathic effects of root exudates of annual legumes. Annual ryegrass root exudates inhibited lucerne root inhibition by 14 to 31%, depending on the lucerne genotype.

Substantial genetic variability exists in lucerne genotypes in respect of allelopathic capability. The extent to which allelopathy influences total sward production will also depend on the associated pasture species and their allelopathic capabilities.

Further Information:

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Stunt root length of annual ryegrass in the presence of allelopathic lucerne genotype
(A: Ryegrass grown together with lucerne; B: Ryegrass grown alone as a control)

Report on the 7th International Weed Science Congress (IWSC) Prague

**Dr Hanwen Wu Senior Weeds Research Scientist
Invasive Plants and Animals
Department of Primary Industries Wagga Wagga NSW**

The 7th International Weed Science Congress (IWSC) was successfully held between 19 and 25 June 2016 in Prague, Czech Republic. This was the largest professional conference I have ever attended. The conference received 835 abstracts submissions. There were more than 700 delegates from 61 countries, among them 109 from the US. The host countries contributed 54 delegates, followed by Germany (53) and China (52). Australia was represented by 21 delegates, with only two from NSW.

The Conference was held in a four star hotel “Clarion Congress Hotel Prague”. There were 257 oral presentations and 388 posters. The Conference Organiser had to use eight concurrent sessions to accommodate such large numbers of presentations within such a short period, which has resulted in great difficulties in choosing and attending the preferred presentations. The rooms for each concurrent sessions were all huge, making the audience size appear smaller.

The conference covered a broad range of areas, from on-ground weed management, to weed biology, ecology, evolution and management, crop-weed interaction, physical and cultural weed control, site specific weed management, non-chemical control options to plant genomics studies using the next generation sequencing. As expected, the herbicide resistance and resistance mechanisms was one of the hot topics widely covered at the conference. Plant genomics have become a popular area in weed research, with the aims of better understanding weed invasion and herbicide resistance. It is also noted that there has been significant shift toward research on no-chemical weed control options due to the widespread herbicide resistance, such as cover crops, flaming and steaming for weed management. In addition, there were a number of presentations addressing the impact of post-dispersal *weed seed predation* by invertebrate *seed predators* on weed seed banks.

Dr Hanwen Wu gave a keynote presentation on “Can herbicides affect seed dormancy and viability of flaxleaf fleabane (*Conyza bonariensis*)?” He discovered that herbicides applied at certain growth stages not only affected seed viability (seedset), but also affected seed dormancy.

One highlight of the conference was the tour to a farm field day organised by Bayer CropScience. A range of plant protection products were demonstrated in the field trials, covering weeds, insects and diseases. It was eye-opening to see herbicide trials in an opium poppy crop in the Czech Republic!

The conference was in general well organised, although many conference delegates were surprised to discover that there was no provision of cakes and biscuits at morning and afternoon teas. No wonder no weed scientists at the conference were overweight!

There were three countries competing for the next conference venue in 2020, Australia, Brazil and Thailand. Thailand was the lucky bidder and will host the 8th International Weed Science Conference in Bangkok in 2020.

Further Information:

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Chenopodium album control in maize and opium poppy, Czech Republic.

Glyphosate - Safety and Use

Fact Sheet - Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority

What is glyphosate?

Glyphosate is a weed killer which works on a wide variety of leafy weeds. It doesn't distinguish one from another, and it works best after the seed has sprouted.

Are glyphosate products safe to use?

Yes, glyphosate products which are registered with the APVMA are safe to use, provided they are used as per the label instructions. Registered products have an APVMA or NRA approval number on the label. Glyphosate is registered for use throughout the world and current regulatory assessment is that it does not pose a risk to humans when used according to the label instructions.

What are 'label instructions'?

All chemical products have instructions for safety and use on the label. The labels on glyphosate products are there for your safety and provide practical information on how to use each product. Always read the label instructions and use only as directed. By following the directions you maximize the product's effectiveness and minimise your risk of exposure to the chemical.

Are areas which have been treated with glyphosate safe for children and animals?

Always check the label for specific instructions about how to use any chemical products near people, including children, and animals—and follow the instructions.

Products containing glyphosate are safe to use in areas which will be later used by people and animals provided the label instructions are followed. The label instructions will tell you how long people or animals should avoid an area that has been treated—follow these instructions. In most cases, once the product is dry, it is safe to re-enter, but always check the label.

Can products containing glyphosate still be sold in Australia?

Yes, products containing glyphosate are legal to sell in Australia provided they are registered with the APVMA.

Can local councils and contractors still use glyphosate products?

Yes, provided they are registered with the APVMA and used according to the label instructions.

International report about glyphosate.

Last year a report was released by the World Health Organisation's International Agency for research on Cancer (IARC) which classified glyphosate as 'probably carcinogenic to humans'.

The role of IARC is to identify things that have the ability to cause cancer—they look at both substances and lifestyles. IARC also classify indoor emissions from burning wood and high temperature frying, some shift work, and consumption of red meat in the same category as glyphosate. When making an assessment of the risk of these substances or lifestyles they do not consider how this risk is managed in actual situations. They did not assess the risk of glyphosate causing cancer when used according to the label instructions in a registered chemical product.

Following this initial assessment, the World Health Organisation's pesticide specialists are doing a comprehensive risk reassessment of glyphosate and their findings will determine whether regulators, such as the APVMA, decide to take any further action in relation to glyphosate.

This group of experts will look at scientific studies and data from all sources including unpublished scientific data, which will then be independently peer-reviewed during the assessment process. The APVMA is a member of this expert scientific group and results are expected to be published in mid 2016.

What are the next steps for the APVMA?

The current scientific assessment by expert scientists at the APVMA has concluded that glyphosate products are safe to use, provided they are used in accordance with the label instructions. *Therefore no action to change the use or availability of products containing glyphosate is required at this stage.*

Glyphosate - Safety and Use

The APVMA assessment is based on scientific evidence from a broader range of studies than was used by the IARC in their assessment. It is also consistent with what regulators in other countries, such as Germany and Canada, have done. Both have concluded that current labels for glyphosate products contain appropriate instructions for use to keep those regularly handling glyphosate safe.

However, all findings by international agencies are taken very seriously and, as a member of the World Health Organisation expert group on this matter, the APVMA will be directly involved in assessing consideration of all studies and data.

The current status of regulatory action taken, or proposed, by other regulators around the world will be looked at, as well as any relevant residue studies and any proposed changes to maximum residue limits by other countries. Following this comprehensive scientific analysis and assessment of risk, the APVMA will decide on whether regulatory action is required for glyphosate products registered for use in Australia.

Based on current evidence, no significant changes are expected.

The role of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) is the Australian Government agency responsible for agricultural and veterinary chemical product registration.

Before a chemical product can be sold or manufactured in Australia, it must first go through scientific assessment by the APVMA to check its safety and whether it works as expected and claimed by the manufacturer. These checks are designed to protect the health and safety of people, animals, plants and the environment. If a product meets the strict requirements it is registered for use.

The APVMA does not monitor or enforce the correct use of agricultural and veterinary chemicals once they are registered. The correct use of agricultural and veterinary chemicals is first-and-foremost the user's responsibility. The approved directions for use are on the label of every registered product in Australia and must be followed. Incorrect use of these chemicals in Australia is monitored and enforced collaboratively by Safe Work Australia, and state and territory government authorities.

Further Information: www.avpma.gov.au

Seminar 17 November 2016

Put it in your calendar now!

The Weed Society of New South Wales will be holding a seminar on **17 November 2016** at the Waitara Magpies Club, Waitara. The venue is adjacent to Waitara Station, as well as being within walking distance of Hornsby Station. Parking shouldn't be a problem.

Top class and interesting speakers are currently being approached to address the weed issues of concern to everyone involved in weed management. Some of the issues to be addressed include: current federal and state legislation changes and updates, glyphosate issues, biosecurity, herbicide trials and resistance, biocontrol programs, bush regeneration and the use of drones in weed management.

All members will be sent the full program by email or letter as well as being informed through the 'The Punnet Tray'.

There will be discount for members and a concessional rate for bona fide students.

Again, a reminder, put the date in you diary!!



Studies show that under specific scenarios UAV technology and weed classification analysis can be used by weed managers in a cost-effective way. A topic for the seminar?

Weed identification resources

Environmental weeds can cause substantial damage to natural ecosystems, but it's not always easy to tell when a plant is a weed. If your garden seems to be 'going bush' or you've noticed a plant that seems out of place or that's dominating a natural habitat, you can use the below resources to identify a weed and find out if it is a weed in your area. If you believe it is a weed or you are still unsure, contact your **Local Control Authority**.

Remember that Australian native plants can become weeds outside their native range too. Plants that are native to your area may be listed as weeds on websites from other parts of the world, so make sure you find out the native range of a plant before treating it as a weed.

Websites

As a starting point, many of these online resources have good quality photos and list plants by common and scientific names. You could also enter a plant name into your favourite internet search engine to find information or images.

- ◆ Researchers at the University of Queensland developed the key to **Environmental Weeds of Australia**. The interactive weed identification tool helps you easily identify a weed based on the features of a plant. The tool includes over 1000 current and potential weeds.
- ◆ The **Identify a Weed** webpage on the Weeds Australia website provides an interactive database of weed descriptions and photos that can be filtered by plant location and plant habit.
- ◆ The **Flora of NSW** is online and allows plant name searches and provides identification keys as per the printed Flora of NSW. Detailed botanical descriptions, photos and illustrations are provided for most native and introduced plant species.
- ◆ **NSW WeedAlert** allows you to search for new records or extensions of range for weeds in NSW.
- ◆ The environmental weeds section of the **Australian National Botanic Garden** website has details of 19 species including their ecology, impact information and some photos.
- ◆ The Australian National Botanic Gardens **Plant Image Index** can be searched by family or scientific name.

You can also often find photos and information on Australian environmental weeds on general gardening websites or other large image databases. Remember, some of these sites are from around the world, so they may describe native Australian plants as 'weeds'.

Government bodies

Many local councils and shires have Bushcare or weed officers who can help you identify weeds. Very often, they can advise you about weed control. See the **local government directory** for council contacts, or contact your regional weeds committee.

Your local **NSW Department of Primary Industries (Agriculture)** office can also assist you with weed identification and, possibly, control information.

If you have found a new or uncommon weed, make sure you inform your local council weed officer.

You can also report noxious weeds to the **NSW Department of Primary Industries** weeds hotline.

Herbariums

You can identify a weed at a herbarium, or have it positively identified by professional botanists (this may incur a fee). Provide a specimen of the weed with flowers or fruits, if possible. The Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research provides **detailed information on how to collect weed or plant specimens**.

A pressed, dried plant specimen allows researchers to confirm the identity of the weed. Specimens stored in herbariums provide evidence of weed distribution over time and across regions, and help to document the spread of invasive weeds.

- ◆ The **Australian National Herbarium in Canberra** has a **plant enquiry service**.
- ◆ The **Plant Identification & Botanical Information Service** of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney has herbarium information and plant identification services.
- ◆ The **Beadle Herbarium** at the University of New England, Armidale is in the NSW Northern Tablelands.
- ◆ **Eurobadalla Regional Botanic Gardens Herbarium** is on the NSW South Coast.
- ◆ **North Coast Regional Botanic Garden Herbarium** is in Coffs Harbour.

Source: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/pestsweeds/WeedIdentificationV2.htm>

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET INVOLVED?



On behalf of The Council of Australasian Weed Societies, the Weeds Society of New South Wales, will host the 21st Australasian Weeds Conference in Sydney, Australia, September 2018. The theme is: ***“Weed Biosecurity - Protecting our Future”***

This biennial conference carries on a long tradition of bringing the weed management community together to discuss new developments and share information about cutting-edge and best practice weed management.

The conference attracts over 250 delegates from across Australasia. Delegates will have the opportunity to meet up with peers, engage with industry sponsors, and to listen and participate in presentations and field trips on a diversity of weed management topics.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET INVOLVED?

If you are interested in assisting with conference development, field trips or logistics, please contact the Secretary secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au

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.

The benefits of being a member of the Society 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 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.

Treasurer's Report 11 August 2016

Financial Report.

Opening Balance (1/6/2016) \$15,227.79

Income: \$7,455.00

Expenses: \$1,274.90

Bendigo Bank account balance \$61,531.06

Commonwealth Bank account balance \$ 33.85

Bank Balance \$ 58,851.55

Outstanding Loan (Publication) \$5,000.00

Closing Balance (2/8/2016) \$66,561.91

Operating Profit/Loss for the period \$6,303.17

For the period 1st June 2016 to 2nd August 2016, the society has shown an operating profit of \$6,303.17.

One outstanding invoice requires payment; namely \$385.00 to Graham Forsythe for website hosting.

Membership.

Membership currently stands at 156 members, although 14 members in arrears are due to be removed from the database, which will reduce Society membership to 142. Currently there are 7 life members, 109 financial members, 26 unfinancial (2016) members and 14 members in arrears for 2015 & 2016. Membership renewal have been sent out to all members.

Two new membership applications have been received from Sajid Latif (Charles Sturt University, PhD student) and Quentin Hart (NSW DPI).

CAWS Overpayment.

CAWS has recognised that the Society had been overcharged CAWS membership fees. An invoice for the 2016/17 year has been received showing a nil balance owing.



**Rex Stanton
Treasurer
11 August 2016**



Council of Australasian Weed Societies (CAWS) Report of Meeting #270 September 2016

- CAWS has provided the following grants:
 - ◊ \$1000 Australasian Weeds Conference Travel Awards to Adam Muyt and Henry Rutherford,
 - ◊ \$2000 Student Travel Awards to Monique Smith and Ali Bajwa, and
 - ◊ \$400 20AWC conference fee for Robert Cirocco.
- CAWS has also provided an interest free loan to Richardson's for their book.
- CAWS is organising a contract with the Tasmanian Society to enable CAWS to act on their behalf regards the Curran Associates for printing 19AWC proceedings on demand.
- Tasmanian Society is still in a state of flux, but it is hoped the society will remain viable.
- Planning for the 20AWC is progressing, with CAWS agreeing to pay for the CAWS Orator Steve Powles and his wife to attend the Conference Dinner in lieu of paying for travel.
- CAWS has acknowledged NSW has been overcharged membership in the past, and this money will be credited to our fees for 2016/17.
- CAWS will be discussing with CABI the best method to ensure proceedings are automatically included into the CABI abstract service.
- The WA Associations Incorporations Act is being altered, which will require CAWS to make changes to their constitution within the next three years.
- The CAWS Communications and Advocacy Action Plans may be merged as they have similar goals.

**Rex Stanton & Hillary Cherry
NSW CAWS Delegates**



**Kelvin Raymond Green
1920 - 2016**

**A major contributor to weed
management and research
in New South Wales**

Kelvin Green, life member and inaugural member of the Weed Society of New South Wales, passed away on 25 June 2016 at the age of 96 years. The Society's condolences are extended to his wife, Margaret, and to his three children, Katherine, Roger and Warwick.



Kelvin Green and his wife Margaret celebrating the awarding of his Society Life Membership in 2013.

Kelvin joined the NSW Department of Agriculture in 1938 as a Scientific Trainee. He went to the Division of Plant Industry in 1943 and was stationed at Leeton Agricultural Research Station. In 1947 he was appointed as an Agronomist and in 1950 visited New Zealand to study weed control methods, as well attending the 3rd National Weed Conference.

This led subsequently to promotion to Principal Agronomist (Weeds). In 1968 he visited Europe and USA to investigate weed research activities. Kelvin became Principal Agronomist (Research) in 1969. In this position he established the basis of the weeds research programs which have been continued to this day.

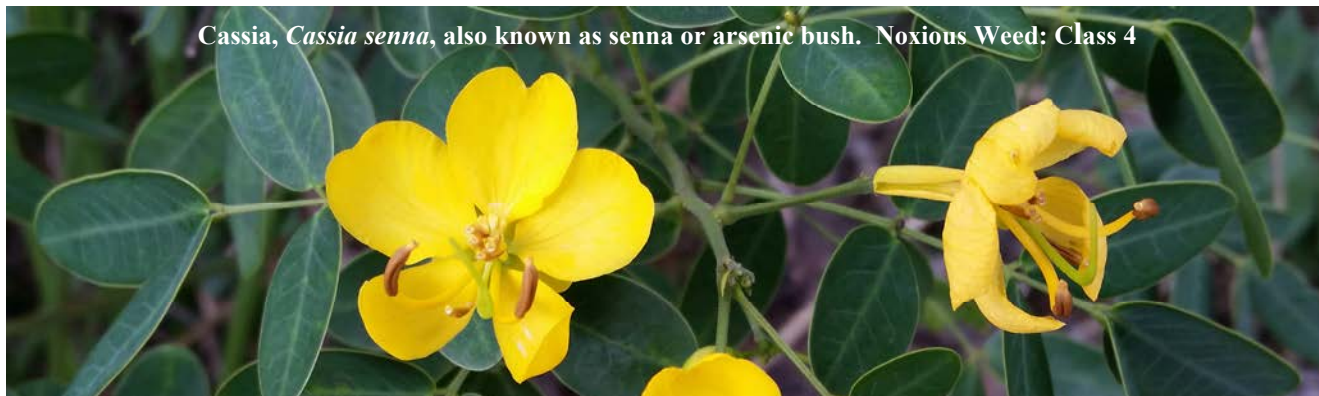
Kelvin had a particular interest in aquatic weeds and did much to assess the water hyacinth problem in the Gwydir River at Moree. He was also involved with the Noxious Weeds Committee and as a referee for efficacy data submitted for herbicide registration.

From 1974 to his retirement in 1980 Kelvin was Deputy Chief, Division of Plant Industry.

Kelvin was the inaugural Vice President of the Weed Society of New South Wales, elected at the first Executive Meeting, 4 April 1966. He was subsequently President in 1967. For many years he has been an active member of the Executive Committee having considerable involvement in the newsletter. In 1970 Kelvin was on a subcommittee to investigate the desirability of forming an Australian Weed Society, an idea which came to fruition with the formation of the Council of Australian Weeds Societies in 1977.

Kelvin had an Agricultural Science degree from Sydney University where he majored in economics. Kelvin's contribution to Weed Science in New South Wales was to establish its importance in the NSW Department of Agriculture, and then to formulate and implement sound research programs.

Kelvin made a major contribution to weed management and research and he will be missed by his friends and colleagues.



Cassia, *Cassia senna*, also known as senna or arsenic bush. Noxious Weed: Class 4

If unable to deliver return to:

The Newsletter of
The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.
PO Box 8040
Koorinal NSW 2650

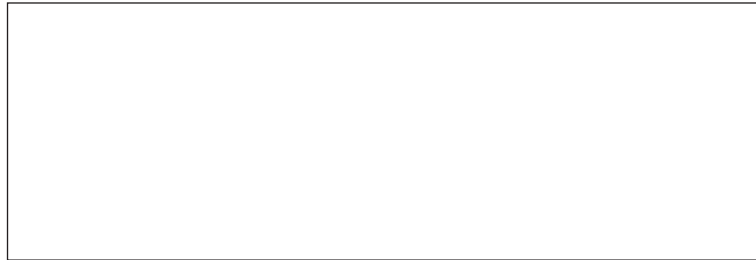
A Good Weed

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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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