

# A GOOD WEED

**Spring 2016 Issue #76**

Newsletter of The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.



**"Gazania diversity and invasiveness on display: ready to release millions of wind-blown seeds to further infest native vegetation. Gazania, native to South Africa, is a perennial plant producing bright daisy flowers. It is one of the typical examples of garden "escapes".**

Image: Hanwen Wu.

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- Seminar, Annual General Meeting & Annual Dinner
- “People are blind to plants” • sea spurge • tropical soda apple
- 20th Australasian Weeds Conference & CAWS Annual General Meeting
- Biosecurity Act 2015 and weeds

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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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## Office Bearers for 2016

**President**  
Kim Hignell (Lake Macquarie)

**Vice President**  
Birgitte Verbeek (Tamworth)

**Secretary**  
Stephen Johnson (Orange)

**Treasurer and Public Officer**  
**Immediate Past President**  
Rex Stanton (Wagga Wagga)

**Newsletter Editor**  
Lawrie Greenup (Westleigh)

**Assistant Newsletter Editor**  
Hanwen Wu (Wagga Wagga)

**Other Committee Members**  
Dan Austin (Prospect)  
Doug Campbell (Scone)  
Hillary Cherry (Forestville)  
Tony Cook (Tamworth)  
Maria Edmonds (Cessnock)  
Reece Luxton (Grafton)

## Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on 17 November 2016 in Sydney at 1600 hrs in the Black & White Room, Magpies Waitara, 11-37 Alexandria Parade, Waitara. An all day seminar will precede the AGM and the Annual Dinner will be held in the evening.



## From the President

Welcome to the Spring Issue of ‘A Good Weed’ – an issue containing information about a number of important and significant events in mid-November.

The Annual General Meeting is being held on 17 November 2016, Black & White Room, Magpies Waitara, and this is important for the Society as it elects the new executive and committee for 2017. It is fifty years since the Society was first formed and the new 2017 committee may be the first for another fifty years!

All positions will be vacated and up for election and the Society would welcome anyone who is enthusiastic and willing to give the time to put their hand for a place on the committee. The 2016 committee has been hard working and I thank them for their contribution and hope they will be willing to renominate for 2017.

Another important issue for the Annual General Meeting is the changes to the Society’s constitution which are needed to be voted on to meet the requirements of recent changes in September 2016 to the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009* and a new Regulation. The Society needs to bring it into line with the requirements of the new legislation.

The Annual General Meeting agenda and constitutional changes are in this issue and also have been mailed directly to all members electronically or by ordinary post.

A seminar “Weeds – what does the future hold” has been organised in the same room and venue on the same day. The topics covered are of relevance and importance to all weed managers bringing you up-to-date on current state and federal legislation; permit use and using herbicides in sensitive environments; updates on bio-control and research; weeds online, and new methods of control and environmental demands for weed control.

A special and exciting event at the seminar will be for the launch of a book, “50th Jubilee - A history of the Weed Society of New South Wales 1966 – 2016” edited by Dr Rex Stanton, which has been published to celebrate fifty years of the Weed Society of New South Wales.

The seminar program details are in this issue and registration and payment forms are on the Society website [www.nswweedsoc.org.au](http://www.nswweedsoc.org.au)

The Society apologises for the late notification of the seminar but unfortunately there was a double booking at the original venue which meant we had to find another suitable venue.

Although this is short notice I look forward to seeing you at the seminar and ask if you could bring the seminar to the attention of your colleagues.

The final event for 17 November is the Annual Dinner, a convivial and fun evening, which is held in the Shamrock Room in Magpies Waitara Club. I would love to see as many of you with your friends or partners to come along and enjoy fellow “weedos” company. Again, this issue has the details regarding the dinner and registration – to help with catering – and payment details are on the Society’s website [www.nswweedsoc.com.au](http://www.nswweedsoc.com.au)

A very successful 20<sup>th</sup> Australian Weeds Conference was held in Perth last month and was attended by a large contingent of well over 25 attendees from state departments and local government. The conference provided plenty of networking opportunities, forming and renewing collaborations and providing ideas for new ways forward. These conferences are always well worth the effort of attending and congratulations to Dr John Scott who was awarded the Council of Australasian Weeds Societies (CAWS) medal which was presented at the conference dinner.

I would like to bring to your attention that NSW will host the 21st Australasian Weeds Conference and that we would be delighted to have more volunteers to help on the organising committee. If this sounds like something that you would like to be a part of, please contact the secretary by email at [secreary@nswweedsoc.org.au](mailto:secreary@nswweedsoc.org.au)

I look forward to seeing you and sharing your company at the events at Magpies Waitara on Thursday, 17 November 2016.



**Happy Weeding  
Kim**

## Welcome to a new member

**Jane Kelly  
Charles Sturt University  
Orange**



## 51<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 51<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting of The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc. will be held on Thursday, 17 November 2016, in the Black & White Room, Magpies Waitara, 11-37 Alexandria Parade, Waitara at 4.00 pm.

**Apologies to Stephen Johnson by email:**  
[secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au](mailto:secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au).

**Access by teleconference:** Dial in 1800 857 029.  
Guest Access Code – 96182905#

**For those who can not attend in person and have any matters they wish to have raised, this needs to be submitted to the secretary prior to the meeting. Likewise, anyone wishing to have a proxy vote on their behalf will need to have that arranged at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.**

### AGENDA

Members are asked to advise the meeting if there are any items on the agenda in which they have a conflict of interest.

**Present in person:**

**Attending by teleconference:**

**Apologies:**

**Previous Minutes:** Minutes of 50<sup>th</sup> AGM, held 15<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

**Business Arising**

**2015/2016 Annual President's Report.**

**Financial Report.**

**Election of Office Bearers-**

President; Vice-President; Secretary;  
Treasurer; Public Officer; Newsletter  
Editor; Management Committee; CAWS  
Delegates.

**Annual CAWS Report.**

**Other Business.**

**Constitutional Amendments**

### Constitutional Amendments

The constitution was last amended in 2007 and a copy of the current constitution is available for download from [http://www.nswweedsoc.org.au/about\\_us/constitution/](http://www.nswweedsoc.org.au/about_us/constitution/). Following changes in September 2016 to the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009* and a new Regulation, the Society needs to address several matters within its Constitution to bring it into line with the requirements of the new legislation.

Five proposed amendments will be put to the Annual General Meeting as Special Resolutions. To be carried, Special Resolutions must be supported by at least three quarters of the eligible votes cast at a properly constituted and quorate general meeting. Votes may be cast in person or by proxy, provided the completed proxy form has been lodged with the Secretary at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

The Special Resolutions below have the proposed alterations to the current text in *underlined italics*. The proposed amendment to Clause 7(e) and the proposed new Clause 12(h) are now required to be addressed in a constitution and the wording is based on the Model Rules developed by the Department of Fair Trading. The minor change to Clause 12(d) is to simply update the year of the Act currently in force. The remaining two changes to Clause 8(f) and Clause 9(d) are to bring the constitution into line with options to use current technology to conduct the affairs of the Society.

**Special Resolution 1:** That Clause 7(e) of the constitution be amended to “Retiring committee members are eligible for re-election. *There is no maximum number of consecutive terms for which a committee member may hold office.*”

**Special Resolution 2:** That Clause 8(f) of the constitution be amended to “Voting at general meetings shall be by show of hands *or verbal response for those attending via approved technology*, unless a secret ballot is demanded. Decisions shall be made by simple majority vote except for those matters which must be decided by special resolution where a three quarter majority is required.”

## Constitutional Amendments (contd)

**Special Resolution 3:** That Clause 9(d) of the constitution be amended to “The treasurer shall ensure that all money received by the society is paid into an account in the society’s name. Payments of accounts shall be made by cheque or electronic funds transfer signed by two signatories authorised by the committee. Major or unusual expenditures shall be authorised in advance by the committee or a general meeting.”

**Special Resolution 4:** That Clause 12(d) of the constitution be amended to “In the event that the society should be wound up or have its incorporation cancelled any surplus property shall be distributed in accordance with the provisions of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009.”

**Special Resolution 5:** That Clause 12(h) be added to the constitution as “The association may hold a postal or electronic ballot (as the committee determines) to determine any issue or proposal (other than an appeal under clause 5). A postal or electronic ballot is to be conducted in accordance with Schedule 3 to the Regulation.”

Stephen Johnson  
Hon. Secretary  
14<sup>th</sup> October 2016

## New Society logos, designed by F & R Richardson, approved by Committee



## Annual Dinner

The annual dinner is an opportunity to celebrate the past twelve months activity of the Society; meet with and share the company of like-minded people; participate in a new life member award, mingle with current life members, and welcome the new committee members.

Members, non-members and partners are all welcome and the new 2017 executive and committee looks forward to your company.

**Venue:** Shamrock Room  
Magpies Waitara  
11-37 Alexandria parade, Waitara

**Time:** 6.30 for 7.00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$45 per head

Cost for the evening includes a three-course meal, pre-dinner drinks and two bottles of wine per table.

Full details regarding the menu choices, payment and the indication of the number of persons attending will be circulated to all members and will be posted on the website [nswweedsoc.org.au](http://nswweedsoc.org.au)

### Bonus

A free copy of the book, “50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee- A history of the Weed Society of New South Wales 1966 - 2016”, edited by Dr Rex Stanton, will be presented to each Society member present at the dinner.



## “Weeds – What does the future hold?”

**Thursday 17 November 2016**

**Magpies Waitara Club  
11/37 Alexandria Parade  
Waitara**

**Members \$60    Non-members \$70    Students \$50**

**0930 - 1015**

### REGISTRATION & REFRESHMENTS

<b>1015 - 1045</b>	<b>The Biosecurity Act</b>	<b>Scott Charles</b> <b>NSW Department of Primary Industries</b>
<b>1045 - 1115</b>	<b>Pesticides Act and EPA Licences</b>	<b>Andrew Hawkins</b> <b>NSW Environment Protection Agency</b>

**1115 - 1145**

### MORNING TEA

<b>1145 - 1215</b>	<b>Bio-control in NSW</b>	<b>Stephen Johnson</b> <b>NSW Department of Primary Industries</b>
<b>1215 - 1245</b>	<b>Weeds online &amp; weed Wednesday</b>	<b>Paul Marynissen</b> <b>Central Coast Council</b>

**1245 - 1330**

### LUNCH

<b>1330 - 1345</b>	<b>Book Launch celebrating 50 years</b>	<b>Rex Stanton - Book Editor</b> <b>Jim Swain - Life Member</b>
<b>1345 - 1415</b>	<b>The Future in Herbicides</b>	<b>Paul Wilcox</b> <b>Macspred</b>
<b>1415 - 1445</b>	<b>Weed Control around Sydney Waterways</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>1445- 1515</b>	<b>Herbicides for “Right-of-Ways”</b>	<b>Tony Cook</b> <b>NSW Department of Primary Industries</b>
<b>1515 - 1530</b>	<b>Summary</b>	

### CLOSE

### FURTHER DETAILS

**Contact:** Lawrie Greenup 0429 139 486      **Kim Hignell** 0417 245 735  
E: editor@nswweedsoc.org.au      E: khignell@lakemac.nsw.gov.au

Registration & payment details are on the Society's Website: [www.nswweedsoc.org.au](http://www.nswweedsoc.org.au)

## 19th BIENNIAL NSW WEEDS CONFERENCE 16- 19 October 2017 Armidale

***“Experience the Highs – working smarter together”***

19th Biennial  
NSW Weeds Conference

16 – 19 October 2017  
Armidale NSW

Sponsorship & Exhibition  
Prospectus

19th NSW Weeds Conference 2017

ARMIDALE

Experience the Highs

NEW ENGLAND  
WEEDS AUTHORITY

Experience the Highs –  
working smarter together

THE WEED SOCIETY  
OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC.

The sponsorship packages listed in the above document can be tailored to your specific marketing needs as well as new ideas incorporated into the available options.

If you would like to suggest other ways in which your company would like to be involved with the 19th NSW Weeds Conference, please do not hesitate to contact the Conference Secretariat.

The 19th NSW Weeds Conference is an important marketing opportunity and the conference organisers are confident involvement as a sponsor will provide exceptional long-term rewards.

Further details:



**19th NSW Weeds Conference**  
**New England Conference Company**  
**PO Box 4429, Armidale NSW 2350**  
**Phone: 0408 668 664**  
**Email: info@conferencecompany.com.au**  
**Website: www.conferencecompany.com.au**  
**ABN 17164971386**

## Tropical soda apple control program - 5 years on Clarence Valley Council perspective

Reece Luxton<sup>1</sup>, Rod Ensby<sup>2</sup>, Elissa Van Oosterhout<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Clarence Valley Council, Grafton, NSW 2460, Australia

<sup>2</sup> NSW DPI, Grafton, NSW 2460, Australia

Tropical soda apple, *Solanum viarum*, first identified in Australia in the NSW Northern Rivers Region during 2010, has been the subject of a control program for the past 5 years. Through a concerted effort led by NSW Department of Primary Industries and Local Control Authorities (local government), the weed has been contained to a number of sites.

The program has been met with challenges not unlike any other weed management program. However a new approach used by Clarence Valley Council to tackle this new incursion will include the use of community based social marketing (CBSM).

With the assistance of trained staff from NSW Department of Primary Industries, it is anticipated that through adopting CBSM into our weed management program we will see an increase in landholder commitment to the program through on-ground control efforts, targeted education and awareness programs, and improved monitoring and evaluation of Tropical soda apple management in the Clarence Valley. Pilot programs completed recently have demonstrated immediate improvements to the program. Funding for this program was available through the NSW DPI Weed Action Program 2015-2020.

Following a workshop of various stakeholders held in September 2015 by the TSA Taskforce, gaps in outcomes were identified in the implementation of the 'NSW TSA Strategy 2010-2015'. Some landholders with TSA infestations on their properties were not meeting the requirements of the *Noxious Weeds Act*, and subsequently making it difficult for Weeds Officers to engage with them about the importance of the control program. Use of CBSM was identified as an option to engage landholders.

Insights from the project to date have informed a ground-breaking strategic behaviour change strategy – the first application of this established framework, worldwide, to a weeds issue. The control, checking and cattle management actions required by landholders have been prioritised and described clearly and concisely as: controlling plants by digging or pulling, cut-stump or spraying; removing and disposing of fruit and plant material; checking control sites for regrowth; checking the rest of the property for new plants; holding cattle for 6 days; and restricting grazing from infested areas.



An example of the signage adopted by landholders as part of the TSA CBSM program.

## Tropical soda apple control program - 5 years on Clarence Valley Council perspective

The strategy has three components – Coaching and Call-backs; Control Cards; and Signs and Maps which incorporates a number of behavioural techniques, including face-to-face interactions, prompts and feedback, goal setting, public and durable commitments, norming and social diffusion and message framing.

The application of the CBSM framework to the issue of increasing TSA control by landholders is clearly aiming for an increase in the levels of control, checking and cattle management performed by landholders, and a decrease in the presence of the weed itself.

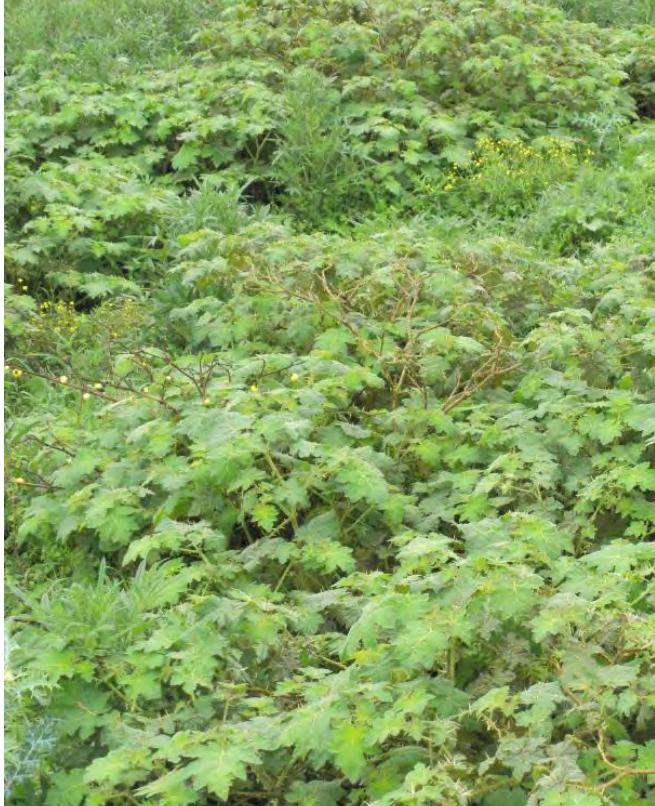
It is intended that the Clarence Valley community will benefit directly from the increase in levels of control behaviours by landholders with TSA infestation if the strategy is successful.

It is also important to recognise that for the TSA program to succeed, the focus should not be on ‘us’ versus ‘the weed’. Rather we should look at the inter-relationships between the issue and the stakeholders concerned. Addressing the barriers and benefits that are described by the people with the problem (the landholders), rather than assumed by the professionals managing the problem, will help to achieve high levels of control of this new incursion.

*A paper presented at the 20th Australasian Weeds Conference in Perth in September 2016*

### Further Information:

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Senior NRM Officer (Vegetation Management)  
Clarence Valley Council  
Email: [Reece.Luxton@clarence.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Reece.Luxton@clarence.nsw.gov.au)



Tropical soda apple forms dense thickets that impede stock movement.  
Image: Bec Miller.



Tropical soda apple fruit.  
Image: Bec Miller.

## People are ‘blind’ to plants, and that’s bad news for conservation

Kathryn Williams

Associate Professor in environmental psychology &  
Director, Office for Environmental Programs, University of Melbourne  
&  
Mung Balding,  
Graduate, Master of Environment Program, University of Melbourne

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All images from [www.shutterstock.com](http://www.shutterstock.com)

The image above has an equal number of plants and animals, but chances are that you remembered more animals than plants. This bias in memory is part of a phenomenon known as “plant blindness”. Research shows that people are also generally more interested in animals than plants, and find it harder to detect images of plants compared with images of animals.

Plant blindness is more than an interesting quirk of human perception. It impacts on our efforts to care for and understand plant species. Figures from the United States show that while most federal endangered species (57%) are plants, less than 4% of money spent on threatened species is used to protect plants. Botanical education has been declared under threat in the UK.

In a recent essay, Mung Balding and I argue that overcoming plant blindness requires more than

plant education. Instead we need to help people connect with plants emotionally.

### Why does it happen?

We aren’t sure why plant blindness occurs. One theory suggests that because plants generally grow close together, do not move and often blend together visually, they often go unnoticed when animals are present.

Another possibility is that we learn plant blindness. For example, biology textbooks give much less space to plants compared with animals, potentially leaving schoolchildren with the impression that plants don’t matter.

But we also know many societies have strong bonds with plants. Among some Aboriginal Australian, Native North American and Maori communities, plants are understood to be different from humans

## People are ‘blind’ to plants, and that’s bad news for conservation

but also to share a common ancestry that brings kinship relationships of mutual responsibility.

Overall, research suggests that while plant blindness is common, it is not inevitable. Here are three strategies that we believe could make a difference.

### Identify with plants

Plants can seem very different from humans. Research has shown that animal conservation support is biased towards species that are most like humans.

Unlike humans and many other animals, plants don’t have faces, don’t usually move locations and don’t seem to have feelings. One way to start valuing plants is to notice ways that we actually are alike.

Science can help us see how plants have similarities with humans. Plants are alive, have sex, communicate and take up food. Some young plants share the root system of their parent plant – a “protective” behaviour that many human parents will recognise.

Rituals are another way of identifying with plants. For example, for people living on the island of Nusa Penida near Bali, the coconut palm is an important plant. Early in a child’s life, the father will plant a tree for the child. The tree’s development and life span then parallels the child’s and in ceremonies it is clothed and presented with food.

### Empathy with plants

Actively imagining the experiences of plants and animals is another way people can connect with plants. In a psychological experiment, participants were shown images of either a dead bird on a beach, covered in oil, or a group of trees that had been cut down.

Half the participants were told to view the image objectively, while the rest were asked to imagine how the bird or tree felt. The researchers found that people who actively empathised with the bird or tree not only expressed greater concern but also donated more money to protecting the species. Art, imagination and ritual can all help people to imaginatively empathise with plants. So too can tending plants, as one experiences the joys and sorrows of plant life and death.

### Make plants human

A third – and more controversial – way to connect with plants is through anthropomorphism. Anthropomorphism means attributing human characteristics to plants, like describing a drooping plant as sad, or a sunflower as turning its face toward the sun.

Anthropomorphism of animals is common in entertainment and conservation campaigns but rarely used for plants. Some writers consider anthropomorphism to be unhelpful: it can misdirect thinking about plants, or sentimentalise plants in ways that belittle them. But experiments show that making or reading anthropomorphic pictures and stories can also help people to empathise with nature and want to act to protect nature.

Want to test this out for yourself? Try a thought experiment watching the 1932 Flowers and Trees animation from Walt Disney.



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G9tFdA\\_t2Kc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G9tFdA_t2Kc)

The dancing, courting and fighting trees are rather bewildering, but do you feel a twinge of anxiety when the trees are threatened by fire, or relief as the woodland recovers?

Plant conservationists view plants as having value in their own right, so it might seem odd to suggest that we promote plant conservation by thinking about the ways plants are like humans. The strategies we suggest draw on theory that proposes that people are more likely to act in the interests of nature if we think about nature as being part of us. Appreciating our connections with plants may be the best way to begin respecting their amazing differences.

## Sea spurge - *Euphorbia paralias* An invasive problem

Sea spurge (*Euphorbia paralias*) is an invasive beach weed that originated from Europe. Sea spurge was probably introduced to Australia in ships' ballast water about 70 years ago. The plant first appeared in Western Australia and is now found throughout south-eastern Australia, including Tasmania and the islands of Bass Strait.

In the past 20 years, it has colonised beaches along the NSW South Coast and is progressively working its way north.

### Why is sea spurge a problem?

Sea spurge can produce up to 5000 salt-tolerant seeds. These seeds can survive for a number of years on ocean currents that spread them from beach to beach. Once established, a sea spurge colony can spread rapidly, displacing the native vegetation and changing the structure of the beach. This can disrupt many native species including the endangered shorebirds (hooded plovers, little terns and oystercatchers) that use open sand spits for nesting.



Sea spurge leaves and stems.  
Image: J Brown (Victorian online resources)



Sea spurge - typical growth habit and environment.

### What does sea spurge look like?

Sea spurge is a small leafy shrub, pale green in colour. It grows to about 70 cm in height and has multiple stems covered in small tightly packed leaves. Small green flowers appear at the end of the stems and bloom between September and May.



Sea Spurge Flower-head showing yellow anthers surrounding the stigma, a developing fruit and a newly developing involucre. Image: A J Brown (Victorian online resources).

## Sea spurge - *Euphorbia paralias* An invasive problem

### Where does sea spurge grow?

Sea spurge can grow anywhere on the beach front, from the high water mark to well into the dunes. It colonises both bare sand and the native dune vegetation. Sea spurge has also been found on rocky foreshores and rock shelves, on the steep back dunes and inside the mouths of coastal lakes and estuaries.



A typical sea spurge infestation on the NSW South Coast. Collaborative containment efforts have made major inroads in combating this weed as it progresses northward.  
Image: NSW National parks & Wildlife Services.

### Where has sea spurge invaded?

Infestations of sea spurge have caused major environmental problems in Tasmania and Victoria. It is gradually working its way north and NSW South Coast beaches are on the frontline of defence. At present sea spurge is generally in low densities on most beaches south of Nowra. Significant effort by volunteers and government agencies has taken place on all southern NSW beaches. However, an established seed bank and re-infestation makes this an ongoing project for many years.

### How can I help?

Firstly, let your local council or authority know wherever sea spurge is found. Community action is the most effective control for this beach invader. You can help by joining a local Landcare group or adopting a favourite beach and patrolling it regularly.

Remove any plants you find. Sea spurge seedlings and juveniles **can be removed by hand**, but firstly make sure you have correctly identified the weed.

Wear gloves to protect your hands from the sap, and ensure you remove the entire taproot. Plants may be left on the beach to decompose. Follow-up control is required at all sites to break the re-infestation cycle.

### Follow up your work

Following up your initial efforts is the best way to make sure that you have cleared your beach of sea spurge. Regularly inspect your beach for new outbreaks. New infestations are generally small and easy to control.

Chemical control is for qualified operators only and will be undertaken by your local council or control authority for larger or more difficult infestations.

### Warning

The broken stems of sea spurge ooze a toxic milky sap. This sap may irritate the skin and is painful if brought into contact with the eyes.

Please follow these guidelines for your own health and safety:

- ◆ wear strong plastic coated gloves
- ◆ wear long protective clothing
- ◆ wear protective eye glasses
- ◆ remember to wash your hands after handling.

Text from <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/pestweeds/SeaSpurge.htm>

### Further information:

**Sea spurge (*Euphorbia paralias*) Weed Management Guide** (DPIPWE Sea Spurge Guidelines. pdf, 8.6 MB). Prepared for the use of Office of Environment and Heritage and other state weed management agencies by the Australian Government.

**Sea spurge - *Euphorbia paralias* flyer** [09679SeaSpurge.pdf, 1.9 MB]

[http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/weeddetails.pl?taxon\\_id=16702#](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/weeddetails.pl?taxon_id=16702#)

## NSW Weedos Wow WA

A large contingent from NSW recently attended the 20th Australasian Weeds Conference held in Perth, Western Australia. Our States contingent of well over 25 NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) and NSW Office of Environment & Heritage (NSW OEH) staff, and many Local Government Weed Officers (and others) joined at least 250 others for the conference held 11-15 September 2016.

Particular highlights from the conference included Sally the Detector Dog doing her thing and finding the hawkweed in front of a very large crowd (good girl Sally!), the presentation to the Council of Australasian Weeds Societies (CAWS) medal to Dr John Scott (at the conference dinner) and the CAWS oration by Professor Steve Powles, Director of the Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative.

Of particular note for NSW weed eradication work were the keynote presentations given by Sue Bower from Lord Howe Island (also part of NSW), 'Breaking Bad - 10 years into a projected 30 year weed eradication program on World Heritage Listed

Lord Howe Island'; and Hillary Cherry from NSW OEH, 'It takes a village: detection dogs, partnerships and volunteers aid hawkweed eradication in mainland Australia' encompassing work in NSW and Victoria'.

All the multi-talented NSW attendees made a significant contribution by participating in and leading workshops in legislation and policy and through presenting research in integrated weed management, biosecurity, biology, ecology and genetics and extension and education encompassing both environmental and agricultural weeds.

A notable mention goes to both Dr Hanwen Wu and Professor Leslie Weston of the Graham Centre at Charles Sturt University who co-authored 10 papers between them and are on the next conference organising committee. Thanks folks!

Lastly, two other special mentions goes to Dr Aisuo Wang, who presented his cutting edge research of utilising the Next Generation Sequencing Technology to better understand the genetic



Conference delegates enjoying an magnificent display of WA wildflowers in a Banksia woodland near Perth that has been protected by a community group. The group works with WA Department of Parks and Wildlife to manage weeds such as Geraldton carnation weed, *Euphorbia terracina*.  
Image: Hillary Cherry

## NSW Weedos Wow WA

mystery of the invasive *Nassella* species; and Reece Luxton (with authors Rod Ensbey and Elissa van Oosterhout) who presented on 'Tropical soda apple: five years on?' outlining some excellent stakeholder engagement using community based social marketing (CBSM). Both presentations were very well received, much commented upon, and we look forward to hearing more of their continuing work.

Most importantly, this conference provided plenty of networking opportunities, forming and renewing collaborations and providing ideas for new ways forward. Always well worth the effort of attending!

**A copy of individual papers** from the proceedings is available from the CAWS website at the html text link '20th Australasian Weeds Conference (2016), Perth, Western Australia' from [http://caws.org.au/awc\\_index.php](http://caws.org.au/awc_index.php)

Remember that NSW will host the 21st Australasian Weeds Conference and that we would be delighted to have more volunteers to help on the organising committee. If this sounds like something that you would like to be a part of, please contact the secretary of the Weed Society of NSW on email at [secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au](mailto:secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au)

**Stephen Johnson and Hanwen Wu (NSW DPI), Hillary Cherry (NSW OEH) and Reece Luxton (Clarence Valley Council)**



Some members of the Weed Society of New South Wales committee in front of the Society's display area.  
Back row (R to L): Hanwen Wu & Reece Luxton  
Front row (R to L): Hillary Cherry & Stephen Johnson



Conference dinner at lovely venue (Western Australia Government House).





## Biosecurity Act 2015 & Weeds

The *Biosecurity Act 2015* will repeal the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* which provides regulatory controls and powers to manage noxious weeds in NSW.



BIOSECURITY ACT 2015

### Supplementary Information Paper: Weeds

April 2016



[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)

This summary from **Supplementary Information Paper: Weeds** (April 2016) follows on from the previous **Discussion paper: Weeds** published in December 2015 and provides further details about how weeds will be managed in NSW when the Biosecurity Act commences in 2017. Following the principle that biosecurity is a shared responsibility, these developments have been informed by submissions received from various stakeholder groups and discussions with newly formed Regional Weeds Committees.

There has been significant progress in developing a prioritisation process for weeds to be considered under the General Biosecurity Duty using the established NSW Weed Risk Management system, NSW Invasive Species Plan (ISP) and the Biosecurity Threat Decision Tree. Changes from the previous discussion paper include a revision of species to be managed under Biosecurity Zones and Control Orders.

**The Biosecurity Act 2015 includes a number of new tools that can be used to manage weeds.**

Broadly they can be categorised as below.

**Prohibited Matter:** Declaration and management of significant weeds not present in NSW, or part of NSW.

**Control Order:** Management of weeds that are the targets of approved eradication programs. (Although a Control Order is for a five year period, this can be renewed for longer term eradication Programs).

**Biosecurity Zone:** Weeds subject to ongoing 'strategic' regional management.

**General Biosecurity Duty:** Requires any person dealing with biosecurity matter or a carrier of biosecurity matter and who knows or ought to know of the biosecurity risks associated with that activity to take measures to prevent, minimise or eliminate the risk as far as is reasonably practicable. (Note, however that the General Biosecurity Duty exists for all weeds that present a biosecurity risk).

**Mandatory Measures Regulation:** May require persons to take specific actions with respect to weeds or carriers of weeds.

**Emergency Order:** To respond to a current or imminent biosecurity risk that may have a significant impact.

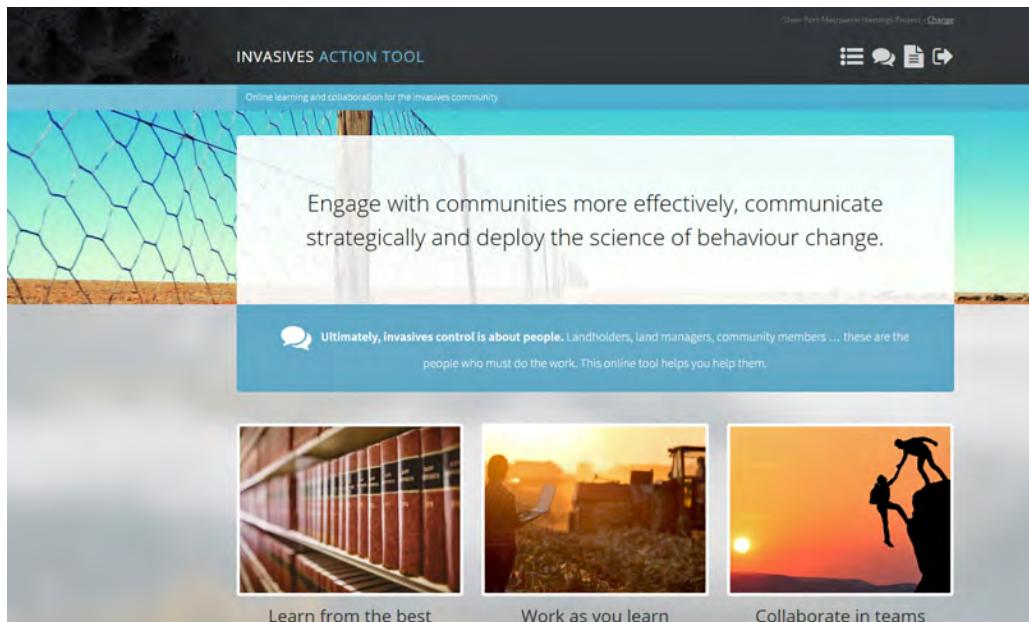
**Biosecurity Direction:** An enforceable instruction to a person or class of persons to take action to: - prevent, eliminate, minimise a biosecurity risk, - prevent, manage or control a biosecurity impact, - enforce any instrument under this Act.

**Biosecurity Undertaking:** An authorised officer may accept in writing an undertaking given by a person that sets out the measures a person has agreed to implement to remedy a contravention, a likely contravention, or suspected contravention of the Act.

### Further Information:

[http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/639819/Supplementary-Information-Paper-Weeds.pdf](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/639819/Supplementary-Information-Paper-Weeds.pdf)

## Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre Invasive Action Tool



Invasive species control is ultimately about people. Landholders, land managers and community members working together to overcome any invasive species issue. The Invasive Animals CRC (IA CRC) has developed an online tool to assist invasive species professionals to engage with communities more effectively, communicate strategically and deploy the science of behaviour change. Engagement specialist from Penn State University and behavioural scientist from the University of New England as a part of the IA CRC have fused leading edge academic learnings with industry best practice to provide a complete suite of lessons online. Five Modules have been developed

These include:

1. **Planning for Engagement** - design, develop or conduct a community engagement process? These lessons give you the skills and tools to marshall your stakeholders and plan for success.
2. **Implementing Engagement** – These lessons are a practical step-by-step guide to executing on an effective strategy and set of processes.
3. **Evaluating Engagement** – These lessons guide you in creating and implementing an Evaluation Plan.

4. **Content Audit** - To improve your communications content you first must look at what you already have. These lessons steer you through a content audit, the analysis that follows and the development of new strategies for success.

5. **Behaviourally Effective Communication** - The core finding from the behavioural sciences in recent decades is that changing attitudes and raising awareness is not enough. To achieve lasting results, behaviours must be changed. These lessons are about how to deliver behaviourally effective communication.

The online tool allows you to work as you learn developing and recording your engagement planning as you go. You can also create teams within the tool to share work and chat to eventually create a finished product.

Whilst you can already access the tool online it is still also being developed and any feedback would be appreciated . You can post comments within the tool.

View the Invasives Action Tool at:  
<http://invasives.contentlogic.com.au>



## TREASURER'S REPORT 14 October 2016

### Financial Report.

Bendigo Bank Opening Balance (2/8/16)  
\$21,407.89

Income (Membership) \$10.00  
Expenses \$11,138.69

Bendigo Bank Closing Balance (1/10/16)  
\$20,419.20

Bendigo Term Deposit 2506 \$20,123.17  
Bendigo Term Deposit 2507 \$20,000.00  
Commonwealth Bank account \$33.85  
Outstanding Loan (Richardson's) \$5,000.00

Society Net Assets (1/10/16) \$65,576.22

For the period 3<sup>rd</sup> August to 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016, the society has shown an **operating loss of \$988.69**.

### Membership.

Membership currently stands at 142 members, with 26 members yet to pay their membership for this calendar year.

Member Status	No.	
Life Members	6	4%
Financial	110	77%
Unfinancial 2016	26	18%
Arrears 2016 and 2015	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	

One new membership application has been received from Jane Kelly (Lecturer, Charles Sturt University, Orange).



Rex Stanton  
Treasurer  
14 October 2016

## APOLOGIES to the TREASURER

A couple of important lines of text were left out of the Treasurer's Financial Report, 11 August 2016, in the last issue of "A Good Weed" #75 Winter - page 17.

The corrected financial details are as follows:

**Society Opening Balance (1/6/16) \$60,261.64**

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

**Income: \$7,455.00  
Expenses: \$1,274.90**

### Bendigo Bank

**Closing Balance (2/8/16) \$21,407.89  
Term Deposit 157420274 \$21,407.89  
Term Deposit 157420316 \$20,123.17  
Commonwealth Bank account balance \$ 33.85  
Outstanding Loan (Richardson's) \$5,000.00  
Society Closing Balance (2/8/2016) \$66,561.91  
Operating Profit/Loss for the period \$6,303.17**

Lawrie Greenup  
Editor

## 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. Members with membership fees in arrears (i.e., more than just the current financial year) 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 for 2016 were issued in January and for the few who have not paid could you please pay or if you no longer wish to remain in the Society could you let the Treasurer know.

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.



## Council of Australasian Weed Societies (CAWS) Report of Annual General Meeting and Executive Meeting Perth September 2016

The Council of Australasian Weed Societies (CAWS) held both an Executive Committee meeting and an Annual General Meeting in conjunction with the 20<sup>th</sup> Australasian Weeds Conference in Perth.

At the Executive Committee meeting, it was resolved that a CAWS medal be awarded to John Scott, with this medal presented during the conference.

It was reported that around 260 delegates had registered the conference. The conference 20AWC only attracted one main sponsor (GRDC) and several trade displays, giving a sponsorship income of around \$25k. However, it was indicated that the conference was anticipated to return a small profit. Discussion occurred on how proceedings from the conferences are picked up and reported within abstracting services, which increases awareness and promotion of the proceedings. It was noted that CAB Indexing automatically includes information from the conferences into their services. Listing within SCOPUS, which would allow refereed papers in the proceedings to be included in the Elsevier Impact Factor system, was also discussed but it was agreed that this was not worth pursuing at this point in time.

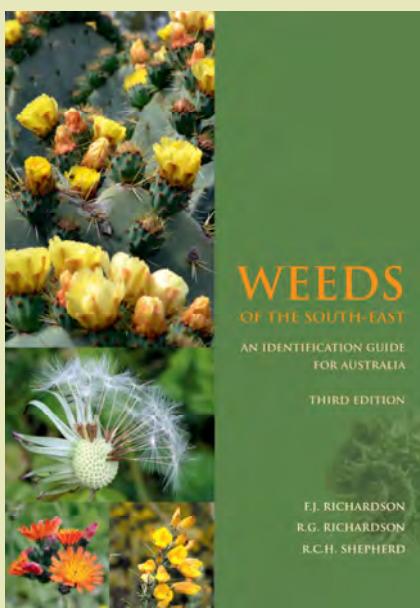
The Weed Society of New South Wales will be hosting the 21<sup>st</sup> Australasian Weeds Conference in 2018 on behalf of CAWS. CAWS agreed to provide seed funding to assist with planning for the conference.

It was also noted at the meeting that Australia's only weed journal, *Plant Protection Quarterly*, is in need of a new Editor.

At the Annual General Meeting it was noted that the CAWS website, which has been kindly hosted under the account of the New Zealand Plant Protection Society, will be moved into its own account due to increased traffic to both sites starting to cause some operational problems.

The Executive team was also returned to office at the AGM, with the exception of the Treasurer who had previously indicated they would not be continuing in the position. Michael Widderick was elected as the new CAWS Treasurer.

Rex Stanton & Hillary Cherry  
NSW CAWS Delegates



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

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

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