

A GOOD WEED

Summer 2016/17 Issue #77

Newsletter of The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.



Glory lily, Gloriosa superba, is in full flower over the festive season. Cultivated as a garden plant, glory lily has become invasive along parts of the coast from north of Sydney to south-east Queensland forming dense understorey carpets in dune systems and competing with native species.

Image: Kim Hignell.

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- Life Membership Award
- Chemical response steps to be taken

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

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



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Stephen Johnson (Orange)

Treasurer and Public Officer
Immediate Past President
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Newsletter Editor
Tony Cook (Tamworth)

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Hanwen Wu (Wagga Wagga)

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Doug Campbell (Scone)
Hillary Cherry (Forestville)
Lawrie Greenup (Westleigh)
Maria Edmonds (Cessnock)
Reece Luxton (Grafton)

Meeting Dates for 2017

Committee meetings: 10 February, 14 April,
9 June, 11 August, 13 October & 8 December.

Annual General Meeting: November .

From the President

Welcome to our Summer edition of a good weed. I would like to say ‘thank you’ to our committee members who have worked hard for the Society during 2016 and congratulations to the newly elected committee members. Again, I am honoured to be re-elected as president for another year and I look forward to working with the new committee and achieving many things in 2017.

The constitutional changes were approved at the Annual General Meeting and will be incorporated into the Society’s Constitution.

If any member has any ideas or potential events that they would like to see the Society involved with, please contact the secretary by email secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au .

A special ‘thank you’ to Lawrie Greenup, our outgoing Editor, for producing a fantastic newsletter for many years and welcome to Tony Cook our newsletter editor for 2017. Good luck you have big shoes to fill.

I like to thank everyone who attended the Annual Dinner, especially the lifetime members who helped celebrate the 50 years of our Society. We had the launch of our Society book which was edited by our wonderful Treasurer and Past President, Rex Stanton. Without his time and hard work, this great history of our Society would have been lost.

Well done, Rex. We also had the presentation honouring our newest life member, Dr Deirdre Lemerle, recognising her outstanding commitment, service, and support to the Society over an extended period of time. Congratulations to Deirdre. Lots of laughs were had by all over the evening - a great night!

All of our Awards and Grants are now available for 2017 and details are available on the Society’s website, www.nswweedsoc.org.au and will be circulated in the next issues of the ‘Punnet Tray’ and ‘A Good Weed’. I would like you to note that the Society’s Travel Assistance Grant has a closing date of 31 March 2017 so if you want to apply you will need to get your application in ASAP.

The 19th NSW Biennial Weed Conference will be held at Armidale on 16 – 19 October and for updates and further information go to <http://conferencecompany.com.au/weedsconference/> .

Happy Weeding,

Kim Hignell

Welcome to a new member

Nicola Dixon
Project Officer
Hawkesbury River County Council
South Windsor



Northern Christmas bell
Blandifordia nobilis

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

We would like to thank you for your support throughout 2016 and extend to you all our best wishes for the festive season and may the New Year bring you answers to your weed issues.

Let’s look forward to an exciting 2017 - the start of another fifty years for the Society.

Happy Weeding, Kim & the Committee.

Dr Deirdre Lemerle Awarded Life Membership The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.

Life membership is a special honour given to recognize outstanding commitment, service, and support to the Society over an extended period of time.

Candidates for life membership are persons who have been a member of the Society for many years; who have actively served on the Executive Committee for at least five years – during which time they have held a position other than just General Committee Member; and who have a history of supporting society activities.



Deirdre Lemerle being presented with her Life Membership medal and certificate by Toni Nugent at the Graham Centre, Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga. Deirdre was unable to attend the Society's Annual Dinner for her award because of overseas commitments. Image: Thomas Williams.

As a young post-graduate student at the University of Sydney, Deirdre Lemerle first joined the Society in 1978, and made her first appearance on the Executive Committee in 1980. Since then, she has served on the Executive Committee for a total of some twelve years, during which time she also held the position of Newsletter Editor for four years.

In addition to this service on the Executive Committee, Deirdre also played a key role in the formation and success of the Riverina Branch of the Society during its period of operation.

On behalf of the Society, Deirdre was co-editor of the Proceedings of the 7th Australian Weeds Conference in 1987, and played a significant role as Program Leader on the organising committee for the 14th Weeds Conference in 2004. Deirdre's outstanding contribution to the science, technology and practice of weed management has been recognised at a national level through the presentation of the NSW Agriculture Outstanding Achievement' award in 1996, the Council of Australian Weed Science Societies (CAWSS) Medal for Leadership in 1998, and the Charles Sturt University Vice-Chancellors Award for Research Excellence in 2000 as part of the Allelopathy Research Group.

Deirdre has had considerable impact on the work of others, mainly through her liaison and involvement with other scientists both nationally and overseas. She is recognised overseas as an authority in her area and is well respected by the chemical industry for her integrity and soundness of research method. Deirdre has been an exemplary role model within the field of weed management, and has made significant contributions to the Weed Society over an extended period of time.

Deirdre is the first female Life Member of the Society. Her commitment to weed management and extension meant she could not attend the award ceremony at the Society's Annual Dinner as she was in the midst of weeds related extension and research activities in Laos.

Dr Peter Michael, Deirdre's post-graduate supervisor, accepted the award on Deirdre's behalf.



Dr Deirdre Lemerle Awarded Life Membership The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.



Rex Stanton with the Life Membership Medal and framed Certificate of Life Membership highlighting the contribution Deirdre Lemerle has made to the Society.



Peter Michael, Deirdre's post-graduate supervisor, accepting the award on Deirdre's behalf from Rex Stanton.



Life members present at the presentation from left to right: . Jim Swain, Alan Murphy, Michael Barrett, Peter Michael & Lawrie Greenup.



Book Launch

“50th Jubilee: A history of the Weed Society of New South Wales”

Rex Stanton, Editor

Despite a number of weeds being declared as noxious and the devastating effects of plants such as prickly pear on productivity of agricultural lands, there were no real forums for persons interested in weeds to engage in discussion or share ideas and management techniques related to weeds until the middle of last century.

The Standing Committee on Agriculture of the Australian Agricultural Council conducted the 1st Australian Weeds Conference in 1954, although this was mainly a forum for government officials with limited representation by industry or indeed the public.

It was not until the 3rd Australian Weeds Conference in 1965 that delegates started expressing a desire for ALL weeds workers to have a forum for information exchange and personal interaction – a forum such as a “Weed Society”. It was acknowledged by those present at the meeting held in the Lennons Hotel, Toowoomba that New South Wales was best placed to be the first state to form such a society.

With Kelvin Green acting as Convenor to bring a meeting about, the inaugural meeting was held in the Conference Room at Agriculture House, 195 Macquarie Street, Sydney at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, 17th February, 1966. Those present agreed to form the Weed Society of New South Wales, elected an Executive Committee and adopted a Constitution to meet the objectives of the new Society.

The newly elected Executive Committee held its first meeting on 4 March, 1966 at Farrar Place, Sydney to consider matters such as membership criteria, notification of other weed organisations of its formation, and various by-laws and sub-committees required for the functioning of the Society.

The Society we are part of today is a legacy of these events and the tireless energy and dedication of the many members who have contributed to the Society since its formation.

It is a sobering thought that a number of the people present at the book launch held during the Society Annual Dinner have been actively involved with the Society for all, or nearly all, of the past fifty years. The dedication and contributions made by many of those individuals has been recognised previously through conferring of various awards, all of which has been documented along the way. The challenge that faces the Society, and many societies in general, is to continue to attract and retain new generations of members. It would be pleasing to think that some of the current members will be able to help the Society celebrate its 100th anniversary.

I joined the Society at a time when many wise and experienced people were around to act as mentors and fountains of knowledge. Part of the role of my generation of members is to ensure the knowledge and expertise gathered by the Society is not lost but, rather, passed onto succeeding generation of weeds workers.

This new publication captures into one document many facts, figures and events that have helped shape the Society over the past 50 years. It has only been thanks to the unstinting support of many individuals, as well as access to many Society records, that much of the history has been able to be collated.

A society such as this is as much about people and communication as it is about the weeds themselves. This publication will hopefully prove to be a worthy vehicle to help convey to new generations of members - and the general public - some of the rich history of the Society.



Book Launch “50th Jubilee: a history of the Weed Society of New South Wales”



Rex Stanton, Editor, presenting a copy of the Jubilee Book to the 2016 President Kim Hignell.



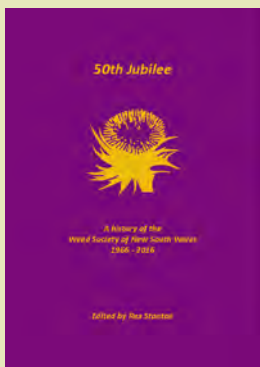
Kim Hignell making a special presentation to Life Member and inaugural member, Peter Michael. Peter wrote the foreword for the book.



Lawrie Greenup, Life Member and former ‘A Good Weed’ Editor, holding his copy with Kim Hignell.



Tony Cook, the new 2017 Editor, with his copy of the book with Kim Hignell.



Paperback | November 2016| \$25.00
 ISBN: 978-0-9954159-0-4 | 170 pages
 | 210 x 297 mm | photographs
 Publisher: Weed Society of New South Wales

Special book deal for financial members

Society financial members will be entitled to one **free** copy of the book “*50th Jubilee: a history of the Weed Society of New South Wales 1966 – 2016*” edited by Dr Rex Stanton.

The book will be available to be collected at any Society event throughout 2017, including the 19th Biennial NSW Weeds Conference in Armidale, or can be sent by mail. If a mailed copy is wanted there will a postage & handling cost of \$12.00.

Cost to non-members is \$25.00 which includes postage & handling.

All payments to: treasurer@nswweedsoc.org.au

This new publication captures into one document many facts, figures and events that have helped shape the Society over the past 50 years.

Highlights from the 51st Annual General Meeting & Annual Dinner



2017 Office Bearers.
L to R: Stephen Johnson (Secretary), Kim Hignell (President), Tony Cook (Editor) and Rex Stanton, (Treasurer).



John Cameron, new committee member.



Some of the members and guests at the annual dinner.



2017 Committee
L to R: Maria Edmonds, Stephen Johnson, John Cameron, Kim Hignell, Hanwen Wu, Tony Cook, Hillary Cherry, Lawrie Greenup, Rex Stanton & Doug Campbell.



Rex Stanton, Editor, proudly holding up the Jubilee Book. Well done, Rex.



Alan Murphy, Life Member, and Kim Hignell.

Highlights from the 51st Annual General Meeting & Annual Dinner

50 YEARS – MY REFLECTIONS Past, Present and Future



Jim Swain

Life Member; former President, Secretary & Treasurer; Recipient of Excellence in Weed Management Medal & CAWS Medal for Leadership.

I would like to congratulate the Weed Society on its 50 years of activity and Rex Stanton for preparing an outstanding book recording the history of the society.

Some points I would like to make on reflection of my time with the Society.

- ◇ Peter Michael in his foreword states *“that interest in weeds has become much wider over the past 50 years”* - does the current society reflect this wider interest?
- ◇ Societies were formed in the 1960’s – when herbicides and weed management programmes were having a major impact on control of weeds in all situations. The membership of the society reflected this with – State Departments; CSIRO; Universities; Councils; farmers and industry personnel making up the membership – how different it is today.
- ◇ Weeds now cost the grain industry \$3.3 billion /year - the current emphasis of the society does not reflect this – the last issue of ‘A Good Weed’ had no articles or comment on grain weeds — is this in the best interest of the society for the future?

- ◇ General meetings were more common and had speakers providing more member involvement.
- ◇ Seminars/weed tours were held regularly covering a wide range of topics -which reflected the wide scale and scope of weed work being undertaken – this is not now a feature.
- ◇ Presidential addresses were delivered at AGM’s until 2001 and a range of topics of interest were discussed.
- ◇ There is less interest in travel grants – is this due to less interest in the society by weed researchers?
- ◇ ‘A Good Weed’ introduced in 1995, is an excellent newsletter and now the most important communication tool together with the ‘Punnet Tray’ for members. It is to be hoped that the high standard will be maintained in the future.

What is the future?

- ◇ The society needs to diversify – it is now too narrow in its focus.
- ◇ Consideration should be given to forming an Australian society that can represent weeds nationally- this was one of the objectives of the initial society and CAWS.
- ◇ Partnerships with like organisations should be explored, such organisations could be NSW Weeds Officers and GRDC (whom I believe have taken over from the CRC in regards to representing weed control in grains). A partnership with pest animal interests should only be pursued if the Queensland model is followed.
- ◇ The use of social media such as Facebook, Twitter should be considered– this may help bring in a more diversified membership.

I would like to wish the Society all the best for the future and hope that it will still be a viable organisation in the next 50 years.

Jim Swain
17 November 2016



ChemCert's Five Steps Chemical Spill Response Guide

When a job involves handling containers of hazardous chemicals, including moving, decanting or mixing them, spillage might occur.

Having showered and removed contaminated clothing, the question is how to clean-up the spill and should the job be handed over to emergency services?

The trouble is every accidental spill is unique to the type of chemical(s) spilled, the location of the spill and the sensitive areas or people in the vicinity. Although there is no 'one size' that fits all in terms of emergency response guides, a generic guide can be useful for most applications involving non-flammable Agvet chemicals.

In most rural applications, chemical mixing is done in open air, on a waist high mixing bench next to a machinery wash down bay, so ventilation is not a big issue. By contrast mixing chemicals in the field or in public places represents much greater risk to environment (as well as the public), the reason why sensitive areas such as national parks limit spray operators to carrying in with them only small quantities of chemical concentrate each trip.

Process and Equipment

The first decision to be made is concerning the size and nature of the spill: is it a Major or Minor spill? Major spills involve immediate risk to human health or the environment or uncontrolled fire and explosion and as such require evacuation and calling emergency services on '000'. Obviously attend to anyone affected, move them upwind of the site, decontaminate, administer first aid and seek medical attention.

Where there is no immediate risk to human health or the environment, i.e. a Minor spill of pesticides which are non-flammable, 'the Chemcert Generic Emergency Spill Response' is a useful guidance tool to be used in tandem with the spilt products Safety Data Sheet (SDS).

In the Safety Data Sheet where no Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is referenced in section 6 of the SDS refer to section 8 for the appropriate exposure controls.

5 Steps to consider in the event of a spill are:

ISOLATE

Keep unnecessary people, children, livestock and pets away.

Wear appropriate protective clothing as per SDS.

Avoid direct contact with the chemical or fumes.

Keep naked flames and spark generating equipment away from the area.

CONTAIN

Take immediate steps to control the flow of chemical from the spillage source.

Form a dam with absorbent material to prevent liquid spreading further.

DECONTAMINATE

Consult store records, and product SDS for suitable absorbent material.

Absorb liquid by covering the spill with the specified absorbent material.

Powder or granule pesticide residues (but not fumigants) can become airborne. The dust hazard can be controlled by slightly wetting the material with a fine water spray (unless incompatible) and decontaminating as per SDS.

If soil is contaminated, remove the top 5 to 10 cms of soil and dispose with the waste chemicals. Cover the ground area with hydrated lime (respiratory hazard so wear a mask) and cover the lime with a layer of clean soil (in some soil types the contamination may run deeper than 10 cms).

DISPOSE

Sweep the area carefully, and shovel the absorbed chemical into open headed drums for disposal. Mark the drums 'Waste for Disposal', include the product name and attach SDS to container.

Dispose of waste product, contaminated cleaning solutions or PPE as per SDS.

On completion of clean-up operations remove and wash PPE, and contaminated clothing immediately. Launder as soon as possible. Shower with liberal quantities of soap and water.



RECORD

Record the spill and clean-up procedures.

There is an Australian Standard being phased in this year for labelling of Spill Kits, AS 1319-1994, so if you purchase one make sure it is fit for purpose, as wheelie bin spill kits will have a lime green base, with a white lid for fuel and oils, a grey lid for general purposes and a yellow lid for Hazchem.

If you are an app fan, there are a few free apps to help with Emergency Response: two notable ones are Cargo Decoder and ERG 2016 for Android. You just input the 4 digit United Nations (UN) number and the emergency response guide for your spilled product is at your fingertips. Prevention however is better than cure, so check out

www.chemcert.com.au for the Chemcert Storage guide to help prevent spills through clever storage design to help limit accidental spills.

You can learn more about chemical spill response at one of our AQF3 Chemical Accreditation courses.

All the pictures in the article have been taken at one of our face-to-face AQF3 Chemical Accreditation courses in Sydney.

Contact & further information:

Jonathan Pearson
 ChemCert Course Trainer and Developer
 Freecall 1800 444 228
 T: 02 9439 7910; F: 02 9460 9087

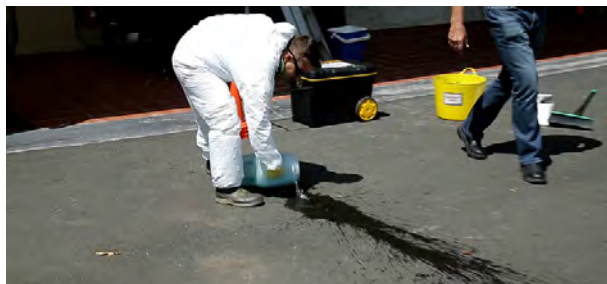


ChemCert is an **industry based non-profit Organisation** established in 1999. As the peak accreditation body it works with all industry sectors throughout Australia for the training, up-skilling and industry accreditation for users of Agricultural and Veterinary (AgVet) chemicals.

Chemcert is a long-time sponsor of 'A Good Weed' and the Society thanks ChemCert for its support.



Isolate



Contain



Decontaminate



Dispose



Record

Impact of weeds on Australian grain production

Rick Llewellyn CSIRO, David Ronning and Michael Clarke AgEconPlus,
Allan Mayfield Allan Mayfield Consulting, Steve Walker Uniquest University of Queensland
& Jackie Ouzman CSIRO

Weeds present one of the largest costs to grain growers and are one of the biggest influences on the management of cropping systems. Their impact is multifaceted; they affect yield and management across all seasons, and sometimes crop price. In addition, the weed challenge faced by growers is constantly evolving, with changes in weed types and their characteristics, such as herbicide resistance, requiring the ongoing adaptation of management. This dynamic nature of weed management often leads to shifting demands for research, development and extension specific to particular weeds and local farming systems. This study is aimed at informing decisions on how to best meet these demands by identifying the costs and management challenges faced by growers across Australia's grain growing regions and their various crops and weed types.

The overall cost of weeds to Australian grain growers is estimated to be **\$3,300 million**.

- ◇ Weeds are costing Australian grain growers \$146/ha in expenditure and losses.
- ◇ Average expenditure on weed control, including herbicide and non-herbicide practices, was estimated to be \$113/ha.

- ◇ Yield losses due to weeds amounted to 2.76 million tonnes of grain.
- ◇ Based on extent and cost, the most costly weeds nationally in terms of total yield loss remain ryegrass, wild radish and wild oats, with brome grass being the most notable major new weed.
- ◇ Barnyard grass, feathertop Rhodes grass, fleabane and sweet summer grass were found to be most costly in sorghum.
- ◇ Ryegrass remains the major weed in terms of the cost of herbicide resistance, with the cost being greater than the sum of all other forms of resistance.
- ◇ Herbicide resistance was estimated to cost \$187 million in additional herbicide treatment costs, in addition to the costs of using extra integrated weed management practices.
- ◇ Most growers expect that a new selective or knockdown herbicide able to control weeds that are resistant to current herbicides will become available in the next decade.
- ◇ Nationally, the most costly weeds in fallow in terms of estimated yield loss were melons, heliotrope, fleabane, caltrop, barnyard grass and panic grass.



Sweet summer grass infestation in sorghum.
Image: V. Osten.

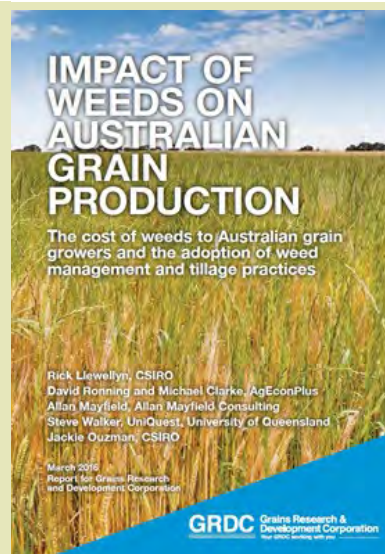


Wild radish in wheat crop. Image: GRDC.

Impact of weeds on Australian grain production

- ◇ The study estimates \$487 million is spent on fallow weed control through herbicide application and cultivation.
- ◇ Despite this, weeds in fallows are still estimated to be costing more than \$430 million through reduced crop yields.
- ◇ Overall, revenue loss due to weed populations reducing crop yields was \$33/ha, which is similar to the cost of some herbicide applications.
- ◇ Yield losses due to weed competition from residual in-crop weeds were valued at \$278 million.
- ◇ Using cultivation in crop seeding systems and as a weed control practice has declined dramatically since the 1998-99, but other practices including crop-topping, double knockdown and narrow windrow burning have increased.
- ◇ Weeds are typically the primary reason for Australian grain growers to use cultivation and burning.

Australian grain growers are investing heavily in weed management, mostly through herbicide-based methods. Despite increasing levels of herbicide resistance, in-crop weed populations are being kept low and yield loss due to weed competition (\$708 million) is much lower than total weed management costs (\$2,573 million). Reducing the cost of weed management is one of the grains industry's largest challenges.



TITLE: Impact of Weeds on Australian Grain Production – The cost of weeds to Australian grain growers and the adoption of weed management and tillage practices

GRDC PROJECT CODE: CSA00043 REPORT

AUTHORS: Rick Llewellyn, CSIRO David Ronning and Michael Clarke, AgEconPlus Allan Mayfield, Allan Mayfield Consulting Steve Walker, Uniquest, University of Queensland Jackie Ouzman, CSIRO

PUBLISHED MARCH 2016 © 2016 Grains Research and Development Corporation and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation.



Feathertop Rhodes grass infestation on edge of grain sorghum crop, western Darling Downs, Queensland. Image: Tony Cook.



19th BIENNIAL NSW WEEDS CONFERENCE

16- 19 October 2017 Armidale

“Experience the Highs - Working smarter, together”

The Local Organising Committee led by staff of the New England Weeds Authority, together with representatives of the Weed Society of NSW, NSW Department of Primary Industries, Northern Tablelands and North West Local Land Services in association with the New England Conference Company have begun the exciting task of putting together a program of renowned speakers, fantastic trade displays and demonstrations, together with notable field trips to ensure all who attend the conference will have a rewarding experience.

With the introduction of the new *Biosecurity Act 2015* and proposed Regulation in 2016 that provides a framework for the prevention, elimination and minimisation of biosecurity risks posed by pests, diseases, weeds and contaminants to the economy, environment and communities of NSW, coupled with the Invasive Species Plan 2015- 2022 objectives there has never been a more important time for weed professionals to be able to meet the challenges of the practical implementation of these changes within the industry.

The theme of “Experience the Highs – Working smarter, together” looks to build on the successes of the past whilst looking to the future as we transition into this new era in weed management and control, an approach that must be based on regional cooperation as well as providing a common focus for the actions of the numerous land managers across all tenures. With this in mind session themes will broadly revolve around Biosecurity in Action; Technology & Innovation; Community, Extension & Social Marketing; Collaboration & Case Studies and with a special feature being the Open Debate.

Hands on workshops will also be held through the conference.

For the latest updates check on the website – <http://conferencecompany.com.au/weedsconference/>

Further information contact:

Heather Apps, New England Weeds Authority
 Ph: 02 6770 3905
 Email: happs@newa.nsw.gov.au



Armidale, the highest city in Australia, is on the banks of Dumaresq Creek and is mid-way between Sydney and Brisbane. Home to the University of New England, the surrounding country is rural with a large number of areas of outstanding natural beauty.



**Experience the Highs -
Working smarter together**



Biosecurity Act 2015 update

The *Biosecurity Act 2015* was passed by Parliament in September 2015 and once commenced, will replace 10 whole existing Acts and parts of four other Acts.

Before the Act can commence, supporting subordinate legislation must be developed to align the management of biosecurity risks with the tools and powers contained in the Act.

The proposed *Biosecurity Regulation 2016*, like the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, covers the biosecurity spectrum, reducing the need for multiple regulations.

Preliminary consultation on the proposed management approach for a number of animal and plant pests and diseases, weeds and contaminants has been ongoing since late 2015 with 37 discussion papers released for consultation, leading to the upcoming consultation on the proposed Regulation and Regulatory Impact Statement.

Have your say!

The proposed Regulation (PDF, 492.77 KB) and Regulatory Impact Statement (PDF, 2641.17 KB) (Addendum - Grapevine Phylloxera - 25.11.16) will be available for public consultation from:
14 November 2016 to 5pm - 29 January 2017.

These documents and other fact sheets are available on: <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/content/biosecurity/biosecurity-act-2015/discussion-papers>

The supporting documentation will answer frequently asked questions and provide examples of proposed management approaches for various commodities and pests.

Further information:

call **1800 808 095**.

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.

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 of the Weeds Society of NSW: secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au

51st Annual General Meeting 2016 President's Report

I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone who has been able to attend the 51st Annual General Meeting today. This year has been one to celebrate for the Society; being both the longest running Weed Society in Australia and bringing up our 50 year anniversary, a great milestone to achieve.

Throughout the year, Rex Stanton, our Immediate Past President, current Treasurer & Public Officer has spent many a long day over old records and speaking to members gathering information to create & publish the history of the Society called "50th Jubilee - A history of the Weed Society of New South Wales 1966 - 2016". Therefore, on behalf of all our members I would like to extend our appreciation to you Rex for producing this great memento. Thank you.

I like to welcome all our new members that have joined this year and goodbye to a few members as well, especially Kelvin Green, an inaugural founding member of the society in 1966, and a life member, who passed away at the age of 96. He fulfilled many positions on the committee including President and will be missed by his friends and colleagues.

The 20th Australasian Weeds Conference held in Perth was a great success, with a large contingent of Society members attending. This conference provided ideas for new ways to move forward, gave members opportunities for networking, and forming and renewing collaboration with other weed professionals. The organisation for the 21st Australasian Weeds Conference, to be held in Sydney in 2018, will be up and running early next year so if you are interested in being on the conference committee please forward your nomination to the Secretary by end of December 2016.

The 19th NSW Weeds Conference to be held at the University of New England, Armidale next year is under way with representation from our Society on the New England Regional Weeds Conference Committee. I hope that many of our members register to go this biennial event. We expect a large number of attendees due to the excellent facilities and accommodation Armidale has to offer. An exciting program is in development.

Communications by the Society's newsletter 'A Good Weed' and e-newsletter 'Punnet Tray' continues to be the key output for information. I would like to thank Lawrie Greenup and Hanwen Wu for their efforts in maintaining the high quality of the newsletter. The website also continues to grow by keeping up to date information available to our members and guest on the site. I would like to thank our webmaster Rex Stanton for maintaining and keeping the website up-to-date.

Importantly, the standard of our publications would not be as high without the support of our sponsors. I would like to thank, Dow AgroSciences, ChemCert Australia, Scotts, Australian Catchment Management, Truxor Australia, Macspred and Hunter Central Coast Weeds for your support during 2016 and look forward to continuing sponsorship into the future.

Next year, 2017 is looking good for the Society with the new committee introducing the new Society logo and examining ways to increase membership of our Society, particularly the inclusion of the pest animal people. This is because of the introduction of the Regulations of the Biosecurity Act 2015, due early next year, which will result in many staff of Local and State Government having a dual role in managing plant and animal pests. The new Committee will also be looking at way to improve our communication with members by looking at the functions of 'A Good Weed', the 'Punnet Tray' and the website. The Society looks forward to participating in weed management not only for the last 50 years but for another 50 years, starting in 2017.

Lastly, I would like to thank the 2016 executive and committee for their participation and service to the society in the various roles that they have played. I look forward to welcoming the new 2017 committee.

Remember that having an active committee helps ensure the Society collectively gets the best outcomes for all.



Happy Weeding

**Kim Hignell
President 2016**

The Weeds Society of New South Wales Inc.

51st Annual General Meeting 2016 Treasurer's Report

Membership

The society has, as at the 30th September 2016, 142 members compared with 157 as at the 30th September 2015.

Membership is made up of 6 life members, 110 fully financial members and 26 members who have not yet paid their 2016 members subscriptions. These members will receive a reminder shortly and if payment is not received by the 31st December 2016 then they will cease to receive newsletters etc until outstanding membership is paid. Failure to pay the arrears by the 30th June 2017 will result in non-financial members being removed from the membership list.

Sponsors

There are 6 sponsors of the newsletter *A Good Weed*, viz Dow AgroSciences, ChemCert Australia, Australian Catchment Management, Hunter Central Coast Weeds, Truxor Australia and Macspred.

Financial Report

The financial report for the year 30th September 2016 is presented for approval. A full copy of the financial report can be downloaded from the website:

www.nswweedsoc.org.au

The society made an operating profit of \$1,583.38 compared with a loss the previous year of \$13,283.29. As noted in the profit and loss statement, membership and sponsorship income has remained stable, however income from bank interest has declined due to a hiatus in term deposits caused by the change-over of office bearers. The society also received a return of \$5,650.00 profit share from the 18th NSW Biennial Weeds Conference.

As noted in the balance sheet, the society has a significant amount of funds in interest bearing term deposits, as well as a further \$5,000 provided as a loan to RG & FJ Richardson for production of their latest book. The Society currently has total net assets of \$65,576.22.

The society continues to use the Bendigo Bank as its main financial institution, with a cheque account together with a credit card facility and two term deposits. In addition, the society also holds a cheque account at the Commonwealth Bank. This separate account will be used solely for transactions related to the conduct of the 21st Australasian Weeds Conference which the society will be hosting in September 2018.

The financial reserves of the society have shown a marked increase in annual fluctuations recently as a result of the cycle of providing support to, and receiving profit share from, the NSW Biennial Weeds Conference.

The overall downward trend in reserves is a direct result of a considered decision taken in December 2011 to allocate up to \$22,000 toward special projects.

Despite the calculated losses during recent financial years and the projected small loss for the current financial year, the society is still in a sound financial position as profits can be anticipated in the subsequent two financial years with profit share expected from the 19th NSW Biennial Weeds Conference and the 21st Australasian Weeds Conference, respectively.

The discretionary funds previously allocated for special projects have nearly been expended. The incoming executive committee may wish to review the minimum financial reserves required, and whether there is capacity to set aside further discretionary funds for special projects. However, it may be pertinent to await the outcome of the 21st Australasian Weeds Conference as profit share from this conference may have a significant impact on society finances.

The incoming committee is also commended to consider broadening the base of society income through regular seminars or other profit raising events.

NSW Weeds Conference Future Fund

The Weed Society of NSW Inc is administering the NSW Weeds Conference Future Fund established to ensure the financial success of future NSW Weeds Conferences which are held every 2 years.

The Future Fund balance as at the 31st September 2016 is \$62,763.00 made up of a cheque account with a balance of \$12,763.00 and a further \$50,000 in term deposit which next matures in September 2017.

Auditing Procedures

By law we do not need to have our accounts audited by an independent auditor. However, this year an opportunity arose for an independent auditor, Karuna Chinniah, to inspect the accounts *pro bono*.

Approval of Report

I would like to move that the financial report for the year ending the 30th September 2016 be approved, and the statement by members of the committee signed.



Rex Stanton.
Hon. Treasurer.
5th November 2016

51st Annual General Meeting 2016 Annual Report Council of Australasian Weed Societies (CAWS)

The Council of Australasian Weed Societies (CAWS) continues to focus on outcomes contained within three action plans, however the Communications and Advocacy plans are likely to be merged due to their similar goals.

In 2016, CAWS received eleven applications across the three travel awards offered, with the following awards being made:

- ◆ \$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.

The 20AWC was held in Perth during early September this year and attracted 260-270 delegates. The Call for Abstracts was extended to 28th March as only 25 abstracts had been received by 9th March, although the program catered for 90-145 oral presentations. Steve Powles delivered the CAWS Oration at the conference. A CAWS Medal for Excellence was also awarded to Dr John Scott at the conference. Despite there only being one major sponsor, the GRDC, the conference is expected to return a small profit. CAWS also discussed the types of papers being presented at conferences and determined to provide guidelines in their Policy on Hosting Conferences.

As at 30th June, CAWS total financial assets were reported as \$92,418.18. CAWS has provided a loan to RG & FJ Richardson for production of their latest book, as well as providing the Weed Society of New South Wales with a seed-funding loan of \$15,000 to assist with early expenses incurred with organising the 21st Australasian Weeds Conference in 2018. CAWS has also become an Associate Member of the Asia-Pacific Weed Science Society for the next two years at a total cost of US\$300.

Inconsistencies with invoicing of membership fees are to be addressed by the use of standardised membership invoices issued in June and marked payable within 30 days, with payments based on

membership levels on 1st July. The New South Wales Society was found to be in credit with payments and therefore does not need to pay for the current financial year.

A new Western Australian Association Incorporations Act (2015) came into effect in July this year. CAWS will have a three-year transition period in which to ensure their constitution complies with the new Act.

The South Australian society has redesigned their website and would welcome feedback. The Victorian Society is also in the process of upgrading their website. The Tasmanian Society, traditionally a small society, is struggling to maintain an active executive committee but is hopeful of remaining viable.

At the AGM in September, the existing CAWS Executive team was returned to office with the exception of the Treasurer, who had previously indicated they would not be standing again. Michael Widdrick was elected as the new CAWS Treasurer.



**Rex Stanton and Hillary Cherry
CAWS Delegates**



2017 Executive & Committee



Kim Hignell
President



Birgitte Verbeek
Vice President



Rex Stanton
Immediate Past President
Treasurer & CAWS Delegate



John Cameron



Doug Campbell



Hillary Cherry
CAWS Delegate



Tony Cook
Editor



Maria Edmonds



Lawrie Greenup



Stephen Johnson
Secretary



Reece Luxton



Hanwen Wu
Assistant Editor

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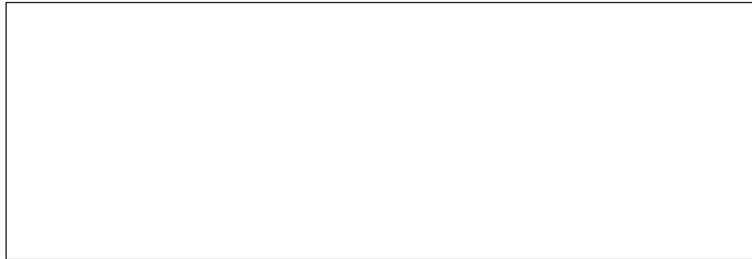
The Newsletter of
The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.
PO Box 8040
Koorringal NSW 2650

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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