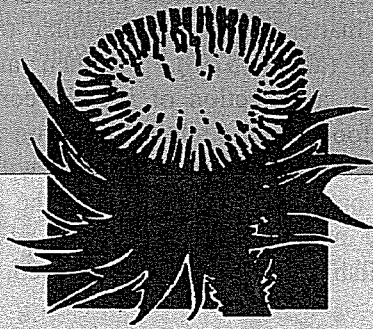


A Good Weed



the NEWSLETTER of
The Weed Society of New South Wales

2

JUNE 1995

Galvanised into Action

With the current drought, many graziers have been galvanised into action to find alternative feed sources for their hungry livestock, often with disastrous results. Pesticide-contaminated cotton trash and parthenium-infested sunflower hulls are two examples. But in this article, Ian Godwin writes of the good potential for galvanised burr (*Sclerolaena birchii*), one of our native weeds of semi-arid NSW, to be used as a quality drought feed reserve.

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.....Galvanised into Action

Galvanised burr (*Sclerolaena birchii*) is a problematic noxious weed that grows mostly in the low rainfall extensively grazed areas of NSW, Qld and SA. Because of its unpalatability, hardness, propensity to contaminate wool and its prickly nature it has become a major weed problem in many areas. The plant is a member of the saltbush family, *Chenopodiaceae*, and is highly drought tolerant.

The procedure simply breaks the majority of spines into smaller harmless pieces.

Studies on housed sheep at the University of New England (UNE), by Rural Science Honours student, Matthew Foster, have shown that this material has a dry matter digestibility similar to oaten chaff (about 57%). Ruminal ammonia levels, a reflection of protein content of the food, were slightly higher on animals fed galvanised burr compared with those fed oaten chaff. However, the volatile fatty acid levels (a measure of energy availability) were slightly reduced.



Dr Ian Godwin from the University of New England displaying hammermilled galvanised burr as feed for sheep at a recent wool expo in Armidale.

The plant has a high crude protein content of between 10 and 20% depending largely on the plant's age. Under extreme conditions sheep will eat this plant in the natural state, but often suffer severe oral and labial damage due to its vicious spiny nature. Upon hammermilling, the plant material is rendered palatable.

The high protein content appears to be offset by a high fibre level. Nevertheless, the material seems to provide the necessary nutrients for maintenance, at least in sheep.

Because of its drought resistance and 100% tolerance to grazing pressure, during this last drought, some areas were devoid of available feed, but still had in excess of 1 t/ha of galvanised burr. Could this plant become a drought feed store?

movements of livestock into NSW over the past couple of years. This, coupled with the annual movement of cereal headers and cotton pickers from Queensland into NSW, means that significant amounts of parthenium weed seed may be scattered throughout NSW, leading to numerous future outbreaks.

What does it look like?

Parthenium weed is a summer-growing annual plant which may grow to a height in excess of 1 m. The deeply lobed leaves are arranged alternately on the branches, are pale green and covered with soft, fine hairs. The upper parts of the stem are longitudinally grooved and, at maturity, the plant is much branched. Numerous small creamy white flowers are borne in compact heads at the tips of the stems. Seeds are small (1 to 2 mm), flattened, triangular and dark brown to black with two thin, white, spoon-shaped appendages. An average plant can produce well over 10,000 seeds.

Why is it a problem?

Many people are severely affected by parthenium weed. Health effects include respiratory problems such as asthma and hay fever, and dermatitis that can be so severe it leads to ulceration.

Some people have had to leave infested areas in Queensland because of health problems caused by parthenium weed.

Livestock, particularly horses, also suffer skin irritation if they are forced to graze in paddocks heavily infested with the weed. Meat from sheep and cattle grazing infested pastures can also be badly tainted.

Once established, heavy infestations compete with crops and pastures. In Queensland, where it occurs widely, parthenium weed is estimated to cost \$16 million annually in lost production.

A notifiable noxious weed

Because of these harmful characteristics, and because there are no well established infestations in NSW, parthenium weed is classified as a W1 notifiable noxious weed under the Noxious Weeds Act, 1993. This means that landholders must immediately notify weed control authorities of its presence.

(Editor's note: I did have a plant here at UNE which I was going to photograph for the newsletter, but alas it was killed by two nights of very cold Armidale weather. Just when you want weeds, they won't grow!!) □

The Sindel Report ~ International Compositae Conference

In July 1994, I attended the International Compositae Conference in the UK, partially funded by a Travel Study Grant from the Weed Society. In this issue of A Good Weed, I report on my involvement at that conference.

Some things change slowly, and names of plant families are no exception. Although 'Asteraceae' is now the generally accepted convention for describing the daisy or thistle family of plants, the older name 'Compositae' was

retained by the organisers of the International Compositae Conference at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK. There may have been pragmatic reasons for this retention, (organisation of the conference began back in the late 1980's when the name 'Compositae' was more common), but the name may also be a taxonomic idiosyncrasy of Kew Gardens.

Irrespective of this, I felt very privileged to have been invited to speak at this event. The conference was subtitled 'Biology, Utilisation and Uses', and so while the plant family provided a common thread to the presentations, a wide diversity of subjects were covered from systematics to cytogenetics to biogeography to ecology to plant breeding to ethnopharmacognosy (can anyone explain what this is?) to weed management.

Aims of the conference

The stated aims of the conference were to stimulate research on the Compositae; to provide a means for its presentation and an occasion for its interpretation and synthesis; to produce a volume of proceedings supplementing and updating (as a source book on the family) the 1975 Reading Symposium volume - Heywood, Harborne & Turner, 'The Biology and Chemistry of the Compositae' (Academic Press, 1977); and to promote the production of a 'Genera Compositarum' as a contribution to the establishment of a generic international systematic information system (GENISIS).

Fireweed papers

I was, of course, most interested in the section on weed biology and management. There I spoke on the 'Impact, Ecology and Control of *Senecio madagascariensis* in Australia'. At the associated Biogeography Workshop, I also gave a talk on the related topic of 'Recognition and Spread of *Senecio*

madagascariensis in Australia and Argentina'.

In Australia, some 1700 economically important weed species have been recognised. As befits the size of the family Asteraceae, composites represent about 12% of this weed flora. Approximately 80% of these 200 or so species have been introduced to Australia since European settlement.

One such alien composite is the African species, *Senecio madagascariensis* (commonly known in Australia as 'fireweed'), a close relative of *Senecio inaequidens* which is now naturalised in parts of Europe. It is a yellow-flowering, much-branched and generally erect (up to 60 cm tall) annual/perennial herb.

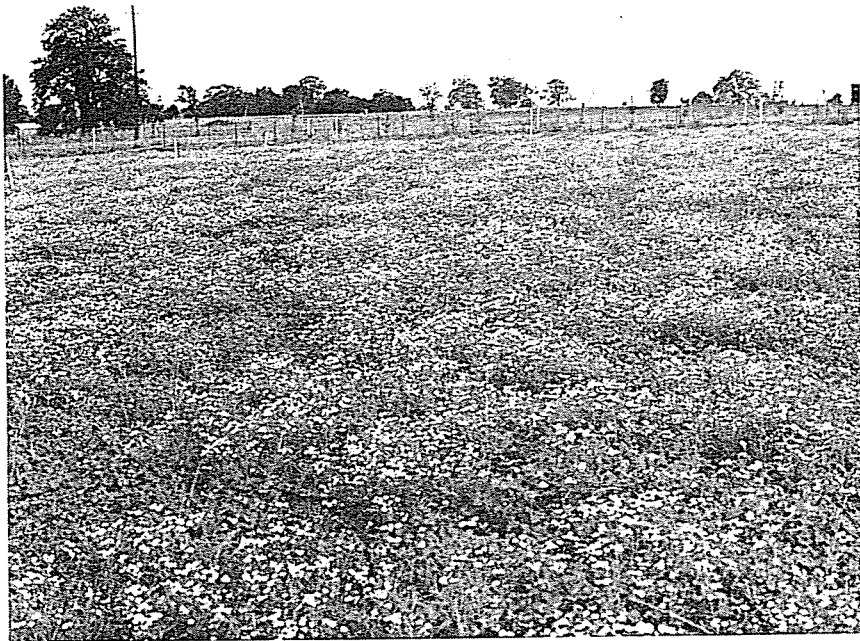


Fireweed (Senecio madagascariensis), one of the many exotic composite weeds present in Australia. ⓘ

In terms of the history of the Australian weed flora, *S. madagascariensis* is quite unique in that, despite its being an alien plant, for more than 60 years it was considered to be part of one of the native Australian *Senecio* complexes. Biologically, it shares many characteristics in common with other annual and perennial composite weeds from a wide range of environments

around the world, including *S. vulgaris* (common groundsel), *S. jacobaea* (ragwort) and *S. inaequidens*.

Like many of these weedy composites, although assuming little significance in its place of origin, which is believed to be southern Africa and/or Madagascar, *S. madagascariensis* has invaded and caused serious problems in agricultural areas elsewhere in the world, including Australia and Argentina.



Fireweed infesting pastures around the Camden district of NSW. ①

Because *S. madagascariensis* is one of the worst weeds in one of the most populated regions of Australia, it has become the subject of considerable scientific and public interest. In my paper, which is to be published in a book of the proceedings later this year, I gave an historical account of the recognition and spread of *S. madagascariensis* and highlighted aspects of its impact, ecology and control in Australia.

I concluded, in general terms, that the history of spread and recognition of *S. madagascariensis* in Australia highlights the need for early basic research on the taxonomy and ecology of plants which show signs of becoming weeds. As with many other composite species, given a favourable environment

and the lack of its natural diseases and predators, *S. madagascariensis* has caused considerable impact on agricultural enterprises away from its place of origin. Correct taxonomic placement of this plant has been central to the development of management strategies in Australia.

However, more specifically, the relationships between *S. madagascariensis* and the very similar *S. inaequidens* and *S. skirrodon*, which may also be present in Australia, need to be resolved.

Based on the biology and ecology of *S. madagascariensis* and the difficulties encountered in finding suitable biological control agents, competitive perennial pastures will continue to be the key to long-term control.

Other weed papers

By the comparatively strong contingent of Australian weed scientists present at the conference, including Andy Sheppard, Tim Woodburn and Richard Groves (all of CSIRO, Canberra), it would appear that we have considerable expertise in Australia in composite weed biology and control.

Andy Sheppard spoke on the life history and biological control of Cardueae thistles, Tim Woodburn on the impact of several insects on seed set of nodding thistle (*Carduus nutans*) and Richard Groves on the biology and control of thistles, skeleton weed (*Chondrilla juncea*) and bitou bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*). Presentations were also given on the management of woody sage brush (*Artemisia* spp.) in North America and on the biology and biological control of Siam weed (*Chromolaena odorata*).

High points

Some high points in the conference for me were meeting other scientists working on *Senecio* species from both Africa and elsewhere, being exposed to

the behaviour of some of these other related species, and being able to look around the historical conference venue itself.

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, is a most fascinating place. Founded in 1759 by Princess Augusta, the mother of George III, the gardens are home to the world's largest collection of live plants with 79,600 accessions representing 35,900 species, one in ten of all vascular plants. I gladly took the opportunity while there to take slides of representative plants from many of the agriculturally important plant families which I can use in teaching at UNE.

In addition, Kew has the largest seed bank of wild plants containing over 4,000 species. The Kew Herbarium is one of the world's largest and houses an encyclopedic collection of over 6 million specimens of vascular plants and fungi from every country in the world. The library, with its collection of over 750,000 books and journals is also an important resource for all of Kew's research work.

In driving around

While in the UK, I also had the opportunity to drive around and see some of their agriculture. While I was impressed by the intensity of their cropping, I was also intrigued to see the intensity of their weed problems, often most evident by the heavy infestations along the edges of their fields where weeds had not been sprayed.

Some of the weed species were new to me, but one which I was very glad to find was *Epilobium angustifolium*, a pink-flowering roadside plant known as Rosebay willowherb, or otherwise as fireweed, a namesake of *Senecio madagascariensis* in Australia! One of the reasons that this plant was given the name 'fireweed' was its appearance in the rubble of buildings in London after the bombing blitzes and associated fires of World War II!

A heavy weed burden along the edge of a wheat crop in the UK (top) and Epilobium angustifolium (locally known as 'fireweed' or Rosebay willowherb) infesting the ruins of a house in Scotland (bottom). ☹ ☐



Capeweed ~ a Metal Mining Machine

Capeweed (*Arctotheca calendula*) is a widespread weed of cultivation and pastures in NSW and other parts of Australia. In this article, reprinted from the Newsletter of the Grassland Society of NSW, David Michalk and Ian Curtis of NSW Agriculture, discuss the implications of its metal mining capacity for pasture management.

Capeweed is an important pasture component of annual pastures in the wheat/sheep zone. Work in Western Australia has shown that capeweed efficiently extracts cadmium (Cd) from soil. Where capeweed makes up a high proportion of the feed-on-offer, Cd accumulates in the soft tissues leading to contamination of livestock products. This occurs where pastures have been fertilised with superphosphate containing a high Cd content.

Our large grazing experiment at Goulburn which is designed to evaluate the use of sewage products provided an opportunity to study further the metal

mining magic of capeweed as the dewatered sludge used contained high concentrations of a range of heavy metals including arsenic, zinc, chromium, nickel, lead, iron, selenium, copper, manganese and cadmium.

Our annual assessment of the heavy metal content of pastures grown on soils treated with three sludge rates (30, 60 and 120 t/ha) showed that heavy metals in perennial grasses, legumes and ryecorn were well below maximum tolerable levels for sheep. In contrast, capeweed accumulated all heavy metals at high rates and exceeded the maximum tolerable level for cadmium, copper and iron. Uptake rates were often four times those measured for legumes and grasses.

Based on these preliminary results, management (e.g. grazing strategies and herbicides) should aim to keep capeweed at minimal levels in pastures grown on soils with high levels of potentially toxic metals (e.g. copper) or where sewage products have been used to improve the soil. □



Watching for Siam Weed

As reported in the last issue of *A Good Weed*, Siam weed (*Chromolaena odorata*) has been introduced to far northern Queensland. Whilst areas of Queensland and the Northern Territory

appear to be most at risk from this plant, parts of coastal NSW may also be vulnerable. Siam weed is particularly suited to highly productive land types in areas where the annual rainfall exceeds 1,000 mm per annum.

Siam weed has a similar growth habit to lantana, soft green hairy leaves which are roughly triangular in shape, and soft round stems which become woody when old or at the base. It has no

thorns and produces masses of white or pale lilac flowers in the winter (see diagram below).

Billy goat weeds (*Ageratum* spp.) are similar to Siam weed, but do not have the slightly sweet pungent smell of Siam weed when the leaves are crushed (hence the name *odorata*).



Be on the lookout for possible outbreaks of Siam weed and report any suspected plant to your local noxious plant authorities. Further information on this weed is available in Parsons and Cuthbertson's book 'Noxious Weeds of Australia' and in a Pestfact brochure from the Queensland Department of Lands (where some of this information was obtained).

Weeds at Wool Expo

Each year, thousands of visitors are attracted over a 3 day period to Armidale in the New England Tablelands to attend Wool Expo, a marquee-based show which parades the virtues of fine woollen products. This year, along with a wide variety of other exhibits, there was not one but three displays related to weeds.

The Department of Agronomy and Soil Science from the University of New England conducted a competition on the identification of weed seedlings and mature plants. It attracted nearly 200 entrants and there was a significant proportion of farmers who correctly identified all 12 plants on display.

The winner of that competition, a local grazier, won a copy of the book *Crop Weeds* by Wilding *et al.* The UNE display was supported by posters of the weeds work being conducted at the University.



Part of the weed identification competition conducted by the University of New England at the Armidale Wool Expo. ①

The New England Tablelands Noxious Plants County Council also mounted an impressive display of parthenium weed (*Parthenium hysterophorus*) and various other declared Noxious plants, as well as a

weed seed identification competition which also attracted over 200 entrants.

Prizes were awarded each day for the most correct entry and included samples of the new woody weed herbicide mixture, Trounce, by Monsanto, and the book, Noxious Weeds of Australia by Parsons and Cuthbertson.

Many people saw parthenium weed for the very first time and, given the recent events surrounding its spread into northern NSW (see related article in this issue of *A Good Weed*), it was a very timely display.

The third display was on the potential feed benefits of galvanised burr as reported earlier in this newsletter.

All in all, weeds were very topical and attracted a great deal of interest from the grazing and local urban communities alike.

New Labels to Tackle Herbicide Resistance

The National Registration Authority (NRA) has gained support from industry (through AvCare, the Grains Research and Development Corporation, and the National Farmers Federation) and State Agencies to add information to labels on herbicide chemistry.

Users need to know the mode of action of herbicides so that they can plan management programs that avoid repetitive uses of herbicides with the same modes of action.

It is expected that all labels will carry information on herbicide modes of action by 31 December 1995. The proposal is also expected to extend to other pesticides.

In their submission to the NRA, AvCare estimated that herbicide resistant ryegrass infests 300,000 ha on about 2,500 properties. Other resistant weeds in Australia include wild oats, barley grass, capeweed, Indian bindweed, dirty dora and arrowhead.

Herbicides can be conveniently placed into 11 groups based upon their

mode(s) of action. If space permits, these will be listed in the next issue of *A Good Weed*.

(Adapted from the Newsletter of the Plant Protection Society of Western Australia.)

CAWSS Funds a Worthy CAUSE

The Council for the Australian Weed Science Societies (CAWSS - the umbrella organisation for the various state weed societies) has a draft mission statement and guidelines for the use of CAWSS funds which are now open for comment. In summary, they are:

Mission statement

- To provide a vehicle for a unified approach to interstate, national and international issues on weeds concerning the member Societies.
- To coordinate and to advance the activities of Weed Science Societies in Australia.

Actions

- CAWSS will encourage, support and represent the Australian Weed Science and Weed Management Industry and its concerns at interstate, national and international level.
- CAWSS will encourage and support interstate and national Weeds Conferences, Symposia and Seminars, the CAWSS Oration and weed related publications.
- CAWSS will encourage and support the careers and professional development of Australian and visiting Weed Scientists.

Fund allocations

The primary objective will be to fund the Australian Weed Conference. Having met this objective, CAWSS will consider providing financial support for the following purposes:

- i) Sponsoring of international and national conferences, congresses, workshops, seminars etc. on weeds of national significance.
- ii) Sponsoring of visits to Australia and thence within Australia by international (and national) experts either individually or through member societies.
- iii) Promoting the awareness of weeds of national significance and weed science.
- iv) Sponsoring of specific projects (except research and management) on weeds with a national significance.

All proposals for use of CAWSS funds must be submitted to, and approved by a properly constituted meeting of CAWSS.

It is a condition of receiving a grant or financial assistance that a report of events concerned with use of the funds is provided by the recipient or member Society concerned within 6 months of the use of the funds.

Further information is available from our NSW CAWSS delegates: Leon Smith, Phone (047) 393 564, or John Cameron, (02) 624 9489.

Any comments should be forwarded to The Secretary, The Weed Society of New South Wales, PO Box 438, WAHROONGA NSW 2076 by the end of August, as the policy will be ratified at the next CAWSS meeting on 15 September.



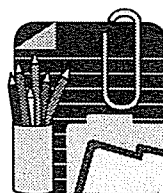
Members Matter

□ We welcome a number of new members who have joined the society since the 1st of March this year. We look forward to your contributions to the society and we welcome your suggestions. The new members are:

- **John Duncan** of Bishops Seeds, Nowra;
- **John Fisher** of NSW Agriculture, Orange;
- **Richard Goulston** of Hornsby Heights;
- **Bill Hannaford** of Wagga Wagga South;
- **Anne Hoult** of the University of New England, Armidale;
- **PB Hughes** of Sandoz, North Ryde;
- **Robert Patterson** of Cootamundra;
- **Andrew Storrie** of NSW Agriculture, Tamworth; and
- **Les Tanner** of NSW Agriculture, Orange.

□ If you have a colleague or friend who works with weeds and who may be interested in joining the Society then why not lend them your copy of *A Good Weed* so that they can photocopy the inside back page and apply for membership.

□ Our Secretary, Leon Smith, will be overseas from 2 July to 2 August. In his absence, Alex McLennan will be Acting Secretary. His phone number is (02) 484 2124 and fax is (02) 484 9692.



Editorial

In the last edition of *A Good Weed*, the names of several people were spelt incorrectly, for which I apologise. The correct spellings are: Dr **Jon** Marshall of Long Ashton, UK (p 6); Dr Mike

Greaves of Long Ashton (p 7); and **Ros Shepherd** from the Weed Science Society of Victoria (p 7).

Roger Cousens from WA indicated that while *Bromus diandrus* can probably emerge from deeper than *B. sterilis* (p 6), the main problem brome grass in the UK is *B. sterilis*, and that is what is being studied by Nick Peters.

John Hosking from Tamworth also helpfully pointed out that there is some question as to whether Siam weed (*Chromolaena odorata*) will invade undisturbed rainforest (p 9). According to Parsons and Cuthbertson (1992), it is not well adapted to shaded conditions.

By the time this issue of *A Good Weed* is published and on the streets, the Bushland Weed Management Seminar hosted by the Weed Society will have been held at the University of Sydney. I hope to have a report and summaries from some of the papers from this significant seminar in the next edition of the newsletter.

Did you Know?

1. Agriculture contributes \$6 billion to the economy of New South Wales every year.
2. Agriculture provides one-quarter of all jobs in New South Wales and nearly one-third of our export earnings.
3. Ninety-eight percent of New South Wales was drought-declared in January 1995.

(According to a NSW Government brochure 'Advancing Agriculture in NSW')

News in Brief

- The Weed Society of New South Wales is to be incorporated in the near

future. Alex McLennan is handling this change over in our legal structure.

- During the week of 12 - 16 June, the Agreements for the establishment of the Co-operative Research Centre for Weed Management Systems were signed, sealed and delivered to the Federal Government.

- Alan Harradine would like to thank member organisations for their support for the proposal to form a Tasmanian Weed Management Society. Thanks are also sent to those who have sent copies of constitutions and newsletters. According to Alan, progress has not been rapid and little has been done formally to get the Society off the ground (though considerably more has been done informally). Feedback to date, however, has been very positive and there is no doubt that the Society will be born.



Other Good 'Reads'

Global Herbicide Directory

First Edition, 1994, soft cover book, approx. 200 pp, subscription price: \$75. Available from: Ag Chem Information Services, 6705 E. 71st Street, Indianapolis, IN 46220, USA. Phone: (317) 845-0681 or Fax: (317) 841-1210.

This book includes an easy-to-use, practical guide that identifies 60 of the newest experimental herbicides plus 190 commercial herbicide products, listed chronologically under the 46 basic discovery companies who invented, developed and/or market them.

It also has a unique market analysis that explores the diversity and significance of global herbicide technology. This thorough assessment includes more than 22 tables that explore the past, current and future of global

herbicide use, segmented by crop, countries, companies and chemical class.

Recommendations for Weed Control in Temperate Australia

Price Reduction!!! Now only \$50 for the set of two volumes, plus \$10 postage and handling. Volume 1 - Weed Control in aquatic, forest, industrial, orchard and pasture situations, lawns and turf, nurseries, ornamentals and amenity areas. 771 pp. Volume 2 - Weed control in broadacre crops and vegetables. 900 pp. Available from The Secretary of the Weed Science Society of Victoria, PO Box 987, Frankston, Victoria 3199.

Biology of Australian Weeds

This series, published initially in the Journal of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and then in Plant Protection Quarterly, is soon to be published in book form. A collection of about 20 papers has been assembled. Each paper describes one weed and covers nomenclature, descriptions, history, distribution, habitat, growth and development, reproduction, population dynamics, importance, legislation, chemical, cultural and biological control and an extensive bibliography. Each paper has been edited and rewritten in most cases by the original authors.

For further information contact Ros Shepherd at PO Box 987, Frankston 3199 or telephone on (03) 9785 0111, fax (03) 9785 2007.

Ecology and Management of Invasive Riverside Plants

Edited by L.C. de Waal, L.E. Child, P.M. Wade and J.H. Bock, Landscape Ecology Series, 1994, 217 pp. (Order from John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 605 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10158, 212/850-6336. \$95).

'Landscape ecology concerns the inter-relationships between the various components of the landscape - flora, fauna, soil, water and air.'

This first volume in Wiley's Landscape Ecology Series, a workshop

proceedings, reviews in detail the biology and autecology of five diverse invasive species: *Crassula helmsii* (swamp stone-crop), *Impatiens glandulifera* (Himalayan or Indian balsam), *Fallopia japonica* (Japanese knot-weed), *Heracleum mantegazzianum* (giant hog-weed) and *Tamarix* (salt cedar).

The book includes 20 chapters by some of the most respected plant ecologists of Europe.

Upcoming Events

What Weed is That?

The Weed Society of New South Wales is to hold a 'hands-on' weed identification workshop aimed at improving skills in identification of weeds. At the end of the workshop participants will be able to i) identify many of the common weeds around Sydney, ii) use a dissecting microscope for identifying plants, and iii) understand the principles of identifying weeds. Experienced demonstrators will be used for training participants.

Date: Friday, 22nd September 1995

Time: 9 am to 1 pm (4 hours)

Place: University of Sydney, Badham Laboratory No 2, Room 227 in Badham Building opposite Union Building on Science Road. Entrance either from the Union Tunnel or west side of building upstairs from the ground floor.

Topics: Learn to recognise common Sydney area weeds such as purpletops, nuisance grasses, bindiis, cudweeds, chickweeds, Solanaceae weeds, *Euphorbia* spp., fleabanes, asthma weed,

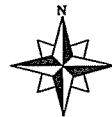
bridal creeper, *Ludwigia* spp., onion weed and many other bushland, turf and waste area weeds. **A special guide on identification of weeds will be issued to all participants.**

Cost: \$100 for Weed Society members. \$120 for non-members. Includes morning tea/coffee.

If you are interested in attending or want further information contact one of the following:

Peter Michael Ph (02) 876 3307
 Mike Barrett Ph/Fax (02) 875 3087
 Leon Smith Ph/Fax (047) 393 564

The workshop will be restricted to a maximum of 30 people so please register early to avoid disappointment.



Search Conference Towards a NSW Weed Strategy

Goulburn, 4 - 6 August 1995. NSW Agriculture, as part of a consultancy to develop a NSW Weed Strategy, will host a Search Conference on the strategy over the weekend period 4 - 6 August at the NSW Police Academy, McDermott Drive, Goulburn NSW. Registration for the Conference will occur between 5 - 6pm on Friday and the last session should conclude by mid-afternoon on Sunday.

The Conference should facilitate identification of relevant issues, provide a forum to discuss the implications of various options, and identify the major components of a workable strategy.

Further information on the Conference and venue is available from: Bob Trounce (*now that's a good name for a herbicide!*), NSW Agriculture, Orange, Phone: (063) 913 172.



8th Biennial Noxious Weeds Conference

Goulburn, 19-21 September, 1995. This statewide conference is conducted by NSW Agriculture for all organisations that have a direct and ongoing commitment to noxious weed control.

As well as broadening the abilities and practical knowledge of delegates, the Conference provides the latest expertise and technical information on noxious weed control practices, information that is generally not available from other sources. Additionally, the venue activities provide an excellent base for delegates to discuss current problems, exchange information and importantly, to promote new techniques, products and ideas.

A number of presentations will focus on the conference theme, 'Better Planning for Better Weed Management', reminding us that to achieve success in the battle to control noxious weeds requires a co-ordinated and planned approach.

Further information on competitions, awards, programs and registration details are available from: Peter Gorham, Conference Convenor, Noxious Plants Advisory Officer, PO Box 129, Cowra NSW 2794. Phone: (063) 422 122, Fax: (063) 411 816.

11th Australian Weed Conference

Melbourne University, 30 September - 3 October 1996. *Enquiries:* Weed Society of Victoria, PO Box 48, Frankston Vic 3199 Australia.

About the Society

The Weed Society of NSW was formed in 1966, the first weed society in Australia. It is affiliated with similar societies in Qld, Vic, SA and WA, under the umbrella organisation The Council of Australian Weed Science Societies. Currently, the Weed Society of NSW has approximately 250 members with a broad range of interests. The Society holds or sponsors frequent workshops and field days on aspects of weed biology, ecology and control, as well as environmental issues. Past workshops include 'Weeding Australia - a Landcare Dilemma', 'Towards More Efficient Weed Control', 'The Chemist's Role in Weed Control' and 'Biological Control of Weeds - Waste of Money or Wasted Opportunities'. Members receive newsletters four times per year detailing activities and advances in weeds, both within the state and nationally.

Aims of the Society

- (a) To promote a wider interest in weeds and their control.
- (b) To provide opportunities for those interested in weeds and their control to exchange information and ideas based on research and practice.
- (c) To encourage the investigation of all aspects of weeds and weed control.
- (d) To co-operate with other organisations engaged in related activities in Australia and overseas.
- (e) To encourage the study of weed science and the dissemination of its findings.
- (f) To produce and publish such material as may be considered desirable.

Fees

The Membership fee is \$20. There is no joining fee. To join, please send your

first subscription, together with a copy of this membership form to:

The Secretary
Weed Society of NSW
PO Box 438
WAHROONGA NSW 2076

Membership form

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

(h)

(w)

Present
Occupation:

Qualifications:
(if any)

Interests in weeds and/or their control:

Declaration:

If admitted to membership I agree to abide by the constitution and by-laws of the existing Society.

Signature:

Date:

A Good Weed

the NEWSLETTER of
The Weed Society of New South Wales
PO Box 438
WAHROONGA NSW 2076

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