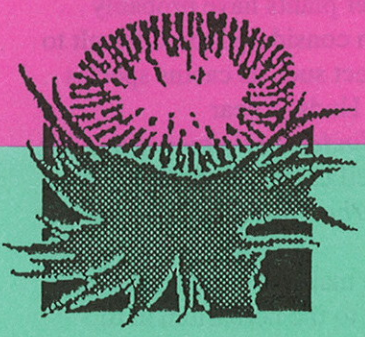


4.
No 28
Jan 2003

N.S.W. AGRICULTURE
23 JAN 2003
DEPARTMENTAL COLLECTION

A Good Weed



the **NEWSLETTER** of
The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.
ISSN 1325-3689

#28

January 2003

THIS ISSUE

- Editorial..... 2
- Annual General Meeting & Dinner 4
- The Pleasures of Gardening 4
- Letter to the Editor 6
- Technical Reports..... 6
 - European Olive..... 6
 - New Bioherbicide Formulation 7
 - Vulpia Costs \$ millions 7
- Weed Society Titbits 8
- Weedbuster Week 8
- Other Good Weeds..... 9
- Coming Events 11



Olive – trendy crop or weed (see article on page 6)
Drawing from Black, JM (1986) Flora of South
Australia Vol. II.

WEED SOCIETY EXECUTIVE

Bob Trounce
(President)

Louise Brodie
(Vice President)

Jim Swain
(Secretary)

Alan Murphy
(Assistant Secretary)

Alex McLennan
(Treasurer)

Jim Dellow
Peter Dowling
Bob Trounce
(Newsletter Editors)

Mike Barrett
Annabel Bowcher
Richard Carter
John Cameron
Warwick Felton
Lawrie Greenup
Graham Harding
Mike Hood
Stephen Johnson
Deirdre Lemerle
Brian Sindel
Leon Smith
Steve Sutherland

Orange Agricultural Institute, Forest Road,
Orange NSW 2800
Ph: (02) 6391 3800
Fax: (02) 6391 3899
dowlinp@agric.nsw.gov.au

Secretary: Jim Swain
19 Larool Crescent
Thornleigh 2120
Ph: (H) (02) 9484 6771
(W) (02) 9980 1460
Fax: (02) 9980 1461
jimswain@zip.com.au

A Good Weed is published four times per
year by the Weed Society of New South
Wales, PO Box 438
Wahroonga 2076
Web site www.nswweedisoc.org.au

Wordprocessing by K Fleming
& R Sweet

Printed by G K Craig, Orange

EDITORIAL

Weeds have been arriving in Australia since the First Fleet in 1788, and it is estimated that about 10 species a year become naturalised. Not all plants that are introduced become naturalised, but of every 100 species that are introduced, approximately five successfully colonise the new environment, and something like one or two become weedy.

Recently recorded naturalised spp. in NSW

Early detection of plants naturalising in NSW will enable control of plants known to be a problem elsewhere in Australia or overseas.

Many plants, backed by herbarium specimens, have been recorded as naturalised between the start of 2000 and the end of 2002. Over this period 62 species have been recorded. It is obvious that there are many other plant species naturalised but not yet recorded. During the last week in November Clive Barker and myself collected 12 species from the upper Blue Mountains that had not previously been recorded by the National herbarium of New South Wales as being naturalised in NSW.

Many of the recently recorded plant species are likely to remain of little concern but others may become major environmental and agricultural weeds. In some cases species have been known to be weeds for some time but no-one has bothered sending a specimen to the herbarium in Sydney to

confirm the identification. Common ornamentals fit into this category and include jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*), broad-leaved pepper tree (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) and Chinese tallow tree (*Triadica sebifera*). Other plants have probably been considered too difficult to collect such as cactus species like Hudson pear (*Cylindropuntia tunicata*), pencil cactus (*C. leptocaulis*, *C. arbuscula* and *C. spinosior*).

One major weed that was not sent to the herbarium until 2000 was musk weed (*Myagrimum perfoliatum*). To date this species is only known from the Liverpool Plains in NSW but has been a problem in Victoria for many years. This weed is likely to be a problem on heavy clay soils in many areas of NSW. Musk weed is in the family Brassicaceae and as this is in the same family as the crop canola, control of musk weed in canola is difficult. Consultants had apparently identified this plant prior to 2000 but no specimen had been sent to the herbarium. This is a case where early recognition may have enabled a successful eradication program to take place. Musk weed is now over too large an area on the Liverpool Plains to attempt eradication.

Other species that may become agricultural problems include *Hieracium murorum* and *Cyperus teneristolon*. The former was picked up at an early stage of establishment in a revegetation area at Katoomba and this species may be eradicated. It is only known

to occur over a small area and current control efforts appear to be reducing its population. *C. teneristolon* is considered to be a crop weed in parts of east Africa but appears to be mainly found in damp areas and is decreasing with change of habitat in part of its native range in South Africa. The importance of this weed in NSW is therefore unclear. This is another species first found at Katoomba but it was well established when found (over a few kms along a creek).

Many other species are likely to become, or are, significant environmental weeds in various parts of the state. These include jacaranda, broad-leaved pepper tree, agapanthus (*Agapanthus praecox* subsp. *orientalis*), patula pine (*Pinus patula*), Chinese celtis (*Celtis sinensis*) and deutzia (*Deutzia crenata*). If you want to see a large infestation of agapanthus then you could look down as well as out while at Echo Point looking over to the Three Sisters. Ledges on the cliff below the Echo Point lookout are now covered in agapanthus, the result of garden plantings above the lookout.

Keen gardeners may be interested in the list of species that have naturalised. Many are still common garden plants. Some of the species recently recorded at the herbarium are Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*), fragrant itch plant (*Callisia fragrans*), English bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), squirrel tail (*Justicia betonica*), redondo creeper (*Drosanthemum candens*), a barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*), dame's violet (*Hesperis*

matronalis), tree heath (*Erica arborea*), rhodendron (probably *Rhodendron ponticum*), crab's eye (*Abrus precatorius*), herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), walnut (*Juglans regia*), prostrate cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster horizontalis*), jasmine (*Jasminum polyanthum*), an evening primrose (*Oenothera biennis*), Chinese rain tree (*Koelreuteria formosana*) and common dog violet (*Viola riviniana*).

There is a need to obtain accurate identifications of plants that you think you know well. The names applied in horticulture are often not correct. Armed with an incorrect identification you may not be able to access relevant control information. Examples of misidentifications of recently recorded naturalised plants follow. Deutzia in horticulture is generally referred to as *Deutzia scabra* but is mainly (possibly only) *Deutzia crenata*. Both species have star-shaped hairs on the backs of the leaves but the stars on *Deutzia scabra* have 4–5 rays while those on *Deutzia crenata* have 10–15 rays. Deutzia is forming thickets (rather like willows) along the Jenolan River below Jenolan Caves. The first herbarium specimen of Deutzia from this area was collected in 1985 but this species was overlooked for the *Flora of New South Wales* volumes and not noted again until 2000. Other species that have recently been recorded as naturalised and where the horticultural name differs from that which should be used include firespike (*Justicia coccinea* of horticulture) which is *Odontonema tubaeforme*,

and *Justicia peruviana* of horticulture which is *Justicia caudata*.

There is a definite need for more specimens of naturalised exotic plants to be sent to the herbarium in Sydney. Close contact between the herbarium and NSW Agriculture will allow for early control of species that are known to be a problem elsewhere in Australia or overseas. When sending specimens make sure that they have been pressed and dried, and that you include adequate information such as where the specimen was collected, collector, date of collection, whether the species was naturalised, and some indication of the number of, or area occupied by, naturalised plants (eg. many hundreds of plants or plants over about 100 m² - preferably an approximate number and an approximate area). In many cases in the past and even today, specimens are received with a simple 'Please identify' or 'What is this?'. This results in the assumption that the plant is an ornamental and it is identified and then thrown out.

You are all able to help with early detection of naturalising plants by questioning any species that you see increasing in numbers but have not noted before. Apart from the obvious benefits of early control of problem species, knowing what you are looking at makes life more interesting.

J. R. Hosking
NSW Agriculture & CRC for
Weed Management Systems,
Tamworth

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND DINNER

The Society held its 37th AGM in Katoomba this year. The meeting venue was Blue Mountains City Council Chambers where we have enjoyed excellent meeting facilities for each alternate meeting in 2002. Thanks to the Mayor and his staff.

The incoming Executive and committee elected for 2002-03:
 President: Bob Trounce
 Vice President: Louise Brodie
 Secretary: Jim Swain
 Ass. Secretary Alan Murphy
 Treasurer: Alex McLennan
 Public Officer: Mike Barrett
 Newsletter Editors: TBA.
 Management Committee: Resolved that the Committee be drawn from the following people S Sutherland, M Hood, A Bowcher S Johnson, J Cameron, L Greenup, G Harding, L Smith, W Felton, B Sindel, R Carter D Lemerle
 CAWSS delegates: S Johnson and R Trounce.

The Annual Dinner was at the Journey Restaurant Katoomba where over 20 members and guests enjoyed an excellent fare and fellowship. During the night our guest speaker Lynton Auld (Degraded Lands Program Manager, BMCC) gave an interesting presentation on the Councils innovative weed mapping program.

The highlight of the evening was the recognition of the work of two long standing members of the Society. Life membership was bestowed on Kelvin Green for his foresight to promote the formation of the

Weed Society of NSW. The award was presented to Kelvin by Jim Swain who related the history of the formation of the Society as a small group meeting at Toowoomba in 1965 during the Australian Weeds Conference. Here a few delegates discussed the need for a specialist group which would promote weed issues in NSW and became the Weed Society of New South Wales.

Kelvin served on the Society Executive for many years, including the Office of President. His skills in weed management were recognised by NSW Agriculture where he held various positions including Principal Agronomist (Weeds) and eventually Deputy Chief of the Division of Plant Industries, a position he held until retirement. Kelvin still takes an interest in weed projects and Society activities and lives with his wife at Roseville.

The second award of life membership was to Leon Smith. Leon's involvement in the NSW Weed Society spans 30 years. Following graduation, Leon pursued further studies at the University of Guelf, Ontario, then spent some years lecturing at Hawkesbury Agricultural College before joining the Department of Agriculture's Head Office team as Principal Agronomist (Weeds). Around his retirement in 1992, Leon accepted the position of Secretary of the Society, which he held until this AGM 2002. Leon has given many hours of dedicated service to the Society and has relinquished the job due to illness. Leon and wife Hilary live at Lapstone. We wish Leon

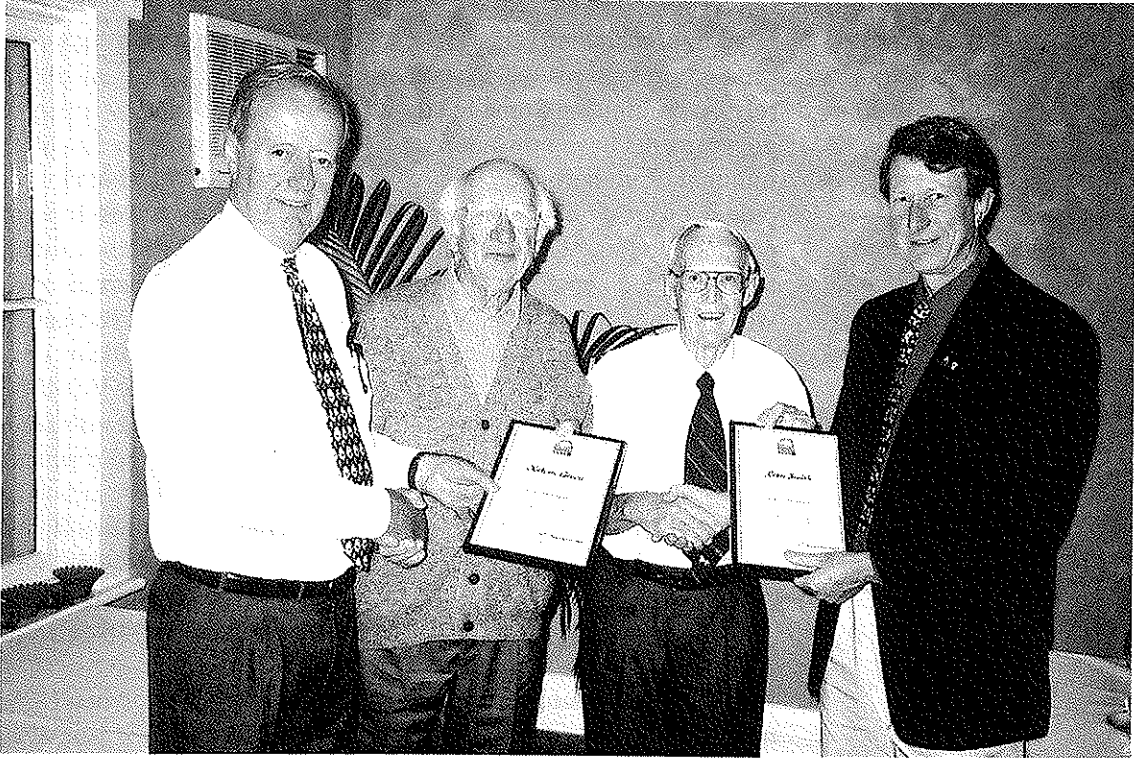
good health for the future.

Congratulations to both new Life members. They join a select few within our Society with only two prior recipients and we thank these exceptionally committed members for their contribution towards the success of the association.

Ode to the pleasures of gardening

It looked so pretty, there in the ditch
 So I moved it to the rockery,
 In a little niche...
 It loved the sun, the water, the care,
 It flourished, it bloomed and had seeds to spare.
 The sprouts, they were many, all over the place,
 I moved them again, now my walkway they graced.
 My friends all admired them, and gladly I shared,
 For the beauties abounded, I had plenty to spare.
 They seemed to enjoy all my loving attention,
 So I transplanted more, too many places to mention!
 I was proud as punch of those pretty flowers,
 As I watched them spread, almost by the hour.
 Then one day Terry Weedboard stopped by for a visit,
 So I pointed it out and asked,
 "What the heck is it?"
 "Oh my gosh, it's noxious, you'll have to spray!"
 And with that one little sentence,
 he ruined my day.
 This story, it's true, and 'twas mournful for me,
 The day St. John's Wort succumbed to the 2, 4-D.

*Cheer Marsh
 Master Gardener,
 Chalone County*



Presentation of Life memberships to Kelvin and Leon- (L to R) Jim Swain, Kelvin Green, Leon Smith and Bob Trounce. (photo: W Felton)



Hilary and Leon Smith - Leon stepped down as Secretary of the Society after 11 years of dedicated work in that position. (photo: W Felton)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Environmentally responsible weed management

Weeds are now regularly in the headlines. They affect everyone. Many weeds affect us directly (in our gardens, as causes of allergies or adding to our business costs). The big impact is on the natural environment, and indirectly through the price we pay for water, food and other products of agriculture.

In the past when the community looked at Weed Societies they thought of them as groups of people pushing the use of dangerous herbicides. The experts were in agriculture departments and chemical companies, and weeds were on farms. Today this has changed. Weed Societies still include people that use and sell herbicides. The big change is the interest in other aspects of weed management. In NSW for instance there are eight universities who have some activity in weed science.

In Victoria, the invasion of native vegetation by environmental weeds is now recognised as a key process threatening biodiversity. In NSW, in a recent preliminary determination, invasion of native plant communities by exotic perennial grasses is recognised as a key threatening process.

As these threats are addressed, expertise will develop in these areas, and our membership will change to reflect the changing community expectations. There are interests at consumer

level in organic and other production systems that do not rely on herbicides. Some local governments have now adopted minimal or no herbicide use policies. Herbicides however continue to be used as a major tool for weed management and will continue to do so in the near future. Herbicide sales in Australia now top \$800 million per annum. A recent review of pesticide use in Australia shows that herbicide use in Australia increased at 10% per year until 1999 but has since plateaued.

The reason for the increase in herbicide use would surprise many. It is largely to reduce environmental damage! Bushland weed management programs are using an increasing amount of herbicide. Many permits issued by the National Registration Authority are for the use of herbicides to treat environmental weeds. But the amount of herbicide used is very small compared to agriculture and forestry.

Conservation farming is largely responsible for this increased herbicide use in Australia. Conservation farming systems with reduced tillage, reduce compaction and physical soil degradation, increase soil organic matter and soil water holding capacity, and stop soil eroding. The adoption of conservation farming has increased herbicide use in Australia. Farmers have replaced cultivations with herbicides. The environment wins.

*Richard J Carter
President Council of
Australian Weed Science
Societies*

TECHNICAL REPORTS

European olive at last recognised as a weed

It is interesting to peruse Neville Crossman's Research Report in the latest Plant Protection Quarterly Vol 17(4) where he says "*Olea europaea* should be considered a serious threat to the integrity of vegetation communities it invades". Neville is with the School of Geography at Flinders University, Adelaide.

In the early 1980's when NSW Agriculture acquired part of the Macarthur's family estate "Camden Park" and created the Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute, Jim Dellow undertook olive control research (1985) and pointed out to the "powers that be" that olives were already an enormous weed problem and approaching an environmental disaster (Dellow et al. 1987). In a MLA report (2002) Jim Dellow included olives as a major woody weed threat to Australia's pastoral industries. Olives have been around for a long time and have been trendy since antiquity. John Macarthur first introduced olives to Australia in 1805 and this first plant still exists at Elizabeth Farm, Parramatta.

Crossman reports: "escapees from cultivated olive groves have invaded native vegetation communities, including grey box woodland of conservation significance in South Australia." "The invasion leads to a reduction in native species richness and abundance."

Crossman points out that birds are the most common seed dispersal vector. The nursery trade and widespread cultivated olive groves are responsible for the long distance dispersal. The recent boom in the Australian olive industry has resulted in an estimated 6.6 million olive trees sold or ordered in the period 1999 to 2001 (Crossman 2002). He sums up the situation as follows: "Evidence presented in this paper is consistent with research which has found other woodlands within regions of Australia that have a Mediterranean type climate are also at great risk from weed invasion. The suitability of climate, combined with the vulnerability of Eucalypt woodland to weed invasion and the rapid dispersal of *O. europaea* via birds and the booming olive oil industry, ensures that *O. europaea* will remain a threat across large parts of Australia. The findings confirm that, if left unchecked, extensive tracts of native vegetation will suffer substantial losses of biological diversity."

J.J. Dellow
Weeds Agronomist
NSW Agriculture Orange

Refs.

Crossman, N.D. (2002). Plant Protection Quarterly Vol. 17: 140-146.

Dellow, J.J., Sargeant, M. and Rose, S. (1987). Proceedings of the 8th Australian Weeds Conference, pp. 461-463.

New Bioherbicide Formulation

A novel bioherbicide formulation has recently been disclosed in Australian Patent Provisional Application No. 2002952094 "Bioherbicide Formulations" invented by Prof. Bruce Auld of NSW Agriculture's Orange Agricultural Institute and Sydney University. The formulation is a water-in-oil-in-water (WOW) emulsion. The complex emulsion is made up of microscopic oil droplets that contain water in a continuous phase of water. It reduces dew dependence in bioherbicides. It has advantages over other formulations in that it is liquid, contains less than 5% oil and can be sprayed with conventional equipment. Details of the formulation will be published in a forthcoming invited paper in the journal, Weed Biology and Management (Blackwell Publishing).

Bruce Auld
NSW Agriculture Orange

Vulpia costs \$ millions

Researchers at Orange Agricultural Institute recently reported that *Vulpia* (silver grass) is costing the wool industry in the temperate perennial pasture zones of New South Wales and Victoria an estimated \$7 and \$30 million annually in production losses. This was the cost of reduced stocking capacity caused by various levels of *Vulpia* infestations in pastures, ranging from a 20% *Vulpia* content to a 50% content. *Vulpia*

contents of 30-40% are commonly found in pastures in these areas.

Reducing the *Vulpia* content levels by 10% resulted in substantial net benefits that were between \$32 million to \$287 million over a 15-year period. Reductions in *Vulpia* were the result of increasing the perennial grass content of the pasture.

Annual grasses were targeted as priority pasture weeds by the CRC for Weed Management Systems which recently completed a six year term. The genus *Vulpia* is the major annual grass of the temperate regions and causes important management problems in pastures. *Vulpia* has recently been found to comprise 26% of the total biomass of these pastures and is present throughout the temperate regions. The cost and benefit estimates for the *Vulpia* problem provide an economic basis for promoting improved management strategies for reducing *Vulpia* infestations in pastures.

David Vere
Economist
NSW Agriculture Orange

Ref.

Vere, D.T., Jones, R., Dowling, P., and Kemp, D. (2002). Australian Journal of Experimental Agriculture Vol. 42: 465-472.

WEED SOCIETY TITBITS

What Price Vegetation Management?

On a recent trip to Derbyshire, in the UK, I photographed an aspect of local vegetation management of lanes, minor roads and hedges. Tractor mounted flail mowers handled the job well. Of interest was the fact that the landowners are responsible to fund management of the road verge (set aside land) and hedge reduction.



No effort is made to remove the mulch, which seems to stimulate growth of the hedges as the mulch decays. The hedges require annual attention.

Alex McLennan

WEEDBUSTER WEEK

Weedbuster Week 2002 was again successful, with 60 activities registered on the national Weedbuster Week website www.weedbusterweek.info.au taking the form of working bees, field days, seminars and meetings. The NSW Launch was announced by the Mayor of Pittwater, Cr Patricia Giles at Winnerremmy Bay in Bayview. This was followed by a Sydney North's Regional Community Field Day targeting bitou bush and pampas grass.

New South Wales competition winners

The following winners have been selected to go through to national judging for the official 2002 Weedbuster Week Competitions:-

Colouring Competition- Winner-

Vivienne Chan
Our Lady of Dolours School
94a Archer Street, Chatswood

Highly Commended-

Catherine Hodges
Barraba Central School
West Street, Barraba
Anushka Rajan
Frenchs Forest Public School
Ann Street, Frenchs Forest

Thank you to all entrants, teachers and coordinators who assisted with the submission of this years entries. In addition to the official competitions, local organisers devised other creative activities where students designed murals or logos for advisory groups to be used in future displays.

Congratulations to the winners at all levels of the competitions. Thanks also to the local

organisers and coordinators who contributed a great deal of thought and time towards the events. A special thanks to Cheryl Bate, State Coordinator for NSW for another very successful year of Weedbusting.

Nationally, Weedbuster Week is having an impact by encouraging public recognition that prevention of new weed incursions and early control is the key to successful weed management. The national registration of events on the Weedbusterweek Website is an efficient means of advising the community about activities across the nation and encourages participation.

Weedbuster Week 2003 is to be held from 12th to 18th October. Start planning early and register your activities on the Website. There are valuable prizes and in NSW for the first time 'Woody' awards will be presented for outstanding achievements.

Barraba Weedbusters

A number of Barraba school children last week received official recognition for their efforts in the National 2002 Weedbuster Week competitions. Weedbuster Week encourages all levels of the community, from primary and high school students to Landcare groups and council weed control authorities, to come up with ideas to promote weeds awareness.

Ninety children from Barraba Central and Primary Schools participated in the poster and colouring-in competitions. A fantastic effort and the quality of these entries was a credit to the children. All entrants received a certificate but the main winners were:

Project Weedbuster Poster Competition Winner

Penny Taylor, - \$50

Highly Commended

Sally Irving, Megan Simpson -\$25.
Barraba Central School - \$100

Colouring-in Competition 5 to 7 yrs

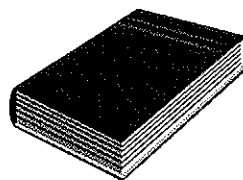
Highly Commended

Catherine Hodges - \$25

The General Manager of North West Weeds County Council extended hearty congratulations to Barraba Central School, teachers and students for such great work in promoting weeds awareness in the north west.

Les Tanner, Chief Weeds Advisory Officer with North West Weeds County Council hopes to see more children and more schools throughout the north west involved in the 2003 Weedbuster Week competitions. For more information please visit the websites

www.weedbusterweek.info.au,
www.nswweedsoc.org.au or
www.northwestweeds.nsw.gov.au



OTHER GOOD READS

Proceedings of the Seminar: Exotic Stipoid Grasses - Impacts and Control in Australia

Plant Protection Quarterly 17(3), 2002. \$25 from R.G. & F.J. Richardson, PO Box 42, Meredith, Vic, 3333, phone 03 5286 1533, url:www.weedinfo.com.au email:

Richardson@weedinfo.com.au
46 pages of submitted papers presented at the February 2002 seminar held at Victoria University, including: Victorian government initiatives towards rapid response and prevention of invasive plant species (Craw); Impacts and control – what we have learnt since 1998 (Hocking); Economics of serrated tussock and Mexican feather grass in Victoria; why we need to act now (Morfe *et al.*); competition between native grasses and serrated tussock at low fertility – initial results (Badgery *et al.*); Potential for repair of infested sites with kangaroo grass (Mason, Hocking); Ecological modelling of serrated tussock (Kriticos *et al.*); Biological control of serrated tussock and

Chilean needlegrass (Anderson *et al.*); Variation in size and seed germination of serrated tussock (Casonato *et al.*); A rate rebate incentive scheme to manage exotic stipoid grasses (Brennan); GROW WEST – controlling serrated tussock at a catchment scale with an integrated landscape change project (Buntine); Stipoid grasses as Weeds of national Significance (McLaren *et al.*); Genetic variation in Chilean needlegrass (Britt *et al.*).

13th Australian Weeds Conference Papers and Proceedings – Weeds “Threats now and forever?”

Edited by H. Spafford Jacob, J. Dodd & J.H. Moore. Plant protection Society of Western Australia Inc., 2002. Soft cover, xviii+754 pages. ISSN0958111103. \$77.00 plus \$10 postage within Australia or \$30 overseas airmail.

The Conference was organised by the Plant Protection Society of Western Australia Inc. for the Council of Australian Weed Science Societies, Perth, Western Australia, 8-13 September 2002. The proceedings contains over 240 papers covering; weed management, ecology and economics, weed modelling, invasion and eradication, biological control, biology and genetics, novel techniques, mapping, herbicide resistance, education, training and community links, policy and planning and integrated weed management. Author index, keyword index. Order from: R.G. and F.J. Richardson, PO Box42,

Meredith, Vic 3333. Phone/fax 03 5286 1533, international +61 3 5286 153, email richardson@weedinfo.com.au.

A Global Compendium of Weeds

The world's largest compendium of weed species was launched as part of Weedbuster Week. The new weed compendium lists nearly 22,000 separate entries of plant species regarded as weeds, and plants with a high potential to become weeds.

The book, compiled by WA Department of Agriculture weed researcher Rod Randall, lists nearly three times more weeds than previously published in a global compendium. Weeds were a major problem in natural and agricultural systems throughout the world and posed one of the great threats to bio-diversity. Weed control was often a major cost of production in developed and undeveloped countries.

"My purpose in drawing all this information together was partly to provide a useful world reference but mainly to provide a resource that can be used to determine weed risk assessment," said Mr. Randall. "It will be of particular help to developing countries, enabling them to identify the relative weed risks of any plants being introduced into their region."

In compiling the volume, Mr Randall catalogued more than 700 data sources to produce a database that contains nearly one million taxonomic records. Mr Randall said the compend-

ium was designed to provide information on the weed potential of a plant. Each entry included a condensed report on the "weed history" of the plant and extensive references for further information. He said weeds were cross-referenced in many different categories to aid quick location. For example, common names vary for a particular weed in different countries so a range of common names was given. Generally, the more there is published about a particular weed, the more serious the weed.

Weeds are also described according to their status. For example, a 'noxious' weed is subject to legal restrictions and control; a 'naturalised' weed is one that is self-sustaining, spreads with no human assistance, but does not necessarily impact on the environment: a 'garden escape' weed, (a large proportion of serious weeds in Australia have spread from gardens and garden waste). Weeds listed cover the full range of world environments and include weeds in aquatic and arid environments. Toxicity of weeds to humans and animals is also listed.

"When people continue to move plants around the world with little regard for the consequences of their actions, new weeds will continue to appear," Mr Randall said. "However, if this compendium helps prevent the establishment of one new weed anywhere, it will have been worth the effort."

'A Global Compendium of Weeds' costs \$165 and can be ordered via the web:

www.weedinfo.com.au or by email to the publishers at richardson@weedinfo.com.au

Did You Know

Flatweed, also known as cats ear (*Hypochaeris radicata* L.) is the most common broadleaf weed of the tablelands and slopes (perennial pasture zone) of NSW. In a survey conducted in spring 1999, Dellow *et al.* (2002) found flatweed to be present in 71% of paddocks surveyed. Whether flatweed should be considered a weed is a vexed question. Flatweed is a perennial and provides good quality sheep forage with a protein level of 17.0% and digestible dry matter of up to 69%. It, however, does not provide a great bulk of forage; 3% of available forage, but it can grow well under a low phosphorus regime. It is not popular with horse lovers as it can cause stringhalt following sustained grazing.

Jim Dellow
OAI, Orange

Ref. Dellow J.J. *et al.* (2002). Occurrence of weeds in the perennial pasture zone of New South Wales. *Plant Protection Quarterly* 17(1), 12-16.

COMING EVENTS

2003

February 10-13

Weed Science Society of America Annual Meeting

Jacksonville, Florida Contact:
Weed Science Society of America

February 20

Herbicide Use in Natural Vegetation

A seminar presented by the Weed Society of Victoria

Contact:

Ph./fax 03 9576 2949

Email: secwssv@surf.net.au

March 16-28

Biological Control of Tropical Weeds Course

Brisbane, Australia

Contact: S. Brown, PO Box 108,
Kenmore, Brisbane, QLD 4069
Australia

Tel: 61-7-3201-2808

Fax: 61-7-3201-2809

Email: ally.brown@uq.net.au

April 27 - May 02

11th Symposium on

Biological Control of Weeds

Canberra, Australia Contact:

Sharon Corey

Fax: +61-02-6246-4177

E-mail:

sharon.corey@ento.csiro.au

Details:

<http://www.ento.csiro.au/weeds2003/index.html>

May 6-9

7th EWRS Mediterranean Symposium

Adana, Turkey

Contact: C/- Cukurova University,

Agricultural Faculty, Dept. of
Plant protection TR-01330 Adana-
Turkey

Tel: +90-322-338-6755

Fax: +90 -322-338-6437

Email: nuygur@mail.cu.edu.tr or

suygur@mail.cu.edu.tr

1st to 3rd July

Biennial Noxious Weeds

Conference

Hosted by Greater Taree City
Council. Manning Entertainment
Centre Taree

Contact: W. Deer (02) 6591 3270

July 20-24

43rd Annual Meeting of Aquatic Plant Management Society

Portland, Maine, USA

Contact: Ken L. Manuel (Program
Chair)

Tel: +1 704 875 5424

July 26 – Aug 1

7th International Rangeland

Congress

Venue: International Convention
Centre, Durban South Africa

Contact: NISC South Africa P/L,
PO Box 377 Grahamstown 6140
S.Africa.

August 11-14

56th New Zealand Plant Protection Conference

The Chateau on the park,

Christchurch

Contact: Dr A Rahman, Fax: 64 7
838 5073

Email:

anis.rahman@agresearch.co.nz

Webpage:

<http://www.hortnet.co.nz/nzpps>

November 17-20

Brighton Crop protection

Conference 2003, "Weeds"

Brighton, UK

Contact: BCPC Ltd., 49 Downing
Street, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7PH
UK

Tel: 44-0-1252-733072, Fax: 44-0-
1252-727194

Email: md@bcpc.org

Web: <http://www.bcpc.org/>

2004

February 7-11

Weed Science Society of America Annual Meeting

Kansas City, Missouri, USA

Contact: Weed Science Society of
America

June 19-25

4th International Weed Science Congress

The International Convention
Centre, Durban, South Africa

Email: sduke@olemiss.edu

Web page:

http://www.olemiss.edu/orgs/iws/D_EFAULT.HTM

6th-10th September

14th Australian Weeds

Conference

Hosted by Weed Society of NSW
and Charles Sturt University

Wagga Wagga

A Good Weed

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

SURFACE
MAIL

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA

Print Post Approved
PP247134/00010

Bayer 

 Dow AgroSciences

syngenta

Luhrmann Environment Management Pty Ltd
providing quality solutions



NSW Agriculture



Web Site Maintenance

The Weed Society acknowledges the generous support of Dow AgroSciences Aust Ltd, Frenchs Forest, Luhrmann Environment Management Pty Ltd www.luhrmann.com.au, Pennant Hills, Syngenta, Pendle Hill, Bayer Australia Ltd, Pymble and Nepean Blue, info@nb.au.com for their sponsorship of

A Good Weed