

# A GOOD WEED



Newsletter of The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.

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Inc.  
PO Box 438 WAHROONGA NSW 2076

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Editor: Lawrie Greenup  
Assistant Editor: Stephen Johnson

## # 49 Spring 2009



bindii or jo-jo, *Soliva sessilis*, immature fruit © Lawrie Greenup



**Office Bearers for 2009**

President	Rex Stanton [Wagga Wagga]
Vice President	Stephen Johnson [Orange]
Immediate Past President	Stephen Johnson [Orange]
Secretary	Alan Murphy [Umina]
Treasurer	Jim Swain [Thornleigh]
Public Officer	Mike Barrett [Beecroft]

**Committee Members and**

Newsletter Editor	Lawrie Greenup [Westleigh]
Assistant Newsletter Editor	Stephen Johnson [Orange]
CAWS Delegates	Rex Stanton [Wagga Wagga], Warwick Felton [Tamworth],
Committee	Peter Dowling [Orange], Warwick Felton [Tamworth], Peter Harper [Ingleburn], Deirdre Lemerle [Wagga Wagga], Luc Streit [Chatswood], Birgitte Verbeek [Tamworth], Hanwen Wu [Wagga Wagga]

**Committee Meeting Dates for 2009 - contact Secretary for details**

February 6	March 20	June 5
August 14	October 9	December 11
<b>Annual General Meeting</b>	November 26	

**Newsletter issues & deadlines for 2009 are as follows:**

# 47 Autumn	28 February	# 48 Winter	31 May
# 49 Spring	31 August	# 50 Summer	30 November

**Weed Society of New South Wales**

The Society was formed in 1966, the first weed society in Australia. It is affiliated with similar societies in Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia and New Zealand under the umbrella organisation – The Council of Australasian Weeds Societies [CAWS]

**Society Aims:-**

- To promote a wider interest in weeds and their management.
- To provide opportunities for those interested in weeds and their management and to exchange information and ideas based on research and practice.
- To encourage the investigation of all aspects of weeds and weed management.
- To co-operate with other organisation engaged in related activities in Australia, New Zealand and overseas.
- To encourage the study of weed science and the dissemination of its findings.
- To produce and publish such material as may be considered desirable.

Membership is open to all and costs \$40.00 per annum for general membership, \$20.00 per annum for bona fide students. For an application form contact: **Secretary PO Box 438 WAHROONGA NSW 2067**

**Website** [www.nswweedsoc.org.au](http://www.nswweedsoc.org.au)

**Email contacts:**  
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 Treasurer: [treasurer@nswweedsoc.org.au](mailto:treasurer@nswweedsoc.org.au)  
 Editor: [editor@nswweedsoc.org.au](mailto:editor@nswweedsoc.org.au)

## Society News

### President's Column

At the time of writing, the Society was hosting two seminars on new advances in herbicide use.



The first seminar at Epping, with a focus on herbicides in relation to the turf industry, was well attended by an audience who posed a series of good questions to the speakers. A full report on the seminar is included in this newsletter. The second seminar was at Narrabri and, even though numbers were small, the

speakers' presentations were excellent. Proceedings of both seminars will be available for sale through the website.

It is also timely to remind members that the 17<sup>th</sup> Australasian Weeds Conference will be held in twelve months time. Anyone interested in submitting an abstract will need to do so by October 21<sup>st</sup>. This will be the third conference to be held since New Zealand became part of the Council of Australasian Weed Societies (CAWS), and will be the first Australasian Weeds Conference to be held outside Australia.

Of more immediate interest is the Annual General Meeting for our society, which will be held in November. As always, new faces are always welcome on the executive committee. Not only do I hold the position of President, but I also have the dubious honour of being the youngest member of the executive committee and would love to pass this particular title on to some of the next generation of weeds enthusiasts. While the committee meets six times a year, it should be noted that the executive has been successfully using teleconferencing for several years, so the tyranny of distance should not deter anyone from participating. Nominations will be received by the secretary prior to the meeting if you are unable to attend in person.

Following the AGM, the society will be holding the Annual Dinner. You are not obliged to attend the

AGM prior to the dinner, but are more than welcome to attend just the dinner as an opportunity to get to know your committee and fellow society members.

As well as giving the society website a complete facelift, the society has also moved towards making more use of electronic communications to keep in touch with members. If you have any comments or suggestions you would like to draw to the attention of the committee, please send us an email.

I would like to welcome the following new members to the Society.

- Ian Moore, Contracts Manager, Landscape & Horticulture, Sydney Olympic Park Authority.
- Alex Burgess, Noxious Weeds, Wollondilly Shire Council.
- Maree Costigan, Holroyd City Council.
- Noelene Davis, Checkbox 3D Pty Ltd, Beecroft, regulatory & registration consultant.
- Kim Hignell, Vegetation & Pest Management Coordinator, Lake Macquarie City Council.
- Harry Pickering, Nufarm, Baulkham Hills.
- Richard Warbury, Wagga Wagga
- Hollie Webster, Tamworth

Rex Stanton  
President

### Student Award goes to Hollie Webster

Hollie, an Honours student at the University of New England in 2008, was awarded the The Weed Society of New South Wales's UNE Student Award.

The prize consisted of \$100 and one year's free membership to the Society.

Prof. Brian Sindel, Hollie's supervisor, said Hollie had achieved a high academic standard in her Honours' project 'Weed Competition in Triticale'

Hollie undertook her studies in the Faculty of Rural Science

## Society News

### Treasurer's Column

#### Financial Report.

The society has shown a loss for the period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008 to the 13<sup>th</sup> August 2009 of \$5,367.70.

This is of no major concern as the society still has adequate reserves of \$67,181.00.



During this financial year the committee has authorised the update of the website so that we now have what is considered to be a user friendly source of information on the society and its objectives, which is now an essential for any organisation like ours.

In addition expenditure has been allocated to improving the society's image and presentation at functions with the purchase of a new promotional banner and upgrading the Newsletter cover and letterheads.

#### Membership.

The new format used where the subscription notices serves as a tax invoice and receipt on payment of the membership fee has proved to be successful and has eliminated the need to send members receipts on payment of their subscriptions.

Members who were unfinancial for 2008 and 2009 and who did not pay their outstanding fees by the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009 were removed from the membership list.

We currently have 121 who have paid their 2009 subscriptions and 36 who are still outstanding. Those members who are unfinancial for 2009 have received a reminder advising them of their outstanding subscriptions. Those yet to pay are asked to do so as soon as possible

With 2 life members this gives a membership total of 147.

#### Other matters.

Lawrie Greenup and I have consolidated the email address list and this has already been used by Rex Stanton to send details of the forthcoming seminars.

Members for whom we do not have an email address were recently sent a letter asking them to provide these as it will enable us to provide better communication with members using this method and with a significant reduction in mailing charges.

Where members do not have an email address or do not wish to provide one, they will still receive all communication information by mail.

As the Society's financial year closed off on 30 September 2009 the books and accounts have been passed to the Society's auditors, Thomas GLC, Hornsby. to be audited. The audited report will be presented at the Annual General Meeting, 26 November 2009.

J.M. Swain.

Hon Treasurer.1

11<sup>th</sup> September 2009.



*Rex Stanton, President, & Alan Murphy, Secretary, with the Society's new banner – part of the up-date of the Weed Society's image.*



## Society news



### *Notice re Annual General Meeting and Dinner*

## Annual General Meeting

**DATE:** Thursday 26 November 2009

**WHERE:** Pennant Hills Golf Club, Copeland Road, Pennant Hills.

**TIME:** 4.30 for 5.00pm.

The main agenda item for the AGM will be the election of office bearers for 2010.

Nominations will be accepted from the floor of the meeting or you can advise the secretary Alan Murphy – telephone 02 4341 35741 ; email [secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au](mailto:secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au) **not later Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2005** advising that you wish to fill one of the positions.

The positions are:

President  
Secretary  
Assistant Secretary  
Treasurer  
Public Officer  
Newsletter Editors  
Committee

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## Annual Dinner – a 3 course feast.

**DATE:** Thursday 26 November 2009.

**WHERE:** Pennant Hills Golf Club, Copeland Road, Pennant Hills.

**TIME:** 6.30 for 7.00pm

**COST:** \$60.00 per head including drinks.

**RSVP by Friday 18 November 2009** advising if you and others will be attending to either:

Jim Swain – telephone 02 9484 6771 or email: [treasurer@nswweedsoc.org.au](mailto:treasurer@nswweedsoc.org.au)

Alan Murphy – telephone 02 4341 3574 or email [secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au](mailto:secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au)

**Payment** can be made by completing the details on the Tax Invoice form or by credit card/cheque/cash at the dinner.

## Society News

The Society was represented by Lawrie Greenup at a meeting of the Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC).

The TSSC is responsible for advising the Federal Minister for Environment on lists maintained under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999 (EPBC Act) for threatened species, ecological communities and key threatening processes. In addition, the Committee advises the Minister concerning the making or adoption of recovery and threat abatement plans, the Register of Critical Habitat and any other matter referred to it by the Minister in relation to the implementation of the EPBC Act.

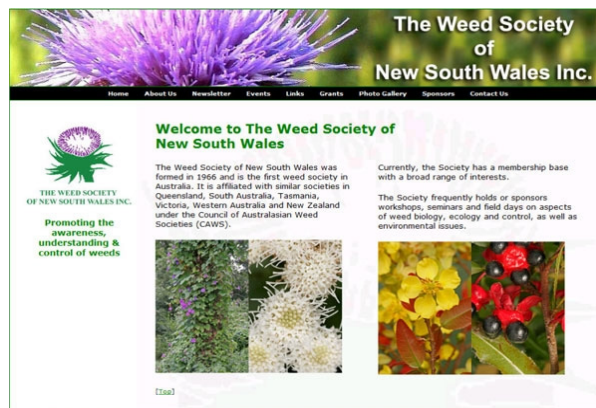
The TSSC was interested in meeting with a range of non-government organisations to discuss the management of threatened species and ecological communities in New South Wales.

A submission was made to the TSSC outlining the Society's history, aims and objectives, and a statement on the Society's views and concerns on the future of threatened species & community management.

The statement is as follows:

- The Weed Society of NSW recognises the very significant threat that weeds have to threatened biodiversity in NSW, and across Australia.
- We strongly commend the efforts and programs of staff at NSW DECCW (many of whom are members of the society) in conjunction with land managers and the community at mitigating the impact of weeds on threatened biodiversity in NSW.
- We strongly encourage the Australian Government to recognise these threats and list weed species as key threatening processes under the EPBC Act. This is because we know that weeds do not recognise borders, and the same is true of threatened species.
- The current fragmented approach by which states are left to manage threatened biodiversity from the threat of weeds that often have national impacts (in the absence of Australian Government legislative and operational support) needs revision.

Thanks to Stephen Johnson, Immediate Past President, and Hillary Cherry, member, for their major input into the submission.



***Don't forget to visit the Society's website to find the latest information on events such as the Annual General Meeting and Annual Dinner***

## From the Editor

The Society is always looking for material for 'A Good Weed' - local & regional news about people & events, new emerging weed species, weed management issues, weed research summaries, book reviews and anything to do with weeds.

Good quality images are always welcome and the source will be acknowledged. Images, except for those on the front cover, will be reproduced in black and white in the newsletter.

### Material submission dates:

# 50 Summer 30 November 2009

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***The opinions expressed in "A Good Weed" by contributors are not necessarily those of the Executive Committee of The Weeds Society of New South Wales Inc.***

## Buerckner & Stephenson 2009 Awards

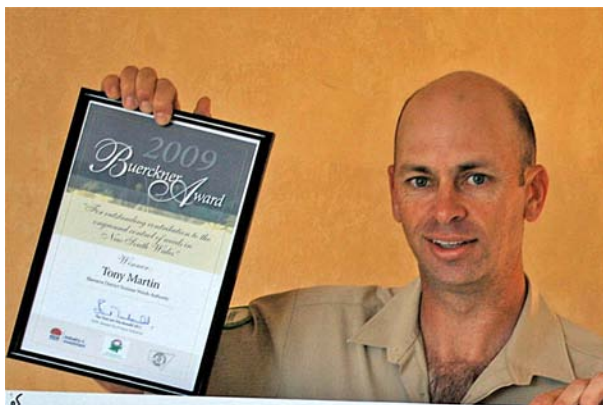
Two hundred weed professionals attended the 15th Biennial held at Narrabri in September 2009 at The Crossing Theatre.

The conference provided a great opportunity for experts to access new information, discuss weed issues and catch up with others working in the weeds industry from across NSW.

A highlight of the conference, held from 14-17 September, was the presentation of the Industry & Investment NSW (I&I) Buerckner and Stephenson Weed Officers Awards.

These Awards were established in 2007 in honour of Parkes Shire Council Weed Officers, Mal Buerckner and Ian Stephenson, who were tragically killed on the job in a helicopter accident in 2006, along with the pilot Shane Thrupp. The Awards acknowledge outstanding contribution to weed management in NSW.

Tony Martin from the Illawarra District Weeds Authority won the Buerckner Award for his outstanding contribution to the on-ground control of weeds in NSW.



Tony Martin holding his I&I Buerckner Award. In addition Tony received the NSW Weeds Officers Association \$500 travel prize

Tony was nominated for his dedication and commitment to his work, through which he introduced a rigorous inspection program, undertaking 189 private property inspections, and 90 reinspections during the past year.

Paula Bosse, Eastern & Western Riverina Noxious Weeds Group, won the Stephenson Award for her outstanding contribution to planning and coordinating weed management programs in NSW.

Paula was congratulated on her strategic thinking and engagement of key players in the region.



Paula Bosse winner of the I&I Stephenson Award. Paula also received a \$500 Travel prize from the The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.

Her work has led to a greater focus on preventing the incursion and spread of new weeds such as Coolatai grass, Chilean needle grass, serrated tussock and Sagittaria.

Paula was presented with a \$500 travel prize by The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc. She will be eligible to use her prize to attend the 17th Australasian Weeds Conference in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Tony received a \$500 travel prize from the NSW Weed Officers Association which may be used to attend the 16th NSW Biennial Weeds Conference in 2011.

Birgitte Verbeek, DI&I NSW thanked the NSW Weeds Officers Association and The Weed Society of NSW for their support of the awards.

Further information contact:

Birgitte Verbeek

DI&I NSW Team Leader - Extension and Education

Email: [birgitte.verbeek@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:birgitte.verbeek@industry.nsw.gov.au)



## Dillon Bush - a native plant problem



Dillon Bush (*Nitraria billardieri*) is a thorny and unpalatable perennial shrub that due to overgrazing has become an invasive native weed, particularly on the Riverine Plain of NSW.

This weed differs from many others as it is a native and its control is restricted by the Native Vegetation Conservation Act 2003, where it may only be cleared back to its natural densities, before overgrazing created an environment of reduced competition. Indeed, it is not a species that should be eradicated from the landscape as it has important benefits in low densities. The natural density must be found for any control methods to be able to be put into practice by landholders.

Dillon Bush has been interesting to study as there has been very little research conducted on it. It appears producers, agronomists and government representatives that have had direct experience are the best source of information. An interview program will be conducted to gather this information.

Field trials for different control methods are underway. The treatments tested are slashing, burning, chemical control, and competition with grasses (this last one would perhaps have been better if we had had some decent rains).

This research is important for the future productivity of grazing properties on the Riverine Plain. It will not only allow producers to reclaim their land to palatable

pasture, but it is important in controlling feral animal habitat.

*Hayley Rutherford, Charles Sturt University, is undertaking this study as part of her Honours degree on the effective and economical control Dillon Bush (*Nitraria billardieri*).*

## Agapanthus Do people de-head or not?



*Agapanthus praeox* ssp. *orientalis*, a popular garden plant, has the potential to be problem plant in sandstone bushland in the Sydney and Blue Mountains regions.

A recommendation by councils is for gardeners to de-head the inflorescence after flowering to prevent the dispersal into bushland areas.

A quick survey of 60 gardens, by the editor, in Westleigh, a Sydney suburb, in May 2008 showed 72% of gardens with agapanthus had de-headed plants. The question is, firstly, whether this was done to prevent seed dispersal into adjacent bushland, secondly, whether it was because the seed heads were untidy or, thirdly, was the garden near a bus stop where the local children take enjoyment in slashing agapanthus heads? It seems the second reason is the correct answer.

Westleigh sits on a triangular sandstone ridge surrounded on two sides by the Berowra Valley Regional Park. Run-off from roads and houses aid in the dispersal of agapanthus seeds into the park.



## Epping Seminar - Keynote Address Abstract



### Keynote Speaker

Dr David Loschke's academic background is in molecular genetics and biochemistry. David worked in research and teaching for twenty years mainly at the University of Florida and at the Australian National University in Canberra before joining the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) in 1997. He has dealt with many issues of pesticide regulation at the APVMA and was appointed the APVMA's Principal Scientist for Agricultural Chemicals in 2002.

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### The Importance of Managing Spray Drift

Concerns among the public about possible risks from pesticide spray drift have increased dramatically over the last few years as more people become aware of the issue from internet and media reports. The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), the federal agency that regulates pesticides, uses scientific information to determine the risks when using each pesticide and decides whether the risks can be controlled safely. Some level of spray drift happens with almost every outdoor pesticide spray application, and the APVMA is now placing stronger use restrictions on pesticide labels to reduce spray drift.

The risks that arise from off-target spray drift are caused by the exposure of people and other living things to a chemical that has drifted to a place where it should not be. Each active chemical is different and can create different kinds of risks. When the properties of a specific chemical are compared with the living things it might affect and linked to the way spray drift deposits accumulate downwind, the APVMA can estimate how far spray drift risks can reach from the application area.

The APVMA has recently refined its spray drift risk assessment policy and is now applying a broader range of drift-control restrictions on pesticide labels. This more stringent regulation is already being applied to all new products and will be applied to all existing

products as the APVMA works through them dealing with the higher risk pesticides first.

Of all the factors contributing to spray drift that the APVMA can control with label restrictions, spray droplet size is the most important. It is easy to understand that very small droplets are more likely to drift, but the risk is even greater than most realise. During the past 20 years, growers have heard again and again that they need to apply pesticides with very small droplets in order to achieve good coverage on their targets and therefore achieve good efficacy. But many growers have taken this message too far and apply pesticides with spray droplets that are finer than needed to achieve efficacy.

In fact, with fine droplets efficacy can actually be reduced by losing part of the pesticide to off-target drift – pesticide that was intended for the crop. More importantly, other people including other farmers may be harmed by the drifted pesticide and will justifiably call for greater restrictions or even bans to pesticide use. The APVMA is dealing with this by requiring many pesticides to be applied with a "COARSE" droplet size. For example, all 2,4-D products must now be applied with coarse droplets, and by the 2009-2010 season, the other phenoxy herbicides will have the same requirement. The APVMA will ensure that

the droplet size required on the label still provides good efficacy for the product.

The new 2,4-D and phenoxy labels will also limit applications to times when the wind speed is between 3 and 15 km/hr and will forbid applications during times of surface temperature inversions. It is likely that applications of 2,4-D through the night during surface temperature inversion conditions have been one of the biggest factors in the serious damage caused to cotton and vineyard crops during the last several years.

One of the most significant changes that growers must comply with will be new mandatory “no-spray zones” on pesticide labels. These protective no-spray zones (often called buffer zones) are different for each pesticide and are determined from scientific studies that examine each pesticide’s hazards. The no-spray zones will only exist in the downwind direction at the time of application and only when the kind of risk identified on the label is present in that direction. The label will specify the

distance from the identified risk where spraying must stop. That area can be treated later when the wind is blowing in a different direction.

Chemical users can find more information on these changes on the APVMA website at [www.apvma.gov.au](http://www.apvma.gov.au). Look under the heading “Spray Drift” where a number of downloadable documents can be found including the general policy document – APVMA OPERATING PRINCIPLES IN RELATION TO SPRAY DRIFT RISK.

It is important that all pesticide users appreciate that the public is now holding them to a higher standard in relation to spray drift than in the past. Signs of this are clearly evident overseas in recent regulatory decisions and court cases. Public sentiment in Australia is also evident in letters to Ministers and regulators and in many recent media reports. Responsible control of spray drift is a very important issue for the farm community in maintaining access to valuable chemical tools into the future.



*Rex Stanton – welcome address  
Society President*



*Kym Johnson - speaker  
Biosecurity Queensland*



*Adrian Harris - speaker  
CropLife Australia*



*Graham Charles - speaker  
NSW DII*



*Paul Marynissen - speaker  
Wyong Council*



*Hillary Cherry - speaker  
National Parks & Wildlife Service*

## Epping Seminar



*David Thompson – Speaker & John Toth*



*Michael Danelon - NGINA  
Mark Kunnen – ChemCert – sponsor*



*David Loschke – Keynote Speaker  
Peter McMaugh - consultant*



*Carol Gibson & Sonny Armstrong*



*Diana Picone, Elisabeth Dark & Leanne*



*Mike Barrett – Seminar Organiser*

## Seminar Summary

This seminar attracted a total of 47 participants comprising 13 members. We were aiming for 50 non members and 10 members so that member support was pleasing. A number of new members were forthcoming as a result of this publicity. Congratulations to Mike Barrett for taking the major role in organizing the seminar, other members of the committee for their input and, the speakers for their excellent presentations.

The questionnaire distributed during the seminar showed a very positive response to the seminar. Results are as follows: Program 4.4; Theme 4.2; Keynote address 4.5; Morning presentations 4.0; Afternoon presentations 4.6; Proceedings 4.4; Venue 4.5; Meals 4.8; Value 4.2; Cost (willing to pay) \$80.00. Rating system: 1 poor; 2 fair; 3 OK; 4 good; 5 very good



## A Contentious Issue

### Comments on Radio 2UE on November 1 2008 made by Don Burke

“Talking about weed Nazis, environmental weeds, I played a significant part in that. I approached the State Government in the 1980’s, as there were no environmental categories in NSW. I managed to get that done with Jack Hallam the then Minister, but a lot of the crazies have come in and they’re just trying to declare everything a weed and it is really sad. Look there are lots of plants that are weeds there is no doubt about it. In the 200 years we’ve been here, quite innocently, we’ve released a lot of weeds that escaped into the environment, although you wouldn’t know they were going to be weeds, and they became one, so it’s very easy with hindsight to say how nasty they were. Privet, Lantana, Bridal Creeper, Camphor Laurel, Soursob, Paterson’s Curse, Capeweed, Serrated Tussock, Blackberry – look you can go on and on with the list, many now can’t be stopped, and that’s an important thing to recognise and that’s one of the areas that these weed Nazis, that is the people in these areas of councils are a serious danger to our environment in Australia. These are very dangerous people, well meaning and they’re the worst dangerous people, the people that mean well. They’re all out- better get rid of Privet and Lantana and these sort of things, truth is you’d be far better off to declare them native plants. See once a plant is let go long enough you reach a critical mass and beyond that they explode across the landscape and your never going to control them and in trying to control a lot of these nasty weeds like Privet and Lantana, Camphor Laurel, all your doing is poisoning the landscape, you’ll never never control them, they’re spreading at such rates that you could never never control them- but you can certainly poison Australia and damage the environment and that’s what a lot of people are doing and what we’re better off to do is to push some weeds to the side and declare them indigenous plants for all I care and then use the time and money you’ve got to target the plants that haven’t reached the critical mass that you can still beat – one successfully and secondly without poisoning the landscape. That’s where these sort of people have got no idea what they’re doing, these weed people and I think I’m entitled to comment cause none of them would have a job if it wasn’t for me because I set up the law to begin with that gave them a bloody job. So yes I think your idiots and I think your seriously dangerous people. These Weed Nazis, they’re not getting strategic thinking into play. I’ve heard campaigns saying you idiot gardeners don’t plant bloody wattles like Cootamundra Wattles cause that’s really bad, yeah, and governments planted Cootamundra Wattle along many expressways right throughout most of Australia so government is the one who spread it anyway. So how dare these people come near us and say don’t plant these things. But anyway although it’s important to have environmental weeds, the situation in how we deal with them is at the moment catastrophic and it is leading to weeds getting worse and worse and more and more of the environment being poisoned. So if you meet anyone and they say, yeah I’m a weeds officer be very careful, leave the room, don’t ever talk to them again these people are very dangerous.” *Time 44.38*

*of the hour session*



*A camphor laurel infestation at St Helena, near Byron Bay, Far North Coast  
Image: Tapperboy, Flickr Images*

## NSW Weeds Officers response -25<sup>th</sup> November 2008



*David Pomery  
President NSWWOA*

- Members of the NSW Weeds Officers Association and those generally involved in noxious weed management are in no way beholden to you for the positions they currently hold. Noxious Weeds Legislation dates back to the Local Government Extension Act 1906. In 1919 a major expansion of noxious weed responsibilities occurred with the gazettal of the Local Government Act 1919. Under Parts XXII and XXVIII of this Act, local councils were vested with the responsibilities to enforce the provisions of noxious weed control in their respective local control authority area. In response to this increased legislative duty many councils' throughout NSW have since this time employed weed officers to fulfil this important role. These positions have effectively been around for over 100 years. ....they are not positions that have been created following some discussions you may have had in the late 1980s.

- The credit for the employment of any recent weeds officers must also go squarely to the hard working Regional Weed Control Coordinators from the NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI). They have worked tirelessly with councils throughout the State to ensure local government is meeting its obligation to enforce the provisions of the Noxious Weeds Act 1993. The inclusion of some environmental weeds on the noxious weeds list since

and before that time does not in itself warrant local government having to employ new or extra staff as the onus to control declared weeds has always been there (since at least 1906).

- Much has changed in the weed management industry over the last 10-20 years. You claim "Weed Nazis" are not using strategic thinking on widespread weeds, yet your response to the issue is to push these weeds aside (perhaps under the carpet) and let them continue to infill any uninvaded sites, threaten viable agricultural land and destroy threatened species and Endangered Ecological Communities (EEC's). If we as weeds officers are branded "Weed Nazis" for trying to strategically control such weeds in these areas then one would have to question if those that support the do nothing approach are not "Environmental Nazis". Despite your comments to the contrary, strategic control is increasingly being recognised as an appropriate response to effectively manage many of our widespread weeds. The fact of the matter is that it is now recognised widespread weeds will never be controlled or eradicated yet through strategic planning they can be effectively managed through targeted on ground control that identifies and prioritises management programs where benefits are greatest.

- Contrary to your assertions that weeds officers are responsible for inappropriate declarations for widespread weeds, my personal experience is that much of the pressure to have certain weeds declared noxious comes not from your so called "Weed Nazis" in government positions but rather the general public....some of whom may be your listeners. This push is coming from the general public, not weeds officers and management whom are acutely aware of the implications of any declaration and the costs involved. The general public see these common widespread weeds growing everywhere and don't see the work we are doing on the less common weeds. Perhaps you should talk to some weeds officers whose communities have demanded certain widespread weeds be declared noxious. There is this common misconception amongst the general public that once a weed is declared noxious it can then be fully controlled or eradicated. Nothing could be further from the truth.

- Much has been achieved over the last few years with respect of invasive garden plants. The popularity of the "Grow me Instead" garden booklets, a joint initiative of the NGIA, NSW DPI and local government, the NSW No Space for Weeds program as well as various local weed control programs such as the Sri Lankan Alligator Weed response and the Port Stephens Chinese Violet eradication program are initiatives that should be promoted through programs such as yours to highlight some positives rather than having unprofessional, biased remarks directed against a group of individuals whom are not given a right of reply. Comments such as yours can only have a negative impact in the community's' eyes as to the professionalism of the state noxious weeds officers.

- It should also be pointed out that weeds officers are not "poisoning" the landscape as you infer, for if this were true it could be argued you were equally poisoning the airwaves. Weeds officers are acutely aware of their responsibilities under an array of legislation including the Pesticides Act, Occupational Health and Safety Act, Protection of the Environment and Operations Act etc, and are required to undertake daily risk assessments and implement Pesticide Notification Plans as a means of minimising any potential risk associated with their activities. The use of herbicides is generally part of an integrated approach to control that

involves physical/mechanical/cultural methods, biological control and when dealing with environmental weeds often involves native plant regeneration and revegetation works.

- In relation to your interview with Mr Mal Morgan you make some very misleading and concerning remarks regarding the declaration of noxious weeds. You state and I quote ...." A lot of councils often say they can declare things noxious, they can't.....its not up to council to declare something noxious, so if they seem to be doing that just ignore them" end quote. As you are well aware only the Minister for Primary Industries can declare a plant noxious. The process for declaration however is a very different story. Applications for declaration are normally submitted by local councils for their respective area, although the NSW Government, members of the public, community groups, or NWAC itself can also submit proposals regarding noxious weed declarations. In all these later cases however all submissions still need to be discussed with the relevant LCA (s) before proceeding. I find it most concerning that you are encouraging your listeners to ignore legal fact.
- Similarly on the declaration of plants that don't have weed potential, this again does not come from front line weed officers as you infer. In your comments with Mal on *Gaura* you have failed to explain that the declaration of *Gaura* was a legislative mistake. The recent listing of *Gaura* as a noxious weed was not through "Weed Nazis" insisting on its listing but through an administrative oversight that resulted from the repealing of the Seeds Act 1982 and Seeds Regulation 1994. As *Gaura parviflora* was listed as a Prohibited seed under Schedule 2 of the Seeds Regulation 1994, when the Seeds Act and Seeds Regulations were repealed on the commencement of sec 4 of the *Noxious Weeds Amendment Act 2005 No 29*, *Gaura parviflora* was listed as a declared Class 5 noxious weed. Unfortunately, in this process the other *Gaura* species also found in NSW, *lindheimeri*, was also mistakenly listed as a Class 5 noxious weed. It has subsequently been removed as of 20<sup>th</sup> October 2008.
- On a final point I would just like to reiterate that all of the States weeds officers and managers are competent, nationally accredited and trained individuals. Most are University trained with years of practical experience. Who knows if you ever took to the time to meet and find out what "weeds officers" actually do you may well gain a greater appreciation for the work they do in a difficult and challenging environment.

David Pomery  
President

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## Save the willows

A scientist has backed calls to end willow removal along Australian rivers.

Several willow species are noxious weeds and councils. Catchment management authorities and Landcare have spent countless hours and millions of dollars removing them.

Dr Michael Wilson researched the role of willows on rivers for ten years at the University of Ballarat.

He says the willows slow water down in rivers, mimicking the chain of ponds that were common before white settlement, and also reduce erosion.

"We might have a million kilometres or more of unvegetated river length," he says.

"So if we want to spend \$10 million, I'd spend that revegetating river reaches, not \$10 million clearing river reaches."

Dr Wilson currently works at the Murray Darling Basin Authority as head of the Sustainable Rivers Audit.

He spoke at a Natural Sequence Farming field day this week near Bungendore, NSW.

*ABC on-line Friday, 06/11/2009*



*Willows on the Molonglo River  
Image: Molonglo Catchment Authority*



## GM Seminar - Speaker Summary

### GM crops in the pipeline

*Max Foster, ABARE, Canberra*

There are numerous GM crops in the research and development pipeline throughout the world. Monsanto is the main provider of GM traits in crops, providing seed for more than 90 per cent of world plantings of GM crops. The main crop innovations in Monsanto's research and development pipeline are:

#### Monsanto research and development pipeline

	<b>Phase I Proof of concept</b>	<b>Phase II Early product development</b>	<b>Phase III Advanced development</b>	<b>Phase IV Pre-launch</b>
Average probability of success	25 per cent	50 per cent	75 per cent	90 per cent
Average duration	12 to 24 months	12 to 24 months	12 to 24 months	12 to 36 months
Key activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Gene optimisation</li> <li>▪ Crop transformation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Trait development</li> <li>▪ Pre-regulatory data</li> <li>▪ Large scale transformation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Trait integration</li> <li>▪ Field testing</li> <li>▪ Regulatory data generation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Regulatory submission</li> <li>▪ Seed bulk-up</li> <li>▪ Pre-marketing</li> </ul>
Corn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>YieldGard</i> Rootworm III</li> <li>▪ Second generation drought-tolerance</li> <li>▪ Nitrogen utilisation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Drought tolerant corn</li> <li>▪ High yielding corn</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>SmartStax</i> corn</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>YieldGard</i> VT PRO</li> <li>▪ Extracorn processing system</li> </ul>
Cotton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Drought tolerance</li> <li>▪ Dicamba (herbicide) tolerance</li> <li>▪ Lygus (insect) control</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>BollGard III</i></li> </ul>		
Soybean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Nematode resistance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dicamba (herbicide) tolerance</li> <li>▪ Insect protected</li> <li>▪ High yielding</li> <li>▪ High stearate</li> <li>▪ <i>Vistive III</i> – altered oil profile</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Vistive II</i> – altered oil profile</li> <li>▪ Omega-3</li> <li>▪ High oil</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Roundup RReady2Yield</i></li> <li>▪ Improved protein</li> </ul>
Canola		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Roundup RReady2Yield</i></li> </ul>		

Adapted from Monsanto (2008), *Presentation to the Credit Suisse Chemical and Agricultural Science Conference*, 18 September. ([www.monsanto.com/pdf/investors/2008/09-18-08.pdf](http://www.monsanto.com/pdf/investors/2008/09-18-08.pdf)).

A number of these crops are approaching commercialisation. Monsanto claim that *Roundup Ready 2 Yield* soybeans that will be released in 2010 will provide yield increases of 7–11 % compared with its first generation *Roundup Ready* soybeans. Getting regulatory approval for release in the many different consuming countries is time consuming and costly. Monsanto put the process of taking a GM crop from development to commercialisation as around ten years and costs around US\$100 million a GM crop type. The commercialising of GM crops has become the province of large multinational life sciences companies like Monsanto and Bayer CropScience.



**Max Foster**

This is the second part of Max's presentation to the GM Seminar – Economics of Grain Crops – which was in the 'A Good Weed' #48 Winter 2009.

## Nursery Industry Surveys Businesses for Invasive Plant Awareness

In recent years, Nursery & Garden Industry Australia (NGIA) has taken significant steps forward in tackling the spread of invasive garden plants.

In 2008 the Federal Government made funding available to NGIA under the “*Defeating the Weeds Menace*” program to allow the NSW based **Grow Me Instead** project to move forward as a national program.



The **Grow Me Instead** voluntary program aimed to ensure greater awareness of potentially invasive plants grown and sold by industry.

This campaign targeted the public to educate them about making responsible plant choices and managing potentially invasive plants in their gardens.

In each state and territory, a **Grow Me Instead** booklet was developed. Plants were targeted that had formerly been sold by industry and more recently recognized as invasive or potentially invasive in the

natural landscape. Each booklet contained images and text of some 27 potentially invasive plants that:

- Were seen to be behaving aggressively in natural landscapes or farming land, waterways etc., (i.e. visual evidence)
- Were seen to be actively impacting the ecosystem/habitat
- Had evidence provided to substantiate how this was occurring

Accompanying each potentially invasive plant were three alternative, non invasive, superior plants as suitable alternatives. Information was also provided on weed control and removal.

Following the national launch of these booklets in April 2009, NGIA commissioned a national survey which aimed to gather and collate vital information regarding the production and sale of potentially invasive plants.

In **Part A** of the survey, some 350 plant production lists were checked against the current **Weeds of National Significance, National Environmental Alert Weeds and Sleeper Weeds** lists to determine the following:

- 1) Is the promotion of potentially invasive plants on nursery supply lists continuing?
- 2) Are potentially invasive plants presently available to retailers and consumers?
- 3) What is the level of weed awareness among retail, production and internet nurseries?



Analysis of this data is currently underway; however, so far it appears that in most instances there is a high degree of awareness of both local and nationally invasive or potentially invasive plants.

**Part B** of the survey is an online electronic questionnaire of production, retail and internet nursery businesses throughout Australia designed to obtain a clear recognition of attitudes to environmental weed issues. Access to this questionnaire is available through [www.ngia.com.au](http://www.ngia.com.au)

The aim of this questionnaire is to address any gaps in awareness by the nursery industry and to better understand the expertise required to educate gardeners and nursery personnel to:

- Recognize plants currently listed as invasive or potentially invasive
- Recognize the characteristics of plants showing future weed potential

The questions are closed by nature, easy to answer and will allow quantitative analysis of the results. Background information is also being collected. Data will be presented using statistical means in a final report to be published in late 2009.

For further information:

- Anthony Kachenko, NGIA National Environment and Technical Policy manager  
NGIA
- [anthony.kachenko@ngia.com.au](mailto:anthony.kachenko@ngia.com.au) or
- Del Thomas, Grow Me Instead consultant  
[delwyn.thomas@ngia.com.au](mailto:delwyn.thomas@ngia.com.au)



### Annual General Meeting Annual Dinner

By the time you receive this newsletter there will be little time to let your intentions be known to the committee.

Remember you can attend the AGM and vote at the meeting.

The treasurer will be keen to get your late acceptances for the Annual Dinner.

Check out the Society's website.



*Formosan lily seedlings - a bushland invader*



## Glyphosate resistance increasing

The number of sites with weeds that are resistant to glyphosate is increasing. Areas where glyphosate has been used extensively for many years and with few other control agents used are at the greatest risk. Fence lines, vineyards, orchards, roadsides and railway lines are typical areas where annual ryegrass that has become resistant to glyphosate. Glyphosate resistance is becoming more common in these situations.



*Glyphosate resistant annual ryegrass in vineyards, roadsides and fence lines is becoming more common and requires a significant change in management strategy*

Glyphosate resistance has also become an issue for Northern Grains Region farmers in long term no-till sites for the same reasons – over reliance on the one mode of action over a prolonged period. Three grass weed species, annual ryegrass, awnless barnyard grass and liverseed grass, are confirmed as resistant to glyphosate in northern no-till crop fallows on an increasing number of sites.

Weed managers are asked to be on the lookout for weed escapes from applications of glyphosate – especially where robust rates have been used in good conditions. Seed testing services are available in both South Australia and in New South Wales.

Contacts are:

SA – Peter Boutsalis 0400 664 460  
[plantscience@ozemail.com.au](mailto:plantscience@ozemail.com.au)

NSW – John Broster 0427 296 641  
[jbroster@csu.edu.au](mailto:jbroster@csu.edu.au)

To help manage this emerging issue, the GRDC is supporting the Australian Glyphosate Sustainability Working Group (AGSWG). Comprised of weeds researchers and industry specialists, the AGSWG seeks to increase awareness of the issue and to help facilitate a coordinated industry response. Details of the AGSWG as well as a directory of where glyphosate resistance has been confirmed can be found on their website at [www.glyphosateresistance.org.au](http://www.glyphosateresistance.org.au)

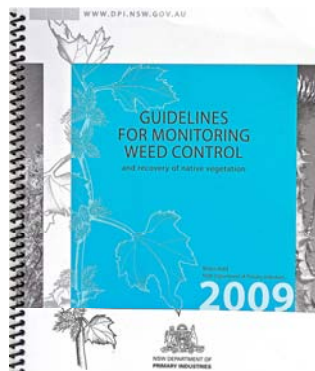
Further information: John Cameron 02 9482 4930

The Weed Society of Victoria will be organizing the **18th Australasian Weeds Conference** on behalf of CAWS in 2012 in Melbourne, probably the week of 8th October.

As present we are getting a committee together and organizing the theme of the conference, and will be looking for people who are good speakers and who have interesting and different things to say about weeds. If you know of anyone who might fit the bill, or would like to put yourself forward as a speaker, we would like to hear from you. Later we will also be looking Australia-wide for people to referee the papers. Probably about 70 people will be required to do this job and if you would like to offer your services that would be greatly appreciated.

Ros Shepherd, Secretary

Publications



Weeds have an impact on agriculture at farm, region and industry level.

Newly invading species, weeds that are spreading and widespread established weeds are all important.

Weed management may take the form of prevention of invasion, containment of spreading populations or control of widespread weeds to protect assets such as crops and pastures.

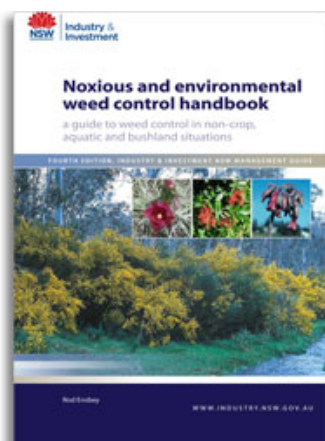
Whatever the strategy adopted, it is important to assess the success of weed control in order to make the best use of time and money and to modify management programs as necessary.

This booklet covers the following topics: monitoring; photography; mapping; measuring plant populations; what to measure; recording system; conclusion; sample field data sheets

The Guidelines can be downloaded free from [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au) or hard copies can be obtained from: The Bookshop, Orange Agricultural Institute, Forest Road, Orange NSW 2800 ph. 1800 028 379

Proceedings from the 2009 Epping and Narrabri seminars ‘New Advances in Herbicide Use’ are available for \$17.50, including postage and handling.

Contact Treasurer: [treasurer@nswweedsoc.org.au](mailto:treasurer@nswweedsoc.org.au) if you want purchase a copies of the proceedings



The *Noxious and environmental weed control handbook* (4<sup>th</sup> edition) is a guide to weed control in non-crop, aquatic and bushland situations.

Contents include: integrated weed management; managing your legal responsibilities in applying pesticides; calibration of equipment; reducing herbicide spray drift; using adjuvants, surfactants and oils with herbicides; cleaning and decontaminating boomsprays; withholding periods; herbicide resistance; control techniques using herbicides; weeds declared noxious in New South Wales; pesticide permits; noxious and environmental weed control; gas gun application and Appendix 1: Boom spray calibration methods

The Guidelines can be downloaded free from [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au) or hard copies can be obtained from: The Bookshop, Orange Agricultural Institute, Forest Road, Orange NSW 2800 ph. 1800 028 379

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