

THE WEED SOCIETY / OF NEW SOUTH WALES

c/o Department of Agriculture, ~~Box 56, G.P.O.~~ Sydney

No. 68/1

February, 1968.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Second Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held in the Conference Room, Old Department of Agriculture Building, Farrer Place on Wednesday, 28th February, 1968 at 7.30 p.m.

Business: Apologies
Minutes of First Annual General Meeting
Business ex Minutes
Annual Report for 1967
Financial Statement
Proposed Publication of "Proceedings of the Weed Society of New South Wales".
Election of Officers for 1968
General Business
Address by out-going President.

Dinner: Arrangements have been made with the Island Trader Tavern, Goldfields House, for an alcove near the entrance to be reserved for our use from 6.00 p.m. A pre-meeting gathering there is commended to you.

Coming Events: Symposium and Field Tour - Leeton and Griffith.

We have arranged a "happening" at Leeton and Griffith in mid-March which should be of interest to many members and their friends.

Briefly the programme is:

Wednesday, 13th March

Annual Rice Field Day, Yanco Agricultural Research Station.

Thursday, 14th March

Symposium, ^{Selwyn} Anzac Hall, Leeton at 2.00 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.

Weeds of Orchards
Weeds of Irrigated Crops
Weeds of Irrigation Systems
Weeds of Irrigated Pastures

Friday, 15th March

Inspection of weed control in vegetables, row crops and irrigation channels, Leeton and Griffith.

Faint, illegible text covering the upper and middle portions of the page, possibly representing a list or a series of entries.

WILSON, W. H. 1911
1912, 1913, 1914

1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920

11
12
13

14

Saturday, 16th March

Visit to a Winery at Griffith.

A detailed programme will be available shortly. Thursday night will be at Leeton and Friday at Griffith.

Early bookings are desirable - deposit of \$2.00 per night to G. Sainty, Box 492YY, Post Office, Griffith, please.

Long. Commission

Further information from Mr. G. Sainty or Society Officers.

* * * * *

Mr G. Sainty

MINUTES OF THE 1ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OF THE WEED SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The First Annual General Meeting of the Weed Society of New South Wales was held on 17th February, 1967 and was attended by over forty members and visitors. It was presided over by the Inaugural President, Mr. A.N. Johnston. He opened the meeting by welcoming visitors and accepted apologies from a number of members.

The minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of the Society were then read by the Secretary, Mr. P. Gregory. These were carried unanimously. The Secretary also mentioned the formation of the Weed Society of Victoria.

In his statement, the Secretary then declared all offices vacant and open for election by the company present. The following were subsequently elected and installed as members of the Executive Committee:

President	-	Mr. K. R. Green
Vice-President	-	Mr. K.A. Watson
Past-President	-	Mr. A. N. Johnston
Secretary	-	Mr. P. Gregory
Treasurer	-	Mr. A.D. Mears
Ordinary Members	-	Mr. P.F. Rylands Mr. J.T. Snelson

The meeting decided that Messrs. B.G. Long and P.W. Weiss should be co-opted to the committee.

The Past-President, Mr. A.N. Johnston, then gave his Presidential Address in which he restated the objects of the Society and suggested priorities of action as guidelines to the development of the Society.

Discussion then took place among the members of the function of the various sub-committees. In particular, it was thought desirable to hold a one-day conference or symposium during the year. It was decided to leave it to the executive committee to elect a suitable sub-committee to arrange this.

There being no further business, the meeting then closed.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1967

The year 1967 saw the first full year of the Weed Society of N.S.W. in operation. The success of the Society during this year can be judged by the 30% increase in membership and the various meetings, tours and symposia held.

During the year six Executive Committee meetings were held to discuss and plan the business of the Society. A number of changes have occurred in the membership of the committee since the last Annual General Meeting. Mr. Weiss was co-opted to the committee early in the year. Mr. Snelson resigned as an ordinary member in July when transferred to Canberra and Mr. Harrs was later co-opted.

Mr. Gregory resigned from the committee and his position of Foundation Secretary of the Society, in September to study plant protection in England. Mr. Gregory was one of the most ardent supporters of the Society and did much to ensure its success.

Mr. Weiss was subsequently elected as Secretary. Thus the office bearers at the end of 1967 were:

President - Mr. K.R. Green
Immediate Past President - Mr. A.N. Johnston
Vice-President - Mr. K.A. Watson
Secretary - Mr. P.W. Weiss
Treasurer - Mr. A.D. Mears
Ordinary Members - Mr. P.F. Rylands
Mr. B.G. Long
Mr. N. Harrs

These offices are now vacant and are open for election by those present at the 1968 Annual General Meeting. The various sub-committees - membership, programme, project, education, conference and newsletter - will be elected by the 1968 Executive Committee.

The number of members in the Society increased satisfactorily during the year, as shown below:

	Corporate	Private	Total
January, 1967	21	41	62
December, 1967	29	51	80

The Executive Committee also elected Mr. J.D. Fryer, Director of the British Weed Research Organisation, as the Foundation Honorary Member of the Society.

The Society was officially recognised and offered co-operation by the Weed Science Society of America at their last business meeting.

The year's proceedings were opened by a two-day conference and tour at Cooma and the surrounding district to discuss "Weed Problems of the Snowy-Monaro Region". This was attended by 47 delegates and was opened by the Commissioner of the Snowy Mountains Authority, Sir William Hudson.

The speakers were Mr. R.W. Shelley, who outlined the land use and weed problems of the region; Dr. J.A. Carnahan, who discussed weeds of low fertility situations such as serrated tussock, St. John's wort and sweet briar, and Dr. P.W. Michael, who spoke on weeds of high fertility situations such as thistles. Others were Mr. L. McInnes, speaking on woody weeds, Mr. G. Newby on results of commercial spraying, Mr. A.D. Mears on aquatic weeds, St. John's wort and blackberries and Mr. R. Leech on flora and fauna in the State Park.

The following day was spent in examination of various areas in which these weeds were growing and results of control and preventive measures against them.

An address by Mr. W.T. Parsons, the President of the Weed Society of Victoria, was the main business of the May general meeting. There were 43 present to hear Mr. Parsons speak on "Problems in the Control of Blackberries in Victoria". A research officer has been appointed to the Vermin and Noxious Weeds Destruction Board especially to study these problems.

Already eight microspecies of blackberry have been detected in Victoria. Of new herbicides tested, picloram and amitrole were the most promising but there were still variations in results due to such things as timing and thoroughness of application and various strains. The mechanism of resistance in the resistant strains is being studied.

The July general meeting took the form of a symposium between representatives of various chemical companies dealing with new herbicides. This was attended by 29 members and visitors. There were seven chemical representatives who spoke on new products and showed slides and films of results obtained. These were Mr. Perry (Monsanto Chemicals), Mr. Wright (CIBA), Mr. Fox (I.C.I.A.N.Z.), Mr. Lander (A.C. Hatrick Chemicals), Mr. Harris (Nufarm Rural Products), Mr. Barrie (Elanco Products), and Mr. van der Loo (May and Baker).

In September a citrus field day was held near Gosford at Kulnura in conjunction with the Central Coast Agricultural Research and Extension Committee. Two hundred people attended. The main part of the field day was held at Cottee's orchard where speakers included Mr. Cary of the C.S.I.R.O and Mr. Turpin and Mr. Mears of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Cary gave details of a long-term experiment being conducted in citrus at Griffith. Highest yields were being obtained with chemical weed control in summer in conjunction with a leguminous cover crop or fertilisers in winter. Inspections were also made of commercial results obtained in orchards and of equipment used in the application of herbicides.

At the October general meeting, Mr. D. Reilly presented an interesting address on "Control of Weeds in Turf". He dealt mainly with the distribution and habits of growth of winter grass (*Poa annua*) which he considered the major weed species of importance in golf and bowling greens in Australia. He said that while this species could be controlled by such chemicals as trifluralin and simazine, there still remained problems of selectivity towards the sown grasses. The variability between greens in different areas also presented a major problem in arriving at any one recommendation.

The year's activities concluded with probably the most important one - a day's symposium entitled "Impact of Weeds on the Community". This was attended by 130 delegates and proved to be very successful for an initial effort. The conference sub-committee is to be complimented for the large amount of work which they put into the symposium. A proceedings of the symposium was published and distributed beforehand. The symposium was divided into sections on effect of weeds on arable crops, other plant production, animal production, weeds of special situations and other costs of weeds.

One of the main purposes of the symposium was to make members and landholders in general, aware of the costs of allowing weeds to go unchecked. For example, it was estimated that a weed-free wheat crop in the previous season would have resulted in another \$74 million worth of grain. Less than 20% of the wheat acreage is treated with herbicides at present.

It is difficult to calculate indirect costs of weeds but a number of direct costs in N.S.W. alone were reported. Thus N.S.W.'s 133 shire councils each spend an average of \$6000 annually on weed control; weed control along highways is a high proportion of the \$17 million spent annually on highway maintenance; the N.S.W. Forestry Commission spends over \$1 million annually on weed control. When the costs of those engaged in primary production is added the total is substantial.

It is intended to publish annually a "Proceedings of the Weed Society" and this will be discussed at the Annual General Meeting.

More detailed discussions of the various meetings referred to above, as well as notes on new herbicides, personal notes and letters of inquiry, are reported in the Newsletter of the Society, of which a number were published during the year. The Editor, Mr. Rylands, maintained a high standard in the Newsletter but it is felt that more attention could be paid by members in reporting matters of interest. The Newsletter would often be the main means of communication to country members who we are endeavouring to encourage to join the Society.

Obviously wider-scale promotion of the Society and its aims need to be made. This can be assisted by the enthusiasm of the present members and the wider and necessary interest of others will follow.

P. W. Weiss
Secretary.

WILD OATS COST A FORTUNE

Mr. Frank Nihill of Monsanto Chemicals (Australia) Limited has recently supplied me with an estimate of losses to Australian wheat farmers due to wild oats. The method he used, and estimated losses calculated, will be of interest to members.

A.D. MEARS

The Method

Each representative of the company defined six 50 mile routes through the part of his territory where wild oats are a problem. By driving along the routes he estimated, from the car, the number of crops of wheat and barley grown and the number infested by wild oats to an extent justifying spraying. Only crops adjacent to the route and judged to give a payable result from Avadex application, were considered.

A percentage figure of incidence of treatable crops was calculated for each route and taken to be representative for crops in that district. Thus a treatable percentage was calculated for each shire.

The Results

Using the figure obtained above it was calculated that 3.2 million acres of Australian wheat and barley crops in 1966 could be treated with Avadex. Mr. Nihill has not calculated 1967 figures, but they indicate little difference will exist.

Based on an average yield increase figure obtained from farmer useage of Avadex, (about 60 figures) of 12 bushels per acre, a total loss figure of 38.4 million bushels is obtained. Monsanto have publicly stated a \$20 million loss estimate but this could be as high as \$40 million. Allowing for the inaccuracies that could occur in this survey it is not unreasonable to claim that wild oats are costing the Australian wheat farmer in the order of \$20 - \$40 million a year.

* * * * *

PERSONAL NEWS

Mr. Keith Moody, an Australian studying for his doctorate at the University of Wisconsin in the field of herbicides, will complete his degree about October this year. He would be interested to hear from anyone about job opportunities in Australia in the field of weed research.

He can be contacted at: 706-G Eagle Heights,
Madison, Wisconsin 53705 U.S.A.

Mr. R.H. Ferguson has been appointed Manager for Research and Development of the Pacific area administration of Dow Chemical Ltd. The region under his management includes Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaya, India, Australia and New Zealand.

Mr. P.F. Rylands has resigned from the Department of Agriculture and will manage his father's property near Bathurst.

Weed Society of N.S.W.
C/- Department of Agriculture, Sydney.
Newsletter No. 68/1, February, 1968.

AND SEC
1000
SV-111

8 1968
21 FEB
C/O