

THE WEED SOCIETY/ OF NEW SOUTH WALES

c/o Department of Agriculture,
State Office Block,
Phillip Street,
Sydney. 2000.

No. 71/1

February, 1971.

OR Bailey

THE 5TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE WEED SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY,
at 6.45 p.m.

Presidential address.

at AGRICULTURE HOUSE, 195 MACQUARIE STREET,
SYDNEY.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies.
2. Minutes of the 4th Annual General Meeting.
3. Business arising from the Minutes
4. Annual Report
5. Treasurer's Report.
6. Election of Office Bearers.
7. General Business.
8. Presidential Address by Mr. A. D. Mears.

P. RYELANDS

Hon. Secretary

SYMPOSIUM ON WATER WEED CONTROL - GRAFTON

9th and 10th March, 1971.

The Hon. Davis Hughes, M.L.A., Minister for Public Works, announced a further 6-year programme on flood mitigation works at the annual conference of flood mitigation authorities at Windsor on 23rd September, 1970. This has enabled councils to plan in detail flood mitigation works programmes for their respective areas.

Included in each council's programme is the ever-increasing cost of maintenance as work progresses.

Weed control is an important aspect of this work and may be achieved by chemical or mechanical methods, or a combination of these.

In southern areas of the State, chemical methods of aquatic weed control are well established. On the north coast water weeds grow for almost the whole year, in contrast to a shorter period in southern areas, and control techniques differ.

The use of mechanical methods is costly and inefficient for some weeds. Channels are quickly overgrown under north coast conditions.

In the Clarence Valley control of aquatic weeds with herbicides has proved an effective permanent method. The symposium proposes to discuss a number of aspects of rate and time of application, types of weeds, their source of infestation, and other aspects of aquatic weed control.

Chemical methods can be costly if incorrectly applied but the correct choice of method and herbicide allow them to be used with economic advantage over mechanical methods. Usually, however, it is an advantage to use a combination of methods which will vary from situation to situation.

Details of a symposium jointly arranged by the Weed Society of New South Wales and The Clarence Valley Flood Mitigation Council are given below.

The symposium will convene at 1.00 p.m. on the afternoon of Tuesday, 9th March, 1971, at the Grafton District Services Club (upstairs).

The proposed programme is as follows:-

TUESDAY, 9th MARCH

(Chairman of the first session - Cnr. C.N. Yabsley).

- 1.00 p.m. to 1.15 p.m. - Clarence River County Council
Flood Mitigation Authority to
welcome delegates and open
symposium Cnr. N. Weiley
- 1.15 p.m. to 2.00 p.m. - "Weed Identification" Mr. G. Sainty
- 2.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. - "Clarence River County Council
Flood Mitigation Authority's
Experience in Weed Control"
..... Messrs. M. Bown *Lawyer*
and O. Pastega. *me*
- 3.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. - AFTERNOON TEA

(Chairman of the second session - Mr. F. Autry-Hall).

- 3.30 p.m. to 4.15 p.m. - "Weed Control Chemicals" Mr. G. Bill ^{Grant}
- 4.15 p.m. to 4.45 p.m. - "Safety Angles, Pollution, etc." Mr. A.D. Mears
- 4.45 p.m. to 5.15 p.m. - "Future of Water Weed Control" Mr. ~~K.R. Green~~ ^{P. Dunk}

WEDNESDAY, 10th MARCH

Tour of Inspection - Lower Clarence Valley - covering weed control practice, structures and their maintenance (Messrs. M. Bown and O. Pastega).

*to be always
brought
stand brought*

*P.45
State Office Block*

The fee for the symposium is \$5.00. This covers the costs of bus hire, morning and afternoon teas, a smorgasboard dinner on 9th March, and a cut lunch on the 10th. The Organising Secretary would prefer to receive this before the symposium, but it may be paid whilst in attendance.

There is an open invitation to all interested people. Those intending to be present should complete the form below and forward it to the Organising Secretary, Mr. Betts, by 26th February, 1971.

Salvina?

MESQUITE IN NEW SOUTH WALES. - A.D. Mears.

Mesquite (Prosopis spp.) has been present in the Western Division and Western parts of the Central Division of this State for a number of years.

Recent surveys revealed that there were serious infestations at Broken Hill, 70 acres of creek bed and adjacent areas; on the Mundi Mundi Plain, several hundred plants; within Broken Hill Municipality, several hundred plants; near Milparinka an estimated 1,000 plants, and small infestations of a few plants each have been recorded from widely separated localities in the area.

Botanical studies have determined that three species are involved; P. velutina at Broken Hill, P. glandulosa in Barham district; P. juliflora, Deniliquin district. All species of the genus are noxious plants, and P. velutina is by far the most common.

Regeneration of mesquite is by seed. Plants which have been defoliated by cutting or herbicides reshoot strongly from the lower portions of the trunk. Careful excavation of a number of plants has confirmed this fact and refutes the thought that regeneration can occur from roots.

Observations in this State and more detailed studies in U.S.A. confirm the plant to be unsatisfactory as an animal foodstuff and as a serious competitor to more useful species. The plant which is very drought tolerant was probably planted as a shade or shelter. Its attributes in this regard do not balance its potential as a weedy plant.

In the creek infestation near Broken Hill the plant has spread, possibly by livestock, away from the creek. This is consistent with American experience. Infestation of creeks or watercourses in the area provides a nucleus for further spread. It renders the creek bed inaccessible to cattle and places serious restrictions on the use of the creek for grazing.

Control of mesquite has been studied for many years in the U.S.A. and indicates that a number of herbicides are useful. It is difficult to kill the plants by one application of a herbicide, certainly under all conditions of soil moisture. Among the herbicides tested, Picloram/2.4.5.T mixtures seem to give highest levels of plant kill.

Other chemicals which have been used with some success include 2,4,5T., 2.4.D.Ester, Distillate and some other petroleum fractions.

Conditions in the Broken Hill area are sufficiently different from U.S.A. in respect of climate, land use and aims of mesquite control to warrant the testing of a range of herbicides.

In the meantime treatment of the major infestations with a 1 to 4 mixture of picloram/2.4.5.T. is being carried out.

It was considered desirable to commence an eradication programme as soon as possible to prevent further spread. It must be realised that in New South Wales with only a comparatively small infestation, it is reasonable to aim at eradication. By contrast in the U.S.A. the larger area infested, 70 million acres, makes eradication unrealistic.

Mr. J Belts

District Agent

PO Box 285

Broken Hill NSW 2460

Victoria 1/2 m
submerged weeds
picloram

2/3 chemical