

THE WEED SOCIETY/ OF NEW SOUTH WALES

P.O. Box K287, Haymarket, N.S.W. 2000.

NEWSLETTER NO. 2/77

MAY, 1977

Executive Members for 1977 - elected at the Annual General Meeting held 24th February, 1977.

President : Barry Lowe (Elanco)

Vice-President : Leon Smith (Hawkesbury Agricultural College)

Secretary : Jack Burke (Ciba-Geigy)

Treasurer : Alex McLennan (Economic Laboratories)

Other Members of the Executive are:

Peter Michael (University of Sydney)

Jim Swain (Ciba-Geigy)

Mike Barrett (I.C.I.)

Allan Mears (N.S.W. Department of Agriculture)

Ken Watson (Dow)

Nelson Johnston (I.C.I.)

Peter Matthews

John Toth (N.S.W. Department of Agriculture)

Graham Barnes (University of Sydney)

Newsletter Committee :

Leon Smith (Editor)

Barry Lowe

Graham Barnes

CANCELLATION OF MEETING

Unfortunately the Weed Society Meeting scheduled for May 26th, 1977 has had to be cancelled. At this Meeting Bill Haseler, President of the Council of Australian Weed Science Societies, was to have

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spoken about the Council and its activities. It is hoped that we can invite Bill back at a more convenient date and learn first hand about the Council as well as some of the work being done by the Allan Fletcher Research Station in Queensland.

SUMMARY OF THE NOXIOUS PLANT CONTROL SYMPOSIUM - MARCH 25th, 1977

The Noxious Plant Control Symposium held at the I.C.I. Theatre on March 25th was attended by 25 - 30 people. A lively discussion period followed the addresses of the three speakers and only the intervention of the Cleaners prevented further discussion.

Allan Mears, Chairman, Noxious Plants Advisory Commission of N.S.W. led off the symposium and posed the question "What should the criteria for a noxious weed be?". From Allan's remarks it was obvious that conflict occurs between society, individuals and the law on what constitutes a noxious weed. The four main criteria suggested were as follows:

- (1) The need for the plant's control must be shown, i.e., the plant's ability to spread or have noxious properties.
- (2) A means of control for the weed must exist which is economic.
- (3) The intent to act to enforce control of the weed must exist.
- (4) A benefit or gain from control must be shown.

Allan also posed the question "What is the best way to organise noxious plant control - a main centralised body, decentralisation with maximum local government involvement or some system in between?".

Allan described how the N.S.W. system of noxious plant control is set up. In N.S.W. \$3.5 million dollars is spent each year on noxious plant control. Enforcement of the laws rests with the local Councils.

David Sexton, Deputy Chairman, Vermin and Noxious Weeds Destruction Board, Victoria described the Victorian system for handling noxious plants. In Victoria 95 plants are declared noxious for the whole State. The work of the Vermin and Noxious Weed Board is carried out by field staff employed by the Board in 140 districts. Local government is not involved. Control is centralised in the Board in Melbourne, but the local community is involved in the local Boards.

The Keith Turnbull Research Station is an integral part of the system, training Inspectors, supplying information and carrying out research on weed biology, control methods and spray equipment. A biological control research unit has recently been set up there.

The Vermin and Noxious Weed Board is responsible for noxious weed control on Crown Lands and for enforcing noxious weed control on private land. The Board is considering selling chemicals to farmers and carrying out contract work. The Board's budget this year is \$11,000,000 of which two-thirds is spent on noxious plant control.

The new South Australian Pest Plants Act and the function of the Pest Plants Commission was explained by Peter Trumble, Chairman, Pest Plants Commission of South Australia. The enforcement of the Pest Plants Act is carried out by local government. Boards are formed which may comprise one or more Councils, to organise the work. The State Government, through the Pest Plant Commission, regulates or organises the local Boards. Noxious plants are scheduled into three categories:

- * Primary Pest Plants
- * Agricultural Pest Plants
- * Community Pest Plants

1 million dollars is available to the Commission each year.

COMING EVENTS IN WEED SCIENCE

1977

- July 11 - 17 : 6th Asian Pacific Weed Science Society Conference, Jakarta, Indonesia.
- August 9 - 11 : New Zealand Weed and Pest Control Society Annual Conference, Johnsville, Wellington, New Zealand.

1978

- April 12 - 13 : 1st Council of Australian Weed Science Societies Conference. "New Advances in Weed Control Techniques", Melbourne, Australia.

AERIAL AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA - CONVENTION '77

Port Macquarie Travelodge,

PORT MACQUARIE

N.S.W.

25, 26, 27 and 28th May, 1977.

Speakers include :

Dr. P. Symmons, Director, Plague Locust Commission (The problems of controlling the Australian Plague Locust).

Dr. R. G. Vines, C.S.I.R.O. (Possible long term rainfall regularities)

Mr. J. Watt, Bayer Australia Ltd. (Measurement of deposits from aerial spraying) and (Fungicide application).

Mr. M. Barrett, I.C.I. Australia Ltd. (Aerial application of herbicides).

Prof. R. J. V. Joyce, Cranfield Institute of Technology (Bio-Aeronautics) and (The International Agricultural Aviation Centre).

Dr. Colin Brown, Department of Transport (Pilot Health and Safety).

R.A.A.F. (Pilot Selection Procedures).

Mr. Laurie Bond, Department of Transport (Discussion ANO 20.21, ANO 40.6)

Mr. J. T. Snelson, Department of Primary Industries (Chemical Rating Manual).

For further details contact :

Mr. G. A. Lloyd,
Organising Secretary,
55 Jerwingbam Street,
NORTH ADELAIDE. S.A. 5006.

FAREWELL TO MR. E. G. CUTHBERTSON
SPECIAL RESEARCH OFFICER - WEEDS

On 24th June, 1977 Mr. Eric Cuthbertson will retire from the New South Wales Department of Agriculture.

Eric commenced duty with the Department in 1946 as a Research Agrostologist working initially at Trangie. He transferred to the Wagga Agricultural Research Institute in 1955 where he built up an international reputation for his work on the ecology and control of skeleton weed.

Through this and subsequent work on the control of weeds in crops and pastures, Eric made many friends with industry and research personnel throughout Australia.

Accordingly, a Committee of staff members of the Institute take pleasure in inviting you and your wife/partner to a farewell function to Eric and Joy to be held at :

Riverina Australian Rules Club,
Fernleigh Road,
WAGGA.

commencing at 7.30 pm on Friday 17th June, 1977.
(Venue - Sportsman's Room - South East Corner of the Club)

Donations towards a presentation gift will be gratefully accepted.

The cost for the Smorgasbord Dinner will be \$5.00 per person excluding drinks which are the responsibility of the individual.

Cheques for Dinner Fee/Presentation gift should be endorsed "A.R.I. Social Fund" and forwarded to Miss Eve Hamilton, A.R.I. Office, on or before Monday, 13th June, 1977. Postal Address :

A.R.I.,
Private Mail Bag,
WAGGA WAGGA. N.S.W. 2650.

Phone (069) 230-999

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

"The Worlds Worst Weeds : Distribution and Biology" by L. G. Holm,
D. L. Plucknett, J. V. Pancho and J. P. Herberger.

This book will shortly be available from the :
University Press of Hawaii,
2840 Kolowalu Street,
HONOLULU. HAWAII 96822

Cost U.S. \$35.00 with a 10% professional discount.

"Medical and Veterinary Aspects of Plant Poisons in New South Wales"
by E. J. McBarron.

This is a book all weeds people should have on their own bookshelves.
Copies are available from the N.S.W. Department of Agriculture,
State Office Block,
Phillip Street,
SYDNEY. N.S.W. 2000.

The cost is \$6.00 plus postage.

A LINE FROM THE TREASURER

We are now well into our year's activities. To date 50% or so
of our members have forwarded their subscription fee. Our
Society cannot operate without funds. If your subscription
fee is still unpaid, please forward a cheque by return.

\$5.00 - Ordinary Membership

\$15.00 - Corporate (Company) Membership

NB. Subscriptions are tax deductible so may now claim in June.

Thanks,

Alex McLennan,
The Treasurer.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

Negotiations are under way for the following activities in 1977.

- (1) Reports of weed research activities of the N.S.W. Department, i.e., Warick Felton and others will speak about their work some time in August.
- (2) An activity of some kind (field day or tour) in a regional area such as the Macquarie Valley in November.
- (3) A Field Trip and Tour of Sydney Harbour National Park regarding weed problems in September.
- (4) A talk by Mr. R. Leggett, N.S.W. Department of Agriculture, on remote sensing by satellites and vegetation surveying (serrated tussock).
- (5) Annual Dinner.

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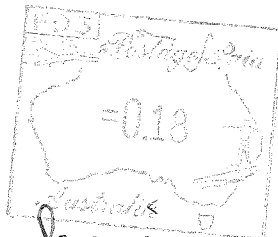
POSTAGE IS PAID

FROM :

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Dr. P. Michael,

Dept. of Agronomy + Horticultural Science,

University of Sydney

2006