

# THE WEED SOCIETY / OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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

PRESIDENT: Dr. L.W. Smith

HON. SECRETARY: Mr. W.J. Burke

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## BITOU BUSH (BONESEED)

Recently I attended a meeting called by the National Parks Association to discuss Bitou bush. The following is an extract from the letter of invitation to join the discussion group:

### "BITOU BUSH INFESTATION ON THE NORTH COAST OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Bitou Bush (Boneseed) infestation on the North Coast has reached alarming proportions. The dunes behind many of the beaches are now vegetated almost entirely by this aggressive weed, which is difficult to eradicate because of the survival capacity of its hard seeds, and which can invade healthy bushland to some extent.

The full extent of the infestation is not known to us, but the areas which have been observed and remembered are, from south to north: Wamberal; Swansea; Wangi; Stockton; beaches in the Shoal Bay area, Yacaaba Headland; Grant's Head; between the Hastings River north bank, to beyond Crescent Head; Station Creek (in Red Rock National Park); Iluka area; and the Jerusalem Creek area south of Evans Head.

The exotic was introduced some decades ago to stabilise drifting sand, and was used by mineral sand miners in their earlier attempts to revegetate.

The N.S.W. Government has consistently refused to declare the plant a noxious weed for several reasons, and although some research by the Agricultural Department is taking place, no remedial action is yet visible.

For this reason, and because of the great and accelerating extent of the infestation, NPA decided at its State Council meeting last December to convene a meeting of interested people to discuss the problem and ways and means of effective action, which would have as its goal the eradication of Bitou Bush and restoration of the native vegetation".

At the meeting which 14 people attended, (including 3 members of the Weed Society), the following notes were made:

Origin: A native of South Africa, it was introduced as a garden plant in Victoria in the last century. In N.S.W. it was introduced in the 1960's to stabilise mobile sand dunes on the south end of Stockton Beach, but has since spread widely.

### Dissemination:

One novel method of spread appears to be by inlet or longshore drift and the seed can withstand prolonged soaking in salt water. Foxes and (birds?) eat the seed, which are still viable after extraction

from droppings.

Species: Two species are present in Australia, Chrysanthemoides monolifera in Victoria and C. monolifera rotundata in N.S.W.

Establishment:

Seeds exhibit hard-seededness which can be removed by heat from a moderate fire. Bitou Bush appears to be most aggressive in the coastal sand dune area, although bushes can be found in heavier soils near the coast (it is a very bad weed in the You Yang Mountains in Victoria).

Considerable discussion occurred about the various methods of control that are being employed, these included digging, burning, burying, poisoning and hand weeding. Only limited success has been obtained with the methods tested so far.

The bush appears capable of excluding most native species if it is left to its own devices, but revegetation with kikuyu or maram grass after clearing the weed with herbicides or mechanical means, has had some success on the coastal sand dune areas.

Another meeting will be called to discuss the future action in regard to this weed.

ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR

The Executive Committee at its last meeting formulated the following activities for the year:

1. A Symposium on "Government and Weed Control", to be held on a date yet to be fixed (possibly June or July).
2. A Field Trip in September to the Wagga and Cowra areas to look at weeds and weed control trials in winter crops. Any person with any ideas or useful contacts in the area is asked to contact either Andrew Leys or myself.
3. Asian-Pacific Weed Science Society Conference, November 26-30th.
4. Annual Dinner. It has been decided that the Annual Dinner is to be held as a combined function with the Dinner for the A.P.W.S.S. Conference at the Argyle Tavern on Tuesday, November 27th, this looks like being another interesting Annual Dinner, so plan to attend.

REGIONAL REPORTS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

At the last Executive meeting it was decided to have three regional reporters, who will help gather information for publication in the Newsletter. These people are:

<u>Andrew Leys</u>	-	Agricultural Research Institute, Wagga.
<u>Dick Medd</u>	-	Agricultural Research Centre, Orange.
<u>Warwick Felton</u>	-	Agricultural Research Centre, Tamworth.

We urgently need information to publish in the Newsletter so send any information you think may be of interest to members, to either me or one of these reporters.

(My address is: Dr. L.W. Smith, Hawkesbury Agricultural College, Richmond, N.S.W., 2753).

INCREASING MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLICISING THE SOCIETY

The Executive of the Society recently agreed to a suggestion that the Newsletter be circulated to all Shires and Councils concerned with noxious weeds for a trial period to publicise the activities of the Society and to encourage new members.

In this regard, every existing member of the Society is asked to try to encourage at least one new member to join this year. We need to build up our membership (currently about 120) especially if we are to remain viable and to become an effective force in the area of weed science. YOUR HELP IS NEEDED URGENTLY.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Keith Sullivan, Euchareena, N.S.W.  
Mr. J.D. Clark, Evatt, A.C.T.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

- Dr. L.B. Lowe is currently visiting the U.S.A. on Company business.
- Kelvin Green and Allan Mears together with all the other Head Office members of the Department of Agriculture have recently moved to the McKell Building, Rawson Place.

LOGO COMPETITION

The logo competition is still open. However, a winner will be declared at the end of July this year and will receive a dinner for two at the Annual Dinner in the Argyle Tavern as the prize. This is definitely your last chance to enter this competition, so please make an effort and lodge your entry as soon as possible. We hope to have our logo in use by the time of the Asian-Pacific Weed Conference.

SOCIETY RECEIVES WINDFALL FROM C.A.W.S.S. CONFERENCE

The Society recently received a cheque for \$1,100.00 as its share of the surplus funds from the sale of the Proceedings from this Conference. Only 17 copies of the Proceedings remain in stock as of the 11th April, 1979. If you want a copy write to Dr. T.W. Donaldson, c/- Keith Turnbull Research Institute, P.O. Box 48, Frankston, Vic., 3199.

7TH ASIAN-PACIFIC WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY CONFERENCE

Arrangements for the Conference are progressing satisfactorily and over 120 abstracts have been received, which means the programme will be more than adequately filled. It is interesting to note that approximately 20 papers will be presented in the poster form.

Please note the dead-line for submission of completed papers is the 31st, May, 1979.

Also, Dr. Selwyn Everist has been invited to deliver the C.A.W.S.S. Oration during the Conference.

Of interest to country members is that arrangements are being investigated for members of the Weed Society who live locally to participate in or attend on a daily basis, the Pre-Conference Tours to:

- a. Canberra and the M.I.A.; or
- b. Northern N.S.W. (Cotton, Summer Crops, Tropical Fruit).

Consult the Conference Circular for details of the Tours.

Any member who is interested in joining these tours on a daily basis is asked to contact Mr. Mike Barrett, c/- A.P.W.S.S. Conference, P.O. Box 287, Haymarket, N.S.W., 2001.

Your early advice or interest in this arrangement would be appreciated.

THE WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA ANNOUNCES THE COMPLETION OF THE FOURTH EDITION OF THE HERBICIDE HANDBOOK

This edition is dedicated to Alden S. Crafts in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the disciplines of weed science and plant physiology as well as to the Weed Science Society of America.

The handbook has detailed biological and toxicological information of 143 herbicide chemicals. Compounds have been revised and brought up to date and the terms used in Weed Science publications have been defined. This publication covers chemical herbicides which are currently commercially available or in development. Obsolete chemicals have been omitted.

Consisting of 479 pages plus cover, the Fourth Edition of the Herbicide Handbook is available at U.S.\$7.50 per copy and may be ordered from the Weed Science Society of America, 309 W. Clark St., Champaign, Illinois, 61820. Remittance to accompany all orders.

DRY AREA WEED: A CROP?

A research team has found that certain strains of an obnoxious weed from arid and semiarid U.S. regions has potential as a water-efficient forage crop when cultivated and harvested at an appropriate growth stage.

Not all strains of Russian thistle, or tumbleweed (*Salsola* sp.) are spiny, unpalatable pests. Some remain soft until quite late in their life cycle and could be palatable to cattle, according to agronomist James Fowler and bio-chemist Jim Hageman.

The two University of New Mexico/USA scientists conducted chemical analyses of *Salsola* sp. and found high protein levels and a nutritionally well balanced amino acid composition.

The original greenhouse experiments led to field studies and the intent to follow up with feeding studies and possibly plant breeding work. For details of the program, contact: Dr. James Fowler, Department of Agronomy, Box 30, University of New Mexico, Las Cruces, NM 88003/USA.

IWSS BEGINS THIRD YEAR

The International Weed Science Society (IWSS) began a third year with 488 members worldwide and a positive bank balance, according to its Secretariat at Oregon State University.

IWSS president L.J. Matthews, weed scientist with the Plant Protection Service of FAO, has announced that IWSS, the European Weed Research Society (EWRS) and FAO will co-host an International Conference. The event is scheduled for September 1980 in Rome/Italy.

IWSS publishes a multilingual newsletter series. Chris Parker, tropical weed scientist with the Weed Research Organisation in the U.K., and Dr. Jerry Doll,

extension weed specialist at the University of Wisconsin/USA, serve as co-editors.

Individual IWSS membership fees remain unchanged at US\$5, payable to the Secretariat, or through any of EWRS accounts. For a copy of a free, trilingual information brochure, write: IWSS, International Plant Protection Center, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331, USA.

COMING EVENTS

- Western Australian Weed Science Society Conference at Muresk Agricultural College, 3rd - 6th September, 1979. This conference is in conjunction with the 150th Anniversary of the founding of Western Australia. Brochures are available on request from the Weed Society of N.S.W., P.O. Box 287, Haymarket. 2001

- Agricultural Agronomy Conference sponsored by the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science at Queensland Agricultural College, March 29th - April 2nd, 1980. The Conference theme is "Pathways of Productivity".

- Fifth International Symposium on Biological Control of Weeds, August 3rd - 9th, 1980, Brisbane.

Publication -

"Exposure of Council and Forest workers to 2,4,5-T"

This is the title of an article from the Medical Journal of Australia. Copies are available from A.V.C.A. or from -

Mr. G. R. Simpson, Division of Occupational Health,  
Health Commission of N.S.W.,  
P.O. Box 163,  
LIDCOMBE. N.S.W. 2142

New Committees - 1979 -

Weed Science Society of South Australia.

President:	Jack Harris	- C.S.I.R.O. Northfield Research Station.
Vice President:	David Murrie	- " " " "
Treasurer:	Ashley Phin	- Ciba/Geigy
Secretary:	Max McKay	- I.C.I.

Weed Science Society of Queensland.

President:	John Whitehead	- I.C.I.
Vice President:	Charles Julian	- Irrigation & Water Supply Commission
Secretary:	Greg Harvey	- Lands Department
Treasurer:	John Dockray	- I.C.I.
Editor:	Geoff Jacobs	- Shell
Member:	Les Savage	- Amalgamated Pest Control

Weed Science Society of Victoria.

President:	Ian Anderson	- Hoechst
Secretary:	Peter Whitehouse	- Hoechst
Vice President:	Bob Edgar	- K.T.R.I.
Treasurer:	Doug Wilson	- Shell
Publicity:	Robert Plumber	- Roche-Maag
	Bill Mackie	- I.C.I.
	Alan Cook	- Roche-Maag

Weed Science Society of Victoria. (cont)

Immediate Past President: Jim Ward - Bayer

AMCHEM PRODUCTS INC.

Amchem Products Inc. which was prominent in the early development of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T and whose brand names, WEEDAR, WEEDONE, BROMINIL, WEEDAZOL, TAMEX and ETHREL are well known in Australia is now part of Union Carbide Agricultural Products Co. Inc. U.S.A. The name AMCHEM will be retained only for the metalworking business. CIBA-GEIGY AUST. LTD. will continue to market the WEEDAR, WEEDONE etc. products in Australia.

THE AUSTRALIAN WEED CONTROL HANDBOOK 1979

Edited by Dr. J. T. Swarbrick.

The 1979 edition of the Australian Weed Control Handbook is now available.

The new (fourth) edition of this widely established and recognised reference book differs from previous editions in several ways which make it more useful to the reader. Only three of the introductory sections - on Methods of Weed Control, Herbicides and their Application, and Herbicide Safety and Disposal - have been retained, whilst the series of general articles on weed control in twelve crop and non-crop situations has been replaced by a much more comprehensive section on weed control in all Australian crops, cropping systems and non-crop situations. This section deals with each crop in turn and outlines all of the methods of weed control which can be applied to it at each stage of growth or development, together with the main herbicides which are registered for use in that crop or situation, the stages at which each may be used, and a note on their application and effectiveness.

The 1979 edition of the Handbook gives the fullest and most up-to-date details of the registration (by state and crop), uses, timing, mixing, application and weeds controlled by one hundred and fifty Australian herbicides and surfactants - many more than in any previous edition.

Order directly from

PLANT PRESS  
3a Ipswich Street, Toowoomba, Q'ld. 4350.

Cost \$6.00 plus 80 cents postage.