

THE WEED SOCIETY / OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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

PRESIDENT Mr. M.W. Barrett

HON. SECRETARY Mr. W.J. Burke

FEBRUARY, 1977

NEWSLETTER No. 1/77
Price - 10 cents

11th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 11th Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held in Room N208, Woolley Building, Manning Road, University of Sydney on Thursday 24th February, 1977 at 3.00 p.m. This is the same venue as the 1976 meeting, and refreshments can be had afterwards in the University Staff Club if so desired.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 10th Annual General Meeting
3. Business arising therefrom
4. Annual Report
5. Business arising therefrom
6. Financial Statement
7. Proceedings of the Society
8. Election of office bearers
9. Presidential address
10. Other business

PLEASE TRY AND ATTEND THIS MEETING IF POSSIBLE.

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A Message from the President

I feel that it is appropriate to record a few personal thoughts on the activities of the Society during my period of tenure. These will not be covered by the Minutes of the AGM or the presidential address.

I do not feel that there is a need to increase subscriptions at this stage. We have managed to contain costs during these inflationary times, and have reasonable assets which would allow some major activity such as producing Proceedings when required. We have kept costs in check by stringently reviewing the membership and reducing it to those who are really interested in the Society, together with a business-like approach to the Society programmes.

The Newsletter is now a regular feature of the Society, but does absorb most of the subscription revenue. However, with assistance from members we feel that costs can be kept in bounds. I regard the Newsletter as a vital activity as approximately half our membership is outside Sydney, and does need regular news.

Over the last two years we have seen the formation of the Council of Australian Weed Science Societies, a process to which our Society has contributed much. We have a long way to go in this area, but have a real target in the Asian Pacific Weeds Conference in 1979.

On a more local note, I feel the Society has been able to co-operate with other voluntary bodies in joint activities, and feel that this is a welcome trend which we should foster.

It has been a great pleasure and honour to act as your President over the last two years, and my thanks to all of you who have contributed to the activities of the Society.

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SUMMARY OF TALK BY E.G. CUTHBERTSON
TO THE WEED SOCIETY OF N.S.W. 5th OCTOBER, 1976

CHANGING PATTERNS IN WEED RESEARCH IN AUSTRALIA

Weeds arrived in Australia with the first settlers, and although evidence of them exists, little was done about them in the early years. The weed problems differed little from those in other parts of the world, but an extensive as opposed to an intensive system of agriculture and a preponderance of deep rooted perennial weeds as opposed to annuals influenced the development of the weed control research and the practices employed to control them.

Initially the main control measures advocated were largely traditional and confined to persistent cultivation, hand hoeing and cutting down before seeding.

Early reports on the testing of chemical control methods occurred before the turn of the century and chemicals such as common salt, arsenic, nitric acid, sulphuric acid, iron sulphate and even lime were used. The prickly pear problem lead the way for research into chemical control of weeds, but the apparent lack of interest in the field of selective weed control is noticeable compared to European research at this stage.

The success of the biological control programme on prickly pear was partly responsible for a disillusionment in the effectiveness of chemicals and in the 1930's biological and ecological control studies predominated weed research. However, the release of the phenoxy acetic acid and carbonate herbicides in the post-war period completely revitalised chemical weed control research, which still remains as a significant proportion of all weed research today.

Weed research was dominated in the 1940's and 1950's by chemical control methods, but a renewal of life history, ecological and physiological studies occurred after the 1st Australian Weed Conference in 1953 and a more balanced approach to weed research occurred in the 1960's.

Today, despite an increasing interest in weeds by the general public and research administrators, several gaps still need to be explored. These include the distribution of weed species which is poorly documented in most cases; the identity of weeds and their morphological and physiological races, including race susceptibility to herbicides; and finally an educational programme to dispel the sensationalism and emotionalism evident in this area today.

NOTE The full text of Mr. Cuthbertson's address will be published in the next edition of the Proceedings of the Society.

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POSITION VACANT

Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Technologist

The Department of Primary Industry - Canberra is seeking a graduate with experience in agricultural and/or veterinary chemicals to evaluate research reports and scientific data, liaise with manufacturers, prepare manuals and reviews and provide advice on many aspects of pesticides. Salary \$15695-17407. Full details may be obtained from the Secretary, Department of Primary Industry, Canberra 2600 or by phoning the Pesticides Co-ordinator 062/725238.

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

"The Threat of Weeds to Bushland - A Victorian Case Study"
by the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science.

*Available from the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science, 191
Royal Parade, Parkville, 3052. COST \$5.95 plus 60¢ postage (\$4.95
plus postage to members of A.I.A.S.)*

"Herbicides for Weed Control, 1977-78"
by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, South Australia.

*Copies of this publication are available at a cost of \$4.00 plus
\$1.00 postage from The Accountant, Department of Agriculture and
Fisheries, Box 1671, G.P.O. Adelaide, S.A. 5001.*

"Ontario Weeds: Descriptions, Illustrations and Keys to their
Identification" by J.F. Alex and C.M. Switzer.

*Available from Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Toronto.
Canada. Cost \$2.50 Canadian, payable to Treasurer of Ontario.*

"Weeds of New Guinea and their Control"
by E.E. Henty and G.H. Pritchard.

*This 177 page book (paper bound or hardback) contains weed descriptions,
ecology and distribution as well as a discussion of herbicides and an
outline of application of regimes - Request information from Division of
Botany, P.O. Box 314, Lae, Papua New Guinea.*

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ASIAN-PACIFIC WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY (APWSS)

A reminder that the Sixth Asian Pacific Weed Science Society Conference
and workshop on Weed Control in small scale farms, will be held in
JAKARTA, Indonesia from JULY 11th - JULY 17th, 1977.

The second circular containing guidelines for session organizers and
contributors has just arrived. The deadline for submission of papers
is 14th February for abstracts, and 14th March for full copies of papers.

Contact P.W. Michael 692-1122 Ext. 3214 for further information.

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HON. TREASURER'S INTERIM REPORT

An interim report on receipts and expenditure and accumulated fund for the year ended 31/1/77 is presented. The surplus of \$99.25 is to be adjusted for Building Society interest income from 1/6/76.

To contain expenditure members two years or more in arrears have been deregistered.

A sum of \$500 was transferred during the year to our investment with the N.S.W. Permanent Building Society.

Final and audited Treasurer's statements will be submitted to the Annual General Meeting for adoption.

INTERIM INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/1/77

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>RECEIPTS</u>	
Office Services (Newsletter)	476.49	Members Subscriptions	675.00
P.M.G. Box	30.00	Ordinary	380.00
Audit fee (1975)	10.00	Corporate	285.00
Council of Aust W.S.S.	60.00	Ordinary arrears	10.00
International Weed Soc. Membership	23.06	Sale of Publications	65.00
Annual Dinner	340.00	Annual Dinner	360.00
HAC Seminar 1975	96.00		
HAC Prize Donation	20.00	Interest	65.21
General Expenses (to be itemised)	10.41		
BALANCE (being excess of income over expend- iture transferred to Accumulated Fund	<u>99.25</u>		
	<u>\$1165.21</u>		<u>\$1165.21</u>

ACCUMULATED FUND

Balance as at 31/1/76	1671.38
<u>ADD</u> Excess as per Income and Expenditure Account	<u>99.25</u>
	1770.63
This is represented by	
Investment (NSW Permanent Building Society)	1790.03
Cash at Bank	<u>5.60</u>
	1795.63
<u>LESS</u> Subscription in advance	<u>25.00</u>
	<u>\$1770.63</u>

A.B. McLENNAN.
Hon. Treasurer