

THE WEED SOCIETY / OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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

PRESIDENT: Mr J. M. Swain

HON. SECRETARY: Mr W. J. Burke

NEWSLETTER NO. 2/81

Price - 10 cents

April, 1981

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1981

In reviewing the Society's year, I would like to start with the visible side of our activities and then move to behind the scenes.

In addition to today's field day and meeting, the Society held four functions in 1980. In April, we held a well attended symposium at Sydney University on "Direct Drilling". Three experts from Nebraska were among the panel of speakers. In June, Tony Wapshere addressed about 24 members of our Society at the Biological and Chemical Research Institute, Rydalmere, on recent developments on the biological control of weeds. Biological control is not a familiar weed control technique for most of us and we were grateful to hear how useful organisms are selected in other countries. Tony gave many examples where insects, fungi, fish and grazing animals have been effectively used to eradicate or suppress undesirable plants.

The major function of the year was a 2 day weeds tour of North West New South Wales organised by Warwick Felton. Regrettably only some twenty people attended, including only one member from Sydney. The programme covered broad-leaf weed and wild oat control in cereals, conservation tillage, wheat tolerance to residual herbicides, soil carryover of atrazine from sorghum crops grown in normal cultivation and no-till situations, wiregrass control in pastures, tiger pear research and railway vegetation control. Warwick deserves special commendation for his efforts.

For our annual social, President Leon departed from the conventional straight dinner, taking us out to the Theatre-Restaurant at Bankstown Town Hall, where we wine and dined beside the stage, entertained by a professional presentation by the Q Theatre Group of "The Jubilee Horror". It was hard to find the connection between the Sherlock Holmes murder thriller and weed science, but the evening was so enjoyable that I don't think our wives cared in the least.

Our main communication during the year was through the Newsletter. We must specially thank our editor, Leon Smith, for producing five large and informative issues. Addressing the envelopes has been a problem to us for some years and we have recently given this job to J. D. Boshier & Co., Bathurst on a trial basis.

Nine new names were added to our membership list during 1980.

The Executive Committee met on four occasions and average attendance was twelve.

Barry Lowe and Allan Mears ably represented our Society on CAWSS. Allan Mears completed his two year term as President in June, 1980 and handed over to Bill Parsons of Victoria. CAWSS has given the Queensland Society responsibility for convening its Second National Weeds Conference in September this year and our Society has provided a loan of \$1,108 to assist our sister organisation. In 1980 CAWSS decided to sponsor a high standard journal "Australian Weeds" as the official journal of the Council of Australian Weed Science Societies. All editing and promoting will be carried out by Weed Society nominees. John Swarsbrick (Gatton College) is the first editor and the first volume is due shortly. It is hoped to produce three or four volumes each year, provided continued support is received from individuals and organisations interested in weeds and their control.

With CAWSS firmly established, we have severed our links with the International Weed Science Society. Australia is now one of the 31 national weed society organisations which, according to John Fryer, are distributed around the globe as follows: ten in Europe, eight in the Americas, eight in Asia and the Pacific, three in Africa, one in Eastern Europe/Russia and one in the Middle East.

After 15 years the Society is starting to show its age. Two of our foundation members, who have been stalwarts of the Society, Kelvin Green and Allan Mears, retired from the Department of Agriculture during the year. Without suggesting that as a consequence Allan or Kelvin will become less active members of the Society, I would like to emphasise that the Society needs a continuing supply of new members and office bearers to remain viable.

(W. J. Burke)

OFFICE BEARERS 1981

President - Mr J. M. Swain
Vice President - Mr A. B. McLennan
Secretary - Mr W. J. Burke
Treasurer - Mr M. Barrett

Executive Committee - Drs P. Michael, L. B. Lowe
Messrs A. N. Johnston, J. Toth, A. Mears,
W. Felton, C. F. Mason, D. Le Merle,
K. Green, K. Watson, M. Hood, N. McAlary,
R. Davis, R. Browne, A. Murphy, R. Blackmore.

Immediate Past President - Dr L. W. Smith

Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31/1/81

<u>Expenditure</u>	\$	<u>Income</u>	\$
Newsletter (Printing, Postage)	243.29	Members Subscriptions	811.00
PMG Box rental	32.00	- Ordinary	572.00
Postage	52.61	- Corporate	175.00
SATA-New Membership Mailing List	65.94	- Ordinary Arrears	24.00
Bronzlee-Cumputerise Mailing List	129.59	- Corporate Arrears	40.00
		Share in Sale of Proceed-	1,108.20
		ings - 5th AWC-Victoria	
Annual Dinner	480.00	Annual Dinner	418.00
		Interest - Investment	267.00
Balance (being excess of income over expenditure transferred to accumulated Fund)	1,617.78	- Bank	17.01
	<u>2,621.21</u>		<u>2,621.21</u>

Statement of Assets as at 31/1/81

<u>Accumulated Fund</u>	31/1/81 \$	31/1/80 \$
Balance	4,446.23	3,311.08
<u>Add Excess as per Income & Expenditure account</u>	<u>1,617.78</u>	<u>1,135.15</u>
	<u>6,064.01</u>	<u>4,446.23</u>

This is represented by:-

Cash on hand	0.19	5.96
Cash at Bank (Trading Account)	694.11	457.51
Investment (N.S.W. Perm.Build.Soc.)	4,264.71	3,997.71
Loan Account-Weed Society of Qld	1,108.00	-
Sundry Debtor (APWCC 1979)	-	78.05
	<u>6,067.01</u>	<u>4,539.23</u>
<u>Less Subscription in Advance</u>		
Ordinary	3.00	68.00
Corporate	-	25.00
<u>Balance as above</u>	<u>6,064.01</u>	<u>4,446.23</u>

Statement of Movement in Asset
Investment (N.S.W. Permanent Building Society)

Investment (as per Statement of Assets 31/1/80)	\$ 3,997.71
Add Interest 1980 (31/5/80 and 30/11/80)	267.00
	<u>4,264.71</u>

A. B. McLENNAN
Hon. Treasurer.

NEWS OF MEMBERS AND OTHERS

Mr Jim Dellow, formerly District Agronomist, Bathurst, has been appointed as Special Agronomist (Weeds) at Orange Research Centre to replace Brian Scarsbrick.

1981 ACTIVITIES

At the last Executive Meeting the following were decided in relation to the 1981 Programme.

1. Mr R. Blackmore accepted the position as Programme Convenor/ Co-ordinator and in this capacity will act as a catalyst in organising functions.
2. Considerable discussion took place on possible functions for the coming year and the following suggestions received strong support:-
 - a) A crop tour of the Bathurst-Orange-Parkes district covering weed control work in crops and forestry. October was suggested as a suitable date. (see notes later in Newsletter).
 - b) A session run in conjunction with the International Botanical Congress. Dr Michael and Mr Johnston to organise - Last week of August.
 - c) A "wine-weed" discussion session plus a dinner, to be held in mid July, 1981.
 - d) A local government TVC and turf function combined with Annual General Meeting plus function (as in 1981).
 - e) Pre-Christmas function in early November - possibly a harbour cruise.
3. Members were asked to send in any further suggestions to Mr Blackmore,

C/- Velsicol Australia Limited,
P.O. Box 21,
PENDLE HILL. N.S.W. 2145.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

- "The Prickly-Pear Pest in N.S.W." - authorised and published by the Commissioner, Prickly-Pear Destruction Commission, Tamworth. Copies can be obtained by writing to P.O. Box 643, Tamworth, 2340.
- "Costs and Returns for the Control of Serrated Tussock in New South Wales" - AGdex 642, Farm Management Bulletin No. 3, March 1981 by D. T. Vere, M. H. Campbell and B. D. Scarsbrick.
- "Industrial Weed Control" - by Roche-Maag.
- "A Check List of Economic Plants in Australia" - compiled by W. Hartley, CSIRO. This publication contains the common and botanical names of most weeds in Australia. A very valuable reference.
- Alligator Weed.

FORWARD NOTICE - OF OCTOBER, CENTRAL WEST WEEDS TRIP

It is proposed that a 1 or 2 day function will be held in the Central West during October, 1981.

Quite a deal of interesting Weeds Research is already carried out in the region, and members of the Society may care to bear this function in mind in planning this year's trial work or demonstration plots.

It would be envisaged that trials in an area bounded by Orange, Molong, Wellington, Parkes, Forbes and Cowra could be inspected over two days or if over one day in an area bounded by Orange, Molong, Manildra and Cudal.

In addition to Weed efficacy and vareity tolerance work, members who have an interest in herbicide application techniques, may care to lay down demonstration plots.

Mike Hood at Agrisearch is enthusiastic with the prospect of the trip and would be more than happy to co-operate with any of his principals, if they wish their trials to be open to inspection.

Further details on the visit will be given nearer to the date.

COMING EVENTS

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| August 11-13
1981 | 34th New Zealand Weed and Pest Control Conference.
Contact: Ms M. J. Hartley, Ministry of Agriculture
and Fisheries, Private Bag, Palmerston North,
NEW ZEALAND. |
| September 14-18
1981 | 6th Australian Weeds Conference, City of Gold Coast,
Queensland, Australia.
Contact: Weeds Conference Secretariat, P.O. Box 111,
Broadbeach, Queensland, 4217. AUSTRALIA. |
| <u>Note:</u> The Final Circular for the 6th Australian Weeds Conference will
be available towards the end of May and members will be sent a
copy as soon as they arrive. The Registration Fee for the
Conference has been set at \$150.00 and this includes the
Conference Dinner. Two visiting scientists from North America,
Dr Maybank, Alberta, Canada and Dr Yates, California, USA,
will be attending the Conference and talking about application
techniques in a special Seminar. | |
| November 22-29
1981 | 8th Asian Pacific Weed Science Society Conference,
Bangalore, India.
Contact: Weeds Conference Secretariat, P.O. Box 153,
Vasanthanagar, Bangalore 560052. INDIA. |
| November 20-25
1983 | 10th International Congress of Plant Protection 1983,
Brighton, UK. |

AUSTRALIAN AGRONOMY CONFERENCE

The Australian Society of Agronomy was formed at the Agronomy Conference in Queensland in April, 1980, for the purpose of promoting a biennial conference at which agronomists (including horticulturists), primary producers, and representatives of commercial and government organisations might usefully meet.

Membership is open to any interested person and there is no fee.

The next Conference of the Society will be held at Wagga on July 12 to 14, 1982 (not at Yanco as announced previously).

In keeping with the Society's aim of providing for a wide-spectrum membership, the first half-day session will be given to identifying the problems facing Australian agriculture as seen by Federal and State Departments of Agriculture, farmer organisations, rural journalists and economists. The remaining two and a half days will be concerned with subject reviews and contributed papers representing the main body of agronomic and horticultural work in the country. In the final session a distinguished speaker will assess whether the work adequately covers the needs identified in the first session, or whether changed directions are necessary.

Those interested in attending the Conference or receiving future notices about it should contact the Honorary Secretary,

Mr J. S. Glendinning,
Australian Fertilizers Limited,
P.O. Box 528,
NORTH SYDNEY. N.S.W. 2060.

1981 AUSTRALIAN WEEDS CONFERENCE

The final circular advising details of the conference will be mailed in mid-May to persons who replied to the first and second circulars from the organising committee. Our Secretary will be receiving a limited number of additional final circulars and these can be obtained after the 26th May by phoning Jack Burke on 428 0430 (work) or 80 4971 (home). The final circular will include an application for the conference, conference dinner and accommodation. It will also list the names of contacts in TAA who can take bookings at special conference rates.

Costs

Registration fee for delegates, including conference dinner	\$150
Registration fee for associates	\$ 50
Additional dinner	\$ 20
Conference dinner for non-delegates	\$ 25
Pre-conference tour (2 days)	\$ 60
Accommodation	Extra

Registration will take place at a cocktail function on Sunday evening, 13th September, 1981.

PESTICIDE APPLICATION METHODS by G. A. Matthews

Scientist-in-Charge, Overseas Spraying
Machinery Centre, Imperial College
Field Station, Silwood Park.

The use of agrochemicals has been criticised by those concerned about pollution of the environment, yet these chemicals have an increasingly important role to play in the production of food and the control of vectors of disease. The advantages and disadvantages of the wide range of chemicals available and the alternatives to chemical control have been discussed in many books, but little attention has been paid to the means of actually improving pesticide application. This is the first book to do so in a comprehensive way.

Emphasis is placed on the need for better timing of application in relation to pest attack so that chemical control can be integrated with other methods. Dr Matthews discusses the formulation of pesticides and movement of spray droplets, but the main part of the book is comprised of detailed descriptions of the various types of machinery available for both ground and aerial application, with discussion on their use. A chapter is devoted to the new techniques of controlled droplet application, and their potential for efficient and economic use of minimal volumes of spray. The final chapters deal with the maintenance of equipment, safety precautions and the selection of the right machinery for the right job.

This book should prove to be a valuable reference tool for many years to come, and will find a place on the bookshelves of all those involved in crop protection and pest control, whether they be research workers, advisers, teachers or practitioners.

THIS BOOK IS NOT AVAILABLE ON INSPECTION. ORDER YOUR COPY OF PESTICIDE APPLICATION METHODS THROUGH TECHNICAL BOOK & MAGAZINE CO., PTY LIMITED, 295 Swanston Street, MELBOURNE. VIC. 3000.

Cost - \$48.95 plus \$1.00 postage and packing.

COURSE ON STATISTICS

Notes of the course on statistics which was organised by the Weed Science Society of Victoria in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, Victoria are now available for sale.

Copies of the comprehensive course notes prepared for participants by the lecturers will cost \$5.00 each plus postage. Enquiries should be directed to Mr Peter Whitehouse, Secretary, Weed Science Society of Victoria, Clunies Ross House, 191 Royal Parade, Parkville, 3052. (telephone 419 8311)

FAT HEN ALIAS DIRTY DICK

Australia has a wide variety of weeds, a large percentage of them having been imported in the nineteenth century.

One weed common in pastures as well as gardens is Fat Hen (Chenopodium album).

This tough, leafy plant is one of the most vigorous "weeds of cultivation" found in warmer countries.

Though considered a weed because of its profuse growth (animals do not eat it unless pasture is scarce) Fat Hen is of considerable importance.

Originally its common name was Allgood, being rich in mineral salts and containing more calcium, iron, protein and vitamins B1 and B2 than many cultivated vegetables.

Of all the wild plants, Fat Hen is the most popular for eating. It has a taste similar to spinach, and is easily prepared.

The leaves are stripped from the stem, washed well and placed in a pot with a little water and butter. Steam until the leaves are tender, drain and chop the leaves, add more butter, seasoning and garlic and serve.

Growing in a vegetable garden, its presence indicates good soil, but a soil that is tired of growing potatoes!

In case of misunderstandings, Fat Hen's other common names include Frost Blight, Goosefoot, Mydden Miles, Lamb's Quarters and Dirty Dick.

(Sun Herald)

FAMILIAR NOXIOUS FLORA OF THE N.S.W. LANDSCAPE

Toiletus publicus, a plant of variable growth, sometimes shrubby. Toiletus publicus, cv. onehoele, or a larger grower Toiletus publicus cv. menihoele. Found in all parts of N.S.W. but sometimes difficult to locate.

The species publicus is always dioecious, but plants grow in close proximity. Neglected stands are strongly scented but well tended specimens have a pronounced odour of pine.

Old specimens often carry a plaque to identify the planter and frequently command sweeping views of park and public place. Fine old open crowned specimens at Centennial Park and other N.S.W. ovals have long given relief in their cool damp shade and their shrubby relations dominate many a sea-side resort with their bright corrugated bark and pungent odour.

Some modern hybrids have grand proportions with out-standing forms dominating off-street car parks. Mangrove Creek Dam has a new specimen raised by the Department of Public Works and early historic specimens and primitive plants survive in country showgrounds. A magnificent solitary specimen dominates Manly Esplanade and has long been used as a beacon for seafaring men and a haven for needy yachtsmen.

Another specimen meriting National Trust recognition is the species Toiletus publicus (male) at Neilson Park. The tracery of its form and ancient bole has attracted the attention of Sydney-siders for nearly a century.

(Note:- Adapted from and by courtesy of the N.S.W. Regional Newsletter of R.A.I.P.R.)

DEBATING SCIENTISTS OF 8 NATIONS AGREE PESTICIDE 2,4,5-T IS SAFE!

(N.Z.J. Agric.; 29 May, 1980)

poses no cancer hazard to humans or animals
does not cause abortions in women (as claimed)
poses no practical environmental harm

Safe ... that's the consensus of 59 scientists. Top world experts on pesticides who journeyed to Washington, D.C. recently from seven countries and 20 US states to dispute and resolve the controversy surrounding the currently banned (in USA) 2,4,5-T, the pesticide widely used to protect forests, cattle and weeds.

Scientific findings of the unique, first-of-its-kind Dispute Resolution Conference run counter to the position of the Federal EPA which placed a temporary ban on most uses of the pesticide in March. Scientists now agree, that from the conclusions drawn by the Alsea, Oregon epidemiology study, on which the EPA based its action to ban, no evidence is possible with regard to alleged abortion-causing effects of 2,4,5-T.

The scientists who took part in the Dispute Resolution Conference came from the fields of medicine, toxicology, chemistry, ecology and agriculture. They represented the scientific concern of Canada, Italy, Sweden, New Zealand, France, Germany, Switzerland and the USA.