

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

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FEBRUARY, 1982

NOTICE OF 16TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AND URBAN WEEDS TOUR

The weed Society of New South Wales invites all members and friends to attend a short tour and discussion on the control of privet and other weeds in the urban bushlands around Epping, Sydney, prior to the 16th Annual General Meeting of the Society.

DATE: Friday, 26th February, 1982

TIME: 10 a.m.

PLACE: Meet at Ludovic Blackwood Memorial Sanctuary at the corner of Pennant Hills Road and Beecroft Road, West Pennant Hills, UBD Map Reference A6, Map 38, Gregory Map Reference D6, Map 68.

PROGRAMME

- 10 a.m. Evelyn Hickey from the National Trust will demonstrate and explain the method of bush regeneration (Bradley Method).
- 11.15 a.m. Proceed to Devlins Creek Area on Sutherland Road, Epping, UBD Map Reference F3, Map 39, Gregorys Map Reference D12, Map 63. Jane Mowat, Macquarie University will show her tree injection trials for privet control.
- 1.15 p.m. Lunch at Epping RSL Club.
Cost - \$10 for a 3 course meal.

2.30 p.m. Epping RSL Club.

Discussion on privet and its control, including a report on Dow Chemicals' trial at Lane Cove.

3.30 p.m. 16th Annual General Meeting of the Society.

Dr. Bill Parsons, President of The Council of Australian Weed Science Societies will address the meeting.

AGENDA FOR A.G.M.

1. Apologies.
2. Minutes 15th Annual General Meeting.
3. Business Arising therefrom.
4. Annual Report.
5. Business Arising therefrom.
6. Financial Statement.
7. Election of Office-Bearers.
8. Presidential Address - Mr. J. M. Swain.
9. Address by Dr. W. Parsons - President C.A.W.S.S.
10. Other Business.

The meeting will conclude at 5.00 p.m.

N.B. To assist with planning R.S.V.P. by Monday, 22nd February by phone to W. J. Burke or J. M. Swain phone (02) 4280-222, or post to W. J. Burke, P.O. Box 76, Lane Cove, N.S.W. 2066.

Central West Tour - October 13/14, 1981

In all 41 people took part in the 1981 field trip which this year was centred in the Orange/Cudal area. Field excursions by day were accompanied by a dinner at the Hotel Canobolas on the evening of the 13th. 37 attended the dinner and an average 25 were at each of the field trips, with some attending one day only.

Tuesday morning was spent looking at Malcolm Campbell's pasture establishment plots at Panuara, with a quick look at one of Warren McDonald's chemical ploughing plots. The afternoon was spent at the new Agricultural & Veterinary Research Centre inspecting the splendid new facilities, hearing of current weed research at the centre and inspecting legume tolerance to herbicide trials.

Wednesday morning was spent in the Cudal area looking at the cereal and oilseed tolerance trials run by Agrisearch Services Pty. Ltd. and several Dupont trials involving Glean herbicide. The afternoon was spent in the Cudal area inspecting some departmental trials on blackberry and briar, at Orange airport for a brief look at an Agrisearch TVC trials with Isouron herbicide, and at the bottom of a steep hill discussing a Monsanto trial on bracken with Roundup (the trial was near the top.)

All participants seemed to enjoy themselves and found the excursions of great interest and diversity. A bus was hired on both days and this allowed continuous discussions and mixing. Participants came from a wide range of backgrounds, including University, Industry, CAE, NSW Dept. Ag., Consultants, and local government, a number of the local government people also being farmers, and came from an area bounded by Sydney, Canberra, Tamworth, Parkes and Switzerland. Unfortunately only one representative from dealers/agents attended (and then only for a brief period) despite the fact that all the main agrichemical dealers in the area were circulated.

My thanks go to all who help in presenting talks, showing of plots, and organising.

M. Hood - November, 1981

Special thanks must go to Mike Hood and Jim Dellow who did a marvellous job of organising this very interesting field trip.

WATCH OUT FOR PARTHENIUM WEED

Landholders along the Newell Highway between Parkes and the Queensland border at Goondiwindi have been asked to keep a close watch for a serious weed which may have been inadvertently introduced from Queensland. This request has been made by Mr. George Knowles, Director-General of the New South Wales Department of Agriculture.

The plant is Parthenium weed, seeds of which contaminated some sorghum grain being carried from Queensland along the Newell Highway to Parkes. Unfortunately three of the bags spilled seed during the journey and scattered seed along the highway.

Mr. Knowles said the plant, which has not been previously recorded in New South Wales, is often confused with ragweed. Its lower leaves are deeply dissected into narrow pointed lobes and the flowers are very small and compacted into a white rounded head about 10 mm across. A pamphlet describing Parthenium weed is being distributed to landholders along the highway and posters are being displayed in appropriate centres such as Department of Agriculture and Shire Offices.

Anyone suspecting a plant to be Parthenium weed is asked to send or bring the specimen to the nearest office of the Department of Agriculture or to the local council weed inspector.

NOTE - Despite an intensive campaign to locate the weed along the Newell Highway no plants have been located as yet. The incident has resulted in a new name for Parthenium weed - "the weed that fell off the back of a truck".

SIXTH AUSTRALIAN WEEDS CONFERENCE -
BROADBEACH, SEPTEMBER, 1981 by

Peter Kloot, Senior Weeds Officer,
S.A. Department of Agriculture.

There were, I believe, many reasons for holding this Conference on the Gold Coast. One was supposed to be the weather. However, I noticed that for each day of the Conference, the maximum temperature in Adelaide was higher than that of the Gold Coast. But the atmosphere otherwise was warm and friendly with many old friendships renewed and new ones made. The number of delegates was smaller than expected, about 135, but it certainly made for an easily-managed and cohesive Conference.

As usual, the chemical industry dominated the Conference numerically, but Government research workers, both State and Commonwealth, tended to dominate the input, both written and verbal. There was a tension between the herbicide interests of industry and the much wider involvement of research and other personnel, including pest plant officers and their equivalents in other states. In the biological segments of the programme, there was a noticeable diminution in the numbers attending and in increase in the proportion of glassy-eyed participants struggling to look interested. Perhaps, simultaneous sessions might be the answer.

There was a certain air of pessimism in the gathering. Financial strigencies are affecting everybody. Government workers generally felt that future prospects are bleak with staff ceilings and other setbacks. Industry was conscious of the rising costs and stricter codes involved in developing new products. Operators, both private and local government were aware of the rising costs and environmental problems.

One area that is going very well is biological control. The Minister of Lands of Queensland, when officially opening the Conference announced that Queensland was going to allocate \$100 000 (I think) to open a field station in North America to provide a base for biological control programmes in that area. That State is saving \$1.5M per annum by not spraying *Harrissia* cactus, which is now controlled by biological agents. They regard the results as well worth the investment.

An interesting symposium on medical aspects of plants took place during the Conference week. It is difficult to summarise it all in this short space, but it is an aspect that will reappear from time to time. Species of *compositus* (the Daisy family) are implicated here.

The new journal "Australian Weeds" was launched during the Conference. Hopefully by now, all officers will have received the first issue. It looks like being good value and board or personnel subscriptions are highly recommended.

The next Conference is planned for spring, 1984 in Western Australia. And the one after that is scheduled for South Australia in the anniversary year, 1986.

52ND ANZAAS CONGRESS 1982

The 52nd ANZAAS Congress will be held at Macquarie University from May 10th - 14th, 1982. There are two sections which should interest members.

1. Section 12: Botany are holding a Symposium on the 11th and 12th May on "Management of Urban Bushland". The Convenor is Allan Mears and he has arranged some interesting speakers including Prof. M. T. Daley, University of Sydney; Dr. D. A. Adamson, Macquarie University and Ms Evelyn Hickey and Ms Joan Larking, National Trust of Australia plus contributed papers. The Symposium runs from 9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. on both days.
2. Section 13: Agriculture, Horticulture and Forestry are running a series of Symposia on the morning of the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th in areas such as
 - the Role of the Primary Producer in Australia's Industrial Future (Hon. J. P. Nixon, keynote speaker).
 - Learning to live with salinity.
 - Industrialised Agriculture and Forestry.
 - Agriculture Information systems.

Further details can be obtained from Dr. M. Westoby, School of Biological Sciences, Macquarie University, Tel 888 8000 Ext. 9733 or Dr. R. Curtin, Forestry Commission of New South Wales, P.O. Box 100 Beecroft, Tel. 871 3222.

NOTE: There is still space for contributed papers in both these sections.

RECENT BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

- "Poisonous Plants of Australia" by Selwyn Everist is published by Angus and Robertson in a completely revised and updated edition and retails for \$75 - a lot. But if it helps save you three sheep, then its paid its way.

In all the book lists nearly 1000 poisonous plants, where they occur and how to recognise their symptoms.

(Dr. S. L. Everist passed away in October, 1981 in Brisbane.)

- The second issue of Australian Weeds is now out - some interesting articles and book reviews. Have you ordered your copy?
- "A Manual of Australian Agriculture", published by William Heinemann, Melbourne, has been edited for the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science by Emeritus Professor R. L. Reid, Foundation Professor of Agriculture at Latrobe University. Recommended retail price is \$49.50.

Guidelines for weed workers, preparing submissions,
or literature for the public!

WHAT YOU SAID

WHAT YOU MEANT

"It has long been known....."

I didn't bother to check the original reference.

"Of great scientific interest..."

It piqued my interest.

"I thank my research assistant....."

Jimmy actually did the experiment.

"Typical results are given...."

These are the only data I have.

"Additional studies will be reported...."

I will get another paper from this study.

"It is believed that...."

I think so, but am afraid to admit it.

"It is generally believed that...."

My students believe it too.

"It is generally accepted that....."

A guy at a meeting thought so too.

"It could be argued that..."

My colleague down the hall isn't sure.

"Correct within an order of magnitude...."

Probably wrong.

"Extremely high purity..."

Label on bottle was smudged.

"Should stimulate renewed interest..."

Let someone else get frustrated.

"Handled with extreme care during preparation..."

Not dropped on the floor.

"Similar to the type specimen..."

At least in the same family.

"Heavily stained...":

Accidentally left overnight in fast green.

"One sample chosen for detailed study..."

Fixed material smashed in transit.

OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

- (a) To promote a wider interest in weeds and their control.
- (b) To provide opportunities for those interested in weeds and their control to exchange information and ideas based on research and practice.
- (c) To encourage the investigation of all aspects of weeds and weed control.
- (d) To co-operate and, where appropriate, affiliate with other organisations engaged in related activities in Australia and overseas. (Our Society is affiliated with State Weed Societies in Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia and is a member of the Council of the Australian Weed Science Societies and the International Weed Science Society.)
- (e) To encourage the study of weed science and the dissemination of its findings.
- (f) To produce and publish such material as may be considered desirable.

FEEES

Fees are currently \$12 per year for individuals and \$25 per year for corporate bodies. There is no joining fee.