

# 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. 2/82  
Price - 10 cents.

April, 1982

## NOTICE OF SEMINAR

DATE: Friday, April 30

TIME: 3.00 p.m.

PLACE: Woolley Building, Room N208,  
University of Sydney

TOPIC: MONITORING THE SPREAD OF WEEDS

SPEAKERS:

- Dr. A. G. Thomas - National Weed Survey System  
in Canada
- Dr. M. A. Gill - Weed Dispersal Through Stock  
and Fodder Movements During  
Drought in Australia
- Dr. F. Forcella - Patterns of Weed Migration  
in North-Western U.S.A.

Dr. Frank Forcella, U.S.A. and Dr. Gordon Thomas, Canada, are visiting scientists with C.S.I.R.O. at Canberra. Dr. Thomas has been associated with monitoring weeds in Saskatchewan for Agriculture Canada, and especially the use of computers for expressing results.

Should be an interesting seminar, see you there.

WEED SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1981

In reviewing our sixteenth year I noted immediately that the number of functions organised by the Society were down compared to previous years. As I continued the review it was obvious that in the broader sense, as an organisation for people interested in weeds, we had considerably expanded our base for the future.

Before elaborating further on our firm foundation I would like to recall the three functions held since our last general meeting. Our Weed and Wine Night in June brought a very favourable response from all of the 34 people who attended because the Scandanavian food was unusual and tasty, socially the function was excellent and our guest speaker, Dick Hilder knew his wines. I think we added to his knowledge of weed control rather than the reverse. Special thanks go to organiser Ross Blackmore for the enjoyable evening.

Mike Hood and Jim Dellow were responsible for putting together a very interesting package of weed control exhibits in the Orange area in October. Twenty-five people attended the full two days tour and another sixteen joined in for some of the sessions. This is a very good attendance for a country meeting and it shows the keen interest in weeds in the central west.

Our major social event was the Annual Dinner and two dozen of our members sampled multi-courses of Chinese dishes at the Peacock Gardens Restaurant, Crows Nest.

Today's tour marks up our fourth successful function for the year and I must thank our organisers Jim Swain, Ross Blackmore and Leon Smith.

I should add that we tried unsuccessfully to organise a special evening function with selected delegates attending the International Botanical Congress in Sydney last August, but eventually we issued invitations for members to attend specific sessions relating to weeds.

I now move on to the not so obvious signs of our strength.

The Sixth Australian Weeds Conference was held at Broadbeach in September. This was the second conference organised by C.A.W.S.S. The 1981 Conference ran for five days instead of three in the case of the 1978 Conference. As at November last, the Secretary-Treasurer of the Organising Committee advised that proceeds from the Conference exceeded expenses by more than \$4,000, a sizeable financial base for the 1984 Perth Conference. Two major sessions of the Conference covered plants and health, and application, showing the broad connotations of the subject, "weeds". We wish to congratulate our own Nelson Johnston for giving the Oration at the Conference. Nelson left us with a series of points to analyse, discuss and consider in plotting the future path of weed organisations in Australia.

In a slightly different light Bob Davis wrote a newsletter article on how he saw the Australian regulatory system impeding the introduction of new herbicides and new uses for existing herbicides. Your contributions on this topic are welcomed so that a wide concensus of members' views can be presented to the authorities.

1981 saw the launching of Australia's first weed control journal - Australian Weeds. Surplus funds from the Seventh Asian Pacific Weeds Conference in Sydney plus a grant from the Australian Wheat Research Council are subsidising the first four issues. All our members and their organisations should try to ensure the continuity of our national journal.

Although with limited representation from New South Wales the Eighth Asian Pacific Weed Science Society Conference was held in India in November.

Leon Smith continued his excellent work as Editor of our Newsletter and six editions were produced in 1981. I would like to thank Nelson Johnston and Kelvin Green for assisting in the enveloping and mailing, and local chemical companies for their typing services.

The Executive met four times in 1981 and average attendance was eleven per meeting.

In conclusion I would like to reaffirm that weed organisations in Australia and New South Wales in particular are firmly established and I look forward to 1982 being another successful year for our Society.

J. W. Burke

#### REPORT ON 16TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND URBAN WEEDS TOUR

Forty members and friends attended the Urban Weeds Tour and firstly heard Evelyn Hickey and Joan Larking of the National Trust talk about the Trust's weed control programmes in Urban park areas as well as in the Wingham Brush. The trust now has 60 weed teams operating in N.S.W. using the Bradley Method of Weed Control or Bush Regeneration. A demonstration of the tools used and the techniques involved was given by Joan Larking. Results of their work was seen in the Sanctuary.

The group proceeded from the Ludovic Blackwood Memorial Sanctuary to Devlin's Creek to inspect the chemical injection trial of Jane Mowat, Macquarie University on privet. Both triclopyr and hetazinone looked promising in the first trial, while glyphosate at higher strengths showed considerable potential in the second trial for control of large leaved privet. Treatments were much less effective on small leaved privet.

Lunch at Epping R.S.L. Club was enjoyed by all. The discussion on privet control which followed was most cordial. (See report on Dow Trials.) Twenty-two members stayed for the Annual General Meeting and election of officers.

A summary of the addresses of the President, Jim Swain and Bill Parsons follows.

It was a pleasure to have the President of C.A.W.S.S., Dr. W. Parsons along for the days activities. He spoke briefly about his recent trip overseas to the U.K., India and U.S.A. and told us about some of the problems he saw emerging in the U.S.A. These included the inability of authorities in California to stem the production of marijhuana in the Sacramento Valley and the looming confrontations between pro- and anti-pesticide groups. A summary of some of the information he left with the Society will be printed in the next Newsletter.

Jim Swains presidential address follows:

RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS WEED PROBLEMS, PESTICIDES

AND THE COMMUNITY

Today we have seen the Bradley method of weed control which was developed to provide weed control with minimal disturbance to the environment. It is as we observed a method which requires a high input of trained people.

We then saw an example of a major weed problem, i.e. Privet which is now an important weed in Sydney area bushland, particularly where disturbance has occurred.

The Privet problem is widespread in the Sydney area and there are many groups concerned with its presence.

We and I use the term broadly have a responsibility I believe to restrict its spread in order to preserve the Sydney bushland as it was.

The Bradley method of control or its principles would be an ideal method of controlling Privet, if time was on our side, but unfortunately this is not the case and as a consequence I believe we have to look to the use of herbicides for its control.

We saw the results of work with herbicides for the control of Privet but as the results show there are still more studies and work required.

In addition to the specific weed problems there is one major problem and that is the concern of the community towards herbicides and pesticides generally.

Pests and pesticides are today controversial subjects. Since the world began pests (be they weeds, or insects, or diseases) have been problems which producers of foodstuffs have had to overcome in order to produce marketable goods at an economical level.

Latterly pesticides have become an essential resource to the producer's operation. Pesticides as we know them today have been available since World War II and for most of this period the general community has only been aware of the apparent material benefits to be gained from the use of pesticides without considering whether there are any problems to the environment which could result from their continual usage.

Approximately 10 to 15 years ago concern increased regarding the future of the environment in view of the demands made on it by the industrial, agricultural, technological and demographic systems.

Pesticides, because of the usage associated with the changes first became an issue in 1962 when Rachael Carson published her "Silent Spring". This particular book divided the community into two interested groups - on one side the pro pesticide group and on the other the anti pesticide group.

Despite its scientific inadequacies "Silent Spring" was the trigger which stimulated responsible people to investigate in detail all aspects of pesticide usage and as a result, there is now evolving more rational pest control procedures and programmes, together with more stringent regulatory requirements and procedures.

Pesticides are still today a controversial issue but now I believe we are generally better informed on this subject, less biased and less emotional than we were 10 years ago because, much of the information previously available only to the scientific community is now available to the public at large, making them more confident that disaster is not just around the corner as some groups have suggested.

In the agricultural area and I suggest in situations such as the urban bushland areas we are going to need herbicides if we are to maintain our present standards and thus it is essential that the community at large must maintain the confidence that I believe they now have concerning pesticides.

In order that this objective is achieved we need to avoid any temptation to make the pesticide issue into any sort of cult but rather should engage ourselves in clear and honest thinking. The onus for clear and honest thinking about the role of pesticides rests on all of us. It requires us to have agreement on a number of points concerning pesticides. In brief these points of agreement are:

1. Pesticides are going to be necessary in the future. Without the help of agricultural chemicals we are not going to be able to maintain our present position in the fight against pests let alone increase them.
2. Pesticides can be dangerous to the environment and to human health unless they are used by informed intelligent people as directed by the manufacturer and the law.

No matter how severe the requirement, non-target species, people or the total environment cannot be protected against thoughtless, suicidal or idiotic use. Pesticides are not alone in this situation. A responsible attitude by all is required in the use and handling of pesticides as it is with fire, rifles, explosives and automobiles.

3. Pesticides should be used discriminately and where its use is justified.
4. Pesticides should not be "found guilty" without a fair trial.

Pesticides have been incorrectly blamed for many disasters in the environment which in fact arose from other causes. Such judgements if based on emotion or supposition rather than fact are not in the public interest.

5. Pesticides should not be considered in the same light as general pollutants such as sewage, industrial waste, fumes, smog, garbage and litter.

These are all by-products of some other activity whilst pesticides are manufactured for a specific purpose and thus should be administered for that purpose under controlled conditions as distinct from the other general pollutants.

It should not be difficult to obtain agreement on the above five points, however, the next point is probably the easiest one on which to obtain agreement, i.e.

6. That pesticides could cause problems to the environment.

This is also the area in which we do not want complacency.

The main area of disagreement is on the size or seriousness of the problem.

If we are concerned with problems such as Privet and we seriously believe that herbicides can be of use then we have a responsibility to the community to assure them and in particular those concerned about pesticides that herbicides can be used and used safely provided they are regarded and used with care.

It is not sufficient to consider one technique only and disregard all others but rather we should look to an "integrated weed management" programme utilising the now interested groups.

We must however be able to discuss the problem rationally and then achieve what is best for the future from all points of view, if we do this we are then acting responsibly.

J. M. Swain  
President  
N.S.W. Weed Society

ELECTION OF OFFICERS - 1982

PRESIDENT:

Jim Swain,  
Ciba-Geigy

VICE PRESIDENT:

Alec McLennan,  
State Rail Authority

SECRETARY:

Jack Burke,  
Ciba-Geigy

TREASURER:

Mike Barrett,  
I.C.I. (Aust.) Ltd.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:

Leon Smith,  
N.S.W., Department of Agriculture

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Ross Blackmore,  
Velsicol (Aust.) Ltd.

Kelvin Green, Retired

Warrick Felton,  
N.S.W., Department of Agriculture

Mike Hood,  
Agrisearch Services Pty. Ltd.

Nelson Johnston, (almost retired)

Barry Lowe,  
Elanco (Aust.) Ltd.

John Mason,  
Far North Western Slopes County Council

Alan Mears, Retired

Dick Medd,  
N.S.W., Department of Agriculture

Peter Michael,  
University of Sydney

John Toth,  
N.S.W., Department of Agriculture

Brian Whuter, Retired

C.A.W.S.S. DELEGATES:

A. Mears, L. W. Smith

HONORARY AUDITOR:

C. D. Bargwanna



INTERIM RESULTS OF PRIVET TRIAL AT LANE COVE STATE RECREATION PARK

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R. M. Pogany

Dow Chemical (Australia) Limited

A trial was laid down in April, 1981 to evaluate GARLON\* 480 herbicide (containing 480 g/L triclopyr as the butoxyethanol ester) against small-leaved privet (Ligustrum sinense).

Three different techniques - injection, cut stump and basal bark spraying were evaluated. A comparison with 2,4,5-T was made with cut stump and basal bark treatment. Triclopyr was injected at rates of 100, 200, and 300 g/L a.e. in water with injections spaced 2-3 cm apart and 1 cc of chemical applied per cut. Triclopyr was cut stump and basal bark sprayed at rates of 50 and 100 g/L a.e. in diesel; 2,4,5-T (Butoxone 80) was cut stump and basal bark sprayed at 50 g/L a.e. in diesel.

Results at 10 months are as follows:

Injection:

Evaluation of treatments showed that injections were not effective. Control was only achieved in 76%, 22%, and 74% of the trees treated for the 100, 200 and 300 g/L a.e. treatments respectively. No control was achieved in a few trees and regrowth ranged from 5% - 70%. These results confirm earlier work done at Devlin's Creek on small leaved privet.

Cut Stump/Basal Bark:

Cut stump treatment using 2,4,5-T is giving good control at this stage (no regrowth or suckering is evident) but basal bark treatment is variable. Control varies from 0 - 100% and is not limited to a specific size stem. In comparison triclopyr at 50 g/L a.e. is satisfactory with 100% control (both for cut stump and basal bark treatment). 100 g/L a.e. triclopyr applied by cut stump and basal bark treatment is also giving 100% control.

Conclusion:

Injection of small leaved privet does not work using triclopyr at the rates tested. Complete frill techniques should be evaluated. Cut stump and basal bark treatment of triclopyr in diesel gives good control of this species of privet and under field conditions 75 - 100 g/L a.e. in diesel is recommended for good control. These results must be regarded as interim as they are based on observations made 10 months after treatment.

THE WEED SOCIETY OF N.S.W.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.1.82

<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>\$</u>
Newsletter (Printing, Postage)	42.97	Members Subscription	1,496.00
Australian Post Box Rental	32.00	- Ordinary	780.00
CAWSS Membership	120.00	- Corporate	350.00
Bronzlee - Labels	58.54	- Ordinary	
Central West Weeds		arrears	216.00
Tour	114.70	- Corporate	
		arrears	150.00
Annual Dinner	561.48	Interest-Investment	423.29
"Wine & Weeds" Night	535.78	-Bank	24.33
		Annual Dinner	581.00
Balance (being excess of income over expenditure transferred to accumulated fund)	1,583.15	"Wine & Weeds" Night	512.00
		Sale of Proceedings	12.00
	<u>3,048.62</u>		<u>3,048.62</u>

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AS AT 31.1.82

<u>Accumulated Fund</u>	<u>31.1.82</u>	<u>31.1.81</u>
Balance	6,064.01	4,446.23
Add excess as per Income and Expenditure Account	1,583.15	1,617.78
	<u>7,647.16</u>	<u>6,064.01</u>

This is represented by:

Cash on hand	-	0.19
Cash at Bank		
(Trading Account)	2,959.16	694.11
Investment (N.S.W. Perm. Build. Soc.)	4,688.00	4,264.71
Loan Account - Weed Soc. of QLD	-	1,108.00
Less Subscription in Advance Ordinary	-	3.00
Balance as above	<u>7,647.16</u>	<u>6,064.01</u>

THE WEED SOCIETY OF N.S.W.STATEMENT OF MOVEMENT IN ASSETINVESTMENT (NSW PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY)

	<u>\$</u>
Investment (as per Statement of Assets 31.1.81)	4,264.71
Add interest 1981 (31.5.81 and 30.11.81)	423.29
	<hr/>
	4,688.00
	<hr/> <hr/>

M. W. Barrett  
Hon. Treasurer

In my opinion the above Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Assets have been properly drawn up so as to present a true and fair view of the affairs of the Weed Society of N.S.W. for the year ended 31.1.82.

C. D. Bargwanna A.A.S.A.(S)  
Auditor

WORLD NEEDS CHEMICALS

The keynote speaker at the 17th National Convention of The Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Association, Professor Charles Lassiter, said the world could not afford a food production cycle from which chemicals were completely excluded. Dr. Lassiter, Head of the Department of Animal Science at the North Carolina State University said 'there is no such thing as a no risk society'.

He said no one wanted dangerous chemicals in their food supply but it was ridiculous to assume that a food is dangerous when fed to cancer-susceptible rats at a dosage rate 5,000 times that which will ever occur in a normal diet. "In my judgment that is just going too far and being over protective," said Dr. Lassiter.

Dr. Lassiter also expressed his concern at the slow down in registration of new chemicals in the United States since the mid 1970s. In the period 1970-74, thirty-one new animal drugs and new use registrations had been approved compared with only thirteen in the period 1975-79. There were two years when not a single new drug came on the market.

Dr. Lassiter said that there was no evidence to show that companies were slowing down research and development and that 90 percent of the problem lay with the slowdown in the bureaucratic process.

In the conclusion of his paper, Dr. Lassiter made the following suggestions that he felt would be helpful to the Australian situation.

1. Adopt a risk benefit policy. There is no such thing as a no risk society, therefore, adopt laws and regulations which recognise this but at the same time provide the consuming public with a reasonably safe food supply.
2. Simplify your procedures and spell out what procedures are to be followed.
3. Keep the number of agencies (regulatory bodies etc) involved in clearance to a minimum.
4. Don't reduce your research and development because this is your life blood. Without research and development, industries stagnate, this eventually costs consumers money.

The Convention held at the Brisbane Gateway Hotel was attended by over 200 people from all segments of the agrivet chemical industry as well as politicians, State and Federal Department staff, regulatory authorities, farmers and the media. The 1982 Convention, the Association's 18th, will be held in Sydney, September 12-14.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONFERENCES

1. Proceedings 7th Asian-Pacific Weed Science Society Conference are available at a cost of \$6.00 for both volumes from the Secretary, P.O. Box K287, Haymarket, 2000.
2. Proceedings of 6th Australian Weeds Conference held at Broadbeach, Queensland, 1981 are available from Greg Harvey, C/- Sir Allan Fletcher Research Station, Sherwood, Queensland, 4075 at a cost of \$25.00 for the two volumes.

NEW MEMBERS

A welcome is extended to the following new members:

A. G. Schering	-	Corporate Member
Peter Neilson	-	Bayer, Quirindi
Bruce Howie	-	Roche Maag
Peter McMaugh	-	Turf Grower, Eastwood

and welcome back to:

Peter Matthews	-	Windsor
David Mitchell	-	C.S.I.R.O., Griffith

It is also understood that Geoff Jacobs, Du Pont and Neil Young, Dow Chemicals, from Brisbane have been transferred to Sydney.

Ted Winston formerly with Boots is now a horticulturist with the Queensland Department of Primary Industries at the Kawerunga Research Station, near Cairns.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Planning is underway for the following activities in 1982.

JULY:

Trip to Canberra to see C.S.I.R.O. facilities and to promote formation of a Society in Canberra.

SEPTEMBER:

Country Field Tour to Riverina possibly a joint activity with Victoria.

OCTOBER:

Seminar by Dr. R. J. Hance on Pesticides in Soils. Dr. Hance from W.R.O. has been invited to Australia by the Weed Society of Victoria for a series of workshops and seminars.

NOVEMBER:

Annual Dinner

- this year on a boat trip around the harbour.

FEBRUARY, 1982:

Annual General Meeting and visit to the National Herbarium and Botanic Gardens.

C.A.W.S.S. NEWS

Members will be interested to know that C.A.W.S.S. (Council of Australian Weed Science Societies) has now achieved a central and important role in the national co-ordination of the various State Societies, particularly in fulfilling those objectives, which are of national importance.

Since the formation of C.A.W.S.S. in 1976 C.A.W.S.S. has accepted the responsibility, delegated from the Australian Agricultural Council to conduct in future the 'Australian Weed Conferences'. The successful 'Sixth Australian Weed Conference' was held in 1981 at the Gold Coast in Queensland. Our Western Australian colleagues have been invited by C.A.W.S.S. to conduct the 'Seventh Australian Weed Conference' in Western Australia in 1984.

Considered as the most notable achievement of C.A.W.S.S. has been one publication of our Journal "Australian Weeds" the official journal of the Australian Weed Science Societies under the stimulating editorship of Dr. John Swarbrick. You are asked to strongly support this Journal, not only in becoming a subscriber, but as a contributor. John in his first editorial sees this Journal as a major means of communication and information to members throughout Australia.

Referring to its organisation and administration the Constitution of C.A.W.S.S. spells out its objectives, with priorities given to aspects of Weed and their control in the national scene and the central co-ordinating role of C.A.W.S.S. Each society nominates two members to C.A.W.S.S., who elect a President for a two year period. The present chairman is Dr. W. T. Parsons of the Victorian Weed Science Society. Our present delegates are Dr. Leon Smith and Mr. Alan Mears.

The N.S.W. Society is anxious to pass on to C.A.W.S.S. through its delegates, matters of Weed and Weed Control considered of national importance. As we know many major weeds do not recognise State borders, so your ideas on such subjects will be welcome in the first place by our Hon. Secretary, Mr. Jack Burke.

SURVEY OF MEMBERS

As part of a scheme to provide better information to Weed Society members Mr. Nelson Johnston has agreed to edit a list of members and their interests in Weed Science. It is planned to publish this in the form of a small brochure. The following information is required:

NAME:

\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NO.:

\_\_\_\_\_

A brief description of your basic area of interest in Weeds, Weed Control and Weed Science.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Return this form to:

Secretary,  
Weed Society of N.S.W.,  
P.O. Box K287,  
HAYMARKET. N.S.W. 2000



# 9th ASIAN-PACIFIC WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY CONFERENCE

The 9th Asian-Pacific Weed Science Society Conference which is being co-sponsored by the Weed Science Society of the Philippines (WSSP) and the Philippine Council for Agriculture Resources Research (PCARR) will be held in Manila, Philippines from November 28 to December 2, 1983.

The conference program will consist of plenary sessions and concurrent sessions dealing with the physiology, biochemistry and ecology of herbicides; weed control in major crops; distribution of noxious weeds in different cropping systems and aquatic areas; new herbicides and new techniques of application; weed science education; herbicide registration and regulations in developing countries.

The venue will be the Philippine Plaza Hotel which is situated at the edge of Manila Bay. Near to it are the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the Folk Arts Theater where one can go for excellent concerts and ballet performances. Manila offers a variety of facilities for shopping, entertainment and sightseeing.

## PLANNING COMMITTEE

Dr. Beatriz L. Mercado, *Chairman*

Dr. Keith Moody

Dr. Santiago R. Obien

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in attending the 9th Asian-Pacific Weed Science Society Conference in Manila, Philippines.

I am interested in submitting a paper for presentation.

Only those who reply to this circular will be sent the succeeding circulars.

Return form on or before April 15, 1982 to:

The Planning Committee  
c/o Dr. Beatriz L. Mercado  
Weed Science Division  
Agronomy Department  
University of the Philippines at  
Los Baños  
College, Laguna  
Philippines

D-F-T-A-C-H

ryegrass 1 sample  
 wild oats ryegrass 500,000/tonne.  
 barley Pat curk 90,000/b  
 brome  
 Pat curk 14-24 spp/bale  
 sorrel  
 wild radish 94 seeds ~~at~~ 275,000 seeds/bale  
 wheat  
 oats

240 5490  
 other broadleaf 18  
 wild oat 27  
 foxtail 4  
 not listed 19  


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 122 90.