



# Weedscene

Volume 17 Issue 3

Newsletter of the Weed Society of Victoria Inc.

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## 40 YEARS OLD LET'S CELEBRATE!

The Society will be 40 years old this year and the committee has planned a function on Wednesday 19 July 2006 to celebrate the occasion.

The venue is the Rainforest Room at the Melbourne Zoo. As this room has a capacity of approximately 50 people, get in early if you plan to attend.

There will be a three course meal with limited wine supplied to ensure that we remain cosy/sober. Rob Pelletier will be speaking at the dinner.

Tickets will cost \$40 – terrific value and a price that has been significantly subsidised by the Society.

Contact the secretary to make your bookings as soon as possible – tickets are limited.

## LOST MEMBER

Does anyone know the whereabouts of Liz Brown, formerly of Biosis Research as we no longer have a current address for her.

## 2006 International Landcare Conference

8–11 October 2006  
Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre

The 2006 International Landcare Conference is entitled:

*'Landscapes, Lifestyles and Livelihoods'*

Further information on the conference and the conference program can be accessed via the conference website:

[www.internationallandcareconference2006.com.au](http://www.internationallandcareconference2006.com.au)

or by contacting the conference organizers: Waldron Smith Management, 61 Danks Street West, Port Melbourne, Vic 3207  
Tel: 9645 6311, Email: [info@wsm.com.au](mailto:info@wsm.com.au)

## European Weed Research Society Establishes Working Group on Invasive Plants

The Invasive Plants Working group held its first meeting at the Swiss Agricultural Research Station ACW Changins in Nyon, Switzerland in February 2006.

Bridging the gap between scientists and practitioners is one major goal of EWRS and the aim is to encourage participating in working group activities by agencies working on invasive-related issues as well as companies (nurseries, etc).

We should not restrict our activities to a given geographical area, although I think that starting with a practical case study like *Ambrosia* on which we have already gained experience from several countries in Europe could be a good idea to get people quickly involved. The invasive plants problem is clearly European-wide and interest in it is increasing, thus we should keep the list of potential topics rather broad. WG members do not have to be EWRS members, but obviously we should try to encourage them to become members at some point.

### Main Topics of the Working Group

- Identifying key research and control technology needs and encouraging their execution, including collaborative programmes;
- Organizing meetings, symposia and conferences, and including the topic in existing meetings;
- Supporting communication and information exchange between agricultural and environmental researchers, between scientists and professionals, between individuals and organizations, between national and international organizations;
- Encouraging and assisting education and training on invasive plants (control, horticultural and environmental aspects) for institutions, students, professionals (road services) and general public.

We hope to form a group with scientists and practitioners coming from different

professions like agricultural and biological researchers, environmentalists, conservationists, water specialists, road services, etc., depending on the species of invasive plants we choose. EPPO (European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization) is an intergovernmental organization responsible for cooperation in plant protection in the European and Mediterranean region. EPPO would like to be associated with EWRS in the process of collecting information on Invasive Alien Plants for Europe. EPPO has announced its strong interest in partnership for the collection of information and the dissemination of the knowledge on invasive plants.

For more information contact the coordinator: Christian Bohren Coordinator of EWRS – WG on Invasive Plants, Swiss Federal Agricultural Research Station, Agroscope ACW Changins-Wädenswil, PO Box 1012, CH - 1260 Nyon 1, Switzerland. Email [christian.bohren@rac.admin.ch](mailto:christian.bohren@rac.admin.ch) or [www.racchangins.ch](http://www.racchangins.ch)

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## UK Ramps Up Sprayer Testing

A voluntary scheme for testing agrochemical application equipment in the UK has established an ambitious goal of certifying machines that, by 31 March 2006, in aggregate, will account for application of products to 80 per cent of the nation's total treated area.

Known as the National Sprayer Testing Scheme (NSTS), the effort (<http://www.nsts.org.uk>) was launched two years ago as a muscular expansion of work previously conducted for half a decade by the Agricultural Engineers Association (AEA), an industry promotional organization. According to D. Russell, AEA's manager for the NSTS, the program has already achieved its first major target of testing equipment involved with application to 50 per cent of the UK's treated lands.

The voluntary testing under NSTS is conducted by a vast contingent of private firms scattered across the UK. Testing focuses on checking: delivery systems (tanks, piping, hoses, controls); application systems (nozzles, gauges, booms); and ancillary items such as rinsing, induction, and recirculation systems.

Rationale for the scheme hinges on two main factors: ensuring that application equipment is operating at maximum efficiency and safety; and, second, that passing the test and being given a certificate of performance substantiates the quality and care of pesticide application, and serves as proof to produce buyers and crop assurance organizations concerned with correct application of agrochemicals.

The NSTS is linked to The Voluntary Initiative, a program to minimize the environmental impacts of pesticides.

The testing exercise aids application equipment owners to perform necessary maintenance to reduce costs of excessive agrochemicals through eliminating worn or malfunctioning systems. More consistent application rates improve crop management, avoid uneven, or even missed, coverage, and return increased value when equipment is sold. Environmental gains accrue through reduced agrochemical usage as well as avoidance of misdirected application or improper rates of application.

While the class of equipment primarily targeted is larger tractor-mounted, trailed, or self-propelled liquid sprayers, the scheme's mandate extends to granule application units as well as knapsack/backpack style manually pumped or motorized sprayers. Testing is also open to, and encouraged for, equipment used on public/governmental activities (parks, roadsides, and right-of-ways).

Pages in the NSTS website include: an Operator Check Sheet listing numerous useful maintenance points; and a "Knapsack Sprayer: Routine Operator Checklist" including a handy step-by-step procedure for calibration, complete with example information.

AEA, Samuelson House, Paxton Road, Orton Centre, Peterborough, PE2 5LT, UK. Email [dg@aea.uk.com](mailto:dg@aea.uk.com).

*IPMnet NEWS  
March 2006*

## First Property Vegetation Plans Approved in NSW

The first two Property Vegetation Plans (PVP) have been approved, ushering in the new system of native vegetation management. Under the Native Vegetation Act 2003 clearing of remnant native vegetation can no longer take place unless it maintains or improves the overall environment, as demonstrated in a PVP.

The first PVP to receive the green light was in the state's north-west, where landholder Steve Hall received approval from the Namoi Catchment Management Authority (CMA) to clear cypress pine re-growth in order to prevent serious soil erosion. A second landholder in the Southern Rivers CMA area has been given the go-ahead to clear a parcel of land for the purpose of running a powerline through the property.

PVPs are voluntary, negotiated 15-year agreements between landholders and their local CMAs, who conduct on-site inspections of the proposed clearing areas. A computer program, the PVP Developer, is then combined with the landholder and CMAs' local knowledge and expertise to determine whether clearing can go ahead.

The new system allows farmers to carry out offset works where clearing may be permitted in one area, provided native vegetation is planted or improved in another area. However, if a clearing application does not meet the scientific test of improving or maintaining the environment, it will no longer be permitted.

*EnviroInfo, 2 March 2006*

## WSV Prize Awarded to Mandy Marshman

Dear WSV

Studying Horticulture is a career change for me, I previously worked in public education and more recently adult training for the past 22 years.

In 1994 I completed the Landscape Design short course at Burnley with a view to developing some skills to help with my own home garden – however, by the end of the course I had decided to take leave without pay from my employer

and enrolled in the Advanced Diploma in Horticulture at Burnley. I am currently completing my 2nd year of this course. Upon completion of my studies I plan to work in the area of Garden Design, in my own small business 'Homebush Gardens'.

*Mandy Marshman*

Prizes have also been awarded to Serena Dehavilland and Kara Murphy of Longerengon College.

## Risk Assessment Handbook

Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) has developed a Risk Assessment Handbook specifically for NRM community groups in Australia. The Handbook is free to download. However, you are first required to complete an easy online form that acts as a survey of existing risk assessment procedures prior to downloading the Handbook. To download a copy of the Handbook click on the following link, which will take you to the risk assessment survey: <http://www.conservationvolunteers.com.au/assisting-projects/RAWWorkshops.htm>

*John Robinson  
Werribee and Maribyrnong Landcare  
Co-ordinator*



## Poisonous and Allergy Weeds/Weed Risk Assessment

A seminar presented by the Weed Society of New South Wales on Wednesday 6th September 2006 at the Metcalf Auditorium, NSW State Library.

Keynote speakers will be:

**Dr. Rachel McFayden**, CRC Australian Weed Management 'Setting the Scene

for the Poisonous and Allergenic Weeds' and **Dr. John Virtue**, CRC/State Department SA, 'Risk Assessment and Management'.

The seminar will address issues relating to the biology of poisonous plants, their distribution and management, Federal and

State Legislation and control, the Parietaria/Asthma Weed Educational and Incentive Project by Sydney Councils, and the role of the Poisons Information Centre.

For further information contact Lawrie Greenup 02 9484 4337 or email lawriegreenup@ozemail.com.au

## Weed Management Guides

There are 20 Weeds of National Significance (WONS). They are regarded as the worst weeds in Australia because of their invasiveness, potential for spread, and economic and environmental impacts. The guides are written in an easy to read manner and highlight details from distribution to control contacts. These 6 to 8 page guides were funded by the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage and produced by the Weeds CRC in 2003/04.

The Alert List for Environmental Weeds is a list of 28 non-native plants that threaten biodiversity and cause other environmental damage. Although only in the early stages of establishment, these weeds have the potential to seriously degrade Australia's ecosystems. These 4 to 6 page guides were funded by the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage and produced by the Weeds CRC in 2003/04.

Best Practice Management Guides were developed by the Weeds CRC for several additional species: Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*, other brooms are also mentioned); St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*); and Horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*).

The guides can be downloaded from the web at [www.weeds.crc.org.au](http://www.weeds.crc.org.au). Hard copies are available from the Weeds CRC.

Weed Management Guides are available for:

Alligator weed	<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>
Athel pine	<i>Tamarix aphylla</i>
Bitou bush/boneseed	<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>
Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.
Blue hound's tongue	<i>Cynoglossum creticum</i>
Bridal creeper	<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>
Cabomba	<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>
Cane needle grass	<i>Nassella hyalina</i>
Chilean needle grass	<i>Nassella neesiana</i>
Chinese rain tree	<i>Koeleruteria elegans</i> ssp. <i>formosana</i>
Chinese violet	<i>Asystasia gangetica</i> ssp. <i>micrantha</i>
Cutch tree	<i>Acacia catechu</i>

Cyperus	<i>Cyperus teneristolon</i>
False yellowhead	<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>
Garden geranium	<i>Pelargonium alchemilloides</i>
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>
Heather	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>
Holly leaved senecio	<i>Senecio glastifolius</i>
Horsetails	<i>Equisetum</i> species
Hymenachne	<i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i>
Karoo thorn	<i>Acacia karroo</i>
Kochia	<i>Bassia scoparia</i>
Lagarosiphon	<i>Lagarosiphon major</i>
Lantana	<i>Lantana camara</i>
Laurel clock vine	<i>Thunbergia laurifolia</i>
Leaf cactus	<i>Pereskia aculeata</i>
Lobed needle grass	<i>Nassella charruana</i>
Mesquite	<i>Prosopis</i> spp.
Mimosa	<i>Mimosa pigra</i>
Orange hawkweed	<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>
Parkinsonia	<i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i>
Parthenium weed	<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i>
Pond apple	<i>Annona glabra</i>
Praxelis	<i>Praxelis clematidea</i>
Prickly acacia	<i>Acacia nilotica</i> ssp. <i>indica</i>
Rosewood or tipuana tree	<i>Tipuana tipu</i>
Rubber vine	<i>Cryptostegia grandiflora</i>
Salvinia	<i>Salvinia molesta</i>
Senegal tea plant	<i>Gymnocoronis spilanthoides</i>
Serrated tussock	<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>
Siam weed or chromolaena	<i>Chromolaena odorata</i>
Subterranean Cape sedge	<i>Trianoptiles solitaria</i>
Uruguayan rice grass	<i>Piptochaetium montevidense</i>
White Spanish broom	<i>Cytisus multiflorus</i>
White weeping broom	<i>Retama raetam</i>
Willows	<i>Salix</i> spp.
Yellow soldier	<i>Lachenalia reflexa</i>

MEMBERSHIP RATES

**Weed Society of Victoria Inc.**



<b>Students</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>
<b>Ordinary</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>
<b>Corporate</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>

EUREKA! AgResearch Pty. Ltd.



For further information about EUREKA! contact:

Anthony Flynn  
03 9742 0286

Philip Pentland  
03 9742 0302

Kieran Murphy  
03 9742 0289

## Asthma Weed Project – Information Wanted

Asthma weed *Parietaria judaica* is also known as wall pellitory, sticky weed and Kurnell curse. It has been spreading rapidly over the past few years, particularly in the older sandstone suburbs of Sydney, and is also a weed in Newcastle, Wollongong, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth.

An initiative of the Sydney Weeds Committees, the Asthma Weed Project has begun! Several Councils in the Sydney Metropolitan area have joined together for this project, which is administered by the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority and supported by funding from the National Heritage Trust. The project aims to encourage a regionally strategic and coordinated approach between private and public landowners to limit the spread of this weed.

This year-long project aims to deliver information and incentives to private land holders to enable them to identify asthma weed, raise awareness of its health and environmental impacts, and address

control of asthma weed on private properties in conjunction with Council-based on-ground control on public land.

We wish to ensure that we give good advice to people regarding the disposal of plants that they might remove. Specifically, is it possible to place seeding asthma weed in green waste collection containers? Or should we be advising people to bag all asthma weed and place in domestic rubbish?

If anyone with any experience of the viability of *Parietaria judaica* seeds after composting could comment on whether it would be wise to advise people to compost the plant, or if we should tell them to bin it, would be much appreciated. We would also be interested to find out if anyone has information about seed viability and seed longevity, both in and out of the soil seed bank.

Contact details are: Sue Stevens, Asthma Weed Project Officer, c/- Randwick City Council, 30 Frances Street, Randwick, New South Wales 2031.

## Novel and Sustainable Weed Management in Arid and Semi-arid Agro-ecosystems

A conference hosted by The Weed Science Society of Israel, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Agricultural Research Organization in Rehovot, Israel on 15–21 October 2006.

The conference will specialize on weeds and weed management issues in the Mediterranean region and other arid and semi-arid climate countries.

Contributions will be considered relating to the specific climate conditions prevailing in the arid and semi-arid zones:

- Weed management in irrigated crops and dry land farming
- Alternatives for methyl bromide

- Allelopathy in weed management
- Precision agriculture, remote sensing and modelling
- Parasitic weeds: biology and control
- Herbicide resistant weeds and crops
- Herbicide behaviour
- Invasive weeds: biology, control and quarantine regulations
- Biotechnology and molecular biology
- Application methods/formulations
- Weed management in organic farming, theory and practice

Contact: [wgarid@agri.huji.ac.il](mailto:wgarid@agri.huji.ac.il) or visit: <http://www.agri.huji.ac.il/aridconference>.



# Bayer CropScience

**WSV HOME PAGE** [www.wsvic.org.au](http://www.wsvic.org.au)

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