



Weedscene

Volume 18 Issue 3

Newsletter of the Weed Society of Victoria Inc.

May 2007

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WSV TRAVEL GRANTS Closing date extended to 1 August 2007

Are you a WSV member planning to attend this year's third Victorian Weed Conference or other weeds conference? WSV provides travel grants annually (depending on the standard of the applications) to enable up to two of its members to attend a weeds conference. The maximum grant per recipient is \$1500. WSV members are encouraged to apply for support to attend a conference in order to learn about the latest in weed research and management and/or present a paper.

You can download the WSV travel grant guidelines and relevant application forms from our website: www.wsvic.org.au or email Ros Shepherd, Secretary at secwssv@surf.net.au.

Weedscene Opportunities

Members and non-members alike are invited to submit articles for publication in *Weedscene*.

Articles may include:

- weed management practices being used or trialled
- local, state and national developments
- weeds policy and its application
- an issue for discussion and debate
- a success story or new learning
- new publications and reviews
- upcoming events.

If you require further information contact Lisa Minchin, Publications Officer (see WSV Directory for contact details). Articles for publication can be emailed direct to Lisa or posted via the WSV address.

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Copy Deadline for Next Issue:
25 June 2007

Sponsorship, advertising and displays

Third Biennial Victorian Weeds Conference Earth, Wind, Fire, Water & Weeds

**3–4 October 2007
Bendigo, Victoria**

SPONSORSHIP: Sponsors are sought for the conference. Sponsorship is a great way of reaching a large audience of people and organizations with an interest in the improved detection, management and control of weeds. For more information or to provide suggestions for sources of sponsorship, please contact Chris Knight (see WSV Directory).

ADVERTISING: Members are asked to assist with advertising the conference. A hard copy of the brochure is included with this issue of *Weedscene*. For an electronic version or more hard copies of the brochure and electronic or hard copy coloured A4 conference posters to assist you to advertise, contact Ros Shepherd (see WSV Directory). Ideas about where to advertise the conference are also welcomed.

DISPLAYS: Space for both posters and tables for display purposes is available. To reserve space please contact Ros Shepherd.



Weed
Society of
Victoria Inc.

New WSV Executive Committee for 2007

President and CAWS Rep:	<i>Ken Young</i>
Past-President and CAWS Rep:	<i>Daniel Joubert</i>
Secretary:	<i>Ros Shepherd</i>
Treasurer:	<i>Norm Stone</i>
Newsletter Editor:	<i>Lisa Minchin</i>
Committee Members:	<i>Ian Faithfull, Michael Hansford, Kelly Raymond, Sarah Partington</i>
Co-opted Members:	<i>Chris Knight, Stephen Bitter</i>
Country Representatives:	<i>Les Mitchell, Ron Davies</i>

WSV Award Winner 2007 – Barbara Setchwell



Daniel Joubert, WSV President congratulates Barbara Setchwell on her WSV Award

Barbara Setchwell was presented with the 2007 WSV Award by Daniel Joubert, WSV president on 19 April 2007 at the seminar: 'Over the Garden Fence and Far Away – Communities' Action on Weeds' held at the Burrinja Community Centre. Nominees for the award must have made a significant contribution to the management, science, technology, promotion and practice of weed management. Barbara has made a long-standing contribution to the management of weeds in the Dandenong Ranges through her involvement in friends groups.

Recognizing the importance of creating greater awareness of the role of garden escapees, three years ago Barbara established the Olinda Landcare Group to support the involvement of private landholders in weed eradication and control. Since this time Barbara has assisted others in the establishment of local landcare groups. The idea for this year's WSV seminar came from Barbara who assisted greatly in organizing and advertising the event.

A report on the seminar and field trip will be available in the July edition of *Weedscene*.

No new funding for Australian Weeds CRC: alternative Research Centre proposed

The funding for the Cooperative Research Centre for Australian Weed Management (Weeds CRC) will be discontinued in June 2008. In the November 2006 issue of *Weedscene* (Volume 17 Issue 6) it was reported that the application by the Weeds CRC for a further 7-year term of funding for an Invasive Plants CRC to start in July 2007 had not been successful. Rachel McFadyen, CEO, Weeds CRC believes the failure of the application was a result of the altered funding criteria for the CRC program which emphasis the development of products for commercial purposes.

The current Weeds CRC model has resulted in a national network of researchers and enabled significant advances in best-practice weed management at the national, regional and local levels. Through collaborative research between key institutions outcomes achieved by the Weeds CRC have included:

- the award-winning StubbleStar seed sowing system
- the Integrated Weed Management Manual
- effective biological control agents for bridal creeper, blackberry and ragwort, all Weeds of National Significance (WoNS)
- a national protocol on post-border weed risk management.

The Weeds CRC has further played a critical role in education and training and has won two national awards for the Weed Warriors program and for educational resources for the vocational education and training sector.

Discontinuing the work of the Weeds CRC would result in a loss of expertise and commitment. With annual losses to the cropping industry of \$1.5 billion and the livestock industry of \$2.4 billion and with the impact on the biodiversity of natural ecosystems it is critical that advances in best practice weed management at national, regional and local levels are sustained.

Since the November announcement the Commonwealth Government has invited the Weeds CRC to submit a proposal for an alternative funding model. The Weeds CRC has put forward a proposal for an Australian Centre for Weed Research in a partnership funding arrangement. The proposal is based on funding of \$4 million per year over ten years from



ANNUAL REPORT 2006–2007

Presented at the 41st Annual General Meeting of the Weed Society of Victoria Inc. on Thursday 19th April 2007 by Daniel Joubert

the Australian Government with matching resources to be forthcoming from State/Territory governments, universities and CSIRO and an additional \$1 million per year from rural development corporations. The proposed areas for research and delivery for the ACWR are:

- weed prevention
- biocontrol
- cropping systems
- grazing systems
- biodiversity protection
- knowledge and skills.

The Australian Centre for Weed Research would have a critical role to play in biosecurity in rural Australia and the implementation of the newly revised Australian Weeds Strategy. Research efforts are needed to address the impacts of weeds which will establish at the end of the current drought. Research is also needed to best address the longer-term impact of climate change on weed establishment, control and management.

Both the Council for Australasian Weed Societies and the Weed Society of Victoria have written to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to express concern at the loss of the Weeds CRC and to support the proposal for the Australian Centre for Weed Research (ACWR).

For further information about the proposal and to find out how to lend support to ensure funding for the ACWR see www.weedscrc.org.au.

New School for ANU: Environment & Society

The ANU will establish a new Fenner School of Environment and Society to focus on issues such as climate change, water management and biodiversity loss. The School will combine the resources of the former Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies (CRES), and the School for Resources, Environment and Society (SRES). It will be headed by Earth System scientist Professor Will Steffen, former CRES Director and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research).

The Fenner School for Environment and Society is named in honour of Professor Frank Fenner, who was instrumental in establishing environmental and resource research at ANU as the Foundation Director of CRES in 1973. Known also for his pioneering work in the eradication of smallpox, Professor Fenner is a passionate advocate of environmental research.

Enviroinfo

This year the Weed Society of Victoria has gained 12 new members. Including other Societies and Life Members, the end of year total membership stands at 137.

Four prizes consisting of two books and a certificate were awarded to students. These prizes are awarded annually by the Society to students who display excellence in the field of weed science. Awards went to the following students:

- Bethany Taylor, Advanced Diploma in Agriculture, The University of Melbourne, Dookie Campus;
- Kim Louise Colwell, Bachelor of Agriculture, The University of Melbourne, Dookie Campus; and
- Jeremy Buerfeind, Advanced Diploma in Equine Management, South West Institute of TAFE, Glenormiston College;
- Polly Jane Musgrove, Advanced Diploma in Horticulture, The University of Melbourne, Burnley Campus.

The WSV 2006 award has been presented to Barbara Setchell of the Olinda Landcare Group. This award is for an outstanding contribution to weed management in Victoria and is presented as a certificate and book prize.

The Society has committed further funds for the maintenance of its own website. The address of the site is www.wsvic.org.au and it is functional. Up-to-date information on the Society's activities is provided here, with details about seminars and other events.

The Society will have been in existence for 40 years in 2006. A birthday celebration took place as a dinner party at the Melbourne Zoo, on Wednesday 19 July 2006. It was a most enjoyable evening with more than 30 people attended the function. Rob Pelletier did an excellent presentation.

The Society has approved a donation of \$5000 to R.G. & F.J. Richardson and R.C.H. Shepherd to help publish their book *Weeds of the south-east: an identification guide for Australia*. This has been a huge undertaking in which they produced the definitive volume on weeds, covering over 2000 plants of weedy significance.

The Society has again approved a contribution to the Lord of the Weeds competition, a project by the CRC for Australian Weed Management. The contribution will be a \$500 donation. The prize would be given annually as long as

the competition runs, provided that the award is reviewed annually.

The Society's Third Biennial Victorian Weeds Conference will be held in Bendigo on 3–4 October 2007 and the planning is well underway. The theme is: *Earth, Wind, Fire, Water and Weeds*.

The name of the Council of Australian Weed Societies has changed. It is now called the Council of Australasian Weed Societies Inc. (CAWS), to incorporate the New Zealand Plant Protection Society. A new logo to reflect the latest composition for CAWS has been approved. The Society is represented at CAWS, usually through teleconference.

The CAWS Executive Committee has also changed. The change-over for CAWS Presidency will now be every two years, after the biennial Australian Weeds Conference. The current President is John Virtue, based in Adelaide, with Dennis Gannaway as Secretary.

Several executive committee meetings were held at Bayer CropScience, East Hawthorn. We would like to thank the company and an employee (a WSV committee member), Norm Stone for the use of their facilities. A further meeting was held at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Melbourne.

The newsletter *Weedscene* sponsors include Dow AgroSciences, Bayer CropScience and Eureka Agresearch-Werribee. Six issues were produced again thanks to Rob and Fiona Richardson.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the executive committee for their huge contribution this year in helping to keep the Society functioning.

Daniel Joubert
WSV President

MEMBERSHIP RATES

Weed Society of Victoria Inc.



Concession	\$20.00
Ordinary	\$45.00
Corporate	\$110.00

TREASURER'S REPORT 2006–2007

Presented at the 41st Annual General Meeting of the Weed Society of Victoria Inc. on Thursday 19th April 2007

by Norm Stone

ACCOUNTING PERIOD

18.02.06 – 11.04.07

The current balance of \$66,678.63 represents a net loss to The Society of \$13,056.06 for the accounting period.

A number of factors contributed to this result including a \$5,000.00 grant to R.G. and F.J. Richardson to assist with the publication costs of *Weeds of the South East*. Due to the late timing of the AGM two public liability insurance premiums (\$1,120.00 each) were paid during the period. The Society also provided a grant of \$1,305.00 for Michael Moerkerk to attend the Australian Weeds Conference.

The 40th anniversary dinner resulted in a net loss of \$2,368.26 to the Society.

Income from meetings was substantially reduced as no major seminars were held during the period.

No newsletter sponsorship was received during the period.

Web site hosting and maintenance during the period was \$281.55.

Weed collection prizes totalling \$466.67 were made in this accounting period. This was a decrease compared to the previous period where \$955.79 was provided.

The Society provided \$500.00 towards UNE weeds education project during the accounting period.

The cost of *Weedscene* remained the same as in previous periods.

Subscriptions for the International Weed Science Society (IWSS) were collected during the period as a service to members. A draft for US\$360.00 (24 subscriptions) was forwarded to the IWSS for 2006 subscriptions. This draft cost the Society a total of \$489.67. The fluctuations in the cost of the draft per subscription (\$20.40 this period) are governed by the exchange rate of the Australian dollar. The IWSS has now increased its annual fees to US\$15.00. The Society continued to collect subscriptions on behalf of IWSS at AUS\$20.00.

Total Secretarial costs (fees, telephone, postage, Email) were slightly higher than the previous period \$6,629.43 compared to \$6,262.43 for 2005/06.

Total Term deposit funds are \$55,249.76 compared to \$62,889.72 at the end of the 05/06 period.



N.E. Stone
Hon. Treasurer

STATEMENT OF INCOME

GENERAL ACCOUNT 18.02.06 – 11.04.07

	2005/06	INCOME		2006/07
	\$			\$
	3,375.00	Subscriptions : Ordinary		3,450.00
	2,300.00	Corporate		2,545.00
	160.00	Student		140.00
	49,036.00	Meetings		8,445.00
	96.60	Proceedings sales		50.00
	480.00	IWSS Subscriptions		500.00
		Anniversary Dinner		1,120.00
	55.00	Refund re TFN		
	1,000.00	Sponsorship – Newsletter		
	10.36	Bank Interest	Savings Account	10.55
	1,859.42		Term Deposit	3,799.54
	148.75		50061577	
	<u>58,521.13</u>		50178386	<u>1,308.54</u>
				<u>21,368.63</u>

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE

GENERAL ACCOUNT 18.02.06 – 11.04.07

	2005/06	EXPENDITURE		2006/07
	\$			\$
	31,590.37	Meetings		7,360.75
	5,280.00	Weedscene Printing and Postage		5,280.00
	36.42	Social and Catering incl. Anniversary Dinner		3,488.26
	5,455.98	Secretarial Fees		5,635.00
	487.70	Telstra / Telephone		505.13
		Computer service		250.00
		Weeds of the South East – Grant		5,000.00
	318.75	AWC poster		136.56
	347.96	Postage: General		489.30
	955.79	IWSS Subscriptions		489.67
	35.80	Weed Collection Prizes		466.67
	548.00	Document Lodging Fee		36.70
	1,117.00	Printing – stationary etc.		231.29
		Public Liability Premium		2,240.00
		Travel Grant AWC		1,305.00
	500.00	UNE Weeds Education Project		485.00
	1,205.00	Web hosting, maintenance etc		281.55
	450.00	E mail connection R. Shepherd		
	1,000.00	Melbourne International Flower Show		
	108.00	CAWS Subscription		
	<u>49,436.77</u>			<u>33,680.88</u>
		Bank Fees		
	1,363.13	Merchant Fees		422.26
	25.70	GDT		
	87.35	Gross Fee Rebate		91.55
		Merchant Adj		105.00
		Statement		10.00
		Withdrawal		20.00
		Stop payment fee		15.00
	35.00	Account service fee 5000610		50.00
		Term Deposit 50178386 Admin		30.00
	7.50	Misc		
	<u>50,955.45</u>			<u>34,424.69</u>
	<u>7,565.68</u>	NET INCOME (LOSS)		<u>(13,056.06)</u>

Place and Purpose

'Place and Purpose' is a new conference presenting spatial tools and approaches for analysing natural, agricultural and urban landscapes. Themes include:

- Natural resource knowledge management.
- Approaches to ecological modelling.
- NRM policy and investment.
- Landscape visualization.
- Land use change and scenario modelling.
- Farm to catchment tools.
- Triple bottom line indicators and landscapes.

Place and Purpose has an innovative format of interactive workshops, hands-on demonstrations and exhibits, keynote presentations and a 3D virtual reality studio. International keynote speakers include Professor Richard Klosterman from the University of Akron Ohio, Professor Keith Clarke from the University of California Santa Barbara, and Drs Dave Mouat and Scott Bassett from the Desert Research Institute in the United States. The conference website has a preliminary program detailing the abstracts and biographies of all confirmed speakers from around Australia and overseas.

Workshops are programmed throughout the conference, and include subjects the *Land Use Impact Model*, *Strategizer*, *What if?*TM, *SIEVE*, and *Land Use Scenario Analysis* in ArcGIS.

The DPI Victoria is hosting 'Place and Purpose' through the 'Our Rural Landscape' initiative. Gold sponsors include the Department of Sustainability and Environment Victoria, and Land and Water Australia. Bronze sponsors of Place and Purpose are ESRI Australia, the Victorian Catchment Management Council, EWR, and Spatial Vision.

Contact: Dr. Gemma Heemskerck on telephone 03 8341 2422 or email Gemma.Heemskerck@dpi.vic.gov.au.

Weed IDentity: Ken Young, WSV President

Ken Young was elected to President of the Weed Society of Victoria on 19 April 2007 at the WSV Annual General Meeting. Here he is interviewed by Lisa Minchin about his journey to this role.

Ken is a lecturer in agronomy in the Faculty of Land and Food Resources at the Dookie Campus of The University of Melbourne. He lectures in biology, plant physiology, crop production, fertiliser utilization, plant and seed ecology, plant modelling and integrated pest management. His role is also largely focused on overseeing third year, honours, Masters and PhD students in their project work.

Ken's interest in weeds was inspired by John Swarbrick, a dynamic lecturer (and recipient of the Council of Australian Weed Science Societies Medal for Leadership in 1984), when he was studying agriculture at the Gatton College, Queensland. 'Weeds challenge the system. Why aren't the plants that you want to be there, there?' Ken says. Since he first studied he has worked in a number of weed-related fields across much of Australia including biocontrol in Queensland, weeds of rice in NSW, and agricultural and environmental weeds in the Northern Territory. In Tasmania Ken worked on weeds of essential oils and vegetables as well as on a weed awareness campaign. After completing a Masters on *Pteridium esculentum* (bracken) management, Ken fulfilled his long time goal of doing his PhD, moving from Tasmania to be supervised by Roger Cousens at The University of Melbourne. His project was on the seed ecology of *Raphanus raphanistrum* (wild radish), its germination and emergence.

Ken has moved around all his life. This is in part explained by the fact that his father was in the army. So far he has



yet to have lived for more than four years in any one house. The experience has made him an advocate of the importance of regional representation in a state-wide organization. 'It is too easy to focus on centres where there is a large population. A lot of good work is done within the community and those communities need to

stand up and be counted,' he says. During his term of office Ken will be looking at ways to ensure that it is easier for regional members to have greater involvement in the society. Some ideas about how this may work include having field days which are structured to give a regional tour, bringing local land managers together to discuss weed management – both issues and strategies – at different localities to enable a greater sharing of ideas with more people. Another priority is raising the awareness of the public. 'More work needs to be done to help the public understand new and emerging weeds and serious weeds in their local area. There is a high level of awareness of blackberries as a weed, whilst other invasive weeds with a higher environmental or economic impact go unnoticed or unrecognized,' Ken observes.

Ken has a long-standing commitment to WSV. When he lived in Tasmania he timed his visits to the mainland to coincide with WSV events. One trip he flew to Tullamarine to first go to La Trobe University for a meeting then tackling heavy city traffic and taking the punt across the Yarra River to make it in time to get the last sausage at a WSV barbeque on Herring Island. On another occasion members were surprised when he made a day trip to Lake Eildon to attend a successful field day on weeds of waterways.

In his spare time, Ken enjoys mountain bike riding and snow skiing with this family – they specialize in back country telemarking, a Nordic ski method of descending slopes with a minimum of effort or strain, by linking a series of telemark turns. He also enjoys rogaining (overnight orienteering) where blackberries are a frequent hurdle to be overcome to get to your destination. Ken is also looking forward to becoming more intimately involved with weeds during his term of office.

Lisa Minchin

EUREKA! AgResearch Pty. Ltd.



For further information about EUREKA! contact:

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03 9742 0286

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03 9742 0289

Bitou Bush and Boneseed National Forum

28–29 August 2007, Mercure Hotel, Geelong, Victoria
(registration closes 3 August 2007)

Presented by the National Bitou Bush and Boneseed Management Group

The objectives of the forum are to:

- share knowledge regarding best practice management, research and current status of bitou bush and boneseed in Australia, and
- discuss and determine future priorities for bitou bush and boneseed management in Australia.

The Forum will bring together scientists, land managers and community members to discuss and assist in determining future research directions and priorities for national management of bitou bush and boneseed.

Program: Day One

Keynote Address

Dr. Richard Groves will open the Forum with an informative address on the history and management of bitou bush and boneseed in Australia.

Session One: Best Practice Management

The first session aims to summarize the current management techniques, including herbicides, mapping, containment and eradication zones, community involvement and other case studies. This will be followed by group discussion to determine priorities for on-ground action.

Session Two: Research

Session two aims to summarize information on research, including the effectiveness, current status and community involvement in biological control, use of fire, vectors of spread, biology and ecology. This will be followed by group discussion to identify research gaps and set future priorities.

Session Three: Implementation

The final session aims to summarize information on strategic management, including regional approaches, threat abatement, risk assessment, and progress towards the National Strategy. This will be followed by group discussion to determine issues associated with implementing strategies and on-ground control efforts.

Day Two

A full day field trip to illustrate the impacts of boneseed and highlight a variety of issues affecting the ability of land managers and community volunteers to control boneseed in the field by visiting sites along the Great Ocean Road.

For more information or to submit a paper or poster, please contact Hillary Cherry, Bitou Bush and Boneseed Coordinator at hillary.cherry@environment.nsw.gov.au, telephone 02 9585 6587 or mobile 0427 104448.

EWRS CONFERENCE Novel and Sustainable Weed Management in Arid Agro- Ecosystems

The European Weed Research Society conference 'Novel and Sustainable Weed Management in Arid and Semi-Arid Agro-Ecosystems' is to be held 7–12 October 2007 in Rehovot, Israel. For more information visit the conference website: <http://agri3.huji.ac.il/avidconference>. Updates will be appearing regularly.

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Bayer CropScience

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