

Weedscene

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Newsletter of the Weed Society of Victoria Inc.

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HERBICIDE USE IN NATURAL VEGETATION

A seminar presented by the Weed Society of Victoria
Thursday 20 February 2003 Chair: Greg Wells, Dow AgroSciences
Venue: Engineering Lecture Theatre E2, Monash University, Clayton

Herbicide use in native vegetation is a tricky issue. Limited product registrations and lack of information about their environmental safety has meant herbicide use is fraught with risks. This seminar will examine issues such as legal use of herbicides, clarity of labels, research projects to examine herbicide use in native vegetation and practical experiences from forestry, pasture and industrial uses. It will also highlight the initiatives of some industries, such as forestry, to reduce herbicide use and identify safer alternatives. This seminar will provide valuable information and points of contact for anyone that has had to apply herbicides in off-label uses. It will be a great forum for meeting and swapping ideas and experiences.

If you are involved in parks management, work for Local Government, belong to a 'Friends of' or a Landcare Group, a manager of water quality, an industry representative with farmer or environmentally-minded clients, a contractor, an advisor, or just interested in weeds, then this seminar will be of immense interest to you.

PROGRAM

- 08.20–08.55 Registration
08.55–09.00 Welcome, *Wendy Bedgood, President, WSV*
09.00–09.30 The registration of herbicides, minor uses and understanding labels. *Alan Roberts, Regional Standards Officer, DNRE Bendigo*
09.30–10.00 Spray drift within natural vegetation, legislation and reality. *Jim Stranger, Regional Chemical Standards Officer, DNRE Traralgon*
10.00–10.20 Problems faced by Local Government, implementation and importance of record keeping. *Katrina Roberg, City of Hume*
10.20–10.40 Morning Tea
10.40–11.10 Off label advice within natural situations, including riparian situations. *Dr. Nigel Ainsworth, KTRI, Frankston*
11.10–11.30 Case studies of off label

use in native vegetation

- Case Study 1. The problems of controlling weeds along roadsides, case studies on Spanish heath and whisky grass. *Kingsley Sexton, Vic Roads, Traralgon*
11.30–11.50 Case Study 2. Herbicide use in the re-establishment of native plants – the Farm buy-back scheme. *John Cummins, DNRE, Swifts Creek*
11.50–12.10 Case Study 3. *TBA*
12.10–12.30 The EPA's regulatory frame work for herbicide use. *Hamish Reid, EPA, Melbourne*
12.30–13.25 Lunch
13.25–13.45 Herbicide control of exotic grasses in native grasses. *Bram Mason, VUT, St. Albans*
13.45–14.15 The implementation of weed control on Phillip Island. *Kellie Nicholls, Phillip Island Landcare and Derrick Hibbert, Bass Coast Shire*
14.15–14.45 Weed control in establishing native tree species. *Dr. Barry Tomkins, School of Forestry, Creswick*
14.45–15.10 Risk assessment for herbicides used in forestry. *Don McGuire, Forestry Department, SA*
15.10–15.30 Afternoon Tea
15.30–15.45 Herbicide run-off from road surfaces. *Michael Williamson, RMIT Melbourne*
15.45–16.15 Weeds in wild places – removing the grunt. *Chris Knight, Land Management Systems and On-line Spraying, Melbourne*

FEES (including lunch, teas and proceedings):

- Students (include a copy of your student card) \$50
- Registration for WSV members, Friends of groups (attach proof) \$80
- Registration for Non-WSV members \$100

Payment after 25/1/2003 ADD \$20.

Contact the Secretary, Weed Society of Victoria, PO Box 987, Frankston, Vic 3199, Email: secwssv@surf.net.au. Ph/fax 03 9576 2949.

37th Annual General Meeting of the Weed Society of Victoria

Thursday 20 February 2003, 5 pm
Venue: Room GO1
Monash University, Clayton

Following the seminar 'Herbicide use in natural vegetation', the 2003 AGM will review the performance of the Society over the last year in light of the business plan developed and presented at last year's AGM. It is up to you to participate in this meeting if you wish to influence the future of this Society. Use the proxy form on page 2 if you wish to participate in the AGM, but cannot attend.

If you wish to have even more impact on the directions of the Society then nominate for a position on the committee. All positions fall vacant at this year's AGM. New committee members bring new ideas to the committee and help to keep the society focused on new and emerging issues in weed management. So if you are passionate about weeds and their effect on our environment come and have your say.

If you are attending either of these events please contact the Secretary, WSV, PO Box 987, Frankston, Victoria 3199, Email: secwssv@surf.net.au, Ph/fax 03 9576 2949.

Proxy and Nomination forms can be found on page 2.

Lost member

We have 'lost' Ms Catherine Sudholz formerly of the Weekly Times, does anyone know her current address? Please contact the Secretary, Ros Shepherd on secwssv@surf.net.au or Ph/fax 03 9576 2949

Weed Alert proceedings

Several copies of proceedings from the Weed Alert seminar, recently held by the WSV, are still available. Price \$12 including postage. To obtain a copy please contact the Secretary, Ros Shepherd on secwssv@surf.net.au or Ph/fax 03 9576 2949.

13th Australian Weeds Conference Report

Katherine Hollaway, Natural Resources and Environment (VIDA-Horsham)

The 13th Australian Weeds Conference was held in Perth (9–12 September, 2002).

The conference was kicked off by Tim Low, author of 'Feral Future', who gave an inspiring (not depressing as he claimed) talk about the potential for plants to become weeds. He challenged the weed risk assessment process by suggesting that all plants have the potential to become weedy in the future. He said that many plants had not been in Australia long enough to spread and that introduction of other species, particularly pollinating insects, could have a major impact on potential weediness.

Dr. Mark Lonsdale, CSIRO, who commented that our major challenge was the issue of ornamental species introductions, which were still the primary source of new weeds, followed Tim.

During the biotechnology workshop Prof. Robert Zimdahl, Colorado State University, implored scientists to consider the ethics of their work. He claimed that in the past we have ignored environmental issues and jus-

tified our productivity focus by saying that world consumers demand more plentiful and cheaper food. Using the example of organic versus genetically modified (GM) technology he stated that we must address the concerns of GM opponents rather than just dismiss their arguments as emotive.

Also at the workshop, Assoc. Prof. Rick Roush, CRC for Australian Weed Management, reminded us that GM confers a benefit to farmers but requires consumers to carry some of the risk. He said it was important for the industry to clearly state the benefits to society such as reduced environmental footprint and better health in the third world.

Prof. Peter Raven gave the CAWSS oration, focusing on the changes we have imposed on the earth in the last 50 years. These included cutting down one third of forests and losing 20% of topsoil. He predicted that two thirds of remaining species will become extinct in the future and put an indisputable case for the conservation of plant species for future use in agriculture and medicine.

In closing the conference Prof John Lovett, Grains RDC, talked about the need to satisfy the triple bottom line which he expressed as People, Planet, Profit and reiterated the need to justify our work. He presented an interesting snippet on the organic versus GM debate stating that 1% of American food was organic yet it accounted for 36% of *E. coli* food poisoning and was by no means a risk-free alternative.

It was an action packed conference with 113 talks, 4 workshops, 93 posters and 4 tours. All credit goes to the organizers who ensured that events kept to time allowing participants to move between sessions.

I would like to thank the Weed Society of Victoria, the CRC for Australian Weed Management and Natural Resources and Environment for supporting my attendance this conference.

Editor's note

Katherine Hollaway's attendance at this conference was partly supported by a Weed Society of Victoria Travel Grant. For more information on these travel grants visit www.vicnet.net.au/~weedsoc.

More Conference Details...

From a report by Julie Cooper, Western Australia (Julie was a member of the conference organizing committee).

Delegates have declared the 13th Australian Weed Conference a success and John Lovett described it as 'an outstanding success' in his closing speech. Bruce Wilson, President of CAWSS, declared it in Olympic parlance 'the best ever'. The conference was also a financial success. Including committee members, about 500 delegates attended all or part of the conference. They came from throughout Australia, New Zealand, South-east Asia, Europe, USA and Africa as outlined below.

Total delegates	484
Western Australians	174 (36%)
Other Australians	237 (49%)
Total Australians	411 (85%)
USA	23 (4.8%)
New Zealand	17 (3.5%)
South Africa	5 (1.0%)
Kenya	4 (0.8%)
UK, France, Spain	3 (0.6%) each
Canada, Ecuador, Italy	2 (0.4%) each
Thailand, Japan, Israel, Belgium, Switzerland, Denmark	1 each

Most of these international visitors heard about the conference from one of Sandy Lloyd's many email postings. They broadened the interest and helped form links between weedies from around the world. An example

is the scholarship available though Paola Barberi to study weeds in Pisa, Italy. Unfortunately the applications close on 31 October, but it is available each year to non-EU students under 35. Contact Sandy Lloyd for details.

The conference consisted of three days of presentations at the Sheraton Hotel, an optional field trip and an optional Herbicide Resistance symposium on the Friday. There were numerous side meetings for the Weeds CRC, CAWSS and different interest groups that used the chance to meet face to face. Presentations covered every aspect of weed science and management including biocontrol, herbicides, tropical, broadacre, horticulture, forestry, natural ecosystems, biology, herbicide resistance, community groups

PROXY FORM

I, (a) appoint

(b)

as my proxy to represent me at the AGM on 20/2/03 and vote on any motion as he/she sees fit.

Signed Date / /

(a) Name of financial member wishing to vote (votes from non-financial members will be excluded).

(b) Insert name of member attending meeting to whom proxy is delegated.

NOMINATION FORM

WSV Committee Positions

I nominate

Company/Position

For the position of

Signed

Seconded Date / /

NOMINATIONS CAN ONLY BE MADE BY FINANCIAL MEMBERS

Return to: PO Box 987, Frankston 3199 by 13/2/03

Some More Useful Weed Books

A few more weed and related books (to add to the list started in the last issue of Weedscape) that may be of interest (add them to your copy of the Weed Navigator Resource Guide).

Parsons, W.T. and Cuthbertson, E.G. (2001). Noxious weeds of Australia (2nd edition). CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Vic. ISBN 0 643 06514 8.

Phillips, R. and Rix, M. (1998). Plants for warm gardens, Volume 1, conservatory and indoor plants. Pan Books, London, UK. ISBN 0 330 37375 7.

Phillips, R. and Rix, M. (1998). Plants for warm gardens, Volume 2, conservatory and indoor plants. Pan Books, London, UK. ISBN 0 330 37376 5.

Pyers, G. (2001). Australia's introduced plants and animals. Book 1 - What are introduced plants and animals? Heinemann Library, Port Melbourne, Vic. ISBN 1 86391 164 2. [This series is great for schools and educators]

Pyers, G. (2001). Australia's introduced plants and animals. Book 2 - Alligator weed to donkey. Heinemann Library, Port Melbourne, Vic. ISBN 1 86391 155 3.

Pyers, G. (2001). Australia's introduced plants and animals. Book 3 - European wasp to lantana. Heinemann Library, Port Melbourne, Vic. ISBN 1 86391 156 1.

Pyers, G. (2001). Australia's introduced plants and animals. Book 4 - Mesquite to rubber vine. Heinemann Library, Port Melbourne, Vic. ISBN 1 86391 157 X.

Pyers, G. (2001). Australia's introduced plants and animals. Book 5 - Salvinia to willow. Heinemann Library, Port Melbourne, Vic. ISBN 1 86391 158 8.

Rowello, R.J. (1996). Ornamental conifers for Australian gardens. University of NSW Press, Sydney. ISBN 0 86840 239 7.

Royer, F. and Dickinson, R. (1999). Weeds of the northern US and Canada. A guide for identification.

The University of Alberta Press, Canada, and Lone Pine Publishing, Washington, USA. ISBN 1 55105 221 0.

Shepherd, R.C.H., Richardson, R.G. and Richardson, F.J. (2001). Plants of importance to Australia - a checklist. R.G. and F.J. Richardson, Meredith, Vic. ISBN 0 9587439 5 9.

Sindel, B.M. (ed) (2000). Australian weed management systems. R. G. and F. J. Richardson, Melbourne. ISBN 0 9587439 4 0.

Stephens, K.M. and Dowling, R.M. (2002). Wetland plants of Queensland. A field guide. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Vic. ISBN 0 643 06674 8.

Tu, M. Hurd, C. and Randall, J.M. (2001). Weed control methods handbook: Tools and techniques for use in natural areas. The Nature Conservancy, USA. [web based and hotlink available on Weeds CRC website]

Cheers, Kate Blood

and education. The European visitors commented that they had never attended a conference of this breadth and quality elsewhere.

Due to the limited number of speaker timeslots available and quality of available papers, the poster presentations were given greater attention than at recent conferences. Both speakers and poster presenters were invited to include a peer reviewed paper in the proceedings. The proceedings contain 239 papers and 750 pages of information. Proceedings are available for \$77 to those who were unable to attend the conference while stocks last from R.G. and F.J. Richardson, Phone/fax 03 5286 1533, www.weedinfo.com.au.

There were four different field trips, all of which sold out unleashing 240 people into the WA environs. Showing the change in weed research focus over the last decade the

environmental trip had two buses full, and a waiting list, before the other three filled their first bus. The environmental trip visited Kings Park, Bold Park and Yanchep National Park before returning via Gingin to the Swan Valley. The agricultural trip focused on Avondale Research Station and the York area. The forestry trip visited pine and eucalypt plantings in the Perth hills and water catchment areas. The horticulture trip visited Baldavis, a hills orchard, Araluen and finished in the Swan Valley.

CAWSS Medals were presented to Barbara Waterhouse from Queensland, John Moore and Tim Woodwood for WA.


In conclusion the conference was a success, everyone had a great time and it will be at least 10 years before it returns to WA. And the chance of getting any of the organizing committee to do it again are Buckleys!

New Weed Resource on the WWW

The Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture announces a comprehensive new section in their website profiling Weeds of New Zealand. Descriptions and illustrations of some 40 species are reproduced with kind permission by the New Zealand Plant Protection Society from their publication 'An Illustrated guide to Common Weeds of New Zealand'. Botanical and common names of weeds are listed on the RNZIH site at <http://www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/weednameslist.htm>, or you can navigate using an Image Gallery at <http://www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/imagesNZplants.htm#imagesweeds> Murray Dawson, Webmaster RNZIH <http://www.rnzih.org.nz/index.html>

MEMBERSHIP RATES

Weed Society of Victoria Inc.



Students	\$20.00
Ordinary	\$35.00
Corporate	\$80.00

EUREKA! AgResearch Pty. Ltd.



For further information about EUREKA! contact:

Anthony Flynn
03 9742 0286

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04 9742 0289

Roundup Ready Canola

Many Australian growers have indicated to Monsanto that they are looking for more information on the issue of genetically modified (GM) crops. In particular, growers want information on GM canola, trial results and facts on Roundup Ready® canola. Many of the frequently asked questions regarding Roundup Ready canola are reproduced below. Also, many important issues are covered in more detail on the canola page on the Monsanto website.

Q. What is Roundup Ready canola? Roundup Ready canola is like conventional canola varieties in every way except one: a novel genetic trait has been identified and transferred to the canola seed. This trait enables the canola to tolerate in-crop applications of Roundup Ready herbicide.

Q. Is there a market for Roundup Ready canola? Yes. At present Canada is the world's biggest exporter of canola. Approximately 75% of Canadian canola production is genetically modified, the vast majority of which is co-mingled with non-GM canola (Victorian Government's Consultation Paper – 'Genetic engineering-free zones', March 2001, p. 25). Canadian canola supplies approximately 83% of Japan's canola requirements and 74% of China's.

It is not uncommon for canola crushers in Japan and China to actually mix Canadian and Australian canola. This mixing is undertaken to mitigate the effects of high chlorophyll levels in Canadian canola and low oil contents in Australian canola.

Q. Is cross pollination likely to occur with weeds or conventional canola? Canola is a predominantly inbreeding crop (self-pollinating) with some 85–90% self-fertilizing with comparatively low levels of outcrossing. Comprehensive literature reviews carried out by Dr. Phil Salisbury, Senior Canola Breeder with the Victorian Department of Natural Resources and the Environment, demonstrate sharp declines in outcrossing beyond the first few metres from the pollen source.

The canola industry and Monsanto recognize the importance of managing the risk of cross pollination between Roundup Ready canola and other plants. To manage this risk, Monsanto is working in collaboration with leading research institutions (e.g. CRC for Australian Weed Management) to develop a Crop Management Plan that will be used as part of a stewardship package for Roundup Ready canola. Before Roundup Ready canola is commercialized the National Registration Authority will need to approve this Crop Management Plan.

Q. Can I save seed from Roundup Ready canola to plant on my farm next season? Yes. Providing the technology user's licence and regulatory requirements are adhered to there will be no restrictions on farmers saving seed on farm for their own future use.

Q. Will repeated use of Roundup Ready herbicide in Roundup Ready canola lead to weed resistance?

The risk of developing weeds resistant to Roundup Ready herbicide in canola production systems will be very low for two key reasons. Firstly, the product has been demonstrated to have low susceptibility to the development of resistance compared with many other herbicides. Secondly, Roundup Ready canola will have a stringent crop management plan that involves a risk assessment calculator and strategies for a personalized integrated weed management plan to minimize resistance development.

Q. Can I use herbicides other than Roundup Ready herbicide in Roundup Ready canola? Farmers can use Roundup Ready herbicide or any other registered form of glyphosate in their Roundup Ready canola crop providing it is in adherence to the herbicide label. Conversely Roundup Ready canola can be grown purely for the variety characteristics and treated as a conventional canola crop (with no in-crop applications of Roundup Ready herbicide being made).

from Monsanto Australia Ltd.

Invasive Plants in Natural and Managed Systems: 'Linking Science and Management'

A Conference and Workshop in conjunction with 7th International Conference on the Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions. 3–7 November 2003, Wyndham Bonaventure Resort, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, USA.

If you are interested in participating in the Conference and would like to be added to the mailing list to receive updates, please email your name and contact information to ipinams@esa.org.

Conference goals: (1) To promote scientific exchange among invasive plant researchers; (2) To enhance dialogue between scientists, managers, and practitioners to broaden understanding of the science, needs, and prospects for efficient invasive plant management; and (3) To foster interdisciplinary cooperation on the science and management of invasive plants.

Invited speakers include Mark Lonsdale, CSIRO, and Rod Randall, WA Department of Agriculture.

For more information: <http://www.esa.org/ipinams-emapi7/>.

Post-doctoral Fellow Plant Pathologist

The CSIRO and the CRC for Australian Weed Management are seeking a highly motivated post-doctoral scientist with skills in plant pathology and molecular biology to conduct a range of studies to determine biological control options for wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*), one of southern Australia's worst weeds of annual crops.

You must have a Ph.D. in plant pathology or a related subject with a strong emphasis on molecular biology or weed science. Further information visit http://recruitment.csiro.au/job_details.asp?ref=0819.

WSSV HOME PAGE: <http://www.vicnet.net.au/~weedsoc/>

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