



Weedscene

Volume 14 Issue 6

Newsletter of the Weed Society of Victoria Inc.

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What is New in the Cropping World?

Seminar organized by the Weed Society of Victoria

Friday 20 February 2004 commencing at 8.55 am, registration from 8 am

Yellow Gum Room, Department of Primary Industries, Grains Innovation Park,
Natimuk Road, Horsham

Changes are always occurring in any weed management situation as knowledge and technologies develop and amendments are made to legislation. Cropping systems are no different.

This seminar will keep you updated on important issues such as:-

- legal obligations of any farmer and the latest legislation for chemical users.
- the latest developments in formulation, spray technology and application techniques that affect a better crop outcome.
- the regulations for GM crops, from a Government and the ethical point of view.

- the breeding of GM crops and the legal implications of growing them.
- weed control in pulses and Mediterranean dryland cropping systems.
- integrating weed management on farms
- what is DrumMUSTER and how does it work.

If any of these issues are of interest to you, then come to this seminar and find out the answers.

For more information see the enclosed brochure or contact the Secretary, Weed Society of Victoria, PO Box 987 Frankston 3199, Phone/Fax 03 9576 2949, email secwssv@surf.net.au.

38th Annual General Meeting of the Weed Society of Victoria

Friday 20 February 2004 from 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm

Yellow Gum Room, DPI, Grains Innovation Park, Natimuk Road, Horsham

This meeting will be held over the lunch break of the seminar above. This year's AGM will review the performance of the Society over the last year. 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, Weed Society of Victoria Inc., PO Box 987, Frankston, Victoria 3199, Phone/Fax 03 9576 2949, Email: secwssv@surf.net.au.

WSV Second Biennial Conference 2005

The Weed Society of Victoria will conduct its Second Biennial Conference in 2005. Following the success of its First Biennial Conference at the All Seasons International Hotel, Bendigo this year the committee have decided to make this a regular event.

Call for ideas and participants

If you have any suggestions about topics that you would like to see covered or would like to participate in the organizing of the next conference, please contact the Society secretary Ros Shepherd, PO Box 987, Frankston, Victoria 3199, Phone/Fax 03 9576 2949, Email: secwssv@surf.net.au.

Christmas Cruise

Friday 12 December 2003

**Departs Station Pier, Port Melbourne
at 7.00 pm**

**for a two hour cruise of Hobsons Bay
and the Yarra River**



It's not weeds for once!! Join with other members and friends of the Weed Society of Victoria for a Christmas Cruise.

Price \$35 per head including food. Bring your own drinks. Family and friends welcome. Places are limited so **BOOK EARLY!**

For bookings or for further information please contact the Secretary, Weed Society of Victoria, PO Box 987, Frankston 3199. Phone/Fax 9576 2949.

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Weed Society of Victoria Travel Grant

Money is available – why not apply for it?

The Weed Society of Victoria will provide funds for a Travel Grant to send two people to the 14th Australian Weeds Conference. The Grant is to encourage members of the Society to attend the Australian Weeds Conferences, to increase their involvement in weed science and to promote the involvement of the Society in the conference. The recipients must be current financial members of the Society, for more than one year. The Grant will not be given to the same person more than once.

The Grant will cover the Registration Fee and the airfare to attend the Australian Weeds Conference, and will not exceed \$1500 per recipient. The grant will be made in accordance with guidelines (available from the WSV Secretary), with the application to be in to the Society by the end of the March of the year in which the Conference is held. The recipients will be notified within two months of the close of the applications and the information will also be placed in Weedscape, the Society's newsletter.

The submissions should be brief, include details of the applicant's weed

related work, research or applied; any involvement in the Society; presentation of paper or poster with title and page length summary; whether there is any other assistance to attend the Conference. The submission should also give reasons for travel, the benefits to the applicant and to the Society.

A panel of three qualified Weed Society of Victoria members, appointed by the executive, will judge the submissions.

On returning from the conference the recipient will be expected to submit a written report within two months which will be suitable for insertion in Weedscape. This should cover conference highlights and the benefits gained by the recipient.

The judges will examine the application for:

1. relevance of the paper or poster to the topic of the Conference
2. the involvement of the applicant in a weed science related field
3. the relevance of the applicant attending the Conference
4. the presentation of the application
5. any involvement in the Society

EUREKA! AgResearch Pty. Ltd.



For further
information about
EUREKA!
contact:

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03 9742 0286

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03 9742 0302

Kieran Murphy
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Using Bacteria to Control Weeds

Dr Sally Peltzer, a recipient of a Churchill Scholarship recently presented a seminar on her travels with the title 'Using bacteria to control weeds'.

This work was funded by The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust which she undertook as a Churchill Fellow in May and June 2003 in Missouri, USA.

Non-parasitic bacteria that are associated with plant roots (in the rhizosphere or area just around the roots) are described as rhizobacteria. Those that inhibit or reduce plant growth are deleterious rhizobacteria (DRB) which usually inhibit growth by producing phytotoxins however, they may also reduce plant growth by competing with the plant for nutrients or by indirectly affecting the root colonization of other beneficial microorganisms such as rhizobia or mycorrhizas. Many of these DRB are very specific in their level of plant growth reduction, at both a species and a cultivar level. This means that one bacterial isolate may reduce the growth of one plant (e.g. a weed) while not affecting the growth of another (e.g. a crop plant). The main mechanism behind this specificity is likely to be due to the proliferation and competitiveness of the bacteria with other microorganisms in the rhizosphere. This depends on the type and volume of exudates (or chemicals) that the plant releases from its root which attract the bacteria. Different plants exude different chemical substrates, which in turn encourage different rhizobacteria.



PROXY FORM

I, (a).....appoint

(b).....

as my proxy to represent me at the AGM on 20/2/04 and vote on any motion as he/she sees fit.

SignedDate..... / /

(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 13/2/04

14th Australian Weeds Conference

Invitation from the Weed Society of NSW Inc. to attend the 14th Australian Weeds Conference 6–9 September 2004

This major national conference being hosted by the Weed Society of NSW Inc. is to be held at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia from the 6 to 9 September 2004.

The conference is held every two or three years in Australia. As the impact of weeds has an effect on such a range of environments and industries, the conference attracts a diverse range of people. Whether you are involved in research, extension, education, agribusiness, environmental management, farming or horticulture or are a student looking to become involved in one of these areas in the future, you will benefit from the network of people and information presented at this conference.

To cater for the diversity of weed information, the program consists of a wide range of oral presentations and posters.

The committee also invites you, as someone with a commitment to weed management, to submit an abstract for presentation as a paper or poster.

Conference Theme

The theme of the 14th Australian Weeds Conference is 'Weed management: balancing people, planet, profit'. This theme emphasises the difficulties associated with weed management from the production and environmental issues through to the social and economic aspects.

Weeds cost Australia more than \$4 billion annually and their effects are far reaching. The Weed Society of NSW encourages all those interested in learning about weeds, their impact and management, to attend the conference and through participation and learning, contribute to managing this global problem.

Conference Program

A draft conference program and registration form will be available from the website in PDF format. The website will be regularly updated to provide the latest conference information: www.csu.edu.au/special/weedsconference.

The conference program will consist of invited speakers, submitted papers (with selected plenary and concurrent session oral presentations), posters and field tours. Trade displays will also be present.

There will be ample time to ask questions of the speakers at the conclusion of their presentations and to also speak with

the authors of the displayed poster presentations.

The field tours will visit a variety of sites around the region. Tours will include viewing weed management in:

- dryland cropping systems,
- irrigated crops, riparian zones and wetlands,
- permanent pasture, recreation areas, vineyards and
- forests and
- urban areas with noxious and environmental weeds.

The Conference encourages networking and discussion at the many social events that will occur during that week. These will include the welcome reception, BBQ, conference dinner and CAWSS oration and medal presentation.

Important Submission Dates

Draft abstracts due: 30 November 2003

Accepted papers due: 30 April 2004

All presenters will be required to register and pay for the conference for at least the day of their presentation. Presenters not registered by the due date will be removed from the program.

Submission of Abstracts

Instructions for authors and a template (Microsoft Word) for the text only abstracts are available on the website. Draft abstracts, author contact details and preference for oral or poster presentation are to be submitted via email to Brian Sindel at awc@une.edu.au.

Authors of accepted papers will then be notified how their paper is to be presented. Both poster and oral papers will be peer reviewed and given equal status in the conference proceedings. Students and land managers are encouraged to submit papers for presentation. Presenters will be notified of the audiovisual arrangements available.

Specific Inquiries

Papers and Proceedings: Assoc. Prof. Brian Sindel, University of New England, Armidale, NSW telephone: +61 2 6773 3747, email: awc@une.edu.au

Program Inquiries: Dr Deirdre Lemerle, NSW Agriculture, Wagga Wagga Agricultural Institute, telephone: +61 2 6938 1892, email: deirdre.lemerle@agric.nsw.gov.au

Registration Inquiries: Mr John Kent,

School of Agriculture, Charles Sturt University, telephone: +61 2 6933 2489, email: jhkent@csu.edu.au

Tour Inquiries: Ms Birgitte Verbeek, NSW Agriculture, Wagga Wagga Agricultural Institute, telephone: +61 2 6938 1911, email: birgitte.verbeek@agric.nsw.gov.au

The Venue

Charles Sturt University is situated at Wagga Wagga, the largest inland city in New South Wales. The Murrumbidgee River runs through Wagga Wagga, a name derived from a local Wiradjuri Aboriginal word meaning 'place of many crows'. Halfway between Sydney and Melbourne and a few hours drive from Canberra, the city has a population of 58 200 and is surrounded by cropping, dairying, mixed farming and grazing enterprises and is close to irrigation, horticulture and forestry industries and national parks.

The campus of Charles Sturt University consists of more than 640 hectares of Australian farming and bushland and is only five minutes from the city centre. The university adjoins NSW Agriculture's (the State Agricultural Department) Wagga Wagga Agricultural Institute which is positioned on 1000 hectares of farming land.

There are also many local activities for partners and delegates. Many of these attractions can be viewed at the Wagga Wagga Tourism Information website: www.tourismwaggawagga.com.au.

For general queries about the conference and registration of interest, contact Ray Farnham at: Secretariat, 14th Australian Weeds Conference, Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia.

MEMBERSHIP RATES	Weed Society of Victoria Inc.	
		
	Students	\$20.00
	Ordinary	\$40.00
	Corporate	\$100.00

Council of Australian Weed Science Societies Annual Young Weed Scientist Travel Award

The Award will be made available annually, or less frequently depending on the standard of the application. Applications are invited from young weed scientists to attend national or international conferences or for specific overseas study tours of a short duration. The applications are to be submitted annually to CAWSS by affiliated societies. The Young Weed Scientist Travel Award will be made by 1 July each year for the following 12 months. Applications must be sent to the Secretary/Treasurer of CAWSS.

The Award will be made to undergraduates studying in the fields of agriculture, biology, ecology, horticulture and forestry or related subjects, who have

a wish to continue their studies in weed science. It will also be made to young weed scientists who have recently (within five years of finishing their degree) commenced employment in any branch of weed science. The Award will be open to anyone residing in Australia, but members of Societies affiliated with CAWSS may be given preference.

The Young Weed Scientist Travel Awards will be worth up to \$2000 per annum. They are not expected to cover the total cost of the Conference or study tour being undertaken and it will therefore be necessary for an applicant to ensure that other funding is available. Applicants attending conferences will be expected to

give a presentation at the conference and to submit an abstract of their paper with their application.

On return the successful applicant will be expected to give a report to the nominating Society, either as a written report for the Newsletter or as part of a seminar, meeting or workshop conducted by that Society. It will be part of the successful applicant's duty to pass on as much information as possible to the nominating Society and it is the right of the Society to specify the format of the report.

Applications are to be forwarded by 1 May each year to the appropriate Secretary/Treasurer of CAWSS. Website: www.vicnet.net.au/~weedss/.

Biological Control Slows Creeping Assault

Ten years of research is finally slowing the advance of bridal creeper, one of Australia's worst imported weeds. Researchers have released three biological control agents from South Africa, the original home of the weed.

'The results are very encouraging with reports of natural spread of the rust fungus of up to 360 metres from release sites after one year and up to 2.5 km after three years,' says CSIRO Technical Officer Kathryn Batchelor, who has been responsible for the rearing and distribution of the insect agents and rust fungus in Western Australia.

'We have released a leafhopper (*Zygina* sp.) in 1999, a rust fungus (*Puccinia myrsiphylli*) in 2000 and, in WA, a leaf beetle (*Crioceris* sp.) in 2002,' says Ms Batchelor. 'These agents only attack bridal creeper.'

Bridal creeper, introduced from South Africa in the 1800s as an ornamental

plant, escaped and is now one of southern Australia's worst environmental weeds, strangling large areas of natural vegetation and threatening biodiversity, including rare and unique native plants, especially orchids.

'The rust fungus and leafhopper defoliate plants,' says Dr Louise Morin, a plant pathologist with CSIRO and the CRC for Australian Weed Management. 'This depletes the reserves in the massive underground mat of tubers. The larvae of the leaf beetle stop the creeper climbing by stripping off its shoots and leaves.'

'It is an exciting project,' she says. 'Schools and community groups have been involved in more than 1500 releases of the rust fungus and leafhopper across Australia, and 2003 saw the first releases of the leaf beetle in NSW and South Australia.'

Anthony Maguire, National Parks and Wildlife Officer on Kangaroo Island

(SA), says the rust is working well on Kangaroo Island.

'It's been two to three years since the first release here and we can already see a significant reduction in the density of bridal creeper,' he says. 'Now we are testing new methods of spreading the rust.'

Dr Morin says that recent Natural Heritage Trust funding has enabled significant advances in the attack on the creeper right across southern Australia. CSIRO has developed a web site and held training workshops across the country to help people redistribute agents into infestations in their local area.

More information from:

- Louise Lawrence, CSIRO
02 6246 4087
- Kathryn Batchelor, CSIRO WA
08 9333 6643
- Ruth Aveyard, CSIRO NSW
0428 972 476

Website address:

www.ento.csiro.au/bridalcreeper

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

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