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# Policies for WEED Management – who has responsibility?

A seminar to be presented by the Weed Society of Victoria Inc.

Date: Thursday 17 February 2005 Time: 08.55 am
Venue: Lecture Theatre E2, Building 32, Faculty of Engineering, Monash University,
Wellington Road, Clayton. Registration commences at 08.00 am in Room GO1.

How well known or understood are weed policies? Are weed policies seen as either unrealistic or controversial or just something to be ignored?

- Why do Governments make them?
- Are they realistic or idealistic and are they enacted successfully by the agencies that should be in charge of them?
- What are the differences between the various policies that are put together by the numerous branches of Government?
- Are our perceptions of these policies correct and how do they impinge on any management?
- What industries are creating problems and are responsible for weeds and their management?

Come and hear how policies for weed management are perceived and how they are or are not put into action. If you are a policy maker, a practitioner or just want to know who has the authority to do what in the area of policy and management, then come and find out more.

Free parking is available at Monash University at NORTH 1 car park, off North Ring Road (at corner with West Ring Road Outer).

#### **PROGRAM**

Chair: Daniel Joubert, Vice President, Weed Society of Victoria

08.00-08.55 Registration.

08.55–09.00 Welcome and house-keeping. **Richard Denver**, President WSV

09.00-09.30 Getting smart on weeds: a WWF model for a robust plan to prevent and control weeds. **Andreas Glanznig**, Biodiversity Policy Manager, WWF Australia.

09.30–10.00 Victorian weed policies for private land. **Leigh Dennis**, Manager

Pest Plants, DSE, Melbourne and **Tony Lovick**, Project Manager Pest Plants, DPI, Melbourne.

10.00-10.30 MORNING TEA

10.30–11.00 Procedures for weed management on public land. Steve Platt, Project Leader Rural Landscapes, DSE, Melbourne and Kate McArthur, DPI. Frankston.

11.00–11.30 Role of CMAs in policy. **David Buntine**, CEO, Port Phillip and Westernport CMA.

11.30–12.00 Weed R&D: Contributing to and influencing weed policy. El **Bruzzese**, State-wide Leader, Weed Sciences, DPI, Frankston.

12.00–12.30 The management and threat of weeds – Policies for cleaner roads and how they are implemented. **Mike Kennedy** and **Jason Horlock**, VicRoads, Melbourne.

12.30–12.50 Victorian Local Government and Weed Management Programs. **Nina Rogers**, Local Government NRM Facilitator, Municipal Association of Victoria, Melbourne.

12.50-13.30 LUNCH

13.30–14.00 The effect of State Government policies on Local Government: Weeds on road sides and in urban areas. **Craig McKiernan**, Surf Coast Shire

14.00–14.30 The practice of the policies, do they work. **Frances Overmars**, Pinkerton Landcare and Environment Group.

14.30–15.00 Weed Management – Policies and Reality. **Bob Edgar**, Consultant.

15.30-16.00 DISCUSSION

For further information contact Ros Shepherd at the Weed Society of Victoria Inc., PO Box 987, Frankston, Victoria 3199, Ph/Fax 03 9576 2949 or email: secwssv@surf.net.au.

# 39th AGM of the Weed Society of Victoria

Date: Thursday 17th February 2005

Time: 4.00 p.m.

Venue: Room GO1, Building 32, Faculty of Engineering, Monash University, Wellington Rd., Clayton, following the seminar 'Policies for WEED management – who has responsibility?'

Please note forms for proxy appointment and nominations to the committee were published in the last issue of Weedscene

#### WSV Constitution change

Proposal to change the date of the annual general meeting of the Weed Society of Victoria. A motion was put forward at a recent committee meeting by Norm Stone, seconded Greg Wells 'That the constitution be changed to read that the AGM must be held by the end of April, rather than February'. All were in agreement.

This change will need to be ratified at the 2005 Annual General Meeting.

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# Annual Young Weed Scientist Travel Award

This Council of Australian Weed Societies Travel 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 CAWS by affiliated societies. The Young Weed Scientist Travel Award will be made by 1st July each year for the following 12 months. Applications must be to the Secretary/Treasurer of CAWS by 1st May each year.

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 CAWS 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 1st May each year to the Council of Australian Weed Societies, c/- Mr Rex Stanton, Farrer Centre, Charles Sturt University, Locked Bag 588, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2678.

### Second Victorian Weed Conference Smart weed control, managing for success

The Weed Society of Victoria will be holding its second Weed Conference over Wednesday 17 and Thursday 18 August 2005. The conference will be at the All Seasons International Hotel, Bendigo with a

The aim of this series of conferences is to provide information on the latest weed issues relevant to Victorians, particularly for those people unable to attend the Australian Weeds Conference.

dinner held on the evening of Wednesday

17 August.

The conference will be divided into four sessions:

**Early detection and response.** How can we prevent new weed problems, especially those arising from gardeners and their desire for that different plant?

**Integrated weed management.** Includes a look at the Australian situation and its relevance.

**Successful monitoring.** We need to know whether our control measures are successful or not.

**Getting technical.** What is new and successful in the weed control field.

#### Can you present a paper or poster?

If you are interested in presenting a paper or poster related to any of the four topics please send your: Name, Organisation, Address, Postcode, Email and Paper/ Poster Title plus a 10 line summary, highlighting the significance of the information to the address below. Oral presentations are limited to 15 minutes each, plus 5 minutes question time. As space in the program is limited you may be asked to present a poster instead. All papers and posters will be published in the Proceedings. Send to the Secretary, Weed Society of Victoria, PO Box 987, Frankston, Victoria 3199 or email this information to secwssv@surf.net.au by 31 March 2005.

For further information and brochures contact the Secretary at the address above or Ph/Fax 03 9576 2949

## Introduced Marine Pests – 90 Day Amnesty

Caulerpa taxifolia, a seaweed quite common in marine aquaria across the state, has been declared a noxious aquatic species and aquarium owners now have 90 days to dispose of it.

From today it is an offence to bring *Caulerpa taxifolia* into Victoria. It is also an offence to keep, take, possess, sell or transport it, or to release the seaweed into protected waters, with offenders facing a first offence maximum penalty of \$10,000.

However, marine aquarium owners who have the plant now have a 90 day amnesty in which to dispose of it. The amnesty period will conclude on 8 February 2005

Caulerpa taxifolia is green, with creeping stems and feather like fronds and has been commonly used as a food source and decoration in marine aquaria.

Fisheries Victoria's Luke Cromie, says natural populations are found in Queensland but a strain developed for the aquarium trade has invaded marine waters of New South Wales and South Australia. *Caulerpa taxifolia* has not yet established in the wild in Victoria.

'It can spread on anything that's been

in the water including boats, wetsuits, boots, fishing tackle, ropes and chains.

'Marine aquarium owners who believe they have *Caulerpa taxifolia* should dispose of it by putting it, including all the roots, in a plastic bag, placing the plastic bag in a freezer for 24 hours then disposing of the frozen material in a rubbish bin.

'They should not release the species by flushing it down the toilet or sink, or placing it in a drain or waterway.'

Mr Cromie says the seaweed has the potential to spread over large areas, excluding native species such as seagrass.

'In interstate waters where it has invaded it has replaced large areas of seagrass leading to a reduction in fish populations, because fish generally won't eat it', he said. 'It has the potential to spread over most Victorian coastal waters if it were released into the wild.'

For further information please visit the website at http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au or phone the DPI customer service centre on 136 186.

**Source:** Media Release from the Department of Primary Industry, 11 November 2004.



# Report from the *Urban grasslands, their management and restoration* seminar held on 5 October 2004 at the Melton Council's Community Hall.

There were 128 attendees at the seminar which was an excellent turnout. Emails were sent to the 88 who gave us their email address and we had nearly 30% of these people respond to the questions asked. Many thanks to all that responded – it is this feedback that makes it possible for us to improve the next seminar.

The questions were:

- 1. Was the seminar value for money?
- 2. Was the title relevant to the topic?
- 3. Were the papers relevant to the topic?
- 4. What was the best topic?
- 5. Was the lunch good?
- 6. How could it have been improved?

Of the answers to questions 1, 2 and 3, 92% of the answers agreed that the seminar was value for money, that the title was relevant to the topics and that the papers were relevant (they were different respondees for each question).

The responses to the best topic varied with the interests of the respondees, and so every speaker was mentioned as the best. Randall Robinson's talk – *Direct seeding in weed infested remnant grassland situations using native forbs* was certainly a success and Colin Hocking's talk - *Recent perspectives on integrated grassland management to maintain or improve ecosystem health* 

produced comments like 'I did not agree with his premise, but it caused me to think about the issues raised'. Something a successful seminar should do.

All the speakers should be congratulated for their excellent presentations, their work was much appreciated by their audience. The Proceedings will show the diversity of the work that the speakers covered.

Some comments were:

- Colin Hocking's presentation echoes my own belief that Europeans have changed the landscape so much that it can no longer look after itself. Randall Robinson's talk about direct seeding using grassland forbs is very relevant for my aim to re-establish native vegetation in a degraded section of a grassland site on the western basalt plains.
- Ideas I gained were:
  - applying low levels of herbicide to prevent seed set (Richard Rowe) - brilliant for exotic annuals! - use of 'alternative' products as herbicides (Bram Mason) - what about watering with metho? - seeds of weedy species are not necessarily fecund (Louise Beames) - burning encourages bryophyte development on the Western

- Basalt Plains (Nick Williams).
- Probably a little too much discussion about statistical findings with no real 'take home messages', while I appreciated the talks that were more about the practical management issues and community involvement
- Took the most notes when Richard Rowe was speaking and enjoyed being able to then visit Bushes paddock and see the good work they've done. Colin Hocking's talk was most relevant to me with my job to facilitate volunteer involvement in biodiversity conservation. Randall Robinson also made some pertinent observations about the need for soil disturbance for the establishment of grasslands forbs - I work at a wildlife sanctuary where reintroduced native marsupials really turn over the soil and I've seen an increase in our wildflower displays.

Improvements - many were related to the lunch and the field trip and these will be taken on board.

Proceedings will be in Plant Protection Quarterly Volume 20 Issue 1 and available from richardson@weedinfo.com. au in February next year.

## Report on the 14th Australian Weeds Conference

I would like to express my gratitude for providing me the opportunity to participate in the 14th Australian Weeds Conference. It was overwhelming news to receive the letter indicating that the Weed Society of Victoria agreed to support my expenses in attending the Conference.

The Australian Weeds Conference was held at the Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, New South Wales from 6 to 9 September 2004 with the theme 'Weed Management: Balancing People, Planet, Profit'. The conference consisted of four plenary sessions and four concurrent sessions. I presented a poster titled 'Spraytopping as a management tool to reduce seed production in Chilean needle grass infestations'. I also attended a field trip to the highlands surrounding Wagga Wagga. This provided me with an opportunity to obtain an insight into the weeds in vineyards, creek catchment and pine-tree plantations in this high rainfall region.



Shiv Gaur

It was of great benefit to me to be updated on new developments in the different aspects of weed science, including weed resistance, biotechnology, herbicide technology, biology and ecology, communication and adoptions. A range of other issues including modelling, economics, and weed management in crops, pastures, horticulture and natural ecosystems were of interest. Of special significance to me were the areas of concern to the weed

scientific community in particular and growers in general, in different agroclimatic zones and participation in resolving these issues.

I used the opportunity to interact and network with other weed researchers working in my area of interest and was able to disseminate my research findings. This gave me an opportunity to further refine my research projects by incorporating other researchers' viewpoints. Informing the scientific community about the Department of Primary Industries, Weeds of National Significance (WoNS), and the Victorian contribution to the development of technical knowledge in agriculture, dairy farming, natural resources and industries is seen as a great advantage.

Shiv Gaur Research Officer – Herbicides DPI, Frankston Centre Frankston Vic 3199

03 9785 0112

### List of WSV Financial Members 2004

Aberdeen, I.C. Adams, R. Addie, J Alexander, P. Anderson, I. P. Arentz, N. Ashby, J. Avery, J.C. Barber, D.B. Barnes, N. Bass, D. **Bayer CropScience** 

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Plant Protection Society of WA

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**Students Ordinary** Corporate \$100.00

\$20.00 \$40.00

- Weedscene Volume 16 Issue 1 January 2005

## **WSV** Constitution

#### 1. NAME

The name of the Society shall be 'The Weed Society of Victoria'.

#### 2. OBJECTS

The objects for which the Society is established

- a. To promote wider interest in weeds and their control.
- b. To provide opportunities for those interested in weeds and their control, to exchange information and ideas based on research and practice.
- c. To encourage the investigation of all aspects of weeds and weed control.
- d. To co-operate and, where appropriate, affiliate with other organizations engaged in related activities in Australia and overseas.
- e. To encourage the study of weed science and the dissemination of its findings.
- f. To produce and publish such material as considered desirable.
- g. To foster the development of an Australiawide Weeds Organization.

#### 3. MEMBERSHIP

- a. Membership shall be of three classes 'ordinary', 'honorary' and 'corporate body', and shall be open to those individuals and corporate bodies respectively who are interested in weeds.
- b. Honorary members may be elected from persons who, in the opinion of the Executive Committee have made major contributions to the objects of the Society and shall have the same rights as ordinary members.
- c. Corporate body members may nominate one representative to the Society who shall have the same rights as an ordinary member.
- d. Applications for membership shall be considered by the Executive Committee and any person or corporate body who is approved by resolution passed by two-thirds majority as being suitable for election shall be regarded as a member.
- e. Any member wishing to withdraw from the Society shall give written notice to the Honorary Secretary on or before 31st December of the then current year. The resignation of such member shall be accepted upon receipt of such notice provided all subscriptions and dues have been paid by the member up to the end of the financial year.

#### 4. SUBSCRIPTIONS

Each ordinary member and each corporate body member shall pay an entrance fee and thenceforth an annual subscription which shall be fixed at the Annual General Meeting for the current year. The subscription shall be payable annually and shall fall due on the first day of March. In the event of the subscription being one year in arrears membership shall lapse. Before any person can be re-elected to membership all arrears in subscription shall be paid.

#### **5. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- a. The Executive Committee shall consist of a President, the Immediate Past President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Publicity Officer and four other members the Society. b. The management of the Society shall be vest-
- ed in the Executive Committee.
- c. Other than the Immediate Past President the members of the Executive Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. They shall be eligible for reselection except that the office of President shall not be held by any one person for more than two consecutive terms.
- d. The Executive Committee shall have the power to fill a casual vacancy in its member-
- e. The Executive Committee shall have the power to co-opt members for specific purposes.
- f. A quorum for the executive committee shall be five (5).

#### 6. MEETINGS

The Executive Committee shall convene and hold an Annual General Meeting not later than the first day of March each year and such other meetings as it may consider necessary. The Executive Committee shall convene a Special General Meeting if so required by requisition in writing by at least ten (10) financial members. A quorum for a general meeting shall be fifteen (15).

#### 7. DISPUTES AND MEDIATION

- a. The grievance procedure set out in this rule applies to disputes under these rules between:
  - 1. A member and another member or
  - 2. A member and the Society.
- b. The parties to this dispute must meet and discuss the matter in dispute and, if possible, resolve the dispute within 14 days after the dispute comes to the attention of all the parties.
- c. If the parties are unable to resolve the dispute at the meeting, or if a party fails to attend the meeting, then the parties must, within 10 days, hold a meeting in the presence of a mediator.
- d. The mediator must be:
  - 1. A person chosen by agreement between the parties; or
  - 2. In the absence of agreement:
  - (i) in the case of a dispute between a member and another member, a person appointed by the committee of the Society,
  - (ii) in the case of a dispute between member and the Society, a person who is a mediator appointed or employed by the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria (Department of Justice).
- e. A member of the Society can be a mediator.
- f. The mediator cannot be a member who is party to the dispute.
- g. The parties to the dispute must, in good faith, attempt to settle the dispute by mediation.
- h. The mediator, in conducting the mediation

must:

- 1. Give the parties to the mediation process every opportunity to be heard; and
- 2. Allow due consideration by all parties of any written statement submitted by any party; and
- 3. Ensure that natural justice is accorded to the parties to the dispute throughout the mediation process.
- i. The mediator must not determine the dis-

If the mediation process does not result in the dispute being resolved, the parties may seek to resolve the dispute in accordance with the act, otherwise at law.

#### 8. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITU-TION

The constitution may be amended only at a General Meeting of which at least fourteen (14) days notice in writing shall have been given to members. A proposed amendment to the constitution shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary and shall require to be supported in writing by at least five (5) financial members.

#### 9. AUDIT

Accounts shall be kept of all monies received and expended by the Society. An auditor who shall not be a member of the Executive Committee and who may or may not be a member of the Society shall be appointed annually at the Annual General Meeting and shall be eligible for reselection. A statement showing the financial position of the Society examined and certified by the auditor shall be laid before the Annual General Meeting.

#### 10. BY-LAWS

The Society shall compile such by-laws and/or standing orders as may be desirable for the operations of the Society.

#### **BY-LAWS** Honorary membership of WSV

- 1. The person shall have served on the committee for a minimum of six (6) years and/or shall have been active in promoting or executing weed control activities over at least a fifteen (15) year period.
- 2. The person must be widely recognized as a leader in weed control matters over an extended period and/or for at least fifteen (15) years prior to the nomination. Honorary membership should be viewed as something of distinction, and only bestowed on active weed control persons who have interstate, national and preferably international standing.
- 3. There shall only be five honorary members at any one time, unless the committee deems otherwise through extraordinary circumstances.
- 4. All nominations with justifications seconded by two people are to be in writing. The nominators must be financial members of the Society. The committee's decision is final.

### New Zealand Plant Protection Society bids to join CAWS

The NZPPS was established in 1948 as the New Zealand Weeds Conference, and has been associated with weed science ever since. It has published several highly regarded books on weeds and each year the papers presented at its conference are published in its internationally cited journal, *New Zealand Plant Protection*. These papers also appear on the Society's website, which receives many 'hits' from all over the world.

The Society's objectives are:

- To pool and exchange information on the biology of weeds, invertebrate and vertebrate pests, pathogens and beneficial organisms and methods for modifying their effects.
- To hold an annual conference and publish scientific proceedings.
- To administer trust funds for the furtherance of plant protection science, education and extension in New Zealand.
- To affiliate with similar societies throughout the world.

Australia and New Zealand are close neighbours and trading partners. Many of their weed problems are similar, and tend to be handled in similar ways. The political structures are of a like nature in both countries and ties between the two seem to be strengthening. Australian and New Zealand weed scientists regularly visit each others' conferences, exchange information, and jointly author papers. Some New Zealand scientists are affiliated to the Weeds CRC. New Zealand has recently adopted (with permission) the Australian Weedbusters and Woody Weed.

CAWS promotes weeds, and the people involved in their management and science, through education, awards, travel grants and publications. It represents the members of the six state weed societies (Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland). CAWS organises the biennial Australian Weeds Conference on behalf of those societies, and publishes the proceedings of those conferences.

Having the NZPPS represented on CAWS would:

 Strengthen the importance of both organisations in Australia and New Zealand.

- Build stronger links between weed science and scientists in the two countries.
- Enhance the importance of weed science in both.
- Stimulate exchanges of people and ideas across the Tasman.
- Help in the struggle to protect the biodiversity of the Australasia region from alien invaders.

#### **Notes on the NZPPS**

- 1. The New Zealand Plant Protection Society has been involved with weed science for many years.
- It was established in 1948 as the National Weeds Conference, became the New Zealand Weeds Society, then the New Zealand Weed and Pest Control Society and finally, in 1992, the New Zealand Plant Protection Society.
- 3. The highlight of the Society's year is its annual conference, held each August. Original papers are presented on all aspects of biology, ecology and control of weeds, pests and diseases in agriculture, horticulture, forestry and the natural environment. A steadily increasing number of poster papers is also presented.
- 4. Each year the Society publishes its conference papers in *New Zealand Plant Protection*, an accepted and internationally cited scientific publication.
- 5. The Society has a webpage (www. hortnet.co.nz/nzpps). Conference proceedings appear on the website 12 months after they were published. Proceedings there date back to the 47th Conference in 1994 and receive many 'hits' from around the world.
- 6. The Society has published several books, with weeds being the main focus. Works include:
  - Standard Common Names for Weeds in New Zealand, compiled by A J Healy.
  - *Identification of weeds and clovers*, by A.J. Healy.
  - An illustrated guide to common weeds of New Zealand, by Bruce Roy, Ian Popay, Paul Champion, Trevor James and Anis Rahman.
  - Proceedings of workshops run in conjunction with the annual conference.

Ian Popay, President NZPPS

### **WSV DIRECTORY**

#### Correspondence and enquiries

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

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