



Weedscene

Volume 16 Issue 3

Newsletter of the Weed Society of Victoria Inc.

May 2005

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PROGRAM Second Victorian Weed Conference • *Smart weed control, managing for success* 17–18 August 2005 All Seasons International Hotel, Bendigo

DAY 1 Wednesday 17 August

9.00–9.10 Opening.

Daniel Joubert, President, Weed Society of Victoria.

Session 1 Early detection and response

9.10–9.40 Invasive garden plants promoted in the horticultural media and publications. *Kate Blood*, DPI.

9.40–10.10 Weeds in Botanic Gardens. *Roger Spencer*, Royal Botanic Gardens and National Herbarium Melbourne.

10.10–10.40 Review of noxious weeds list. *John Weiss*, DPI.

10.40–11.10 MORNING TEA

Session 2 Integrated weed management

11.10–11.40 IWM on a national scale. *Rachel McFadyen*, CEO, Weeds CRC.

11.40–12.10 Title and speaker to be announced.

12.10–12.40 A national weed law report card. *Andreas Glanznig*, WWF Australia, Sydney.

12.40–13.40 LUNCH/POSTER SESSION

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Session 3 Early detection and response

13.40–14.00 Management strategies for National Alert List weed species in Victoria. *Michael Hansford*, DPI.

14.00–14.20 What is a 'weed'? Should we continue to say that 'a plant is a weed in the eye of the beholder'? *John Dwyer*, The University of Melbourne.

14.20–14.40 Display at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show. *Daniel Joubert*, DPI

14.40–15.00 Nursery people aren't all environmental pests. *Robert Chin*, Nursery and Garden Industry Victoria.

AFTERNOON TEA

15.30–15.50 Environmental accreditation for retail garden centres. *Mary Trigger*, Sustainable Gardening Australia.

15.50–16.10 The state of olives in Victoria, a new industry or a looming weed? *Michael Laity*, *Ken Young*, The University of Melbourne.

16.10–16.30 Aquatic Weeds of National Significance, coming to a waterway near you! *Phil Moran*, *Andrew Petroschevsky*, *Steve Wingrave*, Futures Centre, Queensland.

16.30–16.50 Operation rapid response, dealing with the potential incursion of branched broomrape. *David McLaren*, *Geoff Harvey*, *Kate Blood*, DPI.

Session 4 Integrated weed management

13.40–14.00 Chilean needle grass – integrated grazing for success. *Charles Grech*, DPI.

14.00–14.20 Enviromark: A system for integrated weed management along roadsides. *Christine Corbett*, Greening Australia Tasmania.

14.20–14.40 Integrated management of a Weed of National Significance (WONS) delivering strategic conservation outcomes. *Hillary Cherry*, *Paul Downey*, NSW Department of Environment and Conservation.

14.40–15.00 Gorse Task Force. *Jeanette Belchambers*, Chair, Gorse Task Force.

AFTERNOON TEA

15.30–15.50 Weed Warriors. *Kate McArthur*, DSE, *Megan McCarthy*, DPI.

15.50–16.10 Evidence based versus community driven weed action plans. *Leigh Dennis*, Corangamite Catchment Management Authority.

16.10–16.30 Understanding and managing weed effects on establishment of native tree seedlings in riparian zones. *Nigel Ainsworth*, *Fiona Ede*, DPI.

16.30–16.50 Tackling weeds. *Beth Jones*, DSE.

19.00 CONFERENCE DINNER

DAY 2 Thursday 18 August

Session 5 Successful monitoring

9.00–9.30 The monitoring of eradication programs and the evaluation of their performance. *Dane Panetta*,

Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Brisbane.

9.30–10.00 Using geospatial technologies to map and monitor environmental weeds. *Jennifer Emeny*, Deakin University.

10.00–10.30 The role of monitoring in weed management: a case study from the Victorian alps. *Kelly Raymond*, Parks Victoria.

10.30–11.00 MORNING TEA

Session 6 Getting technical

11.00–11.30 Molecular genetic breeding to produce non-GM crops. *Jim Kollmorger*, The University of Melbourne.

11.30–12.00 Environmental impacts on herbicide activity for weed control. *Dick Medd*, *Todd Andrews*, NSW DPI, Orange.

12.00–12.30 Best application methods and associated issues. *Harry Combella*, SpraySmart, Bendigo.

12.30–13.30 LUNCH/POSTER SESSION

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Session 7 Successful monitoring

13.30–13.50 Weed biological control impact assessment in Victoria: current activities. *Tom Morley*, DPI.

13.50–14.10 Willows, Weed of National Significance. *Sarah Holland Clift*, DPI.

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14.10–14.30 Biological control of Paterson's curse, distribution networks and state-wide agent establishment. *Kerry Roberts, DPI.*

14.30–14.50 Local area priority-setting for weed management on public land in Victoria. *Steve Platt, DSE.*

AFTERNOON TEA

15.20–15.40 TBA. *Greg Fraser, GRDC.*

CONCURRENT SESSION

Session 8 Getting technical

13.30–13.50 A national serrated tussock survey – Impacts and implications of its resistance to the herbicide flupropate in Australia. *David McLaren, Tereso Morfe, DPI, Sethu Durai, RMIT.*

13.50–14.10 Weed mapping – a vision for the future. *Ian Dreher, Naomi Wilson, DPI.*

14.10–14.30 Use of robotic weeding in grain crops. *Malcolm Taylor, Agropraisals Pty. Ltd.*

14.30–14.50 Weed spread prevention wash down project. *Byron Crowe, DPI.*

AFTERNOON TEA

15.20–15.40 Himalayan honeysuckle control at Mt. Buffalo. *Parks Victoria.*

16.00 CLOSING REMARKS

Further information about the conference can be obtained from the Secretary, WSV, PO Box 987, Frankston, Vic 3199, email secwssv@surf.net.au or from the website.

CALL FOR POSTERS

Space is still available to display posters at the Second Victorian Weed Conference – *Smart weed control, managing for success* – to be held at the All Seasons International Hotel in Bendigo on Wednesday 17 and Thursday 18 August 2005.

If you are interested in presenting a poster related to any of the sessions please send your name, organisation, address, email and poster title, plus a 10 line summary highlighting the significance of your information to the address below ASAP. Summaries of posters will be published in the proceedings. Contact details: Secretary, WSV, PO Box 987, Frankston, Vic 3199, email secwssv@surf.net.au.

Weed program to help economy and environment

Getting rid of serious weeds as soon as they are discovered can prevent millions of dollars in costs and future environmental damage. That is the philosophy behind the Victorian Government's Weed Alert Rapid Response (WARR) program, launched by Elaine Carbines, Parliamentary Secretary for Environment, at Monash University. The launch



L to R: Andreas Glanznig, Biodiversity Policy Manager, WWF Australia; Anne Dennis, Team Leader – Pest Plants and Animals, DSE; Elaine Carbines, Parliamentary Secretary for Environment; Kate Blood, Weed Alert Rapid Response Project Leader, DPI; Tony Lovick, Project Manager, Pest Plants, DPI.

took place on Thursday 17 February 2005 at the Weed Society of Victoria seminar entitled 'Policies for Weed Management – Who Has Responsibility?'

The WARR program aims to prevent major new weeds establishing in Victoria by identifying the invasive and damaging nature of weeds in advance. Had these dangers been known for blackberry, ragwort, Paterson's curse and gorse in the 1800s, it is likely that they would never have been introduced. At the very least, the first infestations would have been destroyed while the problem was still small.

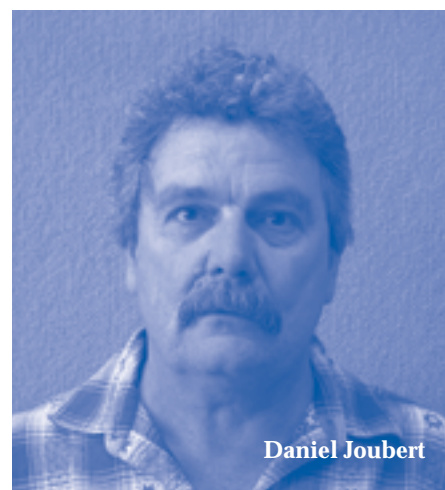
Today the problem is anything but small. It is estimated that weeds cost Australian agriculture an average of \$3.9 billion per year and are recognized as the second most important threat to biological diversity, after habitat destruction. And it could be argued that we are yet to learn the lessons of the past, with weeds such as horsetail, orange hawkweed and Japanese knotweed escaping from gardens and posing a further threat. The WARR program is aimed at addressing such threats.

The program is based on the understanding that a small patch of a weed can be more easily and cost effectively contained or eradicated than an outbreak covering thousands of hectares. The program is detailed in a document prepared by the DPI 'Weed Alert Rapid Response Plan Victoria'. It builds on the expertise of interstate agencies and is believed to be 'the most comprehensive surveillance and response plan of its type in Australia'.

To find potential weeds, DPI is enlisting the help of agency staff and volunteers to act as additional 'eyes and ears'. These 'Weed Spotters' can help to find and report the target weeds and other plants new to their district.

If you would like to become a Weed Spotter, contact 136 186 to register.

New President for WSV



Daniel Joubert

Daniel Joubert was recently elected President of the Weed Society of Victoria. He is currently Program Leader Extension Support in the Weed Alert Rapid Response and Prevention group of the Landscape Protection Branch of the DPI, previously National Co-ordinator for the Weeds of National Significance – Chilean needle grass (*Nassella neesiana*) program, based at Frankston.

Daniel has had an outstanding career in plant-related management, research and administration in South Africa and New Zealand, founded upon a B.Sc. in Botany and Zoology, an Honours degree in Botany, Plant Ecology and Plant Physiology from the University of Pretoria, and a M.Sc. in Botany from the University of Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

[originally from Under Control No. 22]



WSV approaches middle age gracefully

Next year is our 40th birthday. It seems like only yesterday that we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Weed Science Society of Victoria with a cruise up the Yarra and a buffet dinner aboard the elegant 'Elizabeth Anne'. But how should the Society celebrate this next milestone? Suggestions include:

- Attending a dinner • A cruise on the Yarra • A BBQ on the banks of the Yarra • A picnic in the Royal Botanic Gardens • Dinner on a Restaurant Tram • A weed walk

Please can you think about this celebration and email your preferences or suggestions to the Secretary, Ros Shepherd secwssv@surf.net.au.

Weed Society book prizes awarded

Book prizes for excellence were awarded to University of Melbourne students: *Sarah McCormick*, Advanced Diploma of Agriculture, and *Natalie Woodhead*, Advanced Diploma of Conservation and Land Management, both from Longerenong Campus; *Amy Silvester*, Advanced Diploma in Horse Management, Glenormiston Campus; *Darin Bradbury*, Burnley Campus; *Glenn Watt* and *David Landmeter*, Dookie Campus.

Congratulations to all recipients. We hope this will be the start of a long term interest in weeds and their management.

Slowing glyphosate resistance

A collaborative effort spearheaded by the National Glyphosate Sustainability Working Group (in Australia) offers two free, high impact, single web pages aimed at slowing the development of weed resistance to glyphosate-based herbicides. The first page, a guide to minimizing the risk of glyphosate resistance titled, 'Keeping Glyphosate Resistance Rare in Australian Cropping', offers suggestions for tipping the balance in favour of avoiding, or at least minimizing, glyphosate resistance in widely dispersed weed, *Lolium rigidum* (annual ryegrass) http://www.weeds.crc.org.au/documents/glyphoste_risk_guide_colour.pdf. (Note: 'glyphoste' intentionally mis-spelled as appears on web site). The page lists risk-decreasing production practices as well as those to be shunned as risk-increasing. The second page, 'What to do if You Suspect Glyphosate Resistance', advises growers to follow various steps and, if after reviewing the situation, resistance is still suspected, provides regional specialists to contact. This page is at: http://www.weeds.crc.org.au/documents/glyphosate_fa_q_suspect_resistance.pdf. **IMPnet News May 2005**

Biodiversity survey reveals massive lack of knowledge

At least 450 flowering plants and 400 invertebrate fauna species are at risk of extinction as a direct result of salinity in Western Australia's agricultural zone, according to the findings of a recently published survey.

The findings, undertaken as a joint venture by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM), the WA Museum, the University of Western Australia and the University of Adelaide, are particularly significant, considering that prior to the survey only 11 species of the threatened flora occurring in the agricultural region were known to have at least one population at threat from salinity, and one species was considered likely to disappear without remedial action at a landscape scale.

In addition to species extinctions, all remaining remnants of many valley-floor wetland, shrubland and woodland communities could disappear because of salinization. Twenty-five new invertebrate species and six new plants were found during the survey, and many more species are awaiting scientific description, including a new family of crustaceans.

The survey has revealed the lack of knowledge about the region's biodiversity – 30 per cent of aquatic and 50 per cent of terrestrial invertebrate species found have not been formally scientifically described.

The survey was funded by the State Government as part of the State Salinity Strategy, and was part of an ongoing program of regional surveys to document the State's biodiversity components and patterns and determine conservation status. Due to the large size of the survey, it is not yet publicly available, although CALM is likely to release a summary of the survey in the next few months.

Enviroinfo April 2005

Government slashes funding for environment groups

The Federal Government has slashed the level of funding available to environmental organizations in the 2004/2005 round of Grants to Voluntary Environment and Heritage organizations (GVEHO) by \$500 000 without prior warning, and warned the organizations that their tax deductible status could be in jeopardy if they engage in political activities.

The grants program has existed for thirty years, providing administrative funding to a range of state and regional environment groups. Changes to the program were announced by the Environment Minister Senator Ian Campbell such that:

- grants are now capped at \$10 000, a fraction of what has been received in previous years – many organizations have had their funding reduced by over 500 per cent;
 - grants are only available to groups engaged in on the ground conservation work, such as tree planting or weed eradication;
- and
- activities such as community awareness raising, education or advocacy will no longer be supported by this funding.

ACF Executive Director Don Henry said the impact of changes to grant eligibility criteria would be significant.

"GVEHO funding accounts for anywhere between 5 and 20 per cent of total annual funding for state and regional environment groups", Mr. Henry said.

"It finances essential administrative work in coordinating volunteers and implementing important education and conservation programs. This funding is almost impossible to get anywhere else and so many of these programs are now in jeopardy."

Opposition environment spokesman Anthony Albanese has accused the Federal Government of trying to silence the environmental organizations, and said that the decision had slammed the door on agencies raising public awareness of the environment or pushing for stronger environmental protection.

South Australian Environment Minister John Hill has also lashed out at the Federal Government over the cuts, claiming it "does not want criticism of its inept policies".

Enviroinfo 28 April 2005

13th Biennial Noxious Weeds Conference: WEEDS – the real cost

Orange, NSW, 20–22 September 2005

The conference will bring together a wide range of experts to address topics of interest to weeds officers, vegetation managers, natural area managers and practitioners from the private and public sectors. There will be interactive workshops and seminars to expand your skills in weed and land management. Topics include:

- Actual costs of weeds
- Catchment Management Authorities
- New developments
- Innovations in the weeds industry
- Revegetation
- Community involvement.

For information regarding the conference contact Lyn Gough, Orange City Council, 02 6393 8504, email lgough@orange.nsw.gov.au.

8th Queensland Weed Symposium

Townsville, 19–22 June 2005

This symposium will focus on the latest innovations in weed management, where to find information, community initiatives, and State and National weed policies and legislation. Full Registration is \$395 per person. Registration forms and further information may be obtained at the Symposium website (www.wsq.org.au).

New sponsor for Weedscape

Bayer CropScience has become a sponsor of Weedscape, along with Dow AgroSciences. Sponsorship is an important way in which companies can give us support and it is much appreciated by the Society.



Bayer CropScience

WSV HOME PAGE www.wsvic.org.au

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Second International Conference on Parthenium Management

Bangalore, India, December 2005

Parthenium (*Parthenium hysterophorus*) popularly called as white top, carrot weed, fever few, is an annual herb growing to a height of 1.0 to 1.5 m with profuse flowering through out the year. It is a native of north-east Mexico, West Indies, tropical South and North America. The weed causes health problems in animals, human beings, reduces biodiversity and causes yield losses in crops. This International Conference on Parthenium Management aims to update the status of parthenium in different parts of the World, to consolidate research results, to produce workable recommendations to manage this weed, to make suggestions to policy makers and to activate the formation of a Working Group on Parthenium.

The themes of this second conference are to:

1. Present a global view of Parthenium in different countries.
2. Examine its importance in agriculture, health and the environment.
3. Explore the status of Parthenium management including competition, pathogens, insects and chemical, manual and integrated control.
4. Utility aspects of Parthenium – medicinal, compost, insecticidal properties.
5. Coordinated strategy for involvement of voluntary organizations, individuals and Government agencies in the management of Parthenium on regional scale, and
6. Course of action on the formation of International Working Group on Parthenium.

For further information you can email the conference organizers ap_setty@rediffmail.com or mjpad1in@yahoo.co.in.

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