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# Weed Society of Victoria Travel Award

The Weed Society of Victoria will provide funds for a Travel Grant to send two people to the 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 shall 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 air fare to attend the Australian Weeds Conference, and will not exceed \$1500.00 per recipient. The grant will be made in accordance with guidelines that can be found on the WSV website or from the secretary, with the application to be in to the Society by the end of the April 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 WeedScene, the Society's newsletter.

The submissions should be brief, include details of the applicant's weedrelated 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. They will examine the application for:

- Relevance of the paper or poster to the topic of the Conference
- The involvement of the applicant in a weed science related field
- The relevance of the applicant attending the Conference
- The presentation of the application
- Any involvement in Weed Society of Victoria Inc.

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 WeedScene. This to cover the highlights of the conference and the benefits gained by the recipi-

For application forms contact: The Weed Society of Victoria Inc., The Secretary, PO Box 987, Frankston, Vic 3199. Phone: (03) 9576 2949, Email Ros Shepherd: secwssv@surf.net.au.

# Weeds information online

The Victorian Resources Online (VRO) website focuses on dissemination of information (including maps) about Victoria's natural resources (e.g. landform, soil, water, biodiversity) as well as land and water management issues. Information is provided at the statewide level as well as for each of Victoria's catchment management regions. The VRO project is supported by the Agriculture Development Division of DPI as well as by DSE.

A key focus of the VRO website is provision of information related to pest plants and can be accessed from the pest plants section: www.dpi.vic.gov.au/vro/ weeds. Here information is provided on:

- Victoria's Noxious Weeds Review.
- Invasiveness and impact assessments including all the noxious weeds.
- Potential distribution and present distribution of noxious weeds in Victoria (with associated maps).
- Links to other websites for related information on weed species.

Information on particular weeds is accessible under categories of aquatic, trees, shrubs, herbs, climbers and creepers, succulents and grasses, as well by alphabetical lists of common names. For further information contact John Weiss (DPI Frankston phone 03 9785 0144) or Mark Imhof (DPI Werribee phone 03 9742 8781).

# LAST REMINDER Seminar on Interactions Between Weeds and Animals

A seminar presented by the Weed Society of Victoria Inc. Thursday 9th March 2006. The program will commence 8.55 am following registration which will open at 8.00 am at the Lecture Theatre, Department of Primary Industries, Knoxfield Centre, 621 Burwood Highway, Knoxfield.

# LAST REMINDER The 40th Annual General Meeting of the Weed Society of Victoria

Thursday 9th March 2006, 4.00 pm Lecture Theatre, Department of Primary Industries, Knoxfield Centre,

621 Burwood Highway, Knoxfield Don't forget all the Committee positions become available. So why don't you join the team and have your say on how the Society is run and get involved in what it does - make it work for you!

### Inside this issue...

WSV Travel Grant	1
Weeds information online	1
15th Australian Weeds Conference	2
Lord of the Weeds 2006	2
Landcareonline website	2
WSV Weed Prizes	3
Tree-of-Heaven or Tree-of-Hell	3
CAWS Travel Award	3
FAO projects on weeds	4
No till and conservation farming	4
WSV Constitution	5
List of WSV Financial Members	6
WSV Directory	6

Weedscene Volume 17 Issue 2 March 2006

# 15th Australian Weeds Conference

Adelaide Convention Centre 24–28 September 2006

The Organising Committee of the 15th Australian Weeds Conference invites all professionals and community representatives with an interest in weed science and management to join colleagues in Adelaide, South Australia on the 24–28 September 2006.

The Conference theme is *Managing Weeds in a Changing Climate*. Proposed sub-themes include:

- Political Climate
- Funding Climate
- Research Climate
- Social Climate
- Economic Climate
- Environmental Climate
- Climate Change (global warming)
  Over 320 abstracts have been received en-

Over 320 abstracts have been received ensuring a full and diverse program.

The Conference will be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre, in the centre of the city and adjacent to Adelaide's theatre and restaurant districts. A four day scientific program is planned in association with a trade exhibition, a comprehensive partner program and opportunities for all delegates to enjoy pre- and post-conference tours to some of Australia's major attractions.

#### Invited speakers include:

Harold A. Mooney, Professor of Environmental Biology, Department of Biological Sciences, Stanford University, USA who has worked in many of Earth's diverse ecosystems, including the arctic-alpine, the Mediterranean-climate scrub and grasslands, tropical wet and dry forests, and the deserts of the world. His current interests include the impact that global changes have on ecosystem structure and function.

David M. Richardson, Professor of Ecology, DST-NRF-Centre of Excellence for Invasion Biology University of Stellenbosch, South Africa, who has specific expertise in invasion ecology and particularly alien tree invasions. He has published 118 peer-reviewed papers and book chapters, has edited several books, and is Editorin-Chief of Diversity and Distribution, Associate Editor of Biological Invasions, and serves on the editorial boards of several other journals. He is a member of the IUCN Species Survival Specialist Groups on Invasive Organisms and Conifers.

## Lord of the Weeds 2006 Competition

School students making a difference!

Student reports for the 'Lord of the Weeds' competition tell exciting stories of the satisfying work in which school students are currently involved, or are planning, to rehabilitate weed infested areas. The students' sense of pride and accomplishment at developing solutions to a familiar environmental problem is obvious.

'Lord of the Weeds' is a national secondary schools competition run by the Cooperative Research Centre for Australian Weed Management (Weeds CRC). Following the success of the competition in previous years, together with extra financial support from the Weed Societies in each state, the competition has grown substantially. For example the Weed Society of Victoria has offered a scholarship worth \$500 to a student and school in Victoria who has submitted an outstanding report. In 2006 a total of \$4700 in prize money will be offered to schools with the winning reports. Prize money will be offered to the national winners along with additional prize money offered to selected schools in each state.

Accompanying teacher resources have been developed. These include suggested lesson activities, pro formas to assist students writing the report, a marking guide and details of appropriate contacts for teachers to use. This way finding a local weedy area should be the most difficult thing to do!

In this competition students investigate a weed-infested area and then write a report addressing key criteria. To view the previous winning reports, and the rules and resources for teachers, go to www. weeds.crc.org.au and follow the links to 'for schools'. These winning student reports promote the message that rehabilitating local areas really is a very worthwhile and satisfying thing to do. What's also great is that these students have won prize money for their schools. Why not become involved with your students in this competition? Give your students the experience to investigate and discover the best way to manage weeds in their local environment. Offer your students the opportunity to win some great prize money for their school.

Don't delay, read the rules and resources for teachers, find a local site, register your student(s) and get your class started!

#### Want more information?

To view the winning student reports in more detail or to read the rules and resources for teachers, go to our website: www.weeds.crc.org.au and follow the links to 'for schools' and 'Lord of the Weeds' competition. Be sure to register for the competition before 24 May 2006. Reports are due by the 1 August 2006.

Weed Society of Victoria Inc.

Weed Society of Victoria Inc.

WENT Students \$20.00

Ordinary \$40.00

Corporate \$100.00

# Landcare Australia's Landcareonline website

In December, Landcare Australia Ltd launched its new Landcareonline website. Designed to provide support to the landcare movement, the website acts as a hub for information and contacts, connecting landcare stakeholders across Australia.

As the landcareonline website will be regularly updated, visit the Landcareonline website address via the following link www.landcareonline.com/index.asp regularly.



### **WSV Weed Prizes**

Weed prizes have been awarded to the following University of Melbourne students:

**Rachel Abel** studying for a Bachelor of Agricultural Science (Parkville),

**Alyce Adams** studying for an Advanced Diploma in Horse Management (Glenormiston)

**Matthew Bissett** studying for an Advanced Diploma of Agriculture (Dookie),

**Matthew Crozier** studying for an Advanced Diploma of Agriculture (Dookie),

**Mandy Marcham** studying for an Advanced Diploma in Horticulture (Burnley), and

**Melissa Quinn** studying for a Bachelor of Agriculture (Dookie).

#### Dear WSV

My name is Alyce Adams from Glenormiston College and I write to you in response to receiving the 2005 Weed Society Prize for the best plant collection. I am 19 years old, and am studying for an Advanced Diploma in Horse Management.

I have always had a strong interest in horses, other animals and science in general. I grew up in south east Gippsland and have always been surrounded by horses and other animals and knew my ambitions for my future career would involve horses, animals and science. I hope to be successful in the equine industry and travel overseas. Farming interests include better animal rights and welfare, and the environmental impact and importance of farming in Australia.

I enjoy my course which covers a variety of aspects including pastures and weeds which will give me a broader knowledge for the future. This plant collection has taught me how many weeds there are and the impact that they have.

Alyce Adams, Glenormiston College The University of Melbourne

# Tree-of-Heaven or Tree-of-Hell?

Tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), a tree native to China, was probably introduced to Europe in the eighteen or nineteen century. It is a prolific seed producer that grows rapidly and overruns native vegetation. Once established, it can quickly take over a site and form an impenetrable thicket. The root system is aggressive enough to cause damage to sewers and foundations. It grows at its best in disturbed urban areas (alleys, sidewalks, parking lots, parks) becoming a serious nuisance for city manages. It may also invade roadsides, railways and even natural landscapes.

Recent evidence indicates that this weed is not only an ecological threat but also a threat to human health. According to a recent report [Annals of Internal Medicine 143(2), 159] several workers clearing tree-of-heaven stands suffered chest pains, shortness of breath and gastrointestinal symptoms, needing in one case emergency hospitalization. This worker expressed concern that they may not have exercised proper caution while clearing the trees, since, he said, 'the sap on that tree will make you sick'. The diagnosis of the doctors was 'a case of myocarditis likely due to exposure to sap from Ailanthus altissima'.

It is known that the sap of this tree may contain proteins, called quassinoids, that can explain the patients cardiac problems. In fact, popular medicine uses the bark of this tree as a herbal remedy to slow heart rate.

All these facts bring to the headlines the importance of this species, not only from the stand point of conservation of biodiversity and maintenance of urban facilities, but also from a human health standpoint. Arborists should use caution while handling these trees: instead of a tree of heaven it may become a tree of hell!

C. Femandez-Quintanilla CCMA-CSIC [EWRS Newsletter Dec 2005]

# CAWS Annual Young Weed Scientist Travel Award

The CAWS Annual Young Weed Scientist 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.

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. Nomination forms can be downloaded from www.vicnet.net. au/~weedss, look under awards.

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

Applications are to be forwarded by 1st May each year to the appropriate Secretary/Treasurer of CAWS. CAWS Young Travel Award application forms are available online (www.vicnet.net.au/~weedss or www.wsvic.org.au) or can be obtained from the Secretary of each Society.

# **EUREKA! AgResearch Pty. Ltd.**



For further information about EUREKA! contact:

Anthony Flynn 03 9742 0286

Philip Pentland 03 9742 0302

Kieran Murphy 03 9742 0289

Weedscene Volume 17 Issue 2 March 2006 —

#### Parasitic weeds

FAO is executing two regional projects on integrated management of parasitic weeds. One is in collaboration with ICARDA, Aleppo, Syria, on Orobanche management in leguminous crops, which includes countries from North Africa and the Near East. The second project started recently deals with Striga control in six francophone countries of West Africa. The main objectives of these projects are to strengthen management capabilities of technical field staff and farmers; to establish a sustainable network for collecting and disseminating information on new control alternatives of parasitic weeds, and to enhance public awareness of the problem. The main activities of the project are training those who work with fanners and farmers. In each country, one Training of Trainers has already been implemented with an average participation of 25 farmers in the school for two cropping seasons. The curriculum includes training on ecobiology of the parasitic plants (including life cycle and importance of the soil seed bank) and control methods (rotation, postemergence herbicide treatments, and preventing parasitic plants from flowering).

## FAO projects on weeds

Both projects also include training on biological control and are conducted by capitalizing on the expertise available in the countries and in the region.

#### Weedy rice

Weedy red rice infestations in rice are one of the major weed problems in rice in several Central and South America countries. For example, most of Colombia's 320,000 ha of rice are affected by weedy rice. Many of Costa Rica's rice fields are contaminated with either Oryza latifolia or red rice (Oryza sativa), and the Chiriqui province of Panama is also seriously affected by weedy rice. In Cuba, infestations of up to 240 plants of weedy rice plants/m<sup>2</sup> and 39 biotypes are found. In Nicaragua, weedy rice and Oryza latifolia can reduce yields 10 to 40%. In Venezuela, there are three *Oryza* species affecting rice production: O. sativa, O. rufpogon and O. latifolia.

To address this situation, 18 countries attended an FAO workshop on this topic in 1999 in Cuba which concluded that there is no simple method to control weedy/red rice. Only through an integrated control approach can a reduction of weedy/red rice infestation be effectively achieved;

any control measure should attempt to reduce the seed bank of weedy/red rice.

The workshop resulted in a request by several Central and South American counties and the Caribbean for FAO technical assistance to implement a regional project. The project started in 2003 with the objective of implementing pilot training activities, including two Farmer Field Schools in each participating country. Through the participatory approach of farmer training, participants were taught to understand the yield losses caused by weedy rice, the need to use clean seed free of weedy rice seeds, the importance of reducing weedy rice seed bank in soil, identify biotypes of weedy rice, and to implement appropriate control measures. In most cases, a pre-planting application of glyphosate to the early emerged plants of weedy rice gave effective control. In Nicaragua, farmers obtained more than 25% yield increase using such a method. At present the FAO, in collaboration with specialists from various institutions working regularly on weedy/red rice ecology and control, is preparing a book on this issue.

IWS Newsletter July 2005

# Facilitating adoption of no-tillage and conservation farming practices

Conference-Workshop at the Sustainable Farming Training Centre, Tamworth Agricultural Institute 29–30 March 2006

There has been widespread adoption of no-tillage and conservation farming practices across Australia during the last 30 or so years. However, the rate of adoption has varied widely within and between regions. For example, the area of crop sown into no-tillage fallow varies from less than 10% to more than 50% between statistical areas in north-westem NSW. The purpose of this conference-workshop is to learn more about the reasons for non-adoption, to identify the major drivers for further adoption, and to develop strategies to implement these drivers.

In the early days of no-tillage, conferences tended to be dominated by scientists, advisers, and leading farmers who were at the forefront creating a new technologies for sustainable farming practices. Although there may still be vigorous debate, most of the agronomic and engineering problems appear to have been solved apparently leaving economic and social constraints as the main barriers to further adoption.

A series of farmer focus group meetings, sponsored by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), was conducted in north-western NSW in early 2005. These meetings have confirmed the importance of economic and social as well as technical and managerial constraints that are preventing more farmers adopting conservation farming and no-tillage practices. Reasons given by farmers for non-adoption are largely consistent with the twelve categories defined by Vanclay (2004) in the *Australian Journal of Experimental Agriculture*, 44, 213-22.

- Too complex;
- Not easily divisible into manageable parts;
- Not compatible with farm and personal objectives;
- Not flexible enough;
- Not profitable;
- Capital outlay is too high;
- Too much additional learning is involved:
- Risk and uncertainty is too great;

- There is conflicting information;
- Lack of appreciation of the problem;
- Lack of physical infrastructure;
- Lack of social infrastructure.

The information obtained from the focus groups together with farmer case studies will set the scene for discussion and workshopping of potential solutions to these problems. It is expected that the recommendations and strategies arising from the conference-workshop will be of special interest to Rural R&D Corporations, Catchment Management Authorities, Government Agencies, Agribusiness and farmers.

All correspondence should be addressed to bob.martin@dpi.nsw.gov.au. The registration fee for the Conference will be \$200 to cover the cost of catering and printing the proceedings. For expression of interest in attending the Conference, please contact the Tamworth Agricultural Institute on tamworth.office@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

A Good Weed #36, October 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 are:

- 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 vested 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 membership.
- 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, or
  - (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 dispute.

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 CONSTITUTION

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.

Weedscene Volume 17 Issue 2 March 2006 -

### List of WSV Financial Members 2005

I.C. Aberdeen, Kilmore R. Adams, Burwood S. Akers, Lilydale

P. Alexander, Geelong West

C. Allan, Omeo I. P. Anderson, Kew J. Ashby, East Hawthorn A. Brennan, Melton D.B. Barber, Ocean Grove N. Barnes, Port Phillip D. Bass, Adelaide

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Plant Protection Society of WA

S. Purves, Maribyrnong

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D. Richards, Mount Eliza

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M.G. Rouch, Wagga Wagga

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VicRoads Business Info Centre, Kew

B. Setchell, Olinda

R.C.H. Shepherd, Frankston

Shire of Mornington Peninsula,

Rosebud

S.M. Smith, Geelong

South African Weed Science Society

State Library of Victoria, Melbourne

S.J. Stewart, Ballarat

N.E. Stone, Croydon

J. Stoner, Tootgarook J.W. Stranger, Tyers

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