

W Weedscene

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Newsletter of the Weed Society of Victoria Inc.

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Weed Society of Victoria celebrates 40 years

The Weed Society of Victoria celebrated its fortieth birthday recently with a dinner at the Melbourne Zoo. It was a great venue and everyone enjoyed the meal, company and the speaker. The tables were appropriately decorated with numerous weedy flowers and weedy vegetation, with the 'vases' being *Cynara scolymus*. The meal started with *Asparagus officinalis* and ended with a serving of *Rubus fruticosus* agg., with a few other appropriate 'plants' being consumed in between.

Rob Pelletier gave us the run down of his and Kate Blood's recent trips around Australia talking to the Nursery Industry in an attempt to come to some agreement concerning what should not be recommended as common garden plants. Rob was then presented with a huge and colourful bouquet of weedy flowers and thanked for his presentation.

This celebration marked 40 years of service by the Weed Society of Victoria to the community. The first Weed Society in Australia was formed in New South Wales in 1966 and was shortly followed by Victoria in the same year. South Australia followed in 1970, Queensland in 1975, Western Australia in 1976 and Tasmania in 1995.



The celebration was well attended by past presidents of the Society. From left to right Harry Combellack, Ian Anderson, Rosemary Henderson, Daniel Joubert (current president), Kelly Raymond, Wendy Bedgood, Rob Richardson, Ros Shepherd, Chris Knight and Kate Blood.

SEMINAR

'Over the garden fence and far away... – communities' actions on weeds'

**40th WSV AGM and seminar
19 April 2007**

Speakers will include David Blair, Yarra Ranges Shire, Trevor McIntosh, Parks Victoria, Daniel Joubert and John Weiss, DPI Frankston. They will be speaking on how parts of the Dandenongs have been cleared of weeds involving community action and assessing the community response to these actions. The venue will be in the Dandenong ranges and the program will include a half day field trip.

**REMINDER
WSV subs for 2006
due now!!!**

**NEW
PUBLICATION**

**WEEDS OF THE
SOUTH-EAST**

*See inside for
EXCLUSIVE
SPECIAL OFFER
for WSV members*

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WSV Third Biennial Weed Conference 2007

Call for papers

The Weed Society of Victoria will hold it's Third Biennial Weed Conference – *Earth, fire, water and wind, their effects on weeds* on Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th October 2007, at the All Seasons International Hotel in Bendigo.

The program will be divided into

four sessions and each session will include invited speakers and paper presentations. There will also be poster sessions.

If you wish to be included on a notification list or are interested presenting a paper or poster related to any of the four sessions please copy and fill out the form below.

WSV Third Biennial Weed Conference

Name

Company

Address.....

.....

..... Postcode.....

Email address

I wish to obtain more information about the conference [tick box] ☐

I wish to submit a paper entitled

.....

.....

I wish to submit a poster entitled

.....

.....

If submitting a paper please add a 10 line summary including any important and outstanding information, as presentations are limited and may have to become posters.

This presentation information is required by 24 November 2006

Send to Secretary, Weed Society of Victoria, PO Box 987, Frankston, Vic 3199

All states ban the sale of willows

Most willows are now banned from sale or distribution in all Australian states and territories. Victoria, Western Australia and the Northern Territory recently joined the other five states and territories in declaring willows as noxious weeds. It is now illegal to sell, propagate or knowingly distribute most willows anywhere in Australia and the control of certain willows is required in some areas. For a summary of the current legislative status of willows in each state/territory, go to Willow Strip', the Newsletter of the National Willows Taskforce at www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/Willows, and click on 'Declaration status of willows in Australia'.

The 'Willow Strip', aims to inform anyone interested in willow management of progress being achieved on willows across

Australia, including the latest research, management techniques, case studies, issues and challenges, events, resource materials and funding options.

Topics in the first edition included:

- All states ban willows
- Introducing... the National Willows Taskforce
- Willow sawfly stripping the willows
- Case study – partnerships and good management bring a great result for the Bass River
- Willow in the spotlight – *Salix cinerea*
- Upcoming funding opportunities

Feedback on the 'Willow Strip' or suggestions for future editions is very welcome. The Willow Strip is also available from <http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/willows/>.

From Kara Murphy... – WSV student award

I was a recipient of the Victorian Weed Society's Plant Collection Award at graduation. This award was presented for most outstanding plant collection in the first year of the Advanced Diploma of Agriculture.

I commenced studies at Longerenong College in 2005 and my course finishes at the end of this year. The course covers a wide range of agriculturally related and necessary skills needed in agriculture. We cover such things as riding a motor bike and identifying cattle to accounting and whole farm planning. Of course one part in first year was to identify and collect 50 or more (specified) agriculturally significant plants.

For the past eight weeks all second years have been on industry placement, from farms to agribusinesses. I split my placement up into two to get a feel for both sides of an extremely broad industry. For the first four weeks I was on a sheep property outside Apsley, close to Langkoop; here I was feeding sheep, sowing pasture and other farm based work. For the last four weeks I spent my time in Mildura at Elders. Here I was introduced to just how many sectors are covered in Elders. I went out every day with stock agents, visiting clients and giving them a hand with livestock, learning heaps along the way; I also went out with the broad acre agronomists and the viticulture/horticulture agronomists (a completely new area for me).

Originally I'm from Preston in Melbourne; I went to a public girl's school and couldn't wait to leave the city. My family own large sheep and cattle properties north of Ballranald (NSW) so my introduction to farming started at a young age (as did the interest), but I lacked the knowledge and experience; so Longerenong was the perfect place.

Next year at the moment I don't have any firm plans. All I do know is that I'm going to Ireland after Christmas for a month to meet family and have a bit of a holiday. I want to be involved in the livestock industry as that where my interest lies. Working on a property for a while or working to be a stock agent are all possibilities at present

Kara Murphy

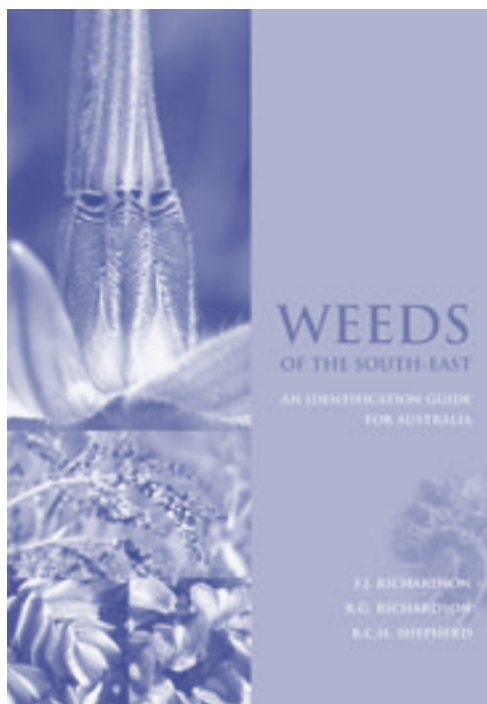


EXCLUSIVE SPECIAL OFFER

only \$60.00 for WSV Members - **FANTASTIC VALUE**

Order quickly – offer available until end December 2006

SPECIAL OFFER



WEEDS OF THE SOUTH-EAST AN IDENTIFICATION GUIDE FOR AUSTRALIA

By F.J. Richardson, R.G. Richardson and R.C.H. Shepherd

ISBN 0958743932, 438 pages, full colour, gatefold soft cover

Published by R.G. and F.J. Richardson

The most comprehensive identification guide for weeds in the south-east region of Australia:

- over 2000 plant species, subspecies, varieties and hybrids including weeds of agriculture, bushland, waterways, gardens, roadsides, wasteland and amenity areas, and many new and emerging problem species
- illustrated with over 1600 photographs including spectacular close-up shots of many features
- key features are described with relevant measurements for easier identification
- comparisons are made to similar species and easily confused natives
- situations where the species are likely to be found
- occurrence by State using herbaria records

Written in easy-to-understand language and beautifully illustrated, this is a field guide for anyone interested in the identification of pest plants and the preservation of our native flora. An essential tool for community and government organizations, park rangers, weed officers and advisers, agronomists, landholders, horticulturists, landscapers, amateur naturalists and gardeners.

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ORDER FORM

New Book – Orchard and Vineyard Spraying

Orchard and Vineyard Spraying Handbook for Australia and New Zealand by Geoffrey O. Furness

Learn the ground-breaking techniques adopted by chemical companies and already being used by leading growers in the industry. Yes, but how practical is this Handbook? Will these techniques really help?

Distance based calibration and improved sprayer set up, as described in this book, have already been implemented by significant sections of the wine grape industry in Australia. In particular, Orlando Wines have implemented this technology on most of their vineyards, encouraging and training most of their supplier growers.

Since implementation, the average incidence of powdery mildew on grapes delivered to their wineries nationally has fallen from 10–15% to 1–3%. The incidence of other pests and diseases has also fallen. The economic significance for this company and their supplier growers has been substantial in terms of grape quality, costs

of production, improved quality wines and reduced costs in the wineries.

Distance based calibration – a simpler calibration method (developed by SARDI) without the use of formulae which consistently delivers more correct chemical dose to the foliage.

Spray volume calculator charts – included for grapevines, tree crops and citrus.

Getting the best out of your sprayer – guidelines to help growers set up their sprayer to maximize coverage, and reduce problems of spray going off-target.

Droplet rating chart technique – for estimating impacted dose and spray coverage. An easy, low cost, visual, droplet rating technique requiring only a simple black light and fluorescent pigment (developed by SARDI). It avoids expensive chemical residue analysis equipment. Minimal training only is needed for most people to use this technique! Using the droplet rating chart, you can:

- More accurately determine the 'point of first run off'. This is used by the agricultural chemical industry to set the label concentration.
- Assess the uniformity of coverage and dose.
- Determine whether or not sufficient chemical has been impacted on all plant surfaces.
- Evaluate off-target deposition.

Other techniques for evaluating spray coverage such as water sensitive papers and white powders are also discussed. One set of four Spray Volume Calculator Charts (laminated A4) especially for tree crops, grapevines and citrus is supplied with each book. Available from Lifelong Vitality, Prairie Road, Cudlee Creek, SA 5232; P 08 8389 2381, F 08 8389 2460 or email: info@lifelongvitality.com.au.

Weeds Australia weed ID

The Weeds Australia web site has been updated to enable searching of their weed identification tool by NRM region. You can find the general jump off page at <http://www.weeds.org.au/ntmap.htm> or you can go directly to your respective state jump off pages for ACT and NSW, NT, Qld, SA, Tas, Vic or WA. This tool is built on the WEEDeck identification cards – for details of which see <http://www.weeds.org.au/weedec.htm>.

\$14.2 million helps defeat the weed menace

The Australian Government's new Defeating the Weed Menace program has received another \$10 million in the recent Federal Budget making the total available \$14.2 million in 2006–07. The funding will support 40 projects throughout Australia. For further information, visit <http://www.deh.gov.au/minister/env/2006/mr11may306.html>.

Wheel cactus study

I am interested in finding a student wishing to do a study on killing wheel cactus (*Opuntia robusta*) via injection method (of glyphosate). The method has been proven to be effective, but we are unsure of the amount of glyphosate, and do believe it could be minimized. A study has been conducted previously by students at BRIT, using a spraying method. This would suit a student studying noxious weeds in Victoria, and would be very useful in tackling this invasive weed.

Ian Grenda

For further information contact WSV secretary Ros Shepherd on email secwssv@surf.net.au.

European Weed Research Society 14th Symposium

Visiting Europe next winter? Why not plan to attend the European Weed Research Society 14th Symposium will be held in Hamar, Norway 18–21 June 2007. The Symposium of EWRS is an institution with a long tradition as a vital forum for scientists to present their work on a broad range of weed science topics including biodiversity and invasive plant species. For more information visit the website <http://www.EWRS-Symposium2007.com>.

MEMBERSHIP RATES

Weed Society of Victoria Inc.



Students	\$20.00
Ordinary	\$40.00
Corporate	\$100.00

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For further information about EUREKA! contact:

Anthony Flynn
03 9742 0286

Philip Pentland
03 9742 0302

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03 9742 0289

WSV Travel Grant awarded

Michael Moerkerk, DPI Horsham, who has been awarded a Weed Society of Victoria Grant to attend the 15th Australian Weeds Conference that is being held in Adelaide in September this year.

The Weed Society of Victoria provides 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 must have been 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 has a maximum value of \$1500.00 per recipient.

Australian farmers active in Natural Resource Management

More than nine out of ten Australian farmers reported undertaking some form of natural resource management activity during 2004–05, according to a new Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Natural Resource Management survey released today.

Weed and pest management were the most common natural resource management activities farmers undertook nationally. Most (86%) farmers reported having at least one natural resource management issue on their holding, with weeds and pests again topping the list. Native vegetation, land and soil and water-related issues were other natural resource management issues reported by farmers.

These preliminary findings are from the ABS' first dedicated Natural Resource Management survey, which asked farmers to report the extent of natural resource management issues on their holding and the activities they undertook to prevent or manage them. The preliminary findings from this survey have been made available at the national, state and regional level.

Final results from the survey will provide more detailed estimates including types of management practices, areas affected and areas being managed. These final results are expected to be released in September this year.

CAWS medal awarded to John Pierce

John Peirce from the Department of Agriculture and Food WA was recently awarded the CAWS medal for an outstanding

contribution to weed management in Australia.

Congratulations John.



John Peirce with previous medal winners. From the left: Prof. Steve Powles, University of Western Australia (WAHRI); Des Gilbey, retired, WA Dept of Agriculture; John Peirce, latest CAWS medal winner; John Moore, Dept of Agriculture and Food WA and CRC; and Geoff Pearce, retired, WA Dept of Agriculture.

Review of the Australian Plant Pest Database

The Australian Plant Pest Database (APPD) has been hailed a success following a recent review of the system. The review strongly recommended the continued development and maintenance of the APPD for national plant biosecurity purposes.

The review team of three from Plant Health Australia, the Museum of Victoria and Macquarie University, found that the APPD has:

- been successful in establishing a 'virtual' national database of plant pest collections distributed around Australia which can be accessed via the web,
- provided access to most Australian agricultural, forestry and university plant pest collections, and
- provided a single point of connection via the web to records in distributed plant pest collections, which can be queried, viewed, mapped and downloaded.

While successes of the APPD were acknowledged, the review team identified

that future APPD developments should focus on the needs of the users, particularly in the areas of:

- enhancing data quality,
- building confidence in the reliability of the system through improvements in the information technology infrastructure, and
- providing additional data such as the reliability of identifications and circumstances in which the records were collected.

The APPD provides critical support in decision making during emergency responses to new plant pest incursions in Australia. It is also important for building domestic and overseas confidence in Australia's plant health status for trade purposes.

The Office of the Chief Plant Protection Officer (OCPPO) commissioned the external review of the APPD and will use the review findings to guide its future development and function. For more information, contact Ian Naumann (OCPPO) on telephone 02 6272 3442.

NOT EVERY TREE IS A GOOD TREE

CHOOSE WISELY ON NATIONAL TREE DAY

On National Tree Day maximize the positive efforts of your tree planting by making sure you don't plant a weed.

Not all trees are good trees. Some like *Crataegus monogyna* (hawthorn), *Olea europaea* (olive), *Acacia baileyana* (Cootamundra wattle), *Psidium guajava* (tropical guava), *Cotoneaster glaucophyllus* (cotoneaster) and *Pittosporum undulatum* (sweet pittosporum) cause environmental and agricultural problems across different regions of Australia.

The Cooperative Research Centre for Australian Weed Management's (Weeds CRC) website can help you with your planting choices. Its Bushland Friendly Garden has lists of what NOT to plant for your region and links to information on those plants and, where available, native plant alternatives. Your local council or landcare office can also help.

'Sixty five per cent of all invasive plants in Australia have escaped from parks and home gardens with green invaders second only to land clearing as a cause of biodiversity loss', said Dr Rachel McFadyen, CEO of the Weeds CRC.

'It is hard to imagine the scale of the unseen deaths of native plants and animals which can no longer cope when their natural habitat is overrun by weeds. This is a huge tragedy quietly playing itself out in the bush every day.'

A study by the Weeds CRC demonstrated that invasive plants – weeds – cost Australians \$4 billion each year, which far exceeds the \$200 million annual cost of salinity.

But the \$4 billion cost only applies to agriculture. The cost to the natural environment and the value of the work of the 'volunteer army' widely active in weed control around Australia would make this

figure considerably higher. The impact of weeds on human health is also uncoded with weed pollen affecting asthma and hay fever sufferers. Other weeds can sting (stinging nettles), give rashes (rhus, green cestrum), or irritate skin with caustic sap (petty spurge). Others are toxic such as arum lily and blackberry nightshade.

'Prevention is always better than a cure', says Dr McFadyen, 'so be wise with your tree choices this National Tree Day.'

For further information contact: Dr Rachel McFadyen, Weeds CRC, 0409 263817.

The 2nd International Landcare Conference

The 2nd International Landcare Conference will be held at the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre from October 8–11, 2006 and it is an event not to be missed. The conference theme is Landscapes, Lifestyles and Livelihoods. It will build on the themes of previous conferences but look to the future and the aim for wealth and health in our country.

Keynote speakers include Bobbie Brazil, Jack Whelan and Maude Barlow. Maude Barlow is the National Chairperson of The Council of Canadians and co-founder of the Blue Planet Project, which works to stop commodification of the world's water.

For registration forms and further information visit the conference website at www.internationallandcareconference2006.com.au or contact Waldron Smith Management on 9645 6311 or email info@wsm.com.au.

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