



Weeds scene

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14th Biennial NSW Weeds Conference, 2007

'Weeds, People and Partnerships'

University of Wollongong

Monday 24 September – Thursday 27 September 2007

The NSW Biennial Weeds Conference has grown to be recognised as the premier weeds forum in the State. Bringing delegates together from across the State, interstate and internationally, the 14th Biennial NSW Weeds Conference will provide a venue for information sharing with the aim of updating, educating and informing participants on all relevant matters related to weeds and their management. It will focus debate on a wide range of issues, including new and emerging weed threats, funding opportunities for weed control, regional case studies, legislation and new advances in weed technology.

The theme aims to reflect the increasing emphasis toward regional cooperation in successful weed management.

The 2007 Conference Program will feature a number of outstanding local and interstate speakers, a trade display, expo and half day field trips providing a practical aspect to the conference. The Conference attracts over 300 delegates from across Australia and provides a wonderful opportunity to meet and extend contacts. Delegates will include weeds and pest species officers, representatives from government, the private sector, environmental organisations, community groups, farmers and many more.

Topics include:

- Working with the community
- Legislation
- New and emerging weed threats;
- New advances in weed technology;
- Regional case studies, and
- Funding opportunities for weed control

For further information contact the Weeds 2007 Conference Secretariat, C/- ICE Australia P/L, 183 Albion Street, Sydney, NSW 2010. Ph: 02 9368 1200, Fax: 02 9368 1500, www.weeds2007.com.au.

Over the Garden Fence and Far Away – Communities' Action on Weeds Seminar

A seminar organised by the Weed Society of Victoria to be held on Thursday 19 April 2007, in the Dandenong Ranges at Burrinja Community Centre and Gallery, Matson Road, Upwey. (Melway 75 B12)

Speakers at the seminar will examine the problems that face community groups attempting to clear an area of weeds, and what can they do to clean up a weedy area so that it does not become a sea of seedlings but an area of restored bush. The questions what is a declared weed and how does that differ from the environmental weeds of bushland, and what are the weeds that require mapping and controlling will be answered.

This seminar looks at how communities can help themselves and also keep their areas weed free. There is an optional field trip to Dr Ken Leversha Reserve in Montrose after the seminar. See the enclosed flyer for program and speaker details. There will be space available for displays and posters. Please notify the Secretary Ros Shepherd, email: secwssv@surf.net.au or Weed Society of Victoria, PO Box 987, Frankston, Victoria, 3199, Ph/Fax 03 9576 2949 in advance if you would like space for a display or poster. Registration will be upstairs near Lecture Room.

Planned Invasive Plants CRC will not go ahead

Rachel McFadyen, CEO, CRC for Australian Weed Management reports that the application for an Invasive Plants CRC to start in July 2007 has been unsuccessful.

Dr McFadyen believes the failure is due to the nature of the current CRC Programme and its increasing move into pure 'commercialisation' where the only 'path to adoption' is via patents and products for sale.

The current Weeds CRC continues until June 2008.

The 41st Annual General Meeting of the WSV

The 41st Annual General Meeting of the Weed Society of Victoria will be on Thursday 19 April 2007 at 16.30 (4.30 p.m.) and will follow the seminar 'Over the Garden Fence and Far Away – Communities' Action on Weeds' (above) at the same venue at (Burrinja Community Centre and Gallery, Matson Road, Upwey. (Melway reference—75 B12)). All members are encouraged to attend.

Call for Committee Members

Committee positions will become vacant at the AGM so this is your chance to join the committee and have your say in the future direction of the Society. Watch for nomination forms in the next issue of Weeds scene.

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Third Biennial Victorian Weeds Conference – Earth, Wind, Fire, Water & Weeds 3–4 October 2007, Bendigo Victoria

REGISTRATION OF INTEREST & CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Weed Society of Victoria will hold its Third Biennial Weed Conference – Earth, Wind, Fire, Water & Weeds on Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th October 2007, at the All Seasons International Hotel in Bendigo, Victoria.

The program will be divided into four sessions and will consist of

- Invited speakers for each sessions
- Presented papers in each session
- Poster sessions

The Executive Committee of the Weeds Society of Victoria is pleased to invite submissions of abstracts for papers from speakers interested in presenting at the Third Biennial Victorian Weeds Conference.

The four elements: Earth, Wind, Fire and Water were identified many centuries ago in both the West and in the East as being constitutive of the world in which we live.

The conference theme highlights the elements as they relate to weeds and may include such topics as:

Earth

- ▶ climate change
- ▶ geospatial technology
- ▶ global issues
- ▶ national, state, regional and local planning

Wind

- ▶ spray technology
- ▶ dispersal of seeds

Fire

- ▶ fire as a tool
- ▶ post-fire recovery

Water

- ▶ aquatic weed management
- ▶ water catchment health

Speakers are invited to present and discuss issues, experiences and learnings across weed management and science, their technical and operational applications, community partnerships and education. Jointly authored presentations are welcomed.

If you are interested in presenting a paper or poster please fill out the form below. If wishing to submit a paper please add a 10 line abstract. If wishing to present a poster provide the title of the poster.

Closing date for submission of abstracts: 24 January 2007.

Abstracts are to be emailed to secwssv@surf.net.au or posted to Secretary, Weeds Society of Victoria, PO Box 987, Frankston, Victoria 3199. You will advise you of the outcome of your submission early in 2007.

Register your interest now!

Land managers, scientists, community volunteers, weeds officers, advisors and all people with an interest in weeds are invited to attend the conference in Bendigo on 3–4 October 2007 to hear the latest in weed management and science in Victoria, to network and share experiences. Register your interest now by completing the form below to be sure of being kept in the loop.

REGISTRATION OF INTEREST Third Biennial Victorian Weeds Conference 2007

Name:

Company:

Address:

.....

.....Postcode

Email address

Please tick

☐ I wish to obtain more information about the conference

☐ I wish to submit a poster entitled:

.....

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☐ I wish to submit a paper entitled [please email/post your abstract by

24 January 2007]:

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El Bruzzese retires



Eligio Bruzzese, Weeds Sub-platform State-wide Leader, Department of Primary Industries Victoria retired on 6 October 2006. This is after a long and committed career with DPI/DSE.

Weed Field Manual

A Field Manual for surveying and mapping nationally significant weeds has been published by the Bureau of Rural Sciences. It can be downloaded from <http://www.daff.gov.au/brsweeds> or a hard copy can be ordered from <http://www.affashop.gov.au/> or by calling 1800 020157.

Earth, Wind, Fire, Water & Weeds

**Third Biennial Victorian Weeds
Conference**

**3–4 October 2007
Bendigo, Victoria**

**Call for papers
Nominate by 24 January 2007
secwssv@surf.net.au**



Weed
Society of
Victoria Inc.

NOMINATION FORM

Weed Society of Victoria 2006 Award for an Outstanding Contribution to Weed Management in Victoria

Name of nominee:

Reason for nomination: (Nominees must have made a significant contribution to the management, science, technology, promotion and practice of weed management. Please attach details.)

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Name/s and signature/s of nominator/s: (At least one nominee must be a member of the Weed Society of Victoria)

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Date:

Contact details of the main nominator:

.....
.....

Signature of nominee:

The award will be judged by the President and two members of the Executive committee.

Please send or email your nomination to:

The Secretary, Ros Shepherd, Weed Society of Victoria,
PO Box 987, Frankston, Victoria 3199. Ph/fax 03 9576 2949
Email secwssv@surf.net.au

Nominations are required by Friday 30 March 2007.

Workshops on pesticide applications

The Centre for Pesticide Application and Safety, University of Queensland, Gatton, Queensland will be running a series of workshops in January 2007. These events include several international speakers.

Adjuvant Technologies for Spray Applications

A one-day workshop focused on advances in adjuvant research and applications

A workshop on spray adjuvants will be held at the University of Queensland Customs House, Brisbane on 15 January 2007 and will cover the following topics:

- Types and chemistries of adjuvant.
- Fundamental design of adjuvant systems.
- Liquid physical properties.
- Adjuvant effects on droplet size spectra: nozzle and tank mix interactions
- Adjuvant effects on droplet coverage of target surfaces.
- Measurement of adjuvant performance: demonstration of laser-based measurement systems.

Cost \$580 per person. Discounts are available for groups and previous attendees to CPAS courses. Attendees who have paid to attend previous CPAS workshops or training courses receive a discounted rate of \$450. Course materials, lunch and breaks are provided.

Aerial Application Workshop

A one-day workshop focused on advances in aerial pesticide applications

A workshop on aerial applications of pesticides will be held at the University of Queensland Gatton Campus on 19 January 2007. Speakers will include Dr Harold Thistle from the US Forest Service and Dr Brian Richardson of Ensis/CSIRO. The workshop will cover the following topics:

- Nozzle selection and use for droplet size and coverage.
- Recent developments in application technology (reverse venturi chamber, JARBA, etc.).
- Drift, application and droplet size models for aerial applications.
- Tank mix and adjuvant effects on spray performance.
- Spray drift management in a dynamic regulatory environment.

- Practical sessions in the wind tunnel and field.

Cost \$440 per person. Discounts available as above.

Spray Drift and Application Modelling

A one-day training course focused on advances in spray drift and deposition modelling

A workshop on spray drift modelling will be held at the University of Queensland Customs House in Brisbane on 17 January 2007. Speakers will include Dr Harold Thistle from the US Forest Service and Dr Brian Richardson from Ensis (formerly the Forest Research Institute), New Zealand who will join other speakers from the University of Queensland for this event. The modelling workshop will cover the following topics:

- Introduction to US spray deposition models.
- Introduction to New Zealand SpraySafe Manager.
- Other drift models.
- Introduction to droplet size models.
- Hands-on training for AGDISP model.
- Training for AgDRIFT model.

If you wish to participate in the training sessions, please bring a laptop computer. The AgDRIFT model will need to be downloaded and installed prior to the workshop. It can be downloaded from www.agdrift.com. The AGDISP model will be available at the workshop on CD ROM. Cost \$580 per person. Discounts are available as above.

Space is limited at all the above workshops, so please register as soon as possible.

There will also be a Mosquito and Vector Control Workshop on 16 January, 2007 and a Forest Protection Workshop on 18 January, 2007.

For further details contact Dr Andrew Hewitt, Director, Centre for Pesticide Application and Safety/ Centre for Spray Technology Application Research and Training, University of Queensland, Gatton, Queensland 4343. Ph: 0427 025354, 07 5460 1293, a.hewitt@uq.edu.au.

Characteristics of irrigated farms

Irrigated farms generate 25% of the gross value of Australia's agricultural production, according to a joint report released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and the Productivity Commission.

The gross value of irrigated production was \$9 billion in 2003–04. Irrigated horticulture made up 52% of the gross value followed by irrigated pastures (24%) and irrigated broadacre crops (24%).

In 2003–04, 2.4 million hectares of agricultural land and 10,000 gigalitres of water were used for irrigated agricultural activities. This constituted only 0.5% of all agricultural land, but accounted for about 70% of Australia's annual use of extracted water by rural, industry and domestic users.

The report, *Characteristics of Australia's Irrigated Farms 2000–01 to 2003–04*, found that irrigated farms with a higher value of production were more likely to irrigate in successive years. These farms also incurred lower ongoing irrigation expenses relative to their irrigation water use and were more likely to recycle irrigation water and use irrigation scheduling equipment. It found that of the 130,500 agricultural establishments that operated in 2003–04, 40,400 irrigated. The report can be downloaded <http://www.abs.gov.au/>

Lawyers Online

The Victorian Farmers Federation has recently funded Rural Law Online – a website managed by the Victoria Law Foundation, to establish an online Environmental Law Forum.

The Forum provides an opportunity for farmers and others living in rural/regional Victoria to post questions or comments on environmental law related issues, which will be responded to by specialist lawyers.

Do you have a question about environment related laws, for example – native vegetation, soil conservation, use of chemical and fertilisers, disposal of waste, planning laws, etc?

You can share your experiences and solutions, or get assistance from specialist lawyers who are online to answer your questions.

The Environmental Law Forum is a free service run by the Rural Law Online website and funded by the Victorian Farmers Federation EMS – Pathways Program. Visit the Forum and post a comment or question at www.rurallaw.org.au.



Plants Behaving Badly! Calendars and greeting cards



The Weed Management Society of South Australia and the artist Bronwyn Bean have produced a multi-year calendar and greeting cards. Both feature excellent paintings of environmental invaders. Calendars \$15 each or \$25 for two. Greeting cards \$2.60 each or six for \$14.35. Postage in Australia included. Available from WMSSA, PO Box 517, Torrens Park SA 5062. For further information or for large orders contact Bronwyn Bean at bronwyn_bean@netspace.net.au or 0434 961071.

Weeds – Interim Guidelines

The *Interim Guidelines and Procedures for Managing the Environmental Impacts of Weeds on Public Land in Victoria 2006* outlines a new framework for managing the environmental impacts of weeds on public land in Victoria. The Interim Guidelines propose that in future the priority for management is firstly to prevent new and emerging weeds from establishing and secondly, for all established weeds, to adopt an asset-protection approach with the highest value assets at risk from weeds receiving highest priority. This approach is currently being piloted in a case study in the Otways region of Victoria so the practical implications of adopting such a policy framework can be understood. Further information on the Weeds and Pests on Public Land Initiative is available on the web www.dse.vic.gov.au/weeds

MAV Environment Bulletin Oct 2006

'Lord of the Weeds' A national secondary schools competition

Susanna Greig, Educational Officer for the CRC for Australian Weed Management writes:

I wish to sincerely thank the Weed Society of Victoria for the financial support offered towards the 'Lord of the Weeds' competition. It is with great pleasure that I can now to provide an update for this very successful competition.

The 'Lord of the Weeds' is a national secondary schools competition developed and organised by the Cooperative Research Centre for Australian Weed Management (CRAWM). Students involved in the competition study a local weedy area, and then prepare a report that introduces the weedy area, identifies the weeds, describes the problems caused by the weeds, recommends the most suitable management strategy and argues the merits of their suggestions.

In 2006, 146 school groups from across the nation entered the competition, the greatest number in the competition's three year history. The quality of

reports submitted this year was excellent and through this competition, many students have completed very worthwhile projects. In 2006, the Lord of the Weeds competition offered additional prizes due to the financial support offered by the following societies: SA Weedbusters, Weed Society of Western Australia, Weed Society of New South Wales, Tasmanian Weed Society, Weed Society of Victoria, Weed Management Society of South Australia, Weed Society of Queensland and the Council of Australasian Weed Societies. The winning schools in 2006 are listed in the table below.

Please be sure to view these winning reports from our website www.weeds.crc.org.au/for_schools/index.html by following the links to 'Lord of the Weeds'.

Greater awareness of weeds in the wider community should be more achievable if we start with the younger generation in schools today. Through this competition, weeds are becoming part of the curriculum in many schools across the nation.

School	Description of prize
Tintern Girls Grammar	CRAWM jnr sec 1st
Narara Valley High School	CRAWM jnr sec 2nd
James Sheahan Catholic High School	CRAWM jnr sec 3rd
Manley Selective Campus	CRAWM snr sec 1st
Frensham	CRAWM snr sec 2nd
Narara Valley High School	CRAWM snr sec 3rd
James Sheahan Catholic High School	CRAWM snr sec 3rd
Finley High School	Weed Society of New South Wales
Mazenod College	Weed Society of Victoria
Cleave Area School	Weedbusters South Australia
Gawler High School	Weed Management Society of South Australia
Burnie High School	Tasmanian Weed Society
Mater Dei College	Weed Society of Western Australia
Leeming Senior High School	Weed Society of Western Australia
Southport High School	Weed Society of Queensland
St Josephs High School	Council of Australasian Weed Societies

EUREKA! AgResearch Pty. Ltd.



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Transgenics: Progress and the Unforeseen

Contrary to some impressions, transgenic crops didn't spontaneously arise from swamp gasses in Transylvania, even though early on profaned as 'frankencrops' by imaginative opponents and the popular press. Laboratory and field research (most assuredly by profit oriented companies) devolved 'genetically enhanced' crops that dissuade attack by key pest insects, shake off effects of non-selective herbicides, or both in crops with 'stacked' genes.

An accelerating contingent of growers, initially in North America adopted the new technology. Other nations began selective acceptance of genetically modified (GE) crops. Now that the GE genie has been out of the bottle for over a decade, the anticipated positives realised have been partially diluted by the law of unintended (if not unforeseen) consequences plunging a segment of global commercial agriculture into a roiling kettle of controversy. Here, then, a very limited overview.

First the positive side. Reports documented cases of overall significantly lowered pesticide use. Canada halved its agricultural pesticides usage. Reduced pesticide application led to lower labour, fuel, and other input costs. Cut-backs in organophosphate-based products reduced hazardous exposure to applicators. Less pesticide used yielded environmental benefits such as reduced runoff from fields and degradation of ground water and other water bodies. Consumers welcomed reduced pesticide residue on produce. Major Asian nations introduced GE cotton and experienced grower adoption. According to one report, in 2005 GE crops *en toto* were planted on 90 million hectares (222 million acres) in 21 countries.

Then the unforeseen strode onstage. For example, a recent study found that farmers in China growing GE cotton had reaped cost savings by drastically reducing pesticide usage, but in doing so inadvertently created a vacuum for meteoric population build-up of non-target, uncontrolled 'secondary' pest insects. The response: reinstate application of previously shelved insecticides, erode earlier savings, and even endure economic loss from the higher cost of Bt seed on top of costs from resumed pesticide cost. The study's au-

thors deemed the situation a serious threat to continued regional Bt cotton planting.

The arrival and merits of glyphosate herbicide-resistant (HR) seed led farmers to adopt the technology. Soon scattered reports noted previously controlled weeds now survived treatment, an outcome of reliance on (and some have written, an overuse of) the glycine herbicide group coupled with random plant physiology.

In fact, the International Survey of Herbicide Resistant Weeds (<http://www.weedscience.org/in.asp>) was established to monitor the evolution of herbicide resistant weeds. It now lists: 310 resistant biotypes, 183 species (110 dicots and 73 monocots), and over 270,000 fields haunted by formerly affected plants.

Other issues with GE crops revolve around public acceptance or rejection, the challenge of keeping GE and 'conventionally' produced items segregated, international markets and trade, and governmental stands on allowing or banning GE crop production. Costs continue to be controversial regarding GE versus non-GE seed, an issue that factors into the need for adopting new farming methods, some of which run counter to traditional procedures such as saving seed from a previous crop to plant the next season.

References

Global biotech crop area continues to soar in 2005 after a decade of commercialization. James, C. in *ISAAA BRIEFS* No. 34-2005: Press Release, International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications, <http://www.isaaa.org>.

Profits die for Bt cotton in China. Lang, S. in *Chronicle online* (newsletter), Cornell Univ., USA, 25 July 2006. www.news.cornell.edu/stories/July06/Bt.cotton.China.ssl.html.

Plant biotechnology: ecological case studies on herbicide resistance. Sander-mann, H. in *Trends in Plant Sci.* 11(7), 323-8, July 2006.

Recent developments and future prospects in insect pest control in transgenic crops, Christou, P., *et al.* in *Trends in Plant Sci.* 11(6), 302-8, June 2006.

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