



Newsletter of the Weed Society of Victoria Inc.
volume 25 issues 2&3 2014

Weedscene

Introducing the new Committee for 2014–2015

The WSV held its AGM on 14 May 2014, during the 5th Biennial Weeds Conference, and formed a new committee. The new committee held its first meeting on 18 June 2014, during which we surprisingly ran out of seats! Here's an introduction to some of the committee members – a full list with their contact details can be found on page 2.

Matt Stephenson – President

I have worked for Landcare as a Pest Plant and Animal Control Project Manager for 15 years. I began working on African lovegrass and serrated tussock projects and now manage a number of projects in the Bass Coast region including roadsides, private land and community engagement programs.

I joined the WSV to glean information and advice from weed scientists and other on-ground practitioners. I recognise the value in establishing networks and building connections between people with a common goal and visions. The over-arching goal of my involvement with the WSV should be to ensure best practice on-ground outcomes and supported communities battling weeds and pest animals.

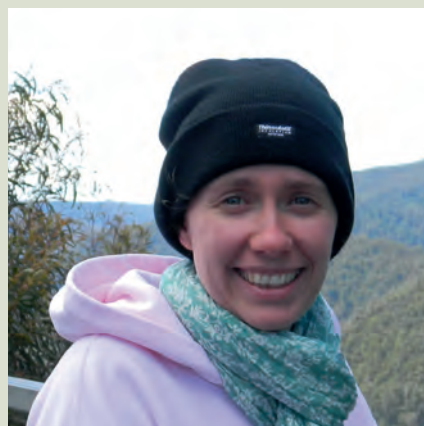
David McLaren – Vice President

I am a Principal Research Scientist for the Victorian Department of Environment and Primary Industries who, since 2002, has successfully led more than \$5 million of Federal and State Government funded projects on Weeds of National

Significance and State Priority Weeds. I am an entomologist and a weed ecologist, and the Weed Sciences team have worked extensively on serrated tussock and Chilean needle grass plus several new and emerging weeds. I specialise in developing integrated weed management solutions and initiating biological control programs for controlling serious agricultural and environmental weeds.

I joined the WSV to help increase the profile of weed sciences in Victoria and to develop and build strategic networks and partnerships to hopefully increase resources for future weed research.

Rebecca Grant – Secretary



As from April 2013, I am the current elected Secretary for the Weed Society of Victoria Inc. (WSV). I also study a Bachelor of Science, majoring in biology on a part time basis. I've completed both a Diploma of Environmental Management

and a Diploma of Conservation and Land Management. On completion of these in 2007, I began working at the Department of Primary Industries (now Department of Environment and Primary Industries), in Frankston, Victoria. I worked within the Biosciences Research Division assisting with weed biological and chemical control projects, but most of my time was spent with the Weed Risk Assessment Team.

I joined the WSV committee in 2012 so I could maintain professional links with my colleagues after I left the weed sciences field, having finished my contracted positions with the Department. Upon the previous secretary's retirement, and with the support of the committee, I accepted the nomination as secretary for WSV.

Isabella Amouzandeh – Treasurer



I have worked in the conservation and land management sector for over 10 years across

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WSV Membership Rates 2014–15

Concession*	\$20.00
Ordinary	\$60.00
Corporate	\$140.00

* Students and Pensioners

WSV is not registered to collect GST

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COVER PHOTO: *Euphorbia paralias* (courtesy Rob Richardson)

Joining the Weed Society of Victoria

The benefits of membership to WSV include:

- Weedscene: newsletter packed full of information
- eWeedscene: regular electronic bulletin on weed news and events
- Discounts to WSV seminars, workshops, conferences and other events
- Opportunities to network with others.

To apply for membership, download and print the membership application form from the WSV website, www.wsvic.org.au, complete the details and mail to the WSV Secretary.

Weedscene Newsletter of the Weed Society of Victoria Inc.

Contributions to Weedscene are welcomed. Please contact the editor for further information.

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four states and territories. I graduated from the University of Tasmania in 2006 with a Bachelor of Natural Environment and Wilderness Studies (with a major in Plant Science) and completed a Master in Tropical Environmental Management in 2009 whilst working for the Northern Territory Government's Weed Management Branch. My research project involved an aerial helicopter and ground-based survey of gamba grass (*Andropogon gayanus*) in Litchfield National Park and Coomalie Shire to determine its current distribution and future spread. I moved to Victoria in 2009 and initially worked as a Botanist and Environmental Educator in the private and not-for-profit sectors, respectively. I am currently employed by the Victorian Government as a Project Officer for DEPI's Central Highlands Eden project; a landscape scale weed management project in Victoria's Southern Central Highlands.

I joined the WSV to meet other professionals in the weed management field and to participate in strategic advocacy efforts in this area.

Ingrid Krockenberger – Editor



I have recently moved to Melbourne from Western Australia to be closer to family. I had been working there as a Natural Resource Management (NRM) Officer. Prior to that, I had research and teaching roles in Environmental Science at Murdoch University. My work in mine rehabilitation investigated mine-pit revegetation and soil amendment for revegetating mine tailings. I have also undertaken research in tree water relations in plantation forestry.

As I am not currently employed in NRM, I am keen to remain active in NRM through

my involvement with the Weed Society of Victoria and other volunteer activities. I anticipate I will learn a great deal about NRM in Victoria through my association with the Weed Society of Victoria. I hope to make a contribution to a wider awareness and interest in weeds through the sharing of information on weed-related issues.

Andrew Cox – General Committee Member and CAWS Representative



I have been interested in the impact of weeds for most of my life. As CEO of the Invasive Species Council I work to reduce the environmental impact from weeds, pests, pathogens and other invaders. My work includes seeking changes to laws and policies at the state and federal level, aiming for reforms such as improved quarantine and surveillance, early invasive species eradication and a 'permitted list' approach to the sale and movement of weeds.

I realised that the Weed Society was a valuable source of information about weeds and was impressed with the Australasian Weeds Conference it hosted in 2012. Shortly after the conference I joined the Weed Society of Victoria after being invited to join their management committee to assist with weed advocacy. I'm also keen to apply my governance experience to assist the society.

Bec James – Committee Member

I have worked with weeds in the Department of Environment and Primary Industries since 2009. I worked on a strategic weed project in the Upper Thomson catchment (West Gippsland) and I'm currently focussed on weeds at the early stage of invasion.



I joined the WSV to further gain and share knowledge about weeds. I also see it as an opportunity to meet more people working in the field of weeds.

Tim Dowling – Co-opted Member



After working for many years as a landscaper I retrained with a Bachelor of Environmental Science graduating in 2012. Work seemed thin on the ground for an ageing graduate. But I could get work spraying weeds with Melbourne Water which is where my weed fetish flourished. To get meaningful work we (my wife and I) are now in Alice Springs. I get some casual part time work with Bill Low (Low Ecological Services) and I am volunteering with Olive Pink Botanic Gardens where we have started a plant census of the whole gardens. Hopefully the paid work will pick up soon.

I find working with and studying weeds fascinating. Their introduction, use, spread, control and naturalisation I also find fascinating. The Weed Society of Victoria is a great place of knowledge and education through their talks and meetings. It is a place of further education for me.

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I am R&D leader Dow AgroSciences Australia Ltd for southern Australia and have 28 years field R&D experience on product development for weed control.

I joined WSV due to long involvement in various roles in WSQ.

Michael Hansford – Immediate Past President and CAWS Rep



Michael works in the Department of Environment and Primary Industries on state prohibited weed eradication programs, and is a chemical control adviser to the programs. Michael's recent focus has been developing best-practice management plans on horsetails (*Equisetum* species), Karoo thorn (*Acacia karroo*) and knotweeds (*Fallopia* species), as well as for a number of high risk species not present in Victoria. He has been a on the WSV's Committee for several years, and is also a Past President.

I joined the WSV so that I could be part of the network of weed professionals in Victoria, to support and attend the WSV's conferences and seminars, and to utilise the WSV's networks and fora to gather and exchange information.

From the President



After a number of years on the WSV committee, it was a privilege to be nominated for the President role for 2014–2015. I recall attending my first meeting after a WSV Forum at Attwood and remember my initial thoughts as being “Wow, all of these weeds we are working on back home have somebody studying them!” It has been a really worthwhile exercise

immersing myself in all things weed-related since that time and the WSV has proven to be a useful resource, learning about various weeds and their management from the staff at what was then Keith Turnbull Research Institute (KTRI) and also gleaning information on the latest in weed-related legislation and innovation.

I would like to acknowledge the terrific work undertaken by the committee in 2013–2014 culminating in a very successful conference at Geelong. Some interesting presentations (with a hint of controversy!) and loads of great networking by individuals from organisations as diverse as DEPI, local Shire Councils, Landcare, private contractors and consultants. The conference was complemented by a visit to Mt Rothwell and field trips around Inverleigh and Maude on the final day. The Mt Rothwell dinner and walk I think really honed in on why we do what we do... get rid of ferals so biodiversity can thrive! That may sound simplistic, but the more I think about it, the more that should be a key message. We are not just trying to eliminate pest species for the sake of removing them, there has to be a vision around what ‘success’ looks like at the end of all our projects. Mt Rothwell showcased that vision really well.

I anticipate exciting times ahead for the WSV. A strong committee, with some wise old heads and new blood and some great ideas around how we can invigorate and build on the current strengths of the WSV. I am particularly keen on advancing the concept of bringing weed science, legislation and on-ground work closer together. Projects like the ‘Bridal Creeper Rust Spore’ releases and South Gippsland Community Weeds Taskforce are terrific examples of how bridging these components of ‘weed management’ can all work well in unison.

We are moving into the realm of ‘advocacy’ and will be revitalising the website and other aspects of the Society. A forum is planned, to be offered within the next 6 months, with French Island a potential location. Rebecca Grant has been working tirelessly as per usual and will be ably supported by Jackie Steel, Michael Hansford, David McLaren and Andrew Cox. We are pleased to welcome the new committee members Isabella Amouzandeh, Ingrid Krockenberger, Rebecca James and Mark Uren and look forward to a productive year ahead!

Matt Stephenson



Field trip: Greg Lefoe explains gorse biocontrol options with WSV Conference delegates



5th Biennial Weeds Conference

Verdict – Best Weed Society of Victoria conference ever!

'Best WSV conference ever' was the consensus following the 5th Biennial Victorian Weeds Conference 'Invasive plants and animals – contrasts and connections' held on 13–15 May 2014.

The conference was my introduction to the Weed Society of Victoria, having recently moved from Western Australia. It was great to learn of best practice in weed management in Victoria and novel methods in weed detection. I had the impression that we have presenters in the weed industry eminently suited to promoting weed interest stories on air to wider audiences, such as ABC Radio National 'Off Track' and ABC TV 'Gardening Australia'. I would encourage anyone interested to contact radio and TV programs to further promote their weed stories. I am sure the producers would welcome new ideas.

The conference was kicked off by an entertaining but also thought-provoking talk by Sean Dooley. As the 'bird-guy', he introduced the conference theme of interactions between invasive plants and animals in the context of substitute habitat value of weeds for birds (as well as ruffling a few feathers with his ideas about the 'street kids', the Common Myna). He presented ironic examples of invasive species keeping threatened species alive, and stressed the importance of considering context when prioritising management.

The threatened Orange-bellied Parrot (see photo) also received a mention in Michael Noble's Day 2 keynote presentation on African boxthorn relationships with native and other animals in Australia. This rare and endangered bird's range includes boxthorn infested areas. Although its dispersal is facilitated by the invasive starling, African boxthorn is utilised as a feed source by 21 documented species of native animals and is likely to provide supplementary foraging, nesting, perching, roosting and refuge habitats to additional native species.



Orange-bellied Parrot (left) and Nankeen Kestrel (right) using African boxthorn for perching (Photo credits, with permission: Chris Tzaros)

Removing weeds from altered landscapes needs to be considered carefully and habitat function must be replaced if there is little or no nearby native vegetation to perform that function. I am reminded of this whenever I am admonished by fairy wrens for venturing too close to their blackberry patch!

Christine Munday's presentation on 'the right plant in the right place' had special connection for me, having worked in Western Australia on the revegetation of degraded areas and altered landscapes using woody perennials which also have commercial value in agriculture. I was involved in a 'Birds on Farms' project which assessed these revegetated areas for their habitat value for birds, adding another connection with the previous speakers' topics.

The second keynote presenter, Paul Martin from the Invasive Species CRC, drew our attention to the human dimension of invasive species management. Although there has been some shift from the extension approach to more focus on engagement and partnership, we still have

a long way to go to factor in behavioural issues limiting the benefits of invasive species science and technology. Paul emphasised the importance of a scientific approach to the human dimension of invasive species management and the need for scientifically-driven continuous improvement in the management of people, in order to achieve better invasive species management outcomes. Hopefully we will learn of new developments in the near future.

Selected presentations from the conference are expected to be published in a special edition of Plant Protection Quarterly by the end of the 2014 calendar year (http://www.weedinfo.com.au/ppq_home.html).

Ingrid Krockenberger,
Weedscene Editor

Conference sponsor:





Field trip report

On the 15th May 2014, conference participants indulged in a field trip across the Inverleigh and Maude areas in the Greater Geelong region. Along the way we had commentary from both Jim Seager and Lex Stray pointing out the many locations of their work in the district.

At our first stop, Jim Seager from the Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party, proudly showed off the efforts by the Barrabool Hills Gorse Eradication Project with support from the Victorian Gorse Taskforce and the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority. Jim discussed the importance of engaging with landholders in a 'can-help' manner, letting the landholder know that there is an enthusiastic support network there to be of assistance in tackling landscape scale weed problems. Assistance is given in strategic planning for both short and long term and to coordinate on-ground treatment.



Jim Seager pointing out Gorse Taskforce properties (Photo credit: Matt Stephenson)

Greg Lefoe from the Department of Environment and Primary Industries took this opportunity to update us on the success of the gorse spider mite to biological control gorse, but sadly informed the group that the gorse soft shoot moth had been denied release from quarantine as it was identified as having off-target impacts to horticulture (refer to photo under *From the President*).

The second stop was to visit Maxine and Duncan Campbell on their property at Inverleigh. Maxine gave a fabulous presentation on their battles against

serrated tussock. It gave everyone a first-hand insight to the challenges faced by landholders when it comes to integrating management of such a serious weed into the daily grind of a working farm. Maxine covered topics such as financial impacts, toeing the line with the law, relationships with enforcement agencies and neighbours and the need to change farming practices to work with controlling serrated tussock. After lunching in the sunshine, Maxine gave us a tour of the piggery which has been the biggest win in finding a control method against the weed.



Landholder Maxine Campbell describes serrated tussock control on her property at Inverleigh (Photo credit: Elissa Ashton-Smith)

The Campbells have done an outstanding job of finding positive solutions in the face of their struggles against serrated tussock with the audience being very impressed with their determination when it would have just been easier to walk away.

Between the Campbell's property and our last stop of the day, Lex Stray from Maude Landcare Group, gave us commentary relating to the sites we could see along the way. Lex led some interesting discussion on rabbit control and weighing up the financial benefits with which treatments provided a higher success rate,

negotiating with landholders on removing some weed species but having to leave their beloved invasive trees and attempting to convince landholders to replace their 'fence' of gorse with a wire fence. Lex also pointed out an interesting site where weed work would like to be undertaken, but no one really knows who owns it nor owns up to owning the patch of land. This was proving to be a conundrum in obtaining permission to treat the site.



Lex Stray from Maude Landcare Group explains how a local Landcare rabbit control program was implemented at Maude (Photo credit: Matt Stephenson)

At our last stop of the day, Paul Towart addressed the field trip participants on the challenges faced when removing African boxthorn from a near vertical incline on his property near Maude. Paul shared photos of using some serious earthworks machinery to deal with removal on such an incline. Participants also inspected the African boxthorn on the adjoining property housing a network of rabbit burrows, discussing the issue of disinterested, uncooperative or absentee neighbours.



Landholder Paul Towart discussed how African boxthorn control has led to a reduction in rabbit numbers due to less harbour (Photo credit: Elissa Ashton-Smith)



The field trip was enjoyed by all giving participants the chance to network and make some new contacts. Overall Conference participant Elissa Ashton-Smith, Landcare Facilitator with the Geelong Landcare Network, summed up the intent and atmosphere of the conference really well in saying, "I think it's really crucial for the people doing the formal

research to be connected with the on-ground people. That's why the conference is so valuable, isn't it? Giving people from different fields the chance to exchange information!"

The WSV would like to thank all of our conference presenters and field trip hosts for their outstanding efforts. We

have received fantastic feedback from attendees whom enjoyed every aspect of the conference.

We also thank all who attended and supported the conference to make it happen. We hope to see you at the next event!

Bec Grant, WSV Secretary

Putting the public interest into invasive species management

Role of government

Government has a critical role in invasive species management when it comes to protecting the public interest in the natural environment. State and federal governments are the only bodies with sufficient resources, coordinating ability and the regulatory powers to manage, contain or eradicate existing invasive species and to prevent new invasive species.

Experience in weed and feral animal control and management shows that where there is a commercial or special interest, often one that is minor, this interest is generally given a greater priority by government than the public interest in protecting the environment. This manifests itself in cases such as the promotion of damaging pasture grasses and the unwillingness to prevent the nursery industry selling weedy plants or the aquarium industry selling invasive fish.

Conference forum

I led a forum at the Victorian Weeds Conference on Invasive Plants and Animals held at Geelong in May 2014 to explore these issues further. The forum began with considering instances where minor or special interests prevented control or eradication of a pest or weed in the public interest. Many examples were provided: the stocking of rivers with trout, assisting the spread of deer for recreational hunting, importing wild boar and the Victorian fox bounty.

Failure of politics

The audience turned their mind to the question of how to overcome these barriers. The overwhelming feeling was that the problem was a failure of the political system and only through concerted lobbying efforts would these blockages be overcome. Victorian National Parks Association, the Invasive Species Council and the Weed Society of Victoria were suggested as possible organisations that could lead this work.

Appeal to emotions

Science on its own was dismissed as the answer. It was agreed that it was not enough to be rational in order to promote an issue, as shown by the mountain cattlemen's push to graze in the Victorian high country.

What is most important, it was suggested, is communication with emotion. 'People don't want to be told facts, they want a conversation,' one audience member said. They also want to understand the personal connections to a place that make it important.

Marketing as a tool

Some people suggested that marketing and media experts could be used to find appealing ways to promote a problem. To overcome barriers for action on weeds, some people thought that highlighting the worst weeds would be the most successful strategy. Emerging weeds would be much harder to build a case for change.

Influencing decision-making

The Invasive Species Council has observed that the public interest is better incorporated into decision-making where there is a statutory process that requires risks to be fully considered and when decision-making is not in the hands of agricultural departments.

One of the biggest barriers to persuading government about the public interest in invasive species management is the difficulty in putting a dollar value on the impacts invasive species have on the environment.

One forum member suggested that an appeal to individual financial interests is powerful. For example, a common weed of the Dandenongs, wandering trad, makes pet dogs itchy and eradicating this weed would reduce the need for an expensive visit to the vet.

The forum was a useful first step into how we can overcome barriers to protecting the public interest in the natural environment.

Write to us with your ideas about how the public interest in weed control and management can be better served.

Andrew Cox, Weed Society of Victoria committee member and CEO of the Invasive Species Council



Weed update

African boxthorn – old weed, new focus

African boxthorn – old weed, new focus

African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*) is a weed that once encountered, is not easily forgotten. One key memorable aspect is the sturdy thorns that form at the branch ends of the densely branched shrub. For land managers, perhaps it is the exceptionally resilient nature of the species that impresses most.

Boxthorn is a native of southern Africa and was introduced to Australia in the mid-1800s for use as a hedgerow shrub. It has been recorded in every Australian jurisdiction, though is considered eradicated from the Northern Territory.

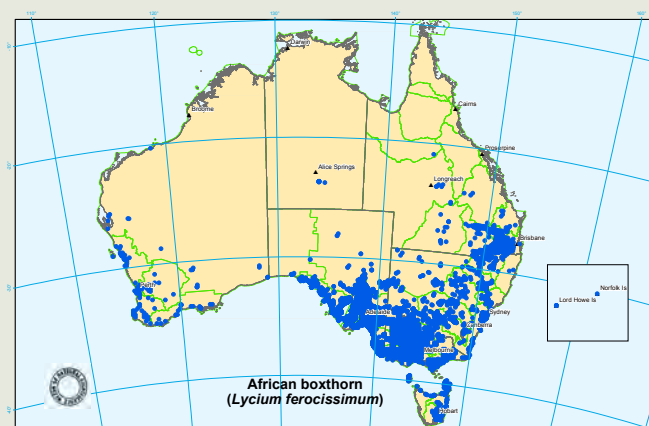


African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*)
(Photo credit: Colin G Wilson & DSEWPaC)

African boxthorn displaces native vegetation in both coastal and inland situations, reducing biodiversity values. It infests rangelands, farmland and unused lands, excluding stock from grazing and water access, and harbouring pests including rabbits, foxes, starlings, and fruit fly (via its fruit). African boxthorn is of concern for potato, tomato and capsicum growers as it would host the tomato-potato psyllid (*Bactericera cockerelli*), should the psyllid become established in Australia.

In 2012 African boxthorn was declared a Weed of National Significance (WoNS), and an African Boxthorn Weed Management Guide was completed in early 2012.

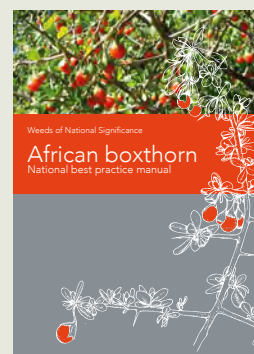
An African Boxthorn WoNS National Strategic Plan was completed by early 2013 following consultation workshops that were undertaken across Australia. Some key feedback from national strategy workshops included concern on the lack of background and management information available on African boxthorn, and the query ‘why aren’t there any biological control agents available for African boxthorn?’ On seeking to answer this question, it became apparent that not only were there no biological control agents



Current distribution of African boxthorn in Australia
(Credit: Christopher Auricht, Auricht Projects)

available for boxthorn, but that boxthorn is not even on the national target list for biological control research.

Action has been taken following this consultation, and an African Boxthorn National Best Practice Manual and comprehensive research report on biological control feasibility for African boxthorn are now complete and available for download at www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/africanboxthorn/ and the manual is also available via the Tasmanian Government <http://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/Pages/document.aspx?path=/Documents/African+boxthorn+national+best+practice+manual.pdf>.



Potential boxthorn bio-control rust photographed in South Africa (Photo credit: Alan Wood)



Boxthorn puller in action (Photo credit: NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service)



Cut stumping boxthorn, East Beagle Island, WA (Photo credit: John Fitzhardinge)

Some of the key outcomes of this work have been the gathering together of information such as:

- Analysis and compilation of available information on biology and ecology.
- Compilation of available national distribution mapping and production of potential distribution mapping.
- Compilation of information from across Australia with regard to its impacts on the vast diversity of landscapes it occurs on (from offshore islands to the semi-arid inland).

- Research and compilation of national experiences on the most effective tools and techniques in managing boxthorn, including four detailed case studies.
- Detailed investigation into the feasibility of biological control as a management option.

For further information, please contact Michael Noble, (former Weeds of National Significance Coordinator – African Boxthorn) at Michael.Noble@dpipwe.tas.gov.au or (03) 6421 5100.

Michael Noble, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

News

Senate inquiry into preventing new weeds

The Senate is looking at how to better protect Australia from the arrival of new invasive species. The issue of ‘adequacy of arrangements to prevent the entry and establishment of invasive species likely to harm Australia’s natural environment’ has been referred to the Environment and Communications References Committee for inquiry, to be reported by **3 December 2014**.

The inquiry will cover recent biosecurity failures that have allowed the introduction of invasive species that harm the natural environment, and our state of preparedness for new environmental incursions, such as preventing overseas internet sales of highly invasive weeds like Mexican feather grass.

Terms of reference can be found at: http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/biosecurity/Terms_of_Reference.

Congratulations to the CAWS Travel Award recipients

Three WSV members have been awarded CAWS Travel Awards to attend the 19th Australasian Weeds Conference (19AWC) in Hobart, 1–4 September 2014. The conference is titled ‘Science, Community and Food Security: the Weed Challenge’ and the program promises an interesting mix of presentations. For program and registration details, visit <http://australasianweeds2014.com.au/>.

Andrew Cox, CEO Invasive Species Council and WSV committee member

Andrew will be presenting a poster paper and talk to the 19AWC. Andrew’s poster paper topic is ‘Quantifying efforts in tackling weeds and other invasive species’. This poster paper will present the results of a survey of over 800 organisations conducted in 2013 by the Invasive Species Council. Andrew’s talk topic is ‘Environmental biosecurity needs new thinking not agricultural thinking’. This talk will explain that Australia needs a more ecological, coordinated and collaborative approach to environmental biosecurity.

Rebecca Grant, Secretary of the Weed Society of Victoria

Rebecca will be

presenting a poster with a proceedings paper that showcases the valuable work of weed societies. It will include a look at the structure of state societies, the Council of Australasian Weeds Societies Inc. and two case studies that demonstrate how society links can propel projects far beyond their first intentions.

Leila Huebner, Nelson Coastcare Leila is the primary author of a poster which will outline Nelson Coastcare’s campaign to have serious weeds which are not presently on any declared listing to become listed. The highly invasive and difficult to eradicate Italian buckthorn, prolifically spreading throughout Nelson’s environs and beyond, will be used to emphasise the present problem of authorities unable to appropriately engage in realistically managing such aggressive woody weeds.

Congratulations to all three for securing a grant and we wish them, and our other WSV members who are presenting, all the best for the conference. Their full profiles can be read online through the CAWS website at: http://www.caws.org.au/awc_travel_award.php. They will each be submitting a report following the conference.



CAWS Report

What's happening at your national society

Michael Hansford and Andrew Cox are your CAWS delegates.

The Council of Australasian Weed Societies (CAWS) has been extremely busy organising the upcoming 19th Australasian Weeds Conference (19AWC) to be held in Hobart, 1–4 September 2014. The full program is now available online (<http://australasianweeds2014.com.au/preliminary-program/>), including the CAWS Oration by the renowned Prof. Daniel Simberloff from the University of Tennessee, USA. Don't delay joining this premier national weed event.

At the May meeting, it was proposed to establish a new official role of CAWS immediate past president. This would allow the experience of the previous president to remain available for the committee if the retiring President is no longer a delegate. Each state society is now being consulted on the proposal and a change to the CAWS Constitution is being considered.

The CAWS advocacy and promotions subcommittee has been active. It wrote to the Minister for Agriculture, Barnaby Joyce, objecting to the latest Federal budget including the abolition of the Australian Weeds Committee, cuts to the CSIRO (\$111M), Australian Research Council

(\$75M) and the dropping of the latest round of CRC proposals (\$80M). It called for the reinstatement of funding to CSIRO, Australian Research Council and the CRC program, the re-establishment of a Weeds CRC and retention of the Australian Weeds Committee. Refer to the CAWS website (<http://www.caws.org.au/advocacy.php>) to see the letter and the Minister's reply. The subcommittee also made a submission to the draft National Environment and Community Biosecurity Research, Development and Extension Strategy.

The CAWS AGM will be held the day before the 19AWC, 31 August 2014.

Dates for your diary

September 2014

'Meeting the Challenge: Preventing, Detecting, and Controlling Invasive Plants'

University of Washington Botanic Gardens, Seattle, USA, 16–17 September 2014
Conference homepage: <http://depts.washington.edu/uwbg/education/conferences/2014InvPlants/InvPlants2014.shtml>

National Landcare Conference

'Celebrating our History, Growing our Future'

Melbourne, Victoria, 17–19 September 2014

Early bird registrations closed 31 July
Conference homepage: <http://nationallandcareconference.floktu.com/home>

October 2014

Weeds Across Borders 2014

Canadian Council on Invasive Species
Ottawa, Canada, 15–16 October 2014
Conference homepage: <https://www.abinvasives.ca/events/19/weeds-across-borders-2014/>

November 2014

10th Australasian Plant Conservation Conference 2014

'Sustaining Plant Diversity – Adapting to a Changing World'
Hobart, Tasmania, 11–14 November 2014

Early bird registrations closed 29 August
Conference homepage: <http://www.anbg.gov.au/anpc/conferences/2014/index.html>



June 2015

17th European Weed Research Society Symposium

'Weed Management in Changing Environments'
Montpellier, France, 23–26 June 2015
Conference homepage: <http://www.ewrs2015.org/>

August 2015

XVIII International Plant Protection Congress (IPPC) 2015

'Mission possible: food for all through appropriate plant protection'
Free University Berlin, 24–27 August 2015
Call for abstracts closes 1 February 2015

Early bird registrations close 28 February 2015

Conference homepage: www.ippc2015.de

September 2015

7th International Meeting on Pesticide Resistance

Rothamsted Research, Harpenden, Herts, UK, 14–16 September 2015
Conference homepage: www.rothamsted.ac.uk/Resistance2015

October 2015

25th Asian-Pacific Weed Science Society Conference

Hyderabad, India, 13–16 October 2015
Conference homepage: <http://117.240.114.67/apwss/>

June 2016

7th International Weed Science Congress International Weed Science Society

Prague, Czech Republic, 19–25 June 2016
Conference homepage: <http://www.iwsc2016.org/>

Bookshelf



For those interested in weeds and cropping:

Recent Advances in Weed Management

Edited by Bhagirath S. Chauhan and Gulshan Mahajan

Publication: April 2014

Hardcover ISBN: 9781493910182

E-book ISBN: 9781493910199

<http://www.springer.com/life+sciences/plant+sciences/book/978-1-4939-1018-2>



This volume addresses recent developments in weed science. These developments include conservation agriculture and conservation tillage, climate change, environmental concerns about the runoff of agrochemicals, resistance of weeds and crops to herbicides, and the need for a vastly improved understanding of weed ecology and herbicide use. The book provides details on harnessing knowledge of weed ecology to improve weed management in different crops and presents information on opportunities in weed management in different crops. Current management practices are also covered, along with guidance for selecting herbicides and using them effectively.

Written by experts in the field and supplemented with instructive illustrations and tables, *Recent Advances in Weed Management* is an essential reference for agricultural specialists and researchers, government agents, extension specialists, and professionals throughout the agrochemical industry, as well as a foundation for advanced students taking courses in weed science.

For those interested in grass identification:

AusGrass: Grasses of Australia

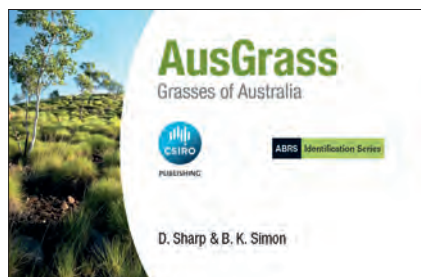
Revised edition (updated to use Lucid software version 3.5)

D. Sharp and B.K. Simon

Publication: March 2014

Flash Drive ISBN 9781486301980

CSIRO Publishing http://www.weedinfo.com.au/bk_ausgr.html



AusGrass is the largest and most comprehensive identification guide to a plant group ever published. This product has been updated to use the Lucid software version 3.5. Using either interactive or dichotomous keys, AusGrass enables quick and accurate identification of any of the 1323 species of grass, native or naturalised, growing wild in Australia. This powerful identification tool can be used with living plants or dry specimens, even when they are not in flower or fruit.

Provides an easy-to-use interface with comprehensive fact sheets for each species, including a botanical description, notes on distribution and taxonomy, as well as images including diagnostic line drawings, scanned specimens, photographs and stereomicrographs.

For those interested in climate change adaptation:

Forests in Our Changing World: new principles for conservation and management

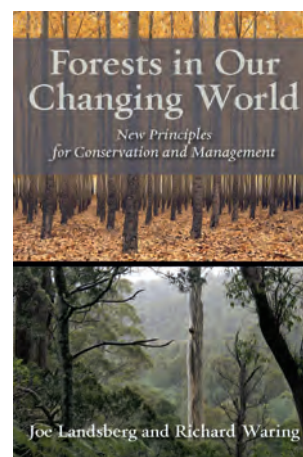
Joe Landsberg and Richard Waring

Publication: August 2014

Paperback ISBN: 9781610914963

Island Press, USA

Available from CSIRO Publishing: <http://www.publish.csiro.au/pid/7342.htm>



Scientists tell us that climate change is upon us and the physical world is changing quickly with serious implications for biodiversity and human well-being. Forests cover vast regions of the globe and serve as a first line of defence against the worst effects of climate change, but only if we keep them healthy and resilient.

Forests in Our Changing World tells us how to do that. Authors Joe Landsberg and Richard Waring present an overview of forests around the globe, describing basic precepts of forest ecology and physiology and how forests will change as the earth's climate warms. Drawing on years of research and teaching, they discuss the values and uses of both natural and plantation-based forests. In easy-to-understand terms, they describe the ecosystem services forests provide, such as clean water and wildlife habitat, present economic concepts important to the management and policy decisions that affect forests, and introduce the use of growth-and-yield models and remote-sensing technology that provide the data behind those decisions.

This book is a useful guide for undergraduates as well as managers, administrators, and policy makers in environmental organizations and government agencies looking for a clear overview of basic forest processes and pragmatic suggestions for protecting the health of forests.



Dow AgroSciences

Stinger™ Herbicide – a new product for hard to kill weeds in pasture

by Wells & Love

Stinger Herbicide applied by high volume handgun at 20 g/100 L water for blackberry or 30 g/100 L water for gorse gave good regrowth suppression two seasons after application, when compared to the label rate of metsulfuron.

Trials were conducted from New South Wales to Victoria to determine the brownout and efficacy of Stinger applied by high volume method. Nine blackberry and two gorse trials showed that Stinger gave better brownout and final control than label rates of metsulfuron. These results are shown in Tables 1 and 2.

Key attributes of Stinger are:

- Broader spectrum – including thistles and certain legumes including broom.
- Better weed control.
- Safer on grasses than glyphosate/metsulfuron mixes.
- Quicker brownout to enable review of treated weeds.

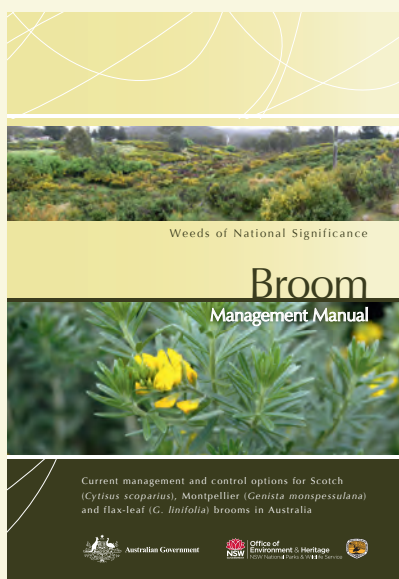
For more information call Dow AgroSciences customer service on 1800 700 096 or visit www.dowagro.com/au – woody and pasture weed information. Brochures can be obtained from customer services. Ask your Dow AgroSciences representative for a sample.

Table 1. Average brownout and control of blackberry by Stinger at 20 g/100 L.

Treatment	Brownout	Control
Stinger 20 g/100 L	68%	86%
Metsulfuron 10 g/100 L	50%	79%

Table 2. Average brownout and control of gorse by Stinger at 30 g/100 L.

Treatment	Brownout	Control
Stinger 20 g/100 L	100%	95%
Metsulfuron 10 g/100 L	83%	88%



NOW AVAILABLE

WoNS Broom Management Manual

Current management and control options for Scotch (*Cytisus scoparius*), Montpellier (*Genista monspessulana*) and flax-leaf (*G. linifolia*) brooms in Australia

This manual is available in its entirety or can be downloaded in smaller sections to make it more accessible for slower internet connections. <http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/brooms/>

Information is also available for the following WoNS weeds: African boxthorn | alligator weed | asparagus weeds | athel pine | bellyache bush | bitou bush/boneseed | blackberry | bridal creeper | cabomba | cat's claw creeper | Chilean needle grass | fireweed | gamba grass | gorse | hymenachne | lantana | madeira vine | mesquite | mimosa | opuntoid cacti | parkinsonia | parthenium weed | pond apple | prickly acacia | rubber vine | sagittaria | salvinia | serrated tussock | silverleaf nightshade | water hyacinth | willows