



Newsletter of the Weed Society of Victoria Inc.

volume 25 issue 4 2014

# Weedscene

## Weed Society of Victoria AGM Seminar 2015

'Invasive Species from Woodlands to Waves in Western Port'

18–19 March 2015



(Photo: Wikimedia Commons)

The Weed Society of Victoria is very pleased to announce that our AGM seminar in 2015 will not be confined to a conference room – next year's seminar will be held on site to view and discuss invasive species works being carried out on French Island, Phillip Island and the Bass Coast Hinterland.



Proposed topics for presentations and informative site visits include large scale integrated weed control, community rabbit and feral cat control programs, biological control, and the latest in research and on-ground works.

Controlling invasive species in coastal landscapes has its challenges, but battles are being won on some fronts – see more at the next WSV seminar in March. Updates will be posted soon.

(Left) Julie Tresize (French Island Landcare Group) and Matt Stephenson (President Weed Society of Victoria) prepare biological control 'Bridal Creeper Rust Spore' for dispersal.

# WSV Directory

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## WSV Membership Rates 2014–15

Pay for 1, 3 or 5 years

Concession*	\$20
Ordinary	\$60
Corporate	\$140

\* Students and Pensioners

WSV is not registered to collect GST

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## 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](http://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.
- Readers are free to circulate and reproduce Weedscene material with acknowledgment of the author and source.
- The views expressed in Weedscene are those of the contributors and are not necessarily shared by the WSV Executive Committee.

*Want to receive Weedscene as a PDF? Contact the Secretary.*

## Society Sponsorship

Annual Sponsorship \$300

- Logo displayed on 'Weedscene' – four issues per year
- Logo and sponsor name on the Society's website
- One promotional article in 'Weedscene' per year (subject to ed. control)
- One free membership per year (optional)

## Advertising rates

■ One sixth page	56 mm wide × 128 mm high	\$50
■ Quarter page	180 mm wide × 64 mm high	\$75
■ Half page	180 mm wide × 128 mm high	\$150
■ Whole page	180 mm wide × 257 mm high	\$300

**Design** R.G. & F.J. Richardson, PO Box 42, Meredith Vic 3333  
[www.weedinfo.com.au](http://www.weedinfo.com.au)

**Printing** Maroondah Printing, 42 New Street, Ringwood Vic 3134

**Printed on** 100% recycled paper





# Advocacy: a More Vocal WSV for the Future

In July 2014, the Weed Society of Victoria passed an advocacy policy that gives a framework for undertaking advocacy to advance its objectives. The policy aims to ensure that the Society's reputation is uppermost in its advocacy work and that advocacy is constructive and solutions-focused. The principles of the policy promote a collaborative and inclusive approach, placing importance on prevention of weed threats, and fully utilising research and other knowledge. The policy authorises the WSV executive to undertake each advocacy activity and appoint any spokespersons.

The policy was modelled on the advocacy policy of the Weed Society of Queensland and its development included an online survey and discussion within the Executive. About 15% of the membership provided comments and broad support to the policy. Summing up the sentiments from the membership, one member said, "It is time that the Weed Society moved on from being seen as a 'neutral' provider of fora on weed issues", while another said, "An advocacy

focus could really direct the activities of the WSV... to focus on particular problems and work out solutions and contribute to a more informed public and professional community on certain issues."

The WSV Executive will now be developing a small selection of issues to advocate as part of its strategic plan. High on the agenda is the permitted list approach to the sale and movement of weedy plants, support for a weed research body such as the Weed CRC, improved public education on weed issues and support of the advocacy work at the national level lead by CAWS.

The adopted advocacy policy features in this edition of Weedscape and will be available on the WSV website. Further information will be published in future issues. WSV is seeking member views, so you are encouraged to contact the Secretary with your ideas for advocacy.

Andrew Cox

## WSV Advocacy Policy (adopted July 2014)

### Introduction and Purpose

The Weed Society of Victoria Inc. (WSV) has the following Objectives as set out in its constitution:

1. To promote wider interest in weeds and their control.
2. To provide opportunities for those interested in weeds and their control, to exchange information and ideas based on research and practice.
3. To encourage the investigation of all aspects of weeds and weed control.
4. To co-operate and, where appropriate, affiliate with other organisations engaged in related activities in Australia and overseas.
5. To encourage the study of weed science and the dissemination of its findings.
6. To produce and publish such material as considered desirable.
7. To foster the development of an Australia-wide weeds organisation.

The WSV recognises the role advocacy can play in support of meeting a wide range of its Objectives. As a diverse volunteer organisation, it is important to ensure that advocacy activities maintain the reputation of the WSV and its members. As such, it is important to the WSV that advocacy activities are constructive, proactive and solution oriented.

This policy sets out the principles, advocacy themes and implementation guidelines under which members of the WSV may undertake advocacy activities.

### Policy

When undertaking advocacy, the WSV will:

- implement advocacy activities in support of its Objectives;
- direct advocacy to governments and industry, environmental and community bodies as appropriate; and
- apply the Principles of this policy to advocacy activities.

### Principles

Advocacy actions by the Society will follow the Principles listed below.

- Do not personalise differences.
- Treat others as we wish to be treated.
- Respect the mandates of Australian, State and Local Governments, and other bodies.
- Advocacy will be politically non-partisan, directed at bodies of all political stripes and will support genuine steps taken by anyone.
- Respect the position of our members in relation to their employers.
- Seek common ground and solutions.
- Let our contacts know in advance of making a public statement, especially if the communication involves criticism.
- Celebrate joint achievements.

### Themes

**COMMITMENT:** Invasive plant investments require sustained commitment to 'see the job through', from inception through to ongoing maintenance, in order to achieve weed densities with acceptable impacts.

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**PREVENTION:** Prevention is the most cost-effective and successful approach to weed control but this relies on strong policies and laws, good surveillance and forecasting, and a science-driven, risk-based approach. Early action and eradication follow as the next most effective approaches.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Invasive plant management requires individuals and groups, at all levels, to demonstrate leadership by taking ownership of their legal and ethical responsibilities.

**COLLABORATION:** Invasive plants aren't constrained by fencelines. Management is the responsibility of all land managers. WSV supports the strengthening of collaborative arrangements between Federal, State and Local governments, NRM bodies, private landholders, community and industry.

**INCLUSION:** Invasive plant management requires long-standing and strong relationships. All stakeholders should be invited to the table.

**KNOWLEDGE:** Research and pilot studies, best practice guidelines and the sharing of knowledge are essential to continuing and improved efficiency and cost effectiveness of invasive species management.

### Implementation

**AUTHORITIES:** To maintain the reputation and credibility of the WSV, the following authorisations will be required:

- only individuals pre-approved by the WSV Executive are able to make statements on behalf of the WSV; and
- all advocacy activities will be approved by the WSV Executive prior to being undertaken.

**ACTIVITIES:** Activities need to consider the limitations of a voluntary membership organisation.

Campaign activities should:

- be simple in concept and delivery;
- target one or two issues/key messages;
- have a defined purpose and desired outcome;
- identify target audience/s and method/s of delivery;
- have a start and end date;
- be able to measure effectiveness; and
- offer a solution or suggested path forward.

Stakeholder relationship building activities should:

- have a defined purpose and desired outcome; and
- provide 'value for time and/or resources' for the relevant stakeholder.

**MEDIA:** When determining advocacy media, members should consider:

- the media habits of the target audience;
- resource requirements to maintain messaging, especially for social media approaches; and
- the potential 'life' of the messages within proposed media.

## From the President

November is upon us and for many it is time to gear up for the approaching weed control season. Blackberries are flourishing at the moment, as is our new look committee! It appears everyone has settled in to the regular meeting location at AgriBio, Latrobe Uni. Even the President has worked out how to negotiate the eastern suburbs' traffic and time his run to get to 5 pm meetings!

Recent Society developments include the 2015 'Western Port Seminar' – an overnight seminar. It will be more low-key than a conference, but will still offer great networking and learning opportunities. As French Island is planned to be part of this experience, we are expecting to have to put a maximum capacity on attending numbers, with priority to members. For this reason, we may repeat this event if there is enough interest. We will showcase local weed and pest animal action including community rabbit and feral cat management, bio-control and important links between groups that work on-site around this world class RAMSAR wetland... and much more. Details to follow before the end of the year. For those who missed the 'save the date', it's the 18–19 March 2015.

The WSV extends our congratulations to the organisers of the 19th Australasian Weeds Conference held 1–4 September 2014 in Hobart, which by all accounts was a great success. Many of the WSV committee attended and presented, so please read Rebecca Grant's article in this issue for the follow up details on this fantastic event. Well done, Bec, for showcasing and representing the WSV!

We welcome the new members that have joined us this year. Thanks to those members who have paid their membership renewals for 2014–15. We hope that by members taking up the opportunity to renew their memberships for multiple years, it will be less of a hassle and reduce the hours our Secretary spends processing payments and chasing up unpaid renewals each year. We also hope to see higher membership retention as a result of multi-year membership.

The committee is working on the possibility of an online payments portal via the WSV website to allow membership and event payments to be easier for everyone involved. We are endeavouring to have this up and running as soon as possible, but it has to be a co-ordinated effort between the WSV committee, the bank and our website host.

In closing, I would like to thank our Committee for their continuing efforts, and members and everyone involved with the WSV. It has been pleasing to see the collaborative efforts fostered at WSV events coming to fruition. Links are being established between weed and pest animal practitioners at Shire Councils, Landcare, Government Agencies and the broader communities. It's great to see these relationships developing, and importantly... on-ground outcomes eventuating!

Matt Stephenson

# CAWS Report by Rebecca Grant



Andrew Cox and Michael Hansford are your CAWS delegates. Rebecca Grant attended the last CAWS meeting as proxy for Michael Hansford.

The last Council of Australasian Weed Societies was held on 31st August 2014 on the Sunday prior to the commencement of the 19th Australasian Weeds Conference in Hobart. This gave the majority of committee members the chance to have a meeting face to face, with some committee members attending by phone. This meeting was also followed by the CAWS Annual General Meeting.

During the meeting it was noted that the Australian Weed Committee would be having its last meeting during the conference week before merging with the National Biosecurity Committee as a result of federal funding cuts. Another notable discussion was the lack of a weed society in the Northern Territory which has not been feasible due to low numbers. There is discussion for Queensland in particular, or South Australia or Western Australia, to extend their border and officially include NT under their society umbrella.

During the AGM, office bearing positions were elected as follows:

- President: Anna-Marie Penna (Western Australia)
- Vice President: Rachael Melland (South Australia)

- Secretary: Kerry Harrington (New Zealand)
- Treasurer: Alex Douglas (Western Australia)

In the last CAWS report, Andrew Cox reported the proposal for CAWS to introduce the position of an Immediate Past President. This motion was passed at the AGM. The following has now been added to the CAWS constitution.

## **5 i (f) Role of Immediate Past President**

Upon election of a new President, the person who formerly held this role may remain on the Executive Committee in an Immediate Past President position if they wish until the new President has completed their term in office. If at any time the Immediate Past President is not a delegate for their Society, they will have the right to speak at meetings, to table agenda items and move motions, but will not have voting rights.

The position of Immediate Past President is not an elected position as it can only be held by the person whom last held the President's position. As from the 2014 AGM, the Immediate Past President is Michael Widderick from Queensland.

The next CAWS teleconference is scheduled for 11th December 2014.

## Dates for your Diary

### **World Soils Day**

**12 December 2014** – 68th United Nations General Assembly Agenda Item 25 resolution: [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/232&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/232&Lang=E); IYS website: <http://www.fao.org/soils-2015/en/>

### **Integrated Pest Management Innovation in Europe**

**14–16 January 2015**, Poznań, Poland <http://www.ior.poznan.pl/845,2015-ipm-innovation-in-europe.html>

### **World Wetlands Day**

**2 February 2015** – marks the date of the signing of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran, on the shores of the Caspian Sea

### **Weed Society of Victoria AGM Seminar**, French Island, Victoria

**18–19 March 2015**, [www.wsvic.org.au/](http://www.wsvic.org.au/)

### **8th International Integrated Pest Management Symposium**

'Solutions for a Changing World' **23–26 March 2015**, Salt Lake City, Utah <http://ipmcenters.org/ipmsymposium15/>

### **17th European Weed Research Society Symposium**

'Weed management in changing environments', Montpellier, France **23–26 June 2015**, [www.ewrs2015.org/](http://www.ewrs2015.org/)

### **XVIII International Plant Protection Congress (IPPC) 2015**

'Mission possible: food for all through appropriate plant protection' **24–27 August 2015**, Free University Berlin, [www.ippc2015.de](http://www.ippc2015.de)

### **13th Queensland Weed Symposium**

**14–17 September 2015**, Longreach, Queensland, <http://event.icebergevents.com.au/qws-2015/>

### **7th International Meeting on Pesticide Resistance**

**14–16 September 2015**, Rothamsted Research, Herts, UK, [www.rothamsted.ac.uk/Resistance2015](http://www.rothamsted.ac.uk/Resistance2015)

### **EMAPi 2015: 13th International Conference**

'Ecology and management of alien plant invasions', Hawai'i Island, USA **20–24 September 2015**, [www.emapi2015.hawaii-conference.com/](http://www.emapi2015.hawaii-conference.com/)

### **25th Asian-Pacific Weed Science Society Conference**

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

### **7th International Weed Science Congress (IWSS)**

**19–25 June 2016**, Prague, Czech Republic, [www.iwsc2016.org/](http://www.iwsc2016.org/)

**20th Australasian Weeds Conference (CAWS)**, Perth, Western Australia **11–15 September 2016** [www.caws.org.au/conference.php](http://www.caws.org.au/conference.php)



# 19th Australasian Weeds Conference

by Rebecca Grant

The 19th Australasian Weeds Conference (AWC) was outstanding and we extend our congratulations to the Tasmanian Weed Society and the Council of Australasian Weeds Societies (CAWS) members for organising such a successful event. The conference program was jam packed and included:

- a welcome reception with His Excellency, the Honourable Chief Justice Alan Blow, Lieutenant Governor of Tasmania
- presentations, discussion panels and posters
- field trips
- conference dinner
- demonstrations from 'Missy', the hawkweed detector dog, and
- an informal session, 'show and tell – using mobile devices for better weed management'.

Many delegates took advantage of having such a hospitable location to organise meetings with their national and international colleagues or to conduct field work in the state. Post conference, a few delegates took the opportunity to visit Mt Field National Park and overheard another park visitor mention to the ranger that he'd come across a scientist snorkelling in one of the park lakes looking for weeds.

## AWC Conference Proceedings

The CAWS website is administered by our friends at the New Zealand Plant Protection Society (Inc.). Recently they



Delegates enjoy the view from the top of Mt Wellington during the 'Weeds culture in the wilds of Hobart' field trip (photo: Amanda Smith)

have been busy updating and expanding content to include the complete proceedings from ALL previous Australasian Weeds Conferences, right back to 1954, and a new information links page. Proceedings papers are available in pdf format at [http://www.caws.org.au/awc\\_index.php](http://www.caws.org.au/awc_index.php). If you missed the 19th AWC, these proceedings are already available on the website. Content is listed under their program subheadings and includes the discussion panels and papers for many of the posters presented.

There have been a few requests for access to the poster 'Weed Societies building better communications between weed stakeholders' authored by the WSV secretary. The poster itself has been uploaded to the WSV website under the 'publications' tab ([www.wsvic.org.au](http://www.wsvic.org.au)). The poster has an associated paper which can also be found within the 19<sup>th</sup> AWC proceedings by clicking on the 'poster presentations' link in the menu section. There are many other posters and papers in the proceedings written by WSV members and committee members. These proceedings have something for everyone and are definitely worth a read.



Arriving at Government House, Hobart where delegates admired the stunning architecture and grandeur (photo: John Thorp)



Left to right, Christina Day, Joanne Nathan, Lieutenant Governor of Tasmania Alan Blow and CAWS Orator Prof. Daniel Simberloff

If you wish to refer back to the 19th AWC program, it is still available on the conference website where these selected conference photos and more have also been posted. Please visit <http://australasianweeds2014.com.au/>.

### Travel Award Recipients

As mentioned in our previous edition, three WSV members, Andrew Cox, Rebecca Grant and Leila Huebner received travel grants to attend this conference. Their profiles, along with other travel grant recipients, will include a conference travel report attached where you can read about their conference experience. These can be found at [www.caws.org.au/awards](http://www.caws.org.au/awards).

### CAWS Travel Grant Applications

If you would like to apply for a travel grant, applications should be sent to the CAWS Secretary, Kerry Harrington, by the 1st of March each year. Categories include: AWC travel award, early career weed scientist travel award and student travel award. The latter two awards aren't specifically to attend an AWC, so there is a chance to attend other local or overseas events. Please consider the application criteria on the CAWS website ([www.caws.org.au/awards](http://www.caws.org.au/awards)) and email your application to the CAWS Secretary, Kerry Harrington, whose email is provided via hyperlink on the travel grant page or see 'List of delegates' under the 'Executive' tab.

### WSV Travel Grants

WSV also offers travel grants to enable up to two of its members to attend a weeds conference. The WSV travel grants are awarded annually or less frequently depending on the standard of the applications. For details, please visit <http://www.wsvic.org.au/node/26>.

### CAWS Medal Award

The winners of the CAWS medal for leadership were John Thorp (Tasmania) and Rod Randall (Western Australia) who were both very humbled by receiving such an honour. The WSV extends their congratulations to such worthy recipients and thanks them for their contributions to the weeds industry during their careers so far. They are undoubtedly held in high regard by their peers and an inspiration to us all.

CAWS recognises outstanding contributions to weed management in Australasia through the award of the CAWS Medal for Leadership. This is a prestigious award with, on average, no more than two medals being awarded at each Australasian Weeds Conference.

The award recognises a contribution to the science, technology and practice of weed management through research, teaching, administration, extension and implementation of programs, which is:

- outstanding, in that the contribution is recognised by peers to be exemplary in substance, objectives, methods and results;
- influential on the work of others;
- sustained over a long time, perhaps ten years or more;
- substantial in that the contribution is broadly based across several categories listed above, and;
- national in its impact. (It should be noted here that locally outstanding contributions may be recognised by Member Societies of CAWS.)

A full list of past recipients can be viewed via [www.caws.org.au/awards](http://www.caws.org.au/awards).



Dog handler Steve Austin demonstrates the talents of Missy, hawkweed detector dog (photo: John Thorp)



Rod Randall and John Thorp both received the CAWS Medal for Leadership 2014 for their outstanding contributions to the weeds industry

### 20th Australasian Weeds Conference: Perth, WA, 11–15 September 2016

The 20th Australasian Weeds Conference will be held on 11–15 September 2016, in Perth, Western Australia. The last conference in Perth was 2002, which attracted a record-setting 500 attendees! Plans for this conference are underway and it promises to be another outstanding conference. Please reserve the dates in your diary and we hope you can join us in Perth. For updates as they are released, please visit <http://www.wswa.org.au/20awc>.



# Invasive Plants PhD Research Projects

*This is the first in our new series on invasive plants research projects being undertaken by PhD candidates in Victoria.*

Investigations into the Ecology and Management of the Invasive Plant *Galenia pubescens*, a Serious Environmental Weed of Natural Temperate Grasslands of Victoria, Australia

*Galenia pubescens* (galenia or coastal galenia) belongs to the family Aizoaceae and is also commonly known as blanket or carpet weed. This species is a woody prostrate perennial species native to South Africa and has become established in California, central Chile and various states in Australia. It was introduced as a fire retardant in the USA and for erosion control in Australia.

Galenia is listed as a Locally Controlled Weed in 2 New South Wales local council areas and is considered a threat to native vegetation communities in Victoria, particularly dry coastal vegetation, lowland grassland, grassy woodland, dry sclerophyll forest, and rock outcrop vegetation. In Victoria, galenia occurs in medium to large numbers and is widely distributed from west Gippsland in the east of the state to the northwestern Mallee region.

Galenia forms large circular prostrate mats which tend to smother other plants. Infestations reduce native species richness and diversity. Galenia contains compounds that are toxic to humans and grazing animals, particularly when grown in fertile soils. Galenia control programs have been of limited success in the past, primarily due to large and persistent soil seed banks.



Ako Hussein Mahmood with a *Galenia pubescens* plant (photo: Ako Mahmood)

PhD candidate, Ako Hussein Mahmood, is supervised by Associate Professor Singarayer Florentine, Dr Grant Palmer, and Dr Wendy Wright (Federation University Australia), and Dr David McLaren (Victorian Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI)). This project is a component of a large adaptive management project supported by DEPI to investigate new tools for managing weeds in former arable locations in the Western Grassland Reserve.

Conventional chemical control methods pose environmental and human health risks, and the potential for developing herbicide resistance. Mechanical weed control is unsuitable in certain conditions, and biological control requires lengthy and expensive development programs. Alternative cost-effective and biologically-robust methods with reduced adverse effects are required for the control of *Galenia pubescens*. New methodology may also prove effective for other invasive plant species.



*Galenia pubescens* (photo: Ako Mahmood)

This study will investigate aspects of the ecology and management of galenia in western regional Victoria. The project aims to provide management solutions for the control of galenia, which enhance the competitiveness of native grasslands species. The management protocol being trialled is:

- (i) selective killing of mature galenia plants through spot applications of glyphosate;
- (ii) removal or reduction of galenia seed banks through application of an essential oil (pine oil);
- (iii) application of carbon (sugar and sawdust) to increase microbial drawdown of soil nitrogen in order to reduce the competitiveness of nitrogen-loving colonising weeds such as galenia, and;
- (iv) introduction of native grassland species to colonise bare ground created by the treatments.





## 2014 WSV Conference Papers to be Published in *Plant Protection Quarterly*

Speakers from our May 2014 conference 'Invasive plants and animals: contrasts and connections', held in Geelong, were invited to submit their papers for publishing in the peer reviewed journal *Plant Protection Quarterly* (PPQ). We wish to advise members that a selection of papers are expected to be published in PPQ in issue 3 of 2014. For updates visit the Polymeria Publishing website: [www.polymeria.com.au](http://www.polymeria.com.au).

As PPQ has accepted these conference papers for publishing, the proceedings of the 2014 conference have not been made publicly available online for version control reasons and we request that no other organisation make it publicly available online or otherwise either. If you have any queries regarding this, please email the WSV secretary.

## Membership Renewals 2014–15

Have you paid your membership renewal yet? A reminder to those who have not yet paid their membership to please do so. Please contact the secretary should you have any queries in regards to this. Thank you to those who have already done so, your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

The Weed Society of Victoria is not a business, nor current recipient of government funding. We rely on the efforts of our voluntary committee and the support of membership funds. Members receive a quarterly newsletter, regular emails on weed related matters and the special member rate to WSV and CAWS events. Please visit [www.wsvic.org.au](http://www.wsvic.org.au) for more details or email the secretary.

## New WSV Sponsorship and Advertising Rates

The WSV Committee reviewed its advertising prices and has introduced Society sponsorship. The committee approved these changes and is pleased to announce the following sponsorship and advertising rates are available. Please contact the secretary via [secretary@wsvic.org.au](mailto:secretary@wsvic.org.au) if you are interested in this new opportunity.

### Society Sponsorship

Annual Sponsorship      \$300

- Logo displayed on 'Weedscene' – four issues per year
- Logo and sponsor name on the Society's website
- One promotional article in 'Weedscene' per year (subject to editorial control)
- One free membership per year (optional)

### Advertising – Newsletter 'Weedscene'

One sixth	\$50
Quarter page	\$75
Half page	\$150
Whole page	\$300

## International Year of Soils 2015: Get involved and submit your ideas

*The following information comes from the Global Soil Forum.*

2015  
International  
Year of Soils



The International Year of Soils 2015 (IYS) will serve as a platform for raising awareness on the importance of sustainable soil management as the basis for food systems, fuel and fibre production, essential ecosystem functions and ultimately allow for a better adaptation to climate change for present and future generations.

The Global Soil Forum regards this decision by the 68th UN General Assembly as a unique chance to place soils in the post-2015 development agenda. Which is why they are actively seeking input from individuals and institutions concerned or involved with sustainable soil management. You can use their comment function to submit your ideas (be it on content or strategies). The Global Soil Forum seeks to take your contributions forward in the planning process leading towards IYS activities in 2015.

The objectives of the IYS are:

- to create awareness amongst civil society and decision makers about the fundamental role soils play in creating a healthy environment for life on this planet;
- to achieve full recognition of the prominent contributions of soils to food security, climate change adaptation and mitigation, essential ecosystem services, poverty alleviation and sustainable development;
- to promote effective policies and actions for the sustainable management and protection of soil resources;
- to sensitise decision-makers about the need for robust investment in sustainable soil management activities which aim at providing healthy soils for different land users and population groups;
- to catalyse initiatives in connection with the SDG process and post-2015 agenda;
- to advocate rapid enhancement of capacities and systems for soil information collection and monitoring at all levels (global, regional and national).

It would be great to see weeds included in the year of the soil 2015, so submit your ideas via their website: <http://globalsoilweek.org/iys2015/>



## In the Media

### Former CAWS President, Michael Widderick

The former President of the Council of Australasian Weed Societies (CAWS), Dr Michael Widderick, spoke on ABC Rural on the first morning of the Australasian Weeds Conference in Hobart. He discussed the importance of adopting multiple tactics to manage weeds in crops and preventing weed seed-set, in relation to herbicide resistance. Access to audio: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-09-01/national-weeds-conference/5710642>

### Daniel Simberloff on Biosecurity

Daniel Simberloff, Gore Hunger Professor of Environmental Science at the University of Tennessee, spoke to ABC RN Breakfast at the Australasian Weeds Conference in Hobart. He noted that, although Australia has been relatively effective in eradicating some invasive plants and animals, the focus has been on agricultural pests. Australia is less effective with species that might affect the environment. Also, economic globalisation has been an impediment to biosecurity because signatories to multilateral trade agreements no longer have as much control over imported products. The exporting nation can appeal the rejection of a product which is, or contains, a potentially invasive species, and the adjudicating body tends to view environmental concerns as a cover for economic protectionism. He states that, although climate change is likely to extend the range of some weed species, “human ingenuity developing ever-better technologies [...] will enable us not to have a planet of weeds a century from now”. However, impediments to biosecurity are not just economic or technological, but a question of political will. Access to audio: <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/australia-better-than-most-for-biosecurity-protection-expert/5715242>

### CAWS Medal Winner, John Thorp

The winner of the prestigious Council of Australasian Weed Societies (CAWS) medal this year, John Thorp (National

Weeds Management Facilitator), was interviewed on ABC Tasmanian Country Hour. He discussed the National Weeds Strategy and the importance of a bottom-up approach driven by people managing the weed problems. He advocated management and prevention of new weed incursions as best value for money to deal with reduced funding for government programs. Access to audio: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-09-11/caws-medal-winner/5733014>

### David Ervin on Herbicide Resistance

Emeritus Professor of economic and environmental management at Portland State University, David Ervin, spoke on ABC Rural about developing new skill sets to proactively tackle the escalating problem of herbicide resistance. He advocates a flexible community-based approach with farmers working collectively, rather than a top-down program which tends to become prescriptive. This requires the input of sociologists and economists in addition to scientists, to “give [farmers] a good set of data so that they understand what the implications are, and they will find ways to attack the problem better: both effective and sustainable”. Access to audio: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-09-18/herbicide-resistance/5752364>

### Proceedings of Herbicide Resistance Summit, Weed Science Society of America

The proceedings of Herbicide Resistance Summit held by the Weed Science Society of America in September 2014 are available online. Access to a playlist of videos: <http://wssa.net/weed/resistance-summit-ii/>

### Unusual Source for a Weed Story

Aviation Today reported on a weed detection project featuring flight trials of unmanned helicopters. The helicopters were successful in finding previously undetected *Miconia calvescens*, a declared noxious weed, in dense rainforest near Cairns. Webpage: [http://www.aviationtoday.com/categories/rotocraft/Unmanned-Helicopters-Detect-Noxious-Weeds-in-Australian-Project\\_83107.html#\\_VEhOyvmUeSp](http://www.aviationtoday.com/categories/rotocraft/Unmanned-Helicopters-Detect-Noxious-Weeds-in-Australian-Project_83107.html#_VEhOyvmUeSp)

## Update on Invasive Species Senate Inquiry

The Senate Inquiry into the ‘adequacy of arrangements to prevent the entry and establishment of invasive species likely to harm Australia’s natural environment’ has received 89 submissions from a diverse range of organisations and individuals. Submissions can be viewed at: [www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment\\_and\\_Communications/biosecurity/Submissions](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/biosecurity/Submissions)

Hearings were held in Perth, Canberra, Hobart and Sydney. The reporting date for the inquiry is 3rd December 2014.

Links to documents can be found at: [www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment\\_and\\_Communications/biosecurity](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/biosecurity)

A recent article in *The Guardian* on invasive species entering Australia interviewed WSV’s Andrew Cox in his capacity as executive officer for the Invasive Species Council. The article can be found at: [www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/oct/24/biosecurity-gaps-led-to-36-invasive-species-entering-australia-since-2000](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/oct/24/biosecurity-gaps-led-to-36-invasive-species-entering-australia-since-2000)



# New publications

*For those interested in monitoring environmental change and biodiversity:*

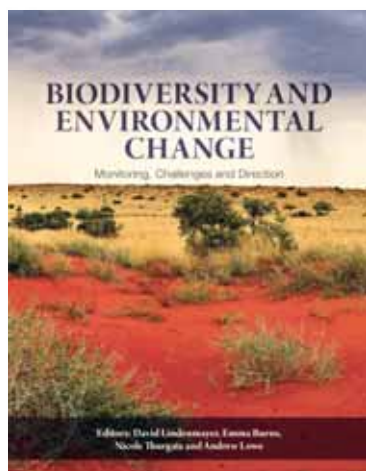
## **Biodiversity and Environmental Change: Monitoring, Challenges and Direction**

Edited by David Lindenmayer, Emma Burns, Nicole Thurgate and Andrew Lowe

Publication: February 2014

Hardcover ISBN: 9780643108561

[www.publish.csiro.au/pid/7009.htm](http://www.publish.csiro.au/pid/7009.htm)



This data-rich book demonstrates the value of existing national long-term ecological research in Australia for monitoring environmental change and biodiversity. Long-term ecological data are critical for informing trends in biodiversity and environmental change. The Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network (TERN) is a major initiative of the Australian Government and one of its key areas of investment is to provide funding for a network of long-term ecological research plots around Australia (LTERN).

LTERN researchers and other authors in this book have maintained monitoring sites, often for one or more decades, in an array of different ecosystems across the Australian continent – ranging from tropical rainforests, wet eucalypt forests and alpine regions through to rangelands and deserts. This book highlights some of the temporal

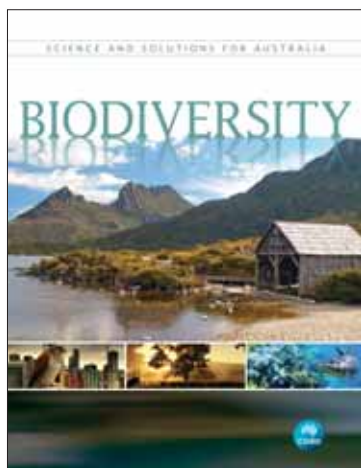
changes in the environment that have occurred in the various systems in which dedicated field-based ecologists have worked. Many important trends and changes are documented and they often provide new insights that were previously poorly understood or unknown. These data are precisely the kinds of data so desperately needed to better quantify the temporal trajectories in the environment in Australia.

By presenting trend patterns (and often also the associated data) the authors aim to catalyse governments and other organisations to better recognise the importance of long-term data collection and monitoring as a fundamental part of ecologically-effective and cost-effective management of the environment and biodiversity.

*Also check out:*

## **Biodiversity: Science and Solutions for Australia**

Edited by Steve Morton, Andy Sheppard and Mark Lonsdale  
ISBN 9781486302062 (PDF)  
CSIRO Publishing



This book is available in electronic or digital format, featuring additional content including videos, case studies, and links to further information. The electronic version can be downloaded free of charge from [www.csiro.au/biodiversitybook](http://www.csiro.au/biodiversitybook).

*For those interested in the environmental crisis and policy reform:*

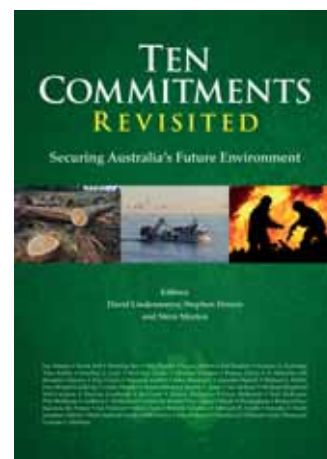
## **Ten Commitments Revisited: Securing Australia's Future Environment**

Edited by David Lindenmayer, Stephen Dovers and Steve Morton

Publication: September 2014

Paperback ISBN: 9781486301676

[www.publish.csiro.au/pid/7276.htm](http://www.publish.csiro.au/pid/7276.htm)



What are the 10 key issues that must be addressed urgently to improve Australia's environment? In this follow up to the highly successful book *Ten Commitments: Reshaping the Lucky Country's Environment*, Australia's leading environmental thinkers have written provocative chapters on what must be done to tackle Australia's environmental problems – in terms of policies, on-ground actions and research. Each chapter begins with a brief overview of the 10 key tasks that need to be addressed in a given field, and then each issue is discussed in more detail.

Chapters are grouped into ecosystems, sectors and cross-cutting themes. Topics include: deserts, rangelands, temperate eucalypt woodlands, tropical savanna landscapes, urban settlements, forestry management, tropical and temperate marine ecosystems, tropical rainforests, alpine ecosystems, fresh-water ecosystems, coasts, islands, soils, fisheries, agriculture, mining, grazing, tourism, industry and manufacturing, protected areas, Indigenous land and sea management, climate change, water, biodiversity, population, human health, fire, energy and more.

Ten Commitments Revisited is a ‘must read’ for politicians, policy makers, decision makers, practitioners and others with an interest in Australia’s environment.

*For those interested in invasive species policy:*

**Invasive Species in a Globalized World: Ecological, Social, and Legal Perspectives on Policy**

Edited by Reuben P. Keller, Marc W. Cadotte and Glenn Sandiford

Publication: November 2014

Hardcover ISBN: 9780226166049

Paperback ISBN: 9780226166186

E-book ISBN: 9780226166216

<http://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/I/bo18508029.html>



Over the past several decades, the field of invasion biology has rapidly expanded as global trade and the spread of human populations have increasingly carried animal and plant species across natural barriers that have kept them ecologically separated for millions of years. Because some of these non-native species thrive in their new homes and harm environments, economies, and human health, the prevention and management of invasive species has become a major policy goal from local to international levels.

Yet even though ecological research has led to public conversation and policy recommendations, those recommendations have frequently been ignored, and the efforts to counter invasive species have been largely

unsuccessful. Recognizing the need to engage experts across the life, social, and legal sciences as well as the humanities, the editors of this volume have drawn together a wide variety of ecologists, historians, economists, legal scholars, policy makers, and communications scholars, to facilitate a dialogue among these disciplines and understand fully the invasive species phenomenon. Aided by case studies of well-known invasives such as the cane toad of Australia and the emerald ash borer, Asian carp, and sea lampreys that threaten US ecosystems, *Invasive Species in a Globalized World* offers strategies for developing and implementing anti-invasive policies designed to stop their introduction and spread, and to limit their effects.

*For those interested in a weed identification book recommended by delegates at the 2014 Australasian Weeds Conference:*

**A Traveller's Flora – A Guide to Familiar Plants, along Roadsides, in Fields and Forgotten Places**

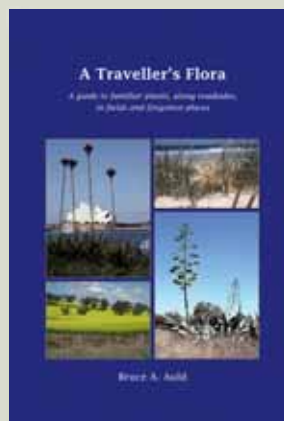
Bruce A Auld

180 pages, softback, ISBN

9780646901169

Published by Samara

[www.publish.csiro.au/pid/7145.htm](http://www.publish.csiro.au/pid/7145.htm)



*A Traveller's Flora* describes and illustrates the common and conspicuous plants you see while driving around south eastern Australia. It includes crop plants, trees, common roadside plants and weeds. Every plant has a name and a history and this book helps you to get to know them and their relatives with the help of beautiful

colour photographs and a ‘quick plant finder’. The book also includes a brief introduction to botany: how plants are named and classified, how they grow.

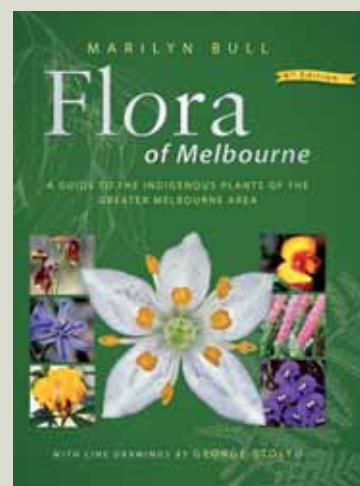
The book arose through holiday trips throughout south eastern Australia from Queensland to Tasmania with Bruce’s family and friends and their questions about plants. The idea for the book was supported with a small grant from the Australian Academy of Science to foster a wider interest in the plant sciences.

*For those interested in native flora:*  
**Flora of Melbourne 4th Edition**

Marilyn Bull (author) and George Stolfo (illustrator)

Hardback, ISBN 9781864471229

Hyland House, available from [www.weedinfo.com.au/bk\\_floramel.html](http://www.weedinfo.com.au/bk_floramel.html)



The *Flora of Melbourne* has been completely revised, updated and expanded. It is an essential resource that assists in the recognition and botanical identification of species while encouraging an awareness of the interrelationships between indigenous plants and animals. It provides an important record of the plant life that developed in the Greater Melbourne area over a long period of time. It indicates the probable distribution of plant communities and the species within them prior to European settlement, based on historical data, remnant vegetation, and the prevailing climatic and soil conditions of each area.