



Newsletter of the Weed Society of Victoria Inc.  
volume 27 issues 2&3 2016

# Weedscene

## WSV Conference Report

During 7–9 June 2016, the WSV held its 6th Biennial Conference ‘Celebrating 50 years of invasive species management in Victoria – our past, present and future’ at the RACV Goldfields in Creswick, central Victoria.

Our Keynote Speakers reflected the diversity of people who participate in weeds management as did the rest of our presenters. Geoff Carr from Ecology Australia, whose presentation titled ‘Environmental weed management in Victoria: how far have we come in 40 years?’, was very well received. A reflection of how far we have come and what we still needed to work on was relatable by all. Lee Mead from the Tarrangower Cactus Group presented ‘50 Years of ‘wheely’ prickly cactus’ and gave us a heartfelt and in depth look at the daily struggles that landholders in her local area have faced over the decades in a bid to rid the landscape of this cactus. Melody McGeoch from Monash University presented ‘From global to local and back in support of weed management’. Attendees were given a new perspective on how we manage weeds at different scales and how they influence management between these scales.

Attendees were treated to a fabulous variety of presentations. Notable highlights, aside from our keynote speakers, included presentations on invasive animals, ‘The use of motion sensing cameras to measure bait-take by Brush-tailed Phascogale during a simulated fox control program’ by William Terry and Beau Kent, Macedon Ranges Shire Council; ‘Assessing the effects of feral deer management on state and federally listed alpine peatlands: The Alpine National Park Deer Control Trial’ by Keith Primrose, Parks Victoria; and ‘Eradication of Paterson’s curse using pine-oil weedicide’, presented by WSV members Bonnie Gelman and Rob Lucas showing us how landholders deal with their weed issues in reality. We also thank Michael Noble and Lara Carpenter, from the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water & Environment, Tasmania who made the journey to



Some early birds kicked off the conference with a meet and greet during a canapé session (Photo: K. Primrose)



Keynote speaker, Lee Mead, Tarrangower Cactus Group (Photo: M. Stephenson)



Michael Noble passes around a sample of besom heath encased safely in a Perspex block (Photo: M. Stephenson)

# WSV Directory

## Correspondence and enquiries

Weed Society of Victoria Inc.  
PO Box 234 Batman Vic 3058  
Telephone 0437 861449  
ACNA0011723W ABN 15 496 325 152

**Web Site** [www.wsvic.org.au](http://www.wsvic.org.au)

## Secretary

Rebecca Grant  
[secretary@wsvic.org.au](mailto:secretary@wsvic.org.au)

## Weedscene Editor

Ingrid Krockenberger  
[editor@wsvic.org.au](mailto:editor@wsvic.org.au)

## President

Greg Lefoe  
[greg.lefoe@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:greg.lefoe@ecodev.vic.gov.au)

## Vice President

Raelene Kwong  
[rae.kwong@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:rae.kwong@ecodev.vic.gov.au)

## Immediate Past President

Matt Stephenson  
[matt.stephenson1971@gmail.com](mailto:matt.stephenson1971@gmail.com)

## Treasurer

Keith Primrose  
[keithprimrose@hotmail.com](mailto:keithprimrose@hotmail.com)

## Committee Members

Kate Blood  
[kate.blood@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:kate.blood@delwp.vic.gov.au)

Brett McGennissen  
[brett@habitatcreations.com.au](mailto:brett@habitatcreations.com.au)

Jon Nester  
[jon@ausecosolutions.com.au](mailto:jon@ausecosolutions.com.au)

## Co-opted Members

Rebecca James  
[rebecca.james@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:rebecca.james@delwp.vic.gov.au)

Greg Wells  
[Wells1@dow.com](mailto:Wells1@dow.com)

## CAWS Representatives

Ingrid Krockenberger  
[editor@wsvic.org.au](mailto:editor@wsvic.org.au)

Brett McGennissen  
[brett@habitatcreations.com.au](mailto:brett@habitatcreations.com.au)



## WSV Membership Rates 2016-17

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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**COVER PHOTO:** *Acacia baileyana* (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](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.
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*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

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warn us of 'The invasive threat to Victoria of besom heath (*Erica scoparia*)'.

Hot off the press was the presentation 'Weeds at the Early Stage of Invasion (WESI) project' from Bec James, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. Bec provided a set of the six newly published guide books which were snapped up as soon as they were put on the registration desk!! The WESI project focuses on high risk invasive species that threaten biodiversity when they are at the early stage of invasion. They have developed a decision making framework that guides public land managers through the process of dealing with invasive plants at the early stage of invasion that covers questions from the start – "I found a new

plant in my park, what do I do?" For those wishing to use this tool, you can view the guides at: [www.delwp.vic.gov.au/early-invaders](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/early-invaders).

The proceedings for the 6th Biennial Conference can be found via our homepage links: [www.wsvic.org.au](http://www.wsvic.org.au).

With a slightly smaller conference attendance than the last, we took the opportunity to indulge our attendees in a sit down buffet lunch – it was delicious!! Attendees appreciated the opportunity to spend some quality time to sit back and get to meet someone new or catch up with old acquaintances, and all agreed the RACV Goldfields Creswick venue was a winner!

## Field Trip Report

Field trippers visited Park Lake Creswick and heard from the Creswick Landcare Group and local Friends Group. We viewed their collective efforts to control pine and invasive *Acacias* in their preparation to establish an 'Australian Botanical Reserve' with plants from around the country in sections for each state.

Local resident, Jennifer Johnson, was proud to show off the efforts of the local gorse task force group. She organised an impressive demonstration of gorse mulching on private farms using special machinery from local contractors. This method does clear it out quick and is followed up with spraying of regrowth – but not until it's old enough to feel the full effects of the herbicide. Secretly some of us wanted a go behind the wheel of those mulching machines!! Video footage can be found on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1569119023329941/>

Over a warming drink during lunch at Captain's Creek Organic Winery, we heard from Doug May on the history of his family winery and received a presentation from Ray Draper on the local Growing Grass Frog project.

Post lunch we visited a nearby roadside with Ken Cox from Ballarat City Council where we discussed Shire roadside weed control and all the complexities it has to offer its managers – tight budgets, finding money, deciding who owns which patch and when and which weeds to tackle first! Ken and his colleagues are certainly stepping up to this challenge. We thank all of our presenters and field trip hosts. Our 6th Biennial Conference could not have been such a success without them, nor our sponsors and trade displays which bought a positive energy and another opportunity for networking. Attendees also enjoyed perusing the posters on display submitted by hardworking PhD students. We thank all those who participated in sponsorship, exhibits and poster displays. We also thank all participants for such positive feedback. It was particularly humbling to have such



Tony Thake from Bald Hills Creswick Landcare takes us on tour (Photo: K. Primrose)



Jenny Johnson explains the transformation from gorse infestation to rail trail with a lot of hard work and local support (Photo: M. Stephenson)

enthusiastic feedback from Keynote speaker Lee Mead, who was pleased to have participated in the conference and made some fantastic cactus networking contacts.

Major sponsor:



Dow AgroSciences

Minor sponsors:



Exhibitors: State Prohibited Weeds, DEDJTR



# WSV News

## Annual General Meeting

The WSV held its 50th AGM during the 6th Biennial Conference, at which a new committee was elected. We welcome back some previous committee members and warmly welcome some new faces. We'd like to introduce all our committee members as follows.

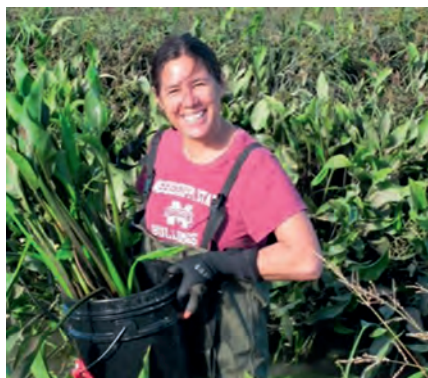
### Greg Lefoe (President)



I am a Senior Research Scientist at Agriculture Victoria's AgriBio Centre, located on La Trobe University's Melbourne campus. I have worked on the integrated management of weeds and pest insects for over 20 years, mostly at the Keith Turnbull Research Institute in Frankston. My early research and extension activities addressed pests such as elm leaf beetle and European wasps. In the last ten years I have focused my research on classical biological control, especially the release of biological control agents for bridal creeper, gorse and invasive brooms, and biological control agent risk assessments for the orchard pest codling moth, and the weeds wandering tradescantia and silverleaf nightshade.

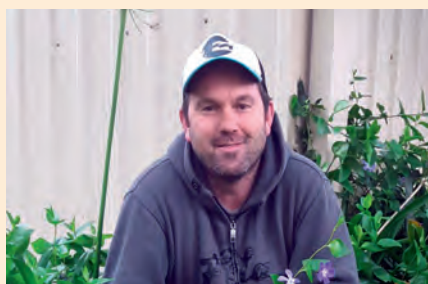
I moved to Melbourne from Wodonga in 1990 to complete a Bachelor of Science degree at La Trobe University. I also have a Master's degree from the University of Melbourne, researching structured decision making approaches to English broom management. I have now commenced PhD studies at the University of Melbourne's School of BioSciences.

### Rae Kwong (Vice President)



I am a Senior Research Scientist within Agriculture Victoria, DEDJTR and based at the AgriBio facility at Bundoora. Over the past two decades, I have managed the weed biological control team which has delivered programs on a range of agricultural and environmental weeds across Victoria and interstate. Recognised for my role in biocontrol extension, I developed the highly successful Weed Warriors program involving schools working in partnership with community groups to rear biocontrol agents for release onto local weeds. Currently, I am working on the aquatic weed *Sagittaria platyphylla* and conducting host specificity testing on three weevil species within the quarantine facilities at AgriBio. I have joined the WSV committee to broaden my involvement in weed-related issues having spent the past six years focused solely on studying *Sagittaria* while undertaking my PhD.

### Matt Stephenson (Immediate Past President)



I currently work for the Corner Inlet Blackberry Action Group, StopPitt Inc. (Pittosporum control organisation) and other 'odd jobs'. I have been managing pest plant and animal control programs for 16 years and joined the Weed Society of Victoria Committee to advance the cause of community led weed control projects. I have a keen focus on networking, sharing knowledge and learning from others. I enjoy the 'hands on' approach to weed control, but also have extensive experience in supporting strategic approaches to weed control programs.

## Keith Primrose (Treasurer)



I work with Parks Victoria delivering invasive species projects in the Alps and have done since 2011. Prior to moving to Victoria I spent four years in Far North Queensland managing a luxury Eco-Lodge and three years in the Kimberly region of Western Australia as a Ranger at a privately owned Wilderness Park. I joined WSV to meet other people in the weed management field and share ideas. I joined the committee to make a contribution to the society and weed management field as a whole.

## Rebecca Grant (Secretary)



I recently graduated from Deakin University with a Bachelor of Science, Biology major. Although newly graduated, I have been employed within the weeds industry since 2007 working as a technical assistance in the Bioscience Research Division at the Department of Primary Industries. I assisted with weed biological and chemical control projects, but most of my time was with the Weed Risk Assessment Team. Last summer I worked for Parks Victoria on the Hawkweed Eradication Program in the Alpine National Park. This summer I will be moving to Omeo to take up the post of English Broom Project Officer with Parks Victoria. I have been on the WSV committee since 2012 and enjoy hearing the latest work undertaken by our WSV members.

## Ingrid Krockenberger (Editor & CAWS Delegate)



I have been enjoying the WSV editor role since 2014 when I joined the committee after relocating to Melbourne from WA where I previously worked as a Natural Resource Management Officer. Prior to that I worked in research and teaching roles in Environmental Science at Murdoch University. I have also worked in mine rehabilitation, investigating mine-pit revegetation and soil amendment for revegetating mine tailings. I have also undertaken research in tree water relations in plantation forestry.

## Brett McGennissen (General Committee Member & CAWS Delegate)



I am a forester by training and spent the first 12 years working in the plantation forestry industry, primarily in research roles. Weeds were a prime focus for pine and eucalypt plantation establishment across Victoria and led into more specialised R&D roles with the pesticide companies Macspred and Nufarm. After 20 plus years of dealing with 'unnatural ecosystems', I turned to focus on native vegetation and spent five years working in local government with Latrobe City Council as their Environmental Planner. This involved managing roadside weed control, bushland reserves, revegetation projects and implementing State and Federal planning legislation relating to native vegetation and biodiversity. In May 2016, needing a sea change after such time in the Latrobe Valley I moved to Geelong and currently work as the Business Development Manager for Habitat Creations. I have returned to the WSV committee with a renewed interest in 'the war against weeds' joining at the 6th Biennial WSV Conference in June 2016.

## Jon Nester (General Committee Member)



I am the Branch Manager at Aus Eco Solutions, a leading environmental restoration company here in Victoria. In my current role, I am responsible for the implementation of multiple environmental management projects which include ecological burning, native re-vegetation, noxious weed control, pest animal control, native vegetation / weed mapping and endangered species management. I actively seek the most up to date and effective weed control methods available and by joining the Weeds Society of Victoria, as a Committee member, I hope to expand this knowledge and contribute to growth of the Society into the future.

## Kate Blood (General Committee Member)



I currently work as a Statewide Senior Project Officer, Invasive Species at the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. My current projects include Weeds at the Early Stages of Invasion (WESI) and Invasive Species Statewide Coordination Team. Since graduating with a Bachelor of Applied Science (Horticulture) in 1988, my work experience has ranged from weed technician, conservation and recreation planner for public land, national park interpretation, weed policy and training, community engagement, and project development. I have also had an ongoing communication and support role in fire management. My roles have been at a local level, Statewide and across southern Australia. You can keep up with my latest news via <https://twitter.com/weedyk8> or [www.facebook.com/weedyk8](http://www.facebook.com/weedyk8) or [www.instagram.com/weedyk8/](http://www.instagram.com/weedyk8/)

## Bec James (Co-opted Member)



I have worked on invasive plants for the Victorian Government since 2009 and my work has included the management of a strategic weed project based the Upper Thomson catchment (West Gippsland, Victoria). I have a keen interest in cacti and the ecology of the Mallee region of Victoria. My current focus is on weeds at the early stage of invasion. I joined the WSV to further gain and share knowledge about weeds and see this as an opportunity to network with other weed industry professionals.

## Greg Wells (Co-opted Member)



I am a Research Leader for Dow AgroSciences in southern Australia, with 30 years' experience in Research & Development for new products. I joined the WSV, as I had been heavily involved with Weed Society of Queensland (and still a member) as it's an excellent forum for sharing ideas and experiences about key weed issues.



# Out-going President's Report

by Matt Stephenson, Out-going President – June 2016

The Society has reached the end of another successful year, culminating in a celebration of the 50 year anniversary of the establishment of the organisation.

Committee members hosted 'Celebrating 50 years of Invasive Species Management in Victoria – Our Past, Present and Future' at the RACV Goldfields Resort at Creswick. Attendees were treated to some terrific presentations on successful programs, innovative control and monitoring techniques and an opening Keynote presentation from experienced ecologist Geoff Carr. Geoff's presentation on the previous decades of weed control in the state (the highs and lows!) was followed by Lee Mead who spoke of the challenges and successes of her group's wheel cactus community led initiative. Melody McGeoch from Monash University also blew our minds with a bigger global perspective on weed management. As usual, the Conference has allowed for learning outcomes, but importantly has facilitated opportunities for frenetic networking – not just regarding weeds – but also broader Natural Resource Management issues and project links.

The year's other significant outcomes have included the initiation of our capacity for online banking. This process was implemented by Committee Treasurers Isabella Amouzandeh and Keith Primrose who also transitioned into the role during the year – so well done on those two fronts. Keith has also worked tirelessly with Secretary Rebecca Grant on the organisation of the 2016 Conference, so well done to both of you! It is noteworthy to add that Rebecca has been at the coalface for the majority of activities the Society has had involvement with, so thanks Bec for your continued efforts to maintain the health and vigour of the Committee and broader membership.

The Society has recently joined the worlds of social media and LinkedIn. The initiation of a WSV Facebook page has enabled members and others to pose questions, highlight project work, disperse information – and even provide live pictorials and updates from our conferences. Our new social media presence, coupled with our continued publication of Weedscape – has ensured we are relevant, we are providing useful information and updates on science, legislation, innovation and importantly – enthusiasm – for our projects! Ingrid Krockenberger has spent considerable time collating information for each issue of Weedscape, so I would like to thank her for maintaining those deadlines and revitalising the publication generally.

Rebecca James and Kate Blood are current Committee members who, aside from their valuable committee



contributions, also produced and published their weed management guides in a set of six booklets during the year – congratulations to you both – and it is inevitable that these booklets will find their way into the hands of practitioners in weed control across the state into the future. Other valuable contributions at a committee level, particularly with assistance in organising the Creswick Conference were from David McLaren, Mark Uren, Andrew Cox and Greg Wells.

The relevance of the Weed Society of Victoria is strong – and 50 years has not weakened its capacity to provide a learning and networking platform for its members and the broader community. The key focus of the last two years of my tenure as president of the organisation has been to work toward greater recruitment and involvement from community organisations at the coalface of weed control efforts – that has happened, and we have also focussed keenly on integrating pest animal management and control projects into our field of interests. Our relevance at a strategic and political level is also currently strong – with recent invitations to provide feedback to the Forest Industry Taskforce and links to the Victorian Landcare Council and the provision of information on weed management to its members.

Thanks for a terrific year Committee and Members – I have enjoyed my time as President of the Society. I have learnt a great deal about the challenges and successes of operating a voluntary driven Society, but importantly have learned much more about the importance of organisations such as ours, to Government, to Landholders, to Weed Researchers, to Contractors... Community Groups... and the list goes on. It is vital we continue on and critical we continue to spread the word about what we do. I look forward to continuing on the Committee into the future and encourage anyone else out there that is interested to do the same!!



# President's welcome

by Greg Lefoe, Incoming President, June 2016

It's a privilege to be elected President of the Weed Society of Victoria. I'd like to thank our immediate Past President, Matt Stephenson, for the energy he brought to the role. I'd also like to thank our outgoing committee, and welcome the new WSV committee. I've had the good fortune to work with many of the new committee members over the years, and I look forward to working with them again.

A highlight of my job as a weed biological control scientist is the opportunity to build relationships, and share knowledge with students, farmers, local government, public land managers and community-based NRM groups. Building relationships between diverse stakeholders is a strength of the Weed Society of Victoria; a strength that was amply demonstrated at the WSV Conference at Creswick. The outgoing committee are to be congratulated on organising an excellent conference at a great venue. They've set the bar high; but I have no doubt the new committee is up to the task.



## CAWS report

The CAWS committee met on the 16th of June 2016. Their main focus at this time was finalising preparations for the 20th Australasian Weeds Conference in Perth, 11–15 September 2016, which we can now report was another outstanding conference (details page 10).



The CAWS delegates also held their AGM in conjunction with their most recent ordinary meeting prior to the conference commencement on 11 September. The Committee also arranged to have a booth at the conference, displaying material provided by the state societies and promoting the upcoming 21st AWC to be held in Armidale, New South Wales, in 2018.

In other activities, CAWS aim to provide a submission to the revised Australian Weeds Strategy 2017–2027 (AWS), which was released on 5 September 2016. Submissions close 14 October. State society committees have been contacted for their input. If you would like to read the revised AWS, it can be found at: <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/pests-diseases-weeds/pest-animals-and-weeds>.

Next CAWS meeting to be held in December 2016. Ingrid Krokenberger and Brett McGennissen are your Council of Australasian Weed Societies delegates.

# Stoppitt program

by Matt Stephenson

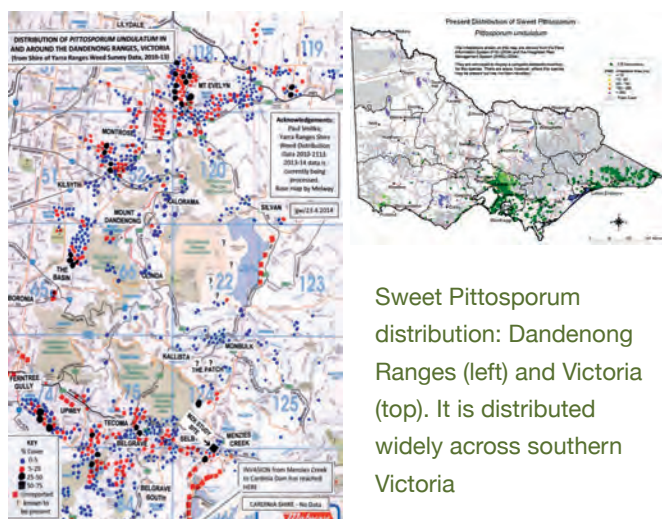


## The 'new wave' of Sweet Pittosporum control in the Dandenong Ranges

StopPitt is a new community organisation dedicated to the control of Sweet Pittosporum. It was born out of the situation at Menzies Creek in the Dandenong Ranges, where only a single tree was known to exist in the entire village in the 1940s, but where thousands existed 70 years later – at densities of around four to eight thousand per hectare.

This observation led to a Citizen Science Project at the Menzies Creek Primary School during 2012 and 2013, which estimated that its invasion rate was around 80 metres per year. During this period, the Shire of Yarra Ranges conducted a comprehensive weed survey which revealed that the Dandenong Ranges were encircled by invasions of Sweet Pittosporum. Hence, at an invasion rate of 80 metres per year, the Dandenongs will be completely covered with pittosporum in 20 to 25 years – unless its invasion activity is controlled.

This situation is shown by the following distribution map of Sweet Pittosporum in and around the Dandenong Ranges.



Sweet Pittosporum distribution: Dandenong Ranges (left) and Victoria (top). It is distributed widely across southern Victoria

## Control

Only about 25% of Sweet pittosporum trees are fertile females and carry berries, which blackbirds and other vectors like foxes and kurrajongs then distribute.

So in early invasions, only the female trees need to be removed. In more mature invasions, where the density is high, most of the males will also need to be removed. This can be achieved by cutting and pasting the trees, saplings and seedlings with glyphosate ('round-up') at any time of the year – or drilling larger trees and filling the drill holes with glyphosate during their active growing period in spring and early summer.

Control work has commenced in Menzies Creek, on both private and public properties. It is funded by the CWAD instigated Federal Dandenong Ranges Environment and Bushfire Reduction Community Grants Programme, administered by the Port Philip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority.

While further control work is contingent on funding, it is planned to proceed into the Cardinia and Monbulk Creek catchments and then move progressively to cover all invasions throughout the Dandenong Ranges and the Yarra Ranges Shire. Invasions in neighbouring Municipalities will then be targeted.

Such a programme can move both sequentially and simultaneously among various locations, depending on funding, community interest and the number of volunteers. The future control strategy will be guided by research information from Monash and Latrobe Universities, Government Departments and other sources. Any effects of control strategies on the residual ecosystem will be monitored and accommodated.

## Volunteer

StopPitt needs volunteers to assist with our project works! We actively encourage volunteer participation in our program, and would also like to hear from anyone who has concerns about Sweet Pittosporum in their landscape. For further information or to register interest please contact Program Manager Matt Stephenson on 0439430799 or email [matt.stephenson1971@gmail.com](mailto:matt.stephenson1971@gmail.com)



Committee Chair of StopPitt Jeff Walker describes the characteristics of Sweet Pittosporum to interested attendees at a Forum held in Upwey in August

# WESI Team goes to Perth's Australasian Weeds Conference

by Kate Blood, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (social media: @weedyk8)

The 20th Australasian Weeds Conference #20awc was a great opportunity to share what Bec James and I have been up to with Weeds at the Early Stage of Invasion (WESI) Project in Victoria. The conference was also a great way to catch up with what is going on in weeds around Australia and overseas.

The #20awc was held in Perth WA and organised by the Weeds Society of Western Australia with the Council of Australasian Weed Societies (CAWS), under very experienced conference convener Sandy Lloyd. The program was packed with interesting talks and many concurrent sessions made it difficult to choose from four speakers at the same time. Keynote speakers scattered across the conference made a more interesting format rather than all on the first morning. The program is available at <http://www.20awc.org.au/>



Craft display of weed-themed items



Kate and Bec in weed themed clothes with their WESI poster

It was good to reconnect with people and to meet new people. Increasingly people exchange digital information instead of business cards. It was great to meet people in person that I had connected with through social media. Using the #20awc hashtag made it easier to find and connect with other conference participants.

As a personal aside, Bec James and I staged a craft display of weed-themed items. It provided an additional challenge to try and wear a weed-themed item each day of the conference. The items included origami, wool and fabric dyed with weeds, crochet, sewn fabric with weed patterns, hand stitching and felting.

The conference dinner was a grand affair at Government House. The occasion was used to recognise the presentation of the CAWS medal to John Scott, and to recognising the

passing of Professor Sarah Reichard from the University of Washington USA.

There were so many great presentations it's difficult to single people out. I particularly enjoyed the presentations by Susan Bower about weed eradication on Lord Howe Island, Chris Brodie talking about *Carpobrotus* hybridisation, Ben Gooden about *Euphorbia paralias* (Sea Spurge), Paul Downey on alien plant invasions and native plant extinctions, Cindy Hauser on detection experiments, and Mike Noble on invasive *Erica* species.

A number of field trips were held on the last day of #20awc with themes including agriculture, environmental, and wetlands. Bec and I went on the wetland trip and it was well organised and a great day out learning about local environmental weeds on the coast and wetlands. There are lots of photos on social media using #20awc.

Bec and I did an additional trip to see invasive cacti east of Perth. It was interesting to learn about Velvet Pear (*Opuntia tomentosa*) and see other cacti including *Opuntia elata* and *Opuntia robusta*.

It was a great conference with a really nice vibe. The venue was good and the wildflowers stunning. The next AWC is in Sydney in 2018, details TBC.

These proceedings are already publicly available via the CAWS website and can be found at: [http://caws.org.au/awc\\_index.php](http://caws.org.au/awc_index.php)



*Opuntia tomentosa* as big as a house at Goomalling WA with Trevor Xivuri (South Africa), Kate Detchon (WA), Bec James (Vic), Kate Blood (Vic), Rod Randall (WA)



Wetland field trip



Kate and Bec amongst WA wildflowers

# Corner Inlet Blackberry Action Group

by Matt Stephenson, CIBAG Project Officer

## A Snapshot of Community Led Action on Blackberries

A South Gippsland landholder best encapsulated this year's program by stating "The roadsides are on the improve, my neighbour has finally met community expectations and my own place has 70% less Blackberry each year since I got serious". Comments with these themes seemed to be consistent across the CIBAG area, but most added that "we've done well, but there's a way to go yet".

With the addition of 25th Anniversary Landcare funding and residual Communities for Nature grant support, the Victorian Blackberry Taskforce project between Yarram and Fish Creek proved successful on three main fronts. Firstly, collaboration between agencies, secondly more efficient on-ground works and lastly broad community awareness raising and 'buy in' from new landholders in the region. The usual issues and challenges presented themselves to varying degrees – however – generally the program made significantly more gains than losses.

Of the 42 properties under three year management plans, a number were visited and surveyed in the winter of 2016. 31 property owners had conversations with CIBAG Project Officer Matt Stephenson and described or showcased their efforts. Some landholders had sold or moved on from their properties, though disappointing on one hand, it was encouraging that a number indicated they had passed on Blackberry extension advice to the new owners! There were also two instances where sellers had passed on the Project Officer's phone number and the purchasers had established contact with the program.

This year resulted in 24 new landholders signed up to three year plans. There are also four pending plans due to be signed in the coming month. This 2015–2016 achievement coupled with the previous two years sign-ups totals 65 landholders. One landholder has even signed up for a second time. He was an initial program signatory and his three years were up, so he developed and signed another plan.

## Significant Project Outcomes

- Landholders reported a 40% to 99% reduction in the blackberry infestations on their farms – with the average of around 75% (over the last three years).
- They are utilising helicopters, fixed wing aircraft, contractors, goats, mechanical removal and are spraying themselves. Some landholders are sharing helicopter

resources with neighbours and one has even installed a helipad on his property.

- All mentioned a significant issue with recalcitrant landholders. These landholders detract from the broader community efforts on blackberry control and diminish enthusiasm, especially if they are a direct seed supply to adjoining neighbours. Absentee landholders are the highest percentage of 'recalcitrant' landholders but not exclusively.
- Geographical issues are evident on some properties and access is extremely difficult. These steep areas are 'as a rule' the most heavily infested areas.
- Locals have been observed undertaking regular roadside spraying. This factor was raised by a number of respondents that believe whilst the roadsides have improved after the State Government funded shire roadside spraying programs – many roads require another few years of solid work to align to the standards set by many adjoining landholders.
- All proposed an extension of three year funding cycles for blackberry programs. The main reasoning behind this philosophy is that only a certain number of landholders can be reached within three years – many suggested 5–10 years would be the optimum timing for Blackberry control programs in the South Gippsland Hills.
- Plantation companies and VicRoads were identified as having 'room for improvement' with regard to on-ground treatment of land adjoining farms. Work undertaken by the 'rail trail' Committee and Parks Victoria was recognised as being an improvement by some landholders.

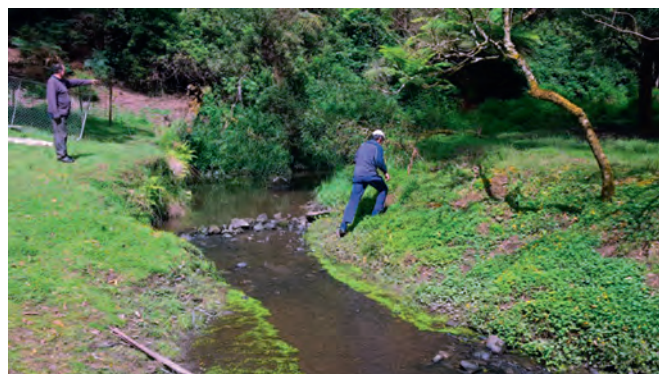


Extensive Blackberry control has been undertaken by landholders in the Toora North district

## Significant outcomes for the 2015–2016 season

- Of the 24 new signups, most were located in the strategic target areas of: Deep Creek, Toora North, Fullers Road.
- Most were recruited to the program via ‘cold calling’ however some were referred to the CIBAG Project Officer by neighbours or read about the program in the ‘Foster Mirror’ newspaper.
- All new landholders signed up participated directly in the 25th Anniversary or Communities for Nature funded projects. Many spent considerable amounts of money on works and most were assisted by contractors organised by the CIBAG Project Officer. Five landholders also made enquires about undertaking revegetation projects or remnant fencing as a consequence of site visits – they were referred to local Landcare Coordinators for further assistance.
- One new three year plan landholder sold the property shortly after signing. The new landholders have already had a site visit from the CIBAG Project Officer and were keen to sign-up in spring 2016.
- The total area of land now under three year plans from 2015–2016 sign-ups is 956 hectares. Most properties vary in the density cover across the properties, however work on these properties, coupled with another 1000+ hectares of land treated by previous signatories has led to significant landscape change across the Corner Inlet region.

A strong, active and enthusiastic committee has led the project with on-ground support from the CIBAG Project Officer Matt Stephenson and Sally-Anne Henderson from the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network. The Committee is



Landholder Ray Young and contractor John Kosta survey a site in preparation for Blackberry spraying

also active and strategic with representation on the South Gippsland Community Weeds Taskforce and networking and promotion via the Weeds Society of Victoria.

It is estimated that over 500 landholders and members of the communities bounded by Fish Creek, Yarram and Mount Best have had direct involvement with the program over the last three years. During the summer, monthly articles are placed in the local newspapers, Blackberry control is promoted at local Landcare and Friends of Group meetings and we have successfully hosted at least six field days. There are considerable opportunities to continue on with critical ‘follow up’ works and there are untapped areas with landholders that we have not been able to establish contact with as yet. CIBAG have made a difference – but it is not time to extinguish the lights just yet!

The Corner Inlet Blackberry Action Group is a working example of what communities can achieve with an active, well-resourced noxious weed control program – the challenge is keeping the momentum up!





# Dates for your diary

## 5th Queensland Pest Animal Symposium

7–10 November 2016

Townsville, Queensland

<http://event.icebergevents.com.au/qlld-pest-animal-2016>

## 11th Australasian Plant Conservation Conference 2016

14–18 November 2016

Melbourne, Victoria

[www.anpc.asn.au/conferences/2016](http://www.anpc.asn.au/conferences/2016)

## Territory Natural Resource Management Conference

22–24 November 2016

Darwin, NT

[www.tnrmconference.org.au](http://www.tnrmconference.org.au)

## Restore, Regenerate, Revegetate Conference

5–9 February 2017

University of New England, Armidale

<http://conferencecompany.com.au/revegconf2017>

## 19th International Conference on Biodiversity

23–24 February 2017, Paris, France

[www.waset.org/conference/2017/02/paris/ICB](http://www.waset.org/conference/2017/02/paris/ICB)

## 2nd Global Herbicide Resistance Challenges

14–18 May 2017

Denver, Colorado, USA

Contact: Dr. Todd Gaines, [todd.gaines@colostate.edu](mailto:todd.gaines@colostate.edu)

## 26th Asian-Pacific Weed Science Conference

19–22 September 2017

Kyoto, Japan

[www.c-linkage.co.jp/apwss2017/conference.html](http://www.c-linkage.co.jp/apwss2017/conference.html)

## 19th NSW Biennial Weeds Conference

October 2017

University of New England, Armidale

<http://nswweedsoc.org.au/common/programs/EventItem.asp?type=3&id=875>

## 21st Australasian Weeds Conference

2018, Sydney

<http://caws.org.au>

## In the media

### Strengthening Parks Victoria project

As part of their 20th anniversary celebrations Parks Victoria is undertaking the *Strengthening Parks Victoria* project. Parks Victoria wants to hear from communities and stakeholders in metro and regional Victoria about how you enjoy parks, and what Parks Victoria can do to help you enjoy parks more. Your feedback will help Parks Victoria provide recommendations to the Victorian Government on how Parks Victoria can make a difference to communities, economies and the environment. You can share your thoughts and feedback with us online: [lets-talk.parks.vic.gov.au/strengtheningparks](http://lets-talk.parks.vic.gov.au/strengtheningparks)

### Utilising the Kimberly landscape as a natural barrier against cane toad invasion

A team from the University of Melbourne has analysed the Kimberly

to Pilbara landscape and believes that denying cane toads access to water bodies is the key to stopping their western invasion. Where the Great Sandy Desert almost reaches the coast, the plan is to convert water bodies, i.e. approximately 100 dams into water tanks. Access: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-09-09/fight-to-save-native-animals-from-cane-toad-invasion/7788222>

### DELWP and Parks Victoria's extensive feral pig control program in far East Gippsland

This cross land tenure program is the most extensive and systematic control program undertaken to date and includes the first feral pig baiting deployment along the Snowy River from Willis to McKillops Bridge and beyond. Access: <http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/news-and-announcements/no-borders-to-feral-pig-control>

### Nature Zap trial

In a bid to meet a reduction in chemical use under US legislative requirements, its Air Force is reportedly trialling 'Nature Zap', a device that emits a combined heat and high energy light beam to kill the targeted plant. Access: <http://www.takepart.com/article/2016/08/08/air-force-tries-killing-weeds-without-light-beams-not-pesticides?cmpid=tpdaily-eml-2016-08-08>

### How Sunsmart are you at work?

Outdoor workers are 10 times more likely to develop skin cancer. Did you know that the UV index is not correlated to cloud cover? The Sunsmart widget and app provide daily information on your sun protection requirements for your location each day. Visit [www.sunsmart.com.au](http://www.sunsmart.com.au) to access workplace information and to download the app or widget.

# New Publications

## Extremophytes: Lessons Learnt from Plants Living on the Edge

*Functional Plant Biology*

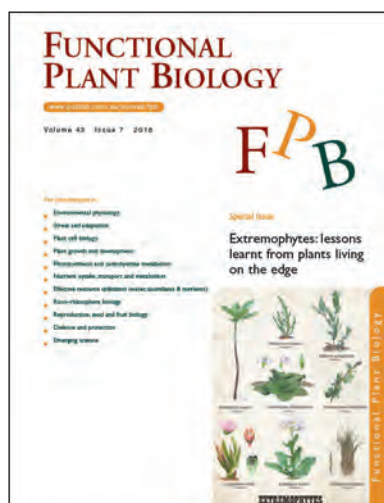
Special Issue 43(7)

Edited by Jill Farrant and Simon Barak

Published by CSIRO Publishing

August 2016, paperback

ISBN FP43/07



Plants that can survive and even thrive in extreme environments – extremophytes – are likely to be a treasure trove of information for understanding the processes of plant adaptation to environmental stresses. These species represent excellent models for understanding mechanisms of stress tolerance that may not be present in stress-sensitive species, as well as for identifying genetic determinants to develop stress-tolerant crops.

This special issue of *Functional Plant Biology* focuses on physiological and molecular processes that enable extremophytes to naturally survive high levels of salt or desiccation.

## Conservation Oceania Style: Highlighting Oceania's Unique Approaches to Conservation

*Pacific Conservation Biology*

Special Issue 22(2)

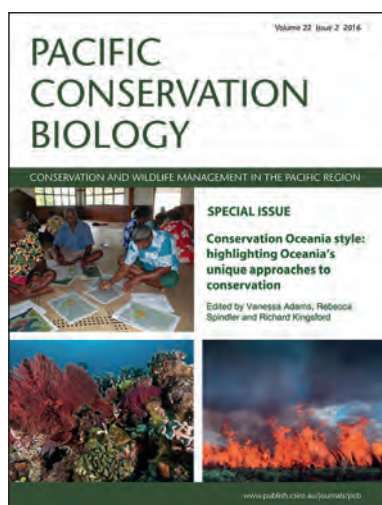
Edited by Vanessa Adams, Rebecca

Spindler and Richard Kingsford

Published by CSIRO Publishing

July 2016, paperback

ISBN PC22/02



Oceania is a diverse region encompassing Australia, Melanesia, Micronesia, New Zealand, and Polynesia, and it contains six of the world's 39 hotspots of diversity. In addition to being biodiverse, the region is also culturally diverse, containing close to a quarter of the world's languages and some of its oldest cultures. Despite this history, the region has a poor record for extinctions and there are widespread threats to biodiversity. This makes the region a priority for immediate and sustained conservation action.

This Special Issue of *Pacific Conservation Biology* looks at conservation solutions in Oceania, capturing the diversity of nations, cultures and environments in the region.

## Wildlife Conservation in Farm Landscapes

by David Lindenmayer, Damian

Michael, Mason Crane, Sachiko

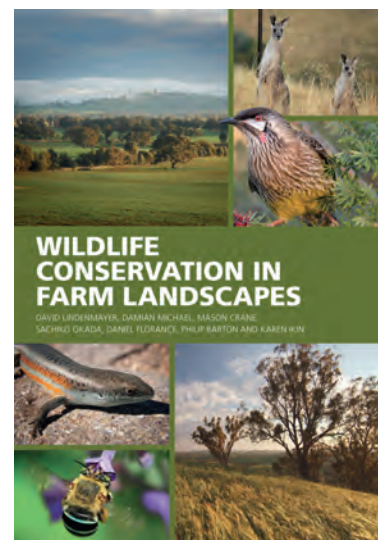
Okada, Daniel Florance, Philip Barton,

Karen Ikin, The Australian National

University. Published by CSIRO

Publishing, August 2016, paperback

ISBN 9781486303106



An increasing number of Australians want to be assured that the food and fibre being produced on this continent have been grown and harvested in an ecologically sustainable way. Ecologically sustainable farming conserves the array of species that are integral to key ecological processes such as pollination, seed dispersal, natural pest control and the decomposition of waste.

*Wildlife Conservation in Farm Landscapes* communicates new scientific information about best practice ways to integrate conservation and agriculture in the temperate eucalypt woodland belt of eastern Australia. It is based on the large body of scientific literature in this field, as well as long-term studies at 790 permanent sites on over 290 farms extending throughout Victoria, NSW and south-east Queensland.

# New Edition

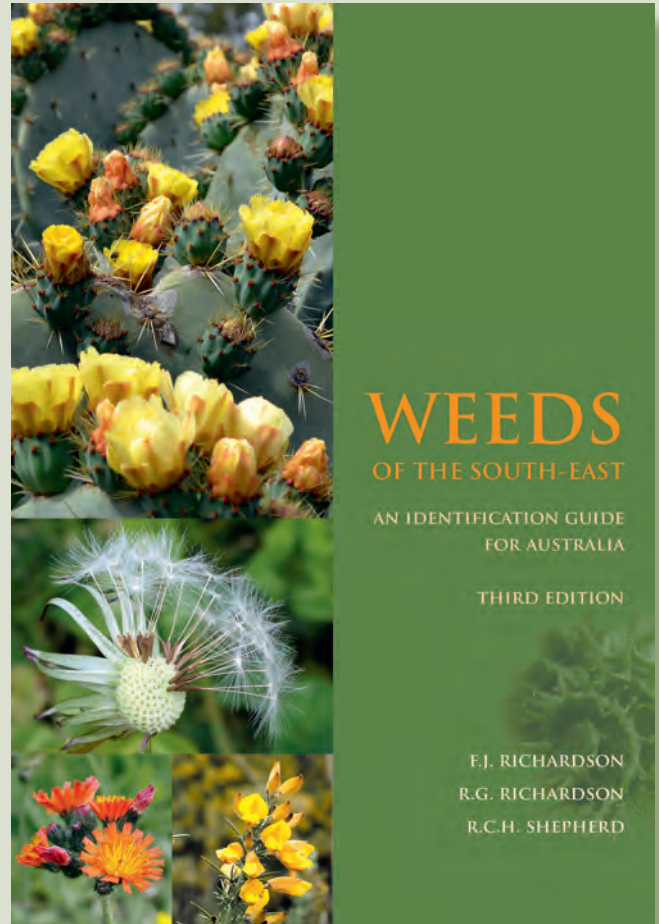
## Weeds of the South-East – an identification guide for Australia Third edition

The third edition of popular *Weeds of the South-East – an identification guide for Australia* by Rob & Fiona Richardson and Ros Shepherd is now available. Once again, this new edition has been fully updated and reorganised to recognise recent taxonomic changes and includes additional species, many new photographs and the latest distribution information.

Other features include:

- an illustrated glossary
- a section using flower colour and shape as an aid to plant identification
- species include weeds of agriculture, bushland, waterways, gardens, roadsides, wasteland and amenity areas, as well as new and emerging problem species
- illustrated with more than 3000 photographs including spectacular close-up shots
- key features are described with relevant measurements for easier identification
- comparisons are made to similar species and easily confused natives
- situations where the species are likely to be found
- distribution by State using the latest herbaria records

Written in easy-to-understand language and beautifully illustrated, this is a field guide for anyone interested in the identification of pest plants and the preservation of our native flora.



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**Supported by:** Council of Australasian Weed Societies, Weed Society of New South Wales, Weed Management Society of South Australia, Tasmanian Weed Society and Weed Society of Victoria.

ISBN 9780980388541, 576 pages  
Published by R.G. and F.J. Richardson  
RRP \$79.95 (includes GST) + p&p

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