



# NSW Weeds Officers Association

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## **NSW WEEDS OFFICERS ASSOCIATION**

### **AGENDA**

## **NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting of the members of the NSW Weeds Officers Association will be held at **Cowra Shire Chambers 116 Kendal Street COWRA** on **FRIDAY 25 JULY 2008**, commencing at **11.00am**

### **BUSINESS**

- ❖ WELCOME BY CHAIRMAN
- ❖ ATTENDANCE SHEET
- ❖ APOLOGIES
  
- ❖ CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

AT WOLLONGONG UNIVERSITY ON THE 25 SEPTEMBER 2007.

- ❖ BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

### **REPORTS**

- PRESIDENT'S
- SECRETARY'S
- TREASURER'S

- ❖ ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

All positions open

- President
- Vice – President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Publicity Officer

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## GENERAL BUSINESS

- **REGIONAL DELEGATES**

RE-Confirmation from each region

- **NWAC DELEGATES**

RE-Appointments

- **2009 NOXIOUS WEEDS CONFERENCE – NARRABRI**

Vote for sponsorship

NSW Weeds Officers Award

- **FORGING PARTNERSHIP**

With NSW DPI and NSW Weeds Officers Association

- **WEEDS OFFICERS WEBSITE**

New website for NSW Weeds Officers Association

- **RLPB PROPOSAL**

TSR's ceding back to Department Of Lands

- **SPONSORSHIP/INCENTIVES**

Encourage membership

- ❖ **NEXT MEETING**

- ❖ **CLOSE**

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## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NSW WEEDS OFFICERS ASSOCIATION HELD AT COWRA SHIRE CHAMBERS – COWRA ON THE 25 JULY 2008.**

**START:** 11.10am

### **ATTENDANCE:**

Neil Boyd (Orange City Council), Craig Bennett (Wellington Council), Andrew Gosper (Cabonne Council), Craig Fulwood (Narromine Council), Ashley Bullock (Narromine Council), Graham Harding (Eurobodalla Council), Stephen Battenally (Wakool Shire Council), Andrew Cosier (Wellington Council), Matthew Bailey (Parkes Shire Council), David Pomery (IDNWA)

**APPROLOGIES:** Roger Smith (Orange City Council), Norm Townsend (Cabonne Council), Don Mackenzie (Bourke Shire), Wendy Bushell (Mudgee Council), George Hammond (Macquarie Valley Advisory Committee - Chairman), Regg Kidd (Chairman - NWAC), Stephenson Johnson (NSW DPI), Reece Luxton (Clarence Valley) and Ann Herbert (Bega valley)

### **CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Handed out previous minutes over the last 12 months, members looked over minutes and stated that the documents be a true and accurate record. There was only one comment and this coming from Ashley Bullock, who stated that he was present at the meeting, but his name, was left off the attendance sheet people present at Wollongong.

I looked up list and found Ashley's name and apologised for the mistake – M Bailey.

Moved – (A Bullock/S Battenally) – carried

### **BUSINESS ARISING**

No matters arose.

Moved – (A Bullock/S Battenally) – carried.

The next item of discussion was the reports from the executive:

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

David spoke and handed out the president's report it is as follows:

With the past 12 months behind us, it has been a somewhat busy yet productive period for the Association.

As noted in my report last year the Association has been actively working on reducing a declining membership. I am pleased to report we have nearly tripled our membership since then, however there is still a lot to be done yet to get more Weeds Officers to become members. Membership has **increased 175%** from 20 members in 2006 to 55 members in 2008, a positive outcome but one that still needs to be at least maintained and built on in the coming 12 months. Let's try and get 100 members by year end!

It would also be appreciated by the executive if current members could provide details of any new weeds officers that may be interested in joining the Association. We would like to receive in writing any issues/concerns you may have relating to the weeds industry.

On the subject of building the profile of the NSW Weeds Officers Association the executive has been busily working with the NSW DPI on a number of initiatives which will hopefully come to fruition in the next 12 months. This has included the development and listing of the NSW Weeds Officers website (linked to the Extranet and to be up and running soon!), joint funding application for Forging partnerships program which will benefit all Weeds Officers in NSW through education and awareness raising materials, and further promoting the NSW Weeds Officers award at the state conference. (More detail on this as agreements are reached).

Our Regional Delegates are beginning to come together and we thank them for their input to our latest newsletter. We still require representatives from at least 3 regional committees (noted in newsletter) so if you are from one of these regions and would like to be involved please let us know.

A major highlight over the last 12 months was the presentation of the inaugural NSW Buerckner and Stephenson Weeds Officers Award at the NSW Weeds Conference in Wollongong. As you are probably aware by now the award was won by Don McKenzie from Bourke. As an active member of the Association Don also was presented with a \$500 cheque to attend the Australian Weeds Conference in Cairns. Don will be giving us an insight into his time in Cairns in the next Newsletter.

The Association looks forward to continuing its sponsorship of this award and hopes to build on the award process in the coming years.

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Our three weeds officer's appointments on each of the three NWAC Sub Committees:

1. Policy
2. Coordination, Communications and Education
3. Assessment Monitoring and Education

Is progressing smoothly and allowing Weeds Officers to contribute to the decision making process that untimely affects us all? Read the Newsletter to contact the representative you would like to raise any relevant issue with.

On a final note, I would like to thank the executive for their support and effort over the last 12 months. A job well done!

The next get together in number (hopefully) will be in Narrabri in 2009.

David Pomery  
President  
NSW Weeds Officers Association  
2 July 2008

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Andrew spoke and handed out the treasurer's report dated 22 July 2008.

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD AS OF 17 September 2008		\$2,575.22
SUBS	\$500.00	\$3,075.22
WITHDRAWAL 26 Oct 07 – Simpson Signs Display Cheque	\$85.80	\$2,989.42
WITHDRAWAL 10 Apr 08 – Weeds Officers Award	\$500.00	\$2,489.42
INTEREST EARNED	\$1.55	\$2490.97
<b>TOTAL BALANCE</b>		<b>\$2490.97</b>

Andrew Cosier  
Treasurer

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## SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Weeds Officers in NSW are facing a challenging time with the deterioration of drought conditions, more OHS legislation i.e. Pesticide Notification Plans aimed at reducing spray drift in sensitive access places like in parks and ovals, more inflation of input costs of herbicides (about 200%) and vehicle fleet management due to the oil prices across all LCA areas.

As climate changes new and emerging Noxious weeds whether they be environmental or pastoral weeds will invade this unique landscape, as each town or city expands and is developed (at which we always build on the best land) and the worst land we are farming therefore productivity is decreased. On these lesser productive land is where we mostly find noxious weeds.

The Weed Officers in our LCA areas are the frontline managers with the aim of stopping invading weeds reaching new climates.

A new challenge later in 2009 will be the abolition of the TSR's in our local RLBP zones (as stated in the NSW Rural lands Protection Board System Review – Final Report – June 2008) which management of all TSR's will be ceded back to the Department Of Lands, which would most likely be up to each LCA to control?.

Grant Funding is always unknown as to how much and are always more people/organisations putting their hands out.

We have attempted to improve our communication to members through new technologies that are available to us; we are trying to keep members up to date in a direct and personal manner.

Our current committee is spread over a wide area from the Coast David (Wollongong), Graham (Shellharbour), Central Tablelands Neil (Orange/Molong) and Andrew (Wellington) and Matthew from The Central West Slopes and Plains (Parkes). With the close involvement of the three new sub-committees of 1. Policy 2. Coordination, Communication and Education along with 3. Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation in conjunction with the Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee.

Remembering that it does not matter how many weed strategies or Regional weed management plans are out there and put in place it, its weeds officers who do the control work that stop invading weeds taking over this unique Australian landscape.

The Weeds Officers Association is only as strong as its members the more members the more voice we have in solving the issues.

Thanks

Matthew Bailey

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David Asked that all the reports of the executive be accepted  
Moved – (G Harding/S Battenally) – carried

## **THE INCOMING AND OUTCOMINGS**

### **INCOMING**

- JUNE 2008 –REMINDER from David Pomery annual general meeting at Cowra on 25 July 2008
- JULY 2008 REGIONAL DELEGATE – Reece Luxton wants to nominate himself to continue with the NWAC sub committee for Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation.
- JULY 2008 MEMBERSHIP from Wendy Bushel inquiry into change of names on tax invoice.
- JULY 2008 NORTHERN INLAND WEEDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Heather Apps – hope to have flyers out for AGM to get word out about 2009 weeds conference in Narrabri.
- JULY 2008 THE 2009 WEED CONFERENCE AT NARRABRI information from Andrew Croft on the theme “The Old and the New” (Changes in Weed Management).
- JULY 2008 LAUNCH OF WEED AWARENESS AT MUDGEE FIELD DAYS some members attended.
- APRIL 2008 NWAC AGENDA FOR SUB COMMITTEE by Teleconference 29 April 2008, next meeting 15 July 2008 at Sydney or Orange
- APRIL 2008 FORGING PARTNERSHIPS APPLICATION in conjunction with NSW DPI
- APRIL 2008 REGIONAL DELEGATE – Mr. Terry Inkson elected for Mid North Coast Weeds Advisory Committee
- FEBRUARY 2008 LIPPIA ISSUES from Reece Luxton From his committee

### **OUTCOMINGS**

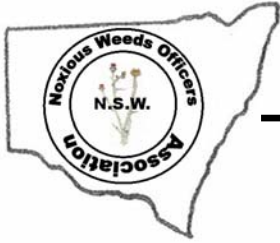
- ✓ Throughout year sent various minor documents to the relevant people.
- ✓ APRIL 2008 FORGING PARTNERSHIPS APPLICATION sent to Department of Environment & Climate Change- David Pomery, Alyssa Schembri.
- ✓ JANUARY 2008 SENT OUT LETTERS ABOUT REGIONAL DELEGATES TO: Eastern Riverina NWAC, Western Riverina NWAC, Upper hunter & Central Coast NPAC, Mid North Coast WAC, Kelly Sanderson C/Hawkesbury Nepean CMA, Jo Lynch C/Sydney Metro CMA on behalf of David Pomery

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- ✓ JUNE/JULY 2008 Emailed the Agenda to sub committees to put information into other weed committees.
- ✓ SENT OUT AGM MINUTES FROM COWRA (2007) – To all members at that time.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

All positions were vacated and Ashley Bullock took control of the Election and he asked that the current board step down whilst the election took place and he asked for nominations these were as follows:

- 1) President: David Pomery
- 2) Vice President: Neil Boyd
- 3) Secretary: Matthew Bailey
- 4) Treasurer: Andrew Cosier
- 5) Publicity Officer: Graham Harding

Nominations were taken and the same executive were re-elected and all positions were accepted by the above people.

Thanks Ashley for acting as chairman whilst the election took place.

Moved – (C Bennett / C Fulwood) – carried

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **Regional Delegates**

Re send letters to:

- Upper Hunter and Central Coast
- Hawksberry Nepean
- Sydney metro
- Northern Inland
- Eastern Inland

All delegates are to do a report about their area in particular what has been going on.

It was decided that all the current delegates be re-appointed for the next 12 months

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## NWAC Delegates

Reference to the 3 sub committees it was again decided that all the current delegates be re-appointed for the next 12 months.

Again a brief report from each sub-committee showing outcomes would be approached either separately or in the Newsletter.

Moved – (C Bennett / A Cosier) – carried

## 2009 NOXIOUS WEEDS CONFERENCE – NARRABRI

The next weeds conference will be in Narrabri on the 15 to 17 September 2009 with the theme of “Old and New”

They are looking for Weeds Officers to do presentations if any body is interested please contact Andrew Croft.

The main discussion was on sponsorship the Association has always been a sponsor in one form or another, but this depends on fellow weeds officers becoming an active member of the Association, the more members the more we can put back into associated events like weeds conferences.

The last weeds conference we sponsored (2007) was the breakfast which cost \$1650 incl GST plus \$500 to the overall winner if they were a member of the Association for travel expense to Cairns.

The next Weeds Conference under the Buerckner/Stephenson award will be spilt up into 2 awards the first one being Manager/Chief Weeds Officer and the second an Operator award.

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Move to sponsor at the next weeds conference in 2009

- 1) \$500 toward Operator Award
- 2) an additional \$500 to the Manager/Chief Officer Award
- 3) a further \$500 towards some form of sponsorship to the next 2009 weeds conference (this to be confirmed by members)

Moved – (A Bullock / C Fulwood) – carried

## **FORGING PARTNERSHIPS**

The Association in conjunction with NSW DPI applied for funding as a partnership application, but was not successful

## **WEBSITE**

The Association has a website with the help of NSW DPI Extranet program, just click on the icon for Weeds Officer Association.

If any comments or you want to display information let us know.

## **RLBP PROPOSAL**

As some of you are maybe aware or not the NSW Rural lands Protection Board System is under review and it looks like it will move from 47 boards to approximately 14, therefore boards will become bigger it could also mean less staff, but what does this mean for Weeds Officers it may mean that our LCA areas will have to take care of the TSRs for noxious weeds feral animals, including grasshoppers etc, TSRs are losing \$3,173,000 (this is the 2006 aggregate loss on TSRs based at current structure), it could also mean we have a much bigger area to control, without an allocated increase to our weed budget. Again this has to be passed through parliament, and if passed could come into affect as of 1 January 2009.

It was asked that we write a letter to Tony Kelly and Ian Macdonald to ask them for a clarification of the current situation including the possibility of stock routes (TSRs) being the responsibility of the Crown Land.

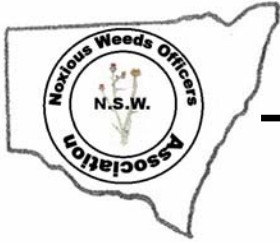
Moved – (A Bullock / A Cosier) – carried

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## SPONSORSHIP

We need to try and encourage more sponsorship so we can get a discount to our Weeds Officers

Some ideas to increase our sponsorship is offer Weeds Awards like the Breakner/Stephenson award, Other ways is to offer discounts for members at future weed conferences including offering free drink vouchers and offer fuel vouchers throughout year, dinner vouchers for a set amount like \$100.

If a decline in membership we may be limited to only 1 dinner voucher a year and 1 fuel voucher.

We will try and offer a dinner voucher by Christmas 2008, with the executive unable to enter – all members that are financial at the time of the draw will be entered and a voucher of \$100 at a restaurant of your choose.

Moved – (N Boyd / M Bailey) – carried

## CONSTITUTION

The constitution of the Association needs to be up dated as it is and the only one we can find is dated 1991 and it refers to the Plant Association and has been typed.

A **Motion** was set that we update the 1991 pre-typed Constitution

And it is sent out as a Draft to the executive first, second draft to be sent out to the members for consultation and the third offer it as an Agenda item at the AGM at Narrabri 2009

Moved – (M Bailey / N Boyd) – carried

## NEXT MEETING

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at 2009 Noxious Weeds Conference at Narrabri

## CLOSE 2.29pm

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