

Weeds Officers Association

Of New South Wales Incorporated

January 2009 Newsletter

Dear Fello Weedos

Hello from the Executive. Another year past and a new beginning, what will 2009 hold in store for us?

The following newsletter details just a few happenings on the Weeds front over the past twelve months as well as a number of activities the Association will be involved in over the coming year. Please feel free to print or forward this newsletter to anyone whom may be interested – the more recognition and support we have the greater our standing and profile.

Hoping all members had an enjoyable and Merry Christmas and a great start to the New Year.

NSW Weeds Officers AGM

Please find attached to this newsletter the minutes of the AGM of the NSW Weeds Officers Association held 25th July 2008 at Cowra. Please have a good read of these minutes and respond to the executive with any concerns or issues you would like discussed. Some of the important issues to come out of the meeting are detailed below.

1. Election of Executive

As with all AGMs the executive was up for re-election. All previous executive were re-elected unopposed.

Weed Management And Training For A Stable Environment

President: David Pomery
Chief Weeds Officer
Illawarra District Noxious
Weeds Authority
PO Box 148 Kiama NSW
2533
Ph: 02 42 331129
Fax: 02 42 323665
Email:
dpomery@tpg.com.au

Secretary: Mathew
Bailey
Parkes Shire Council
PH: 0427294818

Treasure: Andrew
Cosier
8 Tristannia St
Wellington NSW
2820
PH: 0429207791
Email:
Andrew.cosier@wellington.nsw.gov.au



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2. Regional delegates

The issue of re-establishing regional delegates, corresponding to each of the Regional Weeds Advisory Committee areas was discussed. The purpose of re-establishing regional delegates is to ensure that the executive has input from each region throughout the State on issues that affect Weeds Officers. The executive is there to work for all members so for a stronger and louder voice it is important we have input from each region.

It is with pleasure the Association can report all regions now have a regional delegate. Listed below are the delegates for each region. Members are asked to contact their delegate if they have an issue in their region they would like the Association to address.

Attached to this newsletter are the regional reports submitted by each regional delegate. Read what's happening in other parts of NSW.

- 1 **Eastern and Western Riverina Noxious Weeds Advisory Groups** – *Adam Craig/Stephen Battenally*
- 2 **Upper Hunter and Central Coast Noxious Plants Advisory committee** – *Paul Marynissen*
- 3 **Mid North Coast Weeds Advisory committee** – *Terry Inkson*
- 4 **Sydney Basin** (representing the 4 Sydney committees) – *Joel Daniels*
- 5 **Southern Tablelands and South Coast Noxious Plants Committee** – *Ann Herbert*
- 6 **North Coast NWAC** – *Reece Luxton*
- 7 **Macquarie Valley RWAC** – *Don Mckenzie*
- 8 **Lachlan Valley Noxious Plants Advisory Committee** – *Kevin Nelligan*
- 9 **Northern Inland RWAC** – *Paul Welchman*

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3. NWAC Subcommittees

NWAC has a new subcommittee structure to assist NWAC in its activities. Three new subcommittees have been formed with the following Weeds Officers represented:

Policy- Ann Herbert AHerbert@begavalley.nsw.gov.au
Coordination- David Pomery dpomery@tpg.com.au
Assessment- Reece Luxton reece.luxton@clarence.nsw.gov.au

If you have any issues you would like raised at one or more of these committees please contact the relevant officer.

Buerckner and Stephenson Weeds Officers Award

Want to Win \$1,000.00 and a trip to New Zealand!!

Sure you do. Well it's easy.

All you have to do is become both a member of the NSW Weeds Officers Association and the Weed Society of NSW, be nominated for either the Buerckner or Stephenson Weeds Officer Award and your in the running.

In a fantastic outcome for Weeds Officers the NSW Weeds Officers Association have joined forces with the Weed Society of NSW and the NSW DPI to offer up to \$1,000.00 in travel expenses to the winners of both the Buerckner and Stephenson Weeds Officers award to attend the 17th Australasian Weeds Conference in New Zealand in 2010 and the 16th NSW Weeds Conference in 2011 respectively.

In a move to recognize both managerial and operational staff the NSW Weeds Officers award has now been split in two.

- The Buerckner Award will be for outstanding contribution to planning and managing weed programs in NSW.

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- The Stephenson Award will be for outstanding contribution to the onground control of weeds in NSW

The winner of the Buerckner Award will win up to \$1,000.00 to attend the 17th Australasian Weeds Conference in Christchurch, New Zealand 26-30 September 2010, whilst the winner of the Stephenson Award will win the equivalent amount to attend the 16th NSW Weeds Conference in 2011 (location yet to be announced). Monies will need to be spent on travel / accommodation expenses, and you will need your employer's approval to attend. But most importantly remember you need to be a member of both the NSW Weeds Officers Association and the Weed Society of NSW if you would like to take full advantage of the prize. So join now before its too late.

Full details and nomination forms will be available from the NSW DPI Extranet for Weed Professionals from the end of March 2009.

For more information on the Awards contact Alyssa Schembri on 02- 6391 3850 or email alysa.schembri@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Xmas Prize Winner

Congratulations to Terry Inkson from Great Lakes Council, part of the Mid North Coast Weeds Advisory Committee. Terry was the inaugural winner of the NSW Weeds Officers Association Xmas Prize Draw. Terry must have been a good boy over the last 12 months because Santa has given him a \$100 gift voucher to a restaurant of his choice. We hope Terry and his partner have a good night out, courtesy of the Weeds Officers Association of NSW. Enjoy!

We hope to have more of these giveaways in the future, but be aware you have to be a member to win...so if you aren't join the Association now. A membership form is available at the back of this newsletter.

NSW Weeds Officers Association website

The NSW DPI has kindly agreed to host the NSW Weeds Officers Association website. Details can be found by logging onto the NSW DPI Weeds Extranet and clicking on contacts. Scroll down to NSW Weeds Officer Association.

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15th NSW Weeds Conference - Narrabri

Welcome to Narrabri Shire



HEART OF THE NORTHWEST!

Narrabri Shire covers an area of some 13,065 square kilometres and is the heart of the rich Namoi Valley in North West New South Wales. The Shire population is 14,477. The area is renowned for its wealth in the production of some of the world's highest quality cotton, beef, wheat, fat lambs and wool.

While Narrabri is considered the administrative centre of the Shire, the area also boasts a number of towns and villages. These include Baan Baa, Bellata, Boggabri, Cubbaroo, Cuttabri, Edgeroi, Gwabegar, Maules Creek, Merah North, Pilliga, Spring Plains, Turrawan and Wee Waa.

Narrabri looks forward to hosting and seeing you all at the 15th Biennial NSW Weeds Conference 15-17th September 2009.

Call for Abstracts

The organising committee is currently seeking paper proposals from speakers and requesting that all persons interested in attending the conference register their email address on the conference website www.weedsconference.com. Registering your details on the website will ensure you are kept up to date with conference developments.

The theme for the conference is **"the old and the new" - changes in weed management.**

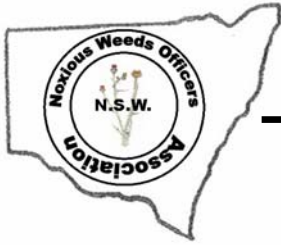
Should you wish to present a paper abstract submission guidelines can be downloaded from the conference website. Abstract proposals of no more than 300 words are to be submitted via email to secretary@weedsconference.com or by fax to 02 – 6799 6877 by Friday 27th February 2009. Have a think about a topic that would fit in with the theme and send through your abstracts!!

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News from the Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee (NWAC)-

Noxious Weed Advisory committee Meeting 39

4 August 2008

KEY MEETING OUTCOMES

1. Serrated tussock

NWAC Chair reported he has met with the Serrated tussock Working Group and has advised that he will meet again in the next month. The Serrated Tussock Working Party are developing an agreed list of requirements for the weed's management and will be writing to the Minister following this. Members noted the NWAC Chair's report.

2. Report on National Fireweed Forum: Bega

NWAC Chair reported he attended the National Fireweed Forum at Bega which was attended by approximately 150 people. Local member, Mike Kelly also attended on the day. Talks were given on toxicology, bio-control options and the Hassall and Associates review paper. The technical working party presented a workshop.

3. Establish Timeline for Policy development program

The Policy sub committee of NWAC preposed that all future policies identify a link to the Australian Weeds Strategy, State Plan and NSW Invasive Species Plan, CMA or regional planning documents. The following policies are currently being reviewed or developed:

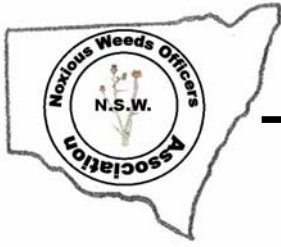
- 1 **Policy 1** Declarations
- 2 **Policy 2** Grants
- 3 **Policy 3** Reporting and Control of Notifiable Weeds
- 4 **Policy 4** Use of Biological Control Under Section 18
- 5 **Policy 5** Role of the Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee

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All current policies are available at the DPI website:
<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/weeds/legislation>

4. Traineeships

NWAC discussed developing a strategy that encourages the recruitment of trainees and a joint training program that will involve CMA's, DECC and DPI.

5. Lippia Update

A lippia –Phyla canescens -workshop was held on the 22nd July in Sydney. The outcomes of the meeting- including a Statement of Intent- will be presented to the Assessment Monitoring and Evaluation Sub-Committee. Some key issues that were identified included the need for better dissemination of current best practice techniques and improvements of mapping and distribution data.

6. State-wide Forum/Weeds Officers Workshop

Weed officer training workshops were held in Armidale recently. The workshops held on the 25-29 August included the topics induction, inspection of weeds and legal training stage two.

7. Address by Geoff Hudson, Natural Resource Management Facilitator Local Government Shires Association presented to NWAC

Key points:

- 1 Weed management is a strong issue including increased funding. Weeds are a significant issue for local government. Issue of increased pressure on councils and pressure from councils.
- 2 Most councils do not recognise it is their responsibility to control noxious weeds and trying to increase this awareness with councils is important.
- 3 LGSA has a training arm – LGSA learning that provides training for both councillors and staff, it's a businesses unit of the Association (Councillors or staff).
- 4 Successful in the last year in receiving two grants for natural

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2533
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resource management - \$400,000 received from NHT (Jeff Bell) and \$250,000 to look at building capacity of councils in rural areas of NSW (Katrina McKenzie) – to develop training packages and training materials for both Councillors and staff.

- 5 Currently looking at developing Councillor training packages on the whole suite of NRM issues, looking at developing training packages for senior management and staff of Councils across the board, and also looking at trying to provide training for other organisations on local government responsibilities such as CMAs, state agencies and other organisations.

8. Declarations

Applications for changes to the declaration of several species - under the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*- were considered. Recommendations were made to the Minister for the following weeds:

- 1 Hudson pear (*C. rosea* and *C. tunicata*)
- 2 Coolatai grass (*Hyparrhenia hirta*)
- 3 African olive (*Olea europaea* subsp. *cuspidata*)
- 4 Clockweed (*Gaura lindheimeri*)
- 5 Privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*, *Ligustrum sinense* and *Ligustrum vulgare*)

9. Grants

The committee considered applications for grant funding totalling \$570,000 for weed management projects in NSW. The committee will forward its recommendations to the Minister.

Reg Kidd
Chairman

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KEY MEETING OUTCOMES

Meeting 40 held on 18 November 2008

1. Comments by Don Burke

NWAC discussed the recent comments made by Don Burke on his radio program regarding the management of weeds in NSW. Mal Morgan reported that he was unaware of the content of the program until after it was aired. The committee decided that it would respond to the comments by focusing on the great work done by weed officers and highlighting many of the successful programs that are in place in NSW. NWAC will send a letter of support to all NSW weed officers.

2. Joint DPI and DECC Weed project presentation

Leone Whiffen from DECC presented the committee with an update on the joint DPI/DECC weeds project on *weed management for biodiversity conservation*. The project is continuing its work with NSW CMAs to establish a list of ecologically endangered communities EEC's that are threatened by widespread weeds. A key message from the presentation is that the project is complementary to existing weed programs currently in place and will assist meeting Goal 3 of the *NSW Invasive Species Plan*. NSW DPI and DECC are currently drafting a paper to communicate the coordinated weed management process used in NSW.

3. Coster's curse and Mikania

A report was presented by Richard Carter on the potential risk of the weeds Coster's Curse and Mikania. The committee noted the importance of this threat and supported DPI's proposal to complete a weed risk assessment and commence public consultation on a proposal to include both weeds under an appropriate control class under the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*.

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4. Hudson pear review

NWAC was updated on the current consultation on the declaration of Hudson pear in NSW. Submissions will be received up until 5 December 2008. It is proposed that DPI will collate the information and progress this matter as an out of session item.

5. Lippia Update

NWAC has endorsed the Statement of Intent formulated at a lippia consultation workshop held earlier this year. The statement will be used as a basis to draft a state strategy for the management of lippia in NSW. NSW DPI will develop this strategy in consultation with all relevant stakeholders.

6. Noxious Weed Act legal requirements

There was considerable discussion about the legal requirements of the *Noxious Weeds Act*, and its implications for local control authorities. In particular, the discussion focused on the opportunities and problems associated with enforcing weed control obligations during the sale of land. Realising the complexity of this issue NWAC has referred this matter to the Policy sub-committee for further investigation.

7. Policy review

Three policies were tabled at the meeting.

Policy paper and procedure paper 3 - *Reporting and control of outbreaks of notifiable weeds*, and Policy paper and procedure paper 5 – *Role and method of operation of the Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee* were endorsed by the committee.

Policy paper and procedure paper 2 *Allocation and use of noxious weeds grants* was noted and referred to the Policy sub-committee for progression.

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8. Discussion on cooperative arrangements between local control authorities

The issue of establishing cooperative arrangements between local control authorities was discussed by the Committee. The Committee believe that although complex, there are opportunities for better administration of grants funds through the development of regional partnerships. The Minister for Primary Industries has recently approved consultation with Local Government and Shires Association on this matter. NWAC will arrange to conduct further discussions in the near future.

If anyone would like to discuss any issues with Chair - Mr Reg Kidd he can be contacted at agassist@octec.org.au or by phone **0407 892 614**

Reg Kidd
Chairman



Weeds Society Of NSW

As has been discussed in previous reports the NSW Weeds Officers Association is hoping to forge a closer working relationship with the Weeds Society of NSW. To assist members of the Association gain a greater understanding of the NSW Weeds Society we hope to run a series of articles on the Society in this and future newsletters.

The NSW Weeds Society provides an ideal forum for networking between weeds workers to share information and experience and so is a natural extension for all those involved in weed management to further their knowledge, understanding and contacts. Read on and if interested in joining or obtaining further information on the Society contact **The Secretary** on the details below.

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About the society

The Weed Society of New South Wales was formed in 1966, the first weed society in Australia. It is affiliated with similar societies in Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia and New Zealand under the umbrella organisation CAWS (the Council of Australasian Weed Societies).

Currently the Weed Society of NSW has about 200 members.

The Society holds or sponsors frequent workshops, seminars and field days on all aspects of weed biology, ecology and management, as well as environmental issues and training opportunities.

Members receive a quarterly newsletter "A Good Weed", which details activities and advances in weed science, both within NSW and nationally.

The Society offers a number of Weed Prizes at Universities and a \$2,000.00 Travel Study Grant to assist individuals for a range of activities.

Membership

Membership is open to all and costs \$40 per annum for general membership. Membership fees are reduced for bona fide students to \$20 per annum. There are no additional joining fees.

For an application form contact:

The Secretary

The Weed Society of NSW Inc

PO Box 438, Wahrenonga NSW 2076

Email: secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au

Website: <http://www.nswweedsoc.org.au>

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NSW DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

News from the NSW DPI

Training Update

The new 2009 Weeds Training calendar has been distributed listing all the available weed training courses for NSW. There are a few new courses this year which have been developed to meet changing needs within the industry. These include:

Weed Risk Management (BSBCM416A cert IV competency)

This course covers the WRM system developed by NSW DPI. The NSW WRM system provides a standard, nationally accepted and transparent process to help make decisions about the introduction, declaration and prioritisation of weed species.

Performance management and MERI (assessed on draft diploma CLM units)

Two day training course on performance management and monitoring Evaluation and reporting. Essential training for officers applying for grants funding and meeting reporting requirements.

Writing and Delivering Conference Papers (RTC5914A diploma CLM unit)

This two day interactive course aims to develop skills in writing structured conference papers. Participants are also provided with tools to prepare a presentation on their paper and deliver it with confidence.

The conference paper training has been offered early in the year to help weed officers prepare and deliver conference papers at the 15th Biennial NSW Weeds conference at Narrabri on the 15-17 September 2009, See <http://www.weedsconference.com/>

The conference provides the opportunity to participate and present papers on Local Control Authority issues, outcomes and successes. As the conference is held for weed officers, it is important that they participate in presenting papers. The feedback from last year showed that the papers presented by weed officers were really relevant and appreciated by all in attendance. Many

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expressed that they would like to see more weed officer presentations at the conference in future.

Last year over 300 participants attended the Conference. Participants included representatives from local government, catchment management authority, other government land managers, commercial industry, universities and technical specialists.

The benefits to weed officers who do the training and present papers include: receiving qualifications toward a diploma in Conservation and Land Management, increased confidence and ability in presentations, and having a conference paper to add to your resume. This is great for your professional development as these skills are valued by employers.

The conference paper writing training is in February, so get in early to register. If you haven't received a copy of the training calendar or you would like more information on training or the conference contact Steven Honeywood.

steven.honeywood@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Phone: 02 43 48 1917

Fax: 02 43 48 1910

Other News

Hot Topics in the Tropics

The 16th Australian Weeds Conference was held in Cairns 18-22 May, 2008 at the Cairns Convention Centre. The conference was hosted by the Weeds Society of Qld on behalf of the Council of Australasian Weed Societies. The conference showcased recent advances in weed science, extension and policy across Australian and international communities and landscapes.

Don McKenzie Bourke Shire Council Senior Weeds Officer attended the conference as part of his prize for winning the inaugural Buerckner and Stephenson NSW Weeds Officers Award at the State Weeds Conference in 2007. Dons wrap up of the conference is noted below.

The Association is currently negotiating through the Weeds Society of NSW and the NSW DPI for free registration to the respective winners of the Buerckner and Stephenson NSW Weeds Officers Awards to attend the Australian Weeds Conference (Buerckner award winner) and the NSW Weeds Conference (Stephenson award winner). Yet one more reason to join the Association.

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Following is Dons summary of the Cairns Conference.

Report on National Weeds Conference- Cairns- May 2008

In the week of 18th- 22nd May, I attended the 16th Australian Weeds Conference in Cairns.

This was partly funded by the Weeds Officers Association of NSW as part of the prize for being awarded the Buerckner & Stephenson NSW Weed Officers Award.

The conference was opened by Mr Nick Bloor- President Weeds Society of Queensland.

Keynote speakers for the conference included:

Professor Paul Martin- Director, Australian Centre for Agriculture and Law, University of New England

Paul's address was Cross pollination or cross contamination? Directions for informing the management of invasive's with market economy concepts.

Mr Tim Reeves, Director, Timothy G Reeves & Associates Pty Ltd

Tim's address was on Global changes- Impacts on weeds in cropping systems.

Dr Julie Denslow, Institute of Pacific Island Forestry- Hawaii

Julie's presentation was on Invasions and impacts of exotic plants in the Pacific Islands.

Mr Rodd Dyer, Manager- Northern Beef Program, Meat and Livestock Australia

Rod's presentation was on Investing in weed research in Northern Australia: A livestock industry perspective.

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During the conference, I attended the following presentations:

Jane Morton- CRC for Australian Weed Management- Queensland
A review of the National Weed Detection Project.

Mark Ellis- Trees for Life
Bush for Life- A successful model for community participation.

Louise Morin- CSIRO Entomology- Weeds CRC
National blackberry biological control program in partnership with the Community.

Kate Stokes- CSIRO Entomology
Future spread of Lippia in the Murray Darling Basin under climate change.

Satu Ramula- University of Queensland
Management of invasive plants in relation to life history.

Jenny Barker- CRC for Australian Weed Management
Issue Forum- Raising awareness of weeds.

Judy Lambert- Land and Water Australia
Defeating the weed menace research and development: Facilitating innovation and adoption.

Adele Reid- CRC for Weed Management CSIRO Entomology
Guidelines for improving impact evaluation of weed biological control.

Bridgitte Verbeek- NSW Department of Primary Industries
Evaluation: providing better weed awareness outcomes for NSW.

Stephen Platt- Department of Sustainability and Environment- Victoria
A strategic framework for managing the environmental impacts of weeds on public land in Victoria.

Paul Downey- Department of Environment and Climate Change
Determination and management of the impacts of weeds on biodiversity.

Weed Management And Training For A Stable Environment

President: David Pomery
Chief Weeds Officer
Illawarra District Noxious
Weeds Authority
PO Box 148 Kiama NSW
2533
Ph: 02 42 331129
Fax: 02 42 323665
Email:
dpomery@tpg.com.au

Secretary: Mathew
Bailey
Parkes Shire Council
PH: 0427294818

Treasure: Andrew
Cosier
8 Tristannia St
Wellington NSW
2820
PH: 0429207791
Email:
Andrew.cosier@wellington.nsw.gov.au



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Susan Timmins- Department of Conservation- New Zealand
What do weed managers need to know about weed impacts?

Tony Grice- CSIRO
Managing complexity: The example of invasive wetland forage grasses.

Peter Turner- Department of Environment and Climate Change
The role of native birds in weed invasion, species decline, revegetation and reinvasion.

Nicole Strehling- Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority
Altering weed management priorities to ensure conservation outcomes are achieved.

John Scott- CSIRO Entomology
Research on the environmental impacts of weeds in Australia.

Jennifer Firn- University of Queensland
Optimising weed control by considering disturbance.

Alana Burley- Department of Environment and Climate Change
The NSW Bitou Bush Threat Abatement Plan: the first two years.

Shaun Coutts- University of Queensland
When do we need to incorporate human behaviour into models of weed control, and how do we do it?

Jane Morton- CRC for Australian Weed Management- Queensland
Developing a national incursion response plan for high priority weeds.

Martin Hannan- Jones- Biosecurity Queensland
A national approach to weed categorisation and management.

Robert Chin- Nursery and Garden Industry Victoria
Nursery and garden industry and invasive plants.

Andrew Petroeschovsky- NSW Department of Primary Industries
Preventing further introduction and spread of aquatic weeds through the ornamental plant trade.

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2820
PH: 0429207791
Email:
Andrew.cosier@wellington.nsw.gov.au



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Andrew Zull- CRC for Australian Weed Management

Modelling the population dynamics of multi species woody weed infestations.

Kirby Doak- Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils

A cooperative model for tackling weeds across a regional landscape.

Jodie Bockling- Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries

Weed spread prevention: simple activities for field operations.

Jeff Werth- Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries

Prolonging glyphosate effectiveness on difficult to control summer weeds.

Stephen Johnson- NSW Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries

Can effective weed management be obtained by grouping species by lifecycle? Case studies from the cotton industry.

Hillary Cherry- Department of Environment and Climate Change- NSW

Eradication versus long-term surveillance and removal.

Charles Grech- Victorian Department of Primary Industries

Chilean needle grass- Three years of best practice management.

Vikki Osten- Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries

New Technology: herbicide control.

Simon Brooks- Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries- Biosecurity- Queensland

Processes leading to the detection of tropical weed infestations during an eradication program.

Sally Peltzer- Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia

Risks associated with inter-row weed control in row cropping.

Overall I found the conference to be very interesting and educational. I believe that my knowledge on weed management has been significantly increased and broadened.

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President: David Pomery
Chief Weeds Officer
Illawarra District Noxious
Weeds Authority
PO Box 148 Kiama NSW
2533
Ph: 02 42 331129
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Email:
dpomery@tpg.com.au

Secretary: Mathew
Bailey
Parkes Shire Council
PH: 0427294818

Treasure: Andrew
Cosier
8 Tristannia St
Wellington NSW
2820
PH: 0429207791
Email:
Andrew.cosier@wellington.nsw.gov.au



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The weather unfortunately at the end of the conference was, to put it mildly, not good. With the extra days I had planned on sight-seeing, the heavens opened up, forcing myself and my partner Kerry to spend 3 days in local hotels and at the Casino. (*Don came away from the conference with a tidy profit and will be sponsoring the next three State Weeds Officer Awards... ed*).

I take this opportunity to thank the NSW DPI and the NSW Weeds Officers Association for this award, and allowing me the opportunity to attend this conference.

Don Mackenzie
Senior Weeds Officer
Bourke Shire Council

What a Burke!

For those of you that may not have heard by now, another Don has made the headlines, although this Don has done it all for the wrong reasons. In a blast from the past **Don Burke** (of Burkes Backyard fame) has once again hit the airwaves and made a scathing attack on Weeds Officers and related professionals labeling us as “Weed Nazis” and very dangerous people. Perhaps in a desperate attempt to lift his falling ratings on his weekend morning radio program (I wont mention the station) Don Burke made a long winded diatribe denigrating weeds officers and those in the weed industry whilst openly claiming the high moral ground for himself and claiming if it was not for him none of us would have a job. According to Don, the fact he got us all jobs, qualifies him to make these derogatory and inflammatory comments. After several members of the Association expressed their concerns to Mr Burke and requested an apology, only to be told they should be apologizing to him, the NSW Weeds Officers Association sent a response outlining the facts with respect to the status of weeds and the role of Weeds Officers in the State, something of which Mr Burke had not obviously kept up to speed with.

Detailed below is a transcript of Don Burkes on-air tirade and subsequent responses sent by the Association in defense of its members.

Weed Management And Training For A Stable Environment

President: David Pomery
Chief Weeds Officer
Illawarra District Noxious
Weeds Authority
PO Box 148 Kiama NSW
2533
Ph: 02 42 331129
Fax: 02 42 323665
Email:
dpomery@tpg.com.au

Secretary: Mathew
Bailey
Parkes Shire Council
PH: 0427294818

Treasure: Andrew
Cosier
8 Tristannia St
Wellington NSW
2820
PH: 0429207791
Email:
Andrew.cosier@wellington.nsw.gov.au



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Comments aired 1 November 2008 by Don Burke

Time 44.38 of the hour session

"Talking about Weed Nazis and environmental weeds, I played a significant part in that. I approached the State Government in the 1980's, as there were no environmental weed categories in NSW. I managed to get that done with Jack Hallum the then Minister, but a lot of the crazies have come in and their just trying to declare everything a weed and it is really sad.

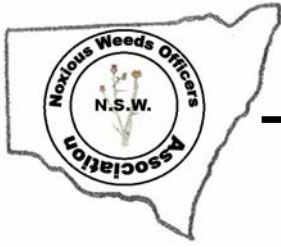
Look there are lots of plants that are weeds there is no doubt about it. In the 200 years we've been here, quite innocently we've released a lot of weeds that escaped into the environment, although you wouldn't know they were going to be weeds and they became one, so its very easy with hindsight to say how nasty they were. Privet, Lantana, Bridal Creeper, Camphor Laurel, Soursob, Paterson's Curse, Capeweed, Serrated Tussock, Blackberry – look you can go on and on with the list. Many now can't be stopped, and that's an important thing to recognise and that's one of the areas that these Weed Nazis, that is the people in these areas of councils that are a serious danger to our environment in Australia, These are very dangerous people, well meaning and they're the worst dangerous people, the people that mean well. There all out - better get rid of Privet and Lantana and these sort of things. Truth is you'd be far better off to declare them native plants. See once a plant is let go long enough you reach a critical mass and beyond that they explode across the landscape and your never going to control them. In trying to control a lot of these nasty weeds like Privet and Lantana, Camphor Laurel all your doing is poisoning the landscape. You'll never ever control them, they're spreading at such rates that you could never control them, but you can certainly poison Australia and damage the environment and that's what a lot of these people are doing. What we're better off to do is to push some weeds to the side and declare them indigenous plants for all I care and then use the time and money you've got to target the plants that haven't reached the critical mass that you can still beat – one successfully and secondly without poisoning the landscape. That's where these sort of people have got no idea what they're doing, these weeds people and I think I'm entitled to comment cause none of them would have a job if it wasn't for me cause I set up the law to begin with that gave them a bloody job. So yes, I think your idiots and I think your seriously dangerous people. These Weed Nazis are not getting strategic thinking into play. I've heard campaigns saying you idiot gardeners don't plant bloody wattles like Cootamundra Wattles cause that's really bad, yeah, and governments planted Cootamundra Wattle along many expressways right throughout most of Australia so government is the one who spread it anyway so how dare these people come near us and say don't plant these things. But anyway although its important to have environmental weeds, the situation in how we deal with them is at the moment catastrophic and it is leading to weeds getting worse and worse and more and more of the environment being poisoned, so if you meet anyone and they say, yeah I'm a

Weed Management And Training For A Stable Environment

President: David Pomery
Chief Weeds Officer
Illawarra District Noxious
Weeds Authority
PO Box 148 Kiama NSW
2533
Ph: 02 42 331129
Fax: 02 42 323665
Email:
dpomery@tpg.com.au

Secretary: Mathew
Bailey
Parkes Shire Council
PH: 0427294818

Treasure: Andrew
Cosier
8 Tristannia St
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2820
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weeds officer be very careful, leave the room, don't ever talk to them again these people are very dangerous."

Reply by Neil Boyd, Vice President on 5/11/08

I am responding to your unprofessional attack on the hard working educated Weeds Officers who belong to our Association. Your attack demonstrates your lack of knowledge of the role of Council Weeds Officers. Weeds officers expect this type of abuse from uneducated people and part of our role is to educate and enlighten landholders and the general public as to how their activities can affect their neighbours and the Australian environment. If a Council Weeds Officer used such offensive language to describe other people such as you used in your attack on Weeds Officers on November 1, I am sure that they would be, at the very least, hauled before their General Manager and made to apologise to those who were offended. I know many of our members are deeply offended by your comments which we feel may impact on our reputation as a professional Weeds Officer in the eyes of our community. Your disappointing attack only reinforces that more education of the public is vital if we are to successfully continue to control weeds in NSW. For your information Weeds Officers promote Integrated Management Practices allowing different approaches to suit an individuals situation.

Don Burke reply 5/11/08

I am appalled at the general standard of weeds work done by the environmental weeds officers Australia wide. These were the people of whom I spoke. I believe that they are a threat to our environment and that they do little to help beat weeds.

You may not be aware but, as I mentioned in the radio segment, environmental weed officers such as your husband (**Neil you sneaky buggger....does your wife know?....ed**) probably wouldn't have their jobs had I not set up the environmental weeds legislation with the agriculture minister of the time, Jack Hallam back in the early 1980s - until that time the only weeds that were acknowledged were agricultural and drug weeds. I brought to the attention of the minister that environmental weeds were a major problem that needed to be addressed. As soon as this legislation was established, in my capacity as President of the Australian Institute of Horticulture NSW, I organised groups to begin the process of getting rid of pampas grass & rhus (I also lobbied and succeeded in getting nurseries to stop growing & selling it). Rhus caused severe allergies in people, in some cases causing blindness and I feel very proud that we publicised how people could safely remove it from their properties as well as stopping further plantings of it.

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President: David Pomery
Chief Weeds Officer
Illawarra District Noxious
Weeds Authority
PO Box 148 Kiama NSW
2533
Ph: 02 42 331129
Fax: 02 42 323665
Email:
dpomery@tpg.com.au

Secretary: Mathew
Bailey
Parkes Shire Council
PH: 0427294818

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2820
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Pampas grass has razor sharp leaves which can badly cut adults and children who brush against it as well as harbouring vermin. I was personally involved in physically removing these weeds from various coastal areas. I also supported the Bradley method of weed removal via segments on my TV program.

My comments related to the misguided & damaging activities of many weed officers who focussed on plants which are economically impossible to eliminate & classifying as weeds plants which do not in fact have weed potential. A classic example of the unprofessional classification of weed plants was Gaura which has now had to be withdrawn from the noxious weeds lists. In now removing this there will be no compensation for the financial damage re lost production and sales caused to people like Mal Morgan with whom I did my interview. If you found my comments unacceptable what would you call the damage done to Mal (who spends his time doing excellent environmental work) by the people running weed programs?

Can you tell me how much time & money has been spent (& chemicals used) on trying to eliminate privet, lantana, camphor laurels & other widespread "weed" plants? Can you then calculate how many weeds could have been gotten rid of if they were genuine problems & could reasonably have been controlled because they had limited spread (such as rhus and pampas grass). And how much less poisoning of the environment via chemicals etc would have been done had you not tried to eliminate plants which you have no chance of ever getting rid of.

If there are any actions which are offensive - not just to myself & people like Mal Morgan but to Australia - then I have say they have come from the management of weed officers and by bringing this issue forward hopefully something good will come from it.

I did say that I felt a lot of weeds officers were well intentioned - but they are also misguided by the people who are instructing them.

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President: David Pomery
Chief Weeds Officer
Illawarra District Noxious
Weeds Authority
PO Box 148 Kiama NSW
2533
Ph: 02 42 331129
Fax: 02 42 323665
Email:
dpomery@tpg.com.au

Secretary: Mathew
Bailey
Parkes Shire Council
PH: 0427294818

Treasure: Andrew
Cosier
8 Tristannia St
Wellington NSW
2820
PH: 0429207791
Email:
Andrew.cosier@wellington.nsw.gov.au



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Association response 14/11/2008

Dear Mr Burke

As President of the NSW Weeds Officers Association inc. I have been compelled to write to you following repeated requests from members of our Association and individuals affiliated with the weed industry to seek clarification as to whom your unwarranted and insulting comments publicly aired on Radio XXX (ed) on 1 November 2008 were intended.

I believe you have received prior correspondence from both the Association and other individuals offended by your remarks and whilst I thank you for your respective replies unfortunately a number of issues raised by yourself in justifying your comments reflect a complete lack of understanding of not only the role of weeds officers but the process of declaration and history of enforcement.

Firstly. I would like to point out to you that members of this Association and those generally involved in noxious weed management are in no way beholden to you for the positions they are currently employed in. The fact that you may have been involved in some preliminary discussions regarding the inclusion of a number of environmental weeds as noxious weeds fails to acknowledge that the Noxious Weeds Legislation dates back to the Local Government Extension Act 1906. In 1919 a major expansion of noxious weed responsibilities occurred with the gazettal of the Local Government Act 1919. Under Parts XXII and XXVIII of this Act, local councils were vested with the responsibilities to enforce the provisions of noxious weed control in their respective local control authority area. In response to this increased legislative duty many councils' throughout NSW have since this time employed weed officers to fulfil this important role. These positions have effectively been around for over 100 years.they are not positions that have been created by recent amendments to the Noxious Weeds Act 1993.

The fact that the Noxious Weed legislation was modified in 1993 with the gazettal of the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 was not merely to accommodate environmental weeds as you suggest in your email and in your on - air comments, but more importantly to streamline the administrative procedures and modernise the legislative framework under which local councils operated.

Weed Management And Training For A Stable Environment

President: David Pomeroy
Chief Weeds Officer
Illawarra District Noxious
Weeds Authority
PO Box 148 Kiama NSW
2533
Ph: 02 42 331129
Fax: 02 42 323665
Email:
dpomeroy@tpg.com.au

Secretary: Mathew
Bailey
Parkes Shire Council
PH: 0427294818

Treasure: Andrew
Cosier
8 Tristannia St
Wellington NSW
2820
PH: 0429207791
Email:
Andrew.cosier@wellington.nsw.gov.au



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The employment of any “new” weeds officers to those few councils in the State whom may not have had such staff prior to 1993 also needs to be recognised for the facts. The credit for the employment and enhanced recognition of noxious weeds within these council areas goes squarely to the hard working Regional Weed Control Coordinators from the NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) who have worked tirelessly with councils throughout the State to ensure local government is meeting their obligation to enforce the provisions of the Noxious Weeds Act 1993. The inclusion of some environmental weeds on the noxious weeds list since and before that time does not in itself warrant local government having to employ new or extra staff as the onus to control declared weeds has always been there (since at least 1906), its just that some councils needed reminding and the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 allowed the Department of Primary Industries to flex its muscle a little more in this regard.

In fact one of our members whom responded to your on – air comments, only to be told by yourself in reply.....” environmental weed officers such as yourself probably wouldn't have their job had I not set up the environmental weeds legislation”... has had their position filled on their council since the mid 1970's!. How could you have possibly created this job as you claim when the position has been an integral part of that councils legislative responsibilities for over 30 years. And this is typical of many other councils throughout NSW.

In your on - air tirade and replies to a number of my colleagues, you consistently refer to environmental weeds officers as the people to whom you referred. Whom exactly are these people?

As far as I am aware there is no such position, at least in NSW. Those people whom control environmental weeds are either 1) Noxious Weeds Officers whom are responsible for enforcing the provisions of control on all declared weeds regardless of whether they are environmental or agricultural and 2) Natural area / Vegetation Officers and their equivalents, whom amongst other duties, generally work with bushcare and landcare volunteers on designated public lands controlling an array of both declared and undeclared weeds, depending what is growing in the area where they are working.

There is no such position that specifically targets environmental weeds as you suggest and I would challenge you to find me that person that specifically targets for control just environmental weeds across both private and public lands causing the scale of damage you suggest in your radio program.

Unfortunately you leave with me with little doubt that the people whom you have directed your remarks and branded as idiots and very dangerous are the

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President: David Pomery
Chief Weeds Officer
Illawarra District Noxious
Weeds Authority
PO Box 148 Kiama NSW
2533
Ph: 02 42 331129
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Email:
dpomery@tpg.com.au

Secretary: Mathew
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Cosier
8 Tristannia St
Wellington NSW
2820
PH: 0429207791
Email:
Andrew.cosier@wellington.nsw.gov.au



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very members of this Association...the Noxious Weeds Officers of NSW. You should be ashamed.

One of the members of this Association with whom you took to task, and demanded he apologise to you, was Mr Don McKenzie. As was obviously unbeknown to you, Don was the winner of the NSW Weeds Officer of the year Award in 2007.

Don is involved in weed management at a local, State and national level. He is involved in a number of Committees including the NSW Parthenium Task force, the National Athel Pine Management Group, NSW Prickle Bush Working Group and is also the Vice Chairperson on the Macquarie Valley Weeds Advisory Committee.

He is said to have "put Bourke on the map" (no pun intended) in terms of weed management" and discovered the largest infestations of Parkinsonia and Mesquite ever found in NSW.

Were it not for the efforts of Weeds Officers like Don McKenzie weeds such as Parkinsonia and Mesquite would be ruining farms and destroying the economy of western NSW. Rather than denigrating people like Don you should be congratulating them on their stellar efforts. They have done just as much if not more for effective weed management in this State as you claim you have.....they are however the silent achievers.

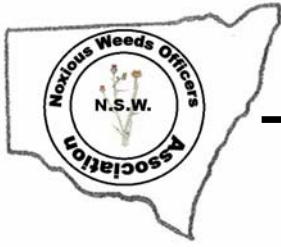
In your interview with Mr Mal Morgan you make some very misleading and concerning remarks regarding the declaration of noxious weeds. You state and I quote" A lot of councils often say they can declare things noxious, they cant.....its not up to council to declare something noxious, so if they seem to be doing that just ignore them" end quote. Whilst I am unsure if these remarks were just a desperate attempt by yourself to denigrate councils and their staff, or they reflect a complete lack of understanding of the weed declaration process I can only guess. Certainly they infer to your listeners that councils have no say whatsoever in the declaration process. As you are probably well aware only the Minister for Primary Industries can declare a plant noxious. The process for declaration however is a very different story. Applications for declaration are normally submitted by local councils for their respective area, although the NSW Government, members of the public, community groups, or NWAC itself can also submit proposals regarding noxious weed declarations. In all these later cases however all submissions still need to be discussed with the relevant LCA (s) before proceeding. Please refer to NSW DPI Legislation, Strategy and Policy section on their website for more information on this matter.

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Chief Weeds Officer
Illawarra District Noxious
Weeds Authority
PO Box 148 Kiama NSW
2533
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Email:
dpomery@tpg.com.au

Secretary: Mathew
Bailey
Parkes Shire Council
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Treasure: Andrew
Cosier
8 Tristannia St
Wellington NSW
2820
PH: 0429207791
Email:
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I find it most concerning that you are encouraging your listeners to ignore legal fact. Perhaps you should clarify this with your listeners to ensure they do not break the law at you behest.

As Mr Morgan pointed out in your interview with him, much has changed in the weed management industry over the last 10-20 years. Despite your comments to the contrary, strategic control is increasingly being recognised as an appropriate response to effectively manage many of our widespread weeds. You claim "Weed Nazis" are not using strategic thinking, yet your response to the issue is to push these weeds aside (perhaps under the carpet) and let them continue to infill any uninvaded sites, threaten viable agricultural land and destroy threatened species and Endangered Ecological Communities (EEC's). If we as weeds officers are branded "Weed Nazis" for trying to strategically control such weeds in these areas then one would have to question if those that support the do nothing approach are not "Environmental Nazis". The fact of the matter is that it is now recognised widespread weeds will never be controlled or eradicated yet through strategic planning they can be effectively managed through targeted on ground control that identifies and prioritises management programs where benefits are greatest.

As an example of this situation some recent amendments (2006) to the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 has seen all declared noxious weeds placed into one of five weed control classes that reflect this strategic approach. Most widespread weeds are listed as Class 4 weeds where the LCA can determine in consultation with its community the most appropriate means of management for that weed .Our local approach to Lantana for example is to only enforce its control in identified high priority sites, such as where it is impacting on Threatened species or EEC's and where effective programs of control can be implemented and maintained with the limited resources we have available. Further down the south coast of NSW where Lantana is less common and a National containment line has been established to prevent its spread into Victoria and beyond, control programs are more stringent with buffer zones being established along the containment line and total suppression of all infestations south of this point. If Lantana was left to be considered as a native as you propose, then it would eventually overrun and destroy the entire east coast of Australia. We are trying to prevent this from happening by at the very least managing this weed in a strategic and effective manner.

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President: David Pomery
Chief Weeds Officer
Illawarra District Noxious
Weeds Authority
PO Box 148 Kiama NSW
2533
Ph: 02 42 331129
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Email:
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Further to this point, another important change is that weeds will now only remain declared for a specified period of time, this being no more than five years after which their status will be reviewed. This is in contrast to past practices where some weeds have been declared for 100 years despite the fact that the "horse may have bolted" and that resources are better spent managing and preventing new threats.

The increasing recognition of the importance of strategic planning in weed control is further emphasised in the recently released *NSW Invasive Species Plan 2008-2015* where the challenge is to manage or control invasive species where benefits of control are greatest.

With the first three goals of

1) Exclude 2) Eradicate or Contain and 3) Effectively Manage, the *NSW Invasive Species Plan* aims to build the capacity to prevent new incursions, contain existing populations and adaptively manage already widespread species in NSW.

Whilst I can concur with your remarks that emphasis needs to be put into targeting new and emerging weeds, you once again fail to recognise that this is occurring. In fact current declaration approval and subsequent funding for control is prioritised according to current range and impact compared to potential range and impact. In effect widespread weeds are considered the lowest priority for declaration and funding, whilst emerging weeds are considered a priority. You would be well advised to contact the Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee (NWAC) through the NSW DPI for further information on this subject.

Indeed, the Sydney Weeds Committees will be holding a seminar on this very subject "Weeds- Emerging and No longer Sleeping" on Wednesday 3 December 2008 at Parramatta Town Hall. You should attend.

Contrary to your assertions that weeds officers are responsible for inappropriate declarations for widespread weeds, my personal experience is that much of the pressure to have certain weeds declared noxious comes not from your so called "Weed Nazis" in government positions but rather the general public....some of whom may be your listeners.

As an example I am constantly asked to justify why common and widespread weeds such as Privet, Bamboo, Morning Glory etc aren't declared noxious. This push is coming from the general public, not weeds officers and management whom are acutely aware of the implications of any declaration and the costs involved. The general public see these common widespread

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Chief Weeds Officer
Illawarra District Noxious
Weeds Authority
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weeds growing everywhere and don't see the work we are doing on the less common weeds. Perhaps you should talk to some weeds officers whose communities have demanded certain widespread weeds be declared noxious. There is this common misconception amongst the general public that once a weed is declared noxious it can then be fully controlled or eradicated. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Don there are extremists in every aspect of society including weeds but I can assure you those of us whom work in the industry and form the frontline defence are well aware of our limitations and what is achievable given current financial constraints. We are becoming increasingly accountable for our programs and have a tough enough job as it is balancing resource constraints with community expectations. Your insulting comments certainly don't help either and if you were hoping to bring this issue forward and achieve some good from it you are sadly mistaken. You have done nothing but further alienate yourself from the people with whom you want dialogue. Had you chosen to offer constructive criticism rather than personal insults you might have been taken seriously, but alas that is unfortunately not to be.

On the classifying of plants that don't have weed potential, this again does not come from front line weed officers as you infer. In your comments on Gaura you have failed to explain that the declaration of Gaura was a legislative mistake. As you obviously must not be aware, the recent listing of Gaura as a noxious weed was not through "Weed Nazis" insisting on its listing but through an administrative oversight that resulted from the repealing of the Seeds Act 1982 and Seeds Regulation 1994. The Seeds Act concerned the sale of certain seeds and plants in New South Wales. It contained provisions on the labelling of seeds, on the prohibition of sale of prohibited seeds on the establishment of seed varietal verification schemes and on inspections and enforcement. As *Gaura parviflora* was listed as a Prohibited seed under Schedule 2 of the Seeds Regulation 1994, when the Seeds Act and Seeds Regulations were repealed on the commencement of sec 4 of the *Noxious Weeds Amendment Act 2005 No 29*, *Gaura parviflora* was listed as a declared Class 5 noxious weed. Unfortunately, in this process the other Gaura species also found in NSW, *lindheimeri*, was also mistakenly listed as a Class 5 noxious weed. It has subsequently been removed as of 20th October 2008.

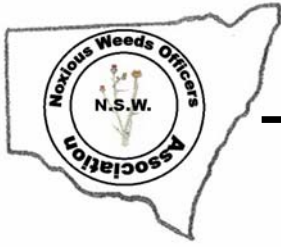
Whilst the listing of *G. lindheimeri* was an unfortunate mistake within the legislative review/repeal process, rather than denigrating all professionals involved in the weed industry, and demanding compensation, support should

Weed Management And Training For A Stable Environment

President: David Pomery
Chief Weeds Officer
Illawarra District Noxious
Weeds Authority
PO Box 148 Kiama NSW
2533
Ph: 02 42 331129
Fax: 02 42 323665
Email:
dpomery@tpg.com.au

Secretary: Mathew
Bailey
Parkes Shire Council
PH: 0427294818

Treasure: Andrew
Cosier
8 Tristannia St
Wellington NSW
2820
PH: 0429207791
Email:
Andrew.cosier@wellington.nsw.gov.au



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have been extended to officers of the NSW DPI and related staff whom were instrumental in having the declaration revoked.

As Mr Morgan would be the first to point out, whilst he spent much time and effort in having the declaration overturned it would never have been achieved without the support, commitment and cooperation of NSW DPI staff.

It should be noted that Mr Mal Morgan has personally contacted myself following your on – air comments to offer his support and ongoing commitment with respect to Association members. Mal ensured me that whilst he spent considerable time and effort on the Gaura issue he holds no animosity towards those in the weed industry, does not expect or want compensation and in fact fully supports the weed industry's efforts to minimise the spread of potentially damaging garden escapees.

I personally have a working relationship with Mal as we both sit on the NWAC Coordination, Communication, and Education subcommittee. Mal has always been very supportive of the work of all those individuals involved in weed management and was extremely disheartened by your on air comments which he felt may put the current good working relationship between the Nursery and Garden Industry and those involved in weed management in jeopardy.

Much has been achieved over the last few years with respect of invasive garden plants. The popularity of the "Grow me Instead" garden booklets, a joint initiative of the NGIA, NSW DPI and local government, the NSW No Space for Weeds program as well as various local weed control programs such as the Sri Lankan Alligator Weed response and the Port Stephens Chinese Violet eradication program are initiatives that should be promoted through programs such as yours to highlight some positives rather than having unprofessional, biased remarks directed against a group of individuals whom are not given a right of reply. Comments such as yours can only have a negative impact in the community's' eyes as to the professionalism of the state noxious weeds officers.

On a final point I would just like to reiterate that all of the States weeds officers and managers are competent, nationally accredited and trained individuals. Most are University trained with years of practical experience. Who knows if you ever took to the time to meet and find out what "weeds officers" actually do you may well gain a greater appreciation for the work they do in a difficult and challenging environment.

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Chief Weeds Officer
Illawarra District Noxious
Weeds Authority
PO Box 148 Kiama NSW
2533
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It should also be pointed out that weeds officers are not “poisoning” the landscape, for if this were true it could be argued you were equally poisoning the airwaves. Weeds officers are acutely aware of their responsibilities under an array of legislation including the Pesticides Act, Occupational Health and Safety Act, Protection of the Environment and Operations Act etc, and are required to undertake daily risk assessments and implement Pesticide Notification Plans as a means of minimising any potential risk associated with their activities. The use of herbicides is generally part of an integrated approach to control that involves physical/mechanical/cultural methods, biological control and when dealing with environmental weeds often involves native plant regeneration and revegetation works.

Your comments Don are unfortunately based on an outdated and biased view. The current situation is vastly different from that of 20 or even 10 years ago. It may not be perfect but only by individuals and organisations working together can progress be made,

Whilst it would be appreciated to receive an on – air apology I have been advised by colleagues that it is not within your character to apologise even when wrong.

Regardless, of whether we receive an apology or not Noxious Weeds Officers around the State are proud of the efforts they do... all with little fuss and for not much money. It's a pity others didn't have the same humble approach.

For your information the 15th NSW Weeds Conference will be held in Narrabri from 15-17 September 2009. Im sure the organising committee would welcome your attendance either as a speaker or delegate. Were you to show some interest in attending please contact either Narrabri Shire Council or the NSW DPI for more information.

David Pomery
President

No response has since been received from Mr Burke which I guess may be interpreted as a sign of victory of sorts. He obviously can't continue to defend the indefensible stand he has taken.

Addendum- **NWAC** recently wrote to the NSW Weeds Officers Association expressing their disappointment with the comments made by Mr Burke and offering their full support and acknowledging the efforts, dedication and enthusiasm exhibited by weeds officers throughout the State. A copy of this letter of support is attached.

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Chief Weeds Officer
Illawarra District Noxious
Weeds Authority
PO Box 148 Kiama NSW
2533
Ph: 02 42 331129
Fax: 02 42 323665
Email:
dpomery@tpg.com.au

Secretary: Mathew
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2820
PH: 0429207791
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National Case Studies Manual for Athel Pine

The Minister for The Northern Territory, Alison Anderson, will be launching the National Case Studies Manual for Athel Pine (*Tamarix aphylla*), in Alice Springs on or about the 4th February.

Minister Anderson has also requested a face to face meeting with all members of the National Athel Pine Management Committee to co-inside with the Manual launch.

Copies of the manual will be available for distribution shortly. Contact Don Mckenzie, Bourke Shire council for more information.

National Bitou Bush Best Practice Management Manual

The Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, Peter Garrett launched the Bitou bush Management manual at Las Perouse on 23rd January. The manual is targeted to community members, contractors and local land managers, but has detail for managers at all levels. It contains the most up to date information on how to manage Bitou bush and comes exactly 100 years after the first official recording of this weed in Australia. Copies of the manual are available through most coastal councils or from Hillary Cherry Bitou bush WONS coordinator at hillary.cherry@environment.nsw.gov.au

National best practice manual - Serrated Tussock

This manual contains up to date information on the best practices to control and managed the spread of serrated tussock, one of 20 Weeds of National Significance in Australia.

View or download at: <http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/serratedtussock/>

Lippia management

This manual has been produced by the National Lippia Working Group and collates the historical work as well as ongoing activities of landholders and the research community in relation to Lippia.

View or download at: <http://www.namoi.cma.nsw.gov.au/37.html>

ChemCert Training Members Discount

In what is hoped to be the first of a number of "Sponsors" of the Weeds Officers Association, Chemcert Trainer David Potts has agreed to offer a special 10% discount to all financial members of the Weeds Officers Association, whom enroll in one of his Chemcert reaccreditation or full day courses. If you are not a member and your ChemCert accreditation needs renewing and you would like to take advantage of this special officer, join the Association now.

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Weeds Authority
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2533
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Email:
dpomery@tpg.com.au

Secretary: Mathew
Bailey
Parkes Shire Council
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2820
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Email:
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With 20 years experience in horticultural and pesticide training, David will be offering the reaccreditation and full 2 day courses for anyone interested. The 10% discount will apply to all Association members so just mention you are a member of the Association to receive the reduced price.

Contact David Potts on 0417 060847 or dpotts@speedlink.com.au for more information.

Other Sponsorship

The executive will be working over the coming months on trying to secure more "sponsors" and establish closer working relationships with a number of weed organizations. We will endeavor to keep you updated with regard to outcomes in this area.

International News

WWW - WIDE WORLD of WEEDS

Uganda: Harmful Plants Spreading Nationwide

Gerald Tenywa and Juliet Waiswa
18 November 2008

Kampala — SCIENTISTS have warned that infestation of habitats by harmful weeds has reached crisis proportions in many parts of Uganda, posing a threat to many livelihoods.

"We have a crisis; invasive plants (harmful) like Lantana Camara are still spreading and invading new lands," said Geoffrey Howard, a specialist on invasive species working at the World Conservation Union. "It is now found in most parts of this country."

Howard said Lantana Camara, commonly known as Kayukiyuki or Kapanga, grows very fast and its leaves contain poison that kills other plants. This means that other plants do not survive where it grows.

"Its leaves, when they drop on the ground do not allow other plants to grow," said Howard. "This is leading to the disappearance of pastures in many parts of the cattle corridor."

He was speaking at Lake Victoria Hotel, Entebbe during the opening of a workshop on the legal and institutional framework for the management of invasive species in Uganda.

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A weed scheme from Hungary

Sponsor a child out of poverty, or a noxious weed.

The Budapest Times-Monday, 29 September 2008

Taxpayers will have the option to redirect 1% of their income tax to a scheme to reduce child poverty and sponsor talented youngsters, the government announced last week. Under an existing scheme, Hungarians can opt to have one percent of their income tax donated to a charity of their choice, and a further one percent to a church or religious organisation. Among other possible targets of the scheme mentioned by a government spokesman was an initiative to eradicate the allergenic giant ragweed that is rampant in Hungary.

The Sydney Morning Herald (newspaper article)

Latest Research –

UAV's

Radio Transcript

Welcome to Agritalk this week we are going to be talking about research for the future of agriculture.

Unmanned air vehicles, or UAVs, which are used by defence forces around the world for surveillance purposes, are set to be used in the vast inland regions of Australia as weed spotters and sprayers.

A new MLA-funded project conducted by the Australian Centre for Field Robotics (ACFR) at the University of Sydney will develop and test UAV surveillance systems designed to detect woody weed infestations and provide the necessary information for control and eradication programs.

Two types of UAV systems will be available for the project – a fixed wing UAV for broadacre surveillance and a hovering UAV for precision targeting around the weed,” Prof Sukkarieh said.

These two UAV aircraft systems are currently in use at the Centre and Prof Sukkarieh said the MLA-funded project would focus on the sensor and data algorithms needed to determine woody weeds from other vegetation.

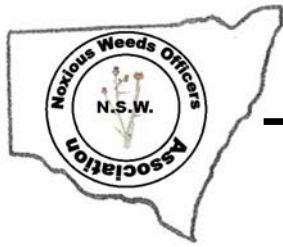
The second aspect of the project is to design an efficient herbicide distributor on the hovering UAV to enable the pinpoint placement of herbicide. Initial demonstration of

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President: David Pomery
Chief Weeds Officer
Illawarra District Noxious
Weeds Authority
PO Box 148 Kiama NSW
2533
Ph: 02 42 331129
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Email:
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Secretary: Mathew
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Parkes Shire Council
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PH: 0429207791
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the aircraft and detection algorithms will occur at the University of Sydney farm followed by further testing at a remote field site that is representative of extensive grasslands infested with woody weeds.

On a roll with germ of an idea - seed impregnated toilet paper

By Tim Colquhoun and Ben Cubby

FEELING seedy while on a camping trek or an outback odyssey may never be the same again. A NSW inventor has designed a seed impregnated toilet paper that she believes will revolutionise the process of being at one with nature.

Joy Kogias says her "Enviro-roll land and sea tissues" mean those in the act of doing the necessary will no longer have to worry about the effect of their deposits on the environment.

The idea, in a nutshell, is to propagate as you defecate.

"As I was having my morning ablutions I thought, 'gee, I should be taking a nice native plant out in the bush with me when I'm doing this'," she said. "This is like giving mother nature a helping hand. You can't feel the seed; it's just like normal toilet paper."

Kogias first had the idea of combining seeds with toilet tissue in 1998. Eight years later, she holds a patent for the seed-impregnated tissue and a patent is pending for a loo roll with minerals and trace elements that will feed phytoplankton if used at sea, or soil micro-organisms if used on land.

Kogias expects to hear from a toilet paper manufacturer next week; if it doesn't take up her idea, she anticipates being ready to produce them herself within six months for sale locally in the Kempsey area.

Might not the unsuspecting camper be spreading weeds?

"It's going to be 100 per cent endemic; we're not going to be planting stuff that's not normally grown there [around Kempsey]," she said.

Ed- Is this an innovative group project initiative of the Mid north coast weeds advisory committee?

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2533
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2820
PH: 0429207791
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NSW Weeds Officers Association Inc

For those of you whom are receiving this newsletter for the first time you are probably wondering what is the Noxious Weeds Officers Association and what can they do for me?

The Noxious Weeds Officers Association is the peak body representing the interests of all professional Weeds Officers in NSW. Its executive is comprised solely of local government employees whom work full time as Weeds Officers (or similar) and have a passion about weeds (or at least trying to get rid of them). The Association is the first and only one of its kind in Australia.

The aims of the Association are:

- To provide a united approach for all professional Weeds Officers and related staff in NSW
- To be proactive within the Weeds Industry
- To provide members with information on Training-Funding-New Technologies
- Meeting and setting professional standards throughout the Industry by; Facilitation-Extension-Coordination
- To meet community expectations in weed management
- To develop and improve networking opportunities for the benefit of all members
- To cooperate and coordinate weed management with associated stakeholders
- Have our collective voice heard at Local and State Government levels.
- Promote the Noxious Weeds Officers Association of NSW inc.

Interested??.....read more below.....

Are you a member?

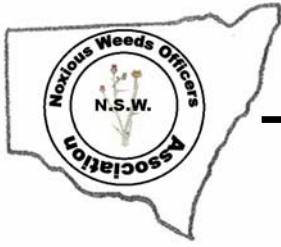
Your profession is only as strong as its collective members, who must work together to improve the standing and profile of weeds in both the environment and agriculture industries as well as the broader community. Governments and other organisations seek advice and information from your professional association. Your support through membership and participation ensures strong and active representation in the ever changing weed control industry.

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President: David Pomery
Chief Weeds Officer
Illawarra District Noxious
Weeds Authority
PO Box 148 Kiama NSW
2533
Ph: 02 42 331129
Fax: 02 42 323665
Email:
dpomery@tpg.com.au

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Bailey
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Cosier
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2820
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Please find attached a Membership Application Form for the Noxious Weeds Officer Association that I would strongly recommend all those involved in Weeds, Pest and Vegetation Management consider joining.

At only \$25 per person for 1-3 staff, \$80 for 4 staff and \$100 for 5 or more staff this is excellent value. Remember all membership fees and other cost associated with belonging to the Association are tax deductible.....or better still get your employer to pay!

Next Meeting

The next AGM of the NSW Weeds Officers Association will be held in Narrabri. Please book your diaries for **15th September 2009**. More details will be available closer to the date.

David Pomery
President

Weed Management And Training For A Stable Environment

President: David Pomery
Chief Weeds Officer
Illawarra District Noxious
Weeds Authority
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2533
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Wellington NSW
2820
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

NAME:

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ADDRESS:

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.....
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CONTACT NUMBERS:

.....

ORGANISATION:

.....
.....

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

.....

MEMBERSHIP FEE: 1-3 people \$25 PER YEAR PER PERSON
4 people \$80
5 or more \$100
(TAX DEDUCTIBLE)

CHEQUES TO BE MADE OUT TO THE NOXIOUS WEEDS OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

MAIL TO: NSW WEEDS OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
C/ ANDREW COSIER
8 TRISTANNIA STREET
WELLINGTON NSW 2820

Weed Management And Training For A Stable Environment

President: David Pomey
Chief Weeds Officer
Illawarra District Noxious
Weeds Authority
PO Box 148 Kiama NSW
2533
Ph: 02 42 331129
Fax: 02 42 323665
Email:
dpomey@tpg.com.au

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