



**MINUTES of the  
Eastern Riverina Noxious Weeds Advisory Group Meeting  
July 7<sup>th</sup> 2009  
COMMENCING 9:30 AM at the  
Bob Osborne Skills Centre**

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**Chairperson:** Peter Routley

**Attendees:**

Patrick Minogue-Corowa Shire Council  
Justin Hamson-Lockhart Shire Council  
Neil Hibberson-Greater Hume Shire Council  
Josh Bean- NSW National Parks and Wildlife  
Rodney Anderson-Urana Shire Council  
Jeremy Crocker- Wagga Wagga City Council  
John Francis-Hume Livestock Health and Pest Authority  
Jeff Gamble- MIA Rural Services  
Kerry Pascoe-Wagga Wagga City Council  
Stuart Moorby-Cootamundra Shire Council  
Lisa Mitsch-ERNWAG & WRNWAG  
Sarah Stuart-Albury City Council  
Paul McPherson-Tumbarumba Shire Council  
Jan Mitchell-Albury City Council  
Peter Ellison-Tumut Shire Council  
Alan Clark-Narrandera Shire Council  
Peter Routley- Urana Shire Council  
Christian Henrikson-ARTC  
Chris Slinger-Riverina Eastern Noxious Weeds Authority  
John Ross- Greater Hume Shire Council

## 1) Apologies:

Mark Luff-Hume Livestock Health and Pest Authority  
Trent Fordham- Hume Livestock Health and Pest Authority  
Steve Campbell-NSW State Forests  
Phil Murphy-NSW State Forests  
Mike Lalor-NSW State Forests  
Rob Ferguson- Riverina Eastern Noxious Weeds Authority  
Shona Cowley-Department of Lands

- Moved that apologies be accepted - **Jeremy Crocker**, seconded by **Rodney Anderson**.

## Confirmation of Minutes:

- Moved that the Minutes of the last meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009 are a true and accurate statement of events. **Neil Hibberson** seconded by **Pat Minogue**.

## Business Arising

### *Display Trailer*

The issue of where to build the noxious weeds trailer was again discussed, with the South Australian suggestion made by WRNWAG debated. **Chris Slinger** confirmed a quote of \$10,628.00 including GST from the Correctional Centre at Junee. This was not including dust seals and a design that would protect electrical equipment. Chris was asked by the group to further investigate the price with the extra features and report back to the group.

- It was moved that the quote be accepted from the Correctional Centre in Junee to construct the trailer pending agreement with WRNWAG.-**Rodney Anderson**, seconded **Neil Hibberson**.

The issue of why the group would not buy locally was discussed as well as the benefits such as checking progress at various stages of construction.



### *HLHPA member contributions*

The recent restructure of the previous Rural Lands Protection Boards and how this has influenced the amount of member contributions to the Easter and Western Noxious Weeds Advisory Groups since the formation of the Livestock, Health and Pest Authority was discussed. The restructure has removed four paying entities from the region leaving a short fall of funds. **Rob Ferguson** recently voiced the groups concerns via e-mail to **Syd Lisle** - NSW State Weeds Coordinator. **Adam Craig** read the e-mail to the group.

- It was moved that correspondence be sent to discuss the short fall of funds. – John Ross, seconded by John Francis.

Paula Bosse to send letters in regards to funding issues for the RNWPO project.

### **Correspondence**

**Adam Craig** presented the correspondence to the group.

#### *Correspondence Out*

- Letter RE: DPI Class 1 procedures-dated 28<sup>th</sup> April 2009.
- Letter RE: HLHPA contributions-dated 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2009.

#### *Correspondence in*

- Henty Field Day prospectus
- Expo advertising.
- Letter from the Shires Association of NSW.

The letter from the Shires Association dated 16<sup>th</sup> of June to all NSW Councils in regards to the “Future of Weed Management” summit addressed the need for more consultation should the State Government want to change the way weeds are managed in NSW. It suggested that the summit was premature and potentially irrelevant.



## Financial Reports

**Adam Craig** delivered the financial report to the group.

- Income at the 01/07/09 had an opening balance of \$ 9,056.51.
- Expenditure was \$5,407.98.
- Closing Balance at the 30/06/09 was \$3648.53.

## Promotions Officer Report

### Chinwag

Latest edition was emailed out in May. Available for download on the website

### Field Days

- ✂ Murrumbidgee Farm Fair at Yanco was held in late April. Fairly quiet on the exhibitors and patronage scale. Discussion may be held as to whether we scale this field day back to being a local one only and concentrate on Griffith's Riverina Field Day.
- ✂ Riverina Field Day at Griffith was held in early May. Unfortunately I was not able to attend the field day but from all accounts it was fairly well attended and very successful.

### Mexican Feather Grass ~ the saga continues.....

- ✂ Victorian-based seed importer and distributor, Ball Australia, pleaded guilty in May 2009 in the Melbourne Magistrates' Court to four offences relating to the propagation and distribution of MFG. The company was convicted and fined \$12,000 and ordered to pay \$3000 in legal costs. Ball Australia agreed to pay \$20,000 compensation to DPI which will go toward clean-up costs.
- ✂ A recent display hosted by the DPI at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (MIFGS) has resulted in the recovery of more Mexican feather grass plants. 5 reports were made of suspected MFG plants which subsequently resulted in the removal of 11 plants.

### New Regional Plans – Silverleaf Nightshade, Sagittaria and Hardhead thistle

All three revised regional plans are now available on the web.

### NSW Weeds Conference

15th Biennial New South Wales Noxious and Environmental Weeds Conference to be held at The Crossing Theatre, Narrabri from the 15th to 17th September 2009.

The 15th Biennial Conference's theme is **"The Old and the New" (Changes in Weed Management)**. Draft conference program available for viewing on the web

### Mesquite

Minutes of the ***Eastern Riverina Noxious Weeds Advisory Group***, Meeting held at the Council Chambers Wagga Wagga, Date:



During May I completed a brief report for Peter Gray at DPI on Mesquite in the Riverina. Thanks to those who contributed.

### Fact Sheets

- ✂ Hardheads fact sheet being developed. Any fact sheets you would like to see developed please let me know. We just need to establish a process of having these fact sheets formalised and technically vetted for correctness so that we don't get ourselves into trouble!! Any ideas/suggestions appreciated.
- ✂ Working on Serrated Tussock next.

### Website – [www.riverinaweeds.org.au](http://www.riverinaweeds.org.au)

Still going well – remember if there is anything you want to see on there let me know.

### GP Reporting

Paula will be sending this out in early July so just a reminder that when received if we can all make an effort to return ASAP.

### Track Safety Awareness Course

Tentative date set for Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July in Wagga – Can you let me know if you are interested ASAP. About \$175 per person depending on numbers.

## RNWPO Report

Hello to everyone,

Yes I am back on deck after a short stint of leave! Sorry I am not at today's meeting – as important as they are to me I couldn't justify a day out of the office on my second day back. Instead I will be making a start on some of the following:

- Sending out invoices to all LCAs and LHPAs for their annual contribution to our project - \$1300 (exc GST).
- Putting together reporting packages to be mailed out in the coming weeks – same as every year – please read them in detail and return them with sufficient detail ASAP. We have a hectic 6 – 12 months ahead of us so don't put anything off till the last minute.
- Trying to sort out our office computer issues so I can get back on line. Apologies for any delays over the next fortnight while I synchronise all files etc – please keep pestering me if information doesn't come through as discussed.
- Compiling a timetable of what's coming up over the next 12 months – this will go on the web and be regularly updated!
- Figuring out what we need to do in preparation for the fast approaching NW declaration reviews – don't forget all declared weeds only had a 5 year order – the 5 years are up next year!
- Boneseed declarations – submission of regional application – still waiting on letters from Balranald, Coolamon, Griffith, Tumbarumba. I will be emailing and phoning these LCAs to fast track this.
- Finalising Gorse and Boneseed regional plans
- Touching base with the LMDC – seeing what their plans are with their RWS – it's 5 year life span is coming up for review.
- Find out what's happening with DPIs Weed Risk Management – training wise and passing this info onto all of you (weedos etc).
- The largest component of my time (once I have all the above finalised) will be taken up working out what changes NSW DPI have planned for the 2010/11 funding round – the GP process is about to change significantly and I need to work it all out and then feed all



- the changes back out to the region. Keeping in mind that we pull all our funding applications together in February/March and that we are now in July with September taken up by conference and field days... we have very little time for training etc.

Many changes are going to take place over the next 12 months – some major and some minor – I just hope we can assist with making it an easier transition..... please continue to read all correspondence and Lisa and I will do our best to only send around relevant information.

Any questions please call me – I'm in the office mon, tues, thurs – if not in you can get me on my mobile on these days!

And after now realising the enormity of the work ahead, I might go and have a mummy nap! I wish – see you all round the traps at some stage over the coming months!

Paula ....

## **Weeds Officers Reports**

### *Albury*

Control work ongoing on Coolatai Grass. Assisted TAFE students in weed ID and weed removal. Rabbit baiting and cactus removal undertaken. Acquiring a new mapping system for weeds. Checking nurseries, Coolatai inspections at Table Top. Flea Beetle collecting.

### *Wagga Wagga*

Inspections for African Boxthorn undertaken around the Gumly East Wagga area. Successful in securing a large grant to remove willows through the Caring for Country grant rounds. Participated in CMA funded tree planting for salinity control at Gregadoo planting over 12,000 trees. Working with the Hume LHPA in burning old Spiny Burrgrass infestations.

### *Coolamon/Junee*

Checking on Blackberry follow up at Bethungra-good result. Coolatai inspections on road reserves. Releasing of Flea beetles. Road inspections ongoing. Suspected Karoo Thorn found, identified as an Acacia spp. Involved with the Weed Warriors program with Horehound at Marrar. Applied for Crown Land grants and working with the ARTC for Coolatai control.



### *Cootamundra*

Undertaking Bridal Creeper control, All Blackberry on public land treated. Presently spraying Coolatai Grass. Inspections ongoing-good compliance. Some small patches of scotch Thistles emerging. Coolatai and Silver Leaf Nightshade control undertaken. Inspections for Scotch Thistles and Horehound. Undertaken African Boxthorn removal with the assistance of Crown Lands. ARTC working in with good cooperation. Suggested Task Force Officers as guest speakers or weed academic people.

### *Corowa*

Spot spraying Horehound, African Boxthorn and St. Barnaby's Thistle. Inspections are ongoing. Inspecting private property, commons, State Forests. Undertaking Rabbit inspections.

### *Greater Hume*

Control of serrated Tussock. Jindera site has emerging seedlings. Inspecting for Alligator weed with 13 plants found so far. Implementing red guide posts to warn of Chilean Needle Grass on RTA roads. Contact in Holbrook is Paul Thompson. Inspections ongoing. Have applied for willow removal project through the CMA.

### *Lockhart*

Undertaking control works on Bridal Creeper, Horehound and African Boxthorn.

### *Narrandera*

Attended the two Field days (Murrumbidgee and Griffith) in May. Commented on Murrumbidgee's poor attendance. Inspections are ongoing. Roadside control of African Boxthorn.

### *Tumbarumba*

A \$90,000 grant for the removal of willows has been approved. Roadside control of Paterson's Curse and Thistles has also been undertaken recently. Ran a drum muster and Chem collect that was successful. Undertaking private works spray jobs and stem injecting Fruit trees and pines on roadsides.



### *Tumut*

Inspections and control of Blackberry and Willows undertaken. Thistle control. Releasing Crown weevils appears to be working. Checking Blackberry rust. Suggested Tracy Crawford from snowy Hydro as a guest speaker.

### *Urana*

Control of Horehound and African Boxthorn on roadsides. Starting control on shoulders. African Boxthorn control through CMA funding. Inspections are ongoing for Horehound, Wild Radish and African Boxthorn. Noogoora Burr found in creeks. Submission to control Horehound and feral trees through the CMA has been lodged.

### *Hume LHPA*

John Francis gave an update on control works carried out by the HLHPA. Works have been completed on Horehound and Spiny Burrgrass in conjunction with Wagga Wagga City Council.

### *National Parks and Wildlife*

Blackberry rust established on the Goobagandra. Controlling African Lovegrass around the Snowy Mountains HWY. Oxe Eyed Daisy control ongoing. Hawkweed funding sought to detect new infestations. Works on Blowering foreshore commenced. 30,000ha of native vegetation sought to enhance the area and suppress Blackberry.

### *ARTC*

Working with Cootamundra and Junee/ Coolamon on weed control programmes. Slashing around towns, looking at alternatives to chemical control. Mulching and composting etc...

**> Break for Lunch <**





## **General Business**

### *Weeds Risk Management*

**Adam Craig** presented the WRM process to the group. The group worked through Bathurst Burr as an example with a score given that corresponds to a threat matrix. The group was reminded that all of the existing C4 weeds will need to be put through a process to justify whether or not they go back on the list when the sunset clause of five years expires.

This process appeared cumbersome and confusing. Formal training will be provided to weeds officers in the near future.

### *Henty Field Days*

With the Henty Field Days fast approaching **Lisa Mitsch** suggested that the annual pre Henty meeting needed to be held soon to keep the Field Days running smoothly. A date of August 11, 2009 was announced.

### *Weeds Display Trailer*

**Chris Slinger** is to follow up the display van quote with the groups added concerns about dust etc....

## **Date, Time & Venue of Next Meeting**

Next Meeting to be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2009, 9:30AM at the Bob Osborne Skills Centre, Wagga Wagga.

**Meeting Close:** 2:45PM.