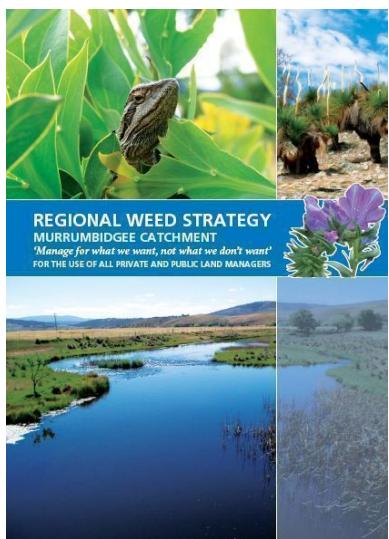


# CHINWAG

## ERNWAG & WRNWAG

The newsletter for Riverina Noxious Weeds Officers / Rangers.

### Regional Weed Strategy Murrumbidgee – Launched!



I'm hoping that everyone has a copy of the Murrumbidgee Regional Weed Strategy that was published in February 2007. If you haven't received a copy yet, I have a few hardcopies left - just email me

your details. The Pdf is also available at [www.murrumbidgee.cma.nsw.gov.au](http://www.murrumbidgee.cma.nsw.gov.au) under publications and brochures.

The Murrumbidgee CMA officially launched the Strategy at their Board meeting in Cooma on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2007. Robert Ferguson, WRNWAG Chairperson, represented the Region at the launch. WRNWAG and ERNWAG look forward to implementing this Strategy with the Murrumbidgee CMA and all others stakeholders in weed management.



The launch - Rob Ferguson (chair WRNWAG), Ann Muir (Regional Director NSW DPI) and Lee O'Brien (CMA Chair).

### Important dates

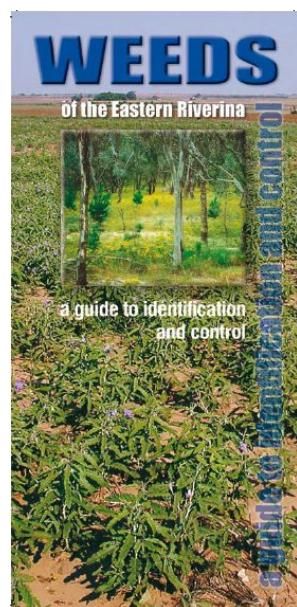
- 7/12/07 – last day for comments for Pest Strategies – Snowy and SWS NPWS  
12/12/07 – NWO meeting Darlington Point  
9/1/08 – Lisa Mitsch (New PO) commences  
17/1/08 – AWTF on site, Griffith.  
4/3/08 – ERNWAG, Wagga 11:30am  
11/3/08 – WRNWAG, Hay 10am

### Riverina weed id guide

A big thank you and well done to Adam Craig and Jeremy Crocker (WWCC) for pulling this fantastic little resource together for everyone across the Riverina to use.

The guides have been distributed to all Councils, RLPBs and CMAs so hopefully if you haven't come across it you should be able to find one close by.

It has fantastic photos, a good description of the weed itself, details on dispersal, along with look-alikes and any control options available. It's mostly in alphabetical order so is a great quick flick reference guide for the vehicle.



### Do you know this weed?



Answer  
on pg 5.

## Noxious Weed Grants 07/08 allocations!

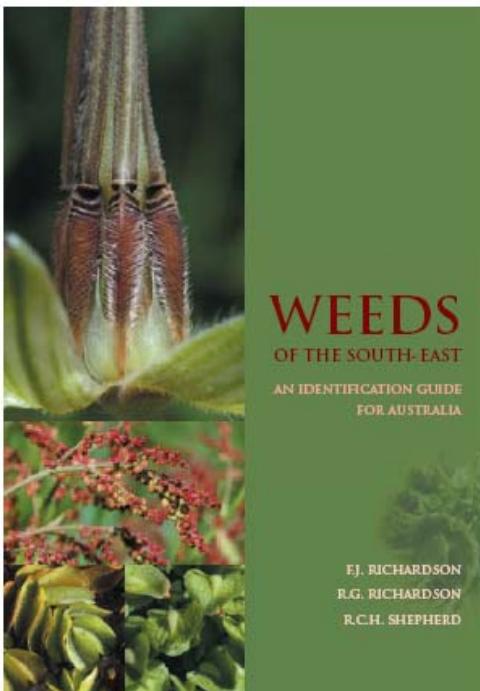
The NSW State Government has allocated **\$283,000** for the on-ground control of noxious weeds across the Riverina. 11 of the 13 submitted projects were approved for funding.

Alligator weed	\$16,000
Black willow (3 yr project)	\$20,000
Chilean needle grass	\$7,000
Coolatai grass	\$19,000
Hardhead thistle	\$2,000
Prairie Ground Cherry	\$13,000
Serrated tussock	\$5,000
Silverleaf nightshade	\$57,000
St Johns wort R&I	\$61,000
Lower Murray Darling RWS	\$48,000
RNWPO	\$35,000

Packages have been sent in the mail – once received, forward your invoices! The \$\$ have been received so get those invoices in for payment ASAP.

---

### Highly recommended resource!



\$69.95 from: [www.weedinfo.com.au](http://www.weedinfo.com.au)

# WANTED!

Our regional posters (see photos pg 7) that ERNWAG generally uses for the Henty Field Days display! They are of Aquatics, Deep rooted perennials, grasses and woody weeds. Last seen in 2006! A Coolatai grass poster has also gone missing since the last Henty Field days! Any information that could lead us to the whereabouts of these posters would be appreciated!

### Australian Weed Strategy

The Australian Weeds Strategy is a vital part of Australia's integrated approach to national bio-security. The revised Strategy maintains the policy focus of the National Weeds Strategy, taking into account changes to institutions, legislation, policies and programming that support weed management in Australia.

It takes a strategic approach and provides a framework to establish consistent guidelines for all parties, identifying priorities for weed management across the nation with the aim of minimising the impact of weeds on Australia's environmental, economic and social assets

A pdf version is available for download at <http://www.weeds.org.au/aws.htm>

# New!



## African Boxthorn & Coolatai grass weed management guides available for download (no hardcopies available) from:

[www.weeds.crc.org.au/index.html](http://www.weeds.crc.org.au/index.html)  
click on publications then weed management guides.

### \*\*\* Comings & Goings! \*\*\*

Albury – Sarah Stuart is replacing Tracy while on leave.

Lockhart – Bec Kuhne has moved up the ranks, Sarah Hill - new inspector.

Wentworth – Stephen Watts is the new weeds officer starting this year.

Balranald – Alana is the new weeds officer, started in Dec 06.

New incursions for 2007...

- Paula Ash had Taylah
- Kylie Durant had Tara
- Jodie Bartlett-Taylor had Sam
- Tracy Michael had Asha
- Steve Goodsall's wife had Britney

## Murray Catchment update

The RWS is 99% complete and waiting to be taken to the printers - it is hoped it will be printed prior to Christmas...

## Lower Murray Darling

Unfortunately while the RNWPO was on leave the implementation working group failed to have their annual meeting? This is something that will be followed up for next year and hopefully the committee will regroup and pick up where they left off. Are there any volunteers for the position of chair/secretary - to ensure this doesn't happen again??? Contact RNWPO if interested. An annual meeting doesn't require a lot of time!

## Murrumbidgee

Thank you to Birgitte Verbeek for taking the final document to the printers while Paula was on leave. As can be seen by the front page - the document has been published...! Now it is up to everyone to ensure it is implemented. Eastern Riverina Weeds Authority has already submitted a pilot project. Please contact RNWPO if you have any project ideas for the 08/09 financial year.

## Lachlan

Preliminary discussions have taken place between the RNWPO and the PO north of Riverina in regard to developing a RWS for the Lachlan Catchment. Several Riverina LCAs overlap into this catchment and we are keen to keep things consistent... stay tuned for more details in the new year.

\*\*\* Note: These Strategies are yours (Councils)! Meaning that council can endorse and or adopt the RWS as your Council Noxious Weed Strategy! \*\*\*

## Weeds biodiversity project – Bruce Auld

Despite widespread acknowledgement that alien plants (weeds) pose a major threat to biodiversity, few weed strategies are capable of reducing this threat. This is in part because there is an assumption that control alone will result in the recovery of native species. To address this, weed strategies need to include a set of control priorities that will result in the greatest reduction in the impact of weeds on native species.

It is also critical to monitor the recovery of native species following control programs to gauge the effectiveness of control and the response of the native community. However, a lack of standardised monitoring protocols has hindered efforts to evaluate the success of control programs and the response of biodiversity.

To ensure that weed management has clear conservation outcomes we need to know:

- which weeds should be controlled first
- what biodiversity is at risk and needs urgent protection
- where control will be most beneficial.

Further details on this project can be found at:

[http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/npws.nsf/Content/regional\\_weedmgmt\\_priorities](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/npws.nsf/Content/regional_weedmgmt_priorities)

or contact your local CMA. The above mentioned project will complement our existing strategies.

## Hardheads - name change

*Acroptilon repens*  
changed to *Rhaponticum repens*



A new willows brochure titled 'Willows - friend or foe?' has been developed by the National Willows Program for distribution to the broader community.



Available from:  
[www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/willows/](http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/willows/)

## Weed Resource Update bulletin – Ed 9 NSW DPI

### Free resources – new & revised

- Silverleaf Nightshade PF 237 n
- St Johns Wort PF 694 r
- Alligator weed. Can you Id it? r

The above are available from the NSW DPI website ([www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds)) or you can subscribe to the update bulletin to receive the latest order form. Email [weed.resource@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:weed.resource@dpi.nsw.gov.au) with 'subscribe' in the subject line.

'The introduced flora of Australia and its weed status' by Rod Randall

This electronic publication listing over 28,000 introduced plant species and their weed status is now available. It includes 606 Aussie weeds that have naturalised outside their native range and is an invaluable resource to everyone who cares about the Australian environment. It can be viewed at:  
<http://www.weeds.crc.org.au/publications/index.html>

## What's new at: [www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/](http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/)

There are too many newsletters & info to email out. So, if you are interested in the latest on the 20 Weeds of National Significance - click on the weed after getting into the Weeds Australia website...

### Athel Pine (Tamarisk)

- New National Coordinator Sandy Leighton, based at Alice Springs, NT.  
Ph: (08) 8951 9226  
Email: [Sandy.Leighton@nt.gov.au](mailto:Sandy.Leighton@nt.gov.au)

### Bridal creeper

- Heaps of information on Id, bio-control, other management techniques and the latest mapping info.

### Blackberry

- New National Blackberry Coordinator Penny Richards, based at DPI Frankston.  
Ph: (03) 9785 0135  
E-mail: [Penny.Richards@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:Penny.Richards@dpi.vic.gov.au)

### Boneseed

- This page has heaps of info on it, from posters, fliers, id info, distribution maps, bio-control information... all related back to individual states.
- WA eradication program
- Boneseed management manual.

### Chilean needle grass

- New CNG management brochure available
- New National Best practice management manual available now!
- New National Coordinator Kelly Snell, based at DPI Geelong. Ph: (03) 5226 4625  
Email: [kelly.snell@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:kelly.snell@dpi.vic.gov.au)

### Gorse

- Gorse threat TV Ad Spring 07.

### Serrated tussock

- Manager's Fact pack

- New National Serrated tussock Coordinator Bronwen Wicks, based at NSW DPI Goulburn. Ph: (02) 4828 6632  
Email: [bronwen.wicks@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bronwen.wicks@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

### Willows

- Best practice manual coming soon!
- Alternatives to Willows
- Willow Sawfly.
- Presentations...

## New National Weeds Website!

[www.weeds.gov.au/](http://www.weeds.gov.au/)

- About weeds
- Weed management
- How you can help
- Identifying weeds
- Grants & governments
- Publications & resources



*It is - Mexican Poppy!*

*And it has been popping up in quite a few shires recently...*

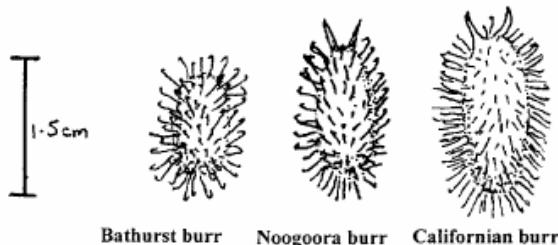


## Wanted – Californian burrs!

Louise Morin from CSIRO entomology, ACT is after about 50 mature burrs (brown & lignified) to grow plants for some tests. While you are out in the field this spring/summer, if you stumble across any Californian burrs (*Xanthium orientale*) please contact Louise on 02 6246 4355 as she is keen to get her hands on some. See pictures below to determine the difference between Californian burr and Noogoora burr.

Stems: Californian burr is similar to Noogoora burr, but does not have the purple colouring on the stems.

Leaves: Noogoora burr leaf veins are purplish, and those of Californian burr are green.



## Riverina Boneseed!

Results from the August 2007 survey "Have you seen this weed", Boneseed has been found at: Kinchega/Mungo N.P; Broken Hill - near mine dump; Daretton research station; Northern outskirts of Griffith; West of Binya; Hanwood village; Barham Township; Logging rd Tumbarumba; Pretty pine + tip; Cobb hwy north of Deni. If you know of any other sites please contact Paula ASAP. Boneseed seedling pics: J.Thorp & K.Blood



## Sagittaria mapping -

Robin Adair and Jean-Louis Sagliocco (Victorian DPI) are compiling the distribution of *Sagittaria* in Victoria and are very interested to hear from anybody with knowledge of occurrences in NSW.

The Riverina has previously mapped *Sagittaria* a few years ago and we are trying to update the information.

Even if you have previously forwarded *Sagittaria* mapping info could you please resend it to Paula ASAP (electronically or hardcopy is fine).

From NRM update - 23 Oct 2007

### Preventing Roadside Weed Seed Spread

For over 12 months, Tenterfield Shire Council has employed an innovative technique for reducing the spread of weed seed along roadsides during slashing. Adapted from a method used by Clifton Council in Qld, Tenterfield has developed an attachable blowing device that can be fitted to any council slasher. Using the hydraulic system of the tractor, a fan constantly pushes a downdraft of air towards the ground during slashing, removing weed debris and seed as it goes.

The advantage is much reduced spread of weed seeds from plants such as Coolatai Grass and Giant Parramatta Grass along roadsides. Although each blower costs approximately \$3000 to build including all attachments, their use is likely to prevent much larger future costs of weed control of species spread by tractor dispersal. Perhaps other councils might consider adopting the idea? For more information please ring Neil Rossington at Tenterfield Council on 6736 6000.

## Cross-border approach to tackling weeds

*Stuart Roberton, Catchment and Agriculture Services (Wodonga)*

A live weed display has been held at the Henty Machinery Field Days in New South Wales (NSW). Weed managers from NSW hold the annual display, which is always popular with visitors, however this year DPI was also present at the field day.

Having DPI representation at cross-border events is important as weeds don't respect state boundaries and many new weeds may enter the state from our Northern neighbours.

Visitors to Henty had the chance to ask questions, acquire information and see live specimens of high-risk weeds for Victoria. NSW Weed Officer Paula Ash was pleased to have the Victorian display of State Prohibited Weeds alongside other common weeds.

Paula said that not only are visitors to the field days getting to see what these nasty weeds look and feel like, but the NSW weed



managers can also familiarise themselves with new and emerging weeds that they haven't yet seen in the field.

Weed Alert staff are regularly on the road with their weed displays, recruiting Weed Spotters and raising public awareness of DPI's targeted weed species. If you would like to register as a Weed Spotter call 136 186 or contact your nearest Weed Alert Contact Officer.

## \*Missing posters\*

These (↓) + 3 other sets of 4 posters



## Latest Newsletters!

### Under Control No 36 - DPI Victoria

This edition focuses on aquatic and riparian weeds. Latest info on orange Hawkweed (located at Falls creek & also in NSW Alps). If you aren't familiar with your aquatics there is plenty of info on AW, Water hyacinth, parrot's feather, Willows and Sagittaria! There's also an update on the bio control of scotch broom.

[www.dse.vic.gov.au/undercontrol](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/undercontrol)

### Feral Herald - newsletter of the Invasive Species Council, Australia (Jan, April, Sept 07).

Topics have included:

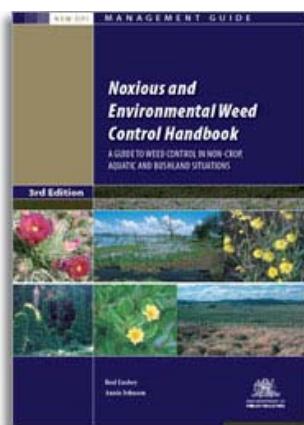
- Weeds a Catchment priority
- Biting back at bitou bush
- Pastures as weeds
- Rock snot
- Gamba grass (giant Coolatai grass)

This newsletter covers invasive animals as well as plants... definitely an interesting and informative read!

## What controls what weed?

NSW DPI puts together this fantastic publication. Most weedos have limited hardcopies. For those who don't realise, it is available for download at:  
[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds) under publications.

How to use it - look up the weed in question and if there is herbicide registered for use in non cropping areas it should be in the book! You can then print off the list of herbicides registered for the weed off the web site (above).





## Pest Management Strategies on public exhibition!

Comments are being sought on the draft Regional Pest Management Strategies for the following regions during the specified period:

South West Slopes, Snowy Mountains and Far South Coast - from 9 November to 7 December 2007

Go to:

[http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/npws.nsf/Content/region\\_pest\\_management](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/npws.nsf/Content/region_pest_management)

The Draft Riverina Strategy has not yet been finalised – details will be forwarded when available.

## NSW DPI Weeds Extranet

Attention weed professionals in NSW – if you haven't already registered to the NSW DPI extranet you need to do so ASAP! All important information for weed officers is available through the extranet and you need a log-on to be able to access it. This includes all of your grant information.... To register –

Go to: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds) at the bottom of the box on the right of the screen is “subscription information”. Click here and fill out all necessary information.



Weeds Hotline - 1800 680 244

## Aquatic weed information resources survey—on the extranet!

Melissa Freeman is the NSW Project Officer for Aquatic Weeds from the NSW DPI, and is requesting your comments on the availability and range of aquatic weed extension resources. This information will be used to determine what additional materials and resources are required to help you manage aquatic weeds.

*"We want your input. Please fill out the following questionnaire regarding the availability of aquatic weed information resources. This information will be used to prioritise the development of future extension and education resources for aquatic weed management."* This information will be used to determine what additional materials and resources are required to help you manage aquatic weeds. **Please complete the survey by Friday 14 December 2007.**

## Lucid Keys for Weed Identification

- Declared Plants of Australia
- Blackberry
- Crop weeds of Australia
- Environmental Weeds of Australia – in development! Identification tool to over 1000 major environmental weeds of Australia.

More information on all of the above – [www.cbit.uq.edu.au/software/](http://www.cbit.uq.edu.au/software/)





Annette Beer is in the process of organising 'What does your garden grow?' Train the Trainer workshops across the country. A Wodonga workshop has been pencilled in for February next year.

A series of fact sheets that will complement the 'What does your garden grow?' course focus on - Managing Garden Weeds:

- Planning tactics
- Bulbs, tubers and corms
- Creeping plants
- Plants with large seed or fruit
- Wind-dispersed plants

The above fact sheets are available from [www.weeds.crc.org.au/publications](http://www.weeds.crc.org.au/publications) (click on 'fact sheets').

For information on the 'What does your garden grow?' workshops or the fact sheets - contact Annette Beer on 02 6938 1671 or [annette.beer@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:annette.beer@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

Its official - Paula is now bossy by name!

Paula and Simon tied the knot on the 24<sup>th</sup> November at Wonga Wetlands in Albury. Paula has taken on Simon's surname being Bosse – and yes it is pronounced Bossy!

Note: the change of email address...



[pbosse@greaterhume.nsw.gov.au](mailto:pbosse@greaterhume.nsw.gov.au)

## Weaning native birds from 'strange fruit' habit. Ecos article

Australia's Weeds CRC has developed a web-based tool to help gardeners and land managers choose native plants to replace weeds with fleshy fruit, such as camphor laurel and lantana, which have become an accessible food source for native birds.

Weeds CRC project researchers say that while weeds greatly modify bird habitat by contributing to changes in fire regimes, vegetation structure and seasonal food availability, they have also become a ready food source for some bird species.



The web-based tool provides replacement native plant species for target weeds and native plant trait databases for NSW, SA, Tasmania, Victoria and south-western WA. The tool can be found at [www.weeds.crc.org.au/projects/project\\_3\\_2\\_3\\_1.html](http://www.weeds.crc.org.au/projects/project_3_2_3_1.html) Photo: Birgitte Verbeek.

**Birgitte's new contact details** - Birgitte has moved on to greener pastures (literally)! She has stepped up to a state role - Team Leader Weeds Extension and Training. The only contact details that have changed are her address and phone. Tamworth Agricultural Institute. 4 Marsden Park Road, Calala, NSW 2340. Ph 02 67631247



# Tamarix ramosissima

Sandy Leighton

In Australia there are three species of Tamarix. Athel pine is easily distinguished from the other two species, however telling the difference between *T. ramosissima* and *T. parviflora* is much more difficult. In addition to this we know from USA experience that *T. ramosissima* and Athel pine can hybridise (Gaskin and Shafroth, 2005). Given these complications it is essential to lodge specimens with your state herbarium in order to get an accurate id.

After listening to Sandy's presentation at the Biennial Weeds conference in Wollongong, Jim Balnaves (NPWS) returned to his patch suspecting he had some. His thoughts were confirmed at the recently acquired Yanga Station (location south east of Balranald). By 'some' he actually found 100s around Yanga Lake (the red outlines the infestations in the photo below right). Samples were sent off to the herbarium and it has been confirmed as Tamarix ramosissima. There appears to be two distinct generations of Tamarix with the differing heights of the plants. The photo above right is just one of the culprits!



There has been talk of holding a field day so others can familiarise themselves with this quite bizarre looking species. Stay tuned....

**Dispersal:** Reproduces by seed and vegetatively. They are highly fecund and produce masses of minute seeds (up to 600,000/mature plant of which 13,200 or 22% are viable) that are readily transported by wind. Seeds have no dormancy and are only viable for up to a week. Germination can only occur almost immediately upon reaching a moist site.

## Impacts:

- Alters river structure
- Leaf fall rusts rooves, gutters
- Shades out and out-competes local native riparian vegetation
- Concentrates salt in leaves, increasing local salinity levels via leaf fall
- 757 litres/day/mature tree OR 1.8 million litres/Ha/year



If you suspect you have any of the Tamarix – send a sample to the herbarium for accurate id!

Email Paula if you'd like more photos (fantastic photos but too many and too large in size) OR a copy of Tamarisk Id - an overview of the 3 species of Tamarisk.



## Class 5 – restricted plants NSW updates!

Gaura species – Plant sellers must have a permit to be selling this!

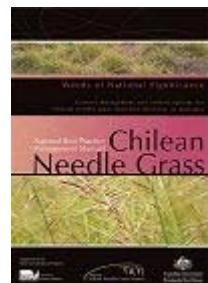


Egeria/Leafy Elodea/Dense waterweed (*Egeria densa*) – is a Class 5 noxious weed – there are no permits for continued sale!



**NSW Invasive Species plan – comments are currently being collated into the final document... stay tuned!**

**Chilean Needlegrass**  
Best practice manual available for download or in hardcopy NOW!



Management guide also available now.



Contact Kelly Snell, National Coordinator for more information. 03 5226 4625 [kelly.snell@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:kelly.snell@dpi.vic.gov.au) or download both from [www.weeds.org.au/WoNS](http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS)

### \*\*\* New RNWPO \*\*\*

No, Paula isn't leaving us – we have just found another officer to share the load! ERNWAG & WRNWAG would like to welcome Lisa Mitsch to the team.

Lisa is Riverina's Noxious Weeds Promotional Officer! Her first jobs will be the creation of a website for the two groups and some logos...

Lisa will be working Wednesdays and Fridays (Paula works Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays) from the same office. Lisa can be contacted via phone or email [LMitsch@greaterhume.nsw.gov.au](mailto:LMitsch@greaterhume.nsw.gov.au)