

WeedWise

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Newsletter of the Weed Management Society of SA



In This Issue

- P.1 From the President
- P.2 From the President cont'd and your WMSSA Committee
- P.3 20th Australasian Weeds Conference
- P.4 and P.5 Collecting Plant Specimens
- P.6 Pests Cost Us All & Electronic Weedwise
- P.7 Test your Plant ID & Best Practice Management of Opuntoid Cacti
- P.8 Membership & Events

From the President,
A new President, and a new era!

The WMSSA held its AGM on October 13th, and a new committee was formed. I am delighted to say that Phil Cramond has accepted the role of President, and also delighted that almost all of the previous committee stayed on for another term. That means that I have completed my second stint as Society President, the first being back last century when mobile phones were the size of a brick, and I had more hair! I now plan to stay on the committee for another year as Immediate Past President. I would like to thank Phil for taking on the role, and I am sure that with his wealth of knowledge and passion - especially in biocontrol of weeds - he will be well equipped to lead the Society into its future ventures.

Thank you very much also to Heidi Hodge who, after generous service on the committee, has stepped down to pursue other good works. Welcome to Mark Thomas, who has brought a new boost of ecological and weed management knowledge to the committee.

Reflecting on the last two years, I am sure that your Society has achieved a lot. Being on the committee is at the same time rewarding and frustrating. Rewarding, because of our achievements and exciting potential, and frustrating that we all have day jobs and can only do so much as volunteers! This realization has shaped our thinking - we have some core roles (e.g. S.A. Weeds Conference and Newsletter), and after that our time and energy is best applied in the roles of catalysts and innovators.

The SA Weeds Conference is alive and well, thanks to the huge effort put in by everyone to make it happen every two years. We have experimented with the format, including concurrent training sessions, and covering some allied content (e.g. vertebrate pests and biosecurity). Both of these innovations are aimed at making the conference as valuable as possible to potential delegates, who often deal with more than weeds in their roles.

The WeedWise newsletter and WMSSA website have both undergone improvements over the past two years - Leah Feuerherdt has stayed on as a very talented editor. Nicole McGuiness has similarly overseen an upgrade of our website, and is staying on to continue the good work.....
P.T.O.

WEED ARTICLES NEEDED

Would you like to contribute an article, book review or some of your technical expertise battling a weed in your patch? Is there an event you would like to publicise?

We welcome submissions for the next issue of WeedWise
by 30th January 2017

Contact: Leah Feuerherdt
Email: Leah.Feuerherdt@sa.gov.au

From the President, continued...

I am grateful to all of the committee, who continue to volunteer time from their busy lives to help us. They are an optimistic and cheerful bunch, and a pleasure to work with! I would also like to especially thank Peter Tucker (Treasurer) and Henry Rutherford (Secretary and serial volunteer). These two guys quietly do an enormous amount of background work – that we don't notice often enough what they do is a testament to their efficiency!

Where to for the future?

As out-going President I would encourage the committee to consider tracking broadly as we have been over the last year. Our Society has a healthy bank balance, due mostly to very generous volunteering. We have talented people and a good collective overview of weed issues in SA. Deciding where to apply that talent and some of the reserve funds has been a frequent topic of discussion at our committee meetings. We are aware that some of the funds must be reserved for the next SA-based Australasian Weeds Conference, and also any unforeseen contingencies.

Rather than tackle a broad portfolio of initiatives, and probably achieve mediocre outcomes, we have decided to take on one or two areas and do them well. Biological control of weeds in SA has emerged as the most likely target over the past year. We have many agents already established that are crying out to be redistributed around SA. We also have a ground-swell of weedies at the coal-face who would love to become more involved, with a little guidance from passionate and well informed bio-controllers. Our new President, Phil Cramond, is foremost amongst these, backed up by at least three other committee members who are active bio-controllers. This initiative is very timely, as Australia is experiencing a resurgence of research into biocontrol of weeds, including national projects aimed at maximizing the use of agents already established.

Good luck to the new committee. Good luck to the new President. And good luck to the future of WMSSA – please get involved – we need your help!

The AGM and your new Committee

The Weed Management Society Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday 13th October at Waite. Thanks to those of you who came along. Your committee for 2017 is made up of the following people:

President
Immediate Past President
Vice-President
Treasurer
Newsletter Editor
Secretary
Website and Publicity Officer
Comm. Member
Comm. Member
Comm. Member
Comm. Member
CAWS delegates (two)

Phil Cramond
John Heap
Leah Feuerherdt
Peter Tucker
Leah Feuerherdt
Henry Rutherford
Nicole McGuiness
Rachel Melland
Mark Thomas
Simon Fensom
David Blewett
Peter Tucker and David Blewett



The WMSSA new President, Phil Cramond

Phil has been working in the weed field for many years through the Animal and Plant Control Boards, and later the NRM Boards. Phil has particular interest and extensive experience in weed biological control, and has been involved in research and programs for species such as Salvation Jane, Lantana, Scotch Broom, and Thistles to name just a few. We think you'll agree he is very welcome member, and President to your WMSSA Committee.

Welcome also to Mark Thomas, director of Gondwana Landscapes and Consultancy who has joined the committee. Mark's business has an emphasis on designing water wise gardens and sustainable landscapes for domestic homeowner's gardens, Government and Local Government bodies, property developers, retail traders and light industry.

The guest speaker for the evening was Robert Cirocco from the University of Adelaide, who provided an update on his research on *Cassytha pubescens* - a native Australian hemiparasitic vine species. His comparative study conducted at the University of Adelaide has shown that within the laboratory environment that *Cassytha pubescens* can have significant impact on the biomass of gorse *Ulex europaeus* while having an insignificant impact on an Australian native *Leptospermum myrsinoides*. Other plants noted to have an impact on include blackberries and brooms.

Initial observations suggest that the biomass of *C. pubescens* on the pest species will die out rather than consume the bush around them. Plants germinate from seed in the soil and have 6 weeks to germinate then find a host. Plants can be grown over from one host to another then separated, which takes up to 3 months. University of Adelaide are seeking project funding to continue with this work. Biosecurity SA, and NR AMLR are all very interested in supporting field trials to find ways to get this process working as an effective management tool, and to monitor for possible negative impacts.

The next committee meeting will be held on Thursday 9 February 2017, 16:00 at the conference room at the Waite campus. Members of the Society are welcome to attend.

20th Australasian Weeds Conference 11- 15 September Perth

Several South Australian weed management professionals attended and presented at the 20th Australasian Weeds Conference in Perth in September. Presentations included:

- New and revised plant declarations in South Australia. David A. Cooke, Michaela A. Heinson and John G. Virtue
- Pairing biological control species: cochineal insects *Dactylopius* (*Hemiptera:Dactylopiidae*) with prickly pears *Opuntia* (*Cactaceae*) within the South Australian Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges. Henry C. Rutherford
- Resistance to glyphosate found in feathertop Rhodes grass populations (*Chloris virgata* Sw.) in Australia. The D. Ngo, Peter Boutsalis, Christopher Preston and Gurjeet Gill
- Silverleaf nightshade (*Solanum elaeagnifolium*) – field research on biology and management in South Australia. John W. Heap



Invasive cacti specialists at the 20th Australasian Weeds Conference. Photo courtesy M. Heinson

- Evaluating the implementation of declared pest policies – new ideas for enhancing public value. Michaela Heinson

If you would like to read more about these presentations please see the abstracts on the CAWS website at http://caws.org.au/awc_contents.php?yr=2016

Collecting Plant Specimens

Why collect a specimen?

Plant specimens are collected for a variety of reasons - to have a plant identified, to have a plant name verified, to serve as a voucher for survey or research work, for distribution records, and for general interest.

Voucher specimens are vital to ensuring casual or scientific observations on plants keep pace with any changes to their names resulting from improved knowledge of the flora. Without the specimens the quality of scientific and other research is prone to decay. Material to be preserved as permanent scientific records in a herbarium should be adequately pressed and labelled. Bear in mind that identification of plants is usually based on flowers, fruits or other reproductive structures and that it is important to make as complete a collection as possible. Inadequate material is of little scientific value as fragmentary or incomplete specimens are difficult to identify.

Pressing and lodging voucher specimens.



Preparing a plant for pressing. Image credit: South East Weedspotters handbook.

Normally specimens of flowering plants, ferns and gymnosperms are pressed and dried between sheets of newspaper (Advertiser size). Each specimen is laid out within a folded sheet, with either a field label or a collection number included within each sheet. Branches should not exceed newspaper size (c. A3 size or 450 x 300 mm) and should be spread out where possible with a minimum of overlap. Tall thin specimens (e.g. grasses or sedges) can be folded in a V or N or M shape to fit this size. Bulky parts may need splitting or sectioning. This is a good time to open out flowers to show their internal structures.

Placing a piece of corrugated cardboard between each sheet of newspaper is desirable since this helps the specimens to dry. After placing specimens in the press pressure is applied, usu-

ally by means of straps, to flatten the material. As the newspaper and air absorb moisture the plant gradually dries. Replace damp papers and provide good ventilation to avoid the specimens going mouldy. The faster the drying process the better the specimen quality.

The documentation of your collection is as important as the quality of your specimen(s). A collection without a label is of no use to anyone. Collections should be numbered, preferably sequentially, with each collection having a unique number. In this way, you can keep a piece of collection with your number attached and deposit one in the State Herbarium. Communications about the collection will be via your name and collection number.

Things to note at the time of collection:

- Date and collector(s) name(s)
- Precise locality – define as clearly as possible (e.g. 6 km SE from Swan Reach on the road to Sedan). Your information should be such that the collected plant can be re-located.

Collecting Plant Specimens, cont'd...

- Latitude / Longitude or Grid reference. Highly desirable, as is an indication of the source of the information (map or Global Positioning System) and the “geodetic datum” (GDA94 (=WGS84) or AGD66/84).

Other observations that are helpful to record include:

- How common the plant is in the immediate area (its frequency),
- Its habitat (e.g. soil type, landform, associated species),
- Descriptions about the plant (e.g. size, colours, scent, pollinators)
- and any other relevant information – local common names, ethnobotanical information, etc.

A rule of thumb is to note anything that will not be obvious on the dried specimen! Please contact the State Herbarium for clarification on any of the above requirements.

Your local NRM Officer will also be able to assist you with submitting a specimen. Find the contact details of your local officer at the following website: <http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/home>

Chris Brodie is the Weeds Botanist at the State Herbarium. He is a fantastic resource, his passion and knowledge are unequivocal, and he is always keen to receive new specimens. So if you're travelling this holiday season, perhaps consider making room for a plant press in your car, in case you see any new or interesting plants (native or exotic!).

Dried specimens may be submitted at the reception desk of the Plant Biodiversity Centre on Hackney Road or forwarded to:

The Manager,
State Herbarium of
South Australia
Plant Biodiversity Centre
GPO Box 1047 Adelaide, SA
5001.

If you have previously sent specimens to the Kent town address, please note that that old address will close for good at the end of the year.

If you would like some field labels with the new postal address, please contact Chris Brodie at the Herbarium on 8222 9468.

An example of a well pressed specimen illustrating all diagnostic features.
Image credit South East Weedspotters handbook.



Pests Cost Us All Project

Biosecurity SA (PIRSA) have been successful in obtaining funding through the Commonwealth Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper to increase the capacity of land owners to manage established pests across the State. The project will be delivered in conjunction with the 8 NRM regions and DEWNR staff.

This project will:

- improve and update the knowledge base of landholders and managers in current best practice wild dog, fox and feral cat management, through the provision of training and awareness sessions and demonstration sites. The sessions will cover trapping and monitoring techniques for wild dogs and the safe use of canid pest ejectors (CPE's). Regional demonstration sites will show the benefits of coordinated fox baiting groups and integrated feral cat control and exclusion.
- demonstrate management techniques for Opuntoid cacti, African boxthorn, Gorse and Blackberry. Information sessions will cover identification, case studies from existing control programs, chemical application methods, biological control rearing and distribution.
- limit the southern expansion of invasive grasses through the detection of outliers, providing landholders with the knowledge and skills to identify and manage these aggressive weeds. Simple strategies will be taught to prevent the introduction of new weed species, including hygiene protocols to limit regional pathways of spread (e.g. machinery washdowns) and on-farm biosecurity.
- develop and implement a best practice pest management training package for both land managers and practitioners. The package will include a series of single topic modules that can be delivered individually, or combined to suit the target audiences' needs.
- develop and implement a national biosecurity code of practice for preventing golden dodder contamination in the Australian lucerne seed industry. Such a code of practice will have two key benefits; it will protect national export markets (through farmers adopting improved detection methods) and it will build the capacity of farmers to conduct on-farm prevention and rapid eradication of golden dodder.
- reprioritise the state and regional management targets for deer management through a review of state and regional policies and procedures, and a refocussed effort on landholder education and compliance incursions.



Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*).

All NRM regions will be holding several workshops in the new year, so if you are interested to learn more about managing established pests, please either see your regional NRM website, or call Leah on 8429 0374.

Electronic Weedwise

The September issue of Weedwise was the first ever issue to be sent to members electronically. Currently there are about 10 members who have indicated on their membership form that they are happy to receive the newsletter in an electronic format, and not a hard copy in the post. Weedwise will be sent to your email address as a PDF, suitable for screen viewing. In the future we hope to be able to send you a link to the Weedwise newsletter on the WMSSA website, to avoid clogging your inbox.

The printing and postage of Weedwise newsletters costs the Society over \$500 each issue, so if you would like to assist the Society by receiving your Weedwise electronically, please call or email Leah at 8429 0374 or leah.feuerherdt@sa.gov.au.

Test your plant identification- update

In the last edition of Weedwise you may remember we asked the question about this plant's identification. Thank you to those members who contacted us with their suggestions of the plant name. We had two independent suggestions from botanists at the State Herbarium that it is *Apalochlamys spectabilis*. It has the common names of "fireweed", "native tobacco" and "showy cassinia".

It is a native species that occurs in the Kingston area, is strongly scented, and as one of its common names indicate, often lays dormant until a fire or other disturbance induces the seed to germinate. This species can appear after disturbance after not being seen for decades. The herbarium have a collection from 1970 from 5 miles north of Kingston.

Photo Credit: Peter Tucker



Best Practice Management of Opuntoid Cacti

A new project, supported by the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper Initiative, will develop a national best practice management manual for invasive opuntoid cacti. The manual will increase our understanding of management options. From September 2016, for a twelve month period, a project team will be running workshops and other engagement activities across Australia to seek input from weed managers to inform manual content.

If you would like to contribute to this project by sharing your experience and knowledge, we would love to hear from you. You can contribute by:

- Providing us with reports, publications or anecdotal information on opuntoid cacti;
- Supplying mapping data on cacti distribution;
- Attending a workshop and sharing your experience and knowledge;
- Telling us your story via phone or email, or
- Forwarding contact details of other people involved with cacti management.



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Cylindropuntia prolifera near Indulkana in the APY Lands. Photo Credit: Leah Feuerherdt

Weed Management Society of SA Membership Form

The Weed Management Society of SA Inc. was formed on 15th October 1999, bringing together people actively involved in managing weeds and researchers with interests in protecting our agricultural and natural environment. The Society is a forum to share knowledge, debate issues and generate ideas, drawing on practical weed control experience and the latest research.

New members are always welcome, or simply come along as a visitor to public meetings. The Society's newsletter *WeedWise* is distributed by mail to all financial members.

Please tick relevant boxes, fill in your contact details and send to the address below (Note: GST is not charged by the Society)

Annual Membership:

- \$30 standard, \$15 Concession/Student, free for community groups

I want to become a member of the WMSSA and would like to receive the society's newsletter *WeedWise* by: ☐ mail ☐ email

☐ I enclose a cheque for \$ ____ (payable to Weed Management Society of South Australia)

☐ I have made an electronic payment of \$ ____ to the WMSSA Account.

Account Name: Weed Management Society of SA

Institution: Peoples Choice Credit Union

BSB: 805-050 **Number:** 2378 7221 **Reference:** Your surname
Payments by electronic transfer from accounts with People's Choice Credit Union will need to use: **Account number:** 2349916,
First three letters of account name: "wee".

Name: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr

Address:

Telephone Work:

Mobile:

Facsimile Work:

Home:

Email:

Forward with payment to:

Secretary, WMSSA c/- Henry Rutherford, PO Box 517, Torrens Park, SA, 5062

Upcoming Events

Adelaide and Mount Lofty NRM
Board Meeting
15 December 2016, 1 pm
Level 10, 81 Waymouth St

ANZSEE Conference
The 99% Solution. Implementing the
Sustainable Development Goals
9-13 January 2017
University of SA, City East
Adelaide SA
<http://anzsee2017.com/>

Open Standards Healthy Country
Planning Workshop
30 Jan- 3 Feb 2017
Tasmania
[http://nrmjobs.com.au/
search?g=9869480&force=1](http://nrmjobs.com.au/search?g=9869480&force=1)

Conference: Restoring Ecological
Processes, Ecosystems and
Landscapes
7-9 February 2017
Armidale NSW
Registrations close 27 January
[http://conferencecompany.com.au/
reveconf2017/](http://conferencecompany.com.au/reveconf2017/)

Writing Clear Science Workshops
20-21 Feb 2017
Uni SA Magill Campus
[http://www.writingclearscience.com.
au/](http://www.writingclearscience.com.au/)

From all of us on the
Committee we'd like
to wish you a Merry
Christmas, and much joy
for the New Year

www.wmssa.org.au

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