

North Coast WEED READ

No. 1 APRIL 2004

Newsletter for the NSW North Coast Weeds Advisory Committee

WELCOME!!! to the 1st North Coast Weed Read.
The aim: to let you know what's going on.

We aim to circulate each April, July, September and December. Please send relevant information to the Secretary in the month before publication.

CONFERENCES / WORKSHOPS

National Coastal Conference

19–23 April 2004. Hobart. <http://www.dpiwe.tas.gov.au>

Considering fauna habitat in bush regen

28 April 2004. Aimed at local Byron landcare/community. Ph Judy MacDonald 6684 5390 or Ros Elliot 6626 7028

Monitoring and evaluation

2 May 2004. Aimed at local Tweed landcare/community. Ph Claire on 66793308 or Kate on 66725488

Managing volunteer involvement

3 May at Port Macquarie & 25 June at Brisbane. Aimed at community groups. Contact Conservation Volunteers Australia on 1800 032 501 or www.cva.org.au

Big Scrub Rainforest Day

5 Sept 2004. Rocky Creek Dam. Contact Johanna Kempff on (02) 6627 0120 or Bob Jarmin on (02) 66321473

Australian Weeds Conference 2004

6-9 Sept 2004. Charles Sturt Uni., Wagga Wagga. Info www.csu.edu.au/special/weedsconference

WEED NEWS

\$2.2million for Border Ranges

Control of vine weeds such as cats claw & madeira vine will be undertaken as part of the project to implement multi-species (97 plants, 31 fauna species, 1 endangered ecological community) rainforest recovery plans in the Border Ranges area (upper Tweed, Brunswick, Richmond & Clarence catchments). Funding is from Natural Heritage Trust Competitive Component. Implementation will be assisted by liaison between DEC, DIPNR & NCWAC.

More Noxious Weeds Guides

50,000 new copies have been printed – contact your local Noxious Weed Officer / Vegetation Officer.

Bushland Friendly Nursery Scheme

5,000 more pamphlets have been printed, and 7,000 on the way. 10,000 A2 sized posters featuring excellent photographs of all of the weeds are also available as well as STICKERS. Encourage your local nursery to join. More information contact your local Noxious Weeds / Vegetation Officer. Website www.bfns.org.au

3rd North Coast Weeds Forum

Nearly 300 people attended the combined NSW North Coast / SE Qld Weeds Forum held at Tweed Heads in February. Short proceedings from the 18 speakers are at www.northcoastweeds.org.au/ Let us know what you want to hear next time (Contact details at bottom of page).

Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority

Dr. Judy Henderson has been announced as Chair of the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority. A board of up to 6 people will be selected soon.

The Authority covers from Qld border to Hastings – the old Lower North Coast, Upper North Coast and Northern Rivers Catchment Management Board areas.

\$100million worth of resources and staff will be transferred over 4 years from DIPNR. The 1st priority of the new board will be to produce a Catchment Action Plan. The Authority will direct resources to on-ground projects incl. control of priority environmental weeds.

The NRCMA office is at 49-51 Victoria St Grafton. Smaller offices are at Murwillumbah & Armidale.

\$2.5million funding from the Australian & NSW governments was recently announced for approved projects in 2003-2004, and an indicative allocation of \$21.9million over the next 3 years (\$2004-2007).

Projects include:

- \$278,000 for “forest restoration by actively managing targeted areas of high conservation value”,
- \$195,000 for “developing property vegetation plans and rehabilitating and protecting priority ecosystems”,
- \$110,000 for “completing coastal plans and implementing priority works”,
- \$60,000 for stream bank rehabilitation of part of the Mid Tweed River”, and funding for 5 community-based facilitators / coordinators for each board area and at the Authority level.

SOME UPCOMING FUNDING

Bundaberg Rum Bush Fund

Close 10 May 2004. \$1,000 & \$5,000 grants available for community groups tackling water quality issues. Contact Landcare Australia 1800 151 105 or www.landcareaustralia.com.au

Threatened Species Network Community Grants

Close 28 May 2004. Community group projects up to \$30,000 funded to conserve nationally threatened species & ecological communities. Contact 1800 032 551 or www.wwf.org.au/tsn

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WHO'S RESEARCHING WHAT

NSW Agriculture Tamworth

Results of trials by Tony Cook & Andrew Storrie.

Cat's Claw at Rocky Creek. 3 stem injection, 3 basal bark (with diesel) treatments. Glyphosate most effective stem injected herbicide, although just adequate control & variable (larger plants harder to kill). Most basal barking treatments were extremely successful. Garlon® 600 (1 part herbicide to 60 parts diesel) was the standout treatment. Care must be taken not to apply basal barking mixture to the host tree - difficult when small tightly bound stems grow up the host tree. Large stems easier to treat. Two basal bark treatments applied at Fernmount in 2001 (Garlon® 600 & Access®). Both had acceptable results but multi-stemmed & larger plants harder to kill.

Kudzu, Bellingen in March 2002, investigated foliar herbicides (knapsack applied). 8 treatments. Assessed May 2002. Grazon® DS (50mL/10L water), Garlon® 600 (50mL/15L water) & metsulfuron methyl (Brush-off® 1g/L water) were the most effective. Glyphosate was not acceptable as it partly controlled the Kudzu but completely killed pasture (competition). 2nd application Nov 2002 to treat surviving Kudzu (it is rare that all Kudzu is controlled in the first attempt due to human error. Grazon® DS is not preferred around riparian areas & desirable shrub/tree species as it contains a fairly mobile soil active ingredient that may cause harm if taken up by the roots. Cut-stump & basal barking treatments now being studied. From initial assessments cut-stump treatments are working well & basal barking treatments need more time.



Glory Lily: Hungry Head, March 2001, 1st experiment commenced. Three basal barking & 10 foliar application treatments were applied - basal barking to the entire plant, similar to foliar applications. Basal bark application of Garlon® 600 (1 part Garlon® to 60 parts diesel) & metsulfuron methyl (Brush-off® 1g/L water) were best. Control took 3 months with metsulfuron, Garlon® basal bark was 1 month. There was rapid regrowth of seedlings & tubers within 8 months of treatment. Follow-up in February 2002 to test rates of the best 4 foliar treatments (glyphosate, Grazon® DS, Amitrole® & metsulfuron). The higher rates of all herbicides resulted in commercially acceptable control 3 months after application. Metsulfuron brownout was again slow. 9 months after application confirmed that Glory Lily survives a once off herbicide application. Contact Tony Cook on ph 02 67631250, fax 0267631222, email tony.cook@agric.nsw.gov.au

Southern Cross University

Thongsamrit, Chanwit (PhD) "GIS-based multi-criteria analysis approaches for coastal wetland management", current.

Qld NRM Alan Fletcher Research Station

Glory Lily - Michele Rogers; **Umbrella tree** - Earl Sparkes; **Eradication research** - Dane Panetta; **Weed functional group research** - Dane Panetta & Graeme Hastwell; **Bird-dispersed weeds research** - Gabrielle Vivian-Smith / Carl Gosper; Seed bank longevity for **Lantana**, **Asparagus spp.** (basket, climbing), **Ochna serrulata** & **Murraya paniculata** - Gabrielle Vivian-Smith; Tuber bank longevity for **Madeira vine**, dispersal of **Madeira vine** tubers and emergence patterns of tubers under different conditions; seed bank longevity, emergence patterns and dispersal (creek corridors) of **Cats claw creeper**, **Balloon vine** and **White moth vine**; seed bank longevity, emergence patterns of **White moth vine**; propagule buoyancy of **White moth vine**, **Cats claw creeper**, **balloon vine** and **madeira vine** (for determining capacity to be dispersed via water) - Gabrielle Vivian-Smith. Cabomba, Broad Leaf Pepper Tree - Tom Anderson; Honey Locust, Yellow Bells - Trevor Armstrong; Agent selection for biocontrol research (especially cats claw creeper, bellyache bush, parthenium weed, leucaena, prickly acacia & parkinsonian) - Raghu.

Recent publications:

- Panetta, F.D. & Timmins, S.M. (2004) Evaluating the feasibility of eradication for terrestrial weed incursions. *Plant Protection Quarterly* **19**, 5-11.
- Breaden, R & Armstrong, T. (2004) Control methods for ochna (*Ochna serrulata*) (Hochst.) Walp. in south-east Queensland. *Plant Protection Quarterly* **19**, 33-5.
- Stansbury, C.D. and Vivian-Smith, G. (2003) Interactions between frugivorous birds and weeds in Queensland as determined from a survey of birders. *Plant Protection Quarterly* **18**, 157-165.

Ochna / Mickey Mouse Bush (*Ochna serrulata*)



University of New England

Mark Trotter, PhD on Delivery of best weed management practices for meat sheep producers; Tienieke Cowan, PhD on Ecology and management of serrated tussock on the Northern Tablelands; Paul Kristiansen, PhD on Sustainable Weed Management in Organic Herb and Vegetable Production. Other projects include Competitive effects of uncontrolled weeds in chickpea i.e wireweed and vetch & Weed seed bank studies in cropping systems. Recent publication topics include Chilean Needle Grass, Coolatai Grass, Saffron thistle, sow thistle, weed competition in chickpeas & a weeds education project focused on schools. See <http://www.une.edu.au/agronomy/weeds/>

Other relevant publications

- Gosper, C.R. (2004) Fruit characteristics of invasive bitou bush, *Chrysanthemoides monilifera* (Asteraceae), and a comparison with co-occurring native plant species. *Australian Journal of Botany* **52** (i.e should be in next issue)
- Gosper, C.R. (2003) Consequences of bitou bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera* spp. *rotundata*) invasion and control on plant-bird interactions and bird communities. PhD thesis, University of Wollongong (available soon digitally through the Uni).

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National Aquatic Weeds Coordinator

Andrew Petroschevsky is the National Aquatic Weeds Coordinator. He's based at NSW Agriculture Grafton Agricultural Research and Advisory Station.

The NHT funded project will coordinate implementation of the Weeds of National Significance strategies for Alligator Weed (see below. source NSW Ag), Cabomba and Salvinia, nationwide.

Andrew's aiming to: increase linkages and information exchange between stakeholders involved in the management of these three weeds; develop and distribute extension material and programs to raise public awareness of their impacts; and improve aquarium and nursery industries cooperation and skills to better manage these weeds.



Contact him on
Ph 02 6640 1618
Mobile
0429 455 282

andrew.petroschevsky@agric.nsw.gov.au
<http://www.weeds.org.au/natsig.htm>

Bitou Bush / Lantana biocontrol update

Drought adversely affected success of many biological control agents in the last year.

Bitou bush: Leaf roller moth (*Tortrix* spp.) (right; source R.Holtkamp) mostly attacks developing flower buds. It has most promise but so far on north coast it has only established at Woolli. Headlands appear most promising. Bitou seed fly (*Mesoclanis polana*) has spread 1500km in 2 years. Significant damage in some areas but final evaluation still to be done. Bitou tip moth (*Comostolopsis germana*) established throughout range with some significant damage. Information contact local Noxious Weeds / Vegetation Officer or Royce Holtkamp NSW Agriculture 67631234.



Lantana: Qld Natural Resources Mines & Energy (NRM, ph. 1800 816 541) have produced fact sheets on major control agents. *Aconophora compressa* is a small insect that sucks the sap of woody stems. It has been released at 1500 sites in full range of lantana. Some off-target damage of the ornamental tree fiddlewood has been recorded but it

has also helped in the spread of the agent. Releases of the rust *Prospodium tuberculatum* (left; Source R.Holtkamp) have recently been released by NRM, local Noxious Weeds / Vegetation Officers & NPWS Pest Management Officers at a number of sites in moist protected areas for pink-flowered lantana. Conditions up until now have been poor for the agents.



Lantana book marks, stickers, posters and fact sheets are available from your local Noxious Weeds Officer.

Upper North Coast Catchment Management Board (UNC CMB) Environmental Weed Projects

The \$110,000 project (for 1st year) is being managed by NCWAC on behalf of the UNC CMB. Phone Tim Scanlon (02 6655 0052) for information. Contractors have commenced work. The individual projects are:

Upper Clarence Cats Claw Creeper (*Cats Claw – the worst environmental weed in the region - infests over 160km of the Upper Clarence*): Upper Clarence Combined Landcare (ph/fax 6665 3133) is coordinating control at Boomi Ck, Tooloom Ck, Yellow Ck, Little Ck, & Upper Duck Ck. Granite Borders Landcare Committee (ph/fax 6736 3500) in-conjunction with Tenterfield Shire Council is implementing control along 25.5km of the Rocky River.

Upper Bellinger Vine Weeds (*Madeira vine, balloon vine, moth vine & other vine weeds infest many parts of the Upper Bellinger incl. lowland subtropical rainforest in Bellinger River NP*): Bush repair (ph. Annika Faber 6655 4673) will do 2 controls from Justins Bridge to Orama School & 1 sweep to Homelands community.

The Celtis & Broad Leaf Pepper Tree (BLPT) programs are tree lopping projects focused on backyard trees following mapping & letter boxing by Councils / Local Weed Control Authorities. Funding has been expanded through the landholder paying 1/3, Council / Weed Control Authority paying 1/3 & this funding paying 1/3. Some landholders controlled them themselves.

Coffs Harbour & Bellinger Celtis: Contractor Valley Tree Services.

Coffs Harbour BLPT: Contractor Bellinger Valley Tree Services (ph. 6655 2692).

Woolli BLPT: Contractor Clarence Valley Weeds Authority (ph. 6643 3820). All known trees in Woolli now controlled.

Wyaliba Honey Locust (*this tree with large sharp branched spines is to be declared noxious in the North Coast region. The Wyaliba infestation is in the Upper Clarence catchment but out of the "North Coast Region"*): Wyaliba Landcare have arranged substantial in-kind contributions incl. \$1000 from NPWS Glen Innes, \$2000 from Dept. Lands & substantial time / work from the group.

The contractors are Land & Marine Management Strategies (ph. 6643 9026).



Honey Locust
Source: Qld NRM

Clarence Glory Lily

(1st priority areas Iluka Crown Reserve just south of Iluka Nature Reserve, Pipie Beach Yamba and Brooms Head). Successful contractor Land & Marine Management Strategies (ph. 6643 9026).

Coffs Harbour Glory Lily (1st priority areas Hearn's Lake, just south of Deep Sea Fishing Club & Scrub Creek Littoral Rainforest Bongil Bongil NP). Successful contractor Coffs Harbour Bush Regeneration Group (ph. 0427 562 459).

Bellingen Glory Lily (1st priority area Urunga Lagoon Littoral Rainforest): Successful contractor Earthy Landscapes (ph. 6655 9075).

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More news...

Local Government Support Officer

Nick Stephens has been appointed by the GMs of the Richmond-Tweed Council Corporation partnership to effectively engage local government in the delivery of NRM projects under the CMA. Contact Nick on 66250449 or nick.stephens@lismore.nsw.gov.au

New Richmond Landcare Coordinator

Tina Clemens is now working as a part time Landcare Coordinator (along with Bob & Johanna) with Richmond Landcare Inc. Contact Tina on (02) 6627 0119.

Lord of the weeds – school competition

Your school could win \$1000. Identify a weedy area in the school or the nearby area, suggest an appropriate management strategy & argue its merits. Registrations close 24/5/04. Closing date 27/8/04. Contact the new Education Officer at Cooperative Research Centre for Australian Weed Management on ph 0267732809, fax 0267733238, sgreiq2@pobox.une.edu.au

Wetland assessment

WetlandCare Australia, with DIPNR, has commenced assessing targeted wetlands in the Tweed, Brunswick & Richmond R. catchments. The project will identify priorities for future funding. Ph. Cassie Burns on 66270126

Envioweeds server archives

Messages from June 2002 have been archived into topics: weed literature, potential weeds, herbicides & their use, discussions & crop enviro weeds.

www.weeds.crc.org.au/main/envioweeds.html

Killing us softly – Australia's green stalkers

CRC for Australian Weed Management 2020 vision statement outlines \$286million over next 10 years needed to implement a National Weeds Action Plan. Contact Sally Vidler ph. 0883037209, sally.vidler@adelaide.edu.au

The economic impact of weeds in Australia CRC Aust. Weed Management, Tech. Series #8

This new publication estimates the economic cost of weeds and gives an economic framework to help consider the problems that weeds create. The final total figure is presented as a range of estimates from \$3,554 million to \$4,532 million, as it is impossible to estimate the single value of any impact at any given time. Recent estimates for salinity are \$200 million. Read it at:

http://www.weeds.crc.org.au/documents/tech_series_8.pdf or contact kelly.scott@adelaide.edu.au

Tweed, Byron, Ballina, Lismore, Kyogle, Richmond Valley & Copmanhurst Update

- Bitou bush is once again targeted this year with funds from FNCW, DIPNR, DLands, NPWS & Tweed Shire to conduct aerial & ground control & planting to implement local & regional Bitou Bush strategies.
- Groundsel bush continues to be a priority with the density being constantly reduced.
- Water weeds have been a problem with *Salvinia* turning up in several watercourses.
- FNCW has asked all constituents to contribute towards Camphor laurel due to a lack of state funding this year and the response has been good.
- Ballina Shire has received funding for works on *Asparagus* spp. and other environmental weeds on several lots of crown land.



- Water lettuce has been discovered and treated in 4 shire areas with all but 1 infestation being well

suppressed. (source: NSW Agriculture)

- FNCW is preparing a declaration application for *Erythrina crista-galli* with support from all major resource managers in the area. DIPNR has pledged potentially 3 years worth of funding under the CMA so hopefully the weed will receive some serious reduction in population.
- FNCW is also looking at setting up an electronic inspection system that should enable greater efficiencies in inspections as well as provide accurate mapping information of weed infestations.
- The amalgamation to form Clarence Valley Council has reduced the FNCW operational area with the loss of Copmanhurst Shire from the County. This area will now be taken over by Clarence Valley Council.

Clarence Update

- Clarence Valley Weeds Authority (CVWA) have an updated general noxious weeds policy, a new camphor laurel policy & property inspection procedures.
- CVWA staff now mapping & reducing paper work through use of hand held computers. Giant parramatta grass now mapped on all roadsides.
- Lantana biological control - 3 releases of *Falconia* & 2 of *Prosopidium* by NSW Agriculture / CVWA – to be checked this month.
- Additional funds this year for control of noxious weeds on Crown lands and reserves including implementing the Bitou Bush Threat Abatement Plan on Woolli VCL.
- Property inspections at Palmers Island, Woombah, Yamba, Lawrence (re-inspections targeting camphor laurel & groundsel bush), South Grafton, North Grafton (re-inspections targeting green cestrum), Kungala, Tallawudjah, Corindi & Eatonsville.
- Roadside control by CVWA (CVWA / RTA) of Johnson grass, red lantana & camphor laurel. Trial use of wickwiping in Tyringham-Hernani & Coutts Crossing areas.
- At Woody Head, Iluka, Sandon & Diggers Camp bitou bush, senna, lantana & glory lily being controlled by bush regen contractors for NPWS. Glory lily follow up planned soon.
- At Susan Island NPWS staff, bush regen contractors & Greencorps controlling dutchmans pipe, coastal morning glory, moonflower, moth vine, balloon vine, cats claw, trad, privets & camphor. Follow up soon.
- In Bundjalung NP, groundsel being controlled along Esk River by boat & aerial spot spray.
- In Mt Pikapene NP lantana & roadside weeds being controlled.
- In Mt Neville NR lantana has been controlled, slash pine to be controlled soon.
- At Station Creek & south of Brooms Head in Yuraygir NP slash pine has been controlled. Groundsel to be controlled by NPWS & CVWA.
- CVWA & NPWS bitou bush planning underway – plan to aerially spray Shark Bay, Bundjalung NP 1st week in June.

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Coffs Harbour City Update

- Property inspections by Council focused mainly on groundsel bush, Johnson grass, giant parramatta grass & Chinese celtis.
- Major control programs on celtis underway by Council with assistance from Upper North Coast Catchment Management Board. Inspections revealed over 40 properties with at least 1 tree – some large.



Photo 1: Celtis trunk (T.Scanlon). Photo 2: leaves & fruit. (NSW Agriculture)

- Extensive spraying of groundsel bush by Council on Council land, State Forest & rail corridors.
- Major Salvinia problems on private dams. CHCC & Bellingen SC have jointly funded a trough to breed the biocontrol agent crytobagous beetles recently obtained from the Tweed. Council also obtained a permit for spraying glyphosate 360g/L in aquatic situations.
- Spraying of GPG completed along arterial roads linking Eastern Dorrigo & other roadsides. Extensive control on private lands by Council wick-wipers including some with flupropanate / glyphosate mix as per new permit.
- Within the next couple of months Council plans to undertake an aerial survey of bitou bush, an extensive red lantana program, pre-season publicity for fireweed and giant parramatta grass publicity & planning.
- Council is commencing removal of slash pine at priority locations adjacent to natural areas.
- Glory Lily control program is continuing throughout coastal reserves. Monitoring transects established at Hearn's Lake to assess site recovery.
- Camphor laurel control program continuing within council reserves and roadsides.
- Commenced GPS mapping of locations of camphor laurel and celtis to assist with planning and reporting. The data will form a layer within Council's Arcmap.
- CH Regional Landcare ran a basic chemical user course for cut & paint on 13Mar. Now gauging interest from members re: 1 day weed ID & control workshop.
- Weed control by CHRL member groups include:
 - Coral trees being removed by contractors along Bonville Creek for Crossmaglen Valley Landcare Group project.
 - Riparian camphor laurels being controlled along Orara managed by Orara Valley Rivercare Groups.
 - Lantana, cassia and ground asparagus being controlled by Woolgoolga Main Beach Dunecare.
 - Park Beach Dunecare are hand-pulling bitou bush.

Bellingen Shire Update



- Very few roadside lantana & groundsel infestations following 3 year Council control program.
- Kudzu infestations increasing. An area inspected in

November with no kudzu had it in trees 2 months later.

- Council groundsel bush inspections / enforcement occurring in Bowraville Rd. area.
- Six of the 12 nurseries signed up to Bushland Friendly Nursery Scheme. Being supported / promoted through Bellingen Environment Centres Plant Fairs.
- 80% reduction in giant parramatta grass (GPG, right. Source David Officer) along Waterfall Way over 3 years following RTA / Council wickwiping. GPG increasing on Dorrigo plateau – to be wickwiped.
- Council is to seek noxious weed declaration of cats claw creeper (W2) and camphor laurel (W4d).
- Glory lily mapping, control trials and control programs focused on priority areas will now be more strategic and coordinated following outcome of meetings between Landcare Coordinators, groups, Council, NPWS, NCWAC & bush regenerators.
- In New England, Bellinger River & Dorrigo NPs 3rd year of mistflower control program planned soon.
- Privet soon to be controlled in Nymboi-Binderay NP at Platypus Flat & Codhole.

Nambucca Shire Update

- Council inspections for groundsel bush – scattered in Shire. A substantial infestation at Gumma Peninsular is being controlled.
- 60ha bitou bush previously aerial sprayed was recently followed up for Council by contractor on quad bike. Additional areas to be done on foot.
- 2000 trees to be planted at Nambucca Heads Beach from Black Rock to Deep Creek by Council and Ngurralla Local Aboriginal Corporation contractors.
- \$30,000 is to be spent on madeira vine control in the upper catchment following Mid North Coast Catchment Management Board funding.



Madeira vine, in flower now.

Source: Coastcare

- Council inspections and Council / land manager control of giant parramatta grass (scattered), noogoora burr (especially Thumb Creek and South Arm) and broad leaf pepper tree (Scotts Head, Nambucca Heads).
- Lantana and camphor laurel control by contractors for Council at Simpson Ridge, Rodeo Drive, Newee Creek.

The information contained in this Newsletter is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (13 April 2004). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer from the NCWAC or appropriate member organization or the user's independent adviser.

When using herbicides always read and follow the label and ensure that the herbicide is registered or there is an appropriate permit for the intended use.