

North Coast WEED READ

No.14 WINTER 2007

Newsletter for the NSW North Coast Weeds Advisory Committee

We circulate each March, June, September and December. Please send information to the Secretary in the month before publication.

Now, what's going on in weeds....

COURSES, WORKSHOPS,

CONFERENCES

ChemCert Course

10 and 17 August 2007. Lismore

Refresher course on 17th.

Ph EnviTE Phillip Reed 6621 9588

www.envite.org.au

NSW Coastal Volunteers Forum.

9-12 August 2007. Mingara Recreation Club, Central Coast. This forum replaces the former Dunecare conferences and presents an opportunity for volunteers involved in coastal management to share information. Topics such as project monitoring and reporting, invasive marine species, and dune rehabilitation plan to be included. Ph Wycare 4352 1199 or email wycare@bigpond.com.au

Queensland Landcare Conference 2007.

22-25 August 2007. Mackay. With the theme *Making a Difference*, this conference will feature fieldtrips to some of the most spectacular landscapes in the Mackay Whitsunday region. Keynote speakers will be Dr Peter Oliver, long time landcarer and researcher, Bobbie Brazil Chair of the Australian Landcare Council and Kim McKay, co-founder of Clean up Australia. www.landcare.org.au/Conference.htm

National Bitou Bush and Boneseed Forum

27-29 August. Geelong, Victoria. This Forum will bring together scientists, land managers and community members to discuss and assist in determining future research directions and priorities for national management of bitou bush and boneseed. Includes a field trip to the You Yangs National Park. Registration closes August 3rd. Ph. Hilary Cherry 9585 6587 DECC. www.weeds.org.au/WoNs/bitoubush/

Big Scrub Rainforest Day

9 Sep 2007. Rocky Creek Dam. Learn about the big scrub and maintaining biodiversity into the 21st century. Big Scrub Rainforest Landcare Group. Ph Kerri Francis 6627 0114.

9th International Conference on the Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions

17-21 September 2007. Perth, WA.

This conference will cover topics such as ecological, biological and biogeographical studies on invasive plants, the management of plant invasions, preventing new incursions, legislation and education. Ph (08) 9389 6906 or visit www.congresswest.com.au

14th Biennial NSW Weeds Conference 2007

24-27th Sep 2007. Uni of Wollongong. The conference will focus on a wide range of issues including new and emerging weed threats and new advances in weed technology. Ph Susan Fleming, Event Coordinator 9368 1200 www.weeds2007.com.au

Biodiversity Issues in Byron Shire

29 September. Brunswick Valley Landcare. Ph Georgie Beyer 6626 7028

ChemCert Course

5 and 12 October 2007. Lismore

Refresher course on 12th.

Ph EnviTE Phillip Reed 6621 9588

www.envite.org.au

ChemCert Course

19 and 26 October 2007. Lismore

Refresher course on 26th.

Ph EnviTE Phillip Reed 6621 9588

www.envite.org.au

State Landcare Awards

25-27 October. Tamworth. The forum theme is "Confronting our future". There will be a diverse range of speakers and a highlight will be the presentation of the NSW Landcare awards. Award nominations must be received by 17th August. More info from www.landcareonline.com or Ph 131 555

New South Wales Coastal Conference

7-9 November. Yamba Bowling Club, Yamba. The theme this year is "The Tide is High" with discussion of coastal pressures, climate change and sustainability. The conference usually attracts about 250 delegates from all tiers of government, community groups, consultants, planners and engineers. There are also trade displays. For more detail ring Richard Hagely 6627 0106 or visit www.coastalconference.com

All communications to the Secretary

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Fax (02) 6642 4496

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www.northcoastweeds.org.au

Melaleuca Wetlands

24 November 2007. Brunswick Valley Landcare.
Ph Ph Georgie Beyer 6626 7028

16th Australian Weeds Conference
“Weed Management 2008- hot topics in the Tropics”. 19-22 May 2008. Cairns Convention Centre, Qld. This conference will showcase recent advances in weed science, extension and policy across Australian and international communities and landscapes. The program includes speakers, posters and trade displays. Hosted by the Weed Society of Queensland. See www.16awc.com.au

W E E D N E W S

PREVENTING ROADSIDE WEED SEED SPREAD

For over 12 months, Tenterfield 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 (02) 6736 6000.

9th QUEENSLAND WEED SYMPOSIUM – A SUCCESS!

This symposium, “The Weed Challenge From Awareness to Action”, was held at the Holiday Inn, Surfers Paradise from 3-6 June 2007. The weather held off for the Sunday night drinks and a brief shower did not dampen spirits just prior to the welcome reception on Monday night. The rain held off for the three field trips on Tuesday: coastal & aquatic, hinterland riparian and pasture and production. Then the rain came down in bucket loads on Wednesday while the delegates being in inside with the only dampener being a leaking roof.

Keynote speakers Rachel McFadyen and Rosemary Joseph opened the Symposium on Monday followed by five sessions covering prevention & early detection, rapid response and eradication, control & management, evaluation & monitoring and future directions. Talks included nursery & garden industry strategies, weed research updates and a case study of after Cyclone Larry. Thirty posters were also on display. Three hundred and twenty nine delegates attended.

The 10th Qld Weeds Symposium will be held at Rydges Capricorn Resort Yeppoon in 2009. For more info email: trudy.baker@fitzroyshire.qld.gov.au

Thanks to Chris Love, Chairman, Weeds Society Qld for providing info on the Weed Symposium

SOME UPCOMING FUNDING

Exchange Incentive Fund

A small grants fund (usually about \$5000) designed to help regional practitioners manage their natural resources by increasing their access to current knowledge and research on native vegetation and by generating new knowledge through links to relevant researchers and organizations. Funds are available to regional groups for events or activities to be carried out before Jan 2008. Matched funding or in-kind support is required. This fund is managed by Greening Australia & Land and Water Australia. Ph Penny Atkinson on 1300 886 589 or visit www.lwa.gov.au/apply_for_funding

Working on Country

This program will create employment opportunities for indigenous Australians to provide environmental services in regional areas. This program will invest \$47.6 million over the next four years, starting with \$5.65 million in 2007/2008. Keeping Country Healthy projects include projects that focus on Threatened species, ecological communities and their habitats, major environmental weeds and wetlands. Funding is available for wages, administrative costs, some travel costs and materials. Projects must be on indigenous held lands. Contact (02) 6274 2939 or visit www.environment.gov.au/workingoncountry

Coles Group Community Funds

This Fund was established in 2006 and provides funds of between \$5000 - \$50,000 for projects run by charitable organisations. The aim is to build healthier communities. One of the priority areas is the Environment, with a focus on education and awareness. Applicants must be Deductible Gift Recipients and have Tax Concession Charity Status. The closing date for Round 2 in 2007 is 31st August. Ph 03 9829 4434 or visit www.colesgroup.com.au

Australia Post Community Development Grant
Funding for any community group, including landcare, youth and indigenous groups for environmental projects. Yearly grants of up to \$3,3000 (incl. GST) are offered. Next closing date 14 Sept 2007. www.landcareonline.com.au

Westpac Operation Backyard

Grants generally up to \$5,000. Eligible projects may receive 100% of the costs of the environmental materials. The project must be nominated by a Bank staff member or in-store operator, involve Bank staff as volunteers and must be supported by the local community. No closing date.
Email: community@westpac.com.au

- WEED WARNING -

CHINESE VIOLET

Asystasia gangetica subsp. micrantha



The two parallel purple stripes within the white flower are a distinctive feature

Source: Sharyn Ryan-Hancock

Chinese Violet is a serious environmental weed, a perennial creeper that grows rapidly to 3m high when supported and smothers other ground plants. This species, originally from India and Africa, is on the National Alert List for Environmental Weeds and is listed as a Key Threatening Process in NSW.

Chinese Violet grows in tropical and subtropical areas, being a serious weed in Indonesia, New Guinea and the Pacific Islands. Currently, known Australian infestations are located in the Port Stephens area, however it has also been found on sites in Newcastle and Maitland. This species has been found growing on residential land including fence-lines, along roadsides and in bush and agricultural areas. Early detection of any new infestations on the north coast is crucial.

Chinese Violet has scattered hairs on both leaves and stems. The leaves are oval-triangular, in opposite pairs, paler on the underside and 2.5 to 16cm long. The flowers are white, bell shaped with distinctive purple blotches in two parallel lines inside. The seed capsules are 3cm long and guitar shaped. This species reproduces by seed, which are released explosively. Trailing stems also take root when nodes touch moist ground. The main outbreaks in NSW are believed to have been caused by dumping of garden waste, but it can also be spread by roadworks and mining.

The *Noxious Weeds Act* 1993 has listed Chinese Violet as a Class 1 weed throughout NSW. As a notifiable weed all outbreaks must be reported to the local council within three days. The Act requires that any infestations of this species must be eradicated. If you have seen this plant, please report it to your Council Weeds Officer or NSW Department of Primary Industries for positive identification. Control is by a combination of herbicide (broad-leaf), hand pulling and mulching. Plant fragments must be bagged to prevent spreading. Soil should not be moved from an affected site. Seek advice from your local weed authority.

Chinese Violet Eradication Program

Funding from the Federal and State Governments is allowing Port Stephens Council to co-ordinate a project to eradicate a relatively new weed, Chinese Violet, from the region. Project Officer, Sharyn Ryan-Hancock is involved in identifying the outbreaks, mapping and treatment of this plant, community awareness and education involving community groups, landholders and other interested individuals. If you do detect this weed, please contact Sharyn at Port Stephens Council on (02) 4980 0392. Further information can be found at www.portstephens.local.nsw.gov.au/environment



Thank you to Sharyn for providing information on Chinese Violet.....

NEW BOOKS, CD-ROMs etc HOT OFF THE PRESS!!!

Nambucca Valley Vegetation and Planting Guide: Local native plants and weeds. 2007. A guide to native plant species suitable for the region and a list of environmental weeds that should not be planted with recommended alternatives. There is also a larger section with suggested replacement species for camphor laurels and the fruiting times of these alternatives. Noxious weeds are also listed for the Nambucca District. A very useful resource book! Compiled by the Nambucca Valley Conservation Association and Nambucca Valley Landcare with funding from the NRCMA. Available from Nambucca Shire Council (free). Ph 6568 2555

Plant species first recognized as naturalized for NSW in 2002 & 2003, with additional comments on species recognized as naturalized in 2000-2001. Published 2007. By John Hosking, Barry Conn, Brendan Lepschi and Clive Barker. In volume 10 of the Royal Botanic Garden's journal *Cunninghamia*. This interesting article contains information on the distribution of 71 taxa that have been newly recorded as naturalizing. The definition of naturalized used in the article is a non-native taxa that has reproduced in the wild for at least one generation. The list includes species that may become problematic in our region in the future such as the Golden Trumpet tree *Tabebuia chrysotricha* which has been recorded as naturalized at Bellingen. This paper contains detailed descriptions of each locality. Available on the web at: www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au (choose the following links: publications, *Cunninghamia*, search *Cunninghamia* pdfs (use "naturalized"), choose Cun101139Hos.pdf)

USEFUL RESOURCES

** Chemical Spray Book



Features 50 duplicate pages for recording chemical spraying. Includes time, area, reason, equipment, chemicals used, weather conditions, safety checklist.

Available from www.landlinks.com
Or phone CSIRO Publishing on (03) 9662 7666

** **Austalian Seeds: A Guide to their Collection, Identification and Biology. 2006.** Luke Sweedman and David Merritt. This is the first complete guide to the collection, processing and storage of wild seed.



This book is an excellent contribution to plant conservation and habitat restoration.

Although it has a leaning towards WA, it still provides valuable information for anyone interested in seed collecting, seed banking and seed germination. Information on pre-germination treatment and germination times is provided. Has over 1400 colour images. Available from www.landlinks.com
Or phone CSIRO Publishing on (03) 9662 7666

Tweed, Byron, Ballina, Lismore, Kyogle & Richmond Valley LGA (Far North Coast Weeds area) update

Autumn was a busy period for Far North Coast Weeds with two new Class one aquatic weeds identified. With winter nearly over council is currently completing its Bitou bush and Weedy Sporobolous programs in preparation for our spring focus on aquatic weeds. Far North Coast Weeds staff with the assistance of the NSW department of Primary Industries have identified an infestation of the Class one Noxious weed Olive Hymenachne (*Hymenachne amplexicaulis* (Rudge) Nees). Far North Coast Weeds have been successful in obtaining funding through the Defeating the Weeds Menace program for the management of Hymenachne on the North Coast of NSW. Funding obtained through this program have been utilised in undertaking initial herbicide treatments and will enable the effected landholders to replace the Hymenachne with water couch (*Paspalum distichum* L.). Inspections undertaken by Far North Coast Weeds Staff have to date identified 52 hectares of Hymenachne effecting 943 hectares or 23 individual land parcels in the Far North Coast Weeds area.

After attending an early detection training program for aquatic weeds, council staff were convinced of a possible sighting of the Class one weed East Indian Hygrophila (*Hygrophila polysperma* (Roxb.) T. Anderson). Positive identification at the time was not possible due to the lack of a flower on any specimens. As this weed had never been

recorded as flowering in Australia, Far North Coast Weeds sought funding assistance to employ a project officer from the NSW DPI to undertake a survey to map the extent of the weeds infestation. With the funding application being successful, council was able to employ a project officer to assist. On learning that East Indian Hygrophila has been recorded as flowering in Florida during the autumn months FNCW staff made additional efforts to locate flowers and a flowering specimen of the suspect weed was found and sent to the botanic gardens for identification. A positive identification was made and council's staff have been credited in detecting the flowering of this species - a new record for Australia! The diligence of council's staff in their determination and ability to identify these new noxious weeds should be acknowledged and shows the high level of skill and dedication they have for this often frustrating job of weed management.

Clarence Update

Co-ordination

Applications have been submitted for a wide range of projects through the Noxious Weeds Office, particularly through NSW DPI, NR CMA, and Envirofund. Existing plans and strategies developed through the NCWAC and Council provide the background for funding requirements.

Staff have been engaged in improving property inspection procedures, through working on improving the efficiency of mapping and administration back in the office.

Preparation of a paper on 'Successful Early Intervention of Broad Leaf Pepper Tree' with Rod Ensby (NSW DPI) on behalf of NCWAC – presentation to Queensland Weeds Conference in June.

Also managed the development of the Pesticide Notification Plan for Council, and a Coastal Vegetation Rehabilitation Strategy and Riparian Strategy for Council – involvement through mapping of weeds infestation.

A display on noxious and environmental weeds was provided at Lawrence AgFair – use of Noxious Weed Van. There is an ongoing need for upgrade of extension materials and the van itself required – for committee consideration.

A weekly section in the *Daily Examiner* is now dedicated to Environmental issues – weed related articles to be included regularly, with coastal weeds and groundsel bush promoted.

Meetings attended included:

On behalf of NCWAC:

- Parthenium weed Taskforce, Wollongbar
- Cross Regional Weeds Project/Riparian Weeds Program with NR CMA.

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On behalf of CVC:

- North Coast Weeds Officers meeting – March 2007
- Lantana workshop – weed management manual - Brisbane

Extension/publicity included:

- Weed identification for landholders as required

Inspectorial

Inspections carried out for Aquatic weeds and Black Willow sites – various throughout Clarence, and *Hygrophila polysperma* sites in Nana Glen with CHCC staff.

New inspections have been undertaken through the Woodford Island – South Arm, Lilydale, Upper Copmanhurst, Glenreagh and Rushforth areas. Reinspections carried out as required, particularly incidentals and aerial inspections in various area for Groundsel bush.

Staff retrained in AQF4 Smarttrain – Chemical Risk Management

Tally

Quarter 3 – January to March 2007 - 319 inspections and 384 reinspections
(105 clean, 351 weeds found, 246 clearance, 14 Sec 18 notice, 0 Sec 20 notice)

Total for year – 1884 inspections (95% rural properties, 5 % urban properties inspected)

Operational

Groundsel bush control on roadsides and aerial work – Pillar Valley. Celtis control by Bush Regen staff along Pacific Highway, Tyndale. The use of contractors and APS casual staff is adopted as a means of fulfilling our weed control requirements. Pacific Highway and other major arterial roads had noxious weed infestation addressed during this period.

Weed control for this quarter included:

- Blackberry (2 days)
- Camphor laurel (10 days) – roadside control
- Croftons Weed (2 days) – roadside infestations
- Green Cestrum (2 days)
- Giant Parramatta Grass (5 days) – fluproponate spraying in targeted areas
- Groundsel bush (20 days) – roadside infestations as required
- Mother of Millions (1 day)
- Mysore Thorn (1 day)
- Red Flowering Lantana (20 days)
- Privet – roadside infestations controlled (1)
- Salvinia and Water Hyacinth (1 day)
- Tecoma (1 day) – roadside infestation controlled

Upcoming work

Bitou bush control – through TAP funding + aerial control with assistance with Park Air helicopter

DECC – (from CLARENCE Office)

- Groundsel bush work in the Esk River area, Bundjalung NP remote area work, boat and walk access only.
- Bitou bush program – planning & implementation at Bitou Bush TAP sites throughout the region, planning and preparation for winter aerial control
- Bush Regeneration works in Coffs Coast Regional Park, Bundjalung NP, Clarence Estuary NR, Moonee Beach NR, Valla NR, Jagun NR, Yarriabinni NP
- Targeted programs - Mistflower New England NP, privet Dorrigo NP, lantana Guy Fawkes River NP Chaelundi NP blackberry New England NP Cathedral Rock NP Guy Fawkes River NP Chaelundi NP

A paper about five years of Bitou bush control at Sea Acres NR to be delivered at the National Bitou Bush and Boneseed Forum at Geelong workshop.

NSW DPI - GRAFTON WEEDS UNIT

Hygrophila polysperma, was recently found in the Coffs Council area, in the Orara River a tributary of the Clarence. Coffs Council staff have manually removed about 30 square metres of weed from the stream and treated some terrestrial material on the banks with herbicide. This is the third infestation found in the region this year. It was previously detected in the Tweed and Richmond Rivers. It appears *H. polysperma* is still being promoted and sold in retail outlets for aquarium uses, which is illegal as it is a Class 1 noxious weed. Keep an eye out for it, particularly Weeds Officers on routine pet and aquarium shop inspections. See the East Indian Hygrophila Weed Alert at: <http://www.agric.nsw.gov.au/ap/weeds/>



Source: DPI website. *Hygrophila polysperma* has creeping stems that grow both above and below the water

Noxious and Environmental Weed Control Handbook

has been completed and is available from the NSW DPI Bookshop in Orange or can be viewed on the DPI website.

Alligator Weed best practice manual has been released as a first draft for comment. Those interested in Alligator weed management, please contact Elissa van Oosterhout at Grafton DPI for a copy.

Aquatic Weeds Early Detection program has held a number of identification training workshops. Project Officer, Fiona McPherson will be running workshops in the region for Weeds Officers and support staff during June and July. DPI will consult with the committee to determine suitable locations and dates. A limit of 15 people can attend initial training courses; we hope to run follow-up training later in the project. The Identification training course links with the aquatic weed early detection procedures that hopefully all Councils have adopted into their inspection programs. This Australian government Defeating the Weed Menace funded project aims to work with Councils, water authorities and community groups to promote the early detection of Aquatic Weeds.

- **W E E D W A R N I N G** -

EAST INDIAN HYGROPHILA

Hygrophila polysperma



Source: Arjan, Netherlands

East Indian Hygrophila, also known as Indian Swamp Weed, is a plant that has the potential to become a serious weed of freshwater lakes, ponds and dams in northern coastal NSW. Preferring warmer climates, this fast growing and spreading plant shades and out-competes other submerged plants. Listed as a Class 1 noxious weed in NSW, any infestations must be eradicated. In the past this species was sold by the aquarium trade, but this is now illegal.

Originating from South-east Asia, East Indian Hygrophila has become a serious aquatic weed in the United States. This species has been found in the Caboolture River in south-east Queensland and in the Tweed and Richmond Rivers on the North Coast of NSW. Recently, an infestation has been identified on the Orara River, which is a tributary of the Clarence.

This species grows mostly as a submerged plant but may grow as an emergent in shallow water. As an emergent it typically grows to 50cm high and the shoots form dense floating mats. Underwater the stems can be 2m long. The leaves can be bright green, brown or reddish. They are about 8cm long, elliptical, have pointed tips, white hairs and grow in opposite pairs. Submerged leaves are longer than emergent leaves. Flowers are blue-ish white and about 6mm long. Infestations may have originated from dumping of aquarium contents into waterways. Stem fragments are transported by boats and fishing gear.

As a Class 1 notifiable weed all outbreaks must be reported within three days. If you have seen this plant, please report it to your Council Weeds Officer or NSW Department of Primary Industries for positive identification.

Coffs Harbour Update

Inspectorial

Ninety preliminary S18 Notices were issued over the last three months with the principal weeds targeted being Groundsel Bush, Yellow Bells and Broad Leaf Pepper Tree. All properties have been re-inspected and those owners not complying were issued with S18 Notices.

A significant number of phone calls and letters were received about vine weeds, particularly Madeira Vine and Ipomoea species impinging on private property from Council land. Spraying is not the best method of control in many situations and complete removal and poisoning is preferred alternative.

A recent meeting between NPWS and Council saw the development of a draft Coffs Coast Regional park Operational Working Agreement. The objectives of this agreement are:

- To ensure the efficient management of weeds and pests within the park
- That all responsibilities and objectives are met
- To set clear communication channels for complaint resolution
- Set clear standards and guidelines for weed and pest control work

Operational

Hygrophila polysperma – Grafton DPI staff recently found a submerged infestation in the Orara River at Nana Glen.

Salvinia - – re-infested areas on Council drainage easements at Korora continue to be a problem. These areas have been regularly re-sprayed. As it is a very shady and cool area Cyrtobagous has not been released.

Groundsel Bush – two large infestations satisfactorily controlled by helicopter but significant germination from seed is expected. Another large infestation north west of Nana Glen has been slashed with a view to boom spraying re-growth early in 2008.

Roadside Noxious Weeds – using a mix of Grazon DS and Brushoff has seen the successful control of Groundsel Bush, Crofton Weed and lantana. Johnson Grass has also been sprayed in many areas along the Pacific Highway.

Siratro and **Phasey Bean** were also sprayed as part of a horticultural improvement program financed by the R.T.A. on the highway south of the city.

Reserve Weed Control - targeting Groundsel Bush, Crofton Weed, Yellow Bells and lantana species. Program commenced and will continue for several months.

Kudzu – further control work carried out both by a contractor and Council staff has seen significant gains being made.

Future Activities

- Aquatic weed survey with Fiona McPherson (Grafton DPI) to be conducted in late May
- On-going removal of rural roadside Camphor Laurel with some preference given to isolated trees and where landowners have commenced their own control program
- Bitou Bush spraying to commence in the State Park where over fifteen years of aerial and ground spraying now has this weed at very low levels with native species now forming very dense vegetative covers.
- Reserve weed control on-going including removal of Yellow Bells and Chinese Celtis
- V.C.L. weed control in various locations throughout the city
- Joint inspection with DEC in CCPR to assess Bitou and develop control program for winter this year

Bellingen Shire Update

- Ian Turnbull has a new role in BSC with broader responsibilities
 - A new part-time weed inspector has been appointed. Welcome Ken Hayes!
 - There have been ongoing programs in Coastal Weed control using external funding
 - Roadside weed control has continued as required
 - Roadside Camphor Control has been carried out, funded through the Conservation Levy
 - Presentation made to APGA
 - Ian Turnbull attended a Bitou Bush meeting in Launceston and a Lantana meeting in Darwin
- Ian has published a paper on Madeira Vine in the Plant Protection Quarterly

Nambucca Shire Update

Inspectorial activities

Inspections were routinely performed throughout many areas of the Nambucca Shire in the first quarter of 2007. Many adjoining properties in the Newee Creek, Irvines Road and Tewinga areas of the Shire were found to have mature Groundsel Bush infestations, with many land holders not meeting their requirements for the control of this Class 3 Noxious Weed. Isolated infestations of Groundsel bush have also been identified throughout other areas of the Shire, with appropriate follow up inspections and action taken to prevent the spread of this invasive weed to adjoining properties.

Other declared Noxious weeds identified on both public and private lands during January to March included:

- Salvinia – four farm dams that were previously free of this weed were found to be infested in different areas of the Shire. Previously known infestations were inspected and evidence suggested that previous weevil releases in these water bodies were still active and having an impact on the Salvinia population.
- Water Hyacinth – this water weed was found to be growing on three dams within private lands

and follow-up inspections are planned to ensure treatment techniques employed by landholders are effective in the control of this invasive weed to prevent spread to neighbouring water sources.

- Yellow Bells – an infestation was located and treated in the Taylors Arm area within a council roadside reserve, with many other infestations identified throughout urban areas within the Shire.
- Broad Leaf Pepper Trees – located in the coastal townships of Scotts Head, Nambucca Heads and Valla Beach. Seedlings or small trees were mostly identified, with three mature trees found in private lands and two mature trees within public reserves in the hind dune area of Nambucca Heads.
- Giant Rats Tail Grass – three known infestations were re-inspected, with a dairy producer having mixed success with control because of the limitations placed on the use of flupropanate based herbicides.
- Noogoora Burr – infestations were mainly located along creek lines in the Taylors Arm, Missabotti and Buckrabendinni areas, with some land managers requiring Section 18a notices being issued before control was implemented.

Other weeds of significance that were observed included Glory Lily in the coastal dune system in the Scotts Head and Nambucca areas. Coolatai grass is slowly spreading throughout many roadside reserves throughout the Shire, with many landholders showing concern about this invasive grass species.

All nurseries and aquariums were inspected in the first quarter of 2007. It was found that the aquarium traders within the Shire are aware of their responsibilities with regards to water weeds and all were found to be purchasing aquatic plants from reputable sources, although some complaints were made about the recent declaration of Elodea.

Total. No. inspections	228
No. letters requiring control (Sect 18A)	9
Section 18 – Notice to Control	11
Section 20 - Enforced Control	1
Total area inspected (hectares)	14362
Total area weed affected (hectares)	591

Completed works

Ongoing Groundsel Bush control was implemented on all reserves within the Shire, with mainly seedlings observed. Camphor laurels were successfully treated using foliage spray for seedlings and stem inject techniques for mature plants in many areas of the Shire, with great success. Isolated Noogoora Burr infestations were also treated within the Council reserve system.

Other weeds treated in the Nambucca Shire throughout the first quarter of the year included lantana, privet, Giant Parramatta Grass, Giant Rats Tail grass and Yellow Bells. Coolatai grass was also treated as discovered, although this invasive grass species is proving to be extremely difficult to control.

Projects

A Camphor laurel control program in the Deep Creek catchment (Valla) has been widely adopted by many landholders, with many dead or dying stands of Camphor visible within many private lands. This is a joint project with the local Landcare and the Catchment Management Authority, with many landholders calling the Nambucca Weeds Officer for advice on effective control techniques.

A Doctorate Student from the University of Queensland visited to obtain samples of biological control agents that may have an impact on Groundsel Bush. Species were collected from a known site of mature plants and the student expressed a desire to return next year to take more samples and data, but this may be difficult as the land owner has been instructed to eradicate the infestation.

Ongoing works have been conducted by weed control contractors in the Taylors Arm / Thumb Creek area on vine weeds, through ongoing funding by the Catchment Management Authority. This has been adopted by many landholders who are slowly beginning to take ownership of weed control within treated areas that were previously inaccessible.

FUTURE PLANS

- Control of Bitou Bush and Glory Lily infestations within reserves along the coastal fringe
- Ongoing weed control programs of weeds within roadside reserves
- Control of Mysore Thorn infestations in the Bowraville area to prevent the spread of this invasive weed species via the river system that is located within close proximity

The information contained in this Newsletter is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing / compiling (6 August 2007). However, because of advances in knowledge, readers 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.