

# North Coast WEED READ

No. 12 SUMMER 2006

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**

23 February and 2 March 2007. Lismore  
Phone EnviTE Yasmin Kranz 6621 9588  
[www.envite.org.au](http://www.envite.org.au)

**Soil Health.** 26 Feb, 5, 12 March + 3 days 2007.  
Casino/Kyogle. Free classes in soil health,  
delivered by TAFE. Program includes talks,  
notes, field trips. Classes consist of six one-day  
workshops. Richmond Landcare Inc. & TAFE.  
Jackie Luethi 6626 1329, Tony Walker 0247485  
910

### **Pasture and Grazing Management Workshop.**

27 Feb – 1 March 2007. South Grafton Ex-  
Services Club. This three day workshop covers a  
variety of topics relating to pasture management  
including reducing/managing the impact of  
weeds. Clarence Landcare 6643 5009.  
[landcare@ceinternet.com.au](mailto:landcare@ceinternet.com.au)

### **SoilCare Expo.** 28 Feb 2007 NSW DPI, Wollongbar.

The focus of the expo is on soil, soil health and  
sustainable land management. Topics include  
ground covers, management of run-off,  
stabilising stream banks, protecting waterways,  
soil health, sustainable agriculture. Includes a  
carbonSMART workshop which is a new service  
that offers landholders an income for growing  
and maintaining vegetation on their land. Visit  
[www.soilcare.org.au](http://www.soilcare.org.au) or phone  
SoilCare/Richmond Landcare Inc. Jackie Luethi  
6626 1329

### **Workshop on the Rehabilitation and Management of Disturbed Native Vegetation**

14-15 March 2007. Coffs Ex-Services Club,  
Coffs Harbour. This workshop focuses on  
increasing the knowledge and skills required to  
undertake ecological rehabilitation and  
management of disturbed native vegetation.  
There will be a mix of presentations by  
experienced rehabilitation practitioners and visits  
to field sites. Themes include planning, site and  
vegetation assessment, soil health, provenance,  
monitoring and applying ecological principles to

rehabilitation. Registrations close 2 March.  
Phone the Australian Network for Plant  
Conservation 6250 9509 or visit  
[www.anpc.asn.au](http://www.anpc.asn.au) for more information.

### **ChemCert Course**

23 March and 30 March 2007. Coffs Harbour  
Phone EnviTE Yasmin Kranz 6621 9588  
[www.envite.org.au](http://www.envite.org.au)

### **Northern Rivers Region Landcare Forum,** 29-31 March 2007. South Grafton Ex-Services Club.

*Landcare Farming: Meeting the Challenge.*

This forum will provide a venue for farmers, land  
managers, Landcarers, consultants, students  
and other interested parties to share ideas about  
sustainable management of natural resources.  
There will be presentations, field trips and  
workshops. Key Note speakers: John Williams,  
Natural Resources Commission and Gary  
Zimmer, Educator and Biological Farmer and  
Mary White on historic climate change. The  
forum also hosts the Northern Rivers region  
Landcare Awards. Landcare and Northern  
Rivers CMA. Phone Kerri Francis 6627 0114,  
Lindy Brown 6561 4962 or Julie Mousley 6643  
5009. [www.northern.cma.nsw.gov.au](http://www.northern.cma.nsw.gov.au)

**Soil Health.** 16, 23, 30th April 2007 + 3 days  
tba. Clarence/Upper Clarence. Free classes in  
soil health, delivered by TAFE. Program includes  
talks, notes, field trips. Classes consist of six  
one-day workshops. Richmond Landcare Inc. &  
TAFE. Jackie Luethi 6626 1329, Tony Walker  
0247485 910

### **ChemCert Course**

20 and 27 April 2007. Lismore  
Phone EnviTE Yasmin Kranz 6621 9588  
[www.envite.org.au](http://www.envite.org.au)

### **Soil Health.** 21, 28 May, 4<sup>th</sup> June + 3 days 2007.

Hastings/Macleay. Free classes in soil health,  
delivered by TAFE. Program includes talks,  
notes, field trips. Classes consist of six one-day  
workshops. Richmond Landcare Inc. & TAFE.  
Jackie Luethi 6626 1329, Tony Walker 0247485  
910

### **ChemCert Course**

25 May and 1 June 2007. Coffs Harbour.  
Phone EnviTE Yasmin Kranz 6621 9588  
[www.envite.org.au](http://www.envite.org.au)

All communications to the Secretary

NSW North Coast Weed Advisory Committee, Locked Bag 23, GRAFTON NSW 2460

Phone (02) 6643 3820

Fax (02) 6642 4496

E-mail: [reece.luxton@clarence.nsw.gov.au](mailto:reece.luxton@clarence.nsw.gov.au)

[www.northcoastweeds.org.au](http://www.northcoastweeds.org.au)

## 9<sup>th</sup> Qld Weed Symposium

3-6 June 2007. Holiday Inn, Surfers Paradise. This Symposium aims to increase awareness and knowledge and provide inspiration for action. Presentations, posters, discussions, field trips and trade displays. Field trips follow three themes; coastal & aquatic, hinterland riparian and pasture & production. For more information visit the Weed Society of Qld website [www.wsq.org.au](http://www.wsq.org.au) or ring 07 3846 5858.

## ChemCert Course

22 and 29 June 2007. Lismore  
Phone EnviTE Yasmin Kranz 6621 9588  
[www.envite.org.au](http://www.envite.org.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. The Keynote speaker will be Dr Peter Oliver, environmental educator, poet and musician.  
[www.landcare.org.au/Conference.htm](http://www.landcare.org.au/Conference.htm)

## 14<sup>th</sup> Biennial NSW Weeds Conference 2007

24-27<sup>th</sup> Sep 2007. The conference will focus on a wide range of issues including new and emerging weed threats and new advances in weed technology. Uni of Wollongong 9368 1200  
[weeds2007@iceaustralia.com](mailto:weeds2007@iceaustralia.com)

# W E E D N E W S

## Weed Workshop

Work began last September by the North Coast Weeds Advisory Committee on the development of a Northern Rivers Invasive Plants Action Strategy for the NR CMA. In November we held a two day Weed Prioritisation Workshop which involved 17 people from a wide range of organizations including NCWAC, CMA, Mid North Coast WAC, New England WAC, Far North Coast Weeds, DPI, Lands, DEC, Forests NSW and Council Officers. The group classified the main weed species into seven landscape lists to enable us to capture different weed issues: Riparian, Coastal, Native Forests, Tablelands, Aquatic, Agricultural and Urban. Using a system based on Rod Randall's publication (2000, Plant Protection Quarterly 15), the group gave each weed species points for characteristics related to invasiveness, impact and current distribution and behaviour. Review of these lists and information on availability of control methods will be followed up by email to a wide range of weed practitioners across the region.

## Mechanical mulchers

Several bush regeneration projects have recently used large mechanical mulchers to remove high density shrub/small tree sized weeds. Yamba Landcare Group has hired a specialized forestry mulcher to remove the invasive South Coast Teatree and West Australian Wattle from Pippie beach in 2006. These mulchers can also remove privet and lantana and are best suited for areas where there are few native species remaining. In the Coffs Harbour

region, mulchers are available from John Lacey earthmoving, Karangi 6651 5336.

## Chemical free weed control?

The Waipuna system of chemical-free weed control from NZ consists of a self contained computer controlled unit that can be mounted on a light truck. Hot pressurised water is applied to the weeds using modified hoses and spraylances. The heat, pressure & volume of water breaks the cellular structure of the plants. Can be used in wet and windy weather. This method is claimed to be as effective as glyphosate. For more information contact Waipuna Distribution Pty Ltd 03 3874 5100. (Editor's note: has anyone tried this control method? If so, please email me with your experiences: [envirotek01@hotmail.net.au](mailto:envirotek01@hotmail.net.au))

## Protect your Old Growth Eucalypt Forest

The Nature Conservation Trust is currently seeking expressions of interest from landholders in the Northern Rivers Area who have areas of high conservation value Old Growth Eucalypt Forest on their land that they are willing to conserve in perpetuity via a trust agreement.

An agreement can apply to only part of your land and will ensure that future owners manage the land in much the same way that you have. Successful applicants will have a trust agreement prepared for their property at no cost. Please phone the Trust on 6620 3633 or email [david@naturetrust.org.au](mailto:david@naturetrust.org.au)  
[www.naturetrust.org.au](http://www.naturetrust.org.au)

## Tree Guards

A Tasmanian study by Margie Law of the Tasmanian Conservation Trust reported that 64cm plastic corflute tree guards not only decreased browsing of seedlings by herbivores but increased the growth rate of the seedling. [www.tct.org.au](http://www.tct.org.au)  
Does anyone know of similar research carried out in subtropics ?

# SOME UPCOMING FUNDING

## Environmental Management Systems Incentives Program (EMS Incentives program)

This program provides payment to reimburse up to 50% of the costs associated with developing and implementing an EMS for a primary production enterprise. The funding will support assessment of environmental issues including water quality and biodiversity assessment and also the carrying out of mitigation measures such as establishing trees, fencing to protect native vegetation and weed eradication. Claim forms can be obtained from Centrelink or by calling 1800 050 585.  
[www.daffa.gov.au/natural-resources](http://www.daffa.gov.au/natural-resources)

## 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. Matched funding or in-kind support is required. This fund is managed by Greening Australia & Land and Water Australia. Ph

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[www.northcoastweeds.org.au](http://www.northcoastweeds.org.au)

Kimberlie Rawlings on 1300 886 589 or visit [www.lwa.gov.au/apply\\_for\\_funding](http://www.lwa.gov.au/apply_for_funding)

#### **Mitre 10 Junior Landcare Grants program**

This program provides funds for schools and youth groups across Australia wishing to participate in environmental projects. The program targets major issues relevant to our natural environment including: biodiversity, water and land. Projects may include water monitoring programs, waste minimisation, school gardens or undertaking an environmental field trip. Most project applications will be expected to have a value of around \$500. Next closing date 1 March 2007, then 17<sup>th</sup> May 2007. [www.mitre10.com.au](http://www.mitre10.com.au) or [www.juniorlandcare.com](http://www.juniorlandcare.com)

#### **Australian Government's Community Water Grants**

Grants of up to \$50,000 for practical on-ground projects. Open to Local government, schools, indigenous organisations and community groups. Projects can include riparian revegetation works to improve water quality. Round 3 is expected to be launched early -mid 2007. Information and updates: [www.communitywatergrants.gov.au](http://www.communitywatergrants.gov.au) or ring 1800 780 730

#### **Envirofund**

Round 9 opened in February 2007. Grants from a few hundred dollars up to \$50, 000 are available for community groups and individuals to undertake small on-ground projects tackling local natural resource management problems. Activities that are eligible include rehabilitation of coastal dunes, controlling weeds to protect threatened native plants and animals, fencing to protect remnant vegetation, planting native vegetation, developing skills and knowledge related to on-ground work and raising awareness of local natural resource management issues. To register to receive a copy of the Australian Government Envirofund Guide and application form for Round 9 visit [www.nht.gov.au/envirofund](http://www.nht.gov.au/envirofund) or ring 1800 065 823. Round 9 closes 28 April 2007.

#### **Environmental Trust**

The objectives of this trust are to encourage and support restoration and rehabilitation projects, to promote research into environmental problems, to promote environmental education and to fund environmental community groups. The next round is expected to open in February 2007. Ph 8837 6093 or visit [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)

#### **Bush Recovery Program for Native Vegetation**

This program is for the conservation and enhancement of native vegetation on private, leasehold, Rural Lands Protection Board, Trusts or Local Government lands in the Northern Rivers CMA region. Round 2 closed in October last year but there may be a third round in late 2007. Watch this space!!!! [www.northern.cma.nsw.gov.au](http://www.northern.cma.nsw.gov.au)

#### **Useful Websites**

Planning on spraying today?  
Visit [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)  
Access the latest weather forecasts and warnings

#### **NEW BOOKS, CD-ROMs etc.**

**Asparagus Weeds Best Practice Management Manual.** This publication contains the most up to date information for land managers on how to tackle six of the worst Asparagus weeds. Printed copies are available free of charge from Dennis Gannaway [gannaway.dennis@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:gannaway.dennis@saugov.sa.gov.au)  
Also available on [www.weeds.org.au/bridalcreeper/](http://www.weeds.org.au/bridalcreeper/)

**Australian Weeds Strategy .** This Strategy has now been endorsed by the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council and is now published on the web at [www.weeds.org.au/aws.htm](http://www.weeds.org.au/aws.htm)  
Hard copies will be available in 2007; there is an order form on the web for anyone wanting a copy.

**New Factsheets from DPI.** DPI has recently released new fact sheets on weeds; African feather grass, Anchored water hyacinth, Bear-skin fescue, Fountain grass and Water caltrop. These can be downloaded from the website [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds)

**The Australian Green Grants Guide 2007.** This guide is a comprehensive listing of environmental and heritage grants offered by government and non-government organizations. This publication includes more than 250 grants with an index related to funding theme. Chapters relate to states. Phone Anthea or Celia at Molino Stewart on 02 9891 5399, fax 02 9893 9806 or email [ccameron-smith@molinostewart.com.au](mailto:ccameron-smith@molinostewart.com.au)

**Managing Herbicide Resistance in northern NSW**  
Herbicide resistance is an increasing threat for growers, agronomists and weed practitioners. There are 10 species of weeds already identified as herbicide resistant in various parts of the region. Although this publication focuses on weeds of grain crops, it provides a good overview of how resistance develops and the principles to avoid it. [www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/herbic-res-reporter](http://www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/herbic-res-reporter)

#### **Where's that Weed? Requests for locality information**

A new column where "Weed Read" readers can request locality info from other readers about specific weed species of interest. Please send your requests to [envirotek01@hotmail.net.au](mailto:envirotek01@hotmail.net.au) with your contact details for publication in the autumn "Weed Read". If the weed species is a poorly known species, please attach a photo with your submission.

#### **Honeysuckle information – Tweed Valley**

Information is sought on the whereabouts of Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) infestations in bushland, along creeks or roads in the Tweed Valley. This data will be compiled and used to formulate a local action plan for this canopy-destroying weed. Ph. Eddie Roberts 6679 4079 or email [oldgrowth@yahoo.com](mailto:oldgrowth@yahoo.com)

## - WEED WARNING -

### YELLOW BELLS

*Tecoma stans*



Source: BFNS Website

Yellow Bells is a shrub growing to 7m tall that originated in central and south America that has been planted in gardens for its showy yellow "trumpet-like" flowers mainly produced in spring and summer. The flowers hang in clusters at the tips of the branches, often bending the twigs into arches. Leaves grow to 8-25cm long and are made up of 3-7 toothed, pointed leaflets. Seed pods are 10-22cm long and produced from spring to autumn. This plant readily invades bushland and agricultural lands via thousands of papery seeds that are produced in these long pods. Mainly spread by wind and humans.

Yellow Bells reduces biodiversity through competing with seedlings and established plants of other species for light and nutrients. Impacts on agriculture include reducing pasture, restricting access for stock and machinery and competing with orchard trees. In the north coast region, isolated infestations occur surrounding most major coastal and floodplain towns including Coffs Harbour, Ballina, Byron Bay, Alstonville and Lismore.

The new Noxious Weeds Act has listed Yellow Bells as a Class 3 weed in Bellingen, Clarence, Coffs Harbour, Far North Coast and Nambucca LGAs. This means the plant must be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed.

Small shrubs and seedlings can be manually removed. Larger shrubs may require basal bark or cut stump herbicide application. See the NSW Agriculture publication "Noxious and Environmental Weed Control Handbook 2004-2005" for more information.  
[www.agric.nsw.gov.au](http://www.agric.nsw.gov.au)

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

### **Inspectorial Activities:**

A total of 963 inspections have been completed this quarter with 27% of properties identified as having noxious weeds present and insufficient control measures in place. Nearly sixty four percent of properties inspected were found to have no noxious weeds present at the time of inspection or were conducting control programs in accordance with the noxious weeds control class. Forty six properties or fewer than 5% required the issuing of a Notice of Intent for insufficient control works. Only 2% of landholders required the issuing of a Weed Control Notice highlighting the success of council's cooperative approach to enforcing the NSW Noxious Weeds Act.

Adoption of councils Camphor laurel strategy has seen an increase of 6% of roadsides and private properties identified in designated control areas with works to commence in January. Groundsel continues to be the most commonly identified noxious weed with 11% of properties inspected as having insufficient control programs. Groundsel also required the highest number of Intent to serve notice notices issued with 74% of all intent notices served on properties with groundsel bush.

The identification of Broadleaf pepper trees in urban areas continues to be a high priority with significant success achieved in initiating control works in Tweed and Byron council areas. Inspections are now beginning in Ballina shire for this Class 3 noxious weed and continued pressure is being placed on the infestation at Dyrabba station in Kyogle Shire. Councils Noxious Weed Inspector and Chief Weeds Officer are scheduled to attend an onsite meeting in December with the owner and private forestry company to develop a management plan for this infestation.

With the loss of an Inspector and Ganger from the Lismore depot, council's inspection numbers are marginally down on forecasted figures. Council has continued to meet its private works obligations through the use of Inspectors on councils weed control teams. Inspections of the East Indian Hygrophila infestation at Tyalgum by Councils Chief Weeds Officer and Noxious Weeds Inspector revealed a significant terrestrial infestation that has been controlled. Continued follow up of this Class 1 noxious weed will be required and a management plan is being prepared. From the experience gained by council's in-house field day at the Tyalgum site a possible infestation was discovered in Byron Creek, a sample has been collected and sent for positive identification. Inspections of an aquarium shop in Ballina shire also identified that this weed may be being sold through aquarium wholesalers and the information has been passed on to the NSW Department of Primary Industries for follow up.

Council's field mapping program WeedMap is being updated with a new version to be released in the new year, before council commits to this project a business plan and agreement for provision of support will be undertaken to reduce the risks experienced with the current version. Council has updated 80% of its cadastre information but has again experienced difficulties in incorporating the new data into its existing database.

## NOXIOUS WEEDS STATUS

### **Water Lettuce *Pistia stratiotes* Class 1**

Council continues to work with landholders in developing management plans for Water lettuce infestations with the view of returning the responsibility of these infestations back to landholders once they are deemed to be manageable. Inspections continue to identify sporadic infestations at Bonalbo and Wiangaree. Property management plans continue to be finalised for the Piggabean infestation. Significant control works have been completed in the Tomki and Balings creek infestation near Casino with follow up inspections revealing additional works are required. Council has initiated a combined approach for the Bora creek infestation with Richmond River County Council with an aquatic weed harvester used to remove the bulk of the infestation before herbicide application commenced.

### **Hymenachne *Hymenachne amplexicaulis* Class 1**

Council staff are currently assisting in the development of a management plan for the only known infestation of this weed with control works aimed to commence in January.

### **East Indian Hygrophila *Hygrophila polysperma* Class 1**

Inspections completed at the Tweed river site revealed a substantial terrestrial infestation of this weed. Control works were implemented within 24 hours of discovery with councils Chief Weeds Officer and Noxious Weeds Inspector preparing a management plan at present.

No other Class 1 Noxious Weeds are known to be present in the county area.

### **Hygrophila *Hygrophila costata* Class 2**

Inspections continue to be tasked at identifying isolated infestations of this weed. No new infestations were reported this quarter

### **Alligator Weed *Alternanthera philoxeroides* Class 2**

Council staff are currently involved in the development of a best practice management manual for Alligator Weed. Council's inspectors have to date mapped 40% of the infestation in Byron Creek/ Wilson's river control works in the upper limit of the infestation (Byron shire) have removed 80% of the identified infestations. Improved control is required in the downstream section and this will be seen over the remainder of this quarter. Physical removal has been instigated at the Casino site with 3m<sup>3</sup> removed from this site, follow up is to occur during December.

No other Class 2 weeds are known to be present in the county area.

### **Mysore Thorn *Caesalpinia decapetala* Class 3**

Inspections continue to identify populations of this weed in Tweed, Lismore and Ballina shires, majority of the identified infestations are isolated outlining the importance of early detection.

### **Salvinia *Salvinia molesta* Class 3**

Control works are due to commence at Banora Point in early December with follow up to be undertaken in January. Councils Inspector for this region will be assisting in the development of a management plan to prevent the continued drain of council's resources. Salvinia weevil releases continued this quarter with the high rainfall and temperatures experienced this year causing high rates of growth for this species. Inspections have identified several infestations that have reinfested showing that continued regular inspections are required to ensure this weed is controlled prior to achieving 100% dominance.

### **Kudzu *Pueraria lobata* Class 3**

A new infestation of Kudzu was identified in Byron shire on the old Bangalow Rd, control works are continuing on identified infestations in Ballina shire.

### **Groundsel Bush *Baccharis halimifolia* Class 3**

Ground truthing of aerial inspections continues to identify high percentages of properties with Groundsel infestations and insufficient control measures in place.

### **Yellow Bells *Tecoma stans* Class 3**

Yellow Bells is a widespread weed in the county area, with infestations being identified in both urban and rural areas. Significant infestations exist on rail reserves in the Kyogle areas with estimates currently being prepared for the Australian Rail Track Corporation with the view of council undertaking control works in the new year. Trials are currently being undertaken to obtain an off-label permit for foliar control as no registered foliar control is current.

### **Broad Leaf Pepper Tree *Schinus terebinthifolius* Class 3**

Council's staff have continued their emphasis on control of this predominately urban weed. Mature seed bearing trees are the main focus with follow-up inspections to be undertaken in spring for germinating seedlings.

### **Chinese Tallow *Tradica sebifera* Class 3**

Isolated infestations continued to be identified in the Lismore (Richmond Hill, Stony Chute), Kyogle (Clarence Way) and Richmond Valley (Coraki) areas with control focussed on these sites before tackling the core area of the Casino Township.

### **Camphor Laurel *Cinnamomum camphora* Class 4**

Council's Inspectorial staff have identified areas to be targeted for removal of Camphor laurels (priority to trees less than 3 metres). Implementation of the second stage of the strategy is to commence in December with priority areas identified for control works and development of management plans.

### **Lantana *Lantana camara* and *L. montevidensis* Class 4**

Council has continued to give priority to red flowering forms of Lantana camara, enforcement of control on private lands has been hampered by the lack of a Local management plan as required by Weed Control Order 20. A biological control agent (*Prosopidium turberculatum* or Lantana rust) has been released on pink flowering lantana sites in Lismore, Ballina and Byron shires. Monitoring of these sites will commence in December, success has been achieved with the rust in Clarence valley council area and it may prove to be a successful tool in the integrated management of Lantana in the FNCW area.

### **Aerial Inspections**

No aerial inspections were completed this quarter.

## **DEC NPWS NORTHER RIVERS REGION**

\* EOI for Weed Control Contractors/Bush Regenerators.

NRR are creating a register of operators in 2 categories weed control contractors/bush regenerators. The EOI was advertised in the Land, and local regional papers and closed on the 13 October 2006. The register will be operational for a 12 month period.

\* Bush Regeneration Coaching.

A program started early October for all staff in the Region involved in regeneration activities, including Field and Ranger staff. Staff will receive on the job coaching by experienced bush regenerators until the end of the financial

year, working one day a week in each operational area. This coaching builds on the Conservation & land Management training provided by the Region.

## **Clarence Update**

### **Co-ordination**

Another busy period with plenty to report on, but I'll keep it brief!

Weedbuster week activities this year were tackled early with the NCWAC Noxious Weed Van hitting most of our local markets through September. Our guys did a great job over the weekends with funding support through a NRCMA grant on Community Education. As always our display at Grafton Shopping world ran for the week, and presentations were given to schools and Landcare Groups.

A Lantana Field day was held on the 3 November at Mylneford as part of the Lantana Best Practice Integrated Trials project – WONS (Q DNRM). This field day demonstrated the herbicide trials undertaken on a cattle property on the Clarence River, with speakers from council, government and herbicides companies on integrated lantana controls. There was also a demonstration of a mechanical mulcher and a remote controlled retractable hose reel for chemical spraying.



Lantana Field Day at Mylneford (photo: M. Oakwood)



Mulching lantana (photo: M. Oakwood)

Class 1 weed Water lettuce was identified on a property in the Gulmarrad area. Staff were able to remove the infestation from the dam in 2 hours, with the material bagged and removed from the site.

*CMA projects* - CMA 3 – Completed work on the Cunglebung Creek Mysore thorn;

Clarence Moonflower project completed and Part C – Bitou Bush and Coastal Weeds done.  
CMA 4 – completed actions and submitted final report to A/Project Manager

A project to deal with the weeds along the Boyd River was worked up by various stakeholders with funding from the NRCMA approved for plan development. The weeds to be addressed along the predominate TSR include Mysore thorn, Cats claw creeper, Madiera Vine and Lantana. Mapping will be conducted soon with assistance from NPWS.

Reports for NR CMA projects and NSW DPI grant funded WCCA and RGP were delayed with a number of factors holding up their completion. It is advisable that we look at how we can improve on this as a committee. Grants were also sought from Department of Lands and NR CMA for specific weed control activities.

We have been assisting other areas of Council with particular projects eg mapping of roadside vegetation, convening a Pesticides Users Group

Meetings attended included:

*On behalf of NCWAC:*

- Regional Weeds Advisory Committee workshop – Tocal College – 18, 19 September (report attached)
- Working Group meeting as follow up to above – NSW DPI Sydney 24 October
- Advertising, selection and appointment of Weed Planning Contract officer with NR CMA and NCWAC funding
- Weed Planning Contract – stakeholder meeting, Coffs Harbour 25 October

*On behalf of CVC:*

- North Coast Weeds Officers meeting
- Development of Boyd River Recovery Project, Dalmorton
- Salvinia workshop, NSW DPI – GARAS
- CVC Pesticides Users Group
- Liaise with Department of Lands re: titles for properties with aquatic noxious weeds

Extension/publicity included:

- Media releases – Weedbuster Week
- Weed identification for landholders as required

## **Inspectorial**

New inspections have been undertaken through the Ewingar, Jackybulbin, Mororo, Tabbimoble, Chatsworth Island, Southgate, Ramornie (Old Glen Innes Road), and Rushforth areas. Reinspections carried out as required. With the particular season there are not too many in this quarter – but we'll be busy next quarter though!

During this quarter there was the opportunity for identification of more Tecoma infestations in the area – particularly good to identify infestations while in flower – noticeably where escaping from garden plantings. All up 22 new infestations are to be followed up ASAP. Also there is plenty of work on Camphor laurel on roadsides, and the Weeds Officers are finding more Mysore thorn during inspections on private property (4 new sites).

A Cats Claw Creeper survey was conducted by staff to ascertain the level of infestation downstream from Grafton. We are well aware of the infestations upstream from Grafton, but used the flowering period to determine how far

CCC is spreading.

### Tally

Quarter 1 – July to September 2006 - 667 inspections and 41 reinspections  
(429 clean, 355 weeds found, 71 clearance, 8 Sec 18 notice, 0 Sec 20 notice)

Total for year – 708 inspections (95% rural properties, 5 % urban properties inspected)

### Operational

With the review of the organisational structure we are limited to the one spray crew, with no reappointment of casuals possible. The use of contractors is to be explored as a means of fulfilling our weed control requirements.

Alligator Weed – nil

Bitou Bush – follow up as per local management plan – 5 days

Blackberry – nil

BLPT – nil – follow up infestation in Wooli

Camphor laurel – roadside control – 8 days

Celtis – nil

Crofton – 2 days – roadside infestations

Green Cestrum – nil

GPG – 5 days – initial fluproponate spraying in targeted areas

Groundsel bush – roadside infestations as required – 2 days

Mysore thorn – 1 day – roadside infestations

RFL – nil + releases of biological control agent (rust) – 8 properties

Privet – roadsides infestations controlled – 5 days

Salvinia and WH – 1 day + releases of biological control agent – 1 properties

Tecoma – roadside infestation controlled – 1 day

Coastal weeds – nil to report -further work conducted by the Bush Regeneration team based in Maclean - achieved works on Bitou bush and Asparagus fern in Angourie

Vine weeds – control on VCL sites in Brushgrove, Yamba and Angourie

Private works

- Bindii and broadleaf control in Council – Open Spaces and Reserves – 20 days

## DEC NPWS CLARENCE VALLEY

- Bitou TAP site plans prepared and approved for North/South Sandon
- Bitou bush control works concentrating on ground spraying in South and North Sandon parts of Yuraygir to complement previous winter aerial spraying. Other bitou control works at Angourie and Iluka areas.
- Bush regeneration crew working in hind dunes and littoral rainforest at North Sandon
- Clarence Valley Bush regeneration crew completed working in hind dunes at Iluka (Bundjalung NP) on lantana and bitou.
- Conservation Volunteers Australia team at Iluka controlling lantana regrowth and revegetation in several areas.
- Roadside spraying (lantana) and conservation works at Mt Pikapene NP.
- Paper published in Ecological Management and Restoration journal on bitou bush program in Bundjalung NP.

## NSW DPI - GRAFTON WEEDS UNIT

- **Salvinia Control Manual** is now available. Limited copies can be obtained from Grafton or the DPI bookshop in Orange.
- **Aquatic Weed risk assessment facility** is being built at Grafton DPI. This project will assess a range of plants currently used in the aquarium industry to determine their weediness. The project is being run in consultation with the industry and will provide direction for possible future aquatic weed declarations nationally
- **Aquatic Weeds early Detection** Project Officer, Fiona McPherson has started in the new position at Grafton DPI. The early detection program will work with Councils, Waterwatch and Water authorities to enhance their skills in detecting aquatic weeds earlier. Fiona will be contacting these groups to discuss and organise training courses and the adoption of aquatic weed early detection protocols. Fiona would welcome feedback on the draft protocols.
- **An Aquatic Weeds seminar** was held at Grafton DPI in early November with 45 Council, DPI and NPWS staff attending. From all reports it was a successful day, with an interesting line up of technical speakers and field inspections on Salvinia management in the afternoon. We were fortunate to have Paul Champion from the, New Zealand National Atmospheric and Water Institute present to run an informative aquatic weed identification session.



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- **Noxious Weeds grants 2006/07** have been announced with the grant summary now available on the DPI website at;

<http://www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/weeds-reporting>

## Coffs Harbour Update

### Inspectorial

Inspections have been carried out for Broad-Leaf Pepper Tree, Tecoma, Groundsel Bush. With Tecoma flowering in October those weeds are easily identified. A surprising number are being found not only in older urban areas but urban fringes, particularly in old banana plantations.

The rural community is still very concerned about Fireweed & Crofton Weed. As a result inspections have been carried out for those weeds and notices issued where necessary. A late and widespread germination of Fireweed after significant out of season rain in August has resulted in what is the heaviest infestation seen in this Local Government Area. Also typical of this plant has been the successive germination of seed over several months causing additional problems for landowners and Council. One large landowner has decided to become organic and has tried to control his Fireweed with industrial vinegar!

Preliminary notices have been issued for Groundsel Bush, Broad Leaf Pepper Tree, Tecoma and a Section 20 for Chinese Celtis.

### Operational

**Salvinia** – continual problem at Sapphire and Boambee. Sapphire residents impatient with the lack of success so far with Crytobageous and are reluctant to take any advice with regard to the infestation. A nearby infestation on a different water course has been very successfully controlled with community support. Council had sprayed it twice. Neighbours than made a floating boom and cleared up the Salvinia manually from boats with the boom containing the Salvinia to ever decreasing areas.

The Boambee infestation has been on-going for several years without a lot of success. A different approval is now being tried with all landowners being contacted, given details of how to construct containment booms and suggesting physical removal on a regular basis. Awaiting results with interest.

**Bitou Bush** – post spraying inspection indicate good results achieved by ground spraying with virtually no off target damage. Some headlands aerially sprayed were not as successful.

### Roadside Weeds

**Fireweed** – hand picked or sprayed on all road verges where it was a problem. Very rarely found on reserves but now a problem at the Airport where the mowing program has been modified to leave grass at 300mm to discourage birds.

**Giant Parramatta Grass** – major arterial roads sprayed. Also where infestations are low on neighbouring private land.

### Future Activities

Environmental Levy Funds - \$5280 provided for roadside Privet control – will be used in Nana Glen for the removal of some larger trees and spraying smaller trees in the Ulong area.

Continuation of the Camphor Laurel removal program in Bonville and foliar application to trees up to 3m throughout the City.

In addition we will be doing ongoing trials with Vigilant on Kudzu.

- Removing large Chinese Celtis trees from Park Beach Reserve.
- Implementing a roadside control program for Groundsel Bush, Red Lantana.
- Issuing notices for Tecoma, Groundsel Bush & Chinese Celtis.

## DEC NPWS

### Weed control programs

- In the past three months DEC has carried out control of grasses and lantana on Muttonbird Island NR, and extensive bush regeneration in Coffs Coast RP, Bongil Bongil NP, Moonee beach NR, Sherwood NR and South Solitary Island NR. DEC also targeted Giant Parramatta Grass in Bongil Bongil NP, Ulidarra NP and Bindarri NP.

### Planning

DEC is currently:

- producing plans for implementation of Bitou TAP for Look-at-me-now headland, Dammerals headland, Diggers head and Bare bluff.
- Producing a weed control calendar (incl. best management practices) for the Toormina depot
- Distributing the Moonee beach NR and Coffs Coast RP Coastal Weeds Strategy and local management plans
- Producing basic weed action plans for Bindarri NP and South Solitary NR

## Bellingen Shire Update

### Noxious Weed Administration

Group project reports submitted to NWAC.

Council has completed its NRCMA funded Coastal Vegetation Mapping project. Weeds, Vegetation Communities, Endangered Ecological Communities, vegetation condition and management priorities mapped. This document will prove essential for strategic

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management of coastal weeds in the shire and provide an excellent source of information for grant applications etc.

Council successful in getting to the second round of Wetlandcare Australia grant process for \$10 K for coastal weed control at Urunga Lagoon. The same area has been proposed for listing in the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia.

Council is investigating the employment of a contract weed inspector due to some restructuring planned for the vegetation section in the near future.

Weed Risk assessment for Shire being undertaken on Class 4 weeds. The purpose of this assessment is to provide Council a priority for management of these widespread (in many cases) and unseen (in others) weeds. Potentially the result may indicate the need to recommend to Council the justification to de-declare weeds.

### **Noxious Weeds Education & Training**

Council is attempting to get some training on the Eagle spray computers for staff. Council is interested to know if any other Councils are willing to share the costs of getting a trainer to the Nth Coast.

Council's Vegetation Officer attended the Tocal Workshop for weeds committees to look at the grant funding and reporting process. Improvements to the system were suggested by the 40 or so participants. The potential for CMAs to take over the weeds grant process was strongly mooted at the meeting.

### **Noxious and Environmental Weeds Program of Works**

#### *Completed Works –*

Bitou bush and coastal weeds program for financial year has begun on coast. Both high volume applications and bush regenerators have worked following up previous years activities. Winter senna also targeted. All high volume applications logged onto GPS for further mapping of control areas using GIS.

Giant parramatta grass program completed on plateau all areas treated were mapped by spray operator using GPS. This information to be linked within the GIS with spray records.

Privet and Blackberry controlled on Dorrigo plateau. Valley roadsides to be wickwiped in December.

*Planned Works* - \$25 K of coastal weeds work to be undertaken at Urunga Lagoon to Hungry Head. \$35K worth of roadside weed trees (Camphor & Honey Locust) to be controlled and where required removed. Bush regeneration at Dangar Falls programmed. These projects funded by Council's Environmental Levy.

**DEC**, in the past three months, has carried out Giant Parramatta Grass control in Bellingier River NP, Guy Fawkes River NP, Chaelundi NP and New England NP (Bellingen/Clarence/New England) and extensive bush regeneration in Dorrigo NP. DEC is currently producing weed control calendars (incl. Best management practices) for Dorrigo plateau and Ebor depots.

## **Nambucca Shire Update**

### **Inspectorial**

Property inspections were conducted throughout various areas of the Nambucca Shire, with dense infestations of Fireweed and Parramatta Grass identified on many properties. Some Groundsel bush infestations were also located throughout various properties within the Shire. Letters were sent to those land owners/managers who did not have sufficient weed control programs implemented, requiring that a suitable weed control strategy be applied.

An infestation of Cats Claw creeper was also located high in the North Arm catchment of the Nambucca Shire, this invasive vine weed was found to be growing in a garden and further investigations revealed that the Cats Claw had begun to germinate below the house, towards the main creek. Follow up treatment of this area is planned in future months.

Total number of inspections	141
Total no. properties with weeds present	87
Number of letters requesting control	6
Section 18- Notice to control	0
Section 20 - Enforced control	0

### **Completed works**

Follow up treatment of known Mysore Thorn infestations in the Bowraville and Gumma areas of the shire was conducted. The hardiness of this weed is quite surprising, with high seedling establishment being observed after repeated treatments.

Follow up treatment of isolated Bitou Bush infestations was conducted throughout July, which revealed that the program that was implemented earlier this year in the Nambucca Heads, Valla and Scotts Head areas was highly successful. Pampas Grass and Broad Leaf Pepper Trees were also targeted throughout this program. Privet, Lantana, Parramatta Grass and Camphor Laurel infestations were targeted throughout various roadside reserves in the last quarter.

### **Projects**

The Catchment Management Authority has provided a further \$47, 000 this financial year for the ongoing vine weed project in the Taylors Arm area, with any additional funding to be used in the North Arm area. Works have begun using both foliage spray (Brush-Off + Pulse) and cut stump (Vigilant Gel) techniques on the infestations. The local Landcare also has a project to remove all Camphor Laurels from all lands within the Deep Creek catchment (Valla) that Council will be co-operating with by controlling Camphor Laurels within reserves and providing advice and best practice techniques to landholders involved with the project.

### **Publicity**

The annual agricultural field day, PRO-AG was attended by the Nambucca Noxious Weeds Inspector, with John Ennis brought out of retirement to assist with the days proceedings. The two days were highly successful with many people attending from Wauchope, Bellingen, Coffs Harbour and the local area.

### **Future Plans**

\* Control all Yellow Bells infestations on Council owned or managed lands

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- \* Continue Groundsel, Lantana, Privet and Camphor Laurel control on roadside reserves
- \* Follow up control of Cats Claw infestation
- \* Control all Groundsel Bush seedlings within Council reserves

**DEC**, in the past three months has carried out control of Giant Parramatta Grass in Ngambaa NR, Dungirr NP, Gumbayngirr SCA and Juugawaarri NR. DEC has also controlled Broad Leaf Paspalum at Bollanolla, Dunggir and Little Wonder and has carried out extensive bush regeneration in Yarriabini NP and Ngambaa NR. DEC is currently producing a weed control calendar (incl. best management practices) for the Bowraville depot.

The information contained in this Newsletter is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing / compiling (14<sup>th</sup> February 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.