

North Coast WEED READ

No.15 SPRING/SUMMER 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

East Ballina Landcare End of Year Party!

7 December 2007. 5.30pm. Ballina. Food supplied, BYO drinks. All weedos and landcarers from elsewhere who might like to join the festivities are welcome! Networking and celebrations! RSVP Lee Andresen 6681 3557 or email andresen@sydney.dialix.com.au

Bush Regeneration Training

13 February-8 May 2008. TAFE Casino
This course will be delivered on the Richmond River as part of a community regeneration project. Students will gain skills in weed identification and control, planting and restoration work as well as accreditation in First Aid, Chemical Use and Green Card. The course will provide a pathway to Certificate II and III in Conservation Land Management. An information session will be held at 9.30am, 27th November at TAFE Casino Campus. Ph Paul Moosberger 6620 4745

ChemCert Course

19 and 26 February 2008. Lismore
Refresher course on 26th.
Ph EnviTE 6621 9588
www.envite.org.au

National Bitou Bush Workshop

28 February 2008. Alstonville. DPI Research Station. DECC is preparing the Weeds of National Significance Manual for Bitou Bush. DECC requires input from Bitou Bush Managers to ensure that the most relevant information is in the manual. The aim of the workshop is to discuss best practice methods for control, merits of various control strategies and to collect data on infestations of bitou and boneseed to allow mapping of current distribution. Please contact Marion Winkler DECC 02 9585 6087 or email marion.winkler@environment.nsw.gov.au

National Bitou Bush Workshop

4 March 2008. Coffs Harbour, Botanical Gardens. See description above. Contact Marion Winkler DECC 02 9585 6087 or email marion.winkler@environment.nsw.gov.au

National Bitou Bush Workshop

5 March 2008. Taree, Greater Taree Council rooms. See description above. Contact Marion Winkler DECC 02 9585 6087 or email marion.winkler@environment.nsw.gov.au

ChemCert Course

10 and 17 March 2008. Coffs Harbour.
Refresher course on 17th.
Ph EnviTE 6621 9588
www.envite.org.au

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

Ongoing Workshops for Bush Regenerators

Central Coast (Buff Pt, Tuggerah Lakes).
Courses in Botany for Bush Regenerators, Weed Ecology, Seed Collection and Propagation of Native Plants. These courses are run on demand. Ph Mark Snodgrass 4390 2087 or visit www.organicmatters.com.au



Maureen Timms-Bowtell at Lowanna

All communications to the Secretary

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W E E D N E W S

New \$ through NRCMA

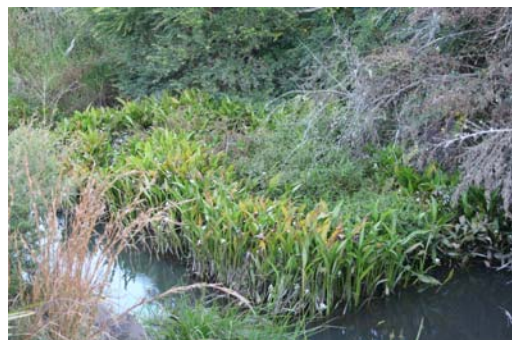
The Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority has provided funding to carry out follow-up weed control at a range of sites from the Far North Coast to Bellingen. These sites had primary control in 2005 and 2006. Weeds targeted include bitou bush and other coastal weeds, Catsclaw creeper, kudzu, moonflower and other vine weeds. Projects are to be completed by April 2008.

Funding allocation:

Far North Coast Weeds region	\$16,300
Clarence LGA	\$12,100
Coffs LGA	\$5,850
Bellingen LGA	\$11,350
DECC estate	\$5,100

NORTHERN RIVERS INVASIVE PLANTS ACTION STRATEGY.

This Strategy is being developed by the North Coast Weeds Advisory Committee with funding from the Northern Rivers CMA and consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. The aim is to provide strategic direction for the future management of weeds in the region and to contribute to the Northern Rivers Catchment Action Plan. The Strategy has categorized weeds into seven landscape categories and provides detail for each of the 18 Local Government Areas encompassed by the NRCMA, including describing single infestations of various weed species. The draft will be available for community comment in mid December with the launch of the Final Strategy expecting to occur by April 2008. Contact Meri Oakwood 6653 8843 or email envirotek01@hot.net.au for further information.



Sagittaria at Ulong

NSW Invasive Species Plan 2007-2015

The Draft NSW Invasive Species Plan is currently being finalised by NSW DPI after extensive consultation with government agencies, local councils and other key interested parties. This Plan will provide a framework for managing invasive animals and plants in NSW up to 2015. This Plan encompasses the management of weeds, vertebrate pests, invertebrate pests and freshwater and marine aquatic pests. The public comment period has closed but information can be obtained from Scott Charlton on 6391 3150 or scott.charlton@dpi.nsw.gov.au

SOME UPCOMING FUNDING

Environmental Levy Coffs Harbour

Coffs Harbour Council is seeking community submissions for projects for 2008/2009. Application forms can be obtained from www.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au Applications which address a priority in Council's State of the Environment Report 2004 will be given priority. This report mentions that a key action for Council is to work with the NCWAC and to use the Environmental Levy to achieve strategic or targeted weed management outcomes. The closing date is 14th December 2007. For further info ring Amy Lake 6648 4287

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, Local Aboriginal Land Council or Local Government Lands in the Northern Rivers CMA region. Landholders between Ebor & Coffs Harbour are excluded from this Bush Recovery Program Round 3 but may apply for separate funding (see Biodiversity Hotspot program below). This Round will close on 7th January 2008 or when the first 110 Expressions of Interest have been received. Information and application forms available from www.northern.cma.nsw.gov.au or ring your local CMA office Armidale (6771 3450), Alstonville (6627 0170), Coffs Harbour (6653 0150), Grafton (6642 0622), Kempsey (6561 4960) or Murwillumbah (6676 7390).

Biodiversity Hotspot Funding

This program aims to assist the protection of high conservation value habitat in two NSW biodiversity hotspot regions: Torrington and Ebor-Dorrigo-Coffs Coast. A tender based approach will be used to provide funding support to land and leaseholders. Interested landholders can arrange a free on-site ecological assessment of their land with a qualified conservation advisor. The closing date for Expressions of Interest is 7th January 2008. For further information visit www.wetlandcare.com.au, ring 6681 6169 or 1800 816 147 or email mabh@wetlandcare.com.au

Support for Natural Resource Management and Biodiversity Courses

Farmbis will provide financial support to eligible rural land managers to attend several courses in natural resource management including Box-Ironbark Ecology, Planning for Sustainability and Applied Grazing. The program will pay two thirds of the course cost, and can assist with travel, accommodation and childcare. Ph Bis Services Toll free 1800 195 543

Gorse eradication in Northern NSW

The National Gorse Taskforce is focusing on the eradication of outlying and scattered Gorse infestations. In the northern half of NSW from Gosford to the Qld border, there are only about 14 distinct Gorse infestations, managed by seven land managers. With a couple of exceptions such as the Boorolong Creek

infestation, most of these sites contain no more than a few plants.

This situation provides a great opportunity in the world of weed management. With commitment and a strong focus, Gorse could be eradicated from the northern half of its range in NSW! The northern extent could be reduced by about 600km!

Gorse is a Weed of National Significance (WoNS), a notoriety that only 20 weeds in Australia can claim. Gorse inflicts multi million dollar losses annually in the agriculture and forestry industries, as well as causing immeasurable effects on biodiversity. The biggest hurdle to controlling Gorse is its extraordinary seed longevity. Research in New Zealand indicates that whilst 80% of a gorse seed bank germinates within the first ten years, after 25 years there may still be some viable seed! Gorse sets seed annually and a mature infestation site can produce 23 million seeds per hectare. Because of this prolific seeding and seed longevity, managing sites on an occasional basis where seed is able to set between treatments is a waste of resources.

The National Gorse Taskforce has approached all land managers who have the capacity to eradicate these infestations in northern NSW. The Glen Innes Severn Council has taken up the challenge and will map the infestations to the National Mapping Standard, make annual inspections and ensure that all germination or re-growth is destroyed at all sites within their Local Government Area. They have agreed to have this focus for the next 25 years! This is an extremely strong commitment.

In South Australia, the Eyre Peninsula and Kangaroo Island NRM Boards have also made such a commitment and intend to eradicate Gorse from their two NRM regions. Local Control Authorities agreeing to eradicate Gorse is an exciting new outcome for Gorse management in Australia. Hopefully every relevant Local Control Authority in northern NSW will become involved and together achieve a fantastic outcome!

So how can you help? If you are aware of Gorse infestations, even if there is only one plant, please contact the WoNS Coordinator for Gorse. In doing so we can make sure that we do not miss any infestation sites within this region of NSW. In being part of this project you are helping to reduce the extent and impact of one of Australia's worst weeds. For more information please contact Dean Vincent (WoNS coordinator for Gorse) on 03 6233 3197 or email Dean.Vincent@dpiw.tas.gov.au

The Gorse National Best Practice Manual can be obtained from www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/gorse

- WEED WARNING -

GORSE

Ulex europaeus



Source: Kerri Spicer

Gorse is a prickly, perennial, evergreen legume that can grow to a height of 3m. This species, originally from Europe and the United Kingdom, was introduced to Australia as a hedge plant in the early 1800s. Gorse is listed as a *Weed of National Significance* because of its invasiveness, potential for spread and economic and environmental impacts.

Gorse usually grows where rain is evenly distributed throughout the year and in the range 650-900mm. In Australia, infestations occur in all states and territories except the Northern Territory. Currently the biggest infestations are in Tasmania and southern Victoria, although in NSW it is also a major problem in national parks and reserves of the southeast region and the Blue Mountains. Small gorse infestations also occur in northern NSW, southeast Qld, the ACT and Western Australia. In mainland states, gorse mainly grows along riverbanks, roadsides and other non-agricultural areas such as rail lines. In Tasmania and parts of Victoria it is also a major pasture weed.

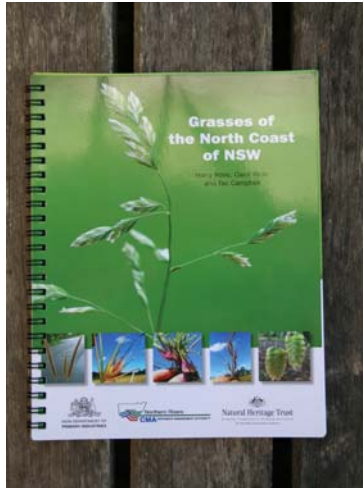
All of the stems and leaves of Gorse are prickly. The small dark green leaves are stiff and waxy. The flowers are bright yellow and pea-like. Gorse produces large numbers of brown to black seeds in grey hairy pods, each pod holding three to four seeds. The seeds have a hard, water-resistant coat that allows them to remain dormant in the soil for up to 30 years. Seed is usually carried into new areas in soil and mud attached to machinery and boots.

The *Noxious Weeds Act* 1993 has listed Gorse as a Class 2 weed in the Glen Innes and New England Tablelands area and a Class 3 weed in Bellingen. Class 2 weeds must be eradicated from the land and the land must be kept free of the plant. Class 3 weeds must be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed. Control requires long-term commitment. Methods include combinations of herbicides, cut stump, grazing, burning and mechanical clearing.

Thank you to Dean Vincent for providing the article on the Gorse eradication program.....

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

Grasses of the North Coast of NSW by Harry Rose, Carol Rose and Tac Campbell. 2007 NSW DPI



On the north coast of NSW there are about 325 species of native and naturalised grasses.

This book covers the coastal zone from the Tweed to the Hastings. The purpose of this book is to provide an easy reference to the common grasses, so that they can be recognized and managed appropriately. The book concentrates on the more widespread and common pasture and roadside species. Each grass species has notes and photographs. Available from NSW DPI Grafton (ph 6640 1600) or Kempsey (ph 6562 6244) offices.

Management Guide to Chilean Needle Grass 2007. Victorian DPI.

Chilean Needle Grass is a tussock-forming grass from South America that is classified in Australia as a Weed of National Significance. This grass has a devastating impact on agriculture; reducing pasture productivity, contaminating crops and hay and the needle-like seeds can injure stock or pets. This guide explains identification of the species with detailed photos and describes the distribution, biology and seed spread. The guide also discusses successful management and control programs. This guide is available from www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/Chileanneedlegrass/

Weedy Sporobolus Grasses Best Practice Manual 2007. Qld DPI.

Details coming soon....watch this space....

Converting stands of camphor laurel to rainforest: what are the costs and outcomes of different control methods?

by John Kanowski and Carla Catteral 2007. Griffith University.

Based on surveys of sites in the "Big Scrub" region of northern NSW, this paper discusses various methods of removing camphor laurels and promoting rainforest regeneration, in particular focusing on "staged" and "patch" removal.



Photo credit: Peter Foster

Staged removal involves progressively killing a proportion of mature camphor trees in a stand, with months to years between stages. Patch removal involves killing all mature camphor trees in patches

Advantages and disadvantages of the two camphor conversion methods are discussed. Copies can be downloaded from www.griffith.edu.au/centre/cics/pdf/Camphor_conversion_fact_sheet_NRCMA_Final.pdf

USEFUL RESOURCES

Florabank

Florabank was re-launched in Sydney in August 2007, funded by the NHT and delivered by Greening Australia, ENSIS (CSIRO & SCION) and Agtech Pty Ltd. This organization aims to increase the availability of high quality native seed for large scale revegetation projects across Australia and to bring people together to share information and resources about seed management. Florabank also provides training for seed professionals. To register your interest email Penny Atkinson at general@florabank.org.au

The website also includes references on topics such as provenance, soil seed banks & biota, direct seeding and weeds & pests. Visit www.florabank.org.au

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (NSW) Inc website

AABR was established in 1986 out of concern for the continuing survival and integrity of bushland. The Association's aim is to foster and encourage sound ecological practices of bushland management by qualified people and to promote the study and practice of bush regeneration. The website has fact sheets on weed control methods, revegetation and weed funding opportunities. Visit www.aabr.org.au

NSW DPI website

Don't forget the NSW DPI website (new and improved) has a range of publications on weeds including Agfacts/Primefacts, Agnotes, Weed Alerts and Posters, many of which are available free. Visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds

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

Control Works

- Works completed for Bitou Bush and Weedy *Sporobolus* species
- CMA 5 contract underway with initial treatments of Kudzu in Wilson's creek catchment and treatment of Bitou Bush at Evans Head
- Initial control undertaken on all class 1 and 2 aquatic weed sites

Inspectorial

- Horse Flu has prevented rural inspections with only Class 1 and 2 sites visited
- Urban Inspections in Lismore and Kyogle have continued to map noxious weed tree species
- Aquatic Inspections of Richmond catchment identified Class 1 weed Water lettuce, Class 2 Alligator Weed, *Hygrophila costata*, Class 3 *Salvinia*, Class 4 Water Hyacinth.
- Major issue with submerged weeds *Hygrophila polysperma*, *Cabomba caroliniana* and *Elodea* becoming increasingly prevalent especially after control of floating aquatic weeds. No means of control for submerged weeds over large areas means spread is continuing unabated.

Coordination

- Liaison with constituent councils on Local Environment Plans
- Aquatic weed identification Landcare groups
- Completion of Annual reporting requirements
- Review of Notice system
- Highlight of NSW noxious weed conference was new product called "hydrogel" which

will allow herbicides to be applied to submerged plants

Next Quarter

- Camphor laurel management plan implementation of control works by contractors
- Implement control of Vine (Mysore thorn and Kudzu) and Tree (Broadleaf pepper tree, Yellow bells, Chinese Celtis) weeds
- Continued monitoring of Class 1 and 2 aquatic weed sites
- Review of regional weed management plans

DECC-Far North Coast

- Ongoing rainforest weed projects across region, especially in Tweed Shire.
- More staff undergoing Certificate 2 training in CLM and as part of training doing 1 day/week practical work in reserves.
- Joint CMA funded project between DECC and Big Scrub Landcare Group working on mix of private and public rainforest reserves, Invite contractors.
- Giant Parramatta Grass control in Kyogle area parks
- Coolatai Grass control in Merryland NP.
- Ongoing involvement with lantana management group and bell miner associated working group control trials in Border Ranges and Toonumbar NPs

Clarence Update

Co-ordination

During the past 3 months much time has been spent coordinating the weekly spray programs. In addition to this departments' core duties in noxious weed control along roadsides and Vacant Crown Lands, resources have been diverted to undertaking vegetation controls for the other departments within Council that require herbicide application within their assets, including, Open Spaces, Roads and Traffic & North Coast Water.

With the recent implementation of the Pesticides Notification Plan, an additional drain on time resources has come into place, with many hours per week having to be dedicated to updating the Council Web Page and erection and dismantling of temporary notification signs. Efforts were also applied to assisting Open Spaces in research to acquiring a "Shrouded Spray Dome" system. These systems enable pesticides and other agricultural chemicals to be applied to walkways, sporting reserves, recreational parks and caravan parks during wind conditions that would otherwise be inappropriate while using conventional spray methods.

Co-ordination efforts spent in assisting the residents of Wombat Creek to obtain an NHT Envirofund Round 9 Grant have resulted in \$44527.27 being made available for the project. The project aims to

rehabilitate the Wombat Creek system, including the control of Mysore thorn along an area of 6 lineal kilometres.

Reports and grant submissions to the Department of Lands were completed in August to gain funding for Noxious Weeds control in the numerous VCL land and waterways under Council's management. For the first time a single submission was prepared to obtain grant monies for both the Noxious Weeds department and Floodplain Services.

NSW DPI Coordination, Inspectorial, and Operational reports were completed in late September. It proves to be a frustrating time when Contributing Organisation reports were not received from neighbouring councils within the pre-agreed time.

A recent aerial survey of the Boyd River, Cunglebung Creek and Mann River systems was conducted to ascertain the extent of Mysore thorn and Honey locust infestations. Data collected suggests that Honey locust has advanced in varying densities fifty three kilometres from its original source of Wytallibah, ranging from Very High to Medium densities. A further 46 kilometres of scattered Honey locust sightings were noted advancing towards the junction of the Mann and Clarence Rivers.

Six kilometres of follow-up control of Mysore thorn along Cunglebung Creek has been undertaken using CMA5 funds. An additional five kilometres is yet to be controlled taking the controlled area to the junction of the Nymboida River. A further five kilometres of isolated and scattered sites were detected on the Nymboida River during the aerial survey.

A paper was presented to the NSW Biennial Weeds Conference in Wollongong in September by the Acting Environmental Services Co-ordinator on the successful partnerships between Council, landholders and the North Coast Weeds Advisory Committee to control Broad leaf pepper tree *Schinus terebinthifolius*.

Weedbuster Week was also promoted during this period, with a display at Grafton Shoppingworld proving popular for extension of weed information. Staff from other areas of Council were involved.

NRCMA projects

Clarence Valley Bitou bush TAP projects. The Threat Abatement Program consisted of predominately follow up works in the last quarter on the Wooli South Terrace and at Angourie as per site-specific plans.

Clarence Moonflower Project

No work on this program during this period, which involved specific vine weed control work on Elizabeth & Susan Islands within the Clarence River at Grafton.

Boyd River Recovery Project

A final plan of the project has been presented to stakeholders, resulting in a funding proposal of \$72000 for the control of high priority weed species in the catchments.

Meetings attended

- North Coast Weeds Advisory Committee
- Weed Officers Meeting- Trenayr

Inspectorial

Weed Officers have maintained a heavy work load in assisting in spray programs and maintaining property inspections in the Ulmarra, Glenreagh and Woodford Island districts. Inspection tally numbers have steadily increased during this quarter with the inclusion of two APS personnel to the operational spray crews, enabling the Weed Officers to return to their core duties. Inspection programs will return to normal after the Senior Weed Officer and Senior Environmental Officer return to their normal duties after being on relief higher duties for the past 6 months.

Training

Staff were involved in OH&S (Green card) and Stop/Slow training, bringing them up to speed in the requirements of safe work practices when working around traffic and construction sites.

Tally

Quarter 1, Jul to Sep 2007: 353 inspections encompassing an area of 7792 Ha. A further 15 reinspections were carried out during this period. (205 clean, 170 weeds found, 13 clearance, 0 Sec 18 notice, 0 Sec 20 notice)
This tally is significantly down, due to Weed Officers being required to undertake other duties during this quarter.

Operational

Staff were involved in the interview processes to appoint a new Senior Weed Control Operator after the resignation of Rob Sandry in May 2007. After careful deliberation, Mr. Ron Steen was the successful applicant, bringing the Council's spray operating team to a full complement of two.

During the past quarter operational works had been focused on the control of Bitou bush and coastal weeds, Mother of Millions and the annual Bindii program for CVC Open Spaces. Due to a number of factors including the requirements of adequate Pesticide Notification, inadequate numbers of trained staff, the increase in project areas and unfavorable weather conditions at the time, the 2007 Bindii program continued for a period of 6 weeks. By which time it was deemed too late and inappropriate to commence Bindii spraying within Council's Caravan Parks during the holiday season. These constraints will undoubtedly be reduced with the future implementation of a suitable shrouded spray system and the decision of the Executive group to appoint a second fulltime spray crew within the organisation

structure.

With the recent temporary inclusion of 2 APS personnel and the permanent appointment of Ron Steen to the operational crew, control works are now progressing to schedule.

Being the post winter period, limited roadside noxious weed control was scheduled within the months of July to September. Follow-up hand spraying of the aerially controlled Bitou bush at Iluka was undertaken with additional works to control Mother of Millions in Yamba, Minnie Waters, Brooms head and Wooli during July and August. Contractors were used in VCL areas of Susan and Elizabeth Islands (Grafton) to control Moonflower under the CMA 5 project and Green Cestrum, Lantana and Groundsel bush from NSW DPI and Council contribution funds.

Weed control for this quarter included:

Bitou Bush – 14 days
Groundsel bush – 2 day
Lantana – 1 day
Mother of Millions – 14 days
Mysore thorn – 1
Other Projects – 29 days

DECC-Clarence

Clarence Valley

- Susan Island NR. Follow up vine weed infestations- Cats Claw, Balloon Vine, Dutchmans Pipe. Moonflower to follow shortly.
- Bitou bush program: some delays due to staff involvement in fires. Control works in southern and central Bundjalung, and Bitou bush TAP sites in Yuraygir NP Sandon north and Sandon south, Redcliff and Rocky Pt, Bare Pt/Wilsons Headland
- Lantana work in Pigeon Gully, Yuraygir NP and Nymboida River Camping Areas and Mt Pikapene NP using splatter gun.
- Coolatai grass follow up at Diggers Camp and Illaroo
- Presentation at National Bitou Bush and Boneseed Forum on results of 6 years work at Sea Acres NR Port Macquarie.

Dorrigo Plateau weeds – Clarence / New England

- Mapping / digitising of all known infestations within Guy Fawkes River NP & Chaelundi NP
- Quadbike-based blackberry control has commenced in Guy Fawkes River NP
- Lantana splatter gun and quickspray in Chaelundi NP
- Giant Parramatta grass control in Chaelundi NP, Guy Fawkes River NP, Nymboi-Binderay NP

Future programs: large-scale blackberry program in Guy Fawkes River NP & Chaelundi NP

NSW DPI – Grafton Weeds Unit

- DPI grants announced in October
- Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee will commence audits of council use of weed funds next year
- New Lantana biocontrol agent: leaf mining fly
- Lantana rust still available but program being scaled back
- Salvinia beetles available
- Biocontrol program for cats claw creeper on the way

Coffs Harbour Update

Inspectorial

There were 255 inspections carried out over the past three months. Weeds targeted were Groundsel Bush, Crofton Weed, Chinese Celtis and Broad Leaf Pepper Tree.

Noxious Weed Notices were issued over the same period, principally for the above-mentioned weeds.

The main telephone enquiries have been for Lantana in reserves encroaching on the neighbouring property, Camphor Laurels shading bush gardens, Giant Parramatta Grass and Thistle spraying (usually too late).

Co-ordination and training

- Spoke to the Independent Committee Enquiry into Fireweed in NSW at Bellingen. This Enquiry was not well advertised.
- DECC organised a visit to selected sites in the Coffs Coast Regional Park to inspect some endangered ecological communities and rare plants and sites of aboriginal significance.
- Three day legal training course for weed officers.

Strategic Alliance

Council staff have been working on a proposal for a 'Strategic Alliance' between CHCC, NSC and BSC for joint weed control operation.

Operational

- Carried out a Crofton Weed entry – cleared block with a bulldozer
- Roadside Giant Parramatta Grass and Groundsel Bush control
- Roadside Camphor Laurel removal in Bonville with environmental levy (EL) funding
- Five days roadside Privet spraying in the Coramba–Nana Glen area, again with EL funding

- Reserve spraying for Groundsel Bush and some environmental weeds
- Windy weather work removing Pines, Umbrella Trees, Celtis and Pepper Trees from reserves

Future Activities

Further work on 'Strategic Alliance'

- Completion of roadside Camphor Laurel programme
- Lantana, Groundsel Bush, Japanese Sunflower, Ipomea and Siratro control in various coastal reserves and road verges
- Glory Lily control to commence
- Private land Groundsel Bush spraying in Bellingen Shire
- Guide post, guardrail and median strip spraying for Engineering Sections.

DECC-Coffs

Recent activities

- Bush regeneration in Coffs Coast RP, Bongil Bongil NP, Sherwood NR, Bindarri NR, Coramba NR

Training

- Training day for DECC/Council staff on threatened species ID and weed management in threatened species habitat

Future programs

- Glory lily control in Bongil Bongil NP and Coffs Coast regional park
- Large-scale native planting project in Moonee Beach NR (Back Sandy Beach)

Planning

- Production of a "Coffs Harbour Coastal Threatened Species Identification sheet" and a "Plateau Weeds" sheet following the Armidale Weeds Field Day
- Glory lily control trials in Bongil Bongil NP

Bellingen Shire Update

Noxious Weed Administration & Inspection

Fireweed declaration review – the Minister for Agriculture has requested the Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee (State) review the declaration of Fireweed in NSW. Council has supplied the reviewer with information on Council's position Paper and Management Plan. Council was visited by the review committee to discuss fireweed management issues. A Draft of the review has been sent to stakeholders for comment.

Gorse MOU

The National Gorse Management Group have requested Council enter into a Memorandum of Understanding for the future management of the current Gorse infestation at Dorrigo.

English Broom Inspections

Areas with previous infestations of these two cooler climate class 3 weeds have been reinspected – there is an increasing incidence of this weed in the Deer Park area.

Groundsel Bush Inspections

Follow up inspections on Groundsel Bush have been undertaken – Section 20 enter and control notices are being prepared for a number of properties.

Strategic Alliance

Council staff are in the process of investigating a potential strategic alliance between Nambucca Bellingen and Coffs Harbour.

Grant Returns

2006/2007 grant returns have been submitted to NSW Department of Primary Industries (Agriculture).

Noxious and Environmental Weeds Program of Works

Completed Works – Dorrigo Plateau Giant Parramatta Grass control, Blackberry on Dorrigo Plateau.

Planned Works – Valley wickwiping program, roadside Camphor, groundsel privet and lantana control.

DECC-Bellingen

Recent activities

- * Bush regeneration in Dorrigo NP

Future programs

- * Large-scale native planting project in Junuy Juluum NP

Planning

- New "weeds field officer" crew (2) in Dorrigo Plateau
- Local weed plan being produced for Lower Rosewood Creek (former flooded gum plantation)

Nambucca Shire Update

Inspectorial activities

Cooler growing conditions and a lack of rainfall in the lead up and during this quarter assisted in the suppression of growth of some weed species. Infestations of the Class 3 Noxious Weeds Groundsel bush, Yellow Bells and some isolated Broad leaf pepper trees were located on private lands, with some landholders not realizing that these plants are declared noxious weeds despite public advertising campaigns that have been locally implemented. The majority of landholders who were approached during this period had satisfactory weed management plans implemented within their lands. Concerns were raised by some of the prevalence of Fireweed throughout the shire, but given the extent of the issue, education on good pasture management is seen as the most beneficial method to encourage control of this highly invasive weed species.

Coolatai grass has been identified growing along most major road systems throughout the Nambucca Shire and I consider this invasive grass species to be the greatest threat to pastures and environmental areas within the area. Isolated Giant Rats Tail infestations were located on three properties and all land owners / managers of these lands were encouraged to implement management plans to prevent the spread of this species, both within their properties, or to other properties throughout the shire, through vehicular or livestock movement.

Total number of inspections	195
Number of letters requiring control (Sect 18A)	0
Section 18 – Notice to control	0
Section 20 – Enforced control	0
Total area inspected (hectares)	12845
Total area weed affected (hectares) approx.	687

Completed works

Bitou control on the coastal reserve was wound up in the early half of this quarter, with a 4WD tractor with three point linkage Quikspray unit attached utilised to conduct this work. Observations after this foliar spraying program have shown that the tractor has less impact on the vegetation and ground in the sensitive dune area than conventional 4WD vehicles, and reduces the risk of major erosion of this area following treatment. One issue that was experienced after this program was the deliberate lighting of fires in the treated areas, which were extremely hot and hopefully have not caused too much long term damage to these self regenerating areas.

Throughout August to September a widespread Giant Parramatta and Giant Rats Tail Grass control program was implemented on roadside reserves throughout the shire.

Both narrow and broad leaf privets were targeted throughout September using Brush-Off (metsulfuron methyl) and Pulse. The Camphor Laurel stem injecting control program on roadside reserves was also extended to previously untreated areas, with landholders enquiring on the method used when they observed the effectiveness of this program.

Spiny burr grass infestations on beach access tracks and Stuart Island (Nambucca Island Golf Course) were removed prior to seeding.

Projects

I attended a meeting held at Bellingen Council by members of the DPI and NWAC on the current status of Fireweed throughout the area. There were concerns by some producers in the Dorrigo area and from the South Coast of NSW who believed that the current classification of the weed should be reviewed to prevent this weed from spreading farther. Given the nature, current range and extent of this pasture weed, it would be difficult to increase the current classification through all areas and this was raised at

this meeting. The possibility of removing this and other weeds from the Noxious Weed list given the range and area of infestation throughout each Local Control area was discussed.

The vineweed project in the Taylors Arm area was re-inspected, with a further \$10,000 committed this financial year by the CMA to treat previously treated areas. Further funding is hoped to be forthcoming in the next financial year to extend the vineweed project to other areas of the Shire that have a vineweed burden (mainly Madeira vine).

Future Plans

- Extension of Camphor laurel control on roadside reserves
- Treatment of all Groundsel bush infestations on Council managed lands prior to flowering
- Lantana control on roadside reserves, with high priority given to those landholders who have implemented management programs within their lands
- Ongoing spraying (not control) of Coolatai grass infestations on roadside reserves
- Treatment of Mysore Thorn infestations in the Shire, including the Bat colony in Bowraville (when the bats are not active in the area)

DECC-Nambucca

- Giant Parramatta grass control in Ngamba NR
- Lantana control / bitou bush / bush regeneration in Yarriabini NP

The information contained in this Newsletter is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing / compiling (30 November 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.