

North Coast WEED READ

No.13 AUTUMN 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

9th 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 or ring 07 3846 5858.

AIMS Pasture and Grazing Management Field Day. 4 June 2007. Granite Borders Landcare. Ph Jennie Coldham 6736 3500

Primex, Casino. 14-16 June 2007. A Landcare tent will be there to answer your questions. Ph Bob Jarman 6632 0012.

Riparian Restoration Methods

16 June. 9.30am-12.30pm. Sphinx Rock café. View the Upper Tweed bank stabilisation and riparian enhancement project. Ph Rhonda James 0409 244 292 or Maree Thompson 6621 9588

Pasture and Grazing Management Workshop 19-21 June. Granite Borders Landcare. Ph Jennie Coldham 6736 3500

ChemCert Course

22 and 29 June 2007. Lismore
Phone EnviTE Yasmin Kranz 6621 9588
www.envite.org.au

Rainforest Recovery Forum

25-27 June 2007. Griffith University, Brisbane. With more than 40 presenters sharing the latest rainforest knowledge, research and community action, this Forum offers something for everyone with an interest in rainforest ecology and conservation. Includes field trips to the Gold Coast hinterland (Springbrook and Lamington NPs) and the Sunshine coast/Kin Kin region.

Further info from Landcare Qld on (07) 3211 4413. www.landcare.org.au/RRforum07.htm

Richmond Floodplain Grazing Workshop.

5 July. DPI. Weeds and management in floodplain grazing with Harry Rose. Ph Lyn Andersen 6626 1215.

NSW Coastal Volunteers Forum.

9-12 August 2007. Mingara Recreation Club, Central Coast. This forum plans to include topics such as project monitoring and reporting, invasive marine species, and dune rehabilitation. Ph Wycare 4352 1199 or email wycare@bigpond.com

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

Bitou Bush and Boneseed National Forum.

28-29 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. Registration closes August 3rd. There are sponsorship opportunities for community members to cover travel costs. 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.

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. Early bird discount registration before 29 June. Ph. Susan Fleming, Event Coordinator 9368 1200 www.weeds2007.com.au

All communications to the Secretary

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W E E D N E W S

Northern Rivers CMA Regional Landcare Awards and Landcare Farming Forum

The Forum entitled "Meeting the Challenge" was held in Grafton on 29-31 March. This forum was a great success with excellent attendance from across the region and many interesting presentations by scientists, agribusinesses, climatologists and farmers. CMA Board member Sally Wright hosted the presentation ceremonies and emphasized the high standard of all entries in the Landcare awards. All finalists deserve congratulations for their efforts and achievements.

Award Category	Winners	Highly commended
Landcare education	Wooli Public School	Kyogle High School
Rivercare	Rollands Plains Landcare	Cowans Pond Wetland
Indigenous Community group	Pandanus people	Casino Boolangle LALC
Local Government	Byron Shire Council	Tweed Shire Council
Nature Conservation	Iluka Landcare/Dunecare	Timbarra/Rocky River
Primary Producer	Russell and Georgina Yerbury	Eggert Agripartners
Coastcare Community	Fingal Head Coastcare	Woopi Main beach
Individual Landcarer	Tony Walker	Suzanne Riley
Landcare Community Group	Lower Apsley Landcare	East Ballina Landcare

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

Threatened Species Network Community Grants

Grants of up to \$50,000 are available to fund on-ground projects contributing to Threatened Species initiatives. Applications close 1 June 2007. Ph 8202 1233 or visit www.wwf.org.au

Ian Potter Foundation

Grants are provided in the area of environment and conservation to assist the development of partnerships between communities, the government and the private sector to help prevent irreversible damage to the environment and to encourage the maintenance of biodiversity. Applicants must be Deductible Gift Recipients and have Tax Concession Charity Status. Applications close 4 June. Ph 03 9650 3188 or visit www.ianpotter.org.au

George Alexander Foundation

Grants are provided for education, environment and conservation in particular to support "hands-on" local environment projects or programs that allow students to gain practical experience in conservation and land management. Applicants must be Deductible Gift Recipients and have Tax Concession Charity Status. Applications close 4 June. Ph 03 9650 3188 or visit www.gafoundation.org.au

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. The closing date for applications is Friday 22nd June. Information and updates: www.communitywatergrants.gov.au or ring 1800 780 730

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 \$3,300 (incl GST) are offered. Next closing date 14 Sept 2007. www.landcareonline.com.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 has closed but there may be a third round in late 2007. Watch this space!!!! www.northern.cma.nsw.gov.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

NEW BOOKS, CD-ROMs etc.

Noxious and Environmental Weed Control Handbook. A Guide to weed control in non-crop, aquatic and bushland situations. 2007. Rod Ensbey and Annie Johnson, NSW DPI. This is the latest edition of this handbook, replacing the 2004-2005 edition. Contents include Integrated Weed Management, legal responsibilities, calibration of equipment, reducing spray drift, withholding periods, herbicide resistance, noxious weeds, pesticide permits, noxious and environmental weed control and gas gun application. Copies are available from NSW DPI Bookshop, Orange. Ph 1800 028 374.

Integrated Weed Management in Australian Cropping. 2006. CRC for Australian Weed Management. Produced as a training resource for farm advisors and managers, this publication includes information on herbicide resistance, tactics for managing weed populations and profiles of common weeds of cropping. Available from weedinfo.com.au or (03) 5286 1533.

Pesticides: Health, Safety and the Environment. 2006. Emeritus Prof. G. A. Mathews, Dept Biosciences, Imperial College, London. This book reviews the most recent research in the area (includes herbicides) and is a vital resource for all of those involved in the agrochemical industry and government pesticide registration and legislation. Includes discussion of application methods, operator exposure and biomonitoring. Blackwell Publishing. Available from www.weedinfo.com.au or (03) 5286 1533.

Hymenachne infestation



Source: A. Doak, Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water, Queensland

- WEED WARNING -

H Y M E N A C H N E

Hymenachne amplexicaulis



Leaves clasp completely around the stem.

Source: Colin G. Wilson, Weed CRC website.

Hymenachne is a semi-aquatic perennial grass that has become a major weed of wetlands, floodplains and sugar cane crops in northern Australia. This species, native to south and central America, was originally introduced as a ponded pasture species. Hymenachne forms dense infestations displacing native plant species, reducing biodiversity and threatening native wetland habitat. Hymenachne is considered to be one of Australia's worst weeds, being listed as a Weed Of National Significance. Small infestations have already been found on the north coast, in the Richmond River catchment. Early detection of any new infestations on the north coast is crucial.

Hymenachne can grow in water up to 2m deep. The erect stems are hairless, up to 1.6m tall and contain a white pith. The species can be identified by leaf blades 20-35 cm long and 2-3cm wide with a distinct base that clasps around the stem – this is the key identifying feature of this species. The plant flowers in summer and autumn with flower-heads being spike-like, cylindrical, about 8mm wide and up to 40cm long. This species reproduces by seed, broken stem fragments and stolons. The plant spreads in floodwaters, in mud attached to waterbirds or stock or in contaminated stock feed.

The *Noxious Weeds Act* 1993 has listed Hymenachne 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 difficult. Most success has been obtained from repeated herbicide applications. Seek advice from your local weed authority.

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

Inspectorial Activities

Council has achieved a level of satisfaction with its GIS program WeedMap and is in the process of installing wireless access points in each depot to facilitate transfer of information between the field and office computers. With the retirement of a senior noxious weed inspector and two other inspectors and a ganger leaving, remaining staff have been bearing an extended workload. All vacancies have been advertised and will be filled in the near future.

A highlight of this quarter was the cooperation and coordination of weed inspection and control strategies with DEC staff from NPWS in the Evans River and Bungawalbin areas and with private forestry companies in the Dyrabba area.

NOXIOUS WEED STATUS

Activities this quarter have concentrated on control of aquatic weeds before the Christmas New Year break.

Class One

Water lettuce infestations continue to require regular monitoring for germination of seedlings, all recorded infestations in the county district continue to re-infest. Far North Coast Weeds in conjunction with Richmond River County council undertook mechanical removal of Water lettuce in the lower section of Bora Creek. Herbicide treatments were completed in the upstream section by FNCW and "edge treatments" in the downstream by RRCC. Mechanical removal was successful in removing the majority of biomass from this system and has also removing vegetation that was obstructing the natural flow of the creek thereby increasing tidal flow. A siltation boom was deployed to reduce disturbed sediment from being discharged, inspections in January revealed an improved water quality.

Inspections have continued in the Tweed Shire to ensure compliance with the control class for Water Lettuce infestations located at Piggabeen and Tyalgum. Landholder involvement has been a highlight in the management of a series of farm dams in both locations. Infestations at Bonalbo in the Kyogle shire have continued to reinfest however diligence on the behalf of inspectorial staff has ensured control was implemented before seed set. Monitoring of these sites will continue.

Councils major infestation is now located at "long lagoon" east of Casino in the Richmond Valley area. Floating booms have been installed, initial and follow up treatments with herbicides have been completed. Council plans to treat this infestation via aerial sprays in spring and implement landholder contributions via management plans. Other options to be investigated include the use of a mechanical harvester if funding can be sourced.

The discovery of *Hygrophilia polysperma* in the Tweed River at Byagnum and subsequent in house training has resulted in the identification of *H.polysperma* throughout Byron creek and the Wilson River over a similar range to Alligator Weed infestation. Follow-up at the Tweed river site also identified a terrestrial infestation of this weed which was treated in December. NSW DPI is assisting FNCW in obtaining a permit for control of *H.polysperma* in

terrestrial situations, although we are not optimistic about approval for different chemicals.

Follow up inspections to undertake mapping of the Hymenachne infestation south west of Casino has identified a second site. NSW DPI is assisting in obtaining control funding though a changeover in staff hindered the application. The two infestations extend over 22.768 ha, downstream inspections are yet to identify any spread of the infestation.

Class Two

Control works at the Casino alligator weed infestation have concentrated on physical removal with the removal of 4m² November 2006. Regrowth will continue to be removed manually as there is insufficient foliage for adequate herbicide application. Infestations continue to be identified in the Byron Creek and Wilson River sites with council staff actively involved in developing best practice management guide with NSW DPI staff.

Council Area	No. properties	Area of infestation (ha)
Ballina	1	.0001
Byron	24	7.5886
Lismore	11	0.1148

Table: Alligator weed infestations identified and controlled in FNCW area, 2006

Inspections continue to identify *Hygrophilia costata* infestations in the county district with no funds available for control this financial year.

Class Three

High establishment rates of *Cyrtobagous salviniae* continued this period with 7 releases of weevil occurring and all showing signs of action in January 2007. Mechanical control in the Banora point drainage system was again followed up with herbicide application on fringes and in areas inaccessible by the harvester. Implementation of a management plan for this infestation is difficult due to the number of stakeholders involved, council staff are confident that improved management of this infestation is possible.

Class Four

With high rainfall events prior to the New Year, Council has undertaken several releases of the lantana biological agent *Propodium tuberculatum*, with limited establishment rates. Council will continue to persevere with this control method for infestations of "pink flowering lantana". After an unsuccessful attempt to have all forms of lantana reclassified from a Class 4 Noxious Weed, Council is currently in the process of developing it's local management plan for lantana spp.

With the adoption of Council's local management plan for Camphor Laurel four areas have been identified for priority control in the 2006/07 financial year

Planned activities - Third Quarter 2006-07

- Continued inspections for Rhus Tree in the Lismore, Tweed and Byron Shire Areas
- Continued development of farm based management plans of Water Lettuce infestations in Tweed Council areas
- Inspections for Aquatic weeds and deciduous weeds (Honey Locust, Kudzu, Tecoma and Chinese Tallow)

- Development of management plans for Tweed river infestation of *H.polysperma* and Richmond Valley Hymenachne infestation. VCL control works for Groundsel and Broad Leaf Pepper Tree.

Clarence Update

Co-ordination

Good rain has promoted growth of most weed species in the area, with programs underway after the Christmas break. Programs targeting roadsides have predominately taken place.

Weird weed stories

Property owner in Hernani areas is using innovative weed control method – Camels are being used for blackberry and thistle management on his property – we'll let you know the results!

Funding finally allocated for Regional Group Projects and Weed Control Co-ordination from NSW DPI. This delay in funding is still inadequate for effective management of weed programs within Council and needs to be addressed. Funding also received from NSW DOL for control of noxious weeds on crown lands.

The senior environmental officer (weeds) has been involved in administration for the CMA3 projects (NCWAC) including finalising reports and correspondence with the Project Manager. Over the past year CMA projects in the Clarence LGA have been:

- * Clarence Coastal Weeds (CMA4) - \$9000
 - *Priority actions in priority locations - used for implementing bush regeneration techniques and assisting private properties in controlling coastal environmental weeds – completed June 2006*
- * West Clarence Vine Weeds (CMA3) – \$12000
 - *high priority location of Mysore thorn and Madiera vine controlled – completed Dec 2006*
- * Clarence Moonflower (CMA3) - \$5000
 - *project completed with further infestations identified on Susan Island*
- * Clarence Bitou Bush and Coastal Weeds (CMA3) - \$12500
 - *high priority location of Bitou bush and associated weeds controlled*

Upcoming projects

- * Boyd River Recovery Project - \$11000
 - *funding for plan development for reach-based project over 40km of river*
 - *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 has been conducted aurally with assistance from NPWS*
- * Clarence Valley Bitou bush TAP project - \$29000 (over 2 years)
 - *funding for implementation of Threat Abatement Plan on two Category 1 sites – Wooli and Angourie*
 - *site specific management plans to be developed, strategic control of bitou over*

two seasons and monitoring of impact on threatened species

The Customer Service Officer resigned to take a position with TAFE – customer service functions now with CVC Grafton office.

Noxious Weeds Team responsible for co-ordinating the Pesticide Notification Plan for Council which was recently adopted. Further work is required through the newly developed Pesticide User Group to develop procedures and protocols for its use across Council.

Inspectorial

In 2006/07 the Weed Officers have so far undertaken 1449 inspections covering an area of 34867 hectares. Re-inspections on properties were conducted as required, with evidence that landholders are effectively dealing with their noxious weed problems. There were only 8 Section 18 notices served in the last period, which shows the effectiveness of the Weed Officers to gain compliance as required.

Class 5 Cabomba was identified in the Glenreagh and Glenugie areas – these infestations pose serious concerns for the Clarence catchments and actions will need to be taken soon.

Staff undertook training in Grass identification – handy for new weedy species being queried by landholders. Staff also attended a Willow workshop in Coffs Harbour – very useful for identification of Black Willow in Clarence.

Tally

July 2006 to February 2007 - Total for year – 1239 inspections and 210 reinspections
(690 clean, 638 weeds found, 132 clearance, 8 Sec 18 notice)

Operational

Limited funding has been received through Private Works this year. No casual staff employed for this period. The use of contractors is adopted as a means of fulfilling our weed control requirements. Wet weather limited operations over five days.

Pacific Highway and other major arterial roads had noxious weed infestations addressed during this period. Noxious Weeds staff are assisting the Open Spaces and Roads and Transport sections with completing herbicide application as required. The works required include bindii and broadleaf spraying of reserves and footpaths, guideposts and guardrails, reseals, drains and other control works as requested. Staff also undertook training in ATV operation.

Weed control for this quarter included:

- Blackberry (2 days)
- Camphor laurel (5 days) – roadside control
- Croftons Weed (2 days) – roadside infestations
- Giant Parramatta Grass (5 days) – spraying in targeted areas and surveying new infestations
- Groundsel bush (10 days) – roadside infestations
- Red Flowering Lantana (5 days) – roadside infestations
- Salvinia and Water Hyacinth (1 day)
- Tecoma (1 day) – roadside infestation

Private works

- Roadside furniture – CVC Roads and Transport (internal)

DEC NPWS CLARENCE VALLEY

Coastal weeds

- Bitou Tap site plans produced for Sandon North and Sandon South sites..
- Glory lily control in December and follow up in February/March at Bongil Bongil NP, at Diggers Camp-Wilsons Headland and Sandon north in Yuraygir NP.
- Bitou bush spraying in Yuraygir NP at Sandon. Bad spraying weather over spring meant spray program extended into early summer. Littoral rainforest behind Sandon north beach dunes treated for variety of weeds.
- Coolatai grass follow up on Diggers Camp Road, Illaroo access road (Yuraygir NP) and Iluka Rd near Shark Bay at Bundjalung.

Forest weeds

- Cats claw control follow up extension of primary works along with further survey of infestations in Mt Pikapene NP
- Susan Island program commenced with priority given to riverbank balloon vine and cats claw infestations.

NSW DPI - GRAFTON WEEDS UNIT

Hygrophila polysperma, was recently found in Byron Creek and the Wilson's River in the same area as Alligator Weed. FNCs staff are currently assessing the infestation and preparing a proposal to treat the problem. This is the second infestation found in the region. It was previously detected in the Tweed river, where it has been manually removed, with ongoing maintenance. *H. polysperma* still appears to be promoted and sold in retail outlets for aquarium uses, which is illegal as it is a Class 1 noxious weed. See the East Indian Hygrophilla Weed Alert for further information at;
<http://www.agric.nsw.gov.au/ap/weeds/>

Egeria densa is proposed for declaration as a Class 5 weed. Public consultation closed on February 9, for consideration by the Minister.

The Noxious and Environmental Weed Control Handbook has been revised and updated, is currently being printed and will be available during March. A new range of Weed Alert brochures are also available, including; many of the new Class 1 weeds. Publications are available from the DPI bookshop in Orange or online.

LGA Group Project reports and Plan Assessments

Council reports and plans are currently being assessed to be presented to the Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee in the coming months. While there was some variability in the standard of reporting, most were satisfactory and seem to be achieving the desired outcomes.

Salvinia weevils are still available from the Grafton facility. Weed officers that have obtained weevils are requested to fill out a site description and release form and return to NSW DPI at Grafton. This information is critical for evaluating both the field performance of the weevils and the facility itself.

The **Alligator Weed best practice manual** is mid way through its preparation. Elissa van Oosterhout, best practice project officer has run two Alligator weed management workshops to help determine the best and most appropriate control techniques for various situations. The manual should be available later in 2007.

The **Aquatic Weeds Early Detection** program has held its first identification training workshop, in Grafton on the 15th of February, in conjunction with the NCWAC. The DWM funded project will work with Councils, water authorities and community groups to promote the early detection program.

Coffs Harbour Update

Inspectorial

Inspections have been carried out principally for Groundsel Bush, Tecoma, Chinese Celtis and Pepper Trees most of which were found in urban areas and urban fringes as seed dispersal spreads those weeds even further.

An aerial inspection for Groundsel Bush was carried out last week with very few identifiable infestations found.

Preliminary and S18 Notices have been issued for all of the above mentioned weeds.

Two very significant infestations of Groundsel Bush (adjoining each other) south of Nana Glen were aerielly spray recently. The larger of these infestations had been sprayed twice before with virtually no result.

Pesticide Notification Plan recently approved by Council

Operational Aquatic Weeds

Salvinia
No new infestations found. The largest infestation exists on Community Association land at Sapphire where it is being managed by a very enthusiastic group of residents. They purchased and installed two booms, sprayed Immerse and introduced beetles in an attempt to control it.

Cabomba

Recently found a large infestation on the Orara River upstream from the intake for the Coffs Harbour water supply.

Bitou Bush

Carried out some spraying of Bitou Bush and Asparagus Fern with Brushoff at Corindi. Results look good with very little off target damage to natives.

Roadside Weeds

Targeting Groundsel Bush and Lantana using Starane in more sensitive locations and Grazon DS in others.

Roadside Camphor laurels

This program continues with approximately \$30,000.00 to spend this year.

Future Activities

- Mechanical clearing of a large Kudzu site north of Coffs Harbour to allow better and safer access

for control work (cutting & painting tubers) using Envirotek.

- On-going removal of Celtis and Pepper Trees from Council land throughout urban areas
- Completion of roadside control program on the Pacific Highway
- Further spraying of Bitou Bush and Asparagus Fern in Corindi (VCL)
- Joint inspection with DEC in CCPR to assess Bitou and develop control program for winter this year

DEC NPWS COFFS REGION

Coastal Weeds

- Bitou TAP site plans have been produced for Look-at-me-now Headland, Dammerals Head, Bare Bluff and Diggers Point in Moonee Beach Nature Reserve
- Ongoing bush regeneration contract work on the above headlands focused on the protection of Threatened Species. Weeds controlled included bitou bush, winter senna, giant paspalum, giant Parramatta grass, kikuyu, groundsel bush, ground asparagus, corky passionfruit and lantana. Monitoring transects and photo points have been established at a number of sites.
- Ongoing bush regeneration work by NPWS staff has continued in Coffs Coast Regional Park and Bongil Bongil NP.
- There has been follow-up control of glory lily in Bongil Bongil NP and Coffs Coast RP.
- A map-based weed strategy has been produced for South Solitary Island NR.

Forest weeds

- Groundsel bush control has been carried out at a number of sites in Bongil Bongil NP including Bonville Station Road where previous native plantings have had mulch placed around them. Follow up planting is proposed to help regenerate the site.
- Groundsel bush control has been conducted in Moonee Beach NR, north of the Tiki trail.
- Control of lantana, paspalum and privets has occurred at three sites in Bindarra NP; the Dairyville entrance, the new Bindarray picnic area along Urumbillum Creek and along Granite Pit Road in the south (Crossmaglen area) of the reserve.
- A map-based weed strategy has been produced for Korora NR

Future programs

- Lantana control in Bongil Bongil NP, Sherwood NR, Ulidarra NP, Korora NR and Bindarra NP.
- Bush regeneration in Bongil Bongil NP, Moonee Beach NR and Coffs Coast RP

Bellingen Shire Update

Noxious Weed Administration

Council has been advised of successful funding through the Department of Primary Industries (Agriculture).

A temporary casual Weed Inspector is to be appointed. This person will primarily focus on areas of known Category 3 weeds. This focus will include Groundsel Bush, Cats Claw Creeper, Celtis, Black willow etc and undertake an aerial inspection for groundsel bush and blackberry.

Noxious Weed Training

Council's Vegetation Officer attended a Willow identification Workshop in Coffs Harbour.

Noxious and Environmental Weeds Program of Works

Completed Works –

Wickwiping program in Valley completed. Blackberry and privet controlled on plateau.

Planned Works –

Roadside lantana, Groundsel, privet, small Camphor Laurel, Kudzu control works to be advertised and progressed in the valley.

Honey Locust Control will occur in known infestations in the Bostobrick area.

Cats Claw Creeper on Council sites (including Fernmount) will be followed up.

Review of areas to be treated this spring for Giant Parramatta Grass on the plateau.

Environmental Levy Vegetation Projects Update

Dangar Falls

Council has received advice that it was unsuccessful in its bid to the Environmental Trust for a grant to augment this project. Council's contractor has begun bush regeneration activities at the site – 5 monitoring points are to be used (including photo points).

Coastal Zone Vegetation

Council was successful in its bid for a \$10,500 grant through WetlandCare Australia's Sustainable Coastal Wetlands Project to augment those funds committed by Council.

The area has been broken into 8 management units and monitoring sites have been identified and data collected at each of these (including photo points).

Contractors have been engaged and works have begun on the site.

Council has also secured a commitment from the Department of Lands to the value of \$6,000 to support the project. Additional to this Morgo Street Trust have allocated \$1000 to environmental weed control in the Flagstaff hill area.

Environmental Weed Tree Removal

Expressions of interest have been received by a number of landholders to undertake cooperative works in relation to Camphor Laurel removal on roadsides adjacent their properties. These cooperative works have begun in a number of locations (including the Promised Land Loop Rd) with the Never Never Landcare group controlling

mature Camphor Laurel to the value of \$25,000 with an environmental levy allocation of \$5000 to this project.

Council's Vegetation Officer has met with Bellinger Landcare representatives to explore avenues for further community involvement and engagement in this project. This strategic approach is to be partially achieved by the control of publicly visible trees that will not cause excessive community concern. Additional to this the project is also working with groups identified as having achieved camphor laurel control results.

DEC BELLINGEN AREA,

Forest weeds

- Blackberry control in Guy Fawkes River NP, New England NP, Cathedral Rock NP, Chaelundi NP and Nymboi-Binderay NP.
- Map-based weed control strategies have been produced for Muldiva NR and Junuy Juluum NP. Privet, black locust and Japanese honeysuckle is currently being controlled in Junuy Juluum NP.
- Lantana splatter gun trials have been undertaken in New England NP.
- Mistflower mapping surveys have been undertaken in Nulla Creek in New England NP in preparation for the mistflower contract in April.

Riparian weeds

- Privet control and bush regeneration in Nymboi-Binderay NP and Muldiva NR.
- Willow control in Guy Fawkes River NP.

Roadside weeds

- Control of formosa lily, kahili ginger and madeira vine on Waterfall Way, Dorrigo NP.

Future programs

- Lantana control in Guy Fawkes River NP, Chaelundi NP, Dorrigo NP, New England NP and Nymboi-Binderay NP.
- Trad control in Dorrigo NP.
- Mistflower control in New England NP – Sunday Creek, Bellinger River and Nulla Creek.
- Bush regeneration in Junuy Juluum NP and at the two regeneration sites in Dorrigo NP.
- Madeira vine control in Bellinger River NP.

Nambucca Shire Update

Inspectorial activities

Property inspections were conducted throughout various areas of the Nambucca Shire during the last quarter of 2006, with many infestations of Groundsel Bush (*Baccharis halimifolia*) identified to be growing within private lands. Areas affected by this Class 3 weed included the Newee Creek, South Arm and Eungai areas of the Nambucca Shire. Those land owners / occupiers who did not have sufficient weed management programs in place were issued with letters requiring control (Section 18a). Other Noxious

Weeds found to be present within private lands included Noogoora Burrs, Giant Parramatta Grass and Privets.

A large amount of Yellow Bells infestations are also being discovered, mainly in urban areas or surrounding homesteads in rural settings. All known roadside infestations of Tecoma have been treated, with one remaining infestation within a Crown Reserve given high priority for treatment in the coming months to prevent its spread into adjoining Forests NSW lands. An isolated infestation was located and treated within the State Forest in the Nambucca area, which appeared to be emerging from green waste that had been illegally dumped.

Total. No. inspections	118
Total. No. properties with weeds present	68
No. letters requiring control (Sect 18A)	24
Section 18 – Notice to Control	1
Section 20 - Enforced Control	0
Total area inspected (hectares)	7120
Total area weed affected (hectares)	210

COMPLETED WORKS

A widespread Giant Parramatta and Giant Rats Tail Grass control program was conducted throughout roadside reserves within the Shire, at cost to the Council. Private land owners/occupiers invest large amounts of money into controlling this undesirable weed species, which is readily spread into lands from roadside infestations.

Privets were treated with great success in the Bowraville, Missabotti and South Arm areas, with the addition of Pulse seen as very beneficial to raise the efficacy of Brush-Off on this invasive weed species.

Groundsel Bush infestations (mainly seedlings) have been treated throughout the Nambucca Shire on roadside and other Council managed reserves. Other weeds that have been controlled throughout the Nambucca include Lantana, Camphor Laurels and Yellow Bells.

Advice from chemical suppliers and other weed controllers in the region has seen the Nambucca Shire use new herbicides and additives to raise the efficacy of weed control operations. Starane has been extensively used within roadside reserves and is now favoured for use over Grazon as it has less impact on desirable native species and is proving to be highly effective in the control of many roadside woody weeds. Additives such as Nu-Film P have also proven to increase the efficiency of herbicides and Mist Control has been extensively used throughout spraying programs to reduce off-target damage.

PROJECTS

An ongoing vine weed project in the Taylors Arm area has been very successful, with Dean Dury from Pro-Spray conducting the works. A total of three weeks was spent in the riparian zone to control Madeira Vine, Moth Vine and an Angels Trumpet infestation. Madeira Vine was found to be growing to the very tops of rainforest and other trees that are between 25 – 30 metres in height. These vines will be severed at the base, now there is access to the area, to remove the aerial vines and allow on ground control that is far more time and cost effective.

A Landcare project that is being funded by the CMA in the Deep Creek Catchment has been initiated and many land

owners/occupiers have contacted the Noxious Weeds inspector to assess the weed burdens within their lands and the best control / management strategies that may suit their properties.

FUTURE PLANS

- Control of Groundsel Bush infestations in within Crown reserves throughout the shire
- Control of Gloriosa 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

DEC NAMBUCCA AREA

Coastal weeds

- Ongoing bush regeneration work by NPWS staff in Valla NR and Jagun NP
- In Yariabinni NP a bush regeneration contract has focused on control of bitou bush, lantana, smooth senna, cotton bush and other environmental weeds.

Future programs

- Lantana control is planned for Yarriabini NP, Nambucca Aboriginal area, Bowraville NR, Dunggir NP, Juugawaarri NP and Ngambaa NR.
- Groundsel bush control is planned for Ngambaa NR, Jaanninga NP, Jagun NR and Yariabinni NP.

The information contained in this Newsletter is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing / compiling (26 May 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.