

North Coast WEED READ

No.6 JULY 2005

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.

20-22 Sept. Orange. Email
lgough@orange.nsw.gov.au

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

COURSES, WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES

Cats claw creeper field day

29 July, 10-12. Fernmount (Bellingen).
Demonstrations, talks. Ph EnviTE on 6650 9170.

Cats claw creeper field day

7 Aug, 12.30. 1354 Kangaroo Creek Road, Coutts
Crossing. Demos, talks. Ph EnviTE 66433633.

58th New Zealand Plant Protection Conference

9-11 Aug. Wellington, NZ.
www.hortnet.co.nz/publications/nzpps/conferen.htm

Bellinger coastal bus tour

11 Aug, 9am-3pm. Visit/presentations of Landcare,
Council projects. Ph. Bellinger Landcare 6655 0588.

Kayak on Brunswick River

11 or 13 Aug. Paddle from Mullum to Brunswick
Heads while guide Geoff McCallum talks on flora,
fauna & ecology. Ph ACE to book on 66843374

Bush regeneration techniques - Coffs / Bellingen

13 Aug, 9am-3pm. Introduction incl. enviro. weeds,
control, equipment, planning & monitoring. Ph.
EnviTE Coffs Harbour on 6650 9170.

Coastal Partnership Forum

16-17 Aug. Lennox Head. Discuss a broad range of
coastal issues, coordination / resource sharing. Ph
Brian Huges, Coastcare on 66430239, 0408417621

2nd Victorian Weed Conference

17-18 Aug. Bendigo. 0395762949, www.wsvic.org.au

5th Landcare/Catchment Management Forum

18-20 Aug. Theme 'leaving small footprints'. Aimed
at landholders, land managers, landcarers & natural
resource workers. Wagga Wagga. Ph. 69217308.
<http://murrumbidgee.cma.gov.au/footprint.html>

2nd Biennial Victorian Weed Control Conference

17-18 Aug. Bendigo, Vic. Ph. Weed Society Victoria.
(03) 95762949, <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~weedsoc/>

4th World conference on allelopathy

21-26 Aug. Wagga Wagga. Ph Dr Rex Stanton
(02) 69332117, rstanton@csu.edu.au,
<http://www.csu.edu.au/special/allelopathycongress/>

Community camphor control workshop

11 Sept, 9.15am-1pm. Stokers Siding. Ph. Kate
McKenzie on 66725488.

13th Biennial NSW Noxious Weeds Conference

W E E D N E W S

New \$ through NRCMA

North Coast Weeds Advisory Committee successfully
applied for Northern Rivers Catchment Management
Authority funding to implement part A & C of the Integrated
Environmental Weed Control Strategy.

Projects to be funded in Part A will include:

Upper Bellinger and Kalang vine weeds	\$18,500
Upper Clarence cats claw creeper	\$18,500
Kudzu – Tweed, Brunswick, Coffs, Bellingen	\$17,000
West Clarence Madeira vine, mysore thorn	\$12,000
Clarence moonflower	\$5,000#
Tweed camphor laurel replacement trees	\$3,000*
Brunswick camphor laurel replacement trees	\$3,000*
Richmond camphor laurel replacement trees	\$5,000*

Plus additional funding: * = a total of \$2,400 from sales of
the Camphor Laurel Kit, # = \$3,000 from DEC

Notes on funding: The funds target the highest priority
environmental weed species in / adjoining HCV locations
such as World Heritage areas. The camphor laurel
replacement project is an expansion of the successful
project being implemented in Clarence, Coffs Harbour &
Bellingen LGAs.

Part C will fund bitou bush & coastal weed management in
high priority areas such as littoral rainforest & near
threatened species in the following areas:

Far North Coast Weeds area	\$13,000
Clarence LGA	\$12,500
National Parks estate	\$12,500
Coffs Harbour LGA	\$10,000+
Bellingen LGA	\$5,000

where + = plus \$5000 Coffs Harbour Environmental Levy

For more information ph. Tim Scanlon on 66550052.

MORE FREE TREES!!!

Free native fig trees and other useful replacement species
are being offered to land managers undertaking camphor
laurel / privet control in the Clarence, Coffs Harbour and
Bellingen LGAs. The project is funded by the CMA & sales
of the Camphor Laurel Kit. Ph. Reece Luxton (Clarence
66433820), Barry Powells (Coffs Harbour 66484899) or
Ian Turnbull (Bellingen 66557338) for yours!

CHEAP camphor control

Bellingen, Coffs Harbour and Clarence Councils are
offering FREE use of camphor laurel tree injector kits to
Landowners / Landcare groups. The kits are easy to use &
are the most effective / efficient control technique. Phone
Bellingen 66557338, Coffs 66484889, Clarence 66433820

Permit for environmental weed control

The Dept. Environment & Conservation permit 5206
covering control of a wide range of environmental weeds
with glyphosate & metsulfuron methyl has now been
expanded to include the North Coast & Mid North Coast
Weeds Advisory Committees – i.e incl. member

All communications to the Secretary

NSW North Coast Weed Advisory Committee, PO Box 117, Bellingen 2454

Phone (02) 6655 7300

Fax (02) 6655 2310

E-mail: iturnbull@bellingen.nsw.gov.au

www.northcoastweeds.org.au

organizations (such as weed control authorities, Landcare). <http://permits.apvma.gov.au/PER5206.PDF>

Gledhill report on web

The review of coordination & management of noxious weeds in NSW is now available on the net – www.agric.nsw.gov.au/ap/weeds

Pesticides training – now is the time

Commercial users of pesticides and people using pesticides on land they do not own are required to undertake approved pesticide use training (e.g. Chemcert accreditation) by 1st September 2005 under changes to the Pesticides Act 1999. Ph. EPA's Pollution line on 131555 or visit www.epa.nsw.gov.au/pesticides

Asparagus information

The National Asparagus Management Committee are producing a best practice control manual for Asparagus weeds & require copies of any brochures, pamphlets, fact sheets etc. Please send to Dennis Gannaway at gannaway.dennis@saugov.sa.gov.au or Ph 08830399748. The source of all material will be credited.

NSW Noxious Weeds Conference program

available on the net at <http://www.orange.nsw.gov.au>
Follow the links on left of page.

Dorrigo Landcare Office has moved

New address 69 Hickory St. Usually open Monday to Wednesday. Ph / fax 6657 1222

CMA talk at Tweed Landcare

Rob Quirk, NRCMA, is guest speaker at Tweed Landcare meeting 6th Aug, 6.30pm Mur'bah Services Memorial Club

Lord Howe Island weeding tours

Enjoy a week on beautiful Lord Howe Island while helping to control weeds such as Asparagus & Cherry guava. Places available on 2005 trips: 23-30 July & 6-13 Aug. Ph. Mr Rymill Abell on 02 9416 5936.

Safety management toolkit

Conservation Volunteers Australia recently released "In safe hands", a safety management toolkit for community groups in practical conservation. It is available on their website www.cva.org.au

Volunteer insurance for vacant crown lands

Volunteers working on vacant crown land can obtain public liability insurance cover through Dept of Lands (previously available from DLWC). See your local Dept Lands office.

Volunteers coordinator manual (VCN)

A best practice guide for not-for-profit organisations, to assist them in managing long term environmental volunteer programs. Developed by the Volunteer Coordinators Network (Natural Areas). Ph 98957753 www.aabr.org.au/vcn/index.htm

NSW/ACT regional achievement & community awards

Nominate local Landcare initiatives, or individual in Regional Service category. Nominations close 5th Aug. Great prizes such as \$5000 & Prime TV commercial airtime available. Ph 98997251, www.awardsaustralia.com

Demonstrating ESD: 1 day Workshop for Councils

Local Government and Shires Associations are sponsoring a workshop program to assist Council staff and Councillors to understand sustainability better and to more fully meet their obligations for ESD under the legislation. Workshops are being run across the state in July and August. For dates and locations and registration details see <http://www.impactenviro.com.au/esd/> For further information, call the facilitators, Fil Cerone 02 9570 1577 or Grahame Collier on 02 9948 8243.

SOME UPCOMING FUNDING

Envirofund

Round 7 is now a "drought recover round". Applications will only be accepted from locations within "Exceptional Circumstances declared areas". Other changes for this round include a much simplified application & only requiring to match \$1 for every \$3 funding. Applications close 26th August. Round 8 will open later in 2005. Ph 1800 065 823 or visit www.nht.gov.au/envirofund

Community water grants

Grants of up to \$50,000 are available to community organizations to encourage wise water use. Activities can include on-ground projects that protect or enhance the health of rivers, wetlands & groundwater resources. Applications close 4th October 2005. Ph 1800 780 730 or www.communitywatergrants.gov.au

Australian Government Funding Guide

A new guide to the Australian Government's Funding Programs for Environment and Heritage has been produced. This guide provides an overview of the full range of grants available through the Department of Environment and Heritage. It directs groups and individuals to further information about each programme and where to find detailed criteria and application forms. Programs include: Community Water Grants (\$200 million over five years) Envirofund (part of \$3 billion Natural Heritage Trust) Commonwealth Environmental Research Facilities program (\$100 million over five years) Environmental Education Grants Grants to Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisations The guide is available from: <http://www.deh.gov.au/programs/publications/guide/index.html>

NEW BOOKS, CD-ROMs etc.

Broadleaf weed seedlings of temperate crops and pastures by Jim Dellow, NSW DPI, 2005. \$30 112 pages, good clear photographs of 94 weeds, importantly taken at young seedling stage (instead of at flowering stage) and notes pointing out main characteristics. Unfortunately a couple of the photos may have been taken when the weeds were too young so that true leaves aren't clearly seen.

New chemicals guide

An initiative of Environment Protection & Heritage Council. 600+ chemicals in a central database with each chemical's environmental standard or guideline plus practical & easy to understand explanations about chemical standards and links to the original sources of these criteria. Available free at: hermes.erin.gov.au/crg/content/Chemical_Reference_Guide.pdf

CMA UPDATE

Draft Catchment Action Plan

The refinement phase of the Catchment Action Plan (CAP) Target Framework is well under way. This phase involved staff of the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (CMA) talking with a variety of key stakeholders including local government, government agencies, community capacity building networks, industry groups, Aboriginal land councils and environmental organisations. The CMA held three local government workshops across the Northern Rivers in the North, South and Tablelands.

Currently, staff are reviewing comments made during the refinement phase, as well as continuing to meet with key organizations. Contact Royce Bennet on 6642 0624 for more information.

Community capacity building contracts

The Community Capacity Building contracts for the northern Rivers were advertised and have now been awarded for the next 2 years. They are:

- Boorongon Djugun Aboriginal Corporation - Biripai and Dughutti communities
- Brunswick Valley Landcare Inc - Brunswick
- Richmond Landcare Services - East/West Richmond
- Granite Borders Landcare Committee Inc - Tablelands (Northern)
- Clarence Landcare Inc - Mid/Lower Clarence
- Southern New England Ltd - Tablelands (Southern)
- Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare Inc - Coffs Harbour
- Bellinger Landcare Inc - Bellinger/Dorrigo
- Nambucca Valley Landcare Inc - Nambucca

Further information contact NR CMA 66420622.

Lantana adaptive management trials

Dr Daniel Stock has been appointed Project Officer (Lantana Best Practice Management). He has produced an action plan for the Adaptive Management Trials. It is based on initial workshop for this project.



Photo Coastcare

He plans to check some the proposed sites (7 or 8) when everyone is happy with them. This will involve several trips around north QLD (e.g. Tully / Mt Fox / Hughenden), southeast QLD / northern NSW (e.g. Border Ranges / Yarraman / Clairview / Bellinger) and southern NSW (Shoalhaven).

Initial trips will be a scoping exercise to check their suitability and meet with relevant landholders and possibly local government contacts (for their support). Subsequent follow-up trips in the next 2 to 3 months when initial measurements of lantana will be made and commencement of controls begun.

National Lantana coordinator report

Identifying High Priority areas – Workshop 25th May in Lismore regarding species impacted by Lantana.
Remote sensing pilot studies – signatures are viable from satellite imagery in identifying Lantana.
Some DNA testing being undertaken.

Agricultural weeds update

- Weedy sporobolus the worst pest this year for primary producers – this year worse than in recent years.
- Cockspur Coral on Wilson River – suggestion that it be declared noxious as a low level weed.
- Some concerns over invasion of Bahia grass in Grafton area. Metsulfuron-Methyl works well but a permit will be required. NCWAC have expressed concern over Bahia grass in certain situations and have recommended DPI take the plant off the recommended species list.

David Officer GPG research

Disease & Biocontrol

Die off in GPG noticed in area over a three year period, doesn't appear to be harming native sporobolus. Testing has isolated a number of causal agents but has been unable to re-infect healthy plants. If you see it please contact David. MLA sponsored biocontrol work in South Africa have identified two agents as possible for introduction on weedy sporobolus.

Resistance

No further flupropanate resistant plants being reported.

Southpark Trial

Pasture, flupropanate and grazing management trial.

- WEED WARNING -

MYSORE THORN

Caesalpinia decapetala

Mysore thorn is a robust perennial 2-4m high shrub or sprawling climber to 15m high with long thorny branches. It readily forms dense impenetrable thickets. And yes, it's thorny!



Leaves of mysore thorn are bi-pinnate and up to 300mm long. The leaflets are dark green above, paler beneath, approximately 8mm wide and covered with fine hairs. Thorns on the stems are straight or hooked and aid its ability to climb.

Mysore thorn has distinctive pale yellow flowers in long racemes that protrude up to 50cm above the main plant in winter-spring. The flowers have prickles at the base. Flattened brown woody pods are produced by the plant in spring-summer. The many seeds can remain viable in the soil for up to 10 years. It has both tap and lateral roots.

In Clarence Valley mysore thorn has now been found on a number of properties in the former Copmanhurst Shire. Other infestations are Blaxlands Creek, Buccurumbi, Cunglebung and Pinebrush areas. CVVC are seeking declaration of Mysore thorn as a W2 noxious weed.

Mysore thorn is an ongoing problem in the Tweed, Brunswick, Richmond and Wilson catchments and Coffs Harbour and isolated in Bellinger LGA.

The plant can be effectively controlled using metsulfuron methyl-based herbicides (see label and permits). Contact your local Weed Control Authority for more information.

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

Aquatic Weeds

Large infestations of **water hyacinth** and **water lettuce** were located in the Richmond Shire. Treatment in April: foliar spray of the water hyacinth. The water lettuce infestation was treated within 5 days of discovery, meeting Objective 1 of FNCW management plan. Monitoring will continue downstream of the Infestation to ensure maximum control - treatments to be completed before end of June, follow up works in spring.



Water lettuce. NSW DPI

Water hyacinth is a problem in the Richmond floodplain areas with FNCW aiming to conduct a works program in conjunction with Richmond River Council to control areas of this weed on private dams, flood ways and river systems. Landowners have reported areas of Water Hyacinth that are dying off. Inspectors are investigating possible biological control agents working in this area, however no evidence has been found to date.

Initial treatments of **alligator weed** in the area have been successful with monitoring of treated sites for regrowth. Follow up works will occur in June with a thorough inspection and mapping of all known sites and potential areas downstream of current infestations. The formation of an alligator weed taskforce this autumn will improve current management of this weed of national significance.

Salvinia control works were successful in summer with a decrease in reported sightings of this weed. Infestation on a backwater adjoining the Tweed River was located while conducting aerial inspections - treated May.

Groundsel bush

Groundsel works have been completed for this season with aerial inspections completed in April. Conversion of datum to Weed map format is a priority with ground truthing occurring over winter.

Bushland weeds

Celtis, **Camphor laurel** and **Broad leaf pepper tree** will be targeted over the winter months with works concentrating on roadsides in declared council areas.



Photo Celtis, NSW DPI

Coastal weeds

Bitou bush roadside treatments were conducted in Tweed shire area with works planned in Ballina to complement the current programs overseen by Ballina Shire Council. Aerial as well as ground treatments will be utilised with aerial seeding occurring along the Coastline. Vacant crown land, caravan parks and riparian areas will be inspected and treated during the winter months.

Riparian weeds

Current Northern rivers catchment association project for the control and replacement of *Erythrina crista-galli* is continuing. Landowners have been contacted and the response has been encouraging with many landowners realising the problem this tree can create. Control works

will start May at two sites in the Richmond Catchment. Declaration has been sent to Tim Scanlon (project officer) for submission to NCWAC.

FNCW inspection program

Cadastral data is being updated with all inspectors comfortable with using the weed map system. Mapping is progressing well, with a data connection being made available in depots for communication between the field units and the administration network.

FNCW staff

In April Far North Coast Weeds employed two new inspectors and a spray person. Casual and part time staff had previously filled these positions. The return to a full complement of inspectors and spray staff will only benefit the region.

Clarence Update

Coastal weeds

Bush Regeneration contractors at Woody Head, Iluka and Diggers Camp treating bitou, senna, lantana and glory lily. Planning for bitou control in Bundjalung & Yuraygir.

Riparian weeds

Bush Regeneration contractors, NPWS and CVA Susan Island rainforest weeds such as Dutchmans Pipe, Coastal Morning Glory, Moonflower, Moth Vine, Balloon Vine, Cats Claw, Trad, Privets, Camphors. Cats Claw control Mt Pikapene NP.

Groundsel bush

Groundsel Bush Esk River Bundjalung NP with contractors & park staff. Aerial spraying remote patches along Esk River, also southwest of Brooms Head. Extensive groundsel works in Yuraygir- Station Creek, Wooli, Sandon areas.

Forest weeds

Slash Pine Station Ck Yuraygir National Park. Coolatai Grass Iluka Rd.

Upcoming DEC (NPWS)

Susan Island Follow up
Bitou control NPWS and CVWA Shark Bay, aerial work first week in June for Bundjalung NP, Extensive bitou control in Yuraygir NP.

CVC Co-ordination

There has been a high media presence regarding weed issues in the Clarence recently. Of note is Camphor laurel on the Orara River, Lantana at Dorrigo, and other general noxious weed items such as Wild pears.

Wild pears (rootstock of Nashi Pear) have again been brought up as a problem species in the Dinjerra area. Landholders are seeking declaration as a noxious weed; however CVC and NSW DPI are promoting it more as horticultural issue. Over 100 hectares of private property are covered with this plant where it stems predominately from failed horticultural enterprises.

Reports to Council have resulted from the above media articles, emphasising the need for good communication both internally and externally.

More concern over **Coolatai Grass** – it is now found to be present on most roads in the Clarence, particularly any links to the tablelands being worst infested. Further monitoring of the situation will occur over the coming spring and summer.

CVC Noxious Weeds are now responsible for the operational supervision of a **Bush Regeneration** team based in Maclean – this team is also running a community nursery funded through CMA and other external funds. This project was brought to fruition by Janet Purcell, Reserves Officer based in Maclean.

The NSW DPI Grant application has been submitted for another year – many thanks to those who helped with our applications. The DPI Performance Measurement Project has hit another roadblock with Project Officer Janelle Jenkins resigning – it is hoped that this project will continue in the future.

Meetings of note have included:

- North Coast Weeds Officer meeting – March (minutes available)
- Bitou aerial spraying meeting in Sawtell – March
- Weed Management with North Coast Water – Shannon Creek dam site

In regards to the North Coast Weeds Officers meeting, a letter is to be written to Syd Lisle, State Weed Control Co-ordinator with NSW DPI regarding the issue of conflicting funding cycles between Regional Weeds Management Plans and Regional Group Projects for the North Coast.

Also was an update on the Performance Measurement Project, discussion of the Weeds Forum, funding applications, CMA Action Plans (3 to 1) and the Negotiated Project being run by Tim Scanlon.

The CVC have also been involved in the Lantana WONS program looking at Adaptive Management trials – sites for the North Coast (Upper Clarence or Bellingen) are to be investigated, with Toonenbar NR a definite site being run by NPWS.

Lantana Biocontrol does not look prospective at the moment, however Bitou bush Biocontrol looks promising with further establishment of the Tortrix moth and further establishment of the other varieties in the Clarence.

Salvinia Biocontrol releases have been made now at three sites – Waterview Heights, Tucabia and Lawrence.

The NCWAC **Camphor laurel** – replacement tree project is running slowly with limited uptake by landholders – unable to determine why this is the case. Council has also made control kits (x 4) available.

CVC Inspectorial

Generally there is follow up on Section 18 notices this time of year – up to 85% compliance in total to date. One infringement notice was served on a landholder in the Ramornie area.

Property Inspection procedures were reviewed to increase the effectiveness of the use of PDA's. The Noxious Weeds Office is on target to achieve 3000 inspections this financial year.

Aerial inspections conducted predominately over the former Copmanhurst Shire Council area, with **Groundsel Bush, Mysore Thorn, Red Flower Lantana** the main suspects. A large infestation of **Giant Rat Tail Grass** was located at Ramornie. Altogether approx 1300 properties were inspected by air, to be followed up by ground inspections.

Sentinel sites for **aquatic weeds** were monitored as per the WONS project guidelines being managed by Andrew Petroschevsky.

Maclean

Shark Creek area – more groundsel bush

Grafton

Various areas - more green cestrum

Pristine Waters

Infringement notices served on red flower lantana

Section 20 entries done – very effective tool

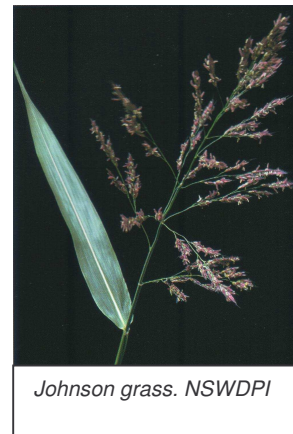
Copmanhurst

new inspections starting from previously inspected areas of former Grafton and Pristine Waters Council boundaries

CVC Operational

Core casual staff still employed for this period – predominately for the Bitou bush program and Private Works as required.

Roadsides were targeted in known problem areas, including works on **Groundsel bush** and **Lantana**, with **Johnson Grass** control also continued along the Pacific Highway. Council reserves have also benefited with a 'landscape' approach adopted with weed control, rather than the normal single species control work. Weeds such as **winter senna**, **asparagus fern**, **coastal morning glory** and **pink flower lantana** have been controlled where funds permit.



Johnson grass. NSW DPI

A lot of private works on **Red Flower Lantana** again – it is great to see the level of work conducted by landholders on this noxious weed.

Work on **Susan Island** in the Clarence River – the use of the Boral barge allowed for a spray unit to be located on the island for 3 days – controlling the large infestation of Green cestrum and other noxious weeds. This work was done in conjunction with Marty Swain on a Moonflower project (funded by NCWAC). **Elizabeth Island** was also controlled by boat spray units.

Aerial control work done on behalf of landholders in the Woombah area on **Groundsel bush**.

Contractors have been employed to conduct works on behalf of Council and RLPB to control **Blackberries** in the Tyringham and Ebor area, as well as coastal areas being controlled of **Bitou Bush**. Centrogen work has continued on various roads for **Giant Parramatta Grass** in the Tyringham area.

This quarter has also provided a wider and more diverse use of plant and staff – guideposts, other council reserves etc have been the subject of control works recently. This is demonstrated more strategic and better use of resources by Council.

CVC Floodplain Services

Working on **Salvinia** and **Water Hyacinth** – they are regularly inspecting their drain systems and the feeder drains and creeks and will treat outbreaks of noxious weeds as soon as possible to prevent it spreading out of control.

Issues

Dorrigo Guy Fawkes Branch of the NSW Farmers Association have contacted our office recently re: issue with **GPG, Fireweed**, and **ox eye daisy**. A query from the group to the NCWAC is where the declaration for **Fireweed** heading for Bellingen (Ruth Holmes).

Also repairs were made on the NCWAC Noxious Weed display van during this period – funded through CVC.

Coming up

Papers put in for Queensland and NSW Weeds Conferences – on use of mapping technology for improved property inspections

Bitou bush program – no aerial planned, but will work in with NSW NPWS to see if areas require work - Local management plan done.

Review of RWMP required asap.

Camphor Kits also to be reviewed.

Coffs Harbour City Update

Groundsel bush

Primary target by CHCC. Very rarely finding old infestations (very occasional hidden grove); majority of plants being <3 years old. Largest plants this season- 2 in backyard in centre of Coffs – were 12.5cm diameter & 4.5m high.

Aquatic weeds

Salvinia has been another target by CHCC. More prevalent this season than last year – better weather conditions.

Agricultural weeds

Fireweed being targeted. Less this year than last year – previous efforts showing results. Year to date: 910ha (2250ac) sprayed. Many people have been able to hand pull it – only seen 1 paddock that was “yellow” with the weed. Other infestations more sparse. Better rains have enabled pastures to compete better with the weed.

Coastal weeds

- DEC undertaking coastal weeds strategy for Coffs Coast Regional Park and Moonee Beach Nature Reserve (MBNR).
- Barry Powells (CHCC) & DEC NPWS staff aerially inspected, the coastline for **bitou bush**; photographing and taking GPS coordinates for aerial boom and spot spraying in winter.



Bitou bush, MBNR. Tim Scanlon

Inspections

Aerial inspections of Boambee valley undertaken for **Salvinia**.

CHCC reserves and area

CHCC targeting the usual weeds in all reserves. Minister for Local Government Tony Kelly announced that Red Rock and Corindi areas are now part of CHCC LGA.

Bellingen Shire Update

Successes / Problems / Highlights

- Successfully controlled **Camphor, Lantana, Groundsel, Privet** on roadsides as part of Annual program. Control of **Black willow** undertaken on Bellingen River.
- Increasing incidence of **Fireweed, Banana passionfruit** (*Passiflora tarminiana*) and **Evergreen Dogwood/Himalayan Strawberry** (*Cornus capitata*) on Dorrigo plateau.
- Vegetation Officer invited to sit on the National **Bitou Bush/ Boneseed** Management Group.
- Grant funding applications have been submitted.
- Surprised over the inaccuracy and motives behind the “Weeds Take over State’s Parks” media release.
- Noted that the BFNS website has been receiving 74 hits a day.
- Will not be seeking re-election as Secretary at next AGM.
- Council resolved to apply for an Environmental Levy following further consultation with community.
- Sandy Leighton – National Gorse coordinator recently visited site around Armidale and Dorrigo..

NCWAC & CMA Projects

- Bellingen cats claw creeper and Kalang vine weeds projects progressing.
- Coffs Harbour and Bellingen kudzu progressing, trials of Vigilant on Kudzu occurring.
- Bellingen camphor laurel trees - 310 trees distributed in first round.

Future plans

- Review and control all bitou control works.
- Review and expansion of Councils Noxious and Environmental Weed Management Plan
- DEC planning winter **bitou bush** control programs in Tuckers Rock / North Beach in Bongil Bongil NP.

Nambucca Shire Update

Bitou bush control from V-wall to Deep Creek.

Camphor laurel and **privet** control at South Macksville.

Groundsel bush – Council finished control along all roads.

Coolatai grass – spraying all infestations. A few patches found.

Broad leaf pepper tree – found a few more plants. Controlled with assistance from DLands (Frank McLeod).

Nagoora burr – found a few more plants this year – all controlled.

DEC - planning winter **bitou bush** control programs in Jagun NR.

The information contained in this Newsletter is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing / compiling (27th July 2005). 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.