



**Weed Society of Queensland Inc.**  
 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting Minutes

<b>Date:</b>	Friday, 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2008 at 9.55 am
<b>Venue:</b>	Redlands Indigiscapes Centre, Capalaba

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Chris Love, Trevor Armstrong, Steve Walker; Nick Bloor, Michael Widderick, Kevin Melmeth, Rachel McFadyen, Rod Wood, Jeff Werth, Carole Bristow, Sheldon Navie, Dorean Erhart, Trudy Baker, Bill Palmer, Belinda Yep, Gabrielle Vivian-Smith, Lavinnia Fiedler, David Thornby, Kelly Matthews, John Hodgson, Peter Michael, William Wells</b>
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<b>Apologies:</b>	<b>Jane Morton, Rob Scott, Janet Barker, Daniel Stock, Lyn Willsher, Steve Adkins, John Whitehead, Lyn Browne, Marie Vitelli, Craig Henderson, Rebecca Breden, Sarah Wilson, Carla McKeritt, Peter McQueen, Louise McNall, David Hudson, Roy Durre, Burnett Catchment Care Association, Dale Kirby, Frank Keenan</b>
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<b>Minutes of the previous meeting</b>	
Michael Widderick moved that the minutes of the previous meeting are an accurate record and be accepted - seconded by Steve Walker, all in favour, carried.	

<b>Business arising from minutes</b>	
Awards for achievements in the area of weeds and pest animals. Executive need to progress this. Look at approach, timing and award amount. Discussed in general business.	

<b>President's report – Nick Bloor</b> (See Appendix 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mention of CAWS medal presentation to Steve Walker</li> <li>• Nick extended his thanks to the WSQ for his time as president.</li> </ul> <p>Nick moved that the president's report be accepted - seconded by Trevor Armstrong, all in favour, carried.</p>
<b>Treasurer's report – Kevin Melmeth</b> (See Appendix 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$67330 income largely due to the 9<sup>th</sup> QWS and the 16<sup>th</sup> AWC.</li> <li>• Expenses - \$10520 – largely awards \$5614</li> <li>• Profit \$56, 810</li> <li>• Net assets - \$151 239</li> <li>• 282 members – 249 financial members</li> </ul> <p>Kevin Melmeth moved that the Treasurer's report be</p>



	accepted - seconded by John Hodgson, all in favour, carried.
<b>Business arising from Treasurer's report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Running of future weed symposiums – be wary of excessive profit. This is dependant on sponsorship amount. Raised by Bill Palmer.</li> </ul>
<b>Newsletter report Dorean Erhart – (See Appendix 3)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to pursue electronic copy of the newsletter in coming years.</li> <li>Contributions from members this year has been better, however more needed.</li> </ul> <p>Dorean Erhart moved that the newsletter report be accepted - seconded by Chris Love, all in favour, carried.</p>
<b>Webpage report – Sheldon Navie – (See Appendix 4)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentations from the SEQ event at Twin Towns in now on the website.</li> <li>25000 visits to the website this year.</li> <li>Home pages and weeds in focus pages most visited pages.</li> <li>Currently working on revamp of the website. Old newsletters are being scanned and put on the website.</li> </ul> <p>Sheldon moved that the website report be accepted – seconded by Rod Wood, all in favour, carried.</p>
<b>CAWS Report – Steve Walker (See Appendix 5)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steve stepped down as CAWS representative.</li> </ul> <p>Steve Walker moved that the report be accepted - seconded by Kevin Melmeth, all in favour, carried.</p>
<b>South East Queensland report John Hodgson</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weeds Forum at Twin Towns (15<sup>th</sup> October)</li> <li>Over 100 people attended</li> <li>Approx. 60 new members added.</li> <li>\$3000 sponsorship</li> <li>Papers are available on the website.</li> <li>Favourable comment from those who attended.</li> <li>John stepped down from the position of SEQ branch leader.</li> <li>Suggested maintaining the venue for future years – very good value.</li> <li>A strong show of support for this forum to continue in future years.</li> </ul> <p>John Hodgson moved that the website report be accepted – seconded by Dorean Erhart, all in favour, carried.</p>
<b>Darling Downs/Lockyer Valley report –Jeff Werth – (See appendix 6)</b>	<p>Jeff Werth moved that the report be accepted - seconded by Sheldon Naive, all in favour, carried.</p>



<p><b>North Queensland report</b>  <b>Simon Brooks –</b>  <i>(See Appendix 7)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michael Widderick moved on behalf of Simon Brooks that the report be accepted - seconded by Rod Wood, all in favour, carried.</li> </ul>
<p><b>10<sup>th</sup> Queensland Weeds Symposium 2007 Report –Trudy Baker</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seeking further sponsorship to reduce registration costs.</li> <li>• At the mid-point in terms of sponsorship.</li> <li>• Another 40 potential sponsors identified – yet to approach.</li> <li>• Call for abstracts sent out and reminder to be emailed.</li> <li>• Need to ramp up registrations and abstract submissions.</li> <li>• Registration brochure to come out in January.</li> <li>• Breakeven level for delegates is 150.</li> <li>• Key Notes Dr David Hilbert (CSIRO), Dr Bob Miles (CQU) – back up of Margaret Friedle (NT)</li> </ul> <p>Trudy Baker moved that the report be accepted - seconded by Chris Love, all in favour, carried.</p>
<p><b>Pest Animal Report – Michael Widderick on behalf of Frank Keenan –</b> <i>(See Appendix 8)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michael Widderick moved that the report be accepted on behalf of Frank Keenan - seconded by Gabrielle Vivian Smith, all in favour, carried.</li> </ul>
<p><b>16<sup>th</sup> Australian Weeds conference 2008 – Michael Widderick –</b> <i>(See Appendix 9).</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michael Widderick moved that the report be accepted - seconded by John Hodgson, all in favour, carried.</li> </ul>
<p><b>General Business</b></p>	<p><b>Change to constitution – corporate memberships.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The initial reason for this agenda item was to clarify corporate memberships in the WSQ constitution.</li> <li>• The constitution doesn't need to be changed, but needs to be updated on the website.</li> <li>• The difference between an organisation and a corporation was raised?</li> <li>• Should we define what the 5 classes of membership are? i.e. Ordinary, honorary, organisational, corporate, associate.</li> <li>• <b>ACTION:</b> The new executive to deliberate and consider and bring back to the next AGM (2009).</li> <li>• <b>ACTION:</b> Michael to hunt down electronic copy of constitution and send to Sheldon.</li> <li>• <b>ACTION:</b> Update and date version on the website.</li> <li>• <b>ACTION:</b> Promote corporate and organisational memberships.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ACTION:</b> Update membership form to allow for corporate membership – separate corporate membership form</li> </ul>
	<p><b>The WSQ is seen as using their monies for the betterment of Queensland in the area of weed awareness and management.</b></p> <p>Possible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weeds of Qld publication</li> <li>• Sheldon's publication</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Recognition for local government and NGO for their weed management achievements. (Brought forward form 2007 AGM)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The WSQ create two new biennial awards to recognise the efforts in the area of weed and/or pest animal management in Queensland, one for government agencies and one for non-government organisations, to be awarded at the weed or pest animal symposium and authorise the executive to devise selection criteria for these awards.</li> <li>• <b>ACTION:</b> Executive to progress.</li> </ul>

Presentation by Michael Widderick (WSQ award recipient) – presentation on the 5<sup>th</sup> International Weed Science Congress, Vancouver, Canada.



***Election of office bearers for 2009***

***Nick Bloor vacated the chair***

***Rachel McFadyen called for nominations for:***

<b>Position</b>	<b>Nominated</b>	<b>By</b>	<b>Seconded</b>	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Elected</b>
<b>President</b>	<b>John Hodgson</b>	Chris Love	Trevor Armstrong	Yes	Yes
<b>Immediate Past president (non-voting)</b>	<b>Nick Bloor</b>	John Hodgson	Dorean Erhart	Yes	Yes
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Rachel McFadyen</b>	Chris Love	Sheldon Naive	Yes	Yes
	<b>Nick Bloor</b>	Dorean Erhart	Rod Wood	No	No
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Michael Widderick</b>	Dorean Erhart	Chris Love	Yes	Yes
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Chris Love</b>	Steve Walker	Nick Bloor	Yes	Yes
<b>Website manager (non-voting)</b>	<b>Sheldon Navie</b>	Michael Widderick	Kevin Melmeth	Yes	Yes
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	<b>Jane Morton</b>	Michael Widderick	Nick Bloor	Yes	Yes
<b>Newsletter helper (non-voting)</b>	<b>Steve Walker</b>	Self-nominated			
<b>SEQ Rep</b>	<b>Jen Ford</b>	Nick Bloor	Dorean Erhart	Yes	Yes
<b>DD Branch rep</b>	<b>Jeff Werth</b>	Steve Walker	Dorean Erhart	Yes	Yes
<b>CAWS rep</b>	<b>Dorean Erhart</b>	Nick Bloor	Bill Palmer	Yes	Yes
	<b>Nick Bloor</b>	Trevor Armstrong	Rachel McFadyen	No	No
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> CAWS rep (non-voting)</b>	<b>Rachel McFadyen</b>	Chris Love	Trevor Armstrong	Yes	Yes
<b>NQ rep</b>	<b>Simon Brooks</b>	Trevor Armstrong	Bill Palmer		
	<b>Shane Campbell</b>	Nick Bloor	Chris Love		
<b>Pest Animal Rep</b>	<b>Lavinia Fiedler</b>	Kevin Melmeth	Chris Love	Yes	Yes
<b>Qld Weed symposium rep.</b>	<b>Trudy Baker</b>	Chris Love	Dorean Erhart	Yes	Yes



### **Change of Signatories for Bank Accounts:**

Dear to the change in Office Bearers, the following signatory changes are required:

1. Commonwealth Cash Management Trust (Account Number: 37126976)

The current registered signatories for this account, Kevin Melmeth and Michael Widderick are to be replaced by Chris Love (new treasurer) and Michael Widderick.

2. Commonwealth Cheque Account Bearing Interest (Account No.: 10009975  
Commonwealth Term Deposit No.: 06 4433 50346813)

The current registered signatories for these accounts, namely Kevin Melmeth, Michael Widderick and Nickolas Bloor, are to be replaced by Chris Love (new treasurer), Michael Widderick and John Hodgson (new president).

The address for these accounts also needs to change from:

PO Box 301  
Highfields Qld 4352

To

The Treasurer  
The Weed Society of Queensland Inc.  
PO Box 18095  
CLIFFORD GARDENS QLD 4350

First meeting for new executive: 13<sup>th</sup> February Friday, 2009 – 10 am – Alan Fletcher Research Station – Sherwood.

Meeting closed at 12.37pm.



## Appendix 1 – Presidents Report

Following on from last year's successful 9<sup>th</sup> Queensland Weeds Symposium on the Gold Coast, the Society has had another incredibly busy year with the very successful 16<sup>th</sup> Australian Weeds Conference in May, the Dalby Crop Weed Symposium and last month's Weeds Forum held at Twin Towns. These events have been successful and very well run and are a real credit to your hard working executive committee and the event's organising committees.

We are fortunate that these events have also been well supported, both in terms of delegates and sponsorship, resulting in a substantial year-end profit for the Society and sound financial position, with members' total assets rising by 60% over the past 12 months. Memberships have also risen marginally to 282, with 249 of these being currently financial.

In line with our commitment to promoting a wider interest in weeds and weed management, this year the Society has provided a total of \$5,000 in Travel Awards to members including Michael Widderick, Susie Warner and Lynise Wearne and in addition supported the printing of the Desert Uplands weed publication.

Also worthy of note is the new look colourful Weedshine, which has attracted a number of favourable comments from members due its excellent content and fresh new look. I would also like to mention the 'Weeds in Focus' section on the WSQ website. This section provides information about new and emerging weeds in Queensland and is a valuable resource that I am hoping will be continued and expanded in the future.

My belief is that the groundwork has been laid for the Society's continuing success in 2009 with next year's 10<sup>th</sup> Queensland Weed Symposium in Yeppoon from 26 to 29 July. Trudy Baker and her team are doing a mountain of work in preparing for what is sure to be a successful Symposium, so mark these dates in your diary and look for the 'Call for Papers and Early Bird Registration Brochure' which is now being circulated.

Finally I would like to take the opportunity to extend my thanks and sincere appreciation to the various committees and all of the members for your help and support over the past two years. While it has been an often busy and sometimes challenging time, it has without exception always been rewarding and I have really enjoyed my time as President.

Thank you.

**Nick Bloor**

28<sup>th</sup> November 2008



## Appendix 2 – Treasurers report



### The Weed Society of Queensland Inc.

34th Annual General Meeting  
 28th November 2008  
 Audited Treasurer's Report

#### Items

- Income
- Expenses
- Statement of Income & Expenditure
- Balance Sheet



#### Total Income - \$67,330

	2007	2008
Membership Fees	\$9,116	\$ 6,643
Interest	\$3,345	\$ 8,159
9th QWS	\$ 0	\$28,966
16th QWS	\$ 0	\$22,270
11th Pest & Insect Sym	\$5,668	\$ 0
Merchandise	\$ 145	\$ 196
Other	\$ 0	\$ 965
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,265</b>	<b>\$67,330</b>



#### Income

- Membership
  - 275 Members - start 2007-2008
    - Includes 6 Life Members
  - 26 Members (10 Revoked - 2 years Overdue)
  - 13 Resignations
  - 46 New Members
  - 262 Members - end 2007-2008
    - 33 fees outstanding (currently overdue)
    - 249 financial members



#### Income - Interest

CBA CMT	\$ 1934
CBA Cheque Account	\$ 23
CBA - Term Deposit	\$ 6202
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8159</b>



#### Income - Weed/Pest Symposia

- 9th Queensland Weed Symposium
  - \$28966
- 16th Australian Weeds Conference
  - \$22270 (50% of profit)



#### Total Expenses - \$10,520

	2007	2008
Administration	\$ 591	\$ 698
Audit fees	\$ 0	\$ 498
Newsletter	\$2172	\$ 1394
Bank Charges	\$ 470	\$ 398
Web Site	\$ 373	\$ 398
Insurance (operational)	\$ 130	\$ 204
CAWS	\$ 180	\$ 258
Office of Fair Trading	\$ 37	\$ 38
Insurance	\$ 652	\$ 650
Postage	\$ 284	\$ 480
Reprints	\$ 0	\$ 270



#### Expenses:

- Awards
  - General Travel Awards
    - Merle and Wilhelms
    - Stuart Walker
    - Lynette Williams
  - Sponsorship
    - Down's Island's Weed Publication
- Total **\$5514**



#### Statement of Income & Expenditure

Total Income	\$ 67,330
Less	
Total Expenses	\$ 10,520
<b>NET Profit/Loss</b>	<b>\$ 56,810</b>



#### Balance Sheet as at 30.09.08

Assets	2007	2008
CBA - CMT	\$9163	\$ 10,087
CBA - Cheque AC	\$ 5,340	\$ 3,119
CBA - Term Deposit	\$ 0	\$120,202
9th Sym. Seed Money	\$ 9,000	\$ 0
AWC - 2008 Seed Money	\$15,000	\$ 0
2nd Pest & Insect Sym	\$ 0	\$ 5,000
10th QWS	\$ 0	\$ 9,000
GST Receivable (Jul-Sep)	\$ 30	\$ 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$86,232</b>	<b>\$168,408</b>
Liabilities & Equity		
GST Payable	\$ 803	\$ 7,169
<b>NET ASSET \$</b>	<b>\$84,429</b>	<b>\$161,239</b>



#### Balance Sheet as at 30.09.03

Members Accumulated Funds	2007	2008
Opening Balance 1/1/03	\$82,485	\$ 34,429
Net Surplus/Deficit	\$11,944	\$ 98,810
<b>BALANCE 30/9/08</b>	<b>\$94,429</b>	<b>\$133,239</b>





The Weed Society of Queensland Inc.  
PO Box 18095  
Clifford Gardens Qld 4350  
ABN: 88 026 015 870

## Appendix 3 – Newsletter Report

### Newsletter Editor's Report

4 new format newsletters produced  
ISSN number  
Copies kept at State Library

Two guess the cover weed  
competition winners.

Majority of members have said they  
would prefer the newsletter  
electronically.

Next step is to produce something  
readable in an electronic format.

Dorean Erhart





## Appendix 4 – Website report

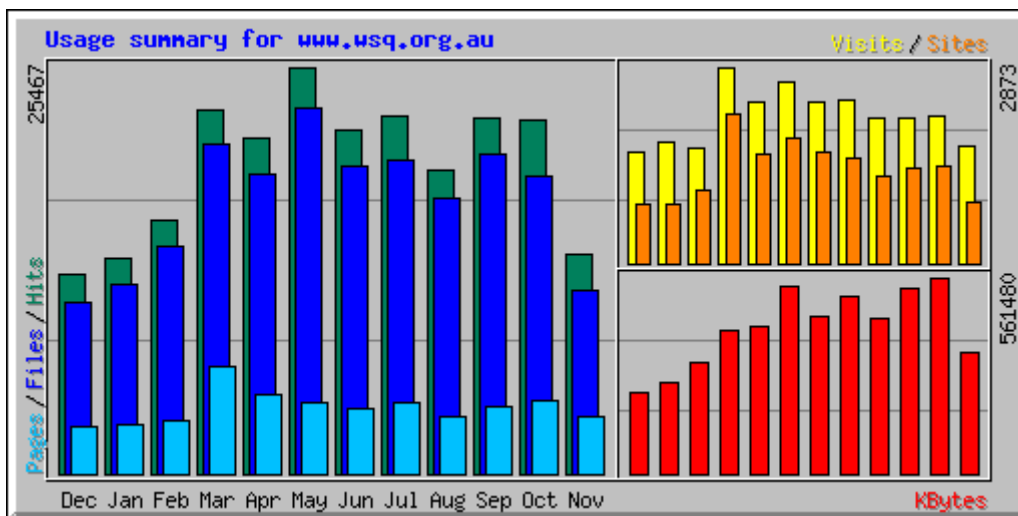
The Weed Society of Queensland website ([www.wsq.org.au](http://www.wsq.org.au)) has been a vital conduit for information regarding WSQ events throughout the previous year. It has provided access to registration information for various events including the Dalby Crop Weed Symposium, the SEQ Weeds Forum and the 2nd Queensland Pest Animal Symposium. More recently, it has made available information and documents related to the upcoming 10<sup>th</sup> Queensland Weed Symposium, which is to be held at Yeppoon during July 2009. This information can be accessed from the following address: <http://www.wsq.org.au/10thWeedSymposium/home.html>.

Most of the presentations from the SEQ Weeds Forum, held at Tweed Heads in October, were also recently added to the website in pdf format. They can now be viewed by clicking on a link from the home page.

Usage of the website in 2008 peaked during May, leading up to the Australian Weeds Conference in Cairns (See Figure 1). The popularity of the website is still steadily increasing, with over 25 000 visits this year, which is up from about 20 000 visits last year. The most popular pages still tend to be the Home page and the 'Weeds in Focus' profiles.

*Sheldon Navie*  
WSQ Webmaster 2008

Figure 1. Usage summary from 1st December 2007 to 27nd November 2008.





The Weed Society of Queensland Inc.  
 PO Box 18095  
 Clifford Gardens Qld 4350  
 ABN: 88 026 015 870

Summary by Month										
Month	Daily Avg				Monthly Totals					
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
Nov 2008	509	425	131	63	903	345243	1718	3549	11482	13748
Oct 2008	712	602	145	69	1417	561480	2159	4518	18677	22101
Sep 2008	743	664	141	70	1400	529152	2115	4251	19949	22301
Aug 2008	614	554	116	68	1272	442520	2122	3604	17193	19047
Jul 2008	720	634	143	77	1536	508052	2396	4443	19670	22350
Jun 2008	715	642	135	78	1632	450100	2365	4063	19269	21464
May 2008	821	737	144	85	1828	533932	2644	4490	22848	25467
Apr 2008	702	625	163	79	1607	419170	2373	4897	18774	21063
Mar 2008	733	664	217	92	2174	410348	2873	6735	20592	22748
Feb 2008	546	490	115	58	1066	320453	1682	3350	14217	15849
Jan 2008	436	381	98	57	859	263070	1770	3068	11812	13544
Dec 2007	402	347	93	52	871	233614	1632	2912	10783	12482
<b>Totals</b>						<b>5017134</b>	<b>25849</b>	<b>49880</b>	<b>205266</b>	<b>232164</b>



## Appendix 5 – CAWS Report

*Steve Walker*



- Teleconferences were held on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 18<sup>th</sup> September, and Face-to-face meeting at 16AWC in Cairns on 20<sup>th</sup> May.
- Planning is well underway for the 17AWC in NZ in 2010.
- CAWS provided seeding funds to assist with the formation of the NT society, who may host the 18AWC in 2012. If NT is unable to host the conference, then Victoria is next on the rotation list.
- CAWS sponsored the visit by Dr Suzanne Warwick to be keynote speaker at the GM crops seminar hosted by NSW this month. Other societies had the opportunity for Suzanne to visit their states. Suzanne has extensive experience on impact of GM canola in Canada.
- 2 students received the CAWS travel award: Sam Trengove (UA) and Eleanor Dormontt (UA).
- There were no applications for the Early Career Scientist Travel Award.
- CAWS website will be updated – funds were allocated to pay a professional for this task. All AWC papers will be on the new website!
- New President is Sandy Lloyd (WA) and Secretary/Treasurer is Alex Douglas (WA), VP is Trevor James (NZ)
- Next teleconference is set for 11<sup>th</sup> December 2008



## **Appendix 6 – Darling Downs Branch Report**

2008 was a busier year for the Darling Downs branch.

The annual AgEd for local schools around Toowoomba did not run in conjunction with the Toowoomba show this year and as a result was held very early in the year and was missed. We will aim participate in AgEd next year, and any assistance offered will be appreciated.

In March we held a “Get your hands” dirty morning with the “Friends of the Escarpment Parks” in Toowoomba which involved pulling out lantana, pavonia and other nasties with the Nielson Park Parkcare group. We had a small turnout, but a good morning. Thank you to those who came along...and those who tried. I have since kept involvement with this group, and will set up another day next year, and any extra hands are appreciated.

After the Australian Weeds Conference in Cairns, we held a rerun of presentations for members who were either unable to get to Cairns or were too busy organising etc. to see the presentations from our members. We had a good turn-up and a good day. Thankyou to those who gave up their time to come to Toowoomba (as well as the locals) and present and make the day worthwhile.

The Crop-Weed Symposium was also held at the Ag College in Dalby in September. Despite having a good line-up of presenters, we had a fair attendance, but considerably lower than previous times. This was possibly due to a sorghum update the week prior. However for those that came it was an informative day. Once again thankyou to those presenters who gave up their time, and to those who came along.

I look forward to catching up with you next year.

*Jeff Werth*



## **Appendix 7 – North Queensland Branch Report**

This year the 16th Australian Weeds Conference came to the north region in Cairns between the 18th- 22nd of May 2008. Thankyou to members who participated in the conference, particularly those who took the opportunity to showcase local weed activities through papers and posters. With over 300 delegates the conference was a rare opportunity to showcase the environment, weeds and management challenges unique to the wet tropics and northern Australia; allowing national and international delegates including researchers, managers and practitioners to attend presentations and symposia, view posters and trade displays, network and socialise.

The five Australian Weed Conference field trips illustrated the difficult environments in which control operations take place and highlight the reef, rainforest and other unique habitats ultimately at risk from weed invasion. In addition to weed threats and long term solutions the day long tours took the opportunity to sample some natural attractions and local produce. We are very grateful to the more than 40 volunteers from federal, state and local agencies and organisations assisted with buses and presentations during the field trips.

Nth Qld members are also reminded of the opportunity to contribute articles or news to an updated format of the 'WeedShine' newsletter to highlight emerging weeds or regional weed management issues. The Queensland weed symposium is returning to Central Queensland at Yeppoon in July 2009. The weed society can organise regional weed get togethers so suggestions for regional symposia or other means of sharing information across the north region would be appreciated.

Simon.



## **Appendix 8 – Pest Animal Branch Report**

QPAS08 was held at the Hilton Hotel in Cairns 19-22 Oct 08.

150 participants were drawn from research, local government, community and NRM groups and interstate.

The program consisted of 2 days of short presentations on latest research findings including new insights on wild dog behaviour and implications for control, environmental and economic impacts of feral pigs in a range of environments, the resurgence of rabbits and the impacts and control of a range of new and emerging pests.

Two new publications on the control of rabbits and the control of feral pigs were also launched at the symposium.

Feedback from participants and trade exhibitors was positive with all saying that the program met or exceeded their expectations.

The negatives expressed by some participants included the cost of participating in the program (travel, accommodation and registration fees) although over 80% said that they would be keen to go to the next symposium. There was also some feedback the recent local government amalgamations had stopped some from attending.

There are still a few minor accounts to finalize (getting accounts from providers) however it is anticipated that we will clear our original seed funding plus approximately \$4000.00.

One of the lessons learnt from this symposium is that we need to start a little earlier with the organisation. Consequently arrangements for QPAS10 will commence early in the New Year with the appointment of an organizing committee and subcommittees. The date and venue for QPAS10 is still to be confirmed.

I would like to make a special thanks to my organizing committee for their enthusiasm and dedication which has been the key to the success of this symposium. I would also like to thank Susan Hobbs and the team from Eventcorp for their professionalism and taking so many of the hassles out of running the symposium.

Frank Keenan  
Chair  
QPAS08 Organizing Committee

## Appendix 9 – 16<sup>th</sup> Australian Weeds Conference Report

Michael Widderick

*Weed Management 2008  
Hot Topics in the Tropics*

### 16<sup>th</sup> Australian Weeds Conference

Cairns Convention Centre  
 18-22<sup>nd</sup> May

Michael Widderick

*Weed Management 2008  
Hot Topics in the Tropics*

- Steve Walker, Chris Love, Yvonne Oston, Simon Brooks, Andrew Clarke, Riets Van Klinken, Kevin Melmeth, Nick Bloor
- 403 delegates (94% from Australia)
- Papers (128 oral and 88 posters)

Proceedings published and on CD

*Weed Management 2008  
Hot Topics in the Tropics*

- Julie Denlow - Invasions and impacts of exotic plants in the Pacific Islands
- Rod Dyer - Investing in weed research in northern Australia: A livestock industry perspective
- Prof Paul Martin - Cross pollination or cross-contamination? Directions for informing the management of invasives with market-economy concepts
- Prof Timothy Reeves - Global changes: Impacts on weeds in cropping systems

*Weed Management 2008  
Hot Topics in the Tropics*

- Issue forums x 4
  - New Threats
  - Understanding the Invader
  - New Technology
  - Innovative Practices

Speakers Program	
Excellent	26%
Good	65%
Satisfactory	9%
Poor	0%

*Weed Management 2008  
Hot Topics in the Tropics*

- Diversity of crops, weeds and solutions on the Tablelands
- Exotic tropical grasses – Friend or Foe?
- Coasting south – After the cyclone
- Coasting north – Managing threats to the Daintree rainforest
- Protecting, studying and restoring ecological processes

*Weed Management 2008  
Hot Topics in the Tropics*

Welcome Drinks  
 Welcome Reception  
 Conference Dinner

*Weed Management 2008  
Hot Topics in the Tropics*

- 16 sponsors/exhibitors
- Sponsorship - \$100,300

Platinum Sponsors:

- Desert Channels Queensland
- Monsanto/Roundup

- Net surplus of \$45,494.28 excluding GST.

*Weed Management 2008  
Hot Topics in the Tropics*

Venue	
Excellent	64%
Good	34%
OK	2%
Poor	0%

Overall conference?	
Very satisfied	42%
Satisfied	51%
OK	7%
Not satisfied	0%