

WEEDSHINE

Newsletter of the Weed Society of Queensland

Spring/Summer 2015/2016, Issue No: 60 ISSN 1835-8217



**Guess the weed
on the cover and win a
year's free membership**

Features

WSQ 41st Annual General Meeting

Obituary Arthur Charles Julian

13th Queensland Weed Symposium in Longreach

Walger's pit viper

A new invasive species for Queensland and Australia

Lake Barrine tilapia control

QWS Directory

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WSQ Membership Rates 2016

Individual Membership	\$ 25
3 years	\$ 66
5 years	\$ 100

ABN 88 026 015 870

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Joining the Weed Society of Queensland

The benefits of joining the Queensland Weed Society include:

- WeedShine: an informative newsletter
- Links to a great group of passionate people working in the weed and pest animal world
- Discount to WSQ, Pest animal branch seminars, workshops, conferences and CAWS events
- Regional field days and workshops on topics of interest

To apply for membership, download and print the membership application form from the WSQ website, www.wsq.org.au, complete the details and mail to the WSQ Secretary.

WeedShine Newsletter of the Weed Society of Queensland Inc. Contributions to WeedShine are welcomed. Please contact the editor for further information. Readers are free to circulate and reproduce WeedShine material with acknowledgement of the author and source. The views expressed in WeedShine are those of the contributors and are not necessarily shared by the WSQ Executive Committee.

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From the President

Welcome to another excellent Summer edition of Weedshine.

I'm introducing this one with some mixed feelings, as it is the last one to be produced by outgoing editor Jane Morton. Newsletter Editor is a tricky, time-consuming job, and Jane has done it for (literally) twice as long as anyone else in the history of the Society. She has driven the evolution of the magazine into the full-colour, electronically-delivered must-read resource that it is today. Jane has been a committed servant of the Weed Society of Queensland for many years, and has definitely earned a rest. Since my first job on the Executive was as Jane's assistant editor, I feel like there's a real sense of baton-passing here at Weedshine. Our incoming editor, Annie van der Meulen, will be an excellent replacement, and an asset on the Executive as well.

It was my great pleasure and privilege to announce at the Queensland Weed Symposium in Longreach that Jane was the 2015 winner of the Weed Society of Queensland Award, and doubly so to present the award to her at the 2015 AGM. Jane is a worthy winner, having been dedicated to weed management in Queensland for many years. In particular, she was instrumental in setting up the Weed Spotters' Network, which has since become a critical weed management resource across Australia. She can be justifiably proud of her contributions to weed management and the Society.



At the AGM, we also farewelled a number of other members of the Executive. Kym Johnson stepped down from the Secretary role, for excellent reasons. Sally Vidler, Russell Warner and John Clarkson ended their valuable service as Website Manager, SEQ Branch Rep and CAWS Rep respectively, and Dorean Erhart and Hellen Haapakoski finished their terms as past President and Weed Symposium Chair.

We have been fortunate to have each of these people work so hard for the Society as volunteers, and I thank all of them for giving up their time and making such tremendous efforts on our behalf.

As President, I believe the benefits I've gained from being involved in the Society have far outweighed the time and effort put in, and I hope both the outgoing and incoming Executive members would agree. I encourage members to get involved, whenever time permits! There will always be room for more volunteers, that's for sure.

Enjoy another excellent issue of Weedshine, and the remaining days of another Queensland summer.

David.

WINNER

Congratulations to Graham Smerdon who identified last season's pest animal as, *Mauremys sinensis*, Chinese stripe-necked turtle. Graham has won a year's membership to the WSQ.

Guess this edition's cover weed and go into the draw to WIN!

Send your answer to:

newslettereditor@wsq.org.au by May 28th 2016



WEED SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND NEWS

WSQ 41ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Weed Society of Queensland 41st Annual General Meeting was held on the 27th November 2015 at Redlands IndigiScapes Centre in Capalaba. Below is a summary of the reports presented at the meeting.

President's Report - David Thornby

On the occasion of the 41st AGM of the Queensland Weed Society, I'd like to start by thanking the Executive for their help, work and assistance in keeping the Society running smoothly. In particular I thank the outgoing members of the Executive—Sally Vidler, Jane Morton, Kym Johnson, John Clarkson, Dorean Erhart, Russell Warner, and Hellen Haapakoski. Each of these people has given their time and efforts as volunteers, and the Society couldn't be run effectively without them.

The Weed Society operates in a space that is increasingly connected, through the internet. While this is of great benefit to members, allowing us all to communicate with each other more rapidly, it means the demands on the Executive members are more wide-reaching than ever before. We are connected to members via the website, to other societies via CAWS, and to government via the reformed Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Committee. Over the last two AGMs, we have made forays into webconferencing, to allow members to join in and contribute without the difficulty of travelling. Each of these connections requires time, effort, expertise, and sometimes equipment, and the Executive does a great job contributing and resourcing all of these things. The job is increasingly complex, but as rewarding as ever.

An AGM is not just about the formal meeting; it is also about networking with colleagues and catching up with friends—and we're lucky to be involved in a community where these two things are so often indistinguishable from each other! It's also about learning from speakers who give their time to bring us what they've been working on, and the 41st AGM is no exception. Naomi Edwards (Intrepid Landcare) reminds us vividly what can be done with commitment and enthusiasm, and we had valuable updates on weed and pest animal management activities, priorities and legislative changes from Geoff Lundie-Jenkins, Iain Jamieson, and Kym Johnson.

Our achievements and activities as a Society for 2015 illustrate both the power of involvement and volunteerism, and the challenge that in volunteer bodies, things can sometimes move more slowly than we'd like. Key achievements for the year include:

13th Queensland Weed Symposium, Longreach. The

Society delivered another successful symposium, with a dramatic backdrop in drought-affected western Queensland. We learned much about the successes and challenges in weed management in the region, and had an excellent time doing so. I am looking forward to the Pest Animal Symposium in 2016, and expect it will uphold these increasingly high standards.

Some forward movement on NT memberships. We have been in contact with sister societies in South Australia and Western Australia, and have agreed to share reciprocal membership benefits to members of those societies who reside in the Northern Territory. We are slowly moving towards joint plans to communicate with NT weed and pest animal professionals about their options in this regard. Whether this leads towards the formation of an NT branch of our society remains to be resolved.

Several great issues of Weedshine. The magazine continues to deliver vital and interesting content, keeping members informed.

The society continues to contribute to CAWS as a member in good standing. CAWS has had some internal problems and our efforts to help keep things moving in the right direction have been valuable.

Changes to our visual identity. With Sally Vidler at the helm, the website redesign subcommittee also took on the driving role in organising the design of a new society logo, as well as new banners and brochures. The new logo will feature prominently on our new society website, which is very close to completion. Congratulations and thanks to Sally for her efforts in keeping all of this on track. It has been a mammoth task.

There have also been some challenges for the Executive in 2015.

NT branch and membership arrangements are not yet complete. We will be committed to contacting NT-resident members and other weed and pest animal management colleagues to get this moving again in 2016.

Low numbers of applications for some awards. This appears to be a problem across pest management societies in Australia. More active promotion of award availability and due dates should be a priority for us in 2016.

The perils of volunteering. Keeping on top of our self-imposed deadlines has been difficult in 2015, due to

WSQ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(cont.)

time pressures on Executive members. I doubt this is going to go away; it's a feature of volunteering. Nevertheless, despite sometimes slow movement, we manage.

CAWS issues have required CAWS reps to be much more focused on CAWS administration and governance than on the mission and function of CAWS. It is a reminder that we all need to ensure that the simple admin things are done right, to ensure that trivial things don't get in the way of the important things we do for members.

In closing, I hope the members present at the 41st AGM enjoyed a pleasant, connected, and educational day. I thank my fellow Executive members who helped organise the venue, catering, and technology, and all those who took the time to attend and provide us with their views. For anyone considering coming to the 2016 AGM, I encourage you to do so! Not just for the sandwiches (which are great) but for the connections that can be made. Time taken to give something—whether it be a vote, an opinion, or membership of a committee—to the weed and pest animal management community in Queensland is valuable, both for the community and the individual.

Treasurers Report - Jeff Werth Audited Treasurer's Report

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th September 2015

INCOME

Total Income - \$11,972

	2014/15	2013/14
Membership Fees	\$ 4,982	\$ 4,426
Interest	\$ 6,449	\$ 5,027
Other Income	\$ 329	\$ 210
Weeds of SQ	-	\$21,720
Weeds of SQ App	\$ 212	\$ 497
Total	\$ 11,972	\$31,880

Membership

310 Members - end 2014/15 presently 260 financial members

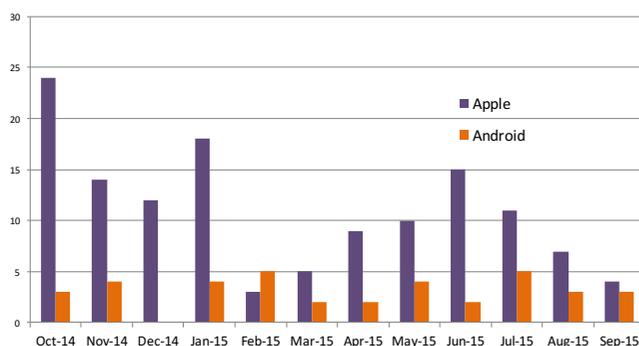


Figure above: Total downloads of Weeds of SQ App for Apple and Android Oct 2014 to Sept 15

EXPENSES

Total Expenses - \$28,279

	2014/15	2013/14
Administration charges	\$ 3,307	\$ 1,137
Auditors	\$	\$
Newsletter	\$ 2,969	\$ 3,158
Bank Charges	\$ 382	\$ 249
Web Site Hosting	\$ 1,881	\$ 360
CAWS	\$ 955	\$ 700
Office of Fair Trading	-	\$ 46
Insurance	\$ 652	\$ 697
Postage	\$ 15	\$ 144
Awards	\$ 830	\$ 3,855
Sponsorship	\$ 843	-
Scanning symposium papers	-	\$ 252
Sundry Expenses/ Symposiums	\$ 464	-
Symposium Seed Money	-	\$ 9091
Weeds of SQ Reprint	-	\$ 17,278
Weeds of SQ App	-	\$ 83
TOTAL	\$12,298	\$37,050

Awards: \$1,839 (incl GST)

- Travel Grant: SEQ Catchments (\$500) (Fire and Weed Symposium)
- George Batianoff award (\$725) Travel for S. Burchill to receive award for Northern Tablelands Volunteers
- Travel Grant: Travis Sydes (\$428) Attendance at the 40th AGM
- Student Travel Grant: Joshua Buru (\$186) remainder to attend 19th AWC

Sponsorship: \$500 (incl GST)

- SEQ Catchments, Fire and Weed Forum, Oct 2015 (\$500)

STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE

TOTAL Income	\$ 11,972
less	
TOTAL Expenses	\$ 12,298
NET Loss	\$ 326

BALANCE SHEET as at 30.09.15

Assets	2014/15	2013/14
CBA - Cheque A/C	\$ 31,295	\$ 13,981
CBA - Term Deposit	\$182,033	\$200,593
GST Owed	\$ 1,873	\$ 953
Total Assets	\$215,201	\$215,527

WSQ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(cont.)

Members Accumulated Funds

Opening balance 1/10/15	\$215,527	\$220,697
Net Surplus/Deficit	\$ 326	\$ 5,170

Total Equity 30/09/12 \$215,201 \$215,527

Newsletter Editors Report - Jane Morton

- Three copies of Weedshine has been delivered in 2014/2015. The Spring/Summer 14/15, Autumn and Winter editions.
- Each of these newsletters were printed in full color with editions ranging from 12 – 32 pages. The mix of articles from our members has been very broad – ‘Queensland Murray-Darling Committee conservation detection dogs’ to ‘weed auditing by Powerlink in Central Qld’.
- The Spring/Summer issue is underway now and should be out in December before Christmas with all the AGM news included.
- So if you have a burning article you want to put forward for what will be a really bumper issue please forward to newslettereditor@wsq.org.au - you still have time.
- This will be my last WSQ AGM as the Newsletter Editor so I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the WSQ who have provided me with a great deal of support throughout my time as the Newsletter Editor. Without member input, enthusiasm and feedback the newsletter would never get out – so a big THANK YOU to you all, I have really enjoyed receiving your articles and being the Newsletter Editor of this great organisation.

South East Queensland Branch Report - Russell Warner

My apologies for not attending the AGM.

Firstly I would like to thank the Society and Executive Team for the opportunity to take up this position. Unfortunately due to a change in my work and home circumstances I was unable to pursue the objectives I had for myself in this position. Please accept my sincere apologies in not achieving what I set out for in this role.

The 2 key objectives I had were:

1. Facilitate and promote the use of GIS in Pest Management
2. Review and update the WSQ Strategic Plan / Objectives

These 2 items I believe would assist further the underlying vision for the WSQ and assist in strengthening the impact of WSQ to improve and promote best practice pest management in Qld and further afield.

I wish you all the best and hope to cross paths with you all in the future.

Kindest regards, Russell Warner

Darling Downs Branch Report - Craig Hunter**North Queensland Branch Report - Travis Sydes**
Outbreaks and detections

- Siam weed, new detections in Herbert River Gorge, Lower Herbert, Tolga
- Salvinia in the Bloomfield, Ayton Area
- Panama TR4 in the Tully Valley has required a significant biosecurity response across all growers in the far north
- Several new smaller *Miconia calvescens* infestations have been added to the 4 Tropical Weeds Eradication Program
- A new infestation of Koster's curse was detected in the Wooroonooran National Park resulting the species being withdrawn from the 4 Tropical Weeds Eradication Project and is currently in negotiation around a suitable transition to management
- New single plant detection of fireweed on the Southern Atherton Tablelands (delimitation yet to occur)

Key programs and projects

- Taskforce operations undertaken on Stevia ovata, Pond Apple in the Lower Herbert and Yellow Crazy Ants in the Edmonton/Bentleigh Park areas
- Wet Tropics Management Authority led Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Project is nearing the end of its current funding. Effort is currently underway to seek additional resources for a continuing program
- Nest to Ocean – marine turtle pig predation program in second year of implementation

Planning and policy

- NRM groups across the region are incorporating Pest and Weed planning into the redrafts of their

WSQ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(cont.)

NRM Plans.

- Cape York NRM embarking on a regional Biosecurity Strategy
- Another significant helicopter crash in the Whyanbeal Valley during routine weed survey operations for Miconia will result in further revision of operational policy.

Research

- A range of applied research on control technologies is underway across the region; of note is promising results on a suite of herbicide applications for *Stevia ovata*

Central Queensland Branch Report - Belinda Callanan

Central Queensland (CQ) has had a very mixed season weather wise like most other regions, with some storm rain falling in some areas that really needed it in CQ however some areas have missed out and are in desperate need of some respite

This year some exciting events occurred within the region and state. Beef 2015 kicked off the year in Rockhampton with Biosecurity Qld and other agencies showcasing the last innovations and also statewide issues affecting producers, followed by some local field days in the Gladstone Region focussing on Giant Rats Tail Grass and it's management and the fertiliser trials being carried out by Gladstone Regional Council and Biosecurity Qld on GRT, the reinvigoration of the Capricorn Pest Management Group supported by member councils with meetings throughout the year, then the Weed Symposium in Longreach that was well attended by CQ WSQ members and corporate supporters, then most recently the CQ WSQ Branch Catch-Up with an update on the Biosecurity Act. These events are a great mechanism for sharing knowledge, meeting like minded people and gaining new knowledge that can be passed on to our networks.

There has been continued activity by the gas industry in the region with three major CSG pipelines completing construction from a line running from the Surat Basin (Roma, Chinchilla, Miles districts) through the Dawson Callide Valleys and Calliope Regions to Curtis Island we saw the first train leave early in the year with more to come in the next month.

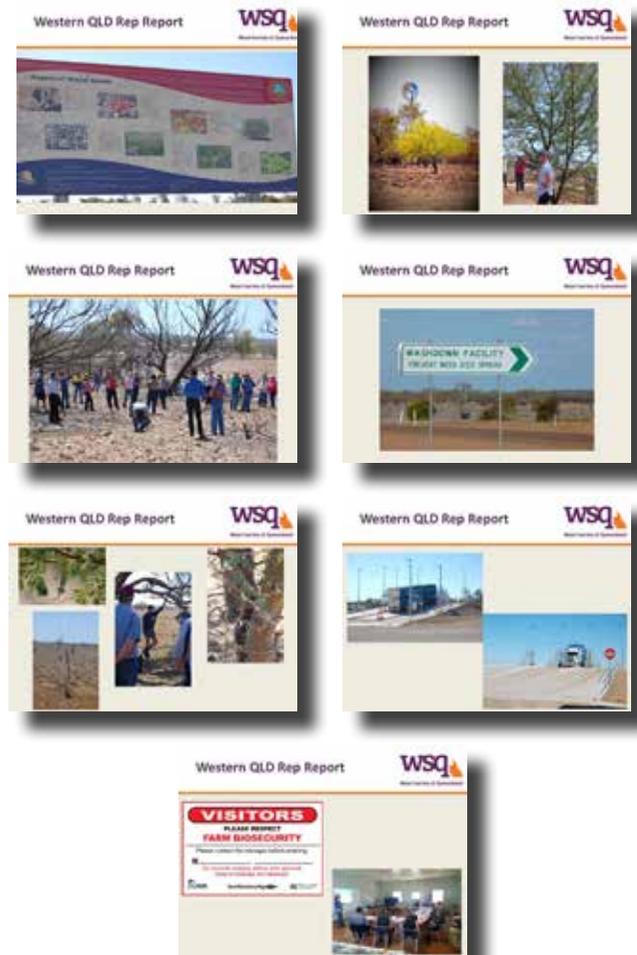
Moving forward I have a few goals for next year;

- Continue to engage with stakeholders in the region who actively coordinate weed (declared, incrop, grazing, environmental) and feral activities to share their event notices and also activities (successes, research findings etc) with WSQ and it's membership
- Continuing with the series of CQ Branch Catch-up's with more on on what's new in Biosecurity, Pest Management and Legislation and also some field workshops looking at the practical aspects of weed and pest animal management. I welcome the CQ

members to get involved and also forward ideas to myself.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my year representing the members in CQ and working with the passionate pesty people of the WSQ Executive. I wish everyone a happy and wet new year and a great festive season till next year.

Western Queensland Branch Report - Ursula Keating



Pest Animal Branch Report - Iain Jamieson

Governance

- Assisted review of societies privacy policy
- Develop nomination and proxy forms for AGM
- Review sponsorship guidelines
- Pest animal webpage for new website (watch this space!)

Member Services

- Distribute info on current 1080 distribution system trial
- Review of Pest Management qualifications
 - Certificate III Pest Management
 - Certificate IV Pest Management
 - Diploma Pest Management
 - 2 Skills sets
 - 24 Units

Queensland Pest Animal Symposium

- October 2016

WSQ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(cont.)

- Location: Preliminary discussions with Townsville City Council
- Inaugural pest animal awards (now open!)
- Invitations for subcommittee membership
- Tenders for event coordinators
- Sponsor list and sponsorship cover letter
- Call for abstracts January 2016

2014 Queensland Weed Symposium Report - Hellen Haapakoski

Firstly I would like to say that I had the best organising Committee any chair could ask for and I would like to thank them very much for making this Symposium such a success. Also there was no way we could have done it without the professional assistance of Kara & Krysty from Iceberg Events. Thank you.

We had a total of 135 registered delegates attending over the three days. Survey feedback post Symposium is very positive and we have (the organising committee) ideas how we can make the next one even better.

It is likely we will suffer a \$5,700 loss which the WSQ Committee were well aware from the beginning. The logistics of holding these events in regional Queensland are more expensive than those on the coast but WSQ is committed to take the weed and pest animals message all around Queensland and provide equal opportunity for all members to be informed, to learn new technologies and to network, no matter where in Queensland they live.

Longreach provided a feast of great venues to hold functions such as the Stockman's Hall of Fame and the Qantas Founders Museum.

The field trips highlighted the tyranny of distance and while everyone was made aware of this prior to embarking it still came as a shock how exhausting it was. On show was the war on prickly acacia and cactus. For me it was a shock to see the invasion of cactus and how beautifully macabre it was in the landscape, it has certainly shifted my attitude to the threat these species pose.

Our keynote speakers set the stage for some inspiring talks. Act now, innovate, participate and partner up were some key themes. And while the talks lent heavily on the war on western weeds it was fitting for the environment we were meeting in.

To support those rural communities suffering in the drought we linked our Symposium to the travel campaign "Spend a night, Spend a dollar". I know some delegates did spend up well and left town with empty pockets.

I'll finish up with thanking again my organising committee for their stellar effort.

Hellen Haapakoski
Chair

13th Queensland Weeds Symposium

Website Report - Sally Vidler

At the last AGM we were able to introduce a new logo and this year we have added to the suite of communication materials with an updated WSQ brochure and two new banners; both of which we used at this year's Weed Symposium in Longreach.

The new website is about 75% finished, and like most projects getting the last part over the line with the time constraints of all involved has been difficult. Leon, our contact at Kingfisher Creative has also left, and we are now working with Andrew and Mary. Note that Andrew is now on leave until after Christmas.

To see the latest go to <http://weedsocietyofqueensland.kingfishercreative.com.au>

You will note several obvious areas that require additional information, images or small changes, but the main outstanding issues are:

Email

Our email is currently hosted through Brisnet. We have 18 email forwards, and we planned to change the hosting of the emails to Kingfisher Creative (as we have to move our website hosting to them). However, the web package only includes 5 email addresses. This issue needs to be addressed.

Membership

The interactive membership forms have not yet been built. Jeff has sent the Paypal information to them.

Resources

This is the last big remaining section. We have most of the resources but the variation in the way the files have been created (some whole PDFs, some bookmarked and interactive, some scanned as high resolution images that need to be individually reduced in size) requires more time than I've had.

Contact Us

The way the contact info is currently loaded is confusing. There probably needs to be a blurb so that people understand they can either contact the general email, or if they have a regional matter, know how to contact the reps. We originally wanted an interactive "Regional Map". This is apparently difficult to update. David has agreed to come up with a blurb for this page, and perhaps just use a static map to assist people.

I am sorry to be leaving this position with the website still not completed. However, I am now working in an unrelated field and do not have the spare time to adequately dedicate to the position. I have really enjoyed reconnecting with the Weedy World, old friends and colleagues - not to mention all the lovely new people I've met.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to the

WSQ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(cont.)

content of the website and other communication materials. A special thanks to David Thornby, Jane Morton and Bruce Wilson who deserve great credit for the time and expertise they have contributed to the website redevelopment. I look forward to seeing the website completed, and am happy to do a handover at the next website subcommittee meeting with the lucky new Webmaster!

Election of Office Bearers for 2016 New Executive

- President - David Thornby
- Vice President - Craig Magnussen
- Secretary - Bellinda Callanan
- Treasurer - Jeff Werth
- Newsletter Editor - Annie van der Meulen
- Newsletter sub-editor and Social Media (non-

voting) - Micheal Widderick

- Pest Animal Branch Rep - Iain Jamieson
- Website Editor (non-voting) - Dorean Erhart
- CAWS rep - Micheal Widderick
- Darling Downs Branch Rep - Craig Hunter
- South-east Qld Rep - Nick Bloor
- Central Qld rep - Bellinda Callanan
- North Qld rep - Travis Sydes
- Western Qld rep - Steve Keating

Editors note: Apologies to members I forgot to take a photo of the new Executive at the AGM. In the upcoming newsletters a profile of each of the new members will be provided by the new Newsletter Editor, Annie van der Meulen.

OBITUARY

ARTHUR CHARLES JULIAN

NOVEMBER 1926 – 13 DECEMBER 2015



Charles is certainly remembered from the foundation of the Weed Society of Qld in 1975. He was a foundation member, instrumental in its early functioning as the second Treasurer (1976-78) and later as President (1981-82). He was a staunch supporter and organiser of social/ educational car rallies, theatre restaurant experiences, field days, weed workshops, and public weed concern forums, for example on 2,4,5-T. Charles was the main instigator for the WSQ sponsoring, organising and achieving TAFE backing of Weed Control Courses for Supervisors and Operators. He had a major input to the WSQ Weed Control Manual and was actively involved in setting course assignments and lecturing.

Charles loved his birthplace of Cornwall but he had a very unhappy childhood and was working as a farm labourer before he was 14 years old. His occupation as a food producer meant he could not join the forces in WWII. When emigration became possible after the war, he took the opportunity.

His first job was as a labourer with the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission at Clare, and then at the Burdekin River Authority's Experimental farm. In 1952, he joined the Qld Public Service in water distribution, moved in 1956 to the Mareeba Dimbulah Irrigation Area and controlled the first water release from Tinaroo Dam. In 1962, Charles was promoted to Officer-in-Charge, Dawson Valley Irrigation Area, Theodore. His move was in the wet season, with flood-prone rivers to cross and two babies in the car. Charles' work at Theodore was outstanding, rebuilding and revitalising a rundown irrigation area. He later moved on to Brisbane as Supervising Water Superintendent and retired in 1986. Charles made a major contribution to weed science in Queensland with his work in what became the Qld Water Resources Commission. He developed knowledge of aquatic weeds out of necessity and achieved successful control. He conducted many water weed control trials from Moogerah and Atkinson Dams up to the Bundaberg Irrigation Channels with Trevor Armstrong. Charles became an Australian authority on tropical water weeds and recorded his knowledge in the first Weed Control Manual for the Commission. Within a National Working Group, he was convener of a committee which produced the practical 'Guidelines for Use of Herbicides near Water'. Charles had a quiet way of informing, answering questions and leading discussions at evening irrigators' meetings.

Charles was utterly and uncompromisingly honest. He was an innovator and refused to be bound by conventional thinking. If he was unimpressed with the quality or utility of a commercial item, then he built a better one. It took a stroke and lung disease to slow him in later life.

Charles is survived by his wife, Margaret, of 57 years, three children and grandchildren.

WEED SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND NEWS

13TH QUEENSLAND WEED SYMPOSIUM

Hellen Happakosiki, Qld Weed Symposium Chair

The 13th Queensland Weed Symposium was held on 14-17 September 2015 at the Longreach Civic Centre. 135 delegates drove and flew to Longreach to “stay a night, spend a dollar”. The theme for the symposium was ‘A Climate for Weeds’. There were 3 dynamic keynote speakers, Bruce Scoot, Ninian Stewart Moore and David McRae.

Bruce Scott, Chair of Desert Channels Group was born-and-bred in western Queensland. He and his wife Maureen own and run Moothandella, a cattle station in the Queensland Channel Country. Bruce spoke with optimism, expressing the importance of innovation and urging us all to act now and not wait till weeds get ahead of us.



Left:
Kelli Pukallus
trailing a new
granule dispenser
on the short field
trip.

Below:
The prickly acacia
talk given on the
short field trip.

Photos courtesy
the Qld Weed
Symposium
Committee



13TH QUEENSLAND WEED SYMPOSIUM

(cont.)

Ninian Stewart-Moore is the Deputy Mayor of the Flinders Shire. Ninian is a 3rd generation grazier situated west of Hughenden on the Mitchell grass downs and has spent the last 30 years eradicating prickly acacia on the family's 46000ha property, and then continuing to maintain a (nearly) clean status. Ninian introduced the 'Good neighbour policy' where being a good neighbour in Flinders is the norm not the exception. This is helping to win the war on prickly acacia.

Dave McRae is working with both the Queensland Government and the University of Southern Queensland to help primary industry and regional communities identify practical options to manage the risks posed by our highly variable climate. His presentation covered the key drivers of our climate, the current El Niño event, and how climate information may be incorporated into a weed management plan. Of particular interest was his historical information on Longreach's wet and dry years, and how the current drought should have been better planned for.

There were many short presentations by industrious weed operators, from researchers to field officers. The field trips were awe inspiring and absolutely showed the dark side of cacti and prickly acacia infestations. Some of the take home messages were:

- Care for people, care for the land
- The future of funding is not bright, so use what we have wisely
- Science is providing solutions in partnership with land managers
- Act now, tackle what you know is a weed before it gets away
- Land managers need to keep connected to Landcare and their local government, to be on the front foot to trial new technologies and to be in line for funded projects
- Many new bio control agents are in the pipeline for prickly acacia, lantana, parkinsonia and cacti
- Queensland natives are becoming naturalised beyond their native range. These could be a great threat to regional biodiversity, and we will need to manage them in the near future.

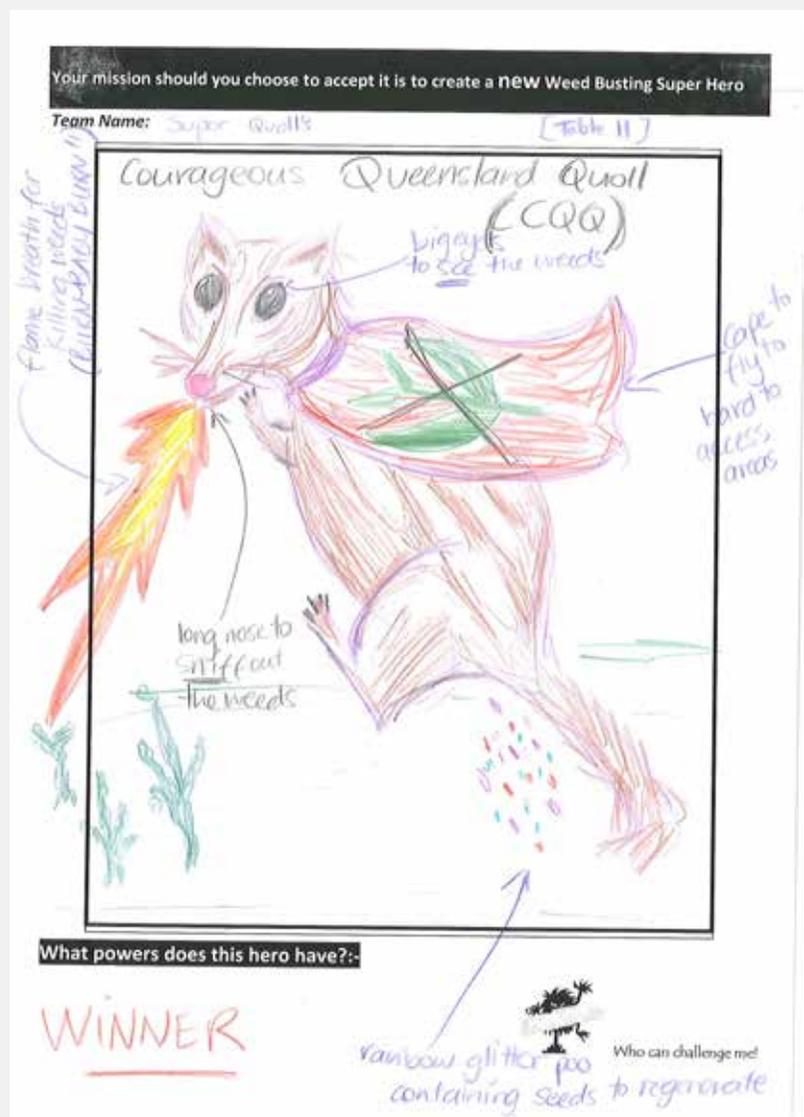
The Society would like to thank our many sponsors, especially our Platinum Sponsor RAPAD and Gold Sponsor Dow Agro Sciences, who make it possible to hold these events in regional Queensland.

Right: At the Conference dinner, delegates were asked to create a new weed busting super hero.

The depth of talent in our weeds was staggering but there had to be a winner, Team Super Quolls.

The Courageous Queensland Quoll

It has big eyes - to see weeds,
long nose - to sniff out weeds,
flame breath - for killing weeds,
cape to fly - for those too hard to access areas,
and,
rainbow glitter poo - containing seeds to regenerate native plant communities.



QUEENSLAND PEST ANIMAL BRANCH

WAGLER'S PIT VIPER

Steve Cshures, Biosecurity Queensland

The Wagler's pit viper is a beautiful but deadly snake native to the rainforests of South-east Asia.

Pest risk assessment presents evidence that this species has the potential to become a pest in our wet tropics rainforests, if released in sufficient numbers.

Attributes that confer pest potential include: (1) climate match, (2) a generalist diet, and (3) an extensive native range. These snakes sometimes rest/hide in shrubs at about head-height, trying to rely on their superb camouflage, so when people walk past they get bitten, ruining their whole day.

Wagler's pit vipers are arboreal, cryptic and nocturnal, so eradication would be impossible.

A small number of Australian zoos have permits to keep this species and, with its attractive colours, it is an obvious candidate for smugglers.



Above: Wagler's pit viper
Sourced from: <http://www.zoochat.com/743/waglers-pit-viper-tropidolaemus-wagleri-150119/>

Taxonomy is confused and there are numerous colour morphs.

As with most non-native reptiles, prevention (in the form of exclusion) is our only hope. Once established, they would be here to stay.

Introduction, possession and sale is prohibited in Qld and also under the *Commonwealth EPBC Act* (s303) with a 'reverse onus of proof' requiring the owner to prove the snake's legal origin.

Post-border restrictions are fairly uniform across state and territory jurisdictions, thanks to the progressive efforts of the Vertebrate pest Committee many years ago. We need to keep it that way.

Above: Wagler's pit viper
Sourced from: <http://www.panoramio.com/photo/16372472>



FEATURES

A NEW INVASIVE SPECIES FOR QUEENSLAND AND AUSTRALIA: *MIMOSA TENUIFLORA* (SYN. *MIMOSA HOSTILIS*) (BRAZILIAN JUREMA)

Weed Spotters Network, Queensland

Brazilian jurema is a perennial shrub or small tree to 8 m (Image 1) native to Mexico, South and Central America. It is a member of the Acacia family (Mimosaceae) and may be confused with non-native prickly 'Acacia' species in Queensland. Although not declared under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*, Biosecurity Queensland has recently assessed the species as high risk due to its potential to become an invasive weed in Queensland. Brazilian jurema has also been identified as a biosecurity risk by the Northern Australian Quarantine Strategy (NAQS) and is a prohibited import into Australia.



Image 1. Photo courtesy Barbara Waterhouse

Despite these restrictions, cultivated individuals of Brazilian jurema were reported for the first time in Australia in October at Kuranda, north Queensland. It is uncertain whether seeds were sourced illegally from overseas through the mail before being sold online within Australia. Further individuals of this species are likely to be found growing in Queensland.

Brazilian jurema is capable of forming pure stands in savannas and on rangeland floodplains similar to its close relative, *Mimosa pigra* (giant sensitive tree – Class 1), damaging grazing land, restricting stock movements, harbouring feral animals and threatening biodiversity. Much of Queensland's tropical savanna habitat could provide suitable habitat for Brazilian jurema.

Brazilian jurema has smooth grey-brown bark with reddish-brown young stems. Branches have large,

curved spines (Image 2). The compound leaves are fern-like to 5 cm in length. Each leaf has 15–33 pairs of leaflets 5–6 mm long (Image 3). Inflorescences appear in spring to early summer and are spikes of cream coloured flowers with conspicuous stamens (fig. 3). The pods are initially green but mature to be reddish-brown and flattened to 6 cm long. Each pod contains 4–6 flat, oval seeds 3–4 mm in diameter.



Image 2 above. Image 3 below.
Photo courtesy Barbara Waterhouse



If you think you have seen Brazilian jurema growing in your region, please contact the Queensland Herbarium on (07) 3896 9323, email a photo to: Queensland.Herbarium@qld.gov.au or contact Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

ON GROUND ACTION

LAKE BARRINE TILAPIA CONTROL

Ken Goleby, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

In May 2007, the presence of black mangrove cichlids (*Tilapia mariae*) was confirmed in Lake Barrine. The lake, a popular tourist destination located 60km southwest of Cairns on the eastern part of the Atherton Tableland, is part of the Crater Lakes National Park. How and when the fish got to the lake is uncertain, but surveys conducted soon after the discovery suggested the fish had been present for a sufficiently long enough period for a sizeable population to have become established. Snorkelling surveys conducted in May 2009 showed the population had steadily increased since the initial survey undertaken in May 2007.



Above: . Black mangrove cichlids (*Tilapia mariae*) was first recorded in Lake Barrine in May 2007. Photo courtesy QPWS.

Direct evidence for *Tilapia*'s effects on Australian aquatic ecosystems is limited, particularly in relatively closed systems such as Lake Barrine. Evidence from overseas studies include adverse impacts on the spawning success of native fish, changes in aquatic plant assemblages and disruption of food chains leading to declines in the numbers and diversity of native species. Very high populations could also result in eutrophication of the lake water leading to reductions in dissolved oxygen, significant fluctuations in pH and algal blooms. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service was not willing to risk this happening in this iconic lake.

With the assistance of fisheries biologists from DEEDI (now DAF), various management options were trialled including electrofishing, line fishing, gill netting, fish traps of various design and artificial egg laying strata. None of these methods were successful in significantly reducing the population.

In 2009 and 2010, a trial of spearfishing was undertaken by QPWS involving experienced spear fishers from the Agency's Marine Parks section. When *T. mariae* are spawning, fish form breeding pairs. Eggs are attached to a hard surface such as a log or rock in "nests" created by the parent fish by clearing away silt and debris. After egg laying and until the hatchlings reach a length of 25-30 mm, both parents guard the nest. If the nest is left unattended, even for a short time, predators quickly consume the eggs and fry. This habit can be exploited if spearfishing efforts are undertaken during the spawning season that extends from late October to late April. Experience has shown that if one of the pair is shot the other parent will swim off but return within a very short time

LAKE BARRINE TILAPIA CONTROL

(cont.)

and can be speared, leaving the nest vulnerable to predators.



Above: With a surface area of roughly 1 km² and a shoreline close to 4.4 km, Lake Barrine is the largest volcanic lake on the Atherton Tablelands.
Photo courtesy QPWS.

The 2009 trial was undertaken in mid-December. Six divers spent 4 hrs 40 min in the water and speared 219 *Tilapia* ranging in size from 137 mm to 332 mm (mean 240 mm). The divers returned 3 months later in mid-March. This time they spent 5 hrs 40 min in the water and removed 233 fish ranging in size from 165 mm to 302 mm (mean 220 mm). The catch per unit effort might appear quite low but it should be pointed out that the fish being taken were those large enough to be reproductively active and that all eggs and fry in the nests were probably consumed by predators.



Above: Various methods of removing *Tilapia* have been trialled in Lake Barrine including (left to right) electrofishing, fish traps and artificial egg laying strata. None were particularly successful. Photo courtesy QPWS.

With the support of volunteers from local spearfishing clubs and QPWS staff, a number of spearfishing days are run during the spawning season. The best catch to date was 653 fish removed in a single day in February 2013. The cumulative catch for 2015/16 breeding season was 1349. While eradication of *Tilapia* from a water body like Lake Barrine is never likely to be achievable, spear fishing offers QPWS a cost effective and reasonably efficient way to keep the population of *Tilapia*, and hopefully their impacts, to an acceptable level.

QPWS would like to acknowledge the generous ongoing support of Bill and Leanne Bayne, the proprietors of the Lake Barrine Teahouse.



Above: During spawning, spearfishing has proved to be an inexpensive and effective way of reducing the population of adult fish. The pale, roughly circular areas in the photograph above the fish kill are *Tilapia* "nests". Photo courtesy QPWS.