



# TASWEEDS



## SUMMER 2007 NUMBER 33

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TWS Annual and help set the direction  
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## FROM THE PRESIDENT



Andrew Laird

Happy New Year everyone and welcome to the summer edition of Tasweeds. Hopefully the festive season has been full of fun and cheer with everyone enjoying the company of friends and family and taking advantage of some marvellous sunshine.

### Looking ahead

2007 is shaping up to be another exciting and challenging year for the Tasmanian Weed Society. The 2nd Tasmanian Weeds Conference (TWC) is to be held in 2008 and, thus 2007 is the time for planning and preparation. Along with the normal business of running the society, the executive elected for 2007 is charged with the organisation of the conference. The current executive encourages all interested members to consider nominating for an executive position and participate in the highly rewarding activities of organising and hosting the TWC.

### The upcoming AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the TWS will be held on Friday March 23 from 12.00 pm – 4.00 pm at the Launceston Tram Sheds. After lunch and the AGM, we will be hosting a series of presentations by the Department of Primary Industries and Water (DPIW) and the Regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) bodies, where they will be detailing the progress of cooperative, strategic weed management in Tasmania. As an added bonus this year, there will be a number of door prizes including weed identification publications and a set of loppers. So come along, get involved and hopefully take home a prize. Executive position descriptions are available on the TWS website [www.tasweeds.org](http://www.tasweeds.org) and please RSVP to the [secretary@tasweeds.org](mailto:secretary@tasweeds.org) by March 13th to enable catering and other requirements to be organised.

### In this edition

The many efforts of industry (in all its forms) to tackle weeds throughout Tasmania are highlighted in this edition. From cooperative and integrated projects by Aurora Energy and the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER), to the minerals sector. Tasmanian industry is becoming proactive in their actions and behaviors associated with weed management issues. Similarly the Nursery and Garden Industry of Tasmania (NGIT) continue to work closely with TWS and DPIW to develop and initiate protocols to reduce the potential impacts of invasive species originating in the horticultural and garden sectors.

### Get involved

Joining and becoming an active member of TWS enables you to participate in developing and formulating policies and activities that will directly benefit the Tasmanian environment and economy and get to interact with, and provide assistance to, a range of organisations seeking to improve their responses to weed management issues.

Thanks everyone, enjoy the newsletter and I look forward to seeing as many people as possible at the Tram Sheds in Launceston on March 23.

### TWS Executive Committee

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**Joining TWS**

The benefits of joining the Tasmanian Weed Society include:

- An information packed quarterly news-letter TASWEEDS
- A forum to discuss weeds with people who actually understand
- Regional field days and work shops on topics of interest
- An opportunity to meet and make valuable contacts

It is easy to apply for/renew membership. Simply download and print the membership form from [www.tasweeds.org/html/joiningform.htm](http://www.tasweeds.org/html/joiningform.htm), complete details as required, and forward with a cheque or money order to the address below.

Cost of Membership  
 Student \$5.00  
 Ordinary \$15.00  
 Corporate \$45.00

Please forward form and remittance to:  
 The Secretary  
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 PO Box 4608  
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Enquiries:  
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**About TASWEEDS**

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Readers are free to circulate and reproduce any material in Tasweeds. We ask that authors/sources of information are acknowledged.

All members of the weed community are encouraged to submit articles to Tasweeds.

Cover images (by Matthew Baker):  
 • *Psoralea pinnata* (blue butterflybush)  
 • *Senecio elegans* (purple groundsel)

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## Funding for Landcare projects

Applications are now open for funding of projects in 2007-08 under the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme. The NLP is keen to encourage greater involvement in Landcare by community and industry groups. Hence, improving natural resource management in Australia.

The priority for funding through NLP Community Support investment is on-ground activities that will:

- significantly increase the uptake of sustainable agricultural and other NRM practices;
- support Landcare group and primary industry activities which contribute to NLP outcomes;
- enhance the knowledge and skills of natural resource managers;
- promote implementation of best management practices; and
- improve integration of NRM into management practices at the enterprise level.

Applications for funding should be sent to regional NRM bodies so they can assess the proposed projects against regional priorities.

View the guidelines at: [www.daffa.gov.au/natural-resources/landcare/national-landcare-programme/community](http://www.daffa.gov.au/natural-resources/landcare/national-landcare-programme/community).

## Boneseed forum

The National Bitou Bush & Boneseed Forum is scheduled for August 28 and 29 in Geelong Victoria. Boneseed & bitou bush stakeholders are invited to participate in this event and help set the direction for the future of the national program. The Forum will also provide a wonderful

opportunity to share information and learn from other boneseed & bitou bush practitioners.

For more information or to submit an abstract please contact Hillary Cherry, National Coordinator, Bitou Bush and Boneseed by phone: (02) 9585-6587 or email: [Hillary.Cherry@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Hillary.Cherry@environment.nsw.gov.au)

## Book competition flops

There was no winner of the 'Weeds of the South-East' book competition (see p. 19, Spring 2006) because no-

body apart from two executive members submitted an entry. The book has been sent to Launceston where it will be given away at the Tasmanian Weed Society's Annual General Meeting. A big thank you must go to Rob and Fiona of R.G. & F.J. Richardson for donating the book.

## Welcome to TWS

The Tasmanian Weed Society would like to warmly welcome our newest members:

- DPIW Library Services
- J. Whitow
- M. Bartlett
- M. Noble
- P. Sayers

## Tasmanian Weed Society – Annual General Meeting

**Date:** Friday 23 March 2007

**Venue:** Launceston Tram Sheds

**Time:** 12.00 pm – 4.00 pm

This year's AGM will include presentations detailing the progress of cooperative and strategic weed management in Tasmania and will be given by representatives from DPIW Weed Section and the Regional NRM bodies.

As an added bonus there will be several door prizes including some fantastic weed publications and a set of very good loppers. So come along, get involved and hopefully take home a prize.

Executive position descriptions are available at [www.tasweeds.org](http://www.tasweeds.org).

Please RSVP to the [secretary@tasweeds.org](mailto:secretary@tasweeds.org) by March 13 to enable catering and other requirements to be organised.

### AGENDA

**12.00 pm – 12.45 pm**

Lunch

**12.45 pm – 1.30 pm**

President's and Financial Reports  
Election of Executive  
General Business

**1.45 pm – 2.25 pm**

Weed Management Seminars

**2.25 pm – 2.45 pm**

Discussion

**3.00 pm – 3.30 pm**

Weed Management Seminars

**3.30 pm – 3.45 pm**

Discussion

## Beach daisy control

Report of the third year of the program to eradicate this weed from Tasmania

Until November 2004 Beach Daisy (*Arctotheca populifolia*) was only known from one site in Tasmania, at Sellars Point on the east coast of Flinders Island. Sadly, surveys by the Threatened Species Network (TSN) in 2004 and 2005 have found the weed dotted along the east coast of Flinders Island, from the northern end of Logans Lagoon north to Foochow Inlet (a distance of 35 km). However, the vast majority of plants are restricted to just seven kilometres of coast, from the northern end of Logans Lagoon to three kilometres south of the mouth of Camerons Inlet.

In November 2006, the TSN held the third consecutive annual survey for this highly restricted weed. Alastair Graham, Christian Bell, Robyn Cox (Flinders NRM Officer) and Peter McGlone walked the in 'police-line' along 10 km of the beach from the northern end of Logans to the mouth of Camerons Inlet. Several hundred live plants were found, which was about the same number or slightly fewer as found and controlled the previous year. Big plants or clumps of plants were marked for spraying by the Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) and all other plants were put in sacks and handed to the PWS for incineration.



*Flowering head and leaf of Arctotheca populifolia*

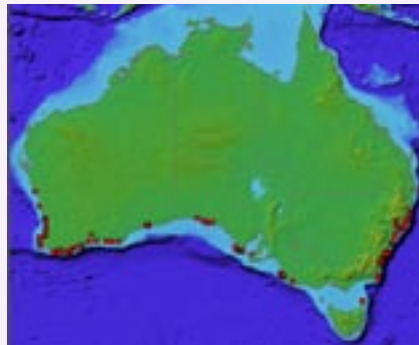
We were surprised by the high number of plants found in an area that was thoroughly searched the previous year. This has encouraged us to attempt two visits each year to minimise the number of plants that flower and produce seed.

The positive outcome was that, along the 10 km stretch of Planter Beach surveyed on this occasion, Beach Daisy was not found any further north and only about 0.5 km further south that previous surveys. This confirms our previous finding that the weed is primarily restricted to just 7 km of beach, presumably where beach conditions are more favourable.

A few weeks earlier than our survey, the local PWS ranger had done a search on quad bike, including the area north from Camerons Inlet to Patriarch Inlet and only found a few scattered Beach Daisy plants.

We will return to Flinders Island in 2007, hopefully two trips in early and late spring. Thanks to Robyn Cox for assistance with the survey and providing transport. Thanks also to Wayne Warren for disposing of our bagged daisies.

Peter McGlone  
Threatened Species  
Network



*Distribution of Arctotheca populifolia*  
(Source: Australia's Virtual Herbarium)

## Habitat made more conducive for rare Epacris

A small group of volunteers have removed the blackberry menace from Southport Island. The blackberries were threatening to choke out the insurance population planted there in 2001 of the rare coastal heath *Epacris stuartii*. The only known habitat for *Epacris stuartii* is at the nearby George III monument on Southport Bluff. That

area been fenced off to protect the plant, some 200 metres back from the Bluff. Chosen for their genetic diversity, 200 plants were taken from near the Bluff and re-planted on Southport island.

Five volunteers worked very hard over a full weekend to cut and paste all the blackberry population.

Virtually all of Southport Island is a rookery for short-tailed shearwaters and little penguins. The penguins proved to be noisy overnight neighbours.

Craig Saunders  
Volunteer coordinator,  
Parks and Wildlife Service

## REGIONAL WEED MANAGEMENT

Michael Rowland  
PROJECT OFFICER  
BIO LINKS PROJECT

### Huon Valley Kingborough Biodiversity Landscape Linkages Project

The Bio Links Project has been established to develop a new two year pilot corridor connection program delivered in partnership between the Huon Valley and Kingborough Councils and NRM South, with support and funding from the Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust.

Operating across both Council areas the Bio Links Project will identify corridors across the landscape with the aim of improving biodiversity in, and linkages between:

- priority vegetation communities;
- public and private protected areas;
- key habitat for iconic and threatened species;
- coastal/lowland areas and riparian (streamside) areas.

This opportunity for neighbouring councils to work together provides an excellent chance to establish the coordination of planning for natural area protection across the two municipal boundaries.

Central to this project will be the development of a pilot methodology for identifying high priority corridors. This Methodology will stipulate the criteria upon which a corridor is selected.

After the identification of these corridors has been completed, the long term protection and restoration of them will then begin. The mapping of these corridors will be used by Natural Resource Management practitioners and planners of both councils well beyond the two-year project funding period. These corridors will then be targeted for works over the coming decades to improve those linkages. The results of the Project will support the planning schemes of the two Municipalities to assist The Planners in their decisions.

The establishment of this project flags a step up in the level of Landcare from relatively unrelated local action to a more coordinated and planned strategic approach. This project provides an insurance to the protection of the remnants; it does not 'Lock everything up', but facilitates a natural progression towards a more sustainably and carefully managed landscape, with a regional picture in mind.

The Launch of the Project was held at Hartzview Vineyard last Tuesday. The location of the launch was chosen as it was near the boundary of the two council areas with vistas over the landscape.

### Methodology

- Areas of High Priority vegetation, in particular areas containing rare and threatened species will be identified. For example: Our 40 Spotted Pardalote live in white gum woodland, the swift parrot feeds in the blue gum and black gum.
- Weed incursions in these corridors will also be identified for control and management.
- Riparian (or streamside) vegetation will be protected to improve stream health and water quality through; weed management along rivers and creeks, such as the removal and ongoing control of crack willow and reducing stock access to streams and rivers with stock exclusion fencing supported with the provision of off-stream watering points – troughs and the like.
- Areas of open ground where links have been identified may also be identified for revegetation to restore the passage of wildlife and the intermingling of vegetation to maintain genetic diversity

### Cradle Coast weeds – full steam ahead

2007 is shaping up as a big year for implementation of the Cradle Coast Weed Management Strategy. After the initial twelve months, many of the structural reforms are now in place, and we should really start to see some differences on the ground.

The gorse and boneseed programs will continue in 2007, as will eradication programs for some limited distribution weeds, including serrated tussock and bridal creeper.

One of the big projects in 2007 will be completion of a Regional Weed Hygiene Plan, which will be aiming to identify ways of improving all aspects of preventative weed management, including spread of weeds along corridors, weed clean down facilities, transport of stock, grain and fodder, and green waste management. Once completed, key actions of the plan will then be implemented, with funds already allocated for this.

Effective preventative weed management, along with on ground programs actively controlling existing weeds, should lead to a significant reduction in the threat posed by weeds to land holders of the Cradle Coast Region.

Greg Taylor  
Regional Weed Strategy Officer  
Cradle Coast NRM

## Implementation of Southern Tasmanian Weed Strategy begins

Weed management in Southern Tasmania will get a \$370,000 boost over the next two years through an NHT-funded project to implement the Southern Tasmanian Weeds Strategy.

The Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority, the regional organisation that encompasses the twelve southern councils, will translate actions from the Strategy into real life outcomes. Significant outcomes of the project will be:

- an audit of existing weed management infrastructure and capacity
- development or purchase of equipment to fill infrastructure and capacity gaps, and improved sharing of equipment
- maps of priority weeds in the Southern NRM region
- training of weed managers to implement best practices
- establishment of partnerships between key stakeholders
- development of a rapid response plan for management of weed incursions in the Southern NRM region.

Initially, the project will focus on developing an operational plan, building networks and determining a set of priority species to target in Southern Tasmania.

Implementation of the Strategy will be facilitated by Project Manager, Jonah Gouldthorpe. Jonah has previously worked for the Department of Primary Industries and Water as author of the Gorse National Best Practice Manual and has conducted a review of weed information systems. Guiding him will be a steering group representing the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources, the Department of Primary Industries and Water, Forestry Tasmania, Hydro Tasmania, local government, NRM South, Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, Transend and other stakeholders.

Matthew Baker of the Tasmanian Weed Society and Tasmanian Herbarium will link to the project as a member of its Technical Working Group, which will provide expert input to development of Jonah's work programs and capital works projects.

Jonah Gouldthorpe  
Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority

## REGIONAL WEED MANAGEMENT



*Jonah carrying out some Solanum management*



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MOBILE 0407 303 130  
email [colspray@bigpond.net.au](mailto:colspray@bigpond.net.au)

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## INDUSTRY

Geoff Cordery  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER  
VEDANTA – CMT

### Weed management at Copper Mines of Tasmania, Queenstown

Vedanta – Copper Mines of Tasmania (CMT) operate the large and historic Prince Lyell copper mine, part of the Mount Lyell mining field near Queenstown. This mine treats around 2.6 million tonnes of ore and produces nearly thirty thousand tonnes of copper metal per year. CMT also provides more than three hundred full time jobs and supports many businesses on the West Coast. Mount Lyell is well known for its “bare hills” an environmental legacy from more than one hundred years of prospecting and mining. Most of the vegetation was cleared in the late eighteen and early nineteen hundreds by eager prospectors cutting the king billy forest for timber and burning the then thick rainforest. High rainfall and steep slopes resulted in massive erosion and soil loss and denuded hills. Metal smelting practices of the time also discouraged regrowth.

The return of native vegetation is progressing well now that the land is managed in a more sustainable way. Many people remark on the return of green to the hills, and the lack of weeds on the mining leases. Starting from a low base of almost bare hills, native revegetation is being encouraged by protection from the main threats of weeds, fire, disturbance and disease. Copper Mines of Tasmania is committed to best practice land management on its mining lease and assisting the local community with weed and vegetation management.

Copper Mines of Tasmania has active programmes of regular weed surveys, monitoring, weed control and follow up. Some weed introduction in the past has been via earthmoving equipment, with minor, localised infestations of gorse, broom and exotic grasses and pasture weeds. Known sites are regularly inspected and sprayed with environmentally appropriate herbicides to control regrowth. The company has strict hygiene procedures designed to prevent the introduction of weeds or diseases such as phytophthora to the site. All vehicles operating outside of the main operational areas must be washed down and inspected before they can commence work.

Weed surveys and mapping using a GIS database record the extent and location of weeds, and are used to measure the effectiveness of control programmes. Windborne and bird introduced weeds such as pampas, thistle and blackberry are widespread and can be remote from tracks and access. Regular spray programmes have these under control, though constant vigilance is required. Escaped garden plants include daisies, foxgloves cotoneaster, buddleja, para hebe, Spanish heath, watsonia, birch, pines and willows. Some of these weeds are remnants of old town and house sites and are of heritage significance and, if non invasive, are managed to mark the presence of former settlement. Invasive species and all weeds away from former settlements are now under control with active cutting and spraying programmes. Concerted campaigns to totally remove localised infestations of seeding willow and birch are in progress and are being co-ordinated with other control programmes in the district.

Buddleja (*Buddleja davidii*) is emerging as a serious invasive, environmental weed, with rapid spread from town gardens to open areas and bush. Cut and paint methods have been ineffective. Spraying of larger plants and pulling of seedlings are labour intensive though effective.

Other known weeds include cumbungi, elisha's tears and rare ragwort, all of which are controlled on the lease and former sites are monitored.

Copper Mines of Tasmania does not stop its weed control at its lease boundaries. It is an active participant with a variety of local land management groups, including the West Coast Weed and Fire Management Group, the King River Action Group and recently formed Queenstown Landcare. Weed control spraying and physical removal from areas adjoining the leases, including on council and private land in Queenstown is effectively reducing the community weed burden.



*Telopea truncata (waratah), a species worth protecting on the CMT lease*

## DIER and the “long paddock”

The Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER) is the notional owner and manager of the State Classified Road System. Amongst DIER's investment strategies is the commitment to management of the road and bridge assets to ensure safe operation, facilitate the movement of freight State-wide, enhance the tourist experience, and to maximise the environmental value of transport corridors, including flora, fauna and heritage aspects.

### The stats

So the task is to manage the “long paddock”, or a network that comprises approximately 3,650 km of roads; 7,300 km of roadsides or about 7,900 hectares of road reservation of which over half is under vegetation; 1,230 structures including bridges, major culverts, and marine structures; 2 airports; and countless small parcels of land such as old camp sites, quarry reservations, etc. The replacement value of these

assets has been estimated at \$3.9 billion.

Some of this network is within cities and towns, which presents another set of management regimes due to legislative requirements and agreements with Local Councils.

Since the early 1990s, DIER has moved to a system of delivering road maintenance through contracts of various types, thus, the structures of the previously familiar organisations such as the Department of Main Roads and Department of Transport (and many subsequent names) cease to exist, and DIER does not have a day labour force as in days gone by.

### The challenges

A major challenge faced by DIER road maintenance managers is that the major arterial road system passes through a vast majority of regions of the State. As such, DIER has many and varied ‘neighbours’, all with differing expectations and demands. These regions include areas of unallocated Crown Land, National Parks, World Heritage Areas, large and small farm holdings, other private property holdings, Local Government, mine leases, etc., etc. The arterial nature of the road network also means that some of the less desirable plant species such as weeds, can be readily spread from region to region if good hygiene is not observed.

Overriding all of these demands and constraints is the DIER commitment to the provision of a safe road system for all road users. Consequently, finding the balance between aesthetics, provision of sight distance, removal of diseased or damaged trees or trees in dangerous positions, and removal of vegetation that is threatening the integrity of the road structure and drainage systems, can often result in controversy and criticism. There is also a balance to be found between cost effective and environmentally sensitive management methods, and all of this must meet State and Federal legislative requirements.

### DIER protecting Tasmania's Biodiversity

Additionally, many of DIER's roadsides have been identified as important patches of remnant vegetation that contain valuable populations of our rare and threatened plant and animal species. Because the management regime and usage of roadsides varies from that of adjacent private land, State Reserves or even other forms of State managed Crown Land, they provide a unique opportunity for preservation of roadside species and communities. As surrounding land is cleared, often the road corridor acts as the only remaining native vegetation, thereby creating a living map of vegetation around the State.

Under Tasmanian legislation, DIER has an obligation to actively manage the natural values of roadsides and this implies an obligation to anticipate threatening processes and apply measures to prevent or minimise the likelihood of damage to biodiversity. DIER maintains a database which identifies locations of significant environmental sites, and the implementation of the management strategies identified for 43 high priority sites is facilitated by contract.

### DIER working with NRM

One of the most exciting recent initiatives in the area of land management is the formation of three regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) groups through the State. Each NRM group has produced a Weed Strategy together with a plan of investment opportunities. This initiative has been sponsored by the Australian Government and is designed to support regionally relevant Weedplan directions. DIER has been involved in the development of all three strategies from the outset and is fully supportive of the initiative. From a DIER road maintenance perspective, the Regional Weed Strategies promise to provide a vehicle for a much better co-ordinated approach to its weed control programs through the partnerships and relationships that will inevitably develop. This has already been demonstrated through DIER participation in the Cradle Coast NRM subregional West Coast Weed and Fire Strategy Group, where huge gains have been made in the control of the massive gorse infestations in the Zeehan area.

DIER has also forged relationships with other Local Government supported sub-regional groups throughout the State, and can look forward to more successes in the challenging land management task.

## INDUSTRY

Mike Williams

STATE CO-ORDINATOR  
MAINTENANCE SERVICES, DIER

## INDUSTRY

Wayne Cole  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER, NGIT

## Weed forum/Nursery get-together

The Nursery and Garden Industry Tasmania (NGIT) nursery get together/weed forum was held at Riverview Nursery in Devonport on 9 November, 2006. The event was extremely informative and well attended. The forum included three speakers; Robert Chin - Industry Development Officer for the Nursery and Garden Industry Victoria, Andrew Crane - Southern Regional Weed Management Officer for the Department of Primary Industries and Water, and Andrew Laird - President of the Tasmanian Weed Society.

Robert Chin spoke about the Nursery Industry and Invasive Plants. He gave us a clear overview of what a weed is, the history of weeds and the roles and responsibilities of industry. Robert also informed us of the national response to weed issues facing the Australian Nursery Industry and how the national body is dealing with them by:

- developing an Invasive Plant Policy Position.
- appointing the Nursery and Garden Industry Australia's Environmental Policy Manager - Rebecca Dawson to coordinate the industry response to key environmental issues including invasive plants.
- implementing industry programs such as Nursery Papers and Newsletters, Accreditation programs and Environmental management programs such as EcoHort.

Andrew Crane gave a thorough explanation of Tasmania's weed laws including the *Plant Quarantine Act 1997* and the *Weed Management Act 1999*. Andrew explained, there are declared weeds that we legally cannot grow and potential weeds that we should not grow. There are also weeds that we don't want in the state because of their potential invasiveness or ability to host certain pests and diseases, which could have the potential to devastate certain plants growing here.

A suggestion made in light of Andrew's discussion was that of the possible benefits of a single NGIT state list including potential and declared weeds. Those plants that are not declared weeds but are generally considered weedy could be compiled together with the declared weeds into an NGIT list that our members would agree to refrain from growing (following appropriate discussion and consultation). This approach has already been implemented in Victoria and warrants further investigation.

Andrew Laird, the president of the Tasmanian Weed Society, spoke on the role of the society, their resources such as web-sites and newsletters and how they can work cooperatively with NGIT and its members in relation to weed issues.

This extremely informative and successful presentation will be repeated at our next nursery get-together to be held in the south of the state early in the New Year. A big thanks to Jason Turner of Riverview Nursery for allowing us to hold the event at his nursery and to all three speakers for their participation.

The highlight of the weed forum was the unanimous agreement to take forward plans for all parties to cooperatively work together and to form a committee to develop agreed weed lists and working strategies, which will be supported and promoted by the Accredited Retail Nurseries to the Public and also by Nursery and Garden Industry members, both Retail and Production. This fits well with the desire of Industry members to encourage responsible education in environmental issues such as invasive weeds and water conservation.

### Striving for environmental best practice

The Nursery and Garden Industry has been approved to be involved in Clean Biz and is undertaking to develop one of our high profile retail nurseries as a model example of how to encourage environmental best practice, both within the nursery operation itself and as a responsible and authoritative public education resource. We already have established a working relationship with southern councils to promote wise use of water and have evolved a memorandum of understanding. We are also working with Quarantine on plant importation issues.



## Cooperative approach to weeds in the west

The West Coast Weed and Fire Management Group, based at Zeehan, is working cooperatively to address the significant weed and fire potential that exists in the area. It consists of representatives from Parks & Wildlife Service, West Coast Council, Forestry Tasmania, Department of Primary Industries and Water, Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources, Transend, Zeehan Landcare group, Cradle Coast Natural Resource Management and the local mining companies Bluestone, Zinifex and Copper Mines of Tasmania.

As Aurora's Vegetation Officer covering the North-West and West Coast of the State, I have been the business' representative on the group since January 2006.

Aurora Energy has introduced the inclusion into all Aurora work scopes for line clearing contractors, to have machinery washed down prior to entering the West Coast and before moving between work locations in the area. This is a proactive approach to reduce the spread of weeds in the wayleaves, and has now become a standard requirement for all machinery working in the North West area of the state engaged in line clearing.

The group's primary focus has been working together to control and eradicate gorse, pampas grass and broom. These weeds have established and spread rapidly throughout the area to the extent that they are changing the balance of flora in parts of the West Coast.

Aurora's role in the group has been to establish and develop good working relationships with the other stakeholders. We have powerlines over many properties in the area and assist in the control of weeds by utilising the slashing equipment that is normally used to clear our wayleaves, to enable landholders to access the areas and control regrowth with herbicide.

This in turn benefits Aurora as the landholders are keen to control the weeds in our wayleaves over the land in return. This will significantly reduce Aurora's long-term maintenance of lines that have some sections that are inaccessible at present.

## INDUSTRY

Pat Bourke  
VEGETATION OFFICER,  
AURORA ENERGY

## Beach daisy

*Arctotheca populifolia* (P.J.Bergius) Norl. (Asteraceae)

### What is it?

*Arctotheca populifolia* is native to the coastal areas of South Africa. In Australia, it is naturalised in coastal sands of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. It has a very limited distribution in Tasmania (for details see page five). *Arctotheca populifolia* is related to the common Cape weed (*Arctotheca calendula*).

### What does it look like?

*Arctotheca populifolia* is a prostrate, rhizomatous perennial herb which can grow to a height of up to 30 cm. The leaves are mostly cauline (borne on the stem, i.e. not basal), with ovate leaf blades (2–6 cm long and 1.5–5 cm wide) and long petioles (up to 8 cm long). The leaf surfaces are densely covered with whitish hairs (more so on the underside of the leaves). The flower heads (daisy flowers consist of many small flowers grouped together in a single head termed a capitulum) are yellow, c. 20 mm diam., and are borne on the ends of long flower stalks (up to 11 cm long). Flowering occurs throughout the year. The seeds (3–5 mm long) are covered in woolly white hair.



### What is its weed potential?

*Arctotheca populifolia* is a pioneer species which colonises coastal sand dunes. It is also known to invade grassland on basalt soils. Given its widespread distribution along Australia's Southern coastline it is highly likely that it could become more widespread as a coastal weed in Tasmania. If left unchecked, *Arctotheca populifolia* may increase the vegetation biomass on Tasmanian coastal dune systems, threaten native plant biodiversity and shorebird nesting habitats, alter beach landforms and affect public amenity values. The management of *Arctotheca populifolia* is addressed in Rudman 2003: *Tasmanian Beach Weed Strategy for marram grass, sea spurge, sea wheatgrass, pypgrass & beach daisy*. (See [www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/Publications/LJEM-5ZL9XW?open](http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/Publications/LJEM-5ZL9XW?open))

Matthew Baker  
Weed Taxonomist  
Tasmanian Herbarium

## WEED PROFILE



Andrew Crane  
REGIONAL WEED MANAGE-  
MENT OFFICER, DPIW

### Privet

*Ligustrum* spp. (Oleaceae)

#### What is it?

Large-leaf privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*) and small-leaf or Chinese privet (*L. sinense*) are major weeds of coastal New South Wales, and have also invaded parts of Victoria and Queensland. European privet (*L. vulgare*) is also known to be weedy in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania. All three species are significant weeds in the USA and New Zealand.

Many of Tasmania's established and heritage gardens contain privet hedges, and several gardening programs have recently featured privet. Confusingly, privet species have been identified as both desirable ornamentals and environmental weeds. The problem is that some privets are weedy, but at least one species seems to be okay. Therefore, if you want to plant privet, or if you need to replace privets in your garden, it is important to make the right choice.

#### What does it look like?

Privets are deciduous or semi-evergreen shrubs, which hold their foliage into winter, but drop it before spring. The leaves are oppositely arranged on slender twigs and have 4-5 pairs of indistinct veins. The leaf blades are

hairless, leathery and thick, with a glossy cuticle on the upper surface. The flowers, which appear in summer are small and white. The black, berry-like fruits each contain 1-4 seed. These ripen during March and April and often persist on the plants through winter. Most species readily grow from seed or from root and stump sprouts.

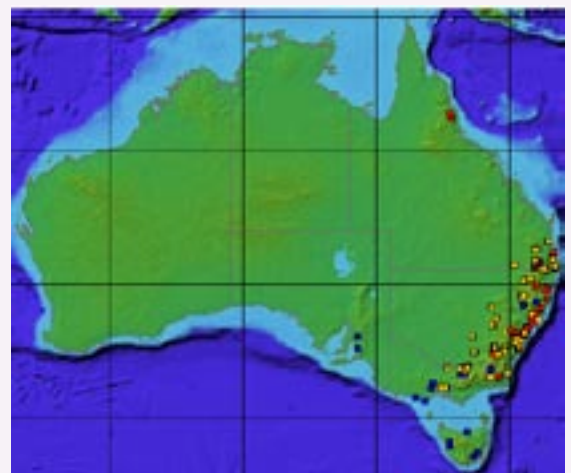
#### What is its weed potential?

Although Tasmania's climate would not appear to be ideal for privets, the fact that some species are native to the cool temperate regions of Asia and Eastern Europe suggests that they pose a genuine threat to our native ecosystems, especially wet forest, rainforest and river banks. Privet escapes cultivation by movement of seed, which is eaten and subsequently transported by wildlife, particularly birds. A safe alternative is the lower growing (up to 1.5m) box-leaf privet (*Ligustrum undulatum*). This species has small leaves, grows rapidly and does not appear to produce seed, thus virtually eliminating its weed potential.

A word of warning on privet species: all are toxic and can be fatal if eaten. Contact with the plant can also cause skin irritation. Horses and children are especially at risk. Privets are also thought to induce severe hayfever and asthma in susceptible people. A safe native alternative with similar features is cheesewood (*Pittosporum bicolor*) – but not other *Pittosporum* species, some of which have proved to be weedy in Tasmania.



Fruits of *Ligustrum vulgare*



Distribution of weedy *Ligustrum* species;  
■ *L. vulgare*, ■ *L. lucidum*, ■ *L. sinense*.  
(Source: Australia's Virtual Herbarium)

## Flax-leaf broom

*Genista linifolia* L. (Fabaceae)

### What is it?

*Genista linifolia* is native to the western Mediterranean. It was originally introduced to Tasmania as a garden plant and has recently been found naturalised in several locations around Hobart. It is widely naturalised on the mainland, where it occurs in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia.

Two other species of *Genista* are also naturalised in Tasmania: *Genista monspesulana* (canary broom) and *Genista stenopetala* (Madeira broom).

### What is its weed potential?

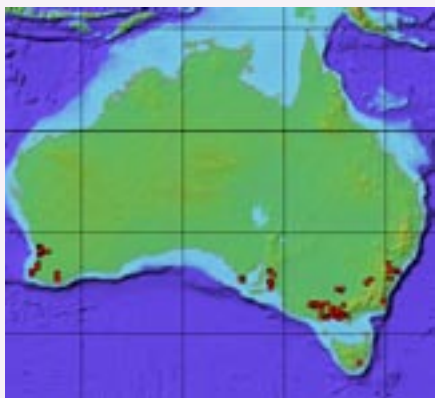
*Genista linifolia* prefers sites with slightly acidic soils coupled with moderate rainfall. On the mainland, it is encountered as a weed of dry coastal cliffs, roadsides, drains and fencelines, and is



Flowers of *Genista linifolia*

### What does it look like?

*Genista linifolia* is a small to medium sized shrub which can grow to a height of up to 3 m. The leaves are trifoliate (each leaf is divided into 3 leaflets); the leaflets (c. 25 mm long and c. 5 mm wide) are narrow-linear to oblanceolate and are covered in grey hairs (more so on the underside of the leaflets).



Distribution of *Genista linifolia*.  
(Source: Australia's Virtual Herbarium)



Seed pods of *Genista linifolia*

These hairs give the plant a silvery look when viewed from afar. The flowers (up to 13.5 mm long) are bright yellow and are borne on short racemes at the ends of branches. Flowering occurs from mid-winter through to the start of summer. The pods (c. 20 mm long) are densely hairy with each containing up to 7 seeds.

## WEED PROFILE



Matthew Baker  
WEED TAXONOMIST,  
TASMANIAN HERBARIUM

also found encroaching onto pastureland. In Tasmania, it is known from a weed-infested coastal embankment, growing and competing well with numerous weedy shrubs, including *Lycium ferocissimum* (African boxthorn), *Paraserianthes lophantha* (Cape Leeuwin wattle) and *Chrysanthemoides monilifera* (boneseed). It is also recorded as dominating a dry, grassy slope near Hobart's Regatta Ground. Given time, this species could become more common as an invader of bushland, roadsides and disturbed sites throughout Tasmania.

## BEST PRACTICE

Greg Stewart  
REGIONAL WEEDS CO-  
ORDINATOR, NRM NORTH

### Serrated tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*) found in Northern Tasmania

Serrated tussock is a Weed of National Significance (WoNS) that has devastated vast areas of productive land on the Australian mainland. Until recently, serrated tussock was not known to occur in the Northern NRM Region of Tasmania, however, it is found in the South-East of Tasmania and on King Island.

In November 2007, a single mature serrated tussock plant was discovered growing beside the Bass Highway. The pinkish-purple seed head of the plant was recognised by the Tassie resident as he had previously owned property on the mainland that had been infested with the weed.

The find was initially reported to Greg Stewart, NRM North Weeds Coordinator. The following brief account of activity taken by Greg and his colleagues highlights the swift and coordinated action taken by a range of people and organisations who manage weeds in our state.

#### Serrated tussock facts

- Serrated tussock is similar in appearance to some native grasses.
- A tussock in full flower has a distinctly purple appearance.
- In autumn when most other grasses have dried off to a straw-colour, the serrated tussock plants still retain their bright green colour, except for the tips which are bleached.
- In its native Argentina it is called 'Paja voladora', meaning 'flying straw', alluding to the ability of the seed head to be carried by the wind.
- 1 ha of dense serrated tussock can produce over 2 tonnes of seed per year.
- Seed can remain viable in an animal's gut for more than 10 days.
- Buried seeds can remain viable for up to 15 years.
- Leaves feel serrated when run through the fingers from tip to base.
- Control programs should aim to reduce the amount of seed produced.



*Close up of a serrated tussock inflorescence*

- Christian Goninon, Principal Weed Management Officer with DPIW was contacted to pass on the report and discuss the due process for a coordinated response to the incursion.
- Stuart Brownlea, NRM Facilitator with Meander Valley Council was contacted to inform him of the situation and to arrange for him to collect the plant.
- Matt Baker, Weed Taxonomist with the Tasmanian Herbarium was contacted and advised that a specimen was going to be sent to him for priority formal identification.
- Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources was advised that roadside slashing operations in the local area needed to be suspended pending a survey to determine the presence of any other established serrated tussock plants along the road corridor.
- The contractor responsible for all maintenance on the particular section of highway was contacted and an agreement was reached for all mowing and slashing operations to be suspended within 1km of the site. The contractor also volunteered to implement wash-down procedures on all machinery that had recently worked within the vicinity of the site.
- The plant was taken to NRM North where it was photographed and several pictures of the plant emailed to DPIW and the Herbarium. A sample of the plant was carefully packaged and despatched to the Tasmanian Herbarium for formal identification.
- Arrangements were made with DPIW staff for a general search of the area to be conducted the week following the report of the serrated tussock find, pending a positive identification of the plant by the Herbarium.

## BEST PRACTICE

- The Herbarium phoned NRM North confirming the identification, resulting in the participants of the planned search of the collection site being notified that the survey would proceed.
- A coordinated search, undertaken by personnel from NRM North, Tasmanian Herbarium, DPIW and the contractor, was completed 500 metres either side of the occurrence and along both sides of road. No other mature plants were located within the search area. However, several small plants (seedlings <10 cm tall) were located at the site where the mature plant had been collected.
- The mature plant, along with the seedlings were destroyed in an industrial incinerator.
- Following the search of the area, the Weeds Coordinator, NRM North, contacted the person who had discovered the plant to thank him for being vigilant and reporting the find to NRM North so that a coordinated response could be implemented.

Plans are in place for on-going monitoring of the collection site and surrounding area at least quarterly, by the response team. NRM North, in conjunction with Meander Valley Council and stakeholders will continue a campaign of education and awareness to help keep the community informed on weed management issues.

It should be noted that the community member who discovered the plant is a member of the Tasmanian Weed Society and that he obtained the contact information for NRM North from the Tasweeds newsletter. This shows that keeping the community informed about weeds leads to more effective weed management outcomes and a reduction in the impact that weeds have on our environment and the economy.



*The serrated tussock plant which was found growing on the side of the Bass Highway*



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## **Call for articles – Tasweeds needs you!**

Articles are needed for the Autumn 2007 edition of Tasweeds. We encourage you to write an article about a local weed activity in your area or by your group, some interesting weed research, updates on progress with strategy implementation or education and awareness. A one-page article with photos included would be great. Email to: Matthew.Baker@tmag.tas.gov.au or Natalie.Conod@utas.edu.au

## Weed illustrations online

A database comprised of illustrations by the late Dennis Morris has recently been made available on the DPIW website. The majority of the illustrations are of Tasmanian and mainland weeds, a few native species are also included. The database was compiled by DPIW Library Services from original drawings held by DPIW.

Dennis Morris (1924-2005) was a Weed Officer with the Department of Agriculture from 1961 to 1985, and an honorary member of the Tasmanian Herbarium for more than 30 years. He authored and illustrated several handbooks and other publications on the topic of Tasmanian weeds. The following link takes you to a database of his illustrations [http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/library/LibraryWebs\\_wip/DennisMorrisWeed/index.html](http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/library/LibraryWebs_wip/DennisMorrisWeed/index.html).

## Willow resource materials available on the web

[www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/willows](http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/willows)

The resources include important information for managers on: mapping, willow identification, the willow sawfly and management techniques. Also, hard copies of the CRC weed management guides for willows are available free of charge. To order them simply send an email to [Sarah.Holland-Clift@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:Sarah.Holland-Clift@dpi.vic.gov.au) with your postal details, indicating the number of copies that you require.

