



Northern Inland Weed Advisory Committee
Annual General Meeting
Wicklow Hotel, Armidale – Tuesday 9th December 2009

1.0 Meeting commenced at 11.05 am

1.1 Present: Cr Maria woods Peter Scott (LPSC), Mike Whitney (LPSC), Doug Campbell (UHWA), David Nixon (GISC), Phil Blackmore (I&I), Natasha Soar (TRC), Lee Amidy (GSC), Cr Larry Cameron (ISC) Heather Apps (NIWAC), James Browning (NEWA), Les Tanner (ISC), Neil Rossington (TSC), Ian Schwartz (MPSC), Mick Colbron (MPSC), Paul Berdar (NE LHPA), Peter Frizell (NE LHPA), Rob Munro (NE LHPA), Greg Lumber (CN LHPA), Glen Pereira (GWYSC), Bec Ballard (SNELCC), Brian Ferris (NE LHPA), Scott Kermode (NEWA), Phil Sutton (ISC), Bush Ahmad (ISC), Andrew Phillips (NW LHPA), Helen Carroll (NSC), David Merrikin (NRCMA)

Apologies: David Lindsay, Cr George Sevil (NSC), Scott McFarlane (NSC), John Busby (NSC) Andrew Schweitzer (Namoi CMA), Jonathon Lawson (BRGCMA)

Motion: That the Apologies are accepted

Moved: Les Tanner **Seconded:** Lee Amidy **CARRIED: All**

1.2 Maria Woods welcomed members to the meeting, with special thanks to David Merrimen, Northern Rivers CMA for attending.

1.3 Confirmation of the Minutes from the previous meeting

Motion: That the Minutes of the General Meeting in Gunnedah on 6th October 2009 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: David Nixon **Seconded:** Scott Kermode **CARRIED: All**

1.4 Business arising and action sheet from last meeting

Les Tanner thanked NIWAC on behalf of those receiving letters of appreciation for their work on the weeds booklet. NIWAC in turn thanked Les for all his work on the booklet.

1.5 Correspondence – incoming and outgoing.

Incoming

1. 15/10/09 Brett McInnes, Inverell Shire Council – Les Tanner will be attending the NSW Weeds Action Program workshop
2. 22/10/09 Reg Kidd
Group Project - Northern Inland Tiger Pear Management 2009-2010 - Unsuccessful.
3. 27/10/09 Ross Burton – I & I
Group Project - Northern Inland Tiger Pear Management 2009-2010 - Unsuccessful.

Outgoing

1. Letters to all LCAs / LHPAs inviting them to attend the workshops
2. Letters of appreciation to Councils for their weed officer's input to the weed management guide, and also to all sponsors thanking them for their support.

2.0 Chairpersons Report

Maria Woods presented a verbal report.

There are a lot of concerns across the state regarding the new grants process which have been raised through the Shires Association and Weed Officer's Association.

I & I are in the process of addressing the queries.

Major concerns include –

- job security of Weed Officers whose funding is now linked to a competitive bidding process. Funds are no longer guaranteed.
- The actual payment date – funding is not currently funded until November/December, leaving a 5-6 month lag time in payments.

Any further concerns regarding the new grants are to be directed to Maria Woods or the Weed Officer's Association.

The 15th Biennial Weeds Conference was a great success and NIWAC looked fantastic.

Maria thanked members for allowing her to be Chair for the year.

3.0 Financial Report

Lee Amidy presented the Profit and Loss Statements for 2008-2009 (Appendix One)

Motion: That the financial statement prepared by Lee Amidy be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Les Tanner **Seconded:** James Browning **CARRIED: All**

4.0 Election of Officebearers

i) Chairman

Maria Woods vacated the chair and the Phil Blackmore called for nominations for the position of Chairman.

Moved: Larry Cameron **Seconded:** Phil Blackmore

Nomination of Maria Woods

Elected

ii) Deputy Chairman

Moved: Maria Woods **Seconded:** Ian Schwartz

Nomination of Larry Cameron

Elected

Secretary

Moved: Lee Amidy **Seconded:** Peter Scott

Nomination of Heather Apps

Elected

5.0 Individual Reports

Reports taken as read unless additions reported below.

NWAC travelled up to the New England to look at some group projects, including the Serrated Serrated Tussock and Gorse projects. Favourable comments were received regarding the group projects and the new weeds booklets.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council – Peter Scott suggested that mining representatives be invited to come to the next NIWAC meeting.

Action:

- Peter Scott, Lee Amidy and Andrew Schweitzer to compile a list of mining representatives for the Secretary to invite to the next meeting. Representatives will also be invited to give a presentation at the meeting.

Tenterfield Shire Council - Neil Rossington reported that they have been spraying Chilean Needle grass. The dry conditions have forced cattle to eat it, decreasing the spread, however African Love grass has taken over.

Serrated Tussock has been found in the shire, 20 plants being 4km from the initial core area, probably brought in by sheep.

Field days have been held in the area, including a bus safari that visited infestations of carpet grass, fireweed, whisky grass, Chilean Needle grass and river flood country.

The new weeds booklet has been sent to all landowners.

Neil has received funding of \$235,00 from the CMA for weed control over the last two years.

Upper Hunter Weeds Authority – Doug Campbell reported that area is very dry, particularly in the Upper Hunter. The usual summer weeds are about, however St Johns Wort is significantly down from last year as it is getting eaten out in the dry conditions.

Mines have started to use biosolids, which have resulted in a new incursion of Alligator Weed. The first run of the Alligator weed and water lettuce program included treating 12km along the river in the Argo.

Funding of \$50,000 from the CMA is assisting the containment of African Olive in the lower Hunter.

Galenia (carpet weed) is a major problem in the Upper Hunter. It was originally introduced to rehabilitate roads and mines, now it is too widespread to be declared.

The weeds booklet has been very well received.

Narrabri Shire Council - Helen Carroll reported that she has been with the Council for 6 months, taking over from Andrew Croft.

The very dry conditions have reduced spraying in the area. If it rains Blue Heliotrope and Bathurst Burr will be targeted.

Gwydir Shire Council – Glen Pereira reported that they participated in the control line for Harrisia Cactus (outlined in the Inverell Shire Council report)

Industry and Innovation - Phil Blackmore reported that Jodie Bartlett-Taylor has resigned to be a full time mother.

Phil outlined that the Invasive Species Plan needs to be tied into the Regional Strategy as a matter of priority.

The role of the Regional Coordinator is being reviewed, as there is not enough coordinators to cover the whole region.

Discussion followed. It was agreed that we may need to channel other avenues politically to keep Phil's position to ensure we have him at the regional level.

The North Coast weed officers indicated to Phil that they were keen to have a combined bus tour of the area.

Action:

- Secretary to write to Richard Carter to see what happens to the funding of the Education Officer position in our area – tighten up a few objectives and address the pathways for priority species.
- Secretary and Phil to work on Regional Strategy for next meeting.

Regional Planning Coordinator – Report attached

Motion: That NIWAC fund the Diploma of Project Management course for the Regional Planning Coordinator at \$1214 per year (2 year period).

Moved: Peter Scott **Seconded:** Lee Amidy **CARRIED: All**

11.0 General Business

The New grants program will be covered in the workshop after lunch.

Meeting closed at 12.30 pm
Next Meeting – Tenterfield
Date TBA