

Sydney Central Regional Weeds Committee
Meeting No 2014.3
Thurs 4th December 2014
Neilsen Park

MINUTES

Present	Apologies
Leanne Bunn (Randwick) Jeff Hill (Woollahra) Jonathan Sanders (NSW NPWS) Mark Latham (Strathfield) Paul Ibbetson (NSW NPWS) Andrew Jack (Sydney Olympic Park Authority) Rachael Buzio (City of Canterbury/ Rockdale) Vicki Currie (Marrickville Council) Sue Stevens (Waverley Council) Anne Duncan (EO Sydney Weeds) Anthony Schofield (WAP PO) HRCC	Kerrie Davies (Auburn) Alex McKenzie (Strathfield) Mel Hall (NPWS)

1. Welcome

The Chair, Mr Jonathan Sanders welcomed all participants to the meeting. Members present declared pecuniary interests: it was noted that NSW NPWS, Hawkesbury River County Council, Canterbury and Waverley received WAP funds.

2. Actions arising

2.1. Confirmation of previous minutes (Meeting of 12th September 2014):

Moved: Mr Jeff Hill

Seconded: Mr Paul Ibbetson

2.2. Matters arising from the previous minutes

The tables of actions arising from the previous meetings in 2014 were discussed (See Attachment 1). It was noted that:

- Information on edible weeds (Action 2.5.7.1) had not yet been received.
- The letter to increase awareness of boneseed (Action 1.2.2.4) had been sent to all Council GM/CEOs. General progress with Boneseed control was discussed and it was agreed that control had been successful in many areas (e.g. Bellavista). SOPA indicated that removal was successful but commitment to dealing with seedlings on an ongoing basis was necessary. It was agreed that greater involvement of Sydney Trains and more action on the railways would be desirable. JS mentioned the opportunity for "front-of-train" surveys with the assistance of Sydney Trains that had been offered by Mal Decker of Sydney

Trains. It was agreed that a planned approach across Sydney was required to make best use of this opportunity and that a schedule should be developed well before spring flowering. Options such as helicopter surveys of cliffs (Waverley has some boneseed on cliffs) were also discussed although it was agreed that further consideration was required before applying this extent of resources. The issue of major roads was also mentioned but the matter of private operators was thought problematic.

Action 2.2.1. SWC (EO in conjunction with Sydney Trains) to develop coordinated approach for cross-Sydney front of train survey for Spring 2015, by end of June 2015.

Action 2.2.2. SWC to explore capacity building for Sydney Trains staff re identification and control of weeds, such as boneseed, as part of WAP stage 2.

- Feedback on website still welcomed (Action 1.7.5)
- Progress on various weed apps (Action 1.7.6) was noted. The DPI one is due out in Feb. Recent Sydney Weeds app developed by volunteers (50 species) is available on I-tunes. Sue Stevens suggested that installation of a PDF with photos of weeds and plants that might look like them on phones might also be an effective tool – this was something she had developed and trialled successfully with her outdoors staff. Mark Latham suggested a PDF of weed alerts might be very useful. Leanne Bunn commented that perhaps we should consider decreasing the amount of information in the brochure and putting the brochure into an app. Given the imminence of the DPI app and the recent Sydney Weeds app, it was agreed that these should first be evaluated.

Action 2.2.3. Evaluate DPI and new Sydney Weeds apps and their use in SWC and Sydney Central contexts and provide feedback to EO (All – by next mtg)

Action 2.2.4. Promote the existence of these apps on SWC website and encourage their use (EO by next meeting)

- The matter of the need to increase SWC media profile, communications and general engagement “outside the weeds community” was further discussed, noting that nothing had eventuated with the Rockdale success story of the Chinese Knotweed eradication.
- Other possibilities for community engagement were also discussed. For example, Mark Latham suggested a “weed of the month” segment on some of the gardening shows. Issues identified with this included the lead-time and the need for material up front. U-tube videos and their effectiveness were also mentioned. It was agreed that there was lots of information out there Sydney-wide already but local relevance was essential to get local buy-in.
- Suggestions for a key focus weed (e.g. boneseed) for communications could be sought from members across Sydney – something with some drama, appeal – e.g. a new incursion? Timing was a consideration, as it would need to be flowering to be of use.

- Crossovers of interest/engagement with other networks which could also be useful for communication were discussed e.g. the Volunteers Coordinators Network (VCN), coordinated by Emma Beckley at LLS. Jonathan Sanders also noted that there was a network of environmental education centres, and Sustainable Schools networks in northern and western Sydney. However SWC would need to consider what its focus was, to ensure effectiveness.
- It was concluded that there were many options for communications and engagement - potential activities, species, networks of collaborators and target audiences. The usefulness of a developing a planned/prioritised approach to communications and engagement was recognised as necessary to ensure maximum value for both effort and money.
- The purpose and effectiveness of the Sydney City Council weeds display in Martin Place was discussed.

Action 2.2.5. Rachael Buzio to follow up on Chinese knotweed photos ASAP.
 Action 2.2.6. Jonathan Sanders to provide list of media contacts to EO ASAP.
 Action 2.2.7. Follow up on SWC links with the VCN (EO by next mtg)
 Action 2.2.8. Obtain more detail about SCC weed display and circulate to members (Jeff Hill by next meeting).

2.3. Brochure

Feedback on the species selection for the regional weed brochure was discussed (Attachment 2). It was agreed that the main purpose of the brochure was general community education, that specific note sheets for noxious weeds were appropriate when required.

As had been suggested in the Sydney SW meeting it was agreed to set aside a section for new and emerging weeds and to make room by removing 3 species. It was further agreed to include more in the text about the impacts of weeds, and why they were a concern.

In summary the changes agreed to the brochure were:

Additions	Deletions
Moth Vine	Primrose Willow
Cats Claw Creeper (alert)	Coral Tree
Corky Passionfruit (alert)	Castor Oil Plant
<i>Alstroemeria spp.</i>	Ribbon plant/Spider plant
Boneseed (alert)	<i>Gazania spp.</i>
Kidney mud plantain	Merge privets
	Merge Asparagus

It was also discussed that there was a need to identify alternative species that people could use instead of the weeds (in their gardens). It was suggested that this could be done in conjunction with NGIA, and placed on SWC website. The need for website update in terms of links and resources was also noted.

Action 2.3.1. Send out agreed list for final review.
--

3. R

oundtable reports (including new incursions and significant activities)

NSW NPWS (Jonathan Sanders)

- Attended World Parks Congress in Sydney in November. Informed about a free weed management reference book from Springer Verlag. Also learned about an effective Lantana removal technique. Team of 3 people required. Two use a pole to push over the bush to expose the base. Third uses mattock into ground to remove the stem without disturbing the roots. Then it is lifted up to remove.
- NPWS have a new tool in western Sydney for boxthorn removal. It is like a forklift that goes on a tractor – the forks squeeze together and lift the plant out of the ground. Comes from Eyre Peninsula in SA where boxthorn is a big problem. Intention is to use it for Kei apple. ML suggested it may also be useful for *Rhus* and *Gleditzia*.

Action 3.1. JS to send details of book and boxthorn removal tool to EO for circulation to members.
--

Canterbury/Rockdale (Rachael Buzio)

- Filling in for Lana McGee; She has been on job 1.5 weeks.
- Undertaken inspections at Campsie.
- Observed Cooletai grass from the train at Concord West.

Sydney Olympic Park Authority (Andrew Jack)

- Finding Corky passionfruit everywhere – bird spread
- Found another patch of Chilean needle-grass in parklands. Probably spread by machinery (contractor equipment) i.e. relates to hygiene practices. Hygiene standards are specified in contract but implementation obviously an issue (being looked in to).

Marrickville (Vicki Currie)

- Been working on high risk weed inputs
- Working out how to approach enforcement/education re *Celtis sinensis*

Weeds Action Program (Anthony Schofield)

- Annual report Year 4 WAP completed
- As part of this developed a map of WAP activities for 2013-14 i.e. where funds had been spent. Copy circulated to members. AS advised that the map can be downloaded from HRCC website, if required.
- Updated the meeting on the Kudzu eradication project at Penrith, which had been very successful. A copy of the local press they had received about the project was circulated.
- WAP grant allocation for year 5 – 900K - has all been allocated. 880K for projects, 20 K for SWC GIS.
- Re WAP stage 2. Partner applications would be required by end of March 2015. Hopefully the template for applications would be available by February. Potentially an all-regional workshop in late Feb. Guidelines due out for comment soon.

Waverley (Sue Stevens)

- Boneseed – cliff-top removal using sheep drenching tools. Partnered with golf course.
- Trained 22 staff in plant/weed identification developed the PDF as part of this and used staff internal newsletter in August to increase boneseed/weed awareness.
- Sought a Sydney Water contact. JS suggested Susan Westcott at Potts Hill as a place to start.

Action 3.2. JS to send Susan Westcott contact details to Sue Stevens asap.

NS

W NPWS Central (Paul Ibbetson)

- Boneseed efforts a priority.
- Training staff in identification
- Treating *Cooletai* grass at Malabar (Federal land)
- Corky passionfruit – signs of expansion (bird dispersal) and hard to control – should be very high priority for action.
- Sought experience with Madeira vine beetle bio-control. Has tried it several times in different spots, at different times of year, but no results so far.

Strathfield (Mark Latham)

- Weed officer inspections at Chullora
- Project to address all weeds at Chullora wetlands, including monitoring of bio-controls and how they move down the catchment
- Preparation of weed alerts for Cooks River Alliance
- Involved in development of Community weed action programs with links to Bushcare.

Sydney Weeds (Anne Duncan)

- Advised of DPI meeting re new Biosecurity Information System, which was attended by AD, AS and one person from each regional committee (Leanne Bunn from this committee). Members should consider investigating whether their weed mapping system meets new metadata standards (document on DPI website) as part of preparation for WAP Stage 2. The 4 people (1 from each region) form a “steering committee” to assist EO with update of SWC weed GIS data (WAP management zones, new incursions, boneseed etc). Person to be employed in New Year using WAP funds.
- SWC had been involved as a partner in submission to DPI innovation grants for a project to pilot test use of weed detector dogs. Approved project reduced in scope and SWC involvement suspected to be very limited.

Randwick (Leanne Bunn)

- Noted that they were experimenting with use of a flame weeder.

Woollahra (Jeff Hill)

- Council Biodiversity Strategy been developed and is being implemented. It coordinates efforts in bushland management and ensures strategic alignment of all activities including weed management.
- All boneseed sites were checked and treated this spring, in concert with region-wide priority.

4. High risk weed review

The re-categorisation of the SWC high-risk weed list using a new set of categories was discussed. The categories suggested were based on a regional catchment management strategy with distinct sub-regions:

- Category A: Weeds not currently present, but which would present a threat if they occurred.
- Category B: Weeds present with limited or low distribution
- Category C: Weeds with a moderate distribution – numerous partially dispersed infestations.
- Category D: Weeds widespread throughout

The area to be considered was the Sydney Central area (each SWC regional committee would consider their region first separately. This would allow the four lists to be brought together and compared and contribute to an overall Sydney weed strategy revision process, which would assist planning for WAP Stage 2, and also be useful for any other grant process. The current list was discussed and re-categorised and additions considered (spread sheet attached at Attachment 3).

Action 4.1. Send out final list of high-risk weeds for Sydney Central (A-D) for review by end of January.

Action 4.2. Send suggestions for additional species to the EO.

5. High Risk pathways and sites

Review of the High Risk Pathway and Site Management Plan is required for preparation for WAP stage 2 was discussed. The existing plan has detailed lists of HR Pathways and HR Sites for each LGA and it is these that AS has asked members to review. These were current at 18 months ago.

The matter of what was a high-risk pathway (a linear feature with risk of weed spread by vectors such as vehicles) was discussed. It was pointed out that the High Risk Pathway was not just the roads but the gaps (left over bits of land) around roads.

Action 5.1. AS to send template for High Risk Site assessment to those without one.
Action 5.2. All to review information on high-risk pathways and sites and send to AS by end of Jan 2015.

6. Other Business

6.1. Next meeting and host

Host: Randwick

Venue: TBA

Date: Wed Thurs 12th March 10 AM – 1 PM

6.2. It was noted that there were no formal resolutions to present to the Board.

Summary of actions arising from 2014 - 3.

Action No.	Action	Who	By when
3.2.2.1	To develop coordinated approach for cross-Sydney front of train surveys for Spring 2015.	EO in conjunction with Sydney Trains)	30-Jun-15
3.2.2.2	To explore capacity building for Sydney Trains staff re identification and control of weeds, such as boneseed, as part of WAP stage 2.	SWC Board, WAP PO.	1-Apr
3.2.2.3	Evaluate DPI and new Sydney Weeds apps and their use in SWC and Sydney Central contexts and provide feedback to EO.	All	12-Mar-15
3.2.2.4	Promote the existence of these apps on SWC website and encourage their use.	EO	12-Mar-15
3.2.2.5	Follow up on Chinese knotweed photos.	Rachael Buzio	asap
3.2.2.6	Provide list of media contacts to EO.	Jonathan Sanders	asap
3.2.2.7	Follow up on SWC links with the VCN	EO	12-Mar-15
3.2.2.8	Obtain more detail about SCC weed display and circulate to members	Jeff Hill	12-Mar-15
3.2.3.1	Send out agreed species list for brochure for final review.	EO	asap
3.3.1	Send details of book and boxthorn removal tool to EO for circulation to members.	Jonathan Sanders	12-Mar-15
3.3.2	Send Susan Westcott contact details to Sue Stevens.	Jonathan Sanders	asap
3.4.1	Send out Sydney Central final list of high-risk weeds (A-D) for review.	EO	30-Jan-14
3.4.2	Send suggestions for additional species to the EO.	All	asap
3.5.1	Send template for High Risk Site assessment to those without one.	AS	asap
3.5.2	Review information on high-risk pathways and sites and send to AS	All	30-Jan-14

Attachment 1 – Actions arising from meetings 1 and 2 – status at 3rd December

Actions Arising from Sydney Central RWC Meeting 6th May 2014 (Mtg 1)

Action No.	Action	Who	By when	Progress @ 12th Sept	Progress @ 4th Dec
1.2.2.1	Follow up with Rosanna/DPI re biosecurity risk of <i>Ligustrum undulatum</i> by next meeting.	EO	Next mtg	DPI advice is that box leaved privet not a risk. Further advice sought. Keep c'tee informed	No further advice.
1.2.2.2	Note that Corky passionflower is a high priority for SWC, be vigilant in looking out for it and address quickly.	All members	Ongoing	Ongoing - sheet circulated by Chair.	
1.2.2.3	Check the contacts for railways and other public authorities for all regional weed committees.	EO	Next mtg	In progress	
1.2.2.4	Raise with SG the suggestion that a letter be sent from SWC reminding Councils of boneseed priority for region.	Chair/EO	Next SG meeting	Completed (Board mtg 11 Jul)	Letter sent 20th Oct
1.3.1	Provide new incursion report form to EO.	Adam Smith	30-Jun	Completed	
1.5.1	Liaise with Anthony Schofield to develop a WAP project application for inspections at Flemington markets, for consideration as part of the allocations for 2014-15.	Jeff Hill, Alex McKenzie	ASAP	Completed	
1.7.1	Facilitate further consideration of format of future forum as part of SWC event planning.	EO	Ongoing	Field Day planned as the main event. Volunteers to assist planning?	
1.7.2	Liaise with DPI re the weed expenditure survey.	EO	Next FY	Carried forward	
Action No.	Action	Who	By when	Progress @ 12th Sept	Progress @ 4th Dec

1.7.3	Consider what revisions needed to regional weed brochures and respond.	All members	Respond to request	Carried forward	
1.7.4	Further investigate Look-Learn-Act website as part of website review.	EO	Next FY	Carried forward	
1.7.5	Comments and ideas on website to inform review.	All members	Ongoing	Ongoing	
1.7.6	Seek more detail on weed app being developed by DPI.	EO	Next mtg	Completed	
1.7.7	Raise ideas from members with steering group in context of business plan.	EO	Next SG meeting	Completed	
1.9.1	Email re 2014-15 meeting dates.	EO	30-Jun	Completed	

Actions Arising from Sydney Central RWC Meeting 12th September 2014 (Mtg 2)

Action No.	Action	Who	By when	Progress @ 4 Dec
2.3.2.1	Members to provide support in relation to update of SWC GIS information (all).	Members	Ongoing	Ongoing
2.3.4.1	Publicise Rockdale success with Chinese knotweed.	EO/A Smith	30-Oct	Carried forward
2.3.4.2	Consider Far North Coast – Look Learn Act – website as a good example.	Web working group	Ongoing	
2.3.4.3	Volunteers wanted to join field day working group - contact EO asap.	All	ASAP	Ongoing
2.5.3.1	AS to send new incursion form for <i>A.falcatus</i>	A Smith	ASAP	Completed
2.5.7.1	Send EO details of project on edible weeds for circulation?	NG	30-Oct	Not received
2.5.9.1	MH to forward email re UoW student to EO to forward to other committee members.	MH/EO	ASAP	Completed.

Attachment 2 – Final Species list for brochure

Current	Keep - yes/no	Replace with	Reason	FINAL DECISION	
Turkey Rhubarb				YES	
Climbing asparagus				MERGE with Asparagus fern	
Madeira vine				YES	
Cats Claw	N (SS) ? (KD)	Cleavers	Not much Cats Claw in Central? (SS) Not an issue in Auburn but happy to keep	YES	An alert species
Pampas lily of the valley	? (KD)		Not an issue in Auburn but happy to keep	YES	
Blackberry				YES	
Cape Ivy				YES	
Balloon Vine				YES	
Morning Glory				YES	
Trad (wandering Jew)				YES	
Asthma weed/pellitory				YES	
Mother-of-millions				YES	
Crofton weed				YES	
Asparagus Fern				MERGE with Climbing asparagus	
Fountain grass				YES	
Ribbon plant / spider plant				NO	
Gazania	N (AS)	<i>Alstomeria</i>	Increasing problem in bushland areas, hard to get rid of (AS).	NO	Replace as suggested with <i>Alstomeria</i>
Privet - broad leaf				MERGE PRIVETS	
Privet - small leaf				MERGE PRIVETS	
Green cestrum				YES	
Lantana				YES	
Bitou bush/ bone seed				YES	An alert species
Hackberry/ Celtis	? (KD)		Not an issue in Auburn but happy to keep	YES	
Ochna/Mickey mouse plant				YES	

Current	Keep - yes/no	Replace with	Reason	FINAL DECISION	
Castor Oil plant				NO	
Pampas				YES	
Rhizomatous bamboo				YES	
Rhus				YES	
African Olive				YES	
Camphor Laurel				YES	
Cassia				YES	
Coral Tree				NO	
Salvinia				YES	
Long leaf Ludwigia				YES	
Alligator weed				YES	
Primrose Willow				NO	

Attachment 3 in separate excel file.