



Lantana Lowdown

From the Coordinator's Desk...

Dear reader,

Welcome to the first edition of Lantana Lowdown for this year and a belated happy Easter from all of the team.

The Lantana WoNS group is looking forward to a busy 2008 and it is with great pleasure that we introduce a few of the new developments since our last edition.

New friends...

Please welcome our latest collaborative partners... the Keep Australia Beautiful Queensland team (KABQ).

This partnership will see the inclusion of lantana management strategies as a judging criteria in three of the KABQ award programs for 2008.

Entrants to the *Tidy Towns*, *Clean and Healthy Schools* and *The Clean Beach Challenge* awards will have the opportunity to demonstrate their contribution to the control of lantana in Queensland.

Points will be awarded for public education campaigns, removal of orna-

mental lantana plantings or demonstrations of effective coordinated management strategies.

For more information on these awards please visit the KABQ website at: www.keepaustraliabeautiful.org.au/qld/.

Know thy enemy...

CSIRO has announced it will undertake a research project examining the DNA of lantana to determine the relatedness of lantana varieties in Australia to those from its original range overseas.

Information from this project will be paired with morphological analysis of samples of the plant from around Australia so we can begin to map the distribution of different varieties, and dare I say it, perhaps even different species of what has been previously termed the *Lantana camara* species complex.

This information will allow researchers to better target their biocontrol agent research to insects and patho-

gens *known* to host on Australian lantana varieties and should equip us with a better knowledge of how to defeat the dreaded menace.

Ongoing projects...

The Lantana Containment Zones Project has also kicked off in Cape York where the Cook Shire Council has been contracted to survey and destroy lantana infestations in the Northern Peninsular Area.

You may also have heard the recent media interest in the remote sensing innovations that are the result of a collaboration between Lantana WoNS and the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Water. See page 2 for further details.

And just a final reminder, if you have field days or events that might be helpful for fellow landholders battling lantana, please drop us a line—we'd be happy to include them in the Lantana Lineup!

Kym Johnson

National Lantana Coordinator

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Did you know:

- There are at least 29 varieties of *Lantana camara* in Australia.
- Varieties of lantana have differing toxicity levels.
- Some biocontrol agents only recognize specific varieties.

Post-election updates

The federal elections towards the end of last year have resulted in a few portfolio reshuffles and the need for our new leaders to come-up-to-speed on a vast array of issues.

To keep lantana on the agenda, John Morris, Chairman of the National Lantana Management Group has had meetings with the Hon Tony Burke, Minister for Agriculture,

Fisheries and Forestry; and advisors to the Hon Peter Garrett, Minister for Environment, Heritage and the Arts.

These departments have recently announced their new NRM funding scheme, *Caring for our Country*.

This program aims to provide a coordinated approach to the delivery of projects that were previ-

ously funded through the Natural Heritage Trust, National Landcare, Environmental Stewardship and Working on Country programs.

We encourage Lantana Lowdown readers to stay tuned for further developments that may effect funding for lantana removal in both agricultural and environmental areas.



Out of this world

In a world first, the Lantana WoNS project has enlisted the help of satellite imagery to help track the weed.

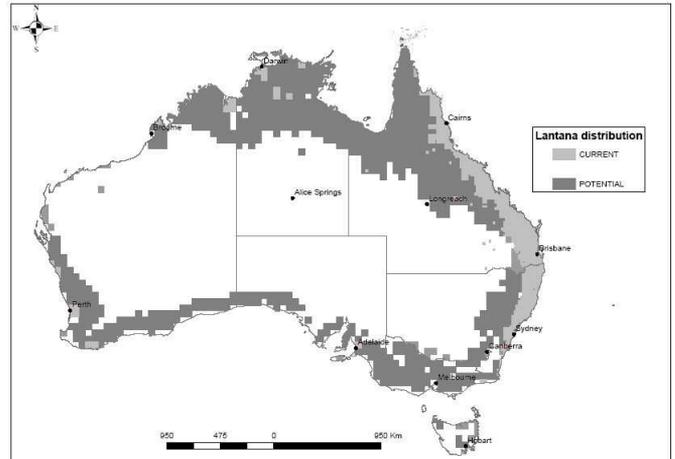
Andy Stewart and Grant Hodgins are the scientists with Queensland's Department of Natural Resources and Water (NRW), working in collaboration with Biosecurity Queensland, through the WoNS program, to map the spread of lantana along Australia's eastern seaboard.

Rather than rely on individual landholders to report their infestations, this method can help to identify high priority areas that may otherwise go unreported.

Currently at its half-way point, the three-year project has directed \$450,000 of funding towards identifying extensive lantana outbreaks at several centres, including Mackay, Rockhampton and as far west as Emerald.

This is an innovative project that will benefit landholders across the country. Mapping weeds using remote sensing technology on such a large scale has not been attempted before.

Scientist Andy Stewart, from NRW's Natural Resource Sciences centre, said his team used images from NASA's Landsat satellites integrated with Geographic Information System (GIS) data on climate and disturbance to map lantana.



Lantana distribution: Current and potential

“Composite images can be created from satellite data that show variation in vegetation types, as different plants generate different reflections of infra-red and visible light,” Mr Stewart said.

“The project has been in place for 18 months and we are already getting positive results from an extensive field-checking phase of initial mapping. We are well on the way to developing a useful product.”

“We’ve found infestations along most of the east coast and adjacent inland areas, from the tip of Cape York down to Eden, near the NSW/Victorian border.

Mr Stewart said NRW’s remote sensing team had been recognised interna-

tionally for the accuracy of their Landsat data archive dating back to 1980.

“Before analysing our data, we make corrections to take into account varying conditions, such as sun angle or topography, between different locations,” he said.

“This project wouldn’t be possible without the accuracy of these corrections. Queensland’s standard has been independently reviewed by a science panel, which describes our methods and processes as world’s best practice.”

The project is part of the Defeating the Weeds Menace program, funded by the Australian Government with in-kind support from the Queensland Government.



Remote Sensing Guru:
Andy Stewart

Weed Management in Remnant Vegetation

The latest changes to vegetation management legislation in Queensland have raised many questions for landholders – where can weed removal be undertaken; what kind of vegetation can be removed; where are the boundary limits; what control methods can be used?

Formal management guides are currently being developed by Queensland’s Natural Resources and Water.

However, until they are published, there is valuable information available to landholders, accessible from most state departments responsible for this particular issue in their respective states.

Landholders from **Queensland** are advised to contact their local NRW Service Centre to determine whether permits are necessary for their situation. Permits and advice are free of charge.

Alternatively, there are information sheets available

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Go West Young Man... and pull out that lantana!

The Lantana Containment Zone project has been kept very busy over the last 12 months with removal projects undertaken all around Australia.

In places like Western Australia where current infestations are small and few in number compared to the east coast, the objective of the project is to remove all known infestations and ensure surveillance is done to identify any new and emerging sites. Considerable work still has to be completed but the outlook is promising with the program receiving excellent support from local government, state agencies and community groups.

The majority of lantana infestations in WA are appearing in environmental areas, particularly in sensitive riparian systems where an ongoing water supply is assured. However, significant naturalised infestations have also been found on road verges and forest edges, indicating lantana's ability to survive and indeed thrive in areas of Western Australia despite the state's Mediterranean climate.

One example of the support the program has received from local authorities in WA relates to the management of lantana in Armadale.

- The Location

a section of dual carriageway along the Albany Highway Bedfordale 36 km south of Perth, near Armadale, Western Australia.



Before Shot: Lantana Containment Zones Officer Michele Rogers, viewing the infestation

- The Land Manager

After discussions with officers from The Department of Main Roads Western Australia, an inspection was carried out and a contractor was organised to remove the infestation;

- The Removal

All of the plants were physically removed from the site, with the cost of the control work borne by Main Roads;

- The Follow Up

To ensure long term lantana follow up and control at this site and any others on Main Roads land in Western Australia, lantana as been added to their "must be removed" list.

This is a significant on-going commitment by Main Roads and will contribute markedly to the ensuring this Weed of National Significance does not continue to spread in WA.



Armadale, WA: The location of the containment site © copyright Commonwealth of Australia (Geoscience Australia) [2008]

Weed Management in Remnant Vegetation *cont.*

on the NRW website (see below).

Under the *Native Vegetation Act* your local Catchment Management Authority (CMA) can only approve the clearing of remnant vegetation or protected regrowth in **New South Wales** when it will improve or maintain environmental outcomes.

Northern Territory landholders have been provided with a number of land

clearing guidelines for areas with native vegetation.

Electronic copies of these guidelines can be obtained by visiting the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts (NRETA) website. Alternatively, information on weed management with regard to land clearing can also be obtained by phoning NRETA on 08 8999 2020

Land clearing in **Western Australia** is under the jurisdiction of the Depart-

ment of Environment and Conservation (DEC), with fact sheets and information on legislation and compliance available at the website. This site also provides a link to contact details of each DEC regional office.

South Australia's Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation (DWLBC) provides information on land clearance controls and clearance approvals.

QLD http://www.nrw.qld.gov.au/vegetation/information_sheets.html

NSW <http://www.nativevegetation.nsw.gov.au/index.html>

NT <http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/natres/natveg/guidelines/index.html>

WA http://portal.environment.wa.gov.au/portal/page?_pageid=53,34373&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

SA <http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/native/nvsa/index.html>

Lantana Lineup

April 2008

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------|---|
| WA State NRM Conference | 31 March–1 April 2008 | Come and visit us at the lantana WoNS display |
| Lantana Control Field Day ~ Gloucester | 17 April 2008 10 AM ~ 2 PM | LantanaWoNS@dpi.qld.gov.au |
| Gardening Australia Live Expo—Brisbane | 18–20 April 2008 | Come and visit us at the Biosecurity Queensland display |

May 2008

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Primary Industries Week ~ Queensland | 8-16 May 2008 | www.piweek.com.au |
| Australian Weeds Conference ~ Cairns | 19-22 May 2008 | www.awc.org.au |

June 2008

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Lantana Control Field Day - Clairview | To be confirmed | LantanaWoNS@dpi.qld.gov.au |
| World Environment Day | 5 June 2008 | www.unep.org/wed/2008/english/ |

Grants and funding

| <i>Award</i> | <i>Organisation</i> | <i>Closing Dates</i> | <i>Details</i> |
|--|--|---|------------------------------------|
| Junior Landcare Grants Program | Landcare | Round 2—16/5/08; Round 3—1/9/08; Round 4—24/10/08 | www.landcareonline.com/ funding |
| Australia Post Community Development Grant | Australia Post | Round 1—25/4/08; Round 2—19/9/08 | www.landcareonline.com/ funding |
| Maintaining Australia's Biodiversity Hotspots Environmental Taxation Concessions Envirofund Grant Program | Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts | Under Review —In light of the recent change in federal government, the NRM programs are currently being reviewed, and we look forward to announcements over the next few months. | www.dewha.gov.au |

Contacts

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**Queensland
Government**
Department of
Primary Industries
and Fisheries



Australian Government

Stay tuned for future issues:

- Case studies—Your Stories
- Survey Review
- Splatter Gun
- Biodiversity Updates