



MEDIA RELEASE Template

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Weedbusters put stop to silent invasion

Weeds are escaping from our gardens! They're now creeping silently into our native environment, so this year, Weedbusters of Australia are banding together to fight these invasive pests, and stop them in their tracks.

Weedbusters are volunteers from community groups, state and local governments, schools and businesses who gather during Weedbuster Week for a variety of events and activities in the name of raising weed awareness.

National Weedbuster Coordinator Dr Petra Skoien said that Weedbuster Week – **1-7 September** – includes many weed-related activities around the country, such as weed swaps and displays, weed clean-ups in parks, bushland and farms, competitions, and field days.

“‘Grow Me Instead’ is the theme for 2008 Weedbuster Week, which has meaning to regional landholders, and in the urban backyards of Australia’, said Dr Skoien.

“Sixty-five percent of weeds introduced to our Australian landscape are ‘escapes’ from urban parks and gardens; they have a potentially serious impact on Australian native plant and animal species.

“There are now over 2700 species of environmental weeds in Australia, many of which started off as garden ornamentals or were introduced as stock feed, and have since taken over Australian native vegetation and grasses,” Dr Skoien said.

“Weeds have detrimental impacts on agriculture, environment and human health in Australia. The economic cost of weeds alone to agriculture in Australia is estimated to be \$4 billion annually and escalating.

“So this year, we call on all landholders – regional and urban – to help fight against these silent attackers by removing the weedy species of plants, and growing plants native to the area.

More information regarding activities in your local area can be found at www.weedbusterweek.info, or contact your state coordinator.

For more information contact:

<insert name of state weedbuster coordinator>

Dr Petra Skoien, National Weedbuster Coordinator (07) 3224 7704