



## The NSW Buerckner & Stephenson Local Government Weed Professional Awards

*"For outstanding contribution to weed management in NSW"*

### 2021 AWARD GUIDELINES

The NSW Buerckner & Stephenson Local Government Weed Professional Awards are biennial prizes held in conjunction with the NSW Weeds Conference. The Awards honour Parkes Shire Council Weed Officers, Mal Buerckner and Ian Stephenson who were tragically killed on the job in a helicopter accident in 2006, along with the pilot Shane Thrupp. The Awards acknowledge the work of NSW Local Government Weed Professionals and their outstanding contribution towards protecting NSW from the impacts of weeds.

#### **Award Categories**

There will be two categories in the 2021 Awards:

- The **Buerckner Award** – for outstanding contribution to the on-ground control of weeds in NSW.
- The **Stephenson Award** – for outstanding contribution to planning and coordinating weed management programs in NSW.

#### **Who is eligible?**

Any weed professional (weed officer or project officer) working for local government in the management of weeds in NSW. Nominees will have made a significant impact managing weeds in their area through planning, weed control or community education between 2019 – 2021. Past nominees and finalists may be nominated for the 2021 Awards. Nominees can only be nominated for one award category.

#### **The Buerckner Award**

Nominees should be in a role that is involved with the on ground control of weeds. The judges will be looking for evidence of the nominee's professionalism, achievements, technical expertise and willingness to take on extra responsibilities.

#### **The Stephenson Award**

Nominees should be in a role that is involved with planning or management of local, regional or state weed management programs. The judges will be looking for evidence of the nominee's achievements, integrated approach to weed management, strategic planning, engagement of project partners, technical expertise, willingness to accept extra responsibilities, mentoring of staff and peers, and professional development.

#### **How to enter**

1. Read the eligibility criteria for the Awards to ensure your nomination meets the criteria.
2. Decide on the Award category and complete the appropriate Nomination Form. Make sure all sections of the Nomination Form are completed and contact details for the nominee and the person nominating are included in the application. Please note, the person nominating may be contacted during the judging process.
3. Answers must be written within the space supplied. Electronic or hard copies will be accepted.

4. Send completed nominations by close of business 30 June 2021 to:

**Weed Awards**

**Weed Society of New South Wales**

**PO Box 6**

**Muswellbrook NSW 2333**

**or**

**Email: [secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au](mailto:secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au)**

5. A confirmation letter or email will be sent to the nominator within 2 weeks of receiving nomination.

**Judging criteria and process**

All nominations are to be submitted by the closing date on **30 June 2021**. Nominees will be notified by mail of their nomination for the Award and presented with a Certificate of Acknowledgement. A panel of judges will meet to review the nominations and may request more information or documents to support the application. Finalists and the winner of the Awards will be announced and presented at the 21<sup>st</sup> NSW Biennial Weeds Conference in Albury from 23 - 26 August 2021.

**Prizes**

The winners of The NSW Buerckner & Stephenson Awards will each receive a presentation medal and a perpetual trophy to enjoy for the next two years. The NSW Weeds Officers Association Inc. and The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc. have each generously donated \$500.00\* to each winner to assist with travel costs to attend the 22<sup>nd</sup> NSW Biennial Weeds Conference in 2023 or the 22<sup>nd</sup> Australasian Weeds Conference in Adelaide in 2022.

**Note:** All moneys must be spent within the two years period of winning the award or it must be returned in full to the NSW Weeds Officers Association and/or Weed Society of NSW.

**\* To be eligible to claim the \$500 prize from the donating organisation, the winner -**

- *Must be a current financial member of the donating organisation (The NSW Weeds Officers Association and/or The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc), and continuously been a financial member for more than one year.*
- *The total prize to each winner is \$1,000 if the winners are a member of both organisations.*
- *Must supply a brief report (including photos) about attending the relevant conference (or if used for training) to be included in each organisation's newsletter.*

*The winner must gain their employer's approval to attend the conference. If the employer does not grant approval the money may be used to assist with relevant training costs.*

*To apply for membership to the NSW Weeds Officers Association Inc. contact Mel Wilkerson on (02) 6941-2547 or email [ranger@svc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ranger@svc.nsw.gov.au)*

*To apply for membership to The Weeds Society of New South Wales Inc. visit <http://nswweedsoc.org.au> or contact the Secretary by emailing to – [secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au](mailto:secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au)*

**For more information**

If you need any help with your nomination, please email [wendy.gibney@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wendy.gibney@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

*The NSW Buerckner & Stephenson Local Government Weed Professional Awards  
are proudly supported by:*

