WEEDBUSTER WEEK: GOVERNMENT, SEMI-GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY AND AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

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Into its third year, National Weedbuster Week provides a focus for Weedbusters to raise weed awareness and participate in one of hundreds of weed activities around Australia to stop weeds in their tracks. Woody Weed, the Weedbuster Week icon, helps to promote the Weedbuster activities. Woody can visit your Weedbuster activity or promotion. Contact your State/Territory Weedbuster Week Coordinator to book Woody and for event details in 1999. A committee coordinates the national program with representation from each State/Territory and the Cooperative Research Centre for Weed Management Systems.

The committee through the support of many groups aims to:

- Raise awareness and increase public understanding about the problems weeds cause.
- Help the public make the connection between their gardening, farming or grazing practices and potential land and environmental degradation.
- Provide the public with information and skills required to play a responsible role in the sustainable use of the land and water resources and ultimately make the necessary changes in behaviour to help the environment.
- Foster community ownership of problems resulting in acceptance and support for weed management projects.

National Weedbuster Week will occur from 10-17 October 1999, with the theme for 1999 being “Weed prevention is the intention”. This slogan may be incorporated into messages that are being used as part of practical weed management.

The success of Weedbuster Week requires commitment from the community in rural and urban areas through organisations such as Landcare, Greening Australia, Local and State Government, friends groups and private industry to work together.

A pictorial of 1998 activities that were held by volunteer groups including Friends, Catchment Management, Landcare and gardening groups, Local Government, Greening Australia, Scouts and schools will be on display. Input and suggestions from delegates for Weedbuster Week activities or improvements are welcome.