



## Department weed researcher receives leadership award

DAFWA Research Officer **Rod Randall** has been recognised for his work in weeds research with a Medal for Leadership awarded by the Council of Australasian Weed Societies.

In accepting his award, which was presented at the Council of Australasian Weed Societies' conference in Hobart earlier this month, Rod said it was a very special honour for those who work in the weed industry.

"The award recognises a contribution to the science, technology and practice of weed management through research, teaching, administration, extension and implementation of programs, and the standard of entry for nominations is very high," Rod said.

"It is very gratifying that my peers consider my work to have met the high standard, and I was quite overwhelmed on the night.

"I had been given the job of ensuring I was present at the ceremony but I admit I was in a bit of a daze as I walked up to the stage to accept the award, because nominees were not advised in advance," he said.

DAFWA Agricultural Resource Risk Management (ARRM) Executive Director **John Ruprecht** congratulated Rod on his award.

"Rod was nominated by the Weeds Society of WA for his work in weeds research over the past 20 years," John said.

"Western Australia was the first place in the world to adopt a permitted



Rod Randall receives his Medal for Leadership award from the Council of Australasian Weed Societies.

system for plant introductions, as opposed to the prohibited lists that had been used previously around the world.

"Rod was the primary developer of the permitted list, which is administered by the department.

"He developed the list in 1997 and to the present day, Rod has stored information about more than 36,500 invasive plants and other plants from around the world to create an extensive database.

"Rod has also used the database information to produce the *Global Compendium of Weeds*, first published in hard copy in 2002 and republished online in 2012.

"The compendium is one of the most comprehensive weed reference guides used worldwide," he said.

Many of Rod's photographs have been used in the publication *Western Weeds*.

John said in his position as a weed regulatory specialist with the department, Rod had also contributed significantly to weed science and weed management

through his work in assessing new plant species that pose a threat to Australia's managed and natural resources.

"Rod is a recognised authority in Western Australia, Australian and international weed science communities as a 'go to' person for information on weed occurrences and plant species worldwide," he said.