



## Poison plants – Masterclass resources online

Hi all

Thanks to everyone involved for a fabulous online Masterclass event - 59 people participated – 8 people presented. I was really impressed with the SDIs from our network and the terrific technical info. All of the presentations and some additional resources are now available on the NABSnet website.

A couple of months ago we featured Lumpy Skin Disease as a threat in the region. It continues to spread rapidly, now in Thailand - update below.

Gavin Ramsay has joined the Dept in WA as the field VO so he is now the contact for WA SDIs – meet him ‘virtually’ in this newsletter. Graham Mackereth has moved to an epi role in DPIRD – looking forward to some epi tips from him in the future.

Cheers Kev

Newsletter #29 (14 May 2021)



## Update on spread of Lumpy skin disease (LSD)

LSD is spreading rapidly in South and East Asia.

In our newsletter last November we described outbreaks in China, Taiwan, Nepal, Bhutan, Vietnam, Hong Kong and Myanmar. Since then LSD has been reported in Sri Lanka (January 2021) and Thailand (April 2021). Cases are now in 18 provinces in Thailand. Further spread in the region is likely.

### Early detection and reporting is critical to rapid containment of LSD.

Here is a reminder on what it looks like and what to do.

LSD is caused by a pox virus affecting cattle and water buffalo. Mortality is low (1-5%) in adult cattle but up to 10% of calves may die. Morbidity varies but may be high (90%), particularly in naïve herds.

Clinical signs of LSD range from inapparent to severe disease:

- **Fever that may exceed 41°C for 72 hours or longer**
- Depression, anorexia and emaciation
- Rhinitis, conjunctivitis, ocular and nasal discharge and excessive salivation
- Enlarged superficial lymph nodes
- **Cutaneous nodules of 2–7 cm in diameter, particularly on the head, neck, limbs, udder, genitalia and perineum within 48 hours of onset of the febrile reaction.** The nodules are circumscribed, firm, round and raised, and involve the skin, subcutaneous tissue and sometimes even the underlying muscles. Large nodules may become necrotic and eventually fibrotic and persist for several months ('sit-fasts').
- The nodules also occur internally and lesions may be found in the trachea, lungs and throughout the GIT. Pneumonia is a common sequel.

Bloods and biopsies of skin and lesions are used to confirm the diagnosis.

**Ring the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on  
1800 675 888 if you suspect a case of LSD.**

[Read more about LSD](#)



Plant poisonings are challenging causes of significant disease events in the north. This one (1907) is a bit before even Guillie's time but reminds us that the impacts can be massive.

## Masterclass on plant poisonings – resources online

Thanks very much to the presenters at the Masterclass. They gave us:

- Two NABS SDI case studies by Peter Letchford (Kununurra WA) and Brendan Briefies (Clermont Qld).
- Comments on the pathology from one case by Rick Last (DPIRD), biochemistry in toxicology cases by Gerard Smith (DPIRD) and a great overview of veterinary plant toxicology by Selina Ossedryver (DAF Qld).
- Descriptions of methods of collecting and identifying plants by Zoe Vogels (Timboon) and botanist Stuart Worboys (Australian Tropical Herbarium).

If you participated and would like to review, or missed out on the day and would like to experience, you can now [watch the presentations here](#)

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## Tip - Botanists in the north

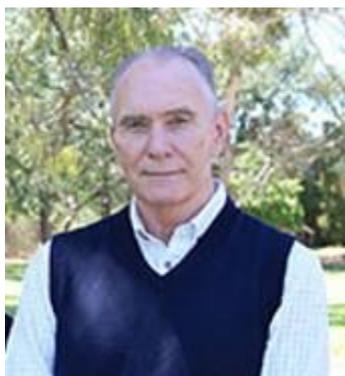


Stumped by a difficult plant to identify?

Stuart Worboys (Australian Tropical Herbarium) and Barb Waterhouse (senior botanist with NAQS) have provided some guides to collecting plant samples, and the contact details for some of their botanist colleagues who are available to help. [Find them here.](#)

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## Gavin Ramsay – welcome to NABS



Gavin Ramsay has joined DPIRD as the field veterinarian at Broome and is the new NABSnet contact for WA. We asked Gavin what brought him to Broome – a big circle home as it turns out.

“Life started in Marble Bar, then school in Darwin, followed by vet science at Uni Sydney, a PhD at Uni Qld, years in the Pacific, Africa and India in veterinary and policy roles, then Hawkesbury College, Charles Sturt Uni for the last 9 years, and now Broome.”

His focus on this journey – complex systems and how decisions are made, especially in circumstances of uncertainty.

“I’m interested in spaces – the distances between people – physical and intellectual – that influence how we interact. How do we motivate others?”

“You could see this as an abstract thing, but actually it’s really practical. When I’m calling station owners in the middle of a busy season, how do I best connect with them so they agree to do some more work to contribute to arbovirus monitoring?”

“Understanding the industry context – all the things they are dealing with, such as – will the abattoir open? will the market hold? what does the corporate owner want done? – and explaining the specific context – what does it actually mean to do this thing I am asking you to do? – these are all important factors.”

“A lot of this wisdom comes with experience in the field – there’s a treasure trove of observations from people who have been here before that I’m keen to understand and share.

When he’s not up to his armpits in a veterinary capacity, it’s music.

“Hobbies? Oh well I’m an incredibly bad saxophonist” Gavin said.

Welcome to the spaces of northern Australia and NABSnet Gavin. Motivating clients is so relevant for vets in our NABS network, the conversations are going to be great.

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## Key contacts for the NABS SDI network

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**Newsletter sent on Kevin's behalf from the team at Harris Park Group**

Let us know anything you'd like covered here or on the website