



New Zealand Plant Protection Society (Inc.)

Newsletter

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Greetings

In the last newsletter I introduced Sue Zydenbos as the new editor of NZ Plant Protection. I mentioned that she is only the 5th editor of the society, following on from Maureen O'Callaghan, Alison Popay, Jennie Hartley and Les Matthews. The first issue of New Zealand Plant Protection also happened to be Sue's first production for the Society and it met all our expectations.

This time I must, with great regret, record the resignation of Mike Butcher as Secretary of our Society. Mike filled the role in a very professional, efficient and friendly manner. He was only the 5th Secretary in 56 years. Les Matthews was the first, followed by Jennie Hartley, Alison Popay and George Zabkiewicz. Until 1992 the same person held the positions of Secretary and Editor and I well remember the stress that this imposed on our household at certain times of the year!

Lois McKay of AgResearch Lincoln is generously acting as Secretary until we find another.

In this newsletter I've explored a little bit of who's who in the multinational agrochemical industry, and what happened to some of the names we used to know. The information here was found on the internet, with NZ addresses added where necessary. If I've missed anybody, or given any out-of-date information, please let me know and I'll put it right in the next newsletter.

I have continued giving you information about members of the Society's Executive Committee. I've also got some information on upcoming conferences of interest to members.

Finally, do have a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous 2001.

Ian Popay

From the Editor - December 2000

Just a quick note about papers for next year to help make the production process go smoothly! We have made a few changes to the formatting of papers for New Zealand Plant Protection 2001. These are mostly to align the reference formats with the New Zealand SIR journals. Please carefully check the two files that give instruction for writing papers. These are accessible from the Society's website at <http://www.hortnet.co.nz/nzpps/>. If your manuscripts are not correctly formatted they will be returned to you.

Please use the number that is assigned to your manuscript in any correspondence with the editor.

Remember that abstracts are due by the 15th February 2001 and you must submit your full manuscript by 15th April 2001. If your field work is not complete by 15th February and you cannot meet the 15th April deadline please request an extension until the 15th May from the editor. **Note** that this extension is not automatic and must be requested!

Page charges have increased to \$100 for every page exceeding the four page limit. Please make every effort to keep papers below 2000 words. This includes tables, figures and references!

If you have any questions then it is probably easiest to contact me by e-mail (Zydenbos@xtra.co.nz). I'm looking forward to receiving lots of interesting papers again this year.

Sue Zydenbos

The Plant Protection Society Conference 2001 will be held in Palmerston North at the Quality Inn (110 Fitzherbert Ave), from Tuesday 14 August to Thursday 16 August.

Kerry Harrington of Massey University is planning the Conference. He tells us

'The Quality Inn has 151 rooms available for conference delegates, and we have negotiated a reduced rate for those attending.

Room rates start at \$89/room, with prices ranging up to \$109/room for those wanting more bells and whistles. There are many motels within close walking distance.

The Quality Inn has two restaurants of its own, but there are also other restaurants nearby, including a Burger King next door for those on a student budget.

This year there will be no symposium on the Monday before the conference.'

President's Message

The season is now well underway, and plant protection field trials are no doubt planned and many laid out by now. I'm sure we can look forward to some excellent papers next August, so be sure to bear in mind the mid-February deadline for abstracts.

I'd like to express my personal thanks to Dr Mike Butcher, who resigned as Secretary recently, to take up a new job in a new region. Congratulations to Mike on his new job at Pipfruit New Zealand Ltd. in Hawkes' Bay. The role of Secretary has been taken over on an interim basis by Lois McKay, who is the personal assistant to Steve Goldson in AgResearch. The membership will have the chance to revisit this situation in August.

The upcoming book on "PLANT PROTECTION CHALLENGES IN ORGANICS" is moving slowly forwards, and there have been several enquiries as to our progress. We have most of the chapters in hand, but are awaiting the last few. Your patience is appreciated.

I recently had the opportunity to speak to the Parliamentary Select Committee on Organics, on behalf of HortResearch. This group, chaired by Damian O'Connor, is helping to formulate the government's policy towards organics. A MAF Policy will

follow the process to lay out a summary with recommendations, which we will await with interest.

The NZPPS submission to the Royal Commission on Genetic Modification was received and duly noted (it is available on their web site). Our main message was to seek flexibility for the future, rather than to curtail options. The paper, which I had drafted with some revisions from Steve Goldson, was carefully constructed to reflect the range of views of NZPPS members, as far as possible. We have the opportunity to speak to the Royal Commission in January. Comments on the NZPPS paper are welcome.

To me, one of the most interesting presentations to the Royal Commission was that of Adolf Stroomberg (Infometrics Consulting). His analysis of the economic impacts of biotechnology compared six scenarios:

- (1) GM advances in plant protection are adopted in horticulture and with Roundup-ready crops,
- (2) Immuno-contraception in possums is used to reduce the incidence of tuberculosis in dairy herds,
- (3) GM impacts on increased pastoral productivity,
- (4) GM technology is rejected in NZ but not elsewhere,
- (5) Complete moratorium on all GM research and products, and
- (6) NZ agriculture goes organic.

He concluded that scenarios 4 and 5 would be expected to have major detrimental economic impacts, while scenarios 2 and 3 would have about twice the economic benefit of scenario 6.

Still on the topic of GM in plant protection, the committee has invited Dr Gabor Lövei, (formerly of MAF and HortResearch) to attend our 54th Conference, and present an overview of the state of current understanding in the area. He has recently been working on field trials with GM crops in Germany, and told me that in some plots there were more scientists than crop plants!

My letter to Hon. Pete Hodgson regarding the potential impact of the proposed disinvestment process by FRST received a reply recently. I made several points, including the potential detrimental and destabilising impact of the policy on an already weakened science infrastructure. He acknowledged that my concerns were shared by a number of other organisations. However, he basically backed the policy, provided that the disinvestment and reinvestment decisions were made with consultation. The new version of the paper is on the FRST website.

We have awarded Plant Protection Scholarships to two students (see article). In addition, the Executive Committee had a discussion recently about the need to raise the profile and impact of our scholarship programme. The award is currently set at only \$1500, and is at very much the lower end of such student awards. We have decided to make the award more prestigious by raising the value to \$3000, as of next year (2001). In order to fund this higher award level, we have also decided to set ourselves the new scholarship fund target of \$50,000, to be reached as soon as possible over the next few years.

The Society continues to be interested in "Special Projects", and welcomes your ideas and enthusiasm to take on some new challenges. We now have the funds to do some interesting projects - ideas and volunteers are most welcome !

Max Suckling,
President NZPPS

Plant Protection Scholarship winners announced

Sean Bithell: An evaluation of nightshade contamination of process pea crops (Lincoln University)

This research is important as it attempts to identify factors that are contributing to the losses through contamination of a high value export crop. Identification of a measurable

threshold level for nightshade would allow farmers to identify the amount of nightshade management required to prevent processing losses. This research may also identify the more efficient use of existing technology (the tine harrow) with regard to the timing and nos. of cultivations. Further examination of the effect of night cultivation on nightshade will also allow a novel management strategy to be evaluated. This project is also important as research into the weed management problems faced by arable organic growers requires research that is applicable to field-level operations; weed management has also been identified as a major technological hurdle for organic growers.

Janet Seconi: Pathogenicity of *Dothistroma pini* and its impact on forest health (Massey University)

The outcome of this project will allow us to confirm the role of the toxin dothistromin in pathogenicity of *D. pini* and enable investigation into possible biocontrol of the fungus. As overseas strains have higher dothistromin levels than those strains currently found in New Zealand, it is important to assess the role of the toxin in preparation for possible infection of our forests by overseas strains.

Who's who in the multinational agrochemical business?

Ever wondered whatever happened to the likes of ICI, Hoechst and Schering? And what sort of a space-ship AstroZeneca is?

I have been delving into the world of agrochemical companies and where they came from. Here are the results of my research.



In 1999 two of the world's largest international chemical companies, Rhône-Poulenc of France and Hoechst Aktiengesellschaft of Germany merged to create Aventis. Company HQ are located in Strasbourg. Aventis Agriculture includes Aventis CropScience, Aventis Animal Nutrition and Aventis Animal Health. Aventis CropScience S.A. is based in Lyon, France, and unites the crop protection business of

Rhône-Poulenc with the crop protection, seeds and crop improvement activities of Hoechst Schering AgrEvo.

New Zealand contact address:

Rhone Poulenc Rural (Aventis Ltd)
P O Box 31-341, Lower Hutt
Tel: 04 570 2180 fax: 04 570 2181
www.aventis.com/cropsc/

BASF

In 1865 Friedrich Engelhorn founded Badische Anilin- & Soda-Fabrik AG (BASF) to produce coal tar dyes and precursors. In 1914 the Limburgerhof Agricultural Center was opened, laying the foundations for agricultural chemistry. The HQ of BASF Agricultural Products is still at Limburgerhof. In July 2000 BASF purchased the American Cyanamid Company.

New Zealand contact address:

BASF New Zealand Limited
C P O Box 407 Auckland
Tel: 09 633 0200 Fax: 09 633 0265
www.basf.com



In 1863, Friedrich Bayer and Johann Friedrich Weskott opened a modest dyeworks by the name of Friedr. Bayer & Co. in Wuppertal-Barmen. Today, Bayer AG is a chemicals and health care group numbering some 350 individual companies, represented in virtually every country in the world.

New Zealand contact address:

Bayer New Zealand Ltd
C P O Box 2825, Auckland
Tel: 09 443 3093 fax: 09 443 1194
www.agro.bayer.com/



Dow AgroSciences began as a joint venture in 1989 between the Agricultural Products Department of The Dow Chemical Company and the Plant Sciences business of Eli Lilly

and Company that resulted in the creation of DowElanco. In 1997, The Dow Chemical Company acquired 100 percent of DowElanco and the new wholly owned subsidiary was renamed Dow AgroSciences in 1998.

Headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana, U.S.A., Dow AgroSciences employs more than 3,500 people and has worldwide sales of more than \$2 billion.

In New Zealand, the company Ivon Watkins-Dow for many years dominated the pesticide industry. The NZ company became Dow-Elanco in 1990, and Dow AgroSciences (NZ) Ltd. in 1998.

New Zealand contact address:

Dow AgroSciences (NZ) Ltd
Private Bag 2017, New Plymouth 4620
Tel: 06 751 2400 fax: 06 751 0442
www.dowagro.com



DuPont Agricultural Products

DuPont, one of the oldest continuously operating industrial enterprises in the world, was established in 1802 near Wilmington, Delaware, by a French immigrant, Eleuthère Irénée du Pont de Nemours, to produce black powder.

DuPont is the world's leading producer of low-use-rate herbicides – principally sulfonylureas – that control weeds with minimal impact on the environment. The DuPont Agricultural Enterprise includes crop protection, feed, seed, food ingredient and food safety businesses.

New Zealand contact address:

DuPont (New Zealand) Ltd
P O Box 97-641
South Auckland Mail Centre, Auckland
Tel: 09 268 5500 Fax: 09 268 5490
www.dupont.com

MONSANTO

Food • Health • Hope™



After 30 years in the pharmaceutical industry, John Francis Queeny sank his savings and

money borrowed from a Chicago soft drink supplier into a new company to produce products for the food and pharmaceutical industries. He named the company, formed in 1901, after his wife, whose maiden name was Olga Mendez Monsanto.

In the early 1960s the Agriculture Division was created. Radox and Avadex herbicides were additions to an insecticide business and the company introduced Lasso in 1969. Roundup followed in 1976 and became the world's largest-selling herbicide.

New Zealand contact address:

Monsanto New Zealand Ltd
Private Bag 13905, Johnsonville
Wellington
Tel: 04 478 9296 Fax: 04 478 7357
www.monsanto.com



Novartis was created by the merger of Ciba and Sandoz in 1996. The name "Novartis" comes from the Latin *novae artes* or new arts and new skills. "Novartis" means utilising scientific research, imagination and new technologies to provide ever greater benefits for humankind.

With an annual investment in research and development of approximately 3.5 billion Swiss francs, Novartis is committed to developing tomorrow's life science solutions. The expertise of over 100,000 Novartis employees will ensure the company's success.

New Zealand contact address:

Novartis New Zealand Limited
Private Bag 19-980, Avondale, Auckland
Tel: 09 828 3149 Fax: 09 820 3773
www.novartis.com

HOT OFF THE PRESS: in mid-November, Novartis merged with Zeneca Agrochemicals to form a new company, Syngenta (www.syngenta.com)



In 1993, ICI moved its bioscience businesses of pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, specialties, seeds and biological products into a separate, publicly listed company, Zeneca Group PLC. Zeneca later merged with Astra to form AstraZeneca PLC, part of which remains Zeneca Agrochemicals.

Zeneca Agrochemicals is a world leading supplier of crop solutions based on chemical and biotechnology products designed to improve crop yield and food quality. The business has a global marketing reach and a broad portfolio of crop protection products for the control of the principal weeds, pests and diseases affecting major crops.

Zeneca products are distributed in NZ by

Crop Care Holdings Ltd
P O Box 3344, Richmond 7002, Nelson
Tel: 03 543 9999 Fax: 03 543 9998
www.zeneca.com

HOT OFF THE PRESS: in mid-November, Zeneca Agrochemicals merged with Novartis to form a new company, Syngenta (www.syngenta.com)



Nufarm is a public company and its stock is listed on the Australian and New Zealand Stock Exchanges (code:NUF). The company changed its name to Nufarm Limited from Fernz Corporation Limited in January 2000 when it moved its company registration and main stock exchange listing from New Zealand to Australia.

Nufarm has manufacturing, marketing, and trading operations in Australia, Asia, Europe, New Zealand and North America, employs over 2,000 people globally, and holds over 1,300 product registrations in 88 countries. As

a science based company, Nufarm has significant capabilities in chemical synthesis and formulation supported by efficient low cost manufacturing processes to produce high quality products that meet regulatory and environmental requirements.

New Zealand contact address:

Nufarm Ltd
Private Bag 22-407
Otahuhu, Auckland
Tel: 09 268 2920 Fax: 09 267 8444
www.nufarm.com



More than 90 years ago chemist Otto Röhm and businessman Otto Haas formed a partnership to make a unique chemical product for the leather industry. That once tiny firm entered the twenty-first century as one of the world's top speciality chemical companies, with sales of more than \$6.5 billion, nearly 150 manufacturing and research locations and more than 20,000 employees.

Although founded in Germany, the American portion of the company severed its ties with its German parent during the First World War and became the independent American firm of Rohm and Haas under the sole leadership of Otto Haas. Although Haas later restored his friend's holdings in the United States company, the relationship between the German parent and its American offspring was never re-established.

New Zealand contact address:

Rohm and Haas New Zealand Ltd
P O Box 22-220, Auckland 6
Tel: 09 276 7154 Fax: 09 276 7154
www.rohmandhaas.com



The Yates' brand has been in existence for more than 110 years, and is supported by other well known brands such as Hortico, Thrive, Gro-Plus, Zero, Dynamic Lifter, Aquasol, Plassay and Watkins.

Arthur Yates & Co. Limited is the largest manufacturer and marketer of garden products in Australia and New Zealand and has a joint venture commercial vegetable seeds business with Seminis, the leading vegetable seed business Company. Yates' products include seed, bulb, plant health, plant food, growing media, garden merchandise, gardening service and propagated plants. Yates employs approximately 600 people in Australia and New Zealand.

New Zealand contact address:

Yates New Zealand Limited
CPO Box 1109
Auckland 1
Tel: 09 636 2800
Fax: 09 636 2802
www.yates.co.nz

Max Suckling notes that

MANAGING URBAN WEEDS AND PESTS was recently reviewed in USA, by Pest Management News. The favourable review stated "Right from the cartoon-like cover the publication takes a light tone and is, the editors note, intended to encourage informed debate". The article also included our web site address.

Potted biographies of the Society's executive committee members (continued)

Paul Brookbanks, based at Fruitfed Supplies in Auckland

Paul graduated with a BHort Sci from Lincoln College in 1983. From 1984 he spent 18 months as assistant manager for a tissue culture laboratory in Auckland. In 1985 he began working for Fruitfed Supplies initially as a field rep, then in 1993 was appointed as technical advisor for the Northern Region. His role covers research and development of new products for use in subtropical and vegetable crops along with staff training. Paul has been involved in the development and implementation of IPM in subtropical and vegetable crops, is a trained scout in brassica

monitoring and is on the diamond back moth resistance committee.

Paul has developed strong links with scientists from HortResearch and Crop&Food. Paul is actively involved with multinational agrochemical research based companies, trialling new highly specific safe products for crop protection. He is also working closely with primary producer boards and the Avocado Industry on various projects.

ISPP Instructional Technology Online Symposium May-June 2001

<http://www.ispp-itsymposium.org.nz/>
Papers due by December 15, 2000

An international online symposium in Instructional Technology in Plant Pathology will be held from May 15-June 30, 2001, hosted at Massey University. The event has been organised by the Teaching Committee of the International Society of Plant Pathology and includes an opportunity to "present papers" on various instructional technologies with online discussions between the authors and other instructors. It also includes several discussion sessions on topics related to instructional technology.

The symposium allows time for instructors to try various demonstrations and then participate in discussions about how best to use them. Papers and discussions will be posted at different times throughout the symposium. Even after the active presentations are complete, all materials will be archived and available.

This symposium can literally involve instructors in plant pathology (and related disciplines) from around the world. New Zealand Plant Pathologists involved or interested in teaching or training are asked to register and/or submit a paper. As the 8th International Plant Pathology Congress is to be held in Christchurch in 2003, it's appropriate that this "1/2 way" event be hosted here. Other parties with an interest in teaching or training in other plant protection disciplines may also register.

You can register now (it's free) at the website <http://www.ispp-itsymposium.org.nz/> to receive updates as the symposium develops.

International Congress of Plant Pathology

2nd to 8th February 2003

This congress is being held in the Christchurch Town Hall and the Convention Centre. It is being organised by the Australasian Plant Pathology Society on behalf of the International Society of Plant Pathology. Planning is well underway especially on the programme. A number of pre- and post-congress workshops are being planned. The first announcement is now available. Copies can be obtained from the Professional Conference Organizer at Lincoln University, E-mail Helen Shrewsbury shrewsbury@lincoln.ac.nz
The website address is www.lincoln.ac.nz/icpp2003/ where you can register an interest in attending the congress.

This means that you will receive the final circular and any other circulated newsletter. For further details on the programme or the workshops then E-mail Ron Close, closer@plantwise.co.nz

18th Asian-Pacific Weed Science Society (APWSS) Conference

INVITATION

On behalf of the Organising Committee, I sincerely invite you to participate in the 18th APWSSC to be held during the 28th May – 2nd June 2001 in Beijing, China.

Beijing, capital of the People's Republic of China which covers 16,800 km², has a population of 11 millions. It possesses a wealth of historical monuments and tourist spots with more than 3,000 years of history. The main venue for the 18th APWSSC is Beijing Friendship Hotel.

The 18th APWSSC will cover most important aspects of Weed Science, while focusing on "the Role of Ecologically based Weed

Management for Sustainable Agriculture in the 21st Century". With a wide range of hotels, perfect conference facilities and every effort we can make, the Organising Committee and the Weed Science Society of China will ensure you a scientifically informative conference and an unforgettable stay in Beijing, China.

I look forward to seeing you in Beijing in the year 2001!

Professor Ze-Pu Zhang
President of APWSS
Chairman of the Organising Committee

More information available from Anis Rahman at [agresearch Ruakura](mailto:agresearch@agresearch.co.nz) (anis.rahman@agresearch.co.nz)

Plant Protection Society Website

Don't forget to bookmark the Society's website (<http://www.hortnet.co.nz/nzpps/>) and check it out from time to time. It contains, for example, past proceedings of the conference, contact details of committee members and information on the upcoming conference. On it you will find a reminder that we still have copies of An Illustrated Guide To Common Weeds Of New Zealand and other publications for sale through Manaaki Whenua Press.

Corporate members of the Society

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