



New Zealand Plant Protection Society (Inc.)

# Newsletter

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December 2003

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## Just when I thought I'd given the job away!

Past experience sometimes comes back to bite you. I gave the newsletter editor's job away when I knew I was likely to become President. Ian Harvey very kindly stuck his hand up and said, 'I'll do it.' Then, at the start of December, Ian discovered that he was so desperately up to his ears in work, that this was one extra job he just couldn't handle. A quick presidential decision that finding and training a new newsletter editor at such short notice would be extraordinarily time-consuming (and probably futile) and that I would be better doing it myself was made, so here we are!

### Little-known and best-forgotten seasonal facts

- There are currently **78 people** named S. Claus living in the U.S. -- and **one Kriss Kringle**. (You gotta wonder about that one kid's parents)
- The biggest selling Christmas single of all time is Bing Crosby's White Christmas.
- **Weight of Santa's sleigh** loaded with one Jelly Baby for every kid on earth: 333,333 tons. Number of reindeer required to pull a 333,333-ton sleigh: 214,206 -- *plus Rudolph*.
- In 1643, the British Parliament officially abolished the celebration of Christmas.
- In 1834, Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert brought the first **Christmas tree** to Windsor Castle for the Royal family.
- The first commercial **Christmas card**, produced in 1846, featured a drawing of family members happily toasting each other with glasses of wine - a shockingly decadent portrait that was immediately condemned by temperance advocates.

So don't forget to watch out for any new bugs on your strawberries at Christmas time, and for new weeds when you're working off the Christmas pud in the garden. Hope you all have a good Christmas, and a prosperous and Happy 2004!

*Ian Popay*

## The 57th New Zealand Plant Protection Conference

Tuesday, 10 - Thursday, 12 August 2004.

### Venue

The venue for the 2004 New Zealand Plant Protection Society Conference will be the **Rydges Le Grand, Hamilton**. The hotel provides a comfortable atmosphere with many satisfying features

(<http://www.rydges.com/hamilton>). Close to the city centre and the vibrant cafe district (Yes – in Hamilton!) it is within easy walking distance of the picturesque riverside walkways. Rydges Le Grand Hamilton is on the cnr of Victoria and Collingwood Streets. Room rates, currently being negotiated, will be less than \$120.00 (+ GST). To confirm your accommodation booking contact the hotel direct on 0800 534 7263. (rydges\_hamilton@rydges.com). When booking, please quote “New Zealand Plant Protection Society”. Rydges Le Grand Hamilton has a reciprocal arrangement with two other central city hotels, Novatel and Ventura, where you will be able to get equivalent room rates.

### Conference Programme

The local committee will ensure that the high standards set at Rotorua and Christchurch will be maintained if not improved upon. The final programme of presentations and poster papers will be posted on the Society’s website when completed.

**Trevor James**

## From the Editor - December 2003

It was good to see everyone at the Christchurch conference and especially to meet some of the new members. It is fun to be able to “put a face to the name” as with working from home I don’t get to talk to many people on a regular basis.

For those of you who weren’t at the AGM I will briefly cover some of the main points I raised there. The first is a minor change to the instructions for papers. The following sentence has been added to the instructions on

the website and will be printed on the inside cover of the 2004 volume .....

“In addition, all manuscripts must be read by co-authors and approved by the corresponding author’s organisation before submission to the editor.” .....

This change is in response to papers being submitted without co-authors even knowing of their existence. I consider this to be a serious breach of publication protocol and reserve the right to reject papers that do not conform to this ethic.

I hope everyone likes the new addition to the journal with the President’s Foreword. We felt that it more topical to have a brief review of “the year that has just been” in the front of the book, rather than the full president’s report at the back which often related to events that had occurred two years earlier!

Several people took the opportunity to make minor post-publication changes to their papers before they were loaded onto the website as pdf files. This was at a cost of \$55 per paper and should only be done where a genuine mistake has been missed in the proof. Major changes can not be made so you must continue to check proofs thoroughly.

The papers are all available on the website now. I think the new layout, with the Abstracts in HTML format and a link to the downloadable pdf file, is really great. This should facilitate identification of relevant papers through search engines and should be reflected in increased numbers of “hits” on the papers this year.

Another point I mentioned at the AGM was that several people had noticed that the double spaces often put after a full stop get taken out of the final version of the paper. This is actually done at the request of the printer – so if you are a “double spacer”, please try and keep to single spaces for NZPP as I just have to go through and remove them all!

As we look towards 2004, please start thinking about your papers now! There will always be conflicting priorities in your work and the best solution is to get the paper(s) prepared well in advance. This also allows time for proper checking of data, co-authors

to read and comment on the manuscript, and approval to be given by your organisation.

When you are preparing a manuscript, please use one font and font size throughout the document. Times New Roman 12 is preferable. **Do not** reduce the size of text to make data fit into a Table! You will need to reduce the amount of data in the Table. Very wide Tables must be put sideways on a page and no other text can go on that page.

Deadlines for 2004 will remain the same as previous years, with **abstracts due 15 February** and **full manuscripts on 15 April**. I don't send out emails confirming receipt of abstracts, so don't expect to hear from me until about 15 March when I will send out the details of your referee. Please give initials and addresses of co-authors when you submit the abstract as this makes it easier to identify people when I enter papers in the database.

I look forward to receiving lots of interesting papers next year. Remember that it is easiest to contact me by email as a phone call may be interrupted by the demands of Luke (now 4 years old) and Leah (2 years old)! I check my emails every evening so you can generally expect a reply the following morning.

**Sue Zydenbos**  
Editor

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## **View from the top - presidential musings**

Here I am, safely ensconced as president of the NZ Plant Protection Society and loving it, so far. I feel flattered to have been invited to stand and to have been elected. I mean, there's the sense of power for a start – I'd been asked to make three decisions before I'd even officially taken over - but it also means following in a long line of people – scientists and specialists - who have held the position, all of whom have been people for whom I have a good deal of respect.

The NZ Biosecurity Strategy was finally launched in late August and, as expected, national biosecurity is now firmly in the hands of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. I have some reservations about that

but, as a senior MAF manager said to me, 'If we'd developed a new organisation to handle biosecurity, nobody would have known what it was or what it did.' I agree with that, but still have some doubts about the ability of MAF to change its attitudes to the outside world and to consult as widely as it needs to coordinate the efforts of all the government and private organisations involved in biosecurity. However, I am tracking their progress carefully and will tell you what I see. MAF has recently been holding a lot of high-level meetings to work out how it's going to pull all the separate strands together. One of these workshops was on science and technology, so rest assured that this is an area that is considered very important.

Biosecurity continues to attract increasing attention round the world. When in Australia recently, I heard a news bulletin reporting on coconut palms displacing native plant species on Cape York Peninsula. The United States and Australia are both taking steps to control, or contain new outbreaks of pests. New Zealand at least has concerted plans for some aspects of its biosecurity and is going to be very rapidly filling in the gaps.

I've asked the new committee for suggestions on how they would like the society to progress. I asked, for example, if they wanted it to grow in numbers, or to expand in particular directions. They thought of encouraging young scientists, and making sure that the steadily expanding group of scientists, who used to work for CRIs or universities but who now run their own businesses, continue to take an active part in the society's affairs, especially at the conference. If members have any ideas on new directions for the Society, please contact a committee member and let them know.

The Society has embarked, or is planning to embark, on several enterprises. We're about to print a second edition of our Illustrated Guide to Common New Zealand Weeds, having sold all of the first edition in about four years. (Details elsewhere in the newsletter.) Other books (and CDs) are currently on the drawing boards and we'll let

you know about these as they get closer to production. Our website, which I'm sure you look at regularly, now has a lot more pesticide resistance information on it, thanks to the effort of Nick Martin, Robert Beresford and Kerry Harrington.

One of the things I've been asked to do is forge closer links with the Biosecurity Institute. I've spoken to Institute President, Lynley Hayes, and we've agreed to cooperate whenever the occasion demands. Their website, if you'd like to take a look at what they do, is [www.biosecurity.org.nz](http://www.biosecurity.org.nz). Their newsletter, incidentally, appears on their website but in a 'members only' section. We aim to put our newsletter on our website, and we're going to investigate a members-only section there too.

**Ian Popay**  
President NZPPS

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## **Website editor/Webmaster required**

After 6 years of dedicated work, Ecki Brouckerhoff has decided to give up the role of NZPPS website editor. He did a great job setting up the website in the first instance, then maintaining it, and recently taking on the huge job of preparing the pesticide resistance pages. We have a clear and approachable website that both the society and Ecki can be proud of. Thanks Ecki.

The society is looking for a new website editor/webmaster. The job has an honorarium of \$1000 and entails:

- Soliciting proposed changes from the Secretary, editor and newsletter editor, and writing web-compatible text
- Updating website content 6-8 times a year
- Working with the host to mount the revisions
- Archiving the site
- Developing the site with the Executive

The editor should be familiar with basic HTML programming, and be keen to make the website work. Please contact the Secretary if you are interested.

## **NZ Plant Protection Society Research Scholarship 2003/04**

### **Hazel Gatehouse, Lincoln University: Predicting the rate and extent of spread of naturalized plants in New Zealand**

Understanding the rate, extent, and causes of plant invasions in New Zealand is necessary to protect globally significant native biota and ecosystems, and agricultural production base.

This research has direct benefits to New Zealand's national and local biosecurity. The research will develop a database reconstructing the spread and documenting the current distribution of naturalised plants in NZ. This database, describing the distribution of the entire naturalised flora of a country, will be unique globally. It will identify which parts of the country have been most susceptible to invasion by introduced plants, and what types of plants have been most successful at spreading throughout the country. The statistical model describing the pattern and rate of spread derived from these data will allow the assessment of risk of invasion posed by plant species that have not yet arrived in New Zealand; that are still only in cultivation, or that are at an early stage of naturalisation. Identifying problem species and locations is critical to developing national and local strategies to manage these risks.

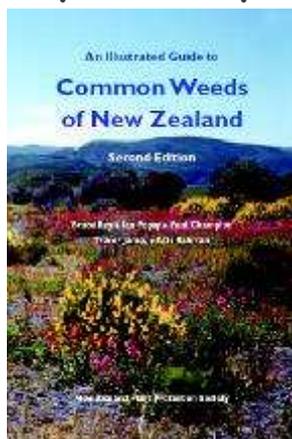
New Zealand is unique in possessing the data to undertake this research. Consequently, the results of this research will make a substantial contribution to international knowledge of invasive species.

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### **You've seen the wilding conifers show- now read the book!**

The workshop 'Management of wilding conifers in New Zealand – present and future' was held in Christchurch immediately before the annual conference. Workshop Proceedings are complete, and should be printed in January. Participants at the workshop should receive their copies soon after printing. If others would like copies, contact the Secretary with address and payment details. The price of the Proceedings has yet to be decided.

## 'Roy book' reprint



The second edition of the 'Roy book' – 'An Illustrated Guide to Common Weeds of New Zealand' – is now being printed.. This contains many new and improved photographs and several species that didn't feature in the first edition, including all the weedy ferns and some additional trees, such as *Pinus contorta*.

Three of the authors – Paul Champion, Trevor James and Ian Popay – have been labouring away for the last 12 months, checking the text, collecting new pictures and arguing about what to put in and what to omit.

The new book will contain more pages than the original, but we expect it to retail for appreciably less, partly because we are ordering 5,000 copies this time and partly because they're being printed in China. We have been assured, incidentally, that it is being printed on paper made from plantation forests. Rob and Fiona Richardson from Victoria have again been responsible for page setting and organising the printing, and we believe they have done an excellent job.

Manaaki Whenua Press will once more be marketing the book on behalf of the Society. We expect the recommended retail price to be just under \$40.

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## Conference Notices

### **New Zealand Biosecurity Institute National Education and Training Seminar, Grand Tiara Hotel, Rotorua, 21-23 July 2004.**

The focus of this meeting will be the interactions between biosecurity and biodiversity and how linkages can be formed to improve the protection of our natural environment. Greg Sherley, CEO of the Global Invasive Species Programme based in Cape Town, South Africa, and Mick Clout of the Invasive Species Specialist Group, based at Auckland University, have agreed to speak, and many other interesting sessions and field trips are planned. See [www.biosecurity.org.nz](http://www.biosecurity.org.nz) early in 2004 for further information.

## **XXII International Congress of Entomology Brisbane, 15-21 August 2004**

The congress theme, Strength in Diversity, represents the diverse nature of entomology and will be reflected in the many symposia, presentations and sessions to be held. Info at <http://www.ccm.com.au/icoe/home/default.htm>

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## **4th International Weed Science Congress Durban, South Africa, 19-25 June 2004**

The 4th International Weed Science Congress will be hosted by the Southern African Weed Science Society and the IWSS at Durban's International Convention Centre.

Info at <http://www.olemiss.edu/orgs/iws/4intlweedcong.htm>.

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## **14th Australian Weeds Conference: 'Weed management: balancing people, planet, profit'. Wagga Wagga, 6-10 September 2004**

Info at <http://www.csu.edu.au/special/weedsconference/>

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## **Pesticide Resistance information now available on the Plant Protection Society's website**

**Nick Martin** of Crop and Food Research and **Robert Beresford** of HortResearch have been hard at work updating information on insecticide and fungicide resistance, and the results of some of their labours can now be seen on our website. Some groups have still to be completed. Kerry Harrington has also been updating the information on herbicide resistance

The society would like to thank Peter Silcock of VegFed for financial support for putting the resistance pages onto the website, and to Jack Richardson of the New Zealand Association for Animal Health and Crop Protection (AGCARM) for financial support for the continuing upkeep of the pages.

Don't forget to bookmark the website (<http://www.hortnet.co.nz/nzpps/>) and check it out from time to time. It contains past proceedings of the conference, contact details of committee members and other useful information

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## Lucid® key – a PPS project

### Lucid® key (multi-access, computer based key) next revolution in publication?

The Society has hired a student, Alison Watkins, to convert the text and images of the 2nd edition of the *Illustrated Guide to Common Weeds of New Zealand* into a Lucid® multi-access key. Multi-access keys have many advantages over the traditional dichotomous keys and have been described in some recent Plant Protection papers. Worldwide the software programme Lucid® has been used to produce such keys as

- Suburban and Environmental Weeds (CD-ROM)
- Euclid: Eucalypts of Southern Australia Second Edition (CD-ROM)
- Wattle: Acacias of Australia (CD-ROM)
- Australian Aquatic Invertebrates (web key)
- Mites in Soil (web key)
- Key to cotton insects (web key)
- A key to Diagnosis of Oral Ulceration (web key)
- Common grasses of the Carolinas (CD-ROM)
- Identifying grasses, sedges, and rushes (CD-ROM in press)

One of the main benefits of the Lucid® key is that it does not have to be confined to a single characteristic of the weed (e.g. the current book's key is confined to flowers). The LucID® key uses all available information on the weed including location, growth habit, leaf shape, root type, etc.

Although multi access keys have many benefits, obtaining information for their content is no different from obtaining it for traditional publications. Therefore, being able to evaluate the creation of a Lucid® key using the material collated for the recent edition of our weeds book will give us experience and knowledge about their development. This will then give the Society more flexibility in how it publishes. We have noted the increasing publication costs associated with hard copy publications and as there is now more widespread availability and use of computers, softcopy (CD-ROM) publications of some of the Society's material could be an economic and efficient method of publication for material with a small target market.

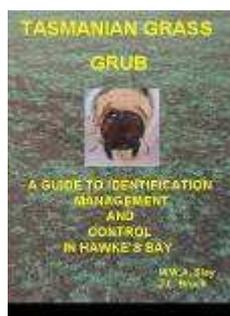
Alison is a second year student at Waikato University studying for a BSc(Tech) degree majoring in biology. Her employment on this project qualifies as her industry placement requirement for the BSc(Tech) programme. To date Alison is making good progress the setting up

the key. All the characters and their states have been identified and now it is the hard slog of creating a data page for each weed and inserting all the pictures. It should be noted here that the key will contain many more pictures of each weed than the book does. Alison is being guided in her work by Ian Popay, Paul Champion and myself.

**Trevor James**

## Tasmanian Grass Grub - A Guide to Identification Management and Control in Hawke's Bay

by Mike Slay



Tasmanian grass grub, first collected in Canterbury in 1916, arrived around Hastings in the mid-70s. The dry decade from the late '80s saw an upsurge in its activity and significant damage to pasture, especially after summer droughts.

Limited information was available on TGG biology and the cost of control high.

In 1994/5, a severe drought (50% of annual rainfall in Central Hawke's Bay) saw the pest establish there as a new problem for farmers. A survey in September 2002 showed that Tasmanian grass grub had spread deep into Tararua and was established as far south as Akitio. It seems likely to spread along the coast to the Wairarapa.

An AGMARDT funded project started in 1998 improved farmer awareness, management and control of Tasmanian grass grub through the use of improved pasture management techniques and different pasture species. The project also assisted the registration of Fastac (SP), an effective low cost control option. The project improved monitoring techniques and quantified the damage caused by the pest. Concerned at the rapid spread and damage caused, especially in hill country, a group of CHB farmers asked AgResearch Poukawa to develop a programme to assist farmers to acquire the skills, knowledge and resources to manage Tasmanian grass grub. Funding for the project was provided by a MAF Sustainable Farming Fund grant, Meat and Wool Innovation and HB Regional Council, and was conducted by Mike Slay and John Brock.

The last two years have seen more lenient weather and a reduction in the insect's activity. However, given its current widespread distribution, the return of El Nino conditions will undoubtedly result in a return of high populations and widespread pasture damage.

This booklet aims to provide farmers who encounter this pest anywhere in New Zealand with easy access to available information on identification, biology, management and control options.

Copies of the booklet are available from Project Leader John Kyle (06 8788700) at \$10, inc. p & p.

## Book Review

### **Sports Turf and Amenity Grasses: A manual for use and identification**

**D E Aldous and I H Chivers**

Landlinks Press, Collingwood, Australia.  
Available from Manaaki Whenua Press, Lincoln. NZ\$95-65.

This is a great book if you're interested in grasses, and especially in sports turf. It's hard covered in a soft-back world, with an attractive front cover. Inside it's full of useful, practical information on turf grasses. Its sensible pictorial keys help readers identify the species of grass, excellent coloured drawings demonstrate the main vegetative features, and its text highlights the uses, advantages and disadvantages of each species. There are also useful diagrams, for each of the more important grass species, showing its tolerance for temperature, drought, close mowing, shade, and so on.

Weed grasses like poa annua and paspalum are included, and the book points out that such grasses, although often unavoidable components of some turfs, can also have their advantages in some circumstances.

The entries are classified into major and minor grasses, major grasses being those most commonly found in turf, and minor the less common ones, or those often appearing as volunteers in sown turf. Each of the two main groups is sub-divided into warm season, summer-active grasses and cool season, winter-active ones. The common names used in this book are those used in the United States, but a table near the beginning cross-

references to common names used in Australia, Europe and Asia/ Africa.

The book, by Australian authors and produced in Australia, is expensive in New Zealand, at \$95-65. It does carry a recommendation on the back cover, by Keith McAuliffe, head of the NZ Sports Turf Institute, but some of the grasses described would be unlikely to thrive in New Zealand. Indeed, ERMA might not even allow them entry, because some are not known to occur here and several, including *Paspalum vaginatum*, are already making their presence felt as invasive weeds.

Each 'major' grass has a two-page spread, with excellent coloured drawings of vegetative structure, a photograph of a turf made up of the grass and another showing the general nature of isolated individuals of the grass. The former photograph, almost always featuring a golf ball, shows the general appearance of the turf and the fineness of the grass leaves, but little else: the latter is more useful showing, as it does, the general form of the grass. Each 'minor' grass features a single page and a photograph which sometimes shows the general appearance of a turf, and sometimes a single plant.

The text for major species is clearly divided into description, common and other uses, positive and negative features, general comments and diagnostic features. Minor species merit slightly less detail. Major species feature a 'Sowing, growing and mowing' box showing suggested sowing rates and mowing heights, and also charts of tolerance of conditions like High temperature, Drought, Close mowing, Low fertility, Frost, Shade, Wet soil, Wear and Salinity. Useful indeed as a general guide to the sort of conditions in which each grass can thrive or survive.

The pictorial and easy to use keys are special feature of this book. The keys are dichotomous, each step giving two (or rarely three) alternatives, but words are few and clear line drawings show the route through the key. The coloured line drawings of each major species were also a highlight for me,

and help identification of species from their vegetative characters.

Because of New Zealand's cooler climate, this book is useful here for the cool season grasses, but of mixed value for warm season ones. The book is still useful to grass enthusiasts, though, all of whom would find something of interest to them within its pages.

Ian Popay

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## Vacancy

### Forest Research

#### Entomology TECHNICIAN - Vacancy number 02/03 - 32

The Forest Biosecurity and Protection Unit at *Forest Research* is New Zealand's leading research provider in the area of forest biosecurity and protection. We run a comprehensive research and development programme focused on many aspects of forest health biosecurity, ecology and pest management. An opportunity has arisen for a new role within the Unit for an **Entomology technician**.

You will contribute to research programmes on forest pests and weeds by providing a wide range of technical support in both laboratory and field situations. Insect rearing will form a major component, as will field inspection of tree health and insect collecting. Other important skills are the ability to work independently, accurately record data, and the ability to communicate results effectively.

A position description and application form is available on request and written applications (quote Vacancy Number(s) as above) including a curriculum vitae and an application form should be forwarded to the address below by 22 January 2004.

Kirsty Mitchell  
Payroll and Personnel Services  
Forest Research  
Private Bag 3020  
Rotorua  
Phone (07) 343 5899  
Email: [kirsty.mitchell@forestresearch.co.nz](mailto:kirsty.mitchell@forestresearch.co.nz)

*Forest Research* is an Equal Opportunities Employer

## PhD Studentship

### \$18,000 per annum available for PhD student starting programme early 2004

Students wishing to start their PhD programme between now and May 2004 are invited to apply for an \$18,000 per year studentship.

This is part of a programme funded by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology to look at reducing pesticide use in agriculture. The PhD project will involve investigating factors influencing the effectiveness of pasture weed control using height differential equipment, such as rotary weed wipers.

Students who would be suitable include those with backgrounds in plant biology, agriculture, horticulture or natural resource management. Other backgrounds may also be considered.

For more information, contact:

Dr Kerry Harrington, Room 125, Practical Teaching Complex, Massey University  
E-mail: [K.Harrington@massey.ac.nz](mailto:K.Harrington@massey.ac.nz)  
Phone: 350-4926

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## Corporate members of the Society

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