



New Zealand Plant Protection Society (Inc.)

Newsletter

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Editorial

Here at last is an editorial written by the editor. The President wrote the last one as a favour to allow pressure to be eased on a tight schedule at the end of the season.

This last season has highlighted for me in Canterbury, the effect of the weather on our profession. Plant health (and especially disease, we were always taught) was a three-way relationship between host, pathogen and environment (with the influence of man thrown in for modern agricultural practices). In this last season, many plant health trials gave very few meaningful results because of the series of weather events both before and during the season. The winter was good and cold, discouraging the carryover of pests and pathogens. Then the spring was mild and moist, allowing good establishment and growth. Then came hot, dry conditions through to the end of January.

Any crops under irrigation and harvested before the 20 January yielded produce in pristine conditions. Those that had to endure the weather of February did not fare so well. However, there was little disease inoculum and few pests around to do much damage by that time. The weather had a more direct effect on the situation than pests and diseases.

This scenario resulted in many trials on pesticides and plant health management practices giving few meaningful results. These are the chances that must be taken, however, and trials have to be repeated to allow knowledge to be gained for the times when diseases and pests do seriously compromise the viability of crop production.

There is another factor that is affecting trial work on diseases and pests as well. Breeders and merchants are selecting, importing and producing cultivars that are more resistant or tolerant to attack, and more suited to the New Zealand growing conditions. A problem that may have been an impediment to production a few years ago may now have been negated by judicious genetic and selection manipulation. However, in my job as a diagnostician, I can confidently report that there are pests and diseases out there that are showing up as potential impediments to crop production. For me this is both exciting (from a professional point of view) and a concern (from the industry's point of view).

We, in our profession, seem to thrive on problems, but can gain satisfaction when we find ways to combat them (when the weather allows us to get results from our trials!).

Ian Harvey

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 corner of Victoria and Collingwood Streets. Room rates, currently being negotiated, will be less than \$120 (+ 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.

Parking

Being in a vibrant, inner-city location unfortunately does have the odd problem and one of these is parking. The hotel provides parking for house guests only. This parking is accessed off Alexandra Street (runs parallel to Victoria Street). For the rest of us we will have to use the Wilsons carpark above Farmers (also off Alexandra Street) which has early bird all day parking for \$6, or the municipal underground carpark accessed off the north end of Alexandra Street. If you don't like any of those you can feed the metre or park in the Casino carpark.

Conference

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. Conference fees have been set at \$180 for three days (inclusive of the annual conference dinner) or \$55 per day for casuals. The SFF IPM workshop will cost \$50 (lunch included). For

the dinner we have hired the same band we had in Rotorua so bring your dancing shoes.

Important - Presentations

I will be handling all the presentations under the same rules as previous years. That is, all the presentations will be run off one computer so I will need the presentations, in PowerPoint format, prior to your session. This can be on CD-ROM, USB storage device or 3½ inch floppy (note that the latter is notoriously unreliable). Please pay attention to keeping your presentation to a reasonable size, the record to date is 75Mb which was far too large and was full of large pictures that could not be shown at the resolution at which they were inserted. Do not use 'cut and paste' for images. Also, I highly recommend that time wasting slide transitions be omitted from your presentations. While you are waiting for the next slide to appear you could have presented another important piece of information. Also, they tend to put the coordinator (that's me) to sleep and you don't want that to happen.

In the past people have emailed their presentations to me and I have preloaded them ready for the conference. I am happy to do this as before but note that I will be away for an extended time prior to the conference and therefore will not be able to acknowledge receipt of emailed presentations. I will however preload any that I am sent. If you have questions please get in touch with me before 18 June.

trevor.james@agresearch.co.nz

Trevor James



Sustainable Farming Fund IPM Workshop

The Sustainable Farming Fund, in conjunction with the NZ Plant Protection Society, is organising a one day workshop on 9 August 2004 as a pre-event to the NZ Plant Protection Society's Conference in Hamilton.

The SFF contributes funding towards many of the IPM/IFP programmes currently underway in the horticultural sectors. The aim of the workshop is to bring together those involved in IPM/IFP in New Zealand (not just those with SFF projects) including key industry and marketing people, growers, and researchers.

The objective of the day will be for representatives of the different sectors to share their experiences and approaches in the development of an IPM programme and benefit from the ideas of others. A facilitated workshop in the afternoon will explore ideas such as “What extension methods are working?”; “How to ensure the continuation of programmes once the formal funding is finished?”; “Selling the IPM story to the public – how do we do this better?”; “Is there generic information that can be used across sectors?”.

The workshop will be held at the same venue as the NZPPS Conference (Rydges Le Grand Hotel, Hamilton). Registration is open to all, with the registration form being included with the Conference Registration.

For more information, contact:
Helen Percy (SFF Project Adviser):
helen.percy@maf.govt.nz; phone 07 856 1811

or
Paul Brookbanks (NZ Plant Protection Society): liz-paul@xtra.co.nz

For more information on the Sustainable Farming Fund (including summaries of funded projects) see: www.maf.govt.nz/sff

From the Editor –

Paper numbers for the Hamilton conference are likely to be similar to last year, being about average for the past 10 years. We have been surprised by the number of papers submitted for the conference given the other competing meetings at that time of the year. This means the programme will be fairly relaxed and we will have time for the introductions to the Posters that was well-received last year. The programme for the conference will be posted on the website about 15 June.

Please read the instructions for presenters on the website. Remember that overheads and slides are not supported any longer – the only option for presenters is Powerpoint.

I would like to thank those authors and referees who made the effort to get papers completed before the 15 April deadline. It is really helpful to get some papers underway before the bulk of papers arrive. In fact Graham Walker got his full paper submitted before most of you had even thought about writing an abstract! It has now been refereed and proofed so that is one off my list!

Please check your final version very carefully before you send it to me. Changes on the proofs that were not in the final version of your manuscript are a direct cost to the Society and will only be made if the mistake has a direct effect on the interpretation of the paper. When you are sent the .pdf file of your formatted paper the main things to check are Greek letters and other non-keyboard characters as well as Tables and Figures. The costs of formatting changes due to a mistake during layout are borne by the printer.

Please remember that revisions to papers must be returned within five days. However, if you haven't heard from me please don't panic and ask for confirmation of receipt of the paper. I am dealing with a lot of papers in a very short time and I can't process them all at once! If you have been given a paper number and I haven't received that paper, be assured that I will be chasing you up! Remember the old saying “Don't call me – I will call you!!”.

Final versions of all papers must be with the printer by the end of May in order to meet the publication deadline. It is especially important for the 15 May deadline papers to be processed rapidly and I ask for your assistance with this. If you have figures, it would be much appreciated if they could be submitted as jpeg, tiff, pdf or eps files. Figures embedded into Word from Excel and other graphing programs can often not be imported into the Printer's software and must be scanned from hard copy.

Remember that if you have any questions the easiest way to contact me is by email. I

check emails every evening so you will get a reply the following morning.

I am not planning to attend the conference this year. However, this is not due to the content of the papers! The programme looks to be very varied and interesting and I am sure it will be a great conference.

Sue Zydenbos

View from the top - presidential musings

On 25 March I was invited to Lincoln University to attend the official opening of the National Centre for Advanced Bio-Protection Technologies and the NZ Biotron, a world-ranking, controlled-climate, plant growth facility. The National Centre is financed from the Ministry of Education's Centre of Research Excellence (CORE) Fund, and its Director is Professor Alison Stewart, vice-president of our society. Former society presidents Stephen Goldson (Deputy Director) and Max Suckling are also closely involved. Although based at Lincoln University, the Centre is a collaborative venture involving 12 organisations, among them AgResearch, Crop and Food Research, HortResearch and Massey University. The NZ biotron is a great facility, and I wish the Centre every success.

The opening gave me the opportunity to see Helen Clark in action (I was favourably impressed) and the opportunity to catch up with many old friends and acquaintances, including former society member and weed scientist Prof. Roger Field, now the newly appointed Vice-Chancellor of Lincoln University.

Another invitation took me to a biocontrol hui at Matahiwi marae near Clive in Hawkes Bay. This was a first for me as it involved an overnight stay on the marae. Most marae welcome visitors, but few have accommodation suitable for the wheelchair-bound. Matahiwi is well set up and the people there went out of their way to make me welcome. The hui, organised by Lynley Hayes of Landcare Research, aimed at bringing together a wide range of stakeholders to talk about their organisation's

and their own views on biocontrol. Last-minute defections depleted numbers, but representatives from the Nurseries and Garden Industry Association, the Beekeepers Association, DOC, Hawkes Bay Regional Council, ERMA, Forest and Bird, and other agencies were there. The hui was a great opportunity to hear other people's views on biocontrol, in a relaxed setting. If you haven't yet spent a night on a marae, leap when the opportunity presents itself – it's a worthwhile experience.

The 2nd Edition of the Roy book, *An Illustrated Guide to Common Weeds of New Zealand* published by the Society, is now available from Manaaki Whenua Press at \$39.95 (less 20% if you identify yourself as a Society member). I've been roundly criticised by some in DOC for allowing myself to be associated with a book that describes native plants as 'weeds'. This, they say, may lead to the demise of endangered species by encouraging their destruction. My response is to point out that many plants can be considered a nuisance in one environment and a great asset in another. Our pastoral farmers have long battled native species like manuka and tutu and still have problems with them today. Some species, like matagouri, are considered to have been increasing over the last 30 years or so. None of the native species mentioned in the Roy book are nationally endangered, although matagouri, for example, is very scarce in the North Island, but regarded as a serious weed down south.

At the last Executive Committee meeting in March, Nick Martin's and Rob Beresford's proposal for the Society to print the updated pesticide resistance strategies (as they appear on the website) was supported. This will be prepared as a booklet once the authors have prepared their material in 'camera-ready' form.

HortResearch's Hortnet is to continue hosting the society's website, and we are investigating the possibility of the society having its own domain name (www.nzpps.org.nz). Ecki Brockerhoff has resigned as website editor after giving the Society excellent service in this role, and John Kean of AgResearch Lincoln has accepted the job.

The Society has accepted a proposal from Crop and Food Research to contribute to the publication of a book on *Pest, disease and weed control for organic farming in New Zealand*, expected to retail at about \$50.

Consideration is being given to holding a workshop just before the 2005 Wellington conference on 'Eradications'. Will volunteers anxious to organise this for us please stand up! On the day before this year's conference, MAF's Sustainable Farming Fund has asked if they can organise, in conjunction with the Society, a workshop on Integrated Pest Management (IPM). This would include presentations of work supported by the fund, but should not involve too much work for our entomologist members – they are already pretty busy with other conferences.

Ian Popay
President NZPPS



Should rogues like these be allowed to attend NZPPS conference?

From the Website Editor

Since the NZ Plant Protection Society web site went live in 1999, it has become an increasingly important resource for members and non-members alike, with full text of past conference papers, information on upcoming conferences, on-line ordering of Society publications and books, links to sister institutes, and of course the growing library of pesticide resistance management strategies. In the five or so years of its existence, the number of "hits" (pages viewed) has increased to around a thousand per day, on average. The success of the website, indeed its existence in the first place, has largely been due to the hard work of Ecki Brockerhoff of Forest Research Institute, who created, maintained, and updated the site since its infancy.

Unfortunately increasing commitments have meant that Ecki has had to pass on stewardship of the website to a new web editor. John Kean, a population ecologist with AgResearch, has been pleased to take on the role. Like Ecki, John is a firm believer in the "KISS" approach ("Keep It Simple, Stupid"), so don't expect flashy animations and music to be appearing on the website any time soon; instead John is committed to keeping the site clean, easy to navigate, and chock full of useful information on the Society and plant protection in New Zealand.

Meanwhile it is a fitting time to thank Ecki for his valiant efforts as website editor to date, and to acknowledge his role in promoting the Society and its work to the world in general.

John Kean

Managing wilding conifers in New Zealand - present and future

The workshop 'Management of wilding conifers in New Zealand – present and future' was held in association with the Society's 2003 Annual Conference. The proceedings of the workshop have now been published. Those who attended the workshop will receive their copy shortly otherwise copies are available from the Secretary.

An Illustrate Guide to Common Weeds of New Zealand

Bruce Roy, Ian Popay, Paul Champion, Trevor James, Anis Rahman

First published in 1998, *An Illustrated Guide to Common Weeds of New Zealand* is an indispensable tool for the identification and management of weeds in New Zealand. Now in its Second Edition, the book has been updated and improved, with **more pages**, **better photographs** and a **lower RRP!** Second Edition 2004, colour photographs, 314pp, 245x170mm, softback, RRP \$39.95 incl. postage ISBN 0-473-09760-5
Published by NZ Plant Protection Society
* NZPPS members receive 20% discount off this price – mention you're a member when you order.

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PO Box 40, Lincoln 8152
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Email: mwpress@LandcareResearch.co.nz
website: www.mwpress.co.nz

New Fellows of the Royal Society of New Zealand, November 2003

Max Suckling, Senior Scientist, HortResearch, Lincoln

Dr Suckling has contributed extensively to the sustainable methods for horticultural production in New Zealand, substantially reducing dependence on chemical pesticides. Most recently he has shown significant scientific leadership on matters concerning the eradication of the White Spotted Tussock Moth and the Painted apple moth.

David Wardle, Research Scientist, Landcare Research, Lincoln

Dr Wardle is an ecologist who has achieved international recognition for his research on the functional significance of biodiversity for ecosystem processes, advancing the understanding of links between soil and plant ecology.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTISTS 2004 SCIENCE AWARDS

The New Zealand Association of Scientists is seeking nominations from New Zealand science organisations, scientific associations and individuals for this year's Science Communicator Awards and the Association's Medals.

Marsden Medal

The Marsden Medal is awarded for a **lifetime** of outstanding **service** to the cause or profession of science in New Zealand.

Shorland Medal

The Shorland Medal is awarded in recognition of a **major** and **continued contribution** to basic or applied research that has **added significantly** to scientific understanding, or resulted in **significant benefits** to society.

Research Medal

The Research Medal is awarded for outstanding fundamental or applied research in the physical, natural or social sciences published during the preceding three years. Nominees must be under the age of 40 on 1 January of the year in which they are nominated except that, where a scientist has had an interrupted career, the age limit may be extended to a maximum of 45.

Science Communicator Award

One or more Science Communicator Awards will be made to practising scientists for excellence in communicating any area of science or technology to the general public. We seek to recognise a sustained, consistent record of excellent public communication in print, broadcast, public lectures that communicate and publicise science.

If anybody wants more information on any of these awards, please contact Ian Popay.

Conference Notices

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

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>

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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