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New Zealand Plant Protection Society (Inc.)

# Newsletter

December 2004

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## From the President

Biosecurity New Zealand, as MAF's new subsidiary has been imaginatively named, is now in operation and its grand launch took place at the recent Biosecurity Summit held in Auckland. Biosecurity NZ now takes care of the nation's biosecurity from preventing nasties reaching the border, stopping them at the border, through to 'managing' invasive alien animals and plants, some of which have been here since Cook's time. Much of its work, especially on well-established pests will be delegated to the appropriate agencies, be they regional councils, DOC or the Ministries of Health or Fisheries. Biosecurity New Zealand is still ultimately accountable for the whole of biosecurity. We wish it well in what is an increasingly difficult environment. It's always hard to measure the effectiveness of biosecurity. If more invasions are recorded, does that mean more creatures are getting into the country or just that our detection of new ones is more sophisticated?

The AGM this year saw a bit of a turn-over of your reps on the executive committee. Gone are long-serving members like Richard Hill and Kerry Harrington, and more recently-joined people like Paul Brookbank. All have provided valuable service to the Society. Welcome to new members Ian Harvey (also editor of our newsletter) and John Fletcher. I must pay special tribute to Lois McKay who has stood down after doing sterling work as secretary over the last few years. A special welcome, too, to Sonja Reid who has nobly taken on the job of secretary.

Dr George Mason, who used to work with IWD in New Plymouth, and is now involved with Taranaki NuChem, has kindly offered to sponsor a university scholarship in weed science to commemorate Dan Watkins, one of the founders of our Society. This will be organised through the Society. I have also applied for our Society to become a member of the Council of Australian Weed Societies (CAWS). This would give our members' access to cheaper registration at Australian Weeds Conferences and may, one day, mean that we have to host the Australasian Weeds Conference here! If we do that, I'd look at integrating our meeting with that of the Biosecurity Institute, which has more 'weedy' members than we do.

MAF's Sustainable Farming Fund, which held its workshop on Integrated Pest Management on the day before our conference this year, has produced a summary of discussions and suggestions for the future and I have a copy if anyone is interested. The workshop was very successful, and I was pleased that our name was associated with it.

**Ian Popay**

### Extra Note:

Some of you may have heard that I'm in hospital at the moment. However I'm on line and on the 'phone and still doing some work, and Society business. Hopefully it won't be too long before I'm fully back at work and properly in business.

Ian P.

## From the Editor – December 2004

From what I have heard the Hamilton conference was a great success, with even more participants than expected. Volume 57 of *New Zealand Plant Protection* was right on the average number of papers (62) for the last 10 years. The papers are now available as .pdf files on the website and the abstracts are there as .html files. Changes have been made to six papers since publication of the journal at a cost to the authors concerned (\$55 plus GST per paper). After considerable discussion at the Executive Committee meeting it was decided that a separate errata list will not be published. Notification of the papers where changes have been made will be given in the December newsletter (see below) and a note will be put on page ii of the journal to the effect that "The final version of each paper is loaded on the website".

Here is a brief summary of the points I raised in my Editor's report to the AGM in August:

- Be warned that deadlines for submission of manuscripts may be more strictly enforced next year.
- Colour figures are an option for presenting visual information, but they are relatively expensive at approximately \$602 plus GST per page, the cost of which is borne by the author.
- Changes to the journal this year include a revamped "NZPPS Publications" page at the end of the book, the dropping of the President's report from the previous year and some alterations to the text on the inside front cover "Instructions to Authors". The latter change gives a more specific (but still very broad) scope to the journal, whilst also

clarifying what a review paper should encompass.

- This year a policy on standardisation of nomenclature for diseases will be prepared in association with Rob Beresford, Richard Falloon and Alison Stewart. The protocol will be in line with the standards used in *Australasian Plant Pathology* and *Plant Pathology*.
- The submission date for posters has been changed to 15 May. This means that you will have until that date to submit the final poster abstract that will be printed in the journal. I will **not** require a poster title to be submitted on 15 February.

My philosophy for *New Zealand Plant Protection* is to make small changes in style and layout each year to keep the journal up to date with other similar publications. The changes proposed for the 2005 volume are as follows:

- Delete the wording "\*formerly Proceedings of the New Zealand ..." from the title page.
- Use full journal names not abbreviated journal names. After some discussion the Executive Committee concluded that this was unlikely to significantly alter the length of most papers.
- Alter the wording on page ii to strengthen the disclaimer and to clarify the conditions for re-publication of NZPP papers.
- Remove the list of "Common names and chemical abbreviations" at the front of the journal. This information is easily obtained on the internet and there is quite a lot of work involved in maintaining and publishing the list.

If anyone has any concerns about these changes or has suggestions for future changes, please feel free to get in touch with me.

It seems I am wanted back again for what will be my sixth volume as editor of *New Zealand Plant Protection*! Please make my job easy by sticking to the deadlines (abstracts are due 15 February 2005 and full manuscripts on 15 April 2005) and following the authors' instructions (get the latest versions from the website as they change every year). Note that I

now only need one hardcopy of the submitted manuscript (no additional copies of the figures). I look forward to receiving lots of interesting papers and plan to attend the conference in Wellington. Remember that it is easiest to contact me by email, especially with the new personalised email address: editor@nzpps.org. I check my emails every evening so you can generally expect a reply the following morning.

### Changes to published papers

Changes were made to the following papers subsequent to publication of New Zealand Plant Protection, volume 57 (2004). The final versions of these papers are available from the website.

1. Jamieson et al. (p. 13 – changes in first sentence of abstract and first sentence of introduction).
2. Watson (p. 153 – *Paratrichodorus primitivus* changed to *Paratrichodorus minor*).
3. Suckling et al. (p. 167 – changes in formula and first sentence of last paragraph).
4. Suckling et al. (p. 172 – change in formula & p. 173 – change in last sentence in “Male longevity” section).
5. Gerard (p. 192 – change in figure).

“Maximum challenge trial” and “Application technology trial” sections and p. 316 – changes to figure and caption).

6. Nelson et al. (p. 315 – changes to first sentences of “Field evaluation trial”,



**Sue Zydenbos**

## 20th Asian-Pacific Weed Science Society (APWSS) Conference

The 20th APWSS Conference will be held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam from 7 - 11 November 2004. The Conference theme is "Six decades of Weed Science from the discovery of 2,4-D". It will include plenary, oral as well as poster sessions. Abstracts of contributed review or research papers containing up to 300 words need to be submitted by 30 December 2004 on the Abstract form. If accepted, full manuscripts will be required by 30 March 2005.

For further information please contact Anis Rahman ([anis.rahman@agresearch.co.nz](mailto:anis.rahman@agresearch.co.nz)) or Trevor James ([trevor.james@agresearch.co.nz](mailto:trevor.james@agresearch.co.nz))

## Australasian Plant Pathology Society 15<sup>th</sup> biennial Conference - Geelong, Victoria

**26 - 29<sup>th</sup> September 2005**

Mail or fax:  
APPS 2005 Deakin Events Management Services,  
Deakin University waterfront campus  
Geelong Vic. 3217

0061 - 3 - 52278157  
see - [www.deakin.edu.au/events/apps2005](http://www.deakin.edu.au/events/apps2005)

Theme: “Innovations for sustainable plant health”

Closing dates –  
Submission of abstracts and conference registrations – 27 May 2005



## **Sonja Reid is the new secretary of the NZ Plant Protection Society.**

Sonja has been a member of the NZPPS for the last four years since joining Pipfruit NZ as Research Coordinator. Sonja works closely with PNZ Research Manager, Dr Mike Butcher, who is coincidentally a former secretary of NZPPS. Her role with Pipfruit NZ has expanded in the last year to cover more operational functions and she is currently organising the Pipfruit NZ national conference in January in Nelson as well as coordinating aspects of the research programme.

Sonja's has known the horticultural industry for many years, from being raised on a Hawke's Bay pipfruit orchard, completing a Bachelor of Horticulture in Business from Massey University, and working in the industry for the last 13 years. She looks forward to working with the NZPPS committee and being involved with another aspect of the horticultural community.

Sonja replaces Lois McKay who has been secretary for the last ... years. Lois has contributed a great deal to the society over these ... years and we thank her for the time and excellent effort that she has put in. Lois now plans to focus more on her expanding position at AgResearch ...

## **www.nzpps.org goes live!**

From - *John Kean, Website Editor*

Update your links - the NZPPS website is now at **www.nzpps.org**.

Our new easy-to-remember web address, "www.nzpps.org", is now up and running. But fear not, fans of the old address, for "www.hortnet.co.nz/publications/nzpps/index.htm" still works too, which means that your existing shortcuts, bookmarks, links, and Google records will continue to work correctly.

In addition, it is now even easier to contact your Exec Committee members for comments, questions, or bribes. Four new email addresses have been set up:

- secretary@nzpps.org will speed your words to secretary, Sonja
- editor@nzpps.org goes to journal editor, Sue
- newsed@nzpps.org points to newsletter editor, Ian
- webadmin@nzpps.org contacts the website editor.

Check it all out today at [www.nzpps.org](http://www.nzpps.org).

## **Website usage statistics, June 2003 – June 2004**

Over the year to June the NZPPS website recieved a total of 494072 hits (that's 1247 per day) from 159973 visitors (403 per day). Unfortunately it's not quite as impressive as it sounds: more than 75% of the "visitors" recorded were automatic "web-bots" trawling for information on behalf of search engines like Google. The most common visitors (apart from web-bots) were from AgResearch, HortResearch, Lincoln University, Landcare Research, and MAF.

Most referrals came from the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture, followed by Yahoo, Xtra, Google, and AOL search engines. The second most-used links to our

pages came from the RNZIH site, followed by the intriguingly-titled [www.cookzucchini.com](http://www.cookzucchini.com) (!)

The most popular pages were the home page, the journal index, the publications page, and the conference page. The 2002 proceedings (the most recent before the stats period) was also popular, but was out-ranked by a 1995 paper on "Control of nut grass (*Cyperus rotundus*) in asparagus" by Sanders and Rahman, and also by the ever-popular "Temperature-dependent phenology of gorse spider mite" by Hayes, Gourlay and Hill.

The most downloaded PDFs were:

1. "Impacts of transgenic plants and microorganisms on soil biota" by O'Callaghan and Glare, vol 54:105-110 (2001), downloaded by 710 visitors;
2. "Ecological risks and benefits of transgenic plants" by Lövei, vol 54:93-100 (2001), downloaded by 696 visitors;
3. "Fusarium wilt of Canary Island date palms" by Gunn and Summerell, vol 52:29-31 (1999), downloaded by 642 visitors.

The most common search phrases used to find our site in search engines were:

- Google: "nut grass", "pesticide resistance" and "plant protection";
- Yahoo: "nut grass", "konjac root" and "weed leaf" (hmmm...);
- MSN: "licorice", "spider mites" and "weeds";
- AltaVista: "painted apple moth", "venturia inaequalis" and "plutella xylostella".

All of this just goes to show that our work is getting out there, not just to our colleagues in New Zealand, but also to weed and pest control practitioners, licorice lovers, and zucchini chefs worldwide!

## NZ Institute of Agricultural & Horticultural Science Convention in 2005

The New Zealand Institute of Agricultural & Horticultural Science are holding their 2005 convention at Lincoln University from 2.00pm Wednesday 22nd June to 5.00pm Friday **24th June 2005**. We are planning to hold a cocktail function and debate in the evening of Wednesday 22nd June with the theme "**That production is the best means of protecting the flora and fauna of New Zealand**". The following two days of science sessions have the theme "**How much are we worth**".

We are inviting your organisation to join us for these three days. It will be a busy time at Lincoln with the South Island Dairy Event holding their convention from Monday 22nd June to lunch time on Wednesday 22nd June and NZ Society of Animal Production from Tuesday 21st June to Friday 24th June. It will be an excellent time to work closer together, share ideas and information.

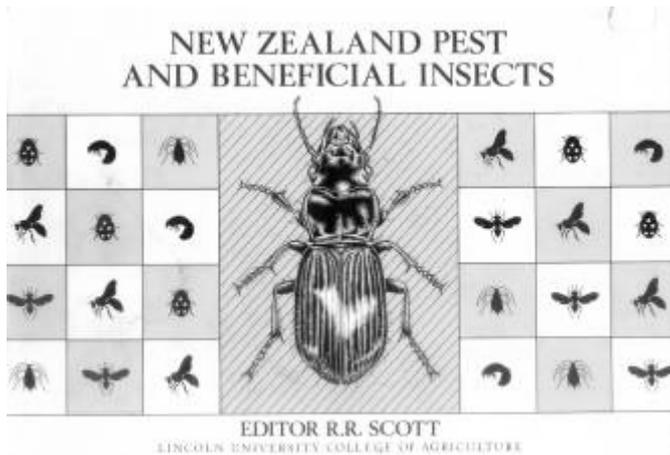
If you have already made arrangement for 2005, can you give us an indication of your plans for 2006 and 2007 so that we may work together in the future, possibly by arranging joint meetings or conferences, where appropriate.

Yours sincerely  
John Palmer

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Website: [www.agscience.org.nz](http://www.agscience.org.nz) or [www.nzshs.org.nz](http://www.nzshs.org.nz)

## BOOKS Etc.



The text 'New Zealand Pest and Beneficial Insects' (RR Scott, editor) and its predecessor 'New Zealand Insect Pests' (DN Ferro, editor) have been standard reference texts for students, research and industry groups and the general public since the mid 1970s. Both texts were largely written by staff of the former Entomology Department at Lincoln University. New Zealand Pest and Beneficial Insects published in 1984, was an update of the earlier text with additional sections on biological control.

Since that time there have been many advances in pest management practices, greater understanding developed of the biology and ecology of important pest species, and the introduction and establishment of many new pests.

This newsletter item is to gauge interest from entomologists in the society to contribute to the development and writing of a new text. If you would like to learn more about this project, please contact:

Bruce Chapman at [chapman@lincoln.ac.nz](mailto:chapman@lincoln.ac.nz)



## Pretty but poisonous Plants poisonous to people - an illustrated guide for Australia

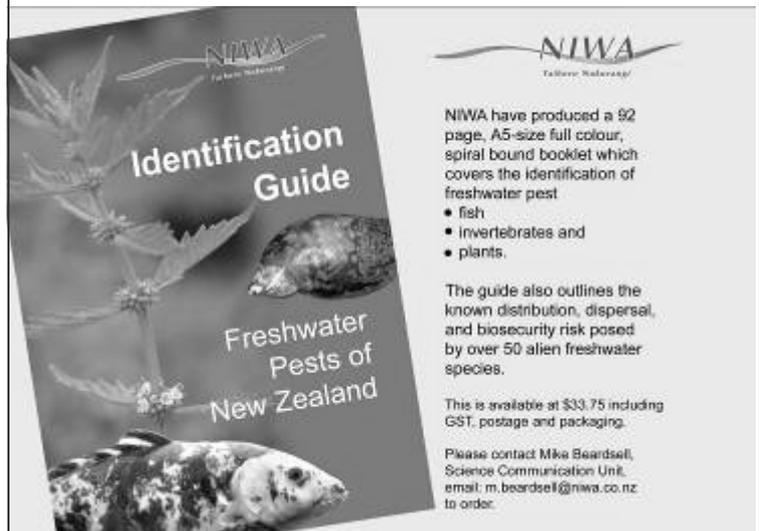
By R.C.H. Shepherd

ISBN 0958743991, published in 2004 by R.G. and F.J. Richardson, colour, gatefold cover, 202 pages

Price \$A39.95 plus \$A10 postage within Australia or \$A30 overseas airmail

Available through [www.weedinfo.com.au](http://www.weedinfo.com.au)

or R.G.Richardson, Box 42, Meredith, Vic.3333



## Many members will remember being lectured (and taught) by Alan Esler at Massey University.

He has recently had published:

*'Wild Plants in Auckland'*

Auckland University Press

Paperback, photographs, original  
line drawings

RRP \$NZ 39.99

Available from Manaarki Whenua Press,  
Lincoln



*Alan Esler circa 1967 demonstrates his extensive skills in blade shearing a sheep on Kapiti Island*

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## **New research aims to keep new pests out of New Zealand**

New research to develop methods and technologies that will help prevent harmful organisms invading New Zealand and damaging the country's ecosystems and agricultural base has received government funding for the next 12 years of about \$70 million.

The announcement regarding the new investment was made by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology today (9 December). The research programme is called Better Border Biosecurity and forms one of the Foundation's new outcome based investments.

The research will be undertaken by an unincorporated joint venture of nine partners which includes research organisations and agencies with responsibility for the New Zealand environment. The partners are Crop & Food Research, AgResearch, HortResearch, Forest Research, the Lincoln University-based National Centre for Advanced Bio-Protection Technologies, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Department of Conservation, the Environmental Risk Management Agency and the Forest Biosecurity Research Council.

Contract manager for the programme, Dr Grant Smith of Crop & Food Research, says work will focus on developing new biosecurity systems and tools for use before, at, or immediately within New Zealand's border.

"The economic cost to this country of pests like the painted apple moth arriving in New Zealand are huge. It's estimated that the annual total cost of new insect pests to the country is around \$2 billion."

This figure includes the direct costs of eradicating pests, lost opportunity costs to exporters who cannot get market access because of the pests, and costs to the environment and natural estate value of the country.

"We must develop better systems and tools to protect New Zealand from these destructive pests and so we welcome additional government investment in this area of research.

"The new technologies and systems which will be developed will significantly reduce this cost to the country and enhance pest detection and eradication at, or before, New Zealand's border."

Dr Smith says the new research will strengthen existing research programmes and enhance collaborations between scientists and stakeholder groups including the Department of Conservation, ERMA, the Forest Biosecurity Research Council and MAF.

The programme's science leader, Dr Craig Phillips of AgResearch, leads an existing programme which has investment from the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology. This programme "Enhanced Biosecurity" forms the core of the new joint venture.

The new tools to be developed include decision support systems to optimise biosecurity decision processes and resource allocations, new methods to manage and treat imported goods to exclude pests, and novel approaches for predicting and minimising pest risks before they reach the border.

The new programme will also seek to work more closely with the Australian Cooperative Research Centre for National Plant Biosecurity. "Australia is an important pathway for pests entering New Zealand and collaborative research with them will benefit both countries," Dr Smith says.

Dr John Smart, Group Manager Investments for the Foundation described the new programme as an excellent example of the type of collaboration which will result in the best possible outcomes for New Zealand.

**Released from Crop & Food Research,  
Dec 2004**

#### **New Members:**

Robert Agnew, HortResearch  
Imogen Bassett, University of Auckland  
Emmanuel Bourguignon, Lincoln University  
Judith Candy, Bioprotection, Lincoln Univ.  
Seona Casonato, HortResearch  
Kim Crook, AgResearch  
Malcolm Dallow, Agribusiness Training  
John Knight, MAF  
Kirstin McLean, Bioprotection, Lincoln Univ.  
Vesna Mijalkivic, Southern Star Seeds Ltd  
Melanie Newfield, Dept Conservation  
Ingrid Newman, HortResearch  
Grant Smith, Crop & Food Research  
Michael Spiers, HortResearch  
David Wallis, HortResearch

#### **Corporate members of the Society**

**AgResearch**  
**Aventis CropScience Pty**  
**BASF New Zealand Ltd**  
**Crop & Food Research**  
**Crop Care NZ**  
**Dow Agrosciences Ltd**  
**Du Pont NZ Ltd**  
**Forest Research**  
**Foundation for Arable Research**  
**HortResearch**  
**Monsanto New Zealand Ltd**  
**Nufarm Ltd**  
**Syngenta Crop Protection Limited**  
**VegFed**  
**Yates NZ Ltd**

**Seasons Greetings and all best  
wishes for the New Year**

- from  
The President and committee of the NZPPS

