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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

While looking up "Integrated Pest Management Innovation" on the internet recently (clearly I'm clutching at straws to get new ideas!), I came across an interesting looking conference session at the fourth national IPM Symposium/workshop (USA) called "*Dubious products for Integrated Pest Management*". Feeling intrigued, I discovered papers in this session called "*Medical-Veterinary Entomology: Fads, Phonies, Fakes and Frauds in Vector Suppression*", "*Vain Hopes and Last Resorts in Field and Forest Pest Suppression*", "*Good Ideas Gone Bad in Structural Pest Control*" and "*Curious, Cautionary, and Inexplicable Natural Products Used in Pest Control*". With my curiosity thorough piqued, I was disappointed to discover that only the titles were provided. I did wonder how such a session would be received at the New Zealand Plant Protection conference and whether the publication of such a collection of papers would have a positive or negative impact on the journal's profile! I think one of the real challenges in trying to write one of these papers would be getting hold of rigorous data to support comments about the performance of such 'curious, cautionary and inexplicable natural products'. Possibly something suitable for a poster?



To get back to the point, I was really looking up these keywords as I was interested in how IPM innovation was defined, and recognised. For example, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation recognises IPM Innovation through an annual "IPM Innovator" awards ceremony. These awards recognise the efforts of individuals in reducing pesticide risks. I think this is an excellent approach, and the NZ Plant Protection Society committee is currently exploring options for developing our own Plant Protection medal to recognise significant contributions to Plant Protection. You will hear more on this as the concept is progressed.

I hope all your Plant Protection activities are going well and you have a great Christmas

Philippa

MAF's Role in Developing & Providing Quarantine Testing

by Gerard Clover, PEQ Team Manager, MAF



New Zealand's primary industries are dependent on introduced agricultural plants. Access to new genetic material is crucial to the development of improved varieties, as well as providing a basis for research and innovation in the biotechnology sector.

All plants imported into New Zealand must meet certain phytosanitary requirements prior to receiving clearance. The aim of these requirements is to ensure that damaging pests and diseases are not inadvertently imported in association with the plants. The requirements are determined by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) and published in import health standards. Requirements include inspection, testing or treatment of the plants, prior to export, upon arrival at the New Zealand border and/or in post-entry quarantine (PEQ). Further information about the import requirements for plants may be found at: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/commercial-imports/plant-imports/introduction>

Unless sourced from MAF-approved high-health schemes, all high-value crops (e.g. apples, citrus and potatoes) must be imported into the most contained level of PEQ (Level 3). Level 3 PEQ facilities in New Zealand are privately run and two companies (Linnaeus: www.linnaeus.co.nz, and HortResearch: www.hortresearch.co.nz) provide facilities for a number of crops, including avocados, grapevines and kiwifruit.

Plants in Level 3 PEQ must undergo a pre-determined testing regime prior to clearance and therefore to be fully operational PEQ facilities must have access to a testing laboratory. Until recently all such laboratories were run by private industry, e.g. Linnaeus. However, such companies only provide testing for a limited number of crops and therefore MAF Biosecurity New Zealand's Plant Health and Environment Laboratory (PHEL, formerly the National Plant Pest Reference Laboratory) has been mandated to: develop and validate PEQ testing manuals (describing the materials and methods used to test for pests and diseases in quarantine); and provide PEQ testing (on a cost-recovered basis) that is not offered by private industry.

PHEL has recently completed PEQ testing manuals for imported *Actinidia* (kiwifruit) and *Vaccinium* (blueberry) and will consult shortly on manuals for *Solanum* (potato) and *Malus* (apple). The laboratory is also providing testing for plants imported from high-health schemes, e.g. audit testing of apples, citrus and various *Prunus* species.

PHEL is also responsible for diagnosing the cause of any pest and disease symptoms that are observed by MAF Quarantine Service during their routine inspections of plants held in Level 1, 2 or 3 PEQ. This diagnostic work is also cost-recovered and complements the pre-determined testing that is required for crops held in Level 3 PEQ.

Further details about PHEL's activities can be found at the following website: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/imports/plants/standards/high-value-crops>

The laboratory also distributes a stakeholder update every 2-3 months; previous updates are archived on the website and to subscribe please contact the team at the address below.

Contact point for further information:

Gerard Clover
PEQ Team Manager
Tel: 09 574 4191
Mobile: 029 9095 709
Email: peqtesting@maf.govt.nz



PHEL's glasshouse facilities used for bioassays of diseased plants



The modern virology laboratories in PHEL's Tamaki site

Reporting a SUSPECT new to New Zealand organism to MAF Biosecurity New Zealand

by Karyn Froud, Incursion Investigation Plants and Environment Team Manager, MAF

Scientists, industry representatives and farmers or growers in the primary industries are usually the first to detect new organisms or their impact on New Zealand's productive sectors and environment. As such, you can play an important role in reporting these organisms to Biosecurity New Zealand (BNZ) so that immediate investigation, containment and response actions may be implemented where required.

BNZ runs a 'hotline' for reporting new or suspect new to New Zealand organisms. To report your suspicion, simply phone **0800 80 99 66**. A call centre will answer, your call will be filtered using simple questions (this allows us to redirect general public calls and target scientific and industry callers), and result in your contact details being paged to a BNZ Incursion Investigator for the appropriate sector. Incursion Investigators in BNZ cover plant and environmental pests and diseases; exotic vertebrates and animal diseases, and marine animals and diseases. Within the Plant and Environment team, we specialise in new or suspect new horticultural, forestry and environmental invertebrate pests and plant diseases, exotic plants (weeds), escaped GMO's, and freshwater plants and invertebrates.

The Incursion Investigation Plant and Environment team is part of BNZ's Investigation and Diagnostic Centres (IDC), which are located in Auckland, Lincoln and Wallaceville. The team's role is to receive notifications and investigate. We generally start by asking a range of questions relating to the organism and host, and arranging a sample for identification or validation by the IDC Plant Health and Environment Laboratory. Depending on the organism we may arrange a site visit, and may implement immediate actions to contain the organism while an identification is confirmed and decisions on how the biosecurity system should respond are made. The earlier an organism is reported, the better our chances are of containing further spread, which in turn will make eradication or control more feasible.



This service is fully funded and we work closely with the reporting scientists and growers during an investigation.

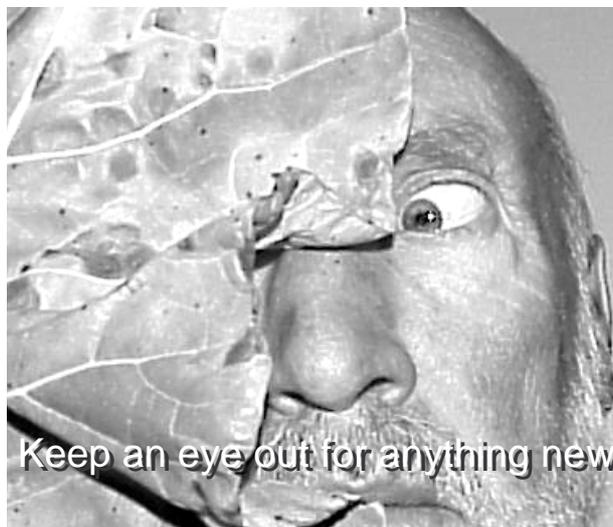
As scientists and industry representatives you need to be aware of the statutory obligation to report within the Biosecurity Act 1993:

Section 44 General duty to inform -

(1) Every person is under a duty to inform the Ministry, as soon as practicable in the circumstances, of the presence of what appears to be an organism not normally seen or otherwise detected in New Zealand.

(2) The duty to inform does not apply in relation to an organism that is seen or otherwise detected in a place where it may lawfully be present in accordance with an approval given under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996.

Your obligations under section 44 are fulfilled by phoning the **MAF 0800 80 99 66** hotline. For general enquiries on how MAF undertakes an investigation please contact Karyn Froud, Incursion Investigation Plants and Environment Team Manager (09) 574 4029, froudk@maf.govt.nz



CAWS - a report by Ian Popay

The New Zealand Plant Protection Society is now a full member of the Council of Australasian Weed Societies (CAWS). The benefits for our members include - discounts for attendance at Australian Weeds Conferences, and gives us access to awards like the CAWS medal for leadership, the Annual Student Travel Award, and the Annual Early Career Weed Scientist Travel Award. You can find details of these on the CAWS website <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~weedss/>. (There's a link on our website home page, and yes, we are working on making that logo an *Australasian* one!). Details of the Student and Early Career Awards are outlined below. A new CAWS award is now available for the 'Most Weed-friendly Nursery in New Zealand'. You'll hear more about that later.



- **CAWS Annual Student Travel Award**
- **CAWS Annual Early Career Weed Scientist Travel Award**

These awards will be made available annually, or less frequently depending on the standard of the applications. Applications are invited from students and early career weed scientists to attend national or international conferences, or for specific overseas study tours of a short duration. The applications are to be submitted annually to CAWS by affiliated societies. The awards will be made by 1st July each year for the following 12 months.

Annual Student Travel Award: This award will be made to undergraduate, Master, PhD or other postgraduate students, or those who have completed their studies in the previous twelve months at the date of application. An early career travel award is available for those who have completed their studies less recently (see below). Those studying in the fields of agriculture, botany, biology,

ecology, horticulture and forestry or related subjects, with some focus on weed science are encouraged to apply.

The value of this award is A\$3,000 per annum. General conditions also apply (see below).

Annual Early Career Weed Scientist Travel Award: This award will be made to early-career weed scientists who have, at the date of application, completed their last degree (undergraduate, Master, PhD or other postgraduate degree) within the last five years. Applicants will also have commenced employment in any branch of weed science.

The value of this award is A\$2,000 per annum. General conditions also apply (see below).

General conditions and information on application: The Awards will be open to anyone residing in Australia or New Zealand, but members of Societies affiliated with CAWS may be given preference. The committee may at its discretion award more than one award for each category.

The awards are not expected to cover the total cost of the Conference or study tour being undertaken. It will therefore be necessary for an applicant to ensure that other funding is available. Applicants attending conferences will be expected to give a presentation (oral paper or poster) at the conference and to submit an abstract of their paper with their application.

On return the successful applicant will be expected to give a report to the nominating Society, either as a written report for the Newsletter or as part of a seminar, meeting or workshop conducted by that Society. It will be part of the successful applicant's duty to pass on as much information as possible to the nominating Society and it is the right of the Society to specify the format of the report.

Applications are to be forwarded by 1st May each year to the Secretary/Treasurer of CAWS - Ms Lynn Broos
C/- Department of Primary Industries and Water
PO Box 303
Devonport TAS 7310
Fax: 03 6424 5142; email Helen.Sims@dpiw.tas.gov.au

Applications will normally be accepted until May 1st for consideration each year. This period may be extended at the discretion of the committee. Application forms will be available from the Secretary of each Society.

CAWS Early Career Weed Scientist Travel Award application forms are available online or can be obtained from the Secretary of each Society



"Well, this is how I see it ...a herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo. And when the herd is hunted, it's the slowest and the weakest ones at the back who are killed first. Of course, this natural selection is good for the herd as a whole because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular killing of the weakest members.

In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells. Excessive intake of alcohol, as we know, kills brain cells. But naturally, it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first. In this way, regular consumption of alcohol eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster and more efficient machine. That's why I always feel smarter after a few glasses of wine"

Conference 2007

NAPIER



The 2007 conference and symposium will be held in Napier at the Napier War Memorial and Convention Centre, Marine Parade from 13-16 August 2007.

The symposium is currently in the preliminary stages of organisation. The theme will focus around Good Agricultural Practice and will include presentations from Government, Research and Sector organisations. Details will be available on the NZPPS website in the next few weeks.

Within the conference we would like to hold special sessions on “pipfruit, grapes and other horticultural crops” as well as “surveillance and monitoring for biosecurity”. The intention would be like to conclude these sessions with a panel discussion. We ask that members think carefully about whether they have any appropriate work to present. Also, if members have any suggestions of an invited speaker for one of those topics then let one of the executive committee members know. However, please remember that written papers will be subject to the normal refereeing and editorial process. If there is support for these sessions we will let the authors know.

Accommodation has been reserved at Scenic Circle Te Dania Hotel, directly opposite the conference venue. A booking form will be available on the Society website, and this should be completed if you intend to stay at this hotel. The Society has been quoted a special price of \$149 + GST/night but the booking form must be completed to secure this price. Other accommodation options will also be listed on the website.

Next year’s conference will commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Society. The committee is currently discussing ways of celebrating this milestone. Due to the conference being held in the ‘Art Deco Capital of the World’, we are looking at Art Deco related themes and activities. If you have any commemoration ideas please contact a member of the committee.

Society Matters –

What has the committee been doing in the last 6 months?



Inexperienced presenter competition:

Eight speakers entered the inaugural competition at the 2006 conference. Organised by Sue Zydenbos and Toni Withers, the competition was a great success and will continue in future years. Congratulations to Mandy Barron who was presented with a \$50 book voucher for winning this years competition.

Book sales with Manaaki Whenua:

The NZPPS committee is currently organising for Manaaki Whenua to advertise and sell all NZPPS books in future. This move is being made to simplify sales of Society books.

Conference and symposium 2007:

Next years conference and symposium will be held in Napier at the War Memorial and Conference centre from 13-16 August. Further details are in this newsletter and available on the NZPPS website www.nzpps.org. The conference committee are currently discussing how the 60th anniversary for the Society is celebrated. An Art Deco style conference theme is currently being explored.

Council of Australasian Weed Societies (CAWS):

NZPPS is a full member of CAWS. CAWS has rewritten their constitution and a new CAWS logo which includes New Zealand is being designed. NZPPS will put forward a proposal to CAWS that the 2010 CAWS conference is held in New Zealand

NZPPS Website:

John Kean (Website Editor) has digitised all back copies of NZPP and they are available on the NZPPS website.

Pesticide resistance strategy committees:

The NZPPS committee continues to work on the establishment of a Pesticide Resistance committee. A fungicide task group has already been formed to deal with a specific issue. A prioritisation framework is needed and it is hoped that the committee will be established in the next 6 months.

DOC – Wildlife Act Changes:

NZPPS made a submission to DOC on a Public Discussion Document regarding 'Review of level of protection for some New Zealand Wildlife'. The committee raised comments regarding the affect that the new act may have on international trade, agriculture and research.



The committee (yes, all of us) wish members (and anyone else who picks up this newsletter and bothers to read it) a very merry Christmas and a pestful holiday season!

Society Scholarships Awarded

The Society scholarships committee consisting of Sue Zydenbos, Trevor James and Philippa Stevens recently announced the recipients of the two Society scholarships for 2007.

Ronny Groeteman from the University of Canterbury has been awarded the Dan Watkins Scholarship in Weed Science for 2007. Mrs Groeteman, who will begin her third and final year of a PhD in Weed Ecology in 2007, was presented with a cheque for \$5000 for her work on 'Population Biology Modelling as a means for improving biological control of weeds: thistles as a case study'.



Michael Cripps of Lincoln University was awarded with the New Zealand Plant Protection Society Scholarship for his work on 'Understanding multi-trophic interactions in a biological control context'. Mr Cripps, who is 6 months into his PhD received \$3000 for the award.

The scholarships committee commented on the extremely high caliber of science shown in the recipients' applications. There were thirteen applicants for the New Zealand Plant Protection scholarship and 7 applicants for Dan Watkins Scholarship in Weed Science this year.

Congratulations to the successful candidates. Members of the Society look forward to hearing the results of your studies!

Inexperienced Speakers Award

This year the NZPPS Executive Committee initiated an award for "Inexperienced Speakers presenting for the first time at NZPPS conference".

Eligibility is somewhat loosely defined – the aim of the award is to encourage people who have not presented very many papers before and will mainly encompass students, technical staff and new scientists. It must be the first time the contestant has presented a paper at the New Zealand Plant Protection Society conference, but they may have presented a paper at another conference(s). There were 8 contestants for the award this year and they were judged on the following criteria:

- Content (30% of total score), which included scientific validity and speech development,
- Delivery (40% of total score), which included Powerpoint presentations, body language, eye contact and voice projection,
- Language (20% of total score), which included the choice of appropriate words and proper use of grammar,
- The ability to answer questions (10% of total score).

All contestants gave a very high standard of presentation (in fact, it has been suggested that the standard was better than some "experienced presenters!"), but the three judges were unanimous in their choice of Mandy Barron as the winner. Congratulations Mandy – we just had one question – how many spiders were there?



From the Editor - December 2006

I really enjoyed the conference this year and hope you all got lots of good information and met some new people. Below is a summary of my report to the AGM – in case you missed it.

There were 60 papers published in *New Zealand Plant Protection* this year and 36 posters were presented at the conference. The length of papers continued to increase, reaching 6 pages/paper compared to less than 5 pages/paper prior to 2000, and there were significantly more rejected papers this year. I urge all authors to invest some time into the planning of their papers, particularly where students and inexperienced researchers are involved. I am still hearing from co-authors saying they haven't read a paper or were only give a couple of hours before submission to make comments – this is unacceptable.

The papers are now up on the website and there are only minor changes to two papers from the journal– some missing authors were inserted into a reference on page 46 and a sentence was added to the acknowledgements on page 129.

Some minor alterations to the journal format were made in line with our ongoing efforts to update and improve it. These include relaxing the five-word restriction on keywords (you can now have up to 10 keywords) and changes to the instructions for presenting scientific names.

Thanks to those people who submitted their figures as .tif or .jpg files – for the first time this was the majority of people and made my job a lot easier. If you are disappointed with the quality of your figure, think carefully about how you prepared it and compare it with other figures in the journal. A common mistake is to use lines that are grey (instead of black) and that are not wide enough. Also, make sure that the axis labels are big enough to be read – it is usually better to use a larger font and not put it in bold, than to bold a small font.

Note that I have changed the instructions for the poster abstracts that are printed in *New Zealand Plant Protection*. Poster abstracts must now be a maximum of 240 words, including title, authors and addresses. This is because we have had difficulty fitting abstracts into the two per page layout. While most people were writing 200 word abstracts, some had a big long title, along with seven co-authors from four different organisations, which increased the number of words significantly. Please think carefully about who your co-authors are, as it will now limit the amount of information you are able to present in the abstract. Also, I apologise for the confusion about the deadline for submission of poster abstracts. Recently the instructions were changed but were not altered in all places on the website. Thus – 15 May is the deadline for poster abstracts and you do not need to submit a poster title in February.

Thanks to everyone for their help this year, particularly referees and executive committee members, and I look forward to receiving your abstracts before 15 February for volume 60! You can contact me on either email address (editor@nzpps.org OR zydenbos@xtra.co.nz). Emails are checked every evening and you can generally expect a reply the following morning if it is urgent.



New Zealand Plant Protection is a scientific journal

Dr Sue Zydenbos
Editor, New Zealand Plant Protection



As most of you will know, the Society's annual publication of scientific papers has been steadily evolving over the past ten years. In 1999 a decision was made to rename the publication to *New Zealand Plant Protection*, dropping reference to it being a "Proceedings". A proceedings is defined as "a report of a series of meetings or a conference" and this would tend to imply that a proceedings is published after the event. Since *NZPP* is published before the conference, I believe that this is a key reason why it should be considered a journal rather than the traditional "conference proceedings". In fact, this has been recognised in recent correspondence with Massey University in relation to the two criteria that PBRF uses to determine whether a publication is a journal article or a conference proceedings.

These are:

- (1) The material is published PRIOR to presenting at the conference
- (2) The conference material has been significantly extended for the purposes of publication in the journal.

NZPP definitely fits the prior publication criterion and I believe that the second criterion is also fulfilled. For the six years prior to 2000, the average length of a paper was 5 pages. Since then paper length has increased steadily, reaching 6 pages/paper this year. However, the time allocated for a conference presentation has not changed over this time, and from sitting in the audience, I know it is not possible for authors to orally present all of the information in the written paper. Therefore, in most cases, the published paper is significantly different from the conference presentation and generally contains much more information. (Note that the Massey University PBRF recommendation for *NZPP* is that it is actually two "publications"- the journal article and a conference presentation. However, unless your PowerPoint presentation has a different title to the journal article, I would be wary of doing this as it may jeopardise the journal article category in the long run.)

While the above points relate specifically to PBRF decisions, there are other criteria that define a scientific journal. Probably the most important of these is "peer-review". As you all know, *NZPP* standard practice is to allocate one referee to each paper, and for convenience, these have almost all been New Zealand-based researchers. Where there are concerns about a paper, second or even third referees are allocated. Most of you will also have encountered comments from me that would come into the category of scientific review, as opposed to my editorial input from a grammatical or style perspective. In particular, I carefully referee manuscripts from a statistical perspective and will consult a statistician if I am unhappy with an analysis. I am also quite strict about developing a strong scientific discussion in *NZPP* papers and many of you will have been queried as to why you haven't cited a piece of relevant literature. Therefore, from an internal point of view, I do feel that *NZPP* papers are well refereed, but from an "external" point of view, our standing as a journal could be enhanced by allocating a second, international referee to each paper. The downside of this alternative would be earlier submission deadlines (e.g. 15 March) and the extra cost of my time for administering an extra referee.

Another factor in defining a scientific journal is the "timeliness of publication" and this often refers to how regularly each issue is published. One evaluation of criteria for scientific journals that I have read suggested that for Agricultural and Life Sciences, the desirable publication frequency is quarterly, with 40 articles per year being published. As you know, we only publish one issue of each volume (i.e. annually) and the average number of papers over the last 10 years has been 62. Thus, in the future, another way to enhance our standing as a scientific journal would be to publish

multiple issues of the journal. This change would be a radical departure from the current situation, altering the submission cycle significantly and undoubtedly increasing the costs of publication.

Surprisingly, definitions of scientific journals don't usually discuss whether there should be a specific policy on the percentage of rejected papers. As I have mentioned earlier in this newsletter, the number of papers rejected has increased markedly in the last few years, which I believe is in line with increased standards required for publishing papers in NZPP.

To summarise, I believe that *NZPP* should now be considered a scientific journal but to further enhance the image other, more significant changes may be needed in future. I am not actually advocating these changes (I already have enough work as it is!) but think that it is timely to raise them as discussion points.

Postscript

I have recently been editing a large number of CVs and associated reference lists of researchers associated with plant protection. I have been both heartened and dismayed at the way *New Zealand Plant Protection* has been cited. A majority of people did cite *NZPP* as a journal article but some cited it as a conference proceedings. What was completely unacceptable (and will jeopardise our standing as a scientific journal) was that some people cited poster abstracts as journal articles.

If you are unsure how to cite your *NZPP* papers, please refer to the back page of the journal, which lists the correct names for the publications. In addition, use the following rules:

- Prior to 2000, the word "Proceedings" is in the title and to be conservative, I would cite those papers as conference proceedings, e.g. *Francis SM 1992. Woolly aphids on the Canterbury plains. Proceedings of the 45th New Zealand Plant Protection Conference: 59-62.*
- From 2000, cite as a journal article using volume and page numbers, e.g. *New Zealand Plant Protection 53: 421-426.*
- All posters must be cited as conference presentations and I would suggest that "(Abstract only)" is added to the citation after the page number, e.g. *Zydenbos SM 2007. What is a scientific paper? New Zealand Plant Protection 60: 549 (Abstract only).*

Were you caught at the Dinner?



Marlborough Wines are tops!!



"Is the wine getting to you?"

"Well, I always seem to have a Phil Glass"



The entertainers (where were you when we needed you)



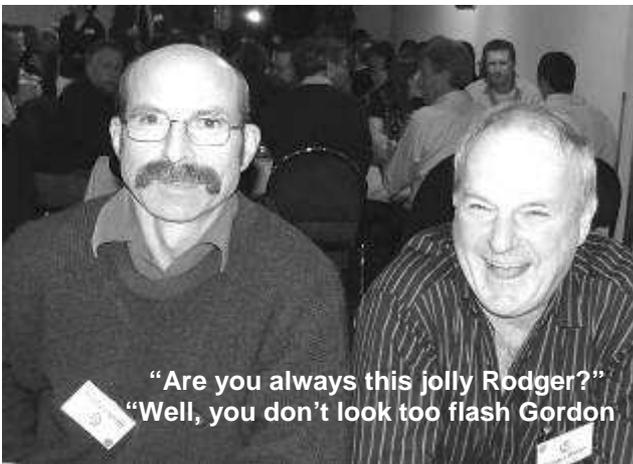
Ooo Kerry, you are naughty



We vote ourselves the best looking table - OK!



Didn't we do well?



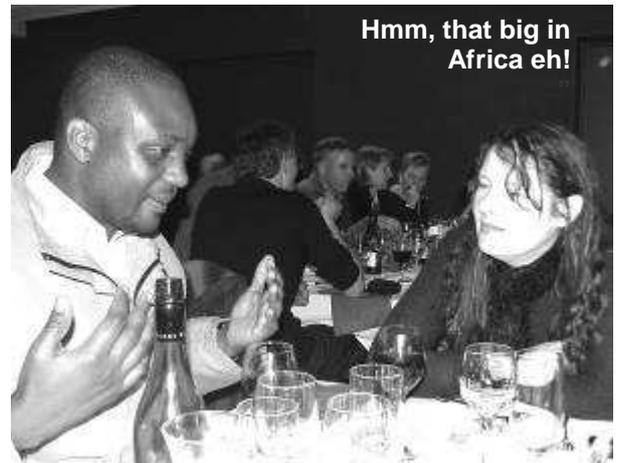
"Are you always this jolly Rodger?"
"Well, you don't look too flash Gordon"



"I think we broke the camera, Sonja"
"You're quite capable of doing that by yourself, Bob"



No, no not that word,
Marlene"



Hmm, that big in
Africa eh!