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From the Secretary's desk...

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

Membership fees

The executive committee has decided to increase the Ordinary Members annual membership fee to \$60 beginning this year. The \$5 increase in annual fees is to cover the rising operating costs of running the Society. Student fees will remain at \$20.

Modernising the rules of the Society

Trevor James has been responsible for updating the rules of the Society, including terminology, to better reflect the changing requirements of a modern professional Society. The changes are listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Arrears payments

The committee has recently formalised the arrangement with arrears payments. Some members have previously missed membership payments and have only paid the current membership fee and not fees in arrears, to update their membership. Members with membership payments in arrears will now be formally notified on their annual membership invoice that they have fees in arrears owing, and that these fees must be paid in order to continue their membership. Members two years in arrears will be deleted from the Society membership list and reinstatement as members will require reapplication and payment of membership fees, including two years of fees in arrears.

Formalisation of this process has been necessary to reduce time spent on administering the membership database and encourage members to keep their Society membership up to date.

Council of Australasian Weed Societies (CAWS)

NZPPS is currently writing a proposal to hold the 2010 CAWS conference at the Christchurch Conference Centre on 26-30 September 2010.

Weed wise nursery

As part of NZPPS membership of CAWS, we are able to nominate New Zealand plant nurseries for the most 'Weed Wise' retail nursery. The purpose of the award is to create awareness and generate positive publicity regarding invasive garden plants. Nominations for the award closed on 30 April. Please watch this space to find out the winner for this year.

Creation of the New Zealand Plant Protection Medal

Through a great idea of George Follas, a Society medal has been created and will be awarded at the conference this year. The medal is to acknowledge an individual for outstanding services to plant protection in New Zealand. See elsewhere in this newsletter for details.

Pesticide Resistance Committees

Unfortunately we were unsuccessful in a bid for funding from Sustainable Farming Fund to formalise a committee to work on pesticide resistance issues. The executive committee of the Society will readdress this issue at the next committee meeting and look at other ways of advancing this idea.

Sonja

60th Annual Conference – Napier

As most of you will know, the 60th annual conference will be held in Napier at the War Memorial and Conference Centre from 14-16 August, and preceded on 13 August by a Symposium on 'Future Challenges in Crop Protection: Repositioning New Zealand's primary industries for the future'.

The conference will, as always, be brimming with the latest research and developments within plant protection, with some sessions focussing on the main horticultural crops in the Hawke's Bay area. We would like to encourage as many industry people as possible to attend these sessions in order to demonstrate the level of research work being carried out by Society members, and the importance of this work to the respective horticultural and agricultural industries within the Hawke's Bay region. Please encourage your industry contacts to attend all or part of the conference and/or symposium in order to gain a valuable insight into the science issues affecting local and national horticulture and agriculture.



In addition to the regular events within the conference programme there will also be events organised around the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the first Society conference including:

- Presentation of the inaugural NZ Plant Protection Medal for outstanding services to plant protection (*enclosed with this newsletter is a nomination form*).
- A Members photo, to be taken before the poster session, wine and cheese evening on Tuesday 14 August. (*Members – please be available for the anniversary photo, to record your involvement with the Society at this significant occasion*).

Other events worth a mention are:

- The annual conference dinner on Wednesday, 15 August will be held at the historic Mission Estate Winery, Church Road, Taradale. Buses will be available to transport people to and from the Mission
- An Art Deco walk will be available for interested participants after the conference on Thursday, 16 August. The tour provides a history of Napier's Art Deco architecture and its formation since the destructive 1931 earthquake. The tour which will be organised through the Society will cost \$10 and will last for an hour. It is an extremely interesting tour so consider this when booking your flights!

Membership renewals and registrations forms for the conference are bundled with this May newsletter. All conference attendees will be able to book for these extra activities together with their conference registration. Conference registration forms will also be available on the NZPPS website www.nzpps.org.

Lastly, for those requiring accommodation in Napier, we have reserved rooms for a special price of \$149 + GST, at Scenic Circle Te Pania Hotel, directly across the road from the conference centre. Anyone wishing to book at this hotel should complete a booking form which is available on the NZPPS website, under 'Conference 2007' and fax or email it to the hotel. There is a range of accommodation available including back-packer hostels, Bed & Breakfasts, motels, and hotels. If you do not have transport it is advisable to book accommodation on the Marine Parade, Napier, which is where the conference centre is situated.

See you all in August

NEW WEBSITE HOST

- CHECK YOUR BOOKMARKS

The NZPPS website (<http://www.nzpps.org>) has moved! HortNet has kindly hosted our website since its creation several years ago, but increasing usage and the requirement for greater functionality has led to us obtaining a new, independent host.



Q. What does this mean for me?

A. Well, if you have been using our [nzpps.org](http://www.nzpps.org) address for a while, then you probably won't see any difference. But if you had bookmarked the website using its old HortNet address you will need to edit this to point to the new address: <http://www.nzpps.org>. Note also that if you have links to journal papers, they may still be indexed to the old HortNet address. e.g. http://www.hortnet.co.nz/publications/nzpps/journal/59/nzpp59_001.htm is now http://www.nzpps.org/journal/59/nzpp59_001.php (note also the change from ".htm" to ".php" in the extension).

Q. But I thought we had been www.nzpps.org for ages?

A. Yes, but in the past that had simply redirected you to the HortNet site. Now it works properly, pointing you to our very own website host and allowing you to bookmark pages using our name instead of HortNet's.

Q. Why do the page names end in ".php" now, instead of ".htm"?

A. Php is a web programming language. Among other things, it allows us to optimise the amount of data transferred (good for those of us in remote areas using dial-up connections!), and also to create dynamic web pages which change according to context. While we don't yet use the latter on the public part of the website, some of our behind-the-scenes administration tasks are now automated using php. And we now have a complete database of all the papers published, right back to volume 1 in 1948, which we can query using php.

Q. So what other changes do you have in mind for the NZPPS website?

A. Our primary objective is to make the website useful for NZPPS members and the science and primary production communities at large. Most of the core functionality of the website is already there, but our new web host will allow us to add more complex features in the future, such as online submission of papers and internet subscription payments, should these be seen as useful additions.

Q. What if I think the website sucks?

A. Let us know! As always, feedback on the website, its design and functionality, are gratefully received, whether good or bad. Without feedback we can't make things better. So send your comments to webadmin@nzpps.org.



John Kean

From the Editor – May 2007

The paper numbers for the proceedings at this stage are about average for the last 10 years, so hopefully we will be able to schedule time for some good discussion. We are planning to hold a special session on Pipfruit & Grapes that will focus on the Hawke's Bay regions and we hope this will attract some local non-members to attend.

Thanks to all those referees who have got their papers back so promptly. While I have deadlines that you must meet, please be aware that I can't edit all 60-plus papers at once, so you will need to be patient and understanding as I deal with them. In particular, do not expect me to acknowledge receipt of your abstract and papers submissions, or referee's responses. If you work it out, it is several hours of work just to make these replies ... and I definitely don't have that spare time! The only time you need to get worried is if you have submitted an abstract and not heard from me by 15 March – which is when I will have sent out the details of your paper number, referee and any instructions. Once you have had that email, you are on my database and I will query you if something doesn't turn up!

There has been quite a lot of misunderstanding this year about poster abstracts and the 15 May deadline. I think this comes from some abbreviated instructions on the initial "Instructions for authors" web page. Please note:

(1) I DO NOT require poster titles in February. All I need is the 240 word abstract before 15 May. Note that this year, although the word limit has been extended to "less than 240 words", this now includes title, authors and addresses.

(2) For papers, the 15 May deadline is ONLY available to authors who have collected their data after 15 February, and this is ONLY by prior approval. This means you must request the deadline when you submit the abstract. Please note that I may not be able to accept your paper for that deadline because I can only handle a limited number of papers at that time.

Remember that the draft programme for the conference will be posted on the website about 15 June. Also, please notify me if you think you qualify for the "inexperienced speaker" award. This will be presented at the end of the last session of the conference so make your travel plans accordingly.

Please read the instructions for presenters on the website. Take some time to prepare properly for your talk at the conference by practising in front of your peers so that we continue to have a high standard of presentation. Remember that it is not expected that you present all of your data and it is perfectly acceptable to refer to the full paper during your talk. Note that Trevor James is the co-ordinator for presentations so don't send anything to me. Also, overheads and slides are not supported any longer – the only option for presenters is PowerPoint.

In the last newsletter I wrote an article entitled “*New Zealand Plant Protection is a scientific journal*”. I want to strongly emphasise that if you wish to count your presentation to the conference as a separate output, it **must** have a different title to the full journal article.

Unfortunately I won't be attending the conference this year, but hope you all have a great time. Don't feel too sorry for me because at that time I expect to be sailing around the Swedish archipelago with my family and our Swedish friends!

Sue Zydenbos

The New Zealand Plant Protection Medal



Plant Protection science and technology has played a critical part in supporting the ongoing success of New Zealand's primary industries. In order to recognise outstanding contributions to plant protection, the society has instigated *The New Zealand Plant Protection Medal*. The medal will be awarded based on outstanding services to plant protection, whether through research, education, implementation or leadership. The nominees do not need to be a member of the New Zealand Plant Protection Society. But, those nominating anyone **MUST** be a member of New Zealand Plant Protection Society. Each nomination must include a seconder, who should also be a member of New Zealand Plant Protection Society.

The inaugural medal will be presented at the 60th conference to be held in Napier this year. Members are invited to submit nominations using the nomination form included in this bundle (see also www.nzpps.org).

All completed nominations must be sent to the Secretary by **1 July 2007**.

Inexperienced Speakers Award



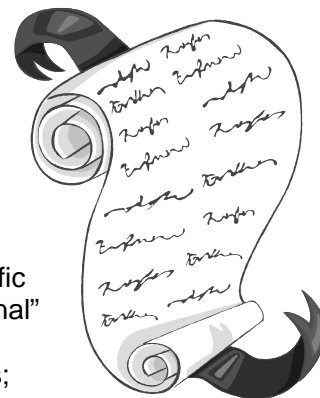
This award will be presented again this year. Eligibility is somewhat loosely defined – the aim of the award is to encourage people who have not presented very many papers before and will mainly encompass students, technical staff and new scientists. It **must** be the first time the contestant has presented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

- Content (40% of total score), which includes scientific validity and speech development,
- Delivery (50% of total score), which includes PowerPoint presentations, physical projection (appearance, body language and eye contact), manner and voice projection, and language
- The ability to answer questions (10% of total score).

If you are presenting a paper this year and you think that you would qualify for the award, please contact the Editor, Sue Zydenbos, who is collating the list of contestants (editor@nzpps.org).

Changes to the society rules - 2007

With the change of our annual publication from a proceedings to a journal and some changes to the governance rules under which societies such as ours operate, it is time to make some minor changes and corrections to the rules of our society to bring them into line. Below are the changes to the rules that will be proposed at the next annual meeting on Wednesday 15 August.



Rule 2 (2) changes from “To hold an annual conference and publish scientific proceedings” to “To hold an annual conference and publish a scientific journal”

The term “Annual General Meeting” is changed to “Annual Meeting” in rules; **3(4); 6; 12; 12(1); 12(2)** and **12(3)**. **12(4)** is changed from “At the annual (or any special) general meeting...” to “At the annual (or any special general) meeting...”.

4(2) Title is changed from “ASSOCIATE MEMBERS” to “ASSOCIATE AND STUDENT MEMBERS”.

5(2) “Any member whose subscription is more than three years in arrears...” is changed to
“Any member whose subscription is more than two years in arrears...”.

6 “Officers shall hold office until three months after the termination of the next annual general meeting following their election.”
is changed to
“Officers shall take office at the termination of the annual meeting in which they are elected and hold office until the termination of the next annual meeting.”

9 is changed from “.... do not conflict with these rules.” to “...do not conflict with these rules or with or legal responsibilities.”

11 Increase the quorum from four to six members at any meeting of the Executive Committee.

12(2) and **14** Increase the period of notice from 10 to 14 days to maintain consistency with rule **22**

16 “All funds of the Society shall be paid into the Society’s Post Office Savings Bank account and/or such bank as may be”
changes to
“All funds of the Society shall be paid into the Society’s bank account as may be”

17 “The Society’s bank accounts shall be operated by the Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and ...”
is changed to
“The Society’s bank accounts shall be operated by the President, Honorary Treasurer and ...”

The dates in **18** and **20** are changed to a more modern format i.e. April 30th becomes 30 April and (May 1) becomes (1 May).

20 “Ordinary membership will include a copy of the conference proceedings of that year’s membership; associate or student membership will not include copies of the conference proceedings.”
is changed to
“Ordinary membership will include a copy of the NZPP Journal of that year’s membership.”

22 “The rules of the Society may be altered, rescinded, or added to at any general meeting provided two thirds of the members present vote accordingly, and provided that at least 14 days notice of intention is sent by post to members.”
is changed to
“The rules of the Society may be altered, rescinded, or added to at any annual or special general meeting provided two thirds of the members present vote accordingly, and provided that at least 14 days notice of intention is sent to members.”

Symposium update –

Future Challenges in Crop Protection:

Repositioning New Zealand's primary industries for the future.

The concept for the 2007 symposium is new and one we do not believe has been tried before. That in itself has posed issues and some concerns over the 'science content'.

The organising group considers that the issues around GAP, future demands on producers and how industry can meet those demands. In our opinion science will provide the solutions. If the crop protection community, particularly the scientists do not understand the commercial pressures on the production, post production and export communities they will never be in a position to assist.

The group is looking to present topical papers for part of the day then give a significant part of the symposium over to the science community to show how they believe they can assist.

The symposium is a platform for end users to advise research providers and regulators of our needs to smooth the phytosanitary, food safety and social paths modern commerce has to tread both domestically and internationally.

A range of prospective speakers are currently being approached to present on each of these topics. This symposium is shaping up to be a very interesting day for all involved.

The draft programme outline follows.

Opening:	Ministerial speaker	Government overview (proposed)
Session 1	External Drivers External Drivers	Regulatory Non-Regulatory
Session 2	Internal Drivers	NZ regulator
Session 3	Sector summaries	One industry speaker but joint authorship
AM TEA		
Enabling technologies	Environmental impacts of production systems; Spray drift; soil and water quality Worker safety	
LUNCH		
Enabling Strategies	What has science to offer industry?	
Summary Close	Philippa Stevens, President NZPPS around 5pm	

Mike Butcher - on behalf of the local organising group



14th Biennial NSW Weeds Conference, 2007
‘Weeds, People & Partnerships’
University of Wollongong
Monday 24 – Thursday 27 September 2007

The NSW Biennial Weeds Conference has grown to be now recognised as the premier weeds forum in the State. Bringing delegates together from across the State, interstate and internationally the 14th Biennial NSW Weeds Conference will provide a venue for information sharing with the aim of updating, educating and informing participants on all relevant matters related to weeds and their management. It will focus debate on a wide range of issues, including new and emerging weed threats, funding opportunities for weed control, regional case studies, Legislation and new advances in weed technology.

The theme for the 14th Biennial conference will be "Weeds, People and Partnerships" and will aim to reflect the increasing emphasis toward regional cooperation in successful weed management.

The Conference venue, University of Wollongong, is situated on the NSW South Coast. Wollongong is the heart of the Illawarra region and New South Wales third largest city.

The 2007 Conference Program will feature a number of outstanding local and interstate speakers, a Trade display, Expo & half day Field Trips providing a practical aspect to the conference. The Conference attracts over 300 delegates from across Australia and provides a wonderful opportunity to meet and extend contacts. Delegates will include weeds and pest species officers, representatives from government, the private sector, environmental organisations, community groups, farmers and many more.

Some of the many topics to be covered in the technical program include:

- Working with the community
- Legislation
- New and emerging weed threats;
- New advances in weed technology;
- Regional case studies, and
- Funding opportunities for weed control

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16th Biennial Australasian Plant Pathology Society Conference

Back to Basics: Managing Plant Disease

incorporating the Australasian Mycological Society Meeting

Adelaide Convention Centre South Australia - 24-27 September 2007

The Australasian Plant Pathology Society, the Organising Committee of the 16th Biennial APPS Conference 2007 invites all members of the plant pathology community to join colleagues in Adelaide, South Australia from 24-27 September 2007. The Conference will appeal to all professionals involved in the advancement and dissemination of knowledge of plant pathology and its practice in Australasia's challenging environment. A four-day scientific program is planned in association with a trade exhibition, workshops, field trips and the opportunity for all delegates to enjoy pre and post Conference tours to some of South Australia's major attractions.



The Conference will be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre, in the centre of the city and adjacent to Adelaide's theatre and restaurant districts

Workshops

Five pre-Conference workshops will be held in conjunction with the Conference.

Workshop 1

Thursday 20 - Friday 21
September 2007
9.00 am - 5.00 pm

Plant Bacteriology - back to basics

Convenor: Dr. Ric Cother, NSW DPI.
Venue: University of Adelaide Teaching Laboratory, Waite Campus

Workshop 2

Monday 24th September 2007
8.30 am - 4.30 pm

Pulse Pathology

Convenor: Bill MacLeod, WA Dept Agriculture.
Venue: Auditorium, Level 4, Plant Research Centre, Waite Campus.

Workshop 3

Monday 24th September 2007
9.00 am - 5.00 pm

Scientific Writing

Convenor: Margaret Cargill, Adelaide Graduate Centre, The University of Adelaide.
Venue: Meeting Room 2, Adelaide Convention Centre, North Terrace, Adelaide.

Workshop 4

Monday 24th September 2007
8.30 am - 4.30 pm

Trunk diseases in grapevines

Convenor: Barbara Hall, SARDI.
Venue: Charles Hawker Lecture Theatre, and University of Adelaide Teaching Laboratory, Waite Campus.

Workshop 5

Monday 24th September 2007
8.30 am - 4.30 pm

Diagnostic Standards for EPP's

Convenor: DAFF.
Venue: Meeting rooms 1&2, Level 1, Plant Research Centre, Waite campus.

PhD Scholarship on Grapevine Pathology in New Zealand

A PhD scholarship is available from Lincoln University, New Zealand for research into *Botryosphaeria* disease of grapevines. This disease causes a range of symptoms, of which the dieback of cordons and shoots is most significant due to the reduced yields and vine mortality. The overall research programme has three PhDs, which have been funded by New Zealand Winegrowers. The students will investigate different aspects of this disease, but will collaborate over methods and resources, and also provide practical support to each other.

This PhD scholarship is for research on sources of inoculum in grapevine propagation nurseries. The disease is believed to infect young plants during the propagation stages, and then to cause decline and death after planting them out in vineyards. Much of the experimental work will be conducted in collaboration with a grapevine nursery and therefore the student could be based in Auckland, Blenheim or Christchurch. The scholarship provides a tax-free stipend of \$NZ25,000 per annum for the three year period of the PhD programme.

The main aims of the project are to:

- determine the species of *Botryosphaeria* that infect cuttings and young grafted plants, and the infection incidence, within a range of nurseries throughout New Zealand,
- investigate the sources of *Botryosphaeria* inoculum within grapevine propagation systems, including rootstock and scion mother vines, grafting and propagation equipment, and the air, soil and grapevine debris within nursery areas,
- identify the infection processes and the factors that affect infection and spread at each of the propagation stages,
- work with grapevine nurseries to develop control strategies that may be used to ensure production of healthy plants.

The PhD student will develop skills and knowledge in:

- conventional methods for plant inoculation, isolation and identification of fungi,
- molecular methods of pathogen identification,
- cooperation with commercial nurseries for trial design, planning and management of resources and staff.

A suitable applicant will be:

- eligible to enrol for a PhD degree,

The usual standard is to have a good Honours or Master's degree in plant pathology, horticulture, plant sciences or microbiology. However candidates with a good Bachelors degree and relevant research experience will be considered.

- Preferably a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident. However, English-speaking applicants of other nationalities are also eligible and should also apply.

For general or academic enquiries about this position, please contact:

Dr Marlene Jaspers

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