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Editorial – Philippa Stevens

- Immediate Past President NZPPS
- General Manager, Plant & Food Research, Auckland

Change is afoot! On the 4th March 2010 the CRI Taskforce released its report “*How to enhance the value of New Zealand’s investment in Crown Research Institutes*”. The executive summary of the report opens with some very encouraging words for those of us who work in a CRI e.g. “*Crown Research Institutes (CRIs) matter to New Zealand. Their importance is increasing as science plays an ever more critical role in the nation’s economic development*”. Now, I can be as cynical as the next person and I’ve heard these kinds of statements in the past – small comfort as we work our way through what can seem like endless funding rounds, each with its own special twist in terms of process. Sometimes writing proposals for core research programmes can feel like painting the harbour bridge – as soon as the painting gang gets to the end, they have to start again at the beginning! So will this report really make a difference to CRI science? In particular, I’ve been wondering how implementation of the recommendations in this report will affect Plant Protection science in New Zealand? In my mind, I’ve come up with a guardedly positive position – I think the changes are potentially fantastic but unless there is sufficient investment in the science system overall, it might be a bit like “rearranging the deckchairs on the Titanic” (to use a term I’ve heard my boss mutter from time to time!).

Some of the reasons that I’m very positive about the Taskforce recommendations for Plant Protection research include:

- the report notes that CRIs were set up to address enduring challenges and opportunities that New Zealand faces – if Plant Protection isn’t an enduring challenge for New Zealand, I don’t know what is!
- each CRI will develop a statement of Core Purpose to recognise their distinctive role relative to other research organisations, including universities, and the Government should fund CRIs to achieve their core purpose. I love the idea of government funding CRIs to achieve a core purpose that includes Plant Protection!
- Core purpose funding can be consolidated into a single contract which will make compliance easier – fantastic!

All in all, we will have a greater degree of clarity, certainty to retain and develop capability, manage risk, and operate within a longer time frame to deliver excellent and relevant research. Now there is absolutely nothing wrong with that!

For those of us who work in CRI’s this is a pretty interesting time!

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New Zealand Plant Protection Society Conference 2010

The Conference & Symposium

This year's conference will be held during **10th-12th August 2010** and will be preceded on Monday 9 August by a pre-conference symposium: "Paddock to PCR: Demystifying molecular biology for practical plant protection" (see next page for symposium details). The conference and symposium will be held in the **Copthorne Hotel Grand Central** at 42 Powderham Street, New Plymouth.

Accommodation

Accommodation is available at the Copthorne Hotel Grand Central, New Plymouth (T: +64 6 758 7495; F: +64 6 758 7496).

The Copthorne has put together a special conference accommodation offer of:

Single \$135.00 Including Cooked Buffet Breakfast

Twin / Double \$150.00 Including Cooked Buffet Breakfast

Rates are inclusive of GST, non commissionable.

The Copthorne have also decided to offer a super **Breakfast** deal for any delegates not staying at the hotel and want to have breakfast with us before the conference commences each morning of **\$15** per person for our cooked buffet option payable on the day.

This is NOT available via the conference website

Each booking will require a personal credit card as guarantee and people should either make contact via email to office@grandcentralhotel.co.nz or call on (06) 758 7495 quoting the "Plant Protection Society Conference"

This hotel is located in the heart of New Plymouth only 10 minutes from the airport and 25 minutes from magnificent Mt Taranaki.

We are planning for a particularly delicious and fun conference dinner on the Wednesday

evening, with a good old country "hoe-down" planned. So pack some comfy shoes and your sense of fun, and come enjoy the catch up with your New Zealand peers. We can't think of a better way of being cheered up mid-winter at the same time as "building social capital" (a new buzzword for networking!).

A range of alternative accommodation is available in New Plymouth, including back-packer hostels, bed & breakfasts, motels and hotels. More information can be found at

<http://www.newplymouthnz.com/VisitingNewPlymouth/>

NZPPS AGM Changes

The new NZPPS committee has identified several opportunities to improve our AGM. We will be trialling a new format at the August 2010 conference. The AGM will be held immediately following lunch on the Wednesday from 1-3pm, prior to afternoon tea and the final paper session for the day. This will improve attendance and ensure that we have enough time to freely debate agenda items without issues of getting to the conference dinner impacting on the meeting.

We will also be sending out PDF documents of the main reports that are tabled at the AGM so that members can come prepared to ask questions. The reports will be presented by the committee but in a summarised format. Voting for the new executive will be held at the AGM and the results will be announced at the Annual Dinner.

In addition to the usual AGM agenda we are introducing a new item which is a NZPPS Members Forum where we can discuss the Societies strategic direction, ideas for projects, symposia topics etc. An example of this is the Regional Meetings that were proposed at last year's AGM and the first of which were held in March.

In order to encourage participation we request discussion items for the Members Forum to be sent to the Secretary by 15th June 2010. However, there will be an opportunity to raise new items at the forum if time permits.

New Zealand Plant Protection Society Symposium 2010

This year's symposium is entitled "**Paddock to PCR - Demystifying the application of molecular biology to practical plant protection**" and will provide a fantastic opportunity to find out all you wanted to know about how to use molecular tools in plant protection research.

Gone are the days where molecular biology was a restricted and specialised field full of weird jargon and daunting equipment (actually the equipment is still daunting). Progress in computer software, accessibility to robotics, publicly available gene databases and access to service providers means that given a few basic skills and the knowledge of "how to", almost anyone can incorporate molecular biology into their research.

The target audience includes both those already using molecular techniques as well as researchers with limited familiarity of molecular techniques. In keeping with the theme, the symposium will kick-off at 9 am on Monday 9th August with a general up-skilling on the theory and jargon behind some of the current molecular tools including quantitative PCR, high resolution melting and next generation sequencing. This information will be provided as a handout to encourage discussion of the technologies. Broad themes include using molecular technologies for diagnostics, population analysis, gene quantification and genome analysis. Confirmed speakers include Drion Boucias from the University of Florida on application of techniques from PCR to genome sequencing, Celeste Linde (Australian National University) on population genetics of cereal pathogens, and Joanne Stanton (University of Otago) on pyrosequencing. All speakers will provide a "how to" section as well as describing applications of their molecular tools of choice.

Registration for the symposium is \$130 and will include lunch and refreshments, a cheese and wine mixer after the event and a copy of the proceedings. There will also be an informal mixer at a local New Plymouth restaurant the night before that registrants can attend, although this is not included in the registration cost. Due to start time and flight availability from South Island institutes, registrants may wish to arrive the day prior to the symposium.

All registrants are welcome to bring relevant posters (new or presented elsewhere) and display them at the venue for discussion during the refreshment breaks. There will be poster boards available and the abstracts will be published in the proceedings. Abstracts for any posters being displayed must be submitted to Hayley Ridgway (Hayley.Ridgway@lincoln.ac.nz) before 31 July 2010.

The organising committee looks forward to seeing you there!

Hayley Ridgway, Travis Glare, Sue Zydenbos, Maureen O'Callaghan Steve Wakelin & Philippa Stevens



From the Editor – May 2010

The conference in New Plymouth will be more relaxed than recent years, with fewer papers being presented. In contrast to the last few years, the number of submitted abstracts was lower than average – which is great for me as I am also dealing with the re-design of the journal and all of the formatting changes that this entails. For this year, I have not asked authors to make these changes, but next year I am planning to develop a template that can be used for preparing manuscripts. This will save me a lot of time as there is a considerable amount of work involved in getting a manuscript prepared in Word then taken through the Printer's software to the printed journal. It is surprising how long it takes to remove formatting that people think they have been helpful with, like "ALL CAPS" style and paragraph indents. These all have to be removed or errors will come through in the proofs.

The **draft programme** for the conference will be posted on the website about 15 June. Please do not request a specific time for presenting your paper or ask for changes to the timetable – it is difficult enough to develop the programme without trying to cater for speakers' personal schedules!

Please notify me if you think you qualify for the "**Emerging Presenter**" award. This award is for "emerging researchers presenting for the first time at a 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. This must be the first time you have presented a paper at the New Zealand Plant Protection Society conference, but you may have presented papers a couple of times at other conferences or a poster at the NZPPS conference. The result will be announced at the end of the last session of the conference so make your travel plans accordingly.

Instructions for presenters are available on the website - please read them carefully. Take some time to prepare properly for your talk at the conference by practising in front of your peers. You are not expected to present all of your data and it is perfectly acceptable to just refer to the full paper during your talk. You may include additional background information that would be of general interest to the wider audience. I encourage you to use a different

(abbreviated) title for your oral presentation than is published in the full paper. Please bring your *PowerPoint* presentation to the conference and give it to Trevor James well before your session – **do not email it to me beforehand!**

Poster presenters should also check out the guidelines on the website. There has been a minor update to the size specifications for posters.

I will definitely be at the conference this year, so please come up and introduce yourself to me, especially if you are one of our new members – it is always nice to have met someone in person rather than just corresponding by email!

Sue Zydenbos

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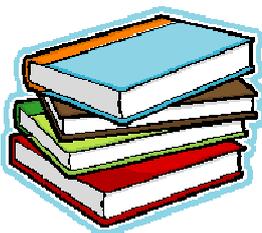
Start thinking about scholarship applications!

Applications for the **New Zealand Plant Protection Society Research Scholarship** and the **Dan Watkins Scholarship in Weed Science** are due by 1 October. Scholarship applications from students registered at a university or other recognised New Zealand tertiary institutions will be considered.

BOOKS FOR SALE

NZPPS Title	Date	Retail price
An Illustrated Guide to Common Weeds of NZ (3rd edition)	2010	\$ 55.00
Surveillance for Biosecurity: pre-border to pest management	2008	\$ 39.95
Future challenges in crop protection: repositioning New Zealand's primary industries for the future	2008	\$ 39.95
Pesticide resistance: prevention and management strategies 2005	2005	\$ 39.50
Managing wilding conifers in New Zealand: present and future	2004	\$ 35.00
Defending the green oasis: New Zealand biosecurity and science	2003	\$ 35.00
Plant protection challenges in organic production	2001	\$ 30.00
Managing urban weeds and pests	2000	\$ 40.00
A Guide to the Identification of New Zealand Common Weeds in Colour	1997	\$ 19.95
Plant Protection: Costs, Benefits and Trade Implications	1993	\$ 39.00

All publications, as well as back issues of *New Zealand Plant Protection* and most *Conference Proceedings*, are available from: Manaaki Whenua Press, PO Box 40, Lincoln, Canterbury, New Zealand (MWPpress@landcareresearch.co.nz).



***New Zealand Plant Protection Society members receive a discount provided they identify themselves as members at the time of ordering.v**



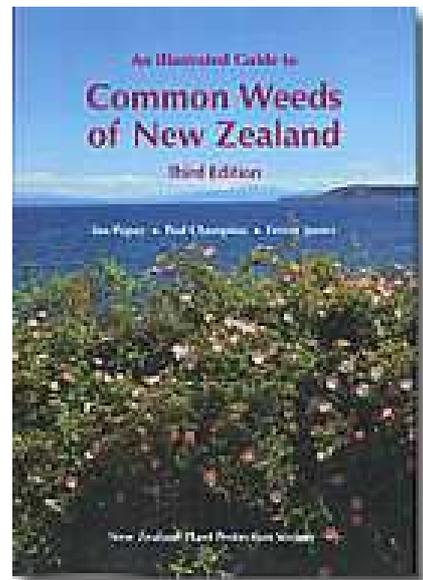
NEW!

An Illustrated Guide to Common Weeds of New Zealand Third Edition

Ian Popay, Paul Champion, Trevor James (2010)
ISBN 978-0-473-16285-6

This popular and indispensable guide to the identification of weeds in New Zealand is now in its third edition. The 2010 edition is still written for a wide audience, with simple text and a user-friendly approach, but at 448 pages it is bigger and better than ever. Covering just over 600 species, and with more than 1,500 stunning new photographs, this guide is an excellent aid to identification.

RRP \$55.00. Order from [Manaaki Whenua Press](http://www.manaakiwhenua.co.nz).



Update – The NZ Committee on Pesticide Resistance

New pesticide Mode of Action/Activity Group Codes are now available as a PDF on the New Zealand Plant Protection Society web site: www.nzpps.org/resistance/pdfs/moa_codes.pdf.

These can be reached from the NZPPS home page by clicking on “Pesticide resistance” and then “Mode of action/activity group codes”.

The New Zealand Committee on Pesticide Resistance (NZCPR) has compiled a list of all pesticide active ingredients used in crop protection in New Zealand, grouped by shared resistance risk. The group codes are intended for use on pesticide labels to help in the prevention and management of pesticide resistance. Information used in constructing these tables came from publicly available information from the Fungicide Resistance Action Committee (www.frac.info), the Insecticide Resistance Action Committee (www.irac-online.org), the Herbicide Resistance Action Committee (www.hracglobal.org) and CropLife Australia (www.croplifeaustralia.org.au).

NZCPR recommends that for any product that contains an active ingredient at risk from resistance development, the product label should include a statement about resistance prevention or management. This statement should begin with the mode of action or activity group(s) of the at-risk ingredient(s), as in the following example: “Product X contains the GROUP 16 insecticide, buprofezin. Do not use another product containing an insecticide in the same group in conjunction with Product X when applying the resistance prevention or management guidelines below. [Details of the resistance guidelines for this product then follow]”.

If you would like further information please contact Dr Rob Beresford (Chairman of NZ Committee on Pesticide Resistance) on Robert.Beresford@plantandfood.co.nz

Reminder:

New Zealand Plant Protection Medal Nominations

Nominations for the New Zealand Plant Protection medal **close on 1 July each year**. If you would like to honour someone who has made an exceptional contribution to plant protection in the widest sense, consider nominating them for this medal. The medal is awarded for outstanding services to plant protection, whether through research, education, implementation or leadership.

Criteria:

- Nominees do not necessarily have to be members of New Zealand Plant Protection Society. However, those nominating anyone **MUST** be a member of the New Zealand Plant Protection Society
- Each nomination must include a seconder, who should also be a member of New Zealand Plant Protection Society.
- Nominees would normally be expected to be living in New Zealand, but people living overseas with strong New Zealand connections will also be eligible.

Nominations for the New Zealand Plant Protection Medal will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the President, Past-President and one other Executive Committee member of the New Zealand Plant Protection Society. The medal may not be awarded if no suitable nominations are received. The medal will be presented at the annual conference in August.

Please spend time on your nomination as a quality nomination provides the judges with better information to make this important decision!

Nomination forms can be downloaded from the website, www.nzpps.org. Please send nominations to the Secretary, New Zealand Plant Protection Society, Private Bag 4749, Christchurch 8140, NZ.



Upcoming Conference



17th Australasian Weeds Conference "New Frontiers in New Zealand".

**26 - 30 September 2010,
Christchurch Convention Centre,
New Zealand**

This is the first time that this conference has been held in New Zealand and is a great opportunity to hear some great keynote speakers, presentations, panel discussions as well as participate in weed-focused field trips. Earlybird registration closes on 1 June, but you can register after that date (it will just cost you more).

Member's rates are available to delegates who are a member of the New Zealand Plant Protection Society

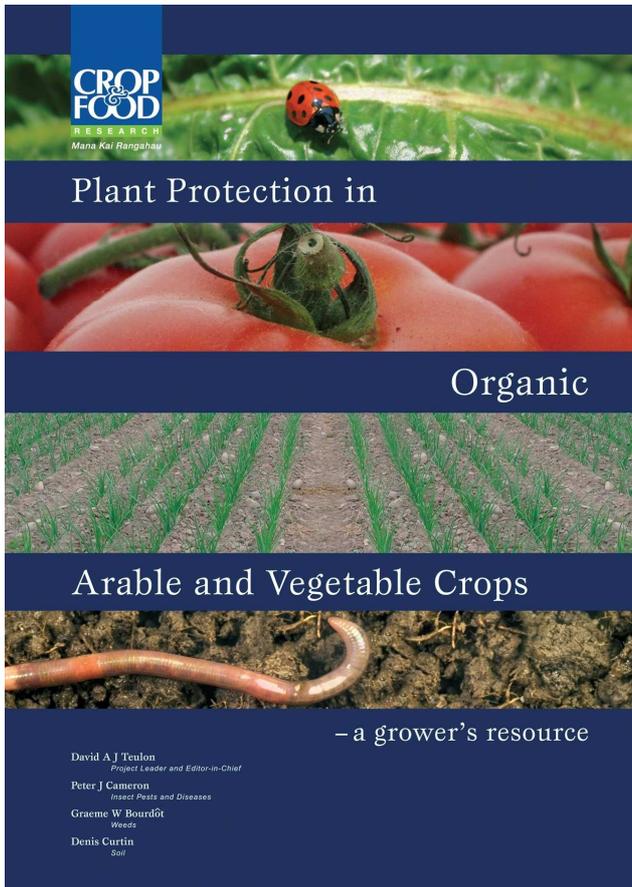
**For more information see:
<http://www.17awc.org/index.php>**

NZPPS investment in organics publication pays off

– supporting science communication

One of the roles of the NZPPS is to encourage the exchange of information on bioprotection. To achieve this, the society makes funds available to support communication and publishing initiatives. The results of these investments have been so successful that the society is keen to support more ventures. A recent investment in a book on plant protection in New Zealand-grown organic arable and vegetable crops has now paid off. A number of years ago, the society lent \$10,000 to Plant & Food Research (then Crop & Food Research) to support the production of a book that would plug a gap in the information available on the management of pests, weeds and diseases in organic crops. Funds were also contributed by the Ministry for the Environment's SMF fund, FAR, HortNZ and the NZ Flour Millers Association Inc. as well as a range of industry organisations. The project resulted in the first science-based reference book for the organics industry. Book sales have made it possible to pay back the NZPPS loan.

"The loan made it possible for us to commit to producing the book, which we knew would become a valuable resource. Sales have enabled us to pay back the loan, so the arrangement has been a win-win for the authors, the Society, growers and researchers who can now access information that was previously scattered across numerous resources," said Dr David Teulon, Portfolio Manager Bioprotection, Plant & Food Research, and editor of the book.



Importantly, the resource also provided valuable information for growers moving towards a more integrated approach. It describes weed, pest and disease management of eight arable crops and nine vegetable crops, including asparagus, carrots and potatoes.

The 240-page book is available from Plant & Food Research (ph 03 325 6400).

Double Trouble e-bulletin

The Australian Invasive Species Council is looking for funding to support their work on their Pest and Climate change e-bulletin.

The e-bulletin covers scientific papers focusing on different aspects of the growing interaction between climate change and invasive species. They look at how climate change is likely to be a boon for particular invasive species, including a snail in Australia, a crayfish in US, and weeds in India and Europe. The bulletin covers studies showing that some invasive species can substantially increase or decrease greenhouse gas emissions. These impacts needs to be much better understood to allow countries to monitor and manage changes in carbon stocks in forests.

The url for making donation is <http://www.invasives.org.au/page.php?nameIdentifier=donate>

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