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## Editorial – Tim Herman

Technical Advisor, Fruited Supplies (part of PGG Wrightson)

I've been encouraged to give my point of view on the current research climate. With limited space to fill I think I'll concentrate on the current state of play with agrichemicals – And note that this is my personal view. A phrase that comes to mind is 'The more things change, the more they stay the same'. Yes changes are happening, many to the good and some to the bad. There are new classes of agrichemical coming into the market, with many positive aspects – narrow spectrums of activity, low use rates, good rainfastness and some have systemic activity. But on the downside resistance has already developed in some organisms to these newer classes of agrichemical. For example the G143A gene for resistance to strobilurin fungicides has been identified in populations of the black spot pathogen (*Venturia inaequalis*) here in NZ. Another change that some will see as good, but others bad, is the review of many of the old organophosphate insecticides. Sure they're broad spectrum, creating invertebrate deserts when used in crops, and potentially very toxic to those who use them, but their broadly worded labels allow them to be used on a wide range of crops. Removing them without a measured phase-out will leave some large gaps in the insecticide programmes of many minor crops. This highlights the need for close collaboration between NZ scientists and the industry to manage the introduction of the new agrichemicals into the market.

One area that is having a lot more effort put into it around the world is the area of inducing natural plant resistance, making the pre-conference symposium a very timely event. Alison Popay, the symposium organiser, has informed the executive committee that she has put together a first-rate programme with a mix of international and local presenters and that it is a day that people from across the plant protection industry would do well to attend.

Along this vein the executive committee has also supported the inclusion of a mini-symposium within the conference this year. The Tomato/Potato Psyllid is one of the most nasty, insidious insect pests I've come across. It is a serious issue in all the solanaceous crops we grow in NZ – potatoes, tomatoes, capsicums, aubergines, and tamarillos, and the disease associated with this pest, Liberibacter, only ratchets up the problem. We hope that many people from the affected industries will attend the conference for the special day (as is noted further in, don't book an early ticket home!)

Debbie Pearson from MAF has prepared an article on the new Government Industry Agreements project where the horticulture industry works alongside MAFBNZ to improve decision making and respond faster/better if/when an incursion occurs. Opponents of GIA are going to raise the specter of user pays as the industry invests money into research and, if an incursion occurs, the response. On the positive side I feel it is a good idea to build a closer, working relationship with BNZ and hopefully intercept incursions earlier which should improve the probability of eradicating it.

We've published some of the responses from members relating to the Christchurch earthquake. Although the earthquakes are receiving less media coverage, we continue to think of those affected by them. As a dislocated Cantabrian, I feel as George Follas does, quite helpless, being unable to do much apart from making donations. Kia kaha, Christchurch/Canterbury.

# New Zealand Plant Protection Society Conference 2011

Distinction Hotel and Conference Centre, Rotorua

## Utilising plant defence for pest control

*NZ Plant Protection Symposium  
Monday, 8 August 2011*

Join us for what is shaping up to be an excellent symposium

We have two confirmed international speakers:

### Dr Dale Walters

Based with the Crop and Soil Systems Research Group at the Scottish Agricultural College, Dr Walters is a world renowned scientist working on induced resistance for pathogen control.

### Professor Jim Pratley

Research Professor of Agriculture with the School of Agricultural and Wine Sciences, Charles Sturt University at Wagga Wagga, Professor Pratley is an expert on plant-plant interactions including competition and allelopathy.

We are also seeking an international speaker on plant defence against insect herbivory.

Nine papers have been offered from our New Zealand colleagues that cover a range of topics including using induced host plant resistance against pathogens and invertebrates, using symbiotic endophytes to control insects in grasses, indirect defences in plants that attract natural enemies and plant-plant interactions for weed control.

*Alison Popay  
Symposium Organiser  
AgResearch*



*Rafting the Kaituna River*  
<http://roytennant.com>

## NZ Plant Protection Conference 2011

*Tuesday 9 – Thursday 11 August*

A draft conference programme is expected to be on the Society website about 15 June.

## TPP/Liberibacter in solanaceous crops

*NZ Plant Protection Mini-Symposium  
Thursday 11 August*

The Tomato/Potato Psyllid has had a major impact on a range of solanaceous crops since its arrival in New Zealand. This mini-symposium, within the main conference, will have a number of invited and submitted papers covering topics such as how TPP arrived here, its impact on our crops, its biology and interaction with the disease Liberibacter and issues relating to its control.

*Don't book an early ticket home the TPP/Liberibacter mini-symposium is not one to be missed!*

## Distinction Rotorua Hotel & Conference Centre

The venue has 133 accommodation rooms on site and the standard room rental is \$115.00 per room per night based on single or twin share. For bookings phone 0800 654 789 or go online at <http://www.distinctionrotorua.co.nz/>. Note we now have an accommodation booking form for Distinction Hotel on the website.

In addition to the conference venue Rotorua has a large range of accommodation options; backpackers, bed & breakfasts, motels and hotels. For more information and booking details see: <http://www.rotoruanz.com/accommodation/>

## Pay your membership and conference fees online

The NZPPS website now allows you to pay your annual membership and conference fees securely online using your credit card. You can also pay for several different members using a single transaction.

Here's how the five-step process works:

1. Point your browser to <http://nzpps.org/payment.php> and fill in the contact details so that we can find you if there are any problems with the transaction. Press the Save button at the bottom right.
2. Next, you will be asked what items you wish to pay for - simply select them from the lists provided. If you know the invoice number (it will be something like "#111/793") from the forms posted to you by the secretary, then fill it in at the top above your name. For conference day registration, be sure to select the correct day(s). Conference attendees can also specify the name to be printed on their badge, and any special dietary requirements. Then press the Save button.
3. The third step is to confirm that the details you have entered are correct. If not, links are provided to edit them. If you need to pay for more than one person, then a link near the bottom of the page lets you enter payment details for another person, as in Step 2 above. You can repeat this as many times as necessary. Once all the payment details are assembled, press the button at the bottom right to proceed.
4. You will be transferred to a secure page at the Paymex website. Here you should double-check the details before entering your credit card information. Note that Paymex will process the transaction on behalf of NZPPS, and it will appear as "Paymex" on your credit card statement.

5. Finally, you will be returned to the NZPPS website where your tax invoice will be available. This will also be emailed to you for your records.

Voilà! Your feedback on this new service is welcomed at [webadmin@nzpps.org](mailto:webadmin@nzpps.org).

## Things to do in Rotorua

Where to start, Rotorua is a happening place! There is a wide range of things to do in the down time you might be able to fit in around the conference – outdoor activities, e.g. mountain biking, golf, fishing, walking, or more reserved activities such as visiting local maori and thermal attractions, museums, art galleries, tourist shops, health spas ...



Below are a couple of websites to help get you on your way ...

<http://www.rotoruanz.com/interests/>

<http://www.tourism.net.nz/region/rotorua>



*Photos on this page were from Destination Rotorua Tourism Marketing*

## From the Editor – May 2011

The number of papers published in the journal this year will be on a par with last year – lower than the 10-year average. However, there will still be a full programme at the conference in Rotorua, with lots of posters being offered and papers being presented throughout Thursday for the “mini-symposium” that is being held within the conference. I am told that the latter is not a new idea, but certainly in recent years there has only been the occasional oral paper presented that is not accompanied by a full written paper in the journal. This is quite distinct from the pre-conference symposium that is held as a separate event with its own proceedings being published. There is more information about the actual content of the 2011 “mini-symposium” elsewhere in the newsletter, but here I would like to discuss the concept of dissociating oral conference papers from written papers published in the journal.

The “mini-symposium” is based around 3 or 4 written papers that are published in the journal – the remainder are invited presentations that, for a variety of reasons, will not be published in the journal. This allows the conference to provide topical debate and discussion without compromising the quality of scientific papers published in the journal. If finances allow, extended abstracts of the oral papers and possibly summaries of the PowerPoint presentations will be published in a booklet along with reprints of the full papers. Another option is electronic publication of the booklet via our website. The NZPPS Executive Committee regularly reviews the evolution of the journal and how this relates to the conference presentations, and we would really appreciate the thoughts and ideas of the wider membership about the mini-symposium.

The on-line submission of abstracts did not eventuate this year, but John Kean and I still intend to implement this for 2012. This will alleviate people’s concerns about whether their abstracts have been received, and ultimately we should be able to indicate where each paper is during the review process. Another idea that I would like to consider is the concept of anonymous refereeing. Most New Zealand plant protection researchers know each other, and sometimes it is difficult to provide frank feedback about a paper. I think we could easily implement a system that would allow a reviewer to remain anonymous on request, while still retaining the ability for the authors and reviewers to communicate directly



if a reviewer felt that was a more appropriate way to provide feedback.

Some standard reminders as we approach the conference:

- The **draft programme** for the conference will be posted on the website about 15 June.
- Please notify me if you think you will qualify for the “Emerging Presenter” award, which is for “emerging researchers presenting for the first time at a NZPPS conference”.
- Instructions for presenters are available on the website - please read them carefully. Please bring your *PowerPoint* presentation to the conference and give it to the AV coordinator well before your session – **do not email it to me beforehand!**
- Please check the guidelines on the website for information about preparation of posters, particularly details on size specifications.

Sue Zydenbos

## Post conference Tour: Mountain Biking in the famous Whakarewarewa Forest

A member is offering to provide a guided mountain biking experience for the Thursday afternoon at the completion of the NZPP conference, approximately 1-4 pm. If you’ve never managed to mountain bike in Whaka Forest, this is your opportunity to experience it! But please no first time bike riders! If there is sufficient interest some local guides will be organised to take small groups to experience some of the best trails. In which case we’ll offer a small cash koha to say thanks to those people. Check out some information before hand on [www.riderotorua.com](http://www.riderotorua.com). You can either bring your own bike (\$25 fee if packed in a cycle box and shipped as oversize luggage on Air New Zealand), or hire one when you get here, either a hard-tail or full suspension bike.

A form to register for this tour has been loaded on to the conference page of the PPS website [www.pps.org](http://www.pps.org) Please send the completed form to [toni.withers@scionresearch.com](mailto:toni.withers@scionresearch.com)



## PestWebNZ

A first for our Society is to host a general interest, free access information package for New Zealand farmers. We all know that weeds and insect pests severely limit pasture and livestock production but information on their control is often fragmented and difficult to access.

'PestWebNZ' [www.nzpps.pestweb.co.nz](http://www.nzpps.pestweb.co.nz) is a new online information package which will allow farmers and people in the pastoral agricultural sector to find information on the identification and management of insect pests and weeds. It has been developed by a team of scientists, farm consultants and farmers. A number of NZPPS members have produced the weed and pest information for PestWebNZ, including the AgResearch scientists Colin Ferguson, Barbara Barratt, Trevor James, Anis Rahman and Katherine Tozer.

The project has involved close collaboration with Simon Glennie, a farm consultant from AbacusBio, and Glenn Tocher, an Otago Polytechnic student, who created the webpages. John Kean, who maintains the NZPPS website, is further developing and maintaining PestWebNZ.

PestWebNZ currently covers over 20 key pasture weeds and pests, such as giant buttercup, yellow bristle grass, nodding thistle, clover root weevil and Argentine stem weevil. These species have been chosen in consultation with key farming, industry and research personnel, and the website will continue to be expanded with other important species.

PestWebNZ provides an independent source of information to assist both farmers and consultants in making pest management decisions, leading to better control and reduced productivity losses. It increases the rate of knowledge dissemination and makes solutions more readily available to industry.

The site is intended to be a supplementary, easily accessible source of information for farmers to use alongside other existing sources. It provides information on identification, control, biology and impact of key pasture weeds and pests.

An alert function, available by free subscription, sends emails about outbreaks or potential outbreaks of insect pests, along with suggestions for their management.

The site can be searched by weed or pest name or by what the species looks like. Using a short series of links, the site will then give information on the biology of the pest or weed, an impact assessment and options for management and control.

By hosting PestWebNZ, the society goes back to our formative days but in a very modern way. The long lost branch societies once filled the role of direct knowledge transfer from scientist to farmer. The advent of PestWebNZ and hopefully similar products, re-opens the society's direct links with the farming community.

PestWebNZ will be officially launched in June 2011 at the National Agricultural Field Days at Mystery Creek. Its development is supported by SFF, Beef & Lamb NZ, DairyNZ, regional councils and commercial groups.

For further information contact:  
[katherine.tozer@agresearch.co.nz](mailto:katherine.tozer@agresearch.co.nz)



Rotorua Museum <http://roytenant.com>

## Research under Government Industry Agreements

The Government Industry Agreement (GIA) project will create a framework for greater collaboration through joint decision making and cost sharing in the biosecurity sphere. By working together to improve readiness and better prepare for emergency responses, MAFBNZ and industry will achieve faster and less costly responses that are more likely to eradicate, or successfully control pests or diseases.

GIA will provide a means for industries and government to work jointly on readiness programmes, and during responses in an environment of joint decision-making. By planning together government and industry will be able to provide a clear strategic direction and develop readiness programmes which will be jointly funded to improve readiness for priority pests.

The GIA joint government industry planning processes provide an excellent forum for identifying research priorities for readiness. It is proposed these priorities are captured as part of the high level planning process, and where considered a priority should be fed into the biosecurity science system. Agreed biosecurity research priorities will be communicated to relevant funding bodies including FRST, MAF and industry groups. Investment in biosecurity research will occur through the existing funding processes of these organisations.

Industries and MAF have been engaging in workshops to identify a range of priority pests and to look at the readiness gaps in relation to these pests. The workshops use a series of prompts to tease out the potential work areas – for example, Do we have enough surveillance in place and what form should it take? Do we have the diagnostic capability to scale up critical tests to response volumes? This work will make it possible to identify work programmes which can be underpinned by research programmes where required.

Under GIA, research for readiness will be worked up by a group of experts and this information will then be fed into the current funding process with the full support of all parties. In some exceptional cases industry and government may consider the work of sufficient importance and urgency that they would prefer to fund it under the GIA cost sharing mechanisms.

For responses under GIA, it is expected that research would be agreed as a part of the response actions and will be shared as part of the pre-agreed cost share for response.

Government Industry Agreements provide a golden opportunity to improve our forward planning and make sure we are putting our efforts into the right things. For research organisations this provides clarity of direction that has often been lacking in the Biosecurity space. The call from you all of “tell us what you really want...” is now being answered.

**Debbie Pearson**  
**Business Lead for Government Industry Agreements**  
**Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry**  
Tel. 04 894 5649  
Email: [gia@maf.govt.nz](mailto:gia@maf.govt.nz)

## New Zealand Plant Protection Medal



If you would like to honour someone who has made an exceptional contribution to plant protection, consider nominating them for this medal. The medal is awarded for outstanding services to plant protection, whether through research, education, implementation or leadership.

**Nominations close on 1 July.**

### 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.

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

**Nomination forms available at [www.nzpps.org](http://www.nzpps.org). Please send your nominations to; The Secretary, New Zealand Plant Protection Society, Private Bag 4749, Christchurch 8140.**

## Tales from the Christchurch earthquake

### Gordon Harris

Hi to everyone affected by the quake. My thoughts go out to you all today as we mark one week of recovery. We all have stories and here is mine.

Glenys and I had just finished lunch at the Riccarton Mall coffee shop on Riccarton Road. We were in Christchurch on the return leg of our "student drop off road trip" to Dunedin.

The Mall it seems was built well. I guess as Hawke's Bay people we were maybe complacent and did not dive under anything or run outside. Amongst the noise and screaming we sat still and rode the wave and then walked outside. Dumb. Having sat through it and the aftershocks we were genuinely surprised at the extent of the damage once reports came back into Christchurch.

Being unable to retrieve our car from the top of the Riccarton car park we strolled round to Alan and Sue Upritchards home on Straven Road (Alan is ex Crop Care and was an active member of Society). We found Alan at home shovelling pantry contents into a bucket. A little later Sue strolled home from down town with some bruising and scrapes. We stayed with them for most of the afternoon righting stuff and shovelling sand. I did run outside for the larger aftershock that afternoon.

We were able to get our car out later and checked on our son Mark at College House, the University hostel, as he has just started an engineering degree course. Also well built but closed for a time now so Mark is back home. Mark had just walked out of a lecture and running away from the buildings said it was like trying to walk drunk. I didn't ask him how he knew what that was like.

We were frustrated we could not stay and help more but decided the best thing we could do was to leave and reduce the burden on resources slightly.

I am so pleased you are all "survivors". Having experienced some of the extra burdens, though for only a short time, I know it will be a trying time. When you need a rest and need to "get out" please come and visit.

### Howard Wearing

Anja and I have been fortunate to date and just have broken glass and the like, and a little internal house damage. House structure seems OK but we'll have EQC take a look later. We have been in Christchurch for only two years but the people of Christchurch pull

together in the most amazing fashion, and the support from all round the country and even further afield is wonderful.

### John Kean

We are fine out at Doyleston. All my immediate work colleagues are OK too.

### Rodger Welsh Rangiora

I was outside on the driveway, with a bag of wheat in hand from a trial, walking a straight line was seemingly difficult, then I notice the ground wavering, the garden jumping around and the house shuddering, looking at my ute, it took on a rocking motion as though a pack of Aussie rugby forwards were trying to tip it over. It was horrendous. Fortunately no damage, but a few superficial cracks in the plaster work. We live 50 km from the epicentre of the quake, the last one of Sept was about 70 km distant and stronger in magnitude. This one was of less magnitude, but man, has it left a trail of destruction, bringing with it tonnes and tonnes of silt. My sons have been out with the student help. They say the stuff is heavy and sticky almost impossible to tip out of the barrow, this stuff is spread over 100's of hectares not just the road and lawns and driveways but also through the houses and garages, lots of sink holes have appeared which could not be seen that night when drivers were negotiated a way home, some taking to the footpaths. There was no power so complete darkness. Scary for those whose vehicles were trapped in the silt and water since they had to walk home, using their cell phones as torches. There has been a large demand for fuel, bread, flour, sugar, milk and toilet paper. People have been warned that no sewerage system exists and you will have to dig a hole... 1 metre deep. We have friends coming and going to use our facilities, shower, toilet, and water supply and a hot meals.

### Jessica Dohmen-Vereijssen - Bio-Protection Research Centre

My husband and I are OK, we both had a terrifying experience in Lincoln / in town but made it home to Kirwee safely. In Kirwee life is like normal, we feel very bad and guilty that we can use all facilities here. We have two friends staying with us, one of them lost his rental accommodation on Mt Pleasant and we are very glad we can help him out. We'll probably go into town tomorrow and help clearing out streets and backyards, that's the least we can do. Our thoughts go out to all the people in Chch who have lost their loved ones and their house.

**Karyn Froud - MAF**

We have contacted all members of staff from MAF. Several members of staff have lost their homes and possessions and many have no water or power, some will be affected by the loss of lives in the main centre. The MAF building got off fairly lightly with file cabinets tipping and ceiling panels and ducting falling in to offices. Biosecurity Inspections are occurring and we have offered assistance to other government agencies with response management. MAF staff in Auckland and Wellington have offered to accommodate people or families who are getting out of Christchurch. If you are in this situation please let me know.

**Hayley Ridgeway - Lincoln University, NZPPS Comm**

Myself and my family are safe. ChCh people are rallying to help those more badly affected - it is inspiring to see. I would love to know if the other ChCh members are ok. Lincoln Uni has no reports (yet) of significant structural damage and at this stage plans to open on Monday.

It is likely to be a small group though as many staff will have more significant issues to deal with and the scarcity of petrol may make it hard for some to get there.

My thoughts to everyone and their families in chch.

**George Follas - Syngenta, NZPPS Vice President**

I can confirm that all Syngenta staff and their families are safe and accounted for. We have three staff in the immediate area. One of them has suffered severe damage to their house and property and are dealing with it to the best they can at this stage. The company is providing all the appropriate and possible assistance. Our business facilities incurred minimal damage.

Other business contacts directly involved in our research and development have thankfully come through also with no major damage to properties and no injury to themselves, staff and family.

It is so hard to find words to express the depth of emotion, support and empathy to those involved directly in this. I have a strong feeling of hopelessness, of being able to send only words of encouragement and support. I wish all the members, their families and the research community impacted by this shocking disaster the very best and I hope that the days ahead get easier for them and the obstacles they face are speedily overcome.

**John Fletcher - NZPPS Comm**

We are all OK and seem to have minimal house damage (china glass pantry food etc) with some cracked concrete outside. We now have water power and sewer (I think!). Lots of liquefaction silt around so we have been digging out neighbour's yards. Callum had a very lucky escape glass shattered above him as he was loading his 4wd he ran and bricks fell about hitting his car. He took off down the middle of Montreal St and ended up here! He now has a replacement vehicle and will work from Timaru for now - we've borrowed a microscope from the lab as his apartment is badly damaged. It's fair to say everyone is quite shaken and twitchy especially if there is a decent after shock.

**Jayanthi Swaminathan - AgResearch, NZPPS Sec**

My family and I are safe but all were badly shaken. Just few broken glasses and display items broken otherwise everything else looks fine except for a few new cracks in the garage.

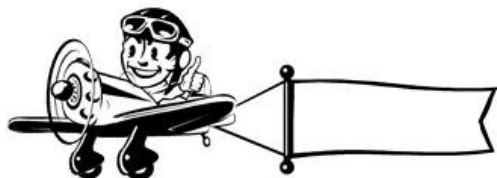
**Eckehard Brockerhoff - SCION and Lincoln University**

This is just to let you all know that my family, my colleagues at Scion / NZ Forest Research Institute, and I are all fine and were not injured during the earthquake in Christchurch yesterday. The university buildings and the Scion office are OK, too, apart from a bit of a mess. Many thanks for the kind wishes we received. I hope all our friends in Christchurch are well.



## Ad for Ads

Members of the NZPPS represent a broad group of individuals and companies interested in furthering plant protection research. If you are interested in placing an advert to reach our membership then please read the advertising guidelines below. Advertisements can be sent to the secretary ([secretary@nzpps.org](mailto:secretary@nzpps.org)).



## NZPPS Newsletter Advertising Policy

### Scope:

To outline the requirements and policy for allowing individuals or organisations to advertise for direct commercial gain in the NZPPSoc newsletter. It does not cover notifications for non commercial items such as scholarships, post doc fellowships or voluntary positions.

### Rationale:

To provide an opportunity for members to communicate advertisements to other members.

### Requirements:

1. Maximum size of 52 cm<sup>2</sup> (e.g. 80 [w] × 65 [d] mm).
2. The purchase of more than one 52 cm<sup>2</sup> for a single advertisement is at the discretion of the Exec Committee.
3. Advertisers must be fully paid individual or corporate members at the time of the publication.
4. Advertisements must fit the overall needs and aims of the membership.
5. Advertisements cannot contravene any other policies or constitution of the society.
6. Advertisements should be received by the end of the month preceding (30<sup>th</sup> April or 31<sup>st</sup> Nov.) the month the newsletter is published.
7. Cost: \$50 per add space (52 cm<sup>2</sup>) per issue. Payable upon receipt of invoice.
8. Final decision on inclusion qualification and content rests with the newsletter editor acting for the NZPPS Executive Committee.

## BOOKS FOR SALE



NZPPS Title	Date	\$
An Illustrated Guide to Common Weeds of NZ (3rd edition)	2010	\$ 59.99
Microbial Products: Exploiting Microbial Diversity for Sustainable Plant Production ( <i>The 2009 pre-conference symposium proceedings</i> )	2010	\$ 39.95
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
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
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 Proceeding*, are available from:

Manaaki Whenua Press, PO Box 40, Lincoln, Canterbury, New Zealand  
([MWPpress@landcareresearch.co.nz](mailto:MWPpress@landcareresearch.co.nz)).

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

## **NZPPS Sustaining Members**

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MAF Biosecurity New Zealand  
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Plant & Food Research  
Plant Protection Chemistry NZ  
SCION  
Syngenta Crop Protection Limited  
Zelam Limited



*Rotorua Caldera, photo courtesy of GNS Science. I'm not being alarmist, but it is a volcano! Ed*