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New Zealand Plant Protection Society (Inc)

NEWSLETTER

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Editorial – Kirstin Wurms Senior Scientist (Plant and Food Research)

Confessions of a Newbie....

For some time I have wanted to make “more of a difference” in plant protection science, and last year I was privileged to be elected to the Executive Committee of the NZ Plant Protection Society. This experience has brought its share of challenges -not the least being writing this editorial and putting together this newsletter issue! Even more importantly it has blown any misconceptions that I had about boring committee meetings completely out of the water. So here is my not-so-secret agent’s report of the inner workings of the Exec. I hope that it will help members of NZPPS to have a greater understanding of how the committee works and the benefits that it brings to all society members.

The committee is elected each year at the AGM by the democratic process of nomination and secondment by society members, so you can’t have a say on representation if you make fast your escape from the AGM! There are six elected positions in addition to the positions of president, vice president, immediate past president, secretary, editor and treasurer. The committee also has the mandate to second extra members in cases where additional expertise or sector representation is required. This was the case this year when Dr. Eirian Jones was asked to join the executive in April 2012 to provide a university perspective to complement the private industry, MPI and CRI viewpoints already represented on the committee.

Meetings are carried out quarterly and follow a very clearly defined agenda. One of the first items on the agenda is usually to go through the detailed minutes and action points arising from the previous meeting. This keeps everyone honest and ensures that meetings are not simply a talk-fest. Despite the extensive agenda lists, we always seem to cover off all the points without straying off the topic much – testimony to Karyn’s excellent chairmanship. Not every moment is serious though – for instance, during the first meeting that I attended I learnt some very interesting facts about committee members – that George Follas enjoys wearing a little stage makeup at Alice Cooper concerts, Tim Herman has renovated a villa, and Sue Zydenbos refuses to resign as editor until the Plant Protection Journal has an impact factor (Sue, forget the impact factor – please start working on cloning yourself, as we will be lost without you!).

Some topics appear regularly at meetings and I found this particularly interesting from the point that I had no idea of how much work goes behind the scenes into achieving outcomes that appear relatively straight forward to a casual observer. Case in point is obtaining an impact factor for the New Zealand Plant Protection Journal. For journals with one issue per annum, it takes four years to obtain an impact factor from Thomson Reuters (TR), and assignment of impact factor to once a year- edition journals is given the lowest priority. Despite carefully supplying all requested information over the required period, and Sue’s persistent calls to America in the wee small hours, TR managed to lose our application during an office-reshuffle and so the process starts all over! Thankfully Sue has the iron will that comes from raising two kids, juggling two highly demanding paid jobs and running a farm-let, so we can rest assured that the impact factor fight is in good hands. In the mean time, members can help by trying to cite NZ Plant Protection articles as much as possible.

Another key take home message from my Exec experience is the amount of effort that committee puts into promoting the plant protection science area and bringing increased benefits to society members. Examples include new initiatives to trial professional development sessions at this year’s annual conference, and plans to reinstate electronic payment of membership dues and conference and accommodation bookings (the independent e-system that we used previously was closed down by the banks because it was too cost effective!) Future initiatives include determining the financial viability of a travel scholarship to award long term society membership, and setup of a mentoring register to assist plant protection practitioners.

I am more enthused than ever about plant protection, knowing our executive committee operates at the highest degree of professionalism. The committee is constantly seeking to gain more recognition for our area of science, and is dedicated to bringing more benefits to its members. I believe that the committee is “making a practical difference” and I for one feel that our society is in good hands leading into the future. On that final note, please consider the report from Agent Wurms complete.

PS. Nobody paid me to write this article!!

New Zealand Plant Protection Society Symposium and Annual Conference 2012

Rutherford Hotel, Nelson

**NZ Plant Protection Symposium
Monday, 13 August 2012**

**“A Snapshot of Psa”
(*Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *actinidiae*)**



PSA-V damage

The goal:

To bring together scientists/professionals from the kiwifruit industry and related industries for one day of presentations and discussions to explore ways to control this pathogen based on our current collective knowledge.

Format:

Sessions of scientific presentations will be arranged around 4 themes, with interaction with the audience after each theme, and concluding with an open convened discussion. During this time wine and nibbles will be served.

Themes:

- 1) The Pathogen – topics covered will include the NZ incursion, complete genome sequencing & diagnostics, pathogenicity of strains.
- 2) The Environment – pathogen survival and transmission as influenced by the environment and the role of disease modelling will be covered.
- 3) The Plant – this session will explore effects of plant nutrition and metabolomics, breeding and bioassay updates and the selection on resistance markers
- 4) Control Options – control options being implemented in Europe, and the results of trials on

elicitors, products and biocontrol agents will be presented.

The draft symposium programme is expected on the Society website (www.nzpps.org) around 15 June

Symposium registration (\$150) can be made on the website (www.nzpps.org) until August 9th, after which payment must be made at the registration desk on the day of the symposium.

NZ Plant Protection Conference 2012

Tuesday 14 – Thursday 16 August



The [Rutherford Hotel and Convention Centre](http://www.rutherfordhotel.co.nz) is situated next to the cathedral in the heart of sunny Nelson

The Rutherford Hotel offers the following rates for NZPPS delegates.

Bed & breakfast rate of \$220 incl. GST (non commissionable), this is a rate based on twin share and includes 2 x fully cooked breakfasts
A single room = \$170, or \$195 incl. breakfast. (Note: some online rates may appear slightly cheaper, but are non-refundable.)

A draft conference programme is expected on the Society website (www.nzpps.org) soon

New conference feature **Professional Development Courses**

A big reminder that this year we are mixing our conference format up a little to provide more value to members by introducing professional development courses, run as concurrent sessions on the Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning of the conference. Our professional development sessions this year will

be run by Dr Naomi Cogger from the EpiCentre at Massey University who will be providing lectures on an introduction to epidemiology theory and on data management.

Professional Development Course 1 - Introduction to Epidemiology (90 mins)

Epidemiology is the study of pests or diseases in populations. To date the techniques have been applied widely to better understand pests and diseases in human and animal populations. This course will provide participants with an introduction to epidemiology principles such as causation & observational studies. Case studies, drawn from a range of species and problems (e.g. varroa mite on bees in NZ), will be used to illustrate the potential applications of epidemiological methods to plant protection science.

Professional Development Course 2 - Data Management (90 mins)

This course will cover the types of data that can be collected (quantitative versus qualitative and types within each) and the key differences between them when it is time for analysis. We will explore data management and structure (how to make it easy to input into a stats package or give to your biostatistician). We go over the use of summary statistics (central tendency, outliers, standard deviations, handling of missing values etc.) both to inform the statistical analysis models to use for different data types and how to report these descriptive statistics in reports or papers. This course will be a mix of theory and practical hands on working with datasets in excel. **Participants will need to bring their own laptop or arrange to share with a colleague.**

- *Karyn Froud*

Membership and Conference Fees

NZPPS membership fees for 2012/13 year are now due for renewal and will be emailed out to all members to the email address we have for you, so watch your inbox! Fees are \$85 per annum for full members, \$20 for associate/students, and \$300 for corporate membership.

Conference registration forms will also be emailed to you, and pricing for payments made, either by cheque, internet banking or via the website where Mastercard and Visa payments will be accepted for

multiple memberships and conference registrations (www.nzpps.org/payments) until August 9th as follows:

- 3 day conference, full member = \$290
- 3 day conference, student/associate = \$150
- 3 day conference, non-member = \$370
- 1 day attendance = \$130 (no late fee applies)

After August 9th on-line payments will be suspended, and for the 3 day conference a \$50 late fee will be charged, and must be paid to the registration desk prior to the conference.

NZPPS Membership in the Royal Society Up for Discussion ...

NZPP is currently a constituent organisation of the NZ Royal Society. This is a notice to inform members that there will be a discussion about NZPP constituent organisation membership to NZ Royal Society at the NZPP Annual General meeting 1-3 pm Wednesday 15 August at the Rutherford Hotel in Nelson. The following information is provided for the discussion. Benefits of constituent organisations (CO) as outline by the Royal Society of NZ are as follows:

Constituent Organisations:

- May put forward nominees for discipline-based Vice-President positions and Constituent Organisations' Representative on Council
- Vote in annual Royal Society of New Zealand elections
- Have opportunity to be represented on the Vice-Presidents' Advisory Panels
- Receive notice of (and opportunity to contribute to) policy papers and information pieces in preparation and produced by the Royal Society of New Zealand, for distribution to CO members for individual or organisational response
- Receive regular reports to COs on Royal Society of New Zealand engagement with government (new from Nov 2011)
- Receive regular CO newsletters (in development – new in 2012)
- Receive invitation to Constituent Organisations' annual meeting
- Receive notice of and/or invitation to lectures and events via nominated contact people (usually President and Secretary)

- May use free webspace available (subject to conditions) for CO webpages
 - Have listing on Royal Society of New Zealand website, with contact and CO website links
 - Have opportunity to hire, at discount rate, meeting and/or event space in Royal Society of New Zealand building (currently not available due to Thorndon site upgrade, but our newly developed building will be available from late 2012)
- Membership as a Constituent Organisation of the Royal Society of New Zealand gives your organisation leverage in determining the makeup of the Council, having representation on Vice-Presidents' Advisory Panels, and engaging at several levels with the Royal Society of New Zealand's policy and information papers. Your organisation's membership gives you the opportunity to focus the Royal Society of New Zealand's attention on matters of importance for your organisation.

The annual fee structure for Constituent Organisations of the Royal Society of New Zealand for 2012:

- The annual fee for each Constituent Organisation will be calculated at the rate of \$4 (excl. GST) per member of that CO.
- A minimum annual fee per CO of \$500 (excl. GST) and a maximum fee of \$1500 (excl. GST) will be applied.
- For the purposes of calculating the annual fee payable for 2012, the number of members should include full, professional members (not student or associate members, for example). If you are unclear about the category(ies) of membership to include, please contact us to discuss.

- Lisa Jamieson

From the Editor – June 2012



After the high number of abstracts submitted this year I thought we were on track for a thick volume 65. However, withdrawals have been amongst the highest since I started as NZPP Editor 13 years ago (yes that long!). While most of the work involved in the Editor's role is directly related to the papers that are published, there is still a certain amount of administration associated with abstracts submitted, such as finding and allocating referees to these potential papers, updating the database and sending out associated emails. Why are there so many withdrawn abstracts? I suspect much of it is due to the over-commitment situation many researchers

are currently finding themselves in – facing conflicting demands of delivering impacts to their industry partners and endusers, preparing funding applications to ensure continuity of research projects, writing scientific papers to maintain a good publication record, coping with restructuring in the workplace, and being a valued member of their scientific community. There is no magic silver bullet to maintaining a balance in all of these aspects of a scientific career, but some planning ahead may help with meeting deadlines for 2013 – there is no harm in starting to prepare your NZPP papers for next year now!

The great news is the success of the online submission process this year. A huge thank you to John Kean who has worked extremely hard to get the system up and running and shown even more dedication to rapidly fixing any unforeseen issues that have arisen along the way (despite the distractions of a stray fruit fly!). We never expected it would work perfectly the first time but it has certainly been a relatively smooth transition to the new way of operating. As some of you are aware, the use of an online submission system is an extremely efficient way to enforce deadlines! In the past, people have been able to submit papers late by appealing to my weaker side (yes – I do have one somewhere!), but now the dispassionate online system just shuts down at a pre-programmed time – and opening it back up is not something I can do.

Another giant leap forward has been the introduction of anonymous refereeing. I do think this has resulted in more rigorous evaluation of manuscripts – nearly 25% of the papers published were sent to a second referee because of significant concerns expressed by the first referee (usually this is around 10-12%). However, this does raise several other issues – the need for more (particularly impartial) referees, the need for an improvement in consistency between referees and the extra work involved in collating the two sets of comments. Any suggestions about how I can implement this would be appreciated.

After the success of the psyllid mini-symposium last year, a mini-symposium on "Regulatory Issues Affecting Plant Protection" is being organised for Thursday 16 August. This will be based around three papers that have been already accepted for publication in *New Zealand Plant Protection* along with 3-4 invited speakers – please let me know if you have any suggestions about who you would like to hear from in this mini-symposium.

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.

I am looking forward to seeing you all in sunny Nelson this year.

- Sue Zydenbos

Measuring Impact of New Zealand Plant Protection

As you will all be aware, *New Zealand Plant Protection* has applied to be assessed for an Impact Factor™ through the Journal of Citation Reports (JCR) published by Thomson Reuters. The process has been very drawn out, firstly because it takes at least 3 years to get a rating as we only publish one issue per year, and secondly because the records were lost when Reuters took over Thomson Scientific with whom we had initiated the process. Hopefully the process will be complete this year.

In the meantime, there is growing recognition that there are other ways to measure impact than just the Impact Factor™, particularly as libraries are questioning the value of the highly expensive subscription to JCR. One alternative is the freely-available SCImago Journal & Country Rank (SJR), which is a portal that includes journal and country scientific indicators developed from the information contained in the Scopus® database (Elsevier B.V.). The **SJR indicator**, developed by SCImago from the widely-known algorithm Google PageRank™, measures the scientific influence of the average article in a journal by expressing how central to global scientific discussion an average article of the journal

is. The **Cites per Doc. (2y)** value measures the scientific impact of an average article published in the journal and is computed using the same formula as Thomson Reuters' Impact Factor™.

New Zealand Plant Protection compares quite well with other New Zealand journals in these two values for the 2010 assessment (NZPP has not yet been ranked for the 2011 volume), as indicated in the Table below.

	New Zealand Plant Protection	New Zealand Journal of Crop and Horticultural Science	New Zealand Journal of Agricultural Science	New Zealand Journal of Ecology
SJR indicator	0.035	0.033	0.034	0.046
Cites per Doc. (2y)	0.36	0.33	0.64	1.13

The citation for this information is:

SCImago. (2007). SJR — SCImago Journal & Country Rank. <http://www.scimagojr.com> (retrieved 4 June 2012)

These measurements of a journal's impact are all based on how often papers from the journal are cited in other papers. The good thing about this is that **YOU CAN DIRECTLY INFLUENCE** *New Zealand Plant Protection's* citation metrics by making sure that you always reference your NZPP papers, particularly when you are publishing in international journals.

- Sue Zydenbos

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.

Nomination forms available at www.nzpps.org. Please send your nominations to; The Secretary, New Zealand Plant Protection Society, P.O. Box 14018, Christchurch 8544.

Scholarship Applications Reminder

Applications for the 2012 **New Zealand Plant Protection Society Research Scholarship** and the **Dan Watkins Scholarship in Weed Science** are due by 1st October. Scholarship applications for students registered at a university or other recognised New Zealand tertiary institutions will be considered.



Report on the Australasian weeds conference

The 17th Australasian Weeds Conference (17AWC) was held at Christchurch Convention Centre, 26-30 September 2010, hosted by the New Zealand Plant Protection Society (NZPPS) on behalf of the Council of Australasian Weed Societies (CAWS). A total of 204 delegates attended the 17AWC and presented 98 oral papers and 30 poster papers.

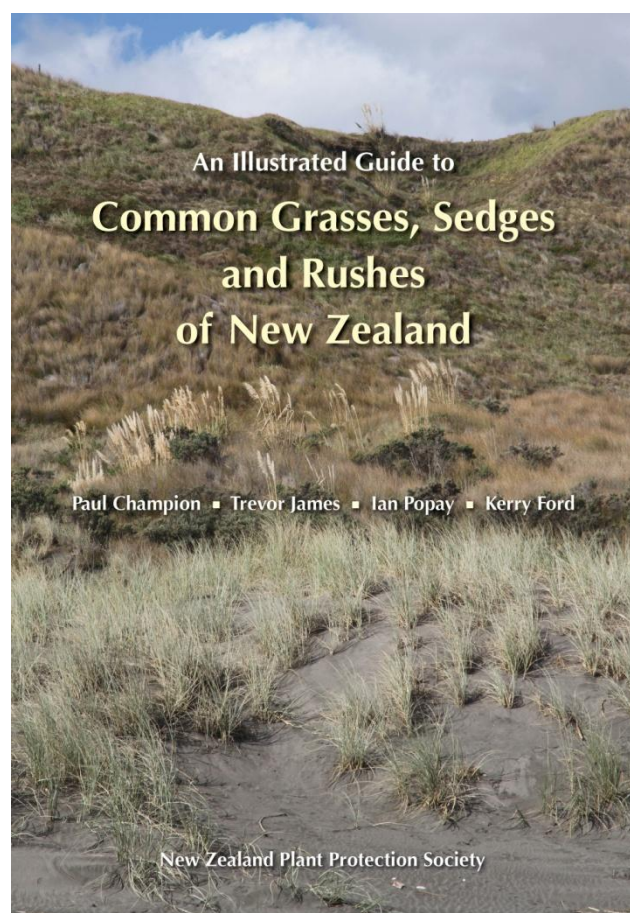


Jack Crow receiving the CAWS medal from CAWS president Sandy Lloyd during the conference dinner

The conference was a great success with very favourable feedback from most of the participants. The AWC is owned by CAWS and the profits are shared 50/50 between CAWS and the hosting society. A copy of the full 17AWC report is available from the NZPPS on request.

Hot News - New Publication

A companion book to "an Illustrated Guide to Common Weeds of New Zealand" is about to be published by the Society. This publication will cover common grasses, sedges and rushes. It contains excellent photographs and descriptions of 200 grass species, 28 rushes and 56 sedges. We are hoping that some will be available for purchase at the NZPP Conference in Nelson this year.



The Society wishes to thank the authors for their many hours of dedicated work to put together another book which will be very helpful to members of the Society and the general public alike.

BOOKS FOR SALE



NZPPS Title	Date	\$
An Illustrated Guide to Common Weeds of NZ (3rd edition)	2010	\$ 59.99
Paddock to PCR: demystifying molecular technologies for practical plant protection (<i>The 2010 pre-conference symposium proceedings</i>)	2011	\$ 39.95
Microbial Products: Exploiting Microbial Diversity for Sustainable Plant Production	2010	\$ 39.95
Surveillance for Biosecurity: pre-border to pest management	2008	\$ 39.95
Future challenges in crop protection: repositioning NZ's primary industries for the future	2008	\$ 39.95
Pesticide resistance: prevention and management strategies 2005	2005	\$ 39.50

only 2 left
Sold out

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 Proceedings*, are available from:

Manaaki Whenua Press, PO Box 40, Lincoln, Canterbury, New Zealand
(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

AgResearch Limited
Agronica New Zealand Ltd
BASF New Zealand Limited
Bayer CropScience
Department of Conservation
Dow AgroSciences Ltd
Etec Crop Solutions
Foundation for Arable Research
Horticulture New Zealand
Landcare Research
MAF Biosecurity New Zealand
NIWA
Nufarm NZ Limited
Orion Crop Protection
Peracto NZ Ltd
PGG Wrightson / Fruitfed Supplies
Pipfruit New Zealand Inc.
Plant & Food Research
Plant Protection Chemistry NZ
SCION
Syngenta Crop Protection Limited
Zelam Limited

Future conferences

NETS Pests in our Dynamic Landscapes (NZBiosecurity Institute Conference) 17-19 July, Wairakei Resort, Taupo
<http://biosecurity.org.nz/nets/next-nets/>

Psyllid 2012: Tomato Potato Psyllid in NZ 26-27 July, Ellerslie Convention Centre, Auckland (see flyer that follows)
<http://www.potatoesnz.co.nz>

**The 6th International Symposium on the Biology and Ecology of Gall Inducing Arthropods and related Endophytes
4-8 August 2013 O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat, Queensland, Australia**
<http://6isbegia.org>

The Vth International Weed Science Congress, 17-22 June, Hangzhou, China
<http://www.iwss.info/>

18th Australasian Weeds Conference, 8-11 October 2012, Melbourne
<http://www.18awc.com/>

6th Meeting on Induced Resistance in Plants Against Pathogens, 19-21 November, Vicosa, MG, Brazil Info: F. Rodrigues
Fabricio@ufv.br.

**The 10th Australasian Plant Virology Workshop
19th - 22nd November 2012, Hanmer Springs, Canterbury, New Zealand**
Details following soon on: <http://www.appsnet.org/public/>

**43rd Australian Entomological Society and 2012 Australasian Arachnological Society Conference
25-28 November 2012, Centre for Arts, University of Tasmania, Hobart**
<http://www.cdesign.com.au/aes2012/index.html>

Global Herbicide Resistance Challenge International Conference, 18-22 February 2013, Perth
<http://www.herbicideresistanceconference.com.au/>

Psyllid 2012

Tomato Potato Psyllid in New Zealand

26th - 27th July 2012

Held in conjunction with the Potatoes NZ annual conference on the 25th July



This 2 day conference will focus on new developments in New Zealand and overseas to manage and control psyllid.

Conference topics include:

- Chemical control
- Biological control
- IPM technologies
- Psyllid monitoring and forecasting
- Psyllid and Liberibacter
- Out in the field - grower experiences
- Zebra chip and tuber storage

Important dates:

2nd April 2012 - general registration opens

20th June 2012 - deadline for abstract submission

Cost:

Free to Potatoes NZ (Inc) grower and trade members (\$120+GST to all others)

Venue:

Ellerslie Convention Centre
Auckland, New Zealand

To register:

Email: andrea.crawford@hortnz.co.nz

For more information go to:

www.potatoesnz.co.nz

Major sponsor:

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