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## Editorial – Jayanthi Swaminathan Senior Research Associate, AgResearch

It is my pleasure to write the editorial for this newsletter. After pondering over what topic to write about, I have arrived at, “How to encourage youngsters to pursue a career in science”. This issue is highly relevant from both a national and global perspective. As the current guardians of the field of science, it is our responsibility to inspire and encourage innovation in our field for many years to come. We have to strive to foster interest and involvement in our discipline and government agencies like MBIE and CRIs are putting serious thought into addressing this matter.

So, what are we doing or planning to do, in order to get younger generations interested in science? Recently, Nature carried out an international survey – “Graduate Students – Aspirations and anxieties” (Russo G, 2011). This study was conducted across a wide spectrum of scientific professionals and students to identify the trends related to careers in science and also highlighted issues affecting science across the globe. The survey’s results imply that doubts grow as students advance towards the completion of their degree, and suggest that this may be because of deficiencies in career planning and advice from their supervisors. The survey data suggest that, although they relish their independence, such students consistently yearn for wise counsel.

A similar study was undertaken by the New Zealand Council of Educational Research - “Staying in Science – students’ participation in secondary education and on transition to tertiary studies”. The conclusion from this study seems to be “inconclusive”.

From the studies above, I believe the way forward would be to make the scientific curriculum more structured, interesting and relevant to real life situations. Furthermore, are we doing enough to encourage students to consider science as a future career, rather than merely another subject to gain credits in? Students sometimes need some direction in making career choices and I strongly believe that we as members of the New Zealand Plant Protection Society can help steer these individuals in the right direction.

In recognition of the importance of this issue, the NZPPS executive has appointed a subcommittee (Eirian Jones, Lisa Jamieson and Kirstin Wurms) to investigate ways to attract more people into plant protection science and how the NZPPS society can actively assist in this role. A mini-survey of University students will be conducted early next year to seek input from the students themselves. Ideas being discussed at the moment include developing a mentoring system to link students with more experienced NZPPS members, and a session at the annual conference to encourage interaction between students and industry representatives. The idea of using social networking as a means of communication has also been hotly debated! Watch this space for exciting developments in the future!

On a different note I would like to praise the enthusiasm shown by the members to attend and share their research findings at the recent symposium and conference in Nelson. I have been associated with NZPPS for the past 12 years in various capacities and, right from the pre-conference symposium, throughout the conference to the mini symposium, I felt that this has been another one of the successful event. The professional development courses provided a nice touch to the conference. This was an initiative set up by Karyn Froud and had very positive feedback from many delegates. A much more detailed account of the various components of this event is covered elsewhere in the Newsletter.

## Great symposium 2012, ... have appetite for more!

The NZPPS Symposium for 2012, entitled “A snapshot of Psa (*Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *actinidiae*)”, was held on 13<sup>th</sup> August immediately before the annual conference in Nelson. The purpose of the symposium was to give an overview of the current research being carried out on Psa, the bacterial pathogen that is threatening the NZ kiwifruit industry. Given that Psa represents the most significant economic threat faced by NZ's horticulture industries in the past 100 years, there was no shortage of interest, resulting in over 100 participants. Scientific presentations were arranged around four themes: the pathogen, the environment, the plant and the host. There were 24 different speakers, and, in a departure from tradition, questions/discussions were reserved until the end of each themed session. The symposium concluded with an open discussion between all participants whilst wine and nibbles were served to their tables. Despite the full programme, and perhaps aided by the wine, enthusiasm was such that the discussion continued well into the evening, and was still in full swing two hours later when executive committee members including myself (Kirstin Wurms) started our committee meeting! Feedback has been extremely positive and Zespri has since asked NZPPS to run future Psa symposia on its behalf. A “Psa snapshot 2” is planned for 12<sup>th</sup> February in the Bay of Plenty, with further details included in this newsletter. It is hoped that the sharing of ideas and fostering of new collaborations brought about by this symposium will provide more fire-power in the battle to overcome this devastating disease.



## A ZESPRI Symposium run by the New Zealand Plant Protection Society Tuesday, 12 February 2013 Tect Arena, Bay Park, Mount Maunganui

### “A Snapshot of Psa – a Sequel” (*Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *actinidiae*)

#### Introduction

Following on from the success of the NZPPS symposium on Psa held on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2012, this symposium aims to further explore ways to control this pathogen by providing updates on the latest research and by exploring some of the topics presented in synopsis at the first symposium in greater detail.

#### Target audience

Scientists/professionals from the kiwifruit industry and related industries.

#### Format

Sessions of scientific presentations will be arranged around two themes, concluding with an open discussion. There will be two international keynote speakers – Giorgio Balestra and Angelo Mazzaglia.

#### Themes

1) Molecular Advances – topics covered will include advances in Europe, complete genome sequencing, pathogenicity of strains, and markers and genetics of host resistance.

2) Epidemiology and Biology – the complete Psa life cycle, seasonal inoculum availability, Psa movement within the host, cellular observations, and the latest on control options.

#### Registration

Online registration will be available on the NZPPS website ([nzpps.org](http://nzpps.org)) from 30 November. The registration cost of \$150 includes morning and afternoon teas, lunch, and wine and finger food to be served during the open general discussion.

#### Symposium Programme

A draft programme will be placed on the NZPPS website from early December.

## Another successful mini-symposium during the 2012 conference ...

### “Regulatory Issues Affecting Plant Protection”

The mini-symposium held on the last day of the conference was very successful, with a large number of people staying on for this session. The first part focussed on pheromones and biological control, with the three papers published in NZPP being presented first, followed by Geoff Ridley from the Environmental Protection Authority talking about “Biological control agent importation process – future from a regulatory perspective”. The second session considered agrichemicals, including biopesticides, starting with two presentations from Warren Hughes, Ministry for Primary Industries: “Implementation of the new system for ACVM research approvals (RTTO)” (on behalf of Glen Bradbury) and “Proposed changes to efficacy requirements for registration and the inclusion of biopesticides”. These were followed by Rebecca Fisher from Market Access Solutionz talking about “The impact of the reassessment of organophosphates/carbamates and policy advancements in the registration for new agrichemicals”. Bringing it all together at the end was Graeme Peters, representing AgCARM, whose topic was “Industry perspectives of regulatory influences on commercialising plant protection products with a focus on data protection and changes to efficacy requirements”. The panel discussion at the end produced some robust and rigorous debate. We were very fortunate to have such a great variety of perspectives presented and the updates about proposed regulatory changes were very useful for both researchers and industry people.

## And there was more ...

### Success of the new initiative: Professional Development Courses

Hello all you NZPPS members that read the newsletter! This year we mixed our conference format up a little to provide more value to members by introducing professional development sessions on the Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning of the conference. We had two concurrent sessions offered twice and we focussed on an introduction to population based epidemiology and data management, which was delivered by Dr Naomi Cogger from the EpiCentre at Massey University.

We were delighted at the response from the members to these sessions (a full house for all sessions) and there have been several requests to repeat this at next year’s conference. At this stage we are planning a similar format to last year and are currently canvassing members for what to include in next year’s line-up.

Topics that have been suggested already include ‘scientific writing’ (the Editor would like to see this!); ‘stress management for professionals’, ‘exploratory data analysis’ and risk analysis tools.

If you have any additional ideas; would like to support one of those already suggested or would like to offer your services to deliver a course, please email Karyn Froud (NZPPS Exec member) at [karyn.froud@orcon.net.nz](mailto:karyn.froud@orcon.net.nz)

## New Zealand Plant Protection Society Symposium and Annual Conference 2013

Next year’s conference will be held in the Napier War Memorial Conference Centre from 13-15 August 2013. We are planning another exciting conference complete with professional development and special topic sessions.

The conference will be again preceded by a one day symposium on Monday 12 August, which is advertised below.

We are currently in negotiation with the Pania Lodge Motel (opposite the Conference Centre) regarding accommodation. Details will be posted on our webpage ([www.nzpps.org](http://www.nzpps.org)).



### NZ Plant Protection Society Pre-Conference Symposium: Monday 12 August, 2013

At the October 2012 NZPPS executive meeting it was proposed that a subcommittee be formed to develop a symposium on:

#### ‘Risk analysis for imports and exports’

If you would like to contribute any ideas please contact: [Lisa.Jamieson@plantandfood.co.nz](mailto:Lisa.Jamieson@plantandfood.co.nz)

## NZ Committee on Pesticide Resistance (NZCPR)

The NZCPR has undergone some changes in recent times. Dr Rob Beresford and Mr Bruce Chapman, Chair of the committee and convenor of the insecticide task force, respectively, have both decided to step down from the committee.

Rob has been a leader in the development of numerous fungicide resistance management strategies, including the recently released strategy for *Venturia inaequalis* in apples.

Bruce co-authored the mite resistance management strategy and worked behind the scenes to ensure strategies were developed for key insect pests that had either developed some level of resistance, were showing signs that populations had some tolerance or were at risk of developing resistance.

Both Rob and Bruce have provided great leadership over their time on the NZCPR and the New Zealand Plant Protection Society (NZPPS) Executive acknowledge this and thank Rob and Bruce for their endeavours during their time on the committee.

Before Rob and Bruce left, the NZCPR identified potential replacements and approached these candidates. With their approval, the NZCPR nominated the candidates to the Executive who have ratified these changes. The NZCPR now consists of Mr George Follas, Syngenta Crop Protection, Chair, Dr Kerry Harrington, Massey University, Herbicides, Mr Grant Hagerty, BASF, Fungicides and Mr Tim Herman, Agrivet Services, Insecticides.

One of the first actions for the new NZCPR will be to place profiles and contact details on the Resistance Management pages of the NZPPS website. Any people wanting to contact the Committee or contribute to its activities please feel free to make yourselves known.

### From the Editor –



December 2012

Like many people I have since talked to, I found that the conference had a really upbeat atmosphere with fantastic attendance and lots of discussion in the sessions. This is great when numbers of papers and posters presented were in the lowest quartile for the last 20 years! It just goes to show that the conference is not just about listening to papers – the opportunity to interact with people both from within and outside one's own organisation seems to be a key drawcard. The big factor with the lower numbers is not the number of abstracts submitted (n=77) but the surprisingly high rate of withdrawal (only 63% of those submitted were published). The pdf files have been loaded on the website and the changes made post-publication are indicated elsewhere in the newsletter.

I hope you are enjoying the small photos on the front cover that are changed every issue. I really like this, but I am surprised how I actually need to go and ask people for pictures – when we started this I thought the problem would be receiving too many and not being able to choose! You can send them to me when Abstracts are submitted – 15 February 2013 – so get those cameras out this summer. Please remember that, while I work for AgResearch, my role as NZPP Editor is completely outside this position. Therefore, all emails should be directed to editor@nzpps.org (it is helpful to set up an email address called “NZPP Editor” that doesn't use my name) and I would prefer that any discussions about papers are done outside my work hours. Also please remember to use the assigned paper number in all correspondence – it is really helpful if this is in the “Subject” line of the email.

As I mentioned at the AGM, *New Zealand Plant Protection* was not given an Impact Factor™ rating by Thomson Reuters this year. I talked to the Senior Editor in August and she indicated that it had not performed well enough in the citation analysis done for the 2009 and 2010 issues. There was also an issue with delivery of the 2009 journal on time – a key criterion for being given a rating. This was actually nothing to do with our publication schedule – the issue had been posted by the Secretary and was apparently never received at Thomson Reuters – something we found out about 6 months later. We now send the latest issue immediately after publication with a Postal Tracking Ticket. However, the good news is that Thomson Reuters has acquired the Biosis portfolio and this will now be included in the citation analysis, which the editor felt would give more exposure to *New Zealand Plant Protection*. Rating will begin again with the 2013 issue – so please get into the habit of citing your NZPP papers whenever you publish in an international journal – the more citations, the greater the impact factor. I hope you all read and understood the article I wrote in the May newsletter – I think it is worth reflecting on this. The freely-available SCImago Journal Rank (SJR), produced from the Scopus® database, is calculated in the same way as Thomson Reuters' Impact Factor™. The 2010 issue of *New Zealand Plant Protection* was given a SJR rank of 0.035 – slightly above that of *New Zealand Journal of Crop and Horticultural Science* and *New Zealand Journal of Agricultural Science*. Many journals now use the SJR indicator as well as the Impact Factor™ – so if you are needing a rating to cite – then please use this.

I would like to thank the referees for their input – particular given the very tight timeframes we work under. Lastly – once again, my wonderful family needs acknowledgement for their support during that completely crazy April-June period.

Sue Zydenbos

## Membership and Page charges

### Go Green...

It is now easy to pay overdue membership or page charges online using the NZPPS on-line credit card payment facility. Just go to nzpps.org HOME tab and select "make an online payment".

## NZPPS Website Editor's Report – June 2012



It's been almost a year since we unveiled the new look for the Society's website ([nzpps.org](http://nzpps.org)), and I thought it might be useful to review the recent changes and let you know about our plans for further development. As the Society's activities grow, with recent innovations including regional workshops, mini-symposia and professional development sessions, the website will need to evolve alongside to support these.

Hopefully you consider the new interface and menu system to be cleaner and easier to use than the old one, which had menu items scattered along the top and left hand sides of the page. A major benefit of the new layout is that it gives more space for the content. For example, the Pesticide Resistance Management Strategies information portal ([resistance.nzpps.org](http://resistance.nzpps.org)) has been refreshed to match the new look, and now some of the big tables there actually fit on the page. We are planning to revise, update, and add to the current resistance strategies over the next couple of years, and I am working on some changes in the background that will make it easier to keep them updated in the future.

You will recall that two years ago we introduced a system for online payment of membership fees and conference registrations. No sooner had this feature become indispensable to our members than our online provider closed down! After considerable work we secured another merchant and had an improved system ready in time for the rush of payments before this year's conference. Many thanks to those of you who use the online payment system, because it makes life a lot easier for our hard-working treasurer. Some minor enhancements are planned.

The other big change in website functionality has been the development of our online journal submission system. As you can probably appreciate, this is a complicated process, and our unusual link between peer-reviewed journal papers and conference presentations means that we have had to develop our own unique system, from the ground up. While the front end is largely completed, and was used successfully for Volume 65 (2012), there is a little more work to do behind the scenes to fully automate the editorial and

peer reviewing process. We hope to complete this in time for Volume 66 (2013).

One of the highlights for me, as website editor, is the opportunity to present a report at the AGM. I take this responsibility very seriously, and consider it an obligation to report on the most important and groundbreaking research being accessed from our website. This year I used software aptly named *Publish or Perish* to find the most cited NZPP papers of former years; the results are tabulated below. However, citation is not the only measure of impact. Much of our work is at the operational end of the research spectrum, so an (arguably) equally valid assessment of impact is the number of pdf downloads from our website, many of which result from end-users accessing our work. This is not something that is captured by current official measures of science impact (such as the PBRF), so I would like to introduce the three most downloaded papers of 2011-12 with appropriate ceremony.

It occurred to me that great science is almost always the result of fruitful collaboration between two or more researchers. If collaborators can produce beautiful science, surely they would also produce beautiful babies! To test this hypothesis, I used an online site (MorphThing.com) to generate pictures of the probable offspring of our most successful collaborators. I think the results speak for themselves...

### Third most downloaded paper:

Trevor James & Anis Rahman (2010) Chemical control of field horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*)



### Second most downloaded paper:

Cheah, Mark McNeill et al (2009) Evaluation of disinfectant products for microbial decontamination of imported used footwear



### Most downloaded paper of 2011-12:

Kerry Everett, Jonathon Rees-George et al. (2010) Advantages and disadvantages of microarrays to study microbial population dynamics - a minireview



Year	Most cited paper (title may be abbreviated)	Citations
2000	N Rabeendran et al: Inconsistent growth promotion from <i>Trichoderma</i>	20
2001	G Lovei: Ecological risks and benefits of transgenic plants	20
2002	H Ramezani et al: Fungicidal effect of volatile oils from <i>Eucalyptus citriodora</i> SA Whiteman et al: Detection of <i>Phaeomoniella chlamydospora</i> in soil	20
2003	BP Stephenson et al: Biosecurity approaches to surveillance and response	16
2004	Q Paynter et al: Safety in New Zealand weed biocontrol	18
2005	JM Kean & DM Suckling: Estimating the probability of eradication of PAM RE Gaskin et al: Characterising plant surfaces for spray adhesion	20
2006	JG Charles et al: A review of the ecology of GLRaV-3	18
2007	AJ Popay: Cultivar and endophyte effects on a root aphid, <i>Aploneura lentisci</i>	20
2008	NT Amposah: Production of <i>Botryosphaeria</i> conidia in grapevine shoots	10
2009	DAJ Teulon et al: <i>Bactericera cockerelli</i> : incursion, dispersal and distribution	14
2010	JL Vanneste et al: Molecular characterisations of Psa strains in Italy	6

John Kean

## Report on the Australasian Weeds Conference

The 18th Australasian Weeds Conference was recently held in Melbourne during the 2nd week of October. This conference followed the successful 17AWC which our Society hosted in Christchurch in 2010 (between earthquakes). The 18AWC attracted just over 100 papers and about 250 delegates. Although the papers were of the usual high standard and the conference included a mini-symposium on glyphosate resistance, the conference did not attract as many delegates as anticipated. We think this very much reflects the poor health of science and weed science in particular in Australia as the state governments continue to lay off agriculture (and other staff) by the hundreds. In Australia now, as in NZ there are few prospects for new graduates to enter the workforce! Despite this the conference was very good and the dozen or so delegates from NZ all thoroughly enjoyed the conference and associated field trips.

The 19AWC will be hosted by Tasmania in Hobart in 2014. Hopefully I might see some of you there!

The proceedings from the 18AWC can be found on the CAWS homepage <http://www.caws.org.au/>

## Errata

Changes may be made to papers and poster abstracts that have been published in the hard copy of *New Zealand Plant Protection*. These changes are made to the .pdf file and the altered versions are available on the website ([www.nzpps.org](http://www.nzpps.org)). An "Errata List" is only printed in the December issue of the New Zealand Plant Protection Society newsletter. If in doubt about the contents of a printed paper – remember that the website always has the most recent version of a paper.

Corrections were made on nine pages in Volume 65 (2012):

- p.3 – 2nd column: two changes:
  - (i) third line of "Results and Discussion" section ... Changed: "However, the identity of ....." to .... "Nonetheless, the identity of ....."
  - (ii) 11th line of "Results and Discussion" section ... Changed: ... "populations recovered from same plant varied widely, ..." to ... "populations recovered from the sample plant varied widely, ..."
- p. 5, caption for Figure 3: Panels references changed from capital letters to lower case. It now reads ... "Panels (a) and (b) correspond to plants inoculated with a low concentration of Psa ( $1.7 \times 10^7$  cfu/ml), panels (c) and (d) to plants inoculated with a medium concentration of Psa ( $1.2 \times 10^8$  cfu/ml) and panels (e) and (f) plants ..."
- p. 67, Table 3: The second set of two rows of ... "Benefit 0.5" should line up with the Nicosulfuron<sup>2</sup> rows (not the Nicosulfuron<sup>3</sup> rows), i.e. the four "Benefit 0.5" are immediately under each other.
- p. 163 Figures 1 and 2: two new figures were supplied – the data are the same but the quality is now higher.
- p. 199, Figure 1: a new Figure was supplied that contains data for 2 additional years (1991 and 1992). These data were discussed in the text but the wrong figure was initially supplied.
- p. 228: Changed "Botryosphaerea" to "Botryosphaeria". This occurred three times on this page: in the title, 7th line of the Abstract and in the Keywords.
- p. 233: The above change was also made in the "Acknowledgements" (4th to last line).
- p. 281: In the first line of the Abstract, "statues" changed to "statutes".
- p. 285: 9th line from the bottom in the 2nd column ... "burdon" changed to "burden".

## AWARDS

### New Zealand Plant Protection Medal



Congratulations to MARGARET DICK, the 2012 NZPP MEDAL RECIPIENT

At the annual society conference dinner, August 2012, it was the privilege of our President Karyn Froud to present the New Zealand Plant Protection Medal to Margaret Dick.

Margaret has had a distinguished career with the Forest Research Institute (now Scion) over 40 years in forest pathology and was one of only five forest pathologists in the country in the early days. Margaret's knowledge and research has brought huge benefits to the forestry industry and helped to protect the urban and native trees that enrich our environments.

One of the many notable outcomes of Margaret's work was the timely and skilful identification of *Fusarium circinatum*, which prevented a devastating unwanted organism from entering New Zealand.

Margaret is recognised by her colleagues and the wider industries as the "go to person" when there are queries on tree diseases. There are few in the country who can match her knowledge of exotic tree diseases.

Like all great scientists Margaret develops others and imparts her passion for research and quest for increasing the knowledge and understanding in her field of plant pathology. She has overseen and guided the research of numerous younger pathologists, and paved the way for women to enter this specialist science arena.

Congratulations to Margaret in being the recipient of the 2012 NZPP Medal, which is in recognition of her extensive work in forest pathology and plant protection.

### Emerging Speaker Award



At the 2012 conference three executive committee members were again kept busy with judging the "emerging speakers" who were presenting for their first times at a New Zealand Plant Protection Society Conference. This year there were nine emerging speakers, and they ranged in experience from a first year student presenting work from a summer scholarship conducted through a CRI, to a post-doctoral researcher relatively new to New Zealand. The standard was again very high, and the committee always has pleasure in recognising the huge effort made by all emerging or new speakers who make such an effort to present their work clearly and succinctly to the conference attendees. All participating speakers receive notes on how their presentation was received with commendations on aspects that were outstanding, and a small number of recommendations for how they might improve in the future. The winner this year was Victoria Raw, who received a book voucher and card. Congratulations Victoria!

### New Zealand Plant Protection Society Research Scholarship and the Dan Watkins Scholarship in Weed Science

This year the Society received a record number of applicants for both the NZPPS Scholarship and the Dan Watkins Scholarship for Weed Science. All applicants were of a very high standard and covered a diverse range of topics. There was very little difference between the top applicants so those that were unfortunately unsuccessful still need to be commended for the quality of their applications.

In the end, however, we had to limit ourselves to two NZPPS Scholarships and there is only ever a single Dan Watkins Scholarship, so we wish to congratulate the following:

NZPPS Scholarships (\$3,500 each) to Mette-Cecilie Nielson for her work on 'Factors affecting host finding response of thrips' and Herath Mudiyansele Anusara Mihirani for her work on '*Peronospora sparsa* biology and drivers of disease epidemics in boysenberry'.

Dan Watkins Scholarship (\$5,000) to Hossein Ghani Zadeh for his work on 'Aspects of herbicide resistant weeds in New Zealand'.

## Books for sale

As shown in the Table opposite and the outline on the following page, two new books have been published this year.



Some of our very popular old symposium proceedings, such as "Defending the green oasis: New Zealand biosecurity and science", are now sold out, but they can still be accessed as pdf files on the NZPPS website.

There are limited stocks (10-20 copies) remaining of the more recent ones: "Paddock to PCR: demystifying molecular technologies for practical plant protection", "Microbial Products: Exploiting microbial diversity for sustainable plant production", "Surveillance for Biosecurity: pre-border to pest management" and "Future challenges in crop protection: repositioning New Zealand's primary industries for the future". For two books, there is only one copy remaining for sale – so be in quick: "Managing wilding conifers in New Zealand: present and future" and "Plant protection challenges in organic production".

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.**

Book Title	Date	\$
An illustrated guide to common grasses, sedges and rushes of New Zealand	2012	\$ 59.99
An Illustrated Guide to Common Weeds of NZ (3rd edition)	2010	\$ 59.99
Paddock to PCR: demystifying molecular technologies for practical plant protection	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
Managing wilding conifers in New Zealand: present and future	2004	\$ 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

## New Book ...

### An Illustrated Guide to Weed Seeds of New Zealand

Trevor James, Ian Popay, Paul Champion, Nik Grbavac and Birgit Rhode (2012) ISBN 978-0-473-22410-3

Now for something completely different! How many of you have ever looked closely at the details of the seeds of weeds? Some, we admit, are rather boring but then again, some of them are absolutely stunning. A glance at the front cover of this book reveals some of huge variation in the size and shape of seeds. Most of the seeds described and pictured are of weedy species, and the pictures show clearly the adaptations that have evolved to ensure they thrive as weeds: hooks and spines to attach the seed to wool, fleece or socks to help spread; awns that twist with wetting and drying to help bury the seed and anchor it in the soil during germination; seeds so tiny they blow like dust in the wind, or larger ones with wings or parachutes so they float on air; corky seed coats that act as life jackets in streams and lakes.

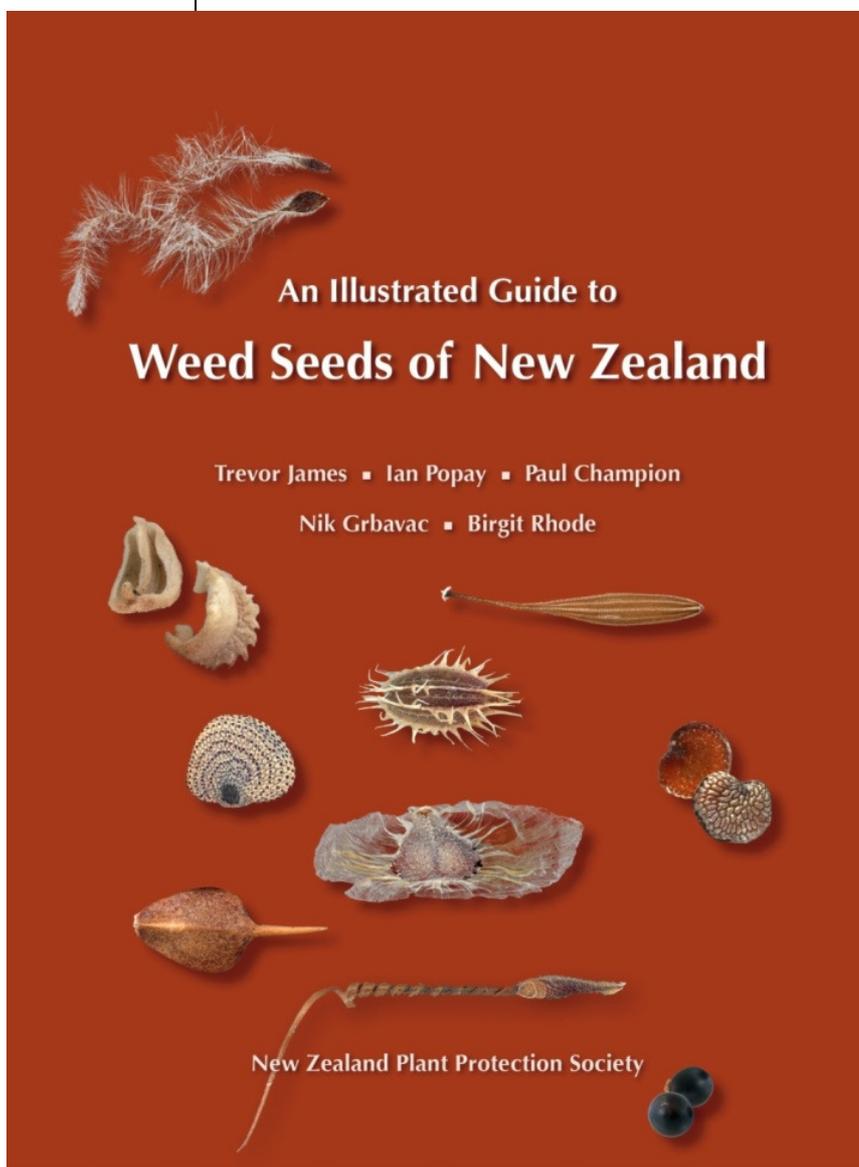
This book will be useful for all workers in ecological research, pest plant management or, indeed, for everybody involved in agriculture or horticultural production. It is also of importance to anyone with a general interest in plants and the incredibly different forms that evolution has wrought. The book covers native and introduced species, and also includes seeds of species that have not,

as yet, established in New Zealand but which have been intercepted in imported seed or other agricultural products (like cocopeat). The pictures and their descriptions are often not of the seeds as such, but of the form in which they are usually seen, surrounded by remains of flower structures that help in their survival or dispersal.

The Introduction, Identification aid and Glossary are followed by 116 pages with 696 superb photographs of 623 different species, all with a brief description and distribution information. The book is spiral bound, 144 pp, with full colour photographs.

The authors are Trevor James of AgResearch, Ian Popay from Landcare Research and Paul Champion from NIWA, all weed wizards; Nik Grbavac, seed specialist from Agriquality, Lincoln; and Birgit Rhode of Landcare Research. To find out how Birgit took those amazing photographs you have to buy this book!

RRP \$49.99. Released November 2012.



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## **Future conferences**

**The first International Conference on Pesticidal Plants, 21-24 January, Kenya**  
[http://www.nri.org/projects/adappt/docs/ICPP\\_2nd\\_announcement\\_May\\_2012.pdf](http://www.nri.org/projects/adappt/docs/ICPP_2nd_announcement_May_2012.pdf)

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

**Biodiversity and Integrated Pest Management: Working Together for a Sustainable Future, 4-5, July 2013, North Sulawesi, Indonesia**  
<http://www.oired.vt.edu/ipmcrsp/biodivipm2013/>

**International Chemical Ecology Conference, 19-23 August, Melbourne, Australia**  
<http://www.iita.org/ipve>

**19<sup>th</sup> Australasian Plant Pathology Conference, 25-28 November 2013, Auckland**  
<http://www.apps2013.co.nz/>

# Collage of conference photos

