

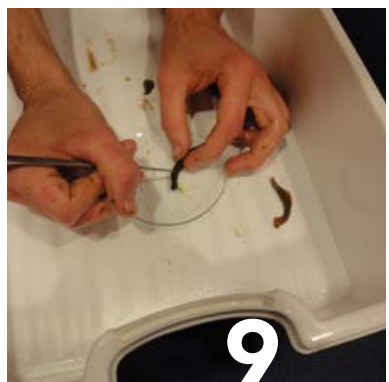


New Zealand
Biosecurity Institute

the magazine of the NZBI Spring 2016

Protect

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inside

NZBI Contacts	2
Editor's note	4
From the Executive: Plenty going on	4

NZBI News

Biosecurity Institute elects new head	5
Marijuana import highlights biosecurity concerns	5
Institute wants bigger better biosecurity branding	6

NETS2016

NETS2016 - summary and photos	7-12
Peter Nelson Memorial Award for Maurice Kennedy	13
Peter Russell wins the Peter Ingram Memorial Award	14
Māori Biosecurity Network wins Dave Galloway Award for Innovation	15
Ann Brow and Genevieve Bannister win Stook Award	15

Sector News

High alert this stink bug season	16
Why talk about ants and rats?	17
Biosecurity briefs	18

Opinion

No more predators	20
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The tail

Spot the unusual word	20
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New Zealand
Biosecurity Institute

Working together to ensure New Zealand is protected from the adverse impacts of invasive species

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The New Zealand Biosecurity Institute can be
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■ EDITOR'S NOTE

Let's keep our foot on the pedal

I was pleased recently to be approached in the vehicle queue at the Picton Ferry Terminal to be given the Clean Check Dry message by biosecurity staff. It's good to see this programme continuing to raise public awareness. It's important not to take the foot off the pedal on this one.

The last few months have certainly shown there's never a dull moment when it comes to biosecurity: The proposition for a predator free NZ by 2050 is an exciting call to arms; the draft Biosecurity 2025 strategy document

was released with its broad aim of having every New Zealander engaged on biosecurity issues; a pea weevil is causing problems in Wairarapa and interesting steps are underway to ensure its demise; a ship load of palm kernel from an unreliable source has been prevented from unloading on our shores; it's stink bug season and biosecurity staff are working to ensure the unwanted pest does not become established here; and there continues to be a wide spectrum of products intercepted at the border. As well, colleagues from across the Pacific have been busy networking in Samoa. Read on—there's certainly no lack of variety.

CHRIS MACANN,
EDITOR



A website review is underway

■ FROM THE NZBI EXECUTIVE

Plenty going on

Our last Executive meeting was held on July 26th in Auckland on the eve of NETS2016. It has been busy time for the committee since then. A few important matters have cropped-up which we felt needed our action.

We produced a submission on the Biosecurity 2025 discussion document emphasising what we have always maintained—that we would like to see better biosecurity branding enacted under the strategy. We produced a media statement accompanying the submission. We also encouraged members and their organisations to make their own submissions.

In response to members' queries about importing medicinal marijuana as dried plant material we released a media statement clarifying with MPI that dry marijuana is inspected for its biosecurity risks the same as any other plant material, despite an apparent oversight exposed recently on NZ television. President Darion Embling was interviewed by independent radio on the matter.

We are presently investigating a new way of managing the website and its content. We believe a more user friendly system needs to be put in place. The new system needs to be robust, clear and concise. We plan that the new format will allow the Executive members to make modifications and updates themselves rather than by going through one person. Use of the Institute website has increased by 7% since last year. David Brittain has been working as the website manager for about ten years and feels it is time for him to step down

We are working on a NETS Conference Guide to ensure consistency from year to year and provide a frame-work for future organising committees. The guide will document experiences from past NETS conferences.

Work on the Institute Archives Project incorporating the Oral History Project continues. Its progress is determined by funding and we are continuing to look for support and sponsorship for the project.

We are investigating ways of managing the membership database to make it easier to administer and keep up to date. As well we are attempting to fill the Membership Officer position. Institute membership remains stable at around 400 with a good number of renewals and a steady flow of new members.

The next Executive meeting will be held on November 10th in Wellington.

Thank you one and all for your support of the Institute.

THE NZBI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Biosecurity Institute elects new head

The New Zealand Biosecurity Institute has elected Waikato-based plant pest manager Darion Embling as its new president.

Mr Embling succeeds Auckland-based senior biosecurity advisor Rebecca Kemp who stepped down from the role in July. Ms Kemp will remain an executive member of the Institute.

Ms Kemp said Mr Embling's experience of pest plant management and in engaging communities on the wider issue of invasive species were key qualities which secured him the presidency.

Darion is employed as plant pests team leader at Waikato Regional Council. He said the past few months have been significant for the Institute and the biosecurity sector.

"In July the government announced its initiative to make New Zealand predator free by 2050, and released its draft guiding document for biosecurity until 2025.

"As well, the unwanted establishment of the invasive pest plant velvetleaf in pockets across the country tested biosecurity workers nation-wide when they came together to manage the plant's further spread."



Darion Embling is the New Zealand Biosecurity Institute's new president.

Mr Embling said every year Institute members spend hundreds of hours controlling or managing the risks to the economy and the environment of the effects of introduced pests.

"This is work which costs the country hundreds of millions of dollars each year through control, research and border control budgets. This money is coming out of all New Zealanders' pockets," he said.

Marijuana import highlights biosecurity concerns

The first legal medicinal marijuana that came into New Zealand did not breach customs regulations but there was a breach in biosecurity procedure.

According to one affected sector group The New Zealand Biosecurity Institute (NZBI), publicity over the first legal importation of medical marijuana failed to pick-up the fact that the plant material still had to undergo biosecurity assessment for risk. This process

was seemingly missed at the border but was noticed by members of the Institute who asked its Executive Committee to enquire further.

NZBI President Darion Embling said a number of its members were concerned at an apparent breach of biosecurity screening processes at the border.

"We have been in touch with MPI, and as a result we understand that MPI refers all declared cannabis products from arriving air passengers to NZ Customs in the first instance. In this case, the items appear to have been released without being re-referred to MPI for biosecurity inspection," Mr Embling said.

"We have had an assurance from MPI that it is working with Customs to ensure future medical marijuana products declared by passengers undergo inspection for biosecurity risk as required.

Mr Embling said the risks of shortcutting the system by letting any kind of plant material into New Zealand without inspection are too high.

"The costs to the nation of any biosecurity breach are enormous.

continued





"We have recently seen the arrival of the invasive pasture weed velvetleaf, a result of an apparent pre-screening and border inspection failure.

"As well, the disease which is killing kauri trees may possibly have arrived in New Zealand undetected on imported kauri material from other parts of the world.

"Any shortcuts to our biosecurity system are unacceptable. The risks are too serious."

Mr Embling said the incident is timely as it comes during the consultation period for the proposed guiding document for biosecurity for the next ten years; Biosecurity 2025.

The NZBI has submitted on the proposed document that it would like to see more accountability.

"Our members want to improve practices and see clear leadership with clear accountability."

Mr Embling said every year Institute members spend hundreds of hours controlling or managing the risks to the economy and the environment of the effects of introduced pests.

Institute wants bigger better biosecurity branding



Biosecurity sector group The New Zealand Biosecurity Institute wants to see the return of the Biosecurity NZ brand.

In a submission on the government's discussion document on the future of biosecurity; Biosecurity 2025, the Institute has asked for the re-launch and strong marketing of the former Biosecurity NZ brand.

Institute President Darion Embling said the Biosecurity NZ brand has become lost within the wider branding of The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI).

"We want to see it as a strong brand in its own right.

"Primary sector biosecurity is vital but it's not just about protecting primary industries and if the government wants to get a team of 4.5 million New Zealanders championing the biosecurity cause, which is a key aim of

the document, it needs to focus on the word "biosecurity" not the words "primary industries".

Mr Embling said he would like the single word "biosecurity" to be as common a catch-cry for all New Zealanders as the phrase "location, location, location".

Mr Embling said the business of biosecurity sits uncomfortably within MPI.

"When we hear a major biosecurity announcement made, if it must come from the Ministry for Primary Industries, we want to hear the office described as Ministry for Primary Industries and Biosecurity," Mr Embling said.

NETS2016: emerging threats in diverging communities

An overview of three eventful days of learning, sharing and socialising

■ BY PROTECT EDITOR CHRIS MACANN

And so it was that around 200 delegates merged on central Auckland for NETS2016, the 66th annual conference of the NZ Biosecurity Institute and its predecessor organisations, known as NETS, held at the Rendezvous Hotel August 27 - 29.

The conference, themed "Emerging Threats in Diverging Communities", concluded an eventful Biosecurity Month. In the days preceding the conference the government launched its draft over-arching strategy document "Biosecurity 2025". It also announced its plans for a predator free New Zealand by 2050. There was plenty to talk about.

The gathering opened sombrely with a minute's silence marking the passing of Pedro Jensen, Dave Galloway and Ray Weaver. Both Dave and Pedro were remembered in the course of the conference with awards presented in their honour. An award was presented in honour of Ray Weaver at NETS2015.

President Rebecca Kemp reminded those gathered to celebrate successes. Among recent successes she noted the highly likely eradication from Nelson of the great white butterfly, and the eradication of Argentine ants from Tiritiri Matangi Island. Both encouraging results were achieved, she said, by hard work and cross agency and community support.

This was the 5th NETs in conjunction with National Pest Control Agencies. NPCA chair Steve Ellis said the combined approach has proven over this time to provide the biosecurity profession with a successful forum to showcase projects and research. He indicated it was likely to be the last combined conference because NPCA is likely to undergo significant changes between now and NETS2017.

Andrew Coleman, Chief Operations Officer for the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) spoke of the challenges and the achievements of biosecurity in NZ.



New President Darion Embling keeps things under control



Andrew Coleman, Chief Operations Officer at MPI



Melanie Mark-Shadbolt



Hannah Smith and Rebecca O'Sullivan



Hugh Gourlay, Deborah Hofstra, Carol Bannock and Mike Cripps



He acknowledged the exciting couple of weeks that preceded the conference, with the announcement of the Predator Free New Zealand by 2050 ambition, and of the release of the draft Biosecurity 2025 guiding strategy document.

He described the draft strategy as "very aspirational". Aside from practitioners, the aim is to get every single New Zealander knowing and understanding what biosecurity is.

With reference to the target of a Predator Free New Zealand by 2050, he said don't be inhibited by thoughts such as "they'd never pay for that".

"You'd be surprised at the result [of funding requests] if you pose the dilemma and solutions correctly," he said

He said "How did it get here must be the first question in response to all incursions". He said the dilemma of all that trade is "what do we stop and what do we let go?"

"We roll the dogs out for just about everything" he said.

"It's not CSI. You can't solve everything like you can in half hour TV slot," he said.

In praise of all who work in a seamless biosecurity system pre, at and post border Mr Coleman suggested all present tell people not what their individual jobs are but say "I work for the biosecurity of New Zealand".

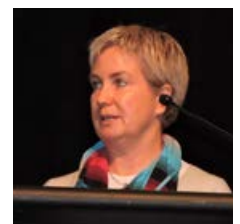
Andrea Byrom from Landcare Research who is also leader of the NZ Biological Heritage National Science Challenge spoke of future-proofing New Zealand's biosecurity system through science excellence. She spoke of gaps in knowledge such as the pathways that bring the highest risk organisms into the country, the challenge of detecting new incursions, mitigating the effects of legacy pests. She noted the importance of emerging technology. She said science and research has a vital role to play in filling the gaps but efforts have been fragmented and not well co-



Andre Visser from Key Industries demonstrates his wares



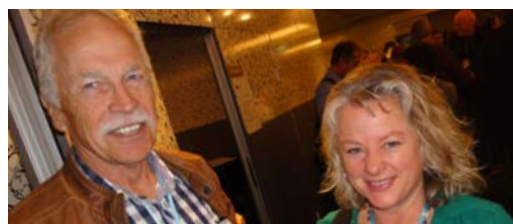
Khan Adam and Peter Russell



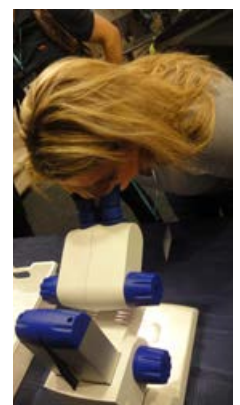
Andrea Byrom



Ann Thompson and Ronny Groenteman



Bill Dyck and Verity Forbes



I spy - Kim Parker

David Brittain and Elaine Housley



Lindi Eloff and Nick Ward



Diane Fraser



ordinated. She said the Science Challenge aims to address this by aligning formerly disparate pieces of science and research under a single umbrella.

Co-founders of the Māori Biosecurity Network Amanda Black and Melanie Mark-Shadbolt spoke about how indigenous researchers are attempting to shake up NZs biosecurity system. The network intends to build capacity and connect Māori organisations to the appropriate researchers and to allow Māori researchers a culturally safe space to discuss biosecurity items important to Māori. An engaged citizenry is important especially including a Māori whole of system approach where we are "siblings of the environment" rather than having dominion over it. They said there is no tangible recognition of mātauranga Māori in biosecurity sciences. There is some very real knowledge there they said.

Zoran Sinovcic from MPI spoke about the biosecurity challenges involving Asian food and traditional Chinese medicine. "They are not the same," he said. There are significant differences between the ways these two pathways are treated. Asian food is selected and targeted. Traditional Chinese medicines are blanket targeted. These medicines are not cultural, they are based on beliefs which are not reliable he said. He commented on cultural

differences and how biosecurity staff can benefit from these, and the importance of co-operation between government agencies. The golden rule is "relationship, relationship, relationship" he said.

Campbell Leckie from Hawkes Bay Regional Council spoke on the Cape to City project underway in the region. The project aims to help native species thrive "where we live, work and play". A key factor in the success of this five-year project is the integration of large-scale biodiversity restoration projects into primary production landscapes in way which delivers economic and environmental outcomes for landowners. He said key problems were loss of habitat and connectivity and predators. He said if there is not an effective solution for farmland which is 2/3 of the area, you don't have a solution. He said wireless technology will



John Sanson promoting the future of biosecurity



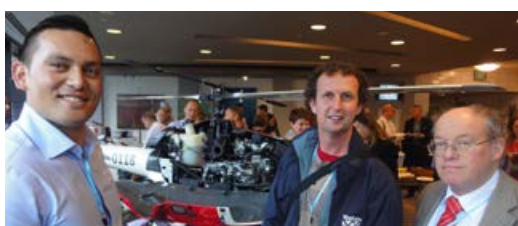
Chris Macann and Gemma Livingstone



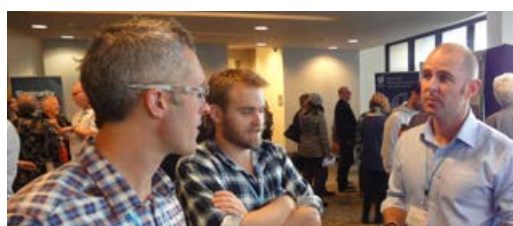
Paul Champion: the International Aquatic Plant Conference in Queenstown in 2018



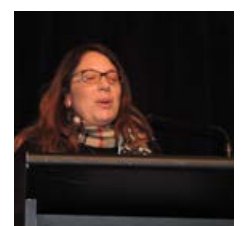
Zoran Sonovcic



Cameron Baker, Benson Lockhart and Jim Water



Craig Davey, Jack Keast and Greg Quinn



Amanda Black



NETS 2016

Jordan Lasenby and Alby Marsh



Katheryn Shaw and Alfredo Paz



Pani Gleeson and Mel Galbraith



enable labour costs to be stripped out because it has to be affordable in the maintenance phase.

Campbell highlighted that pest management and community engagement can deliver more integrated economic and environmental outcomes across both Crown and privately managed land. It is hoped that Cape to City will provide a transferable model as part of a pathway towards the vision of a predator free New Zealand.

Darion Embling brought the conference up-to-date with the reassessment of the National Plant Pest Accord and clarified its purpose. The Accord is a long-running voluntary agreement between the nursery and gardening industry, regional councils, DOC and MPI. Its aim is to prevent the sale and distribution of certain listed pest plants where the horticultural trade is regarded as the most significant way of spreading the plants. It is key that the Accord is an agreed process. The listed pest must be limited, bad, difficult to control, and the main vector must be humans. He said challenges of the review are misunderstandings by politicians, confusion among the nursery industry and the criteria where some plants are not the right fit. "Gaps are good" he said. "If they don't fit within the NPPA how do we deal with them?"

New research, toolkits, policy formulations, networks and co-operative efforts were all covered within concurrent sessions and short gem sessions. Among them were presentations and workshops on pest plants such as Manchurian wild rice in Northland, biocontrol of broom in Southland, tutsan, wilding conifers, plague skinks and Argentine ants.

As well as plenty of science, policy and control projects involving legacy pests like rabbits, stoats and possums; other present or potential pests discussed included mosquitoes, brown marmorated stink bugs, wasps, Indian ringnecked parakeets.

Possibly less-oft' discussed at NETS were a series of sessions on cat management and the social acceptability of such ideas, and a session outlining the NZ Transport Agency's approach to roadside biosecurity in an era of external contracting.



Campbell Leckie



Marine field trip - lots of interest above the waterline as well



Catch of the day - Rebecca Kemp



Tūpuna Maunga field trip



Shona Marks and Grant Menzies



David Havell and Verity Forbes

A most unfortunate fanworm.

Davor Bejakovich and Zoran Simovcic

Deborah Hofstra



Marine pests had a high profile with a workshop and display in tanks of unwanted organisms. Memorable was a workshop which included a Mediterranean fanworm dissection. This pest is widespread in Waitemata but is not yet established in Northland.

A marine field trip visited Auckland's Westhaven Marina - the largest in the Southern Hemisphere with over 2000 boats, where issues related to marine biosecurity were discussed. As well the group visited an oyster farming operation at Mahurangi Harbour on the North East Coast for a discussion on vectors, risks and options associated with aquaculture.

Another group visited Waiheke Island to learn about plant and animal pest control and restoration programmes across the Island on public and private land. Waiheke has been described as one of the weediest islands in the world.

Visitors on the Tūpuna Maunga Field trip got spectacular views from Maungarei/Mt Wellington and Ohinerau/Mt Hobson. Among the topics touched on were rabbit control in a heavily populated urban environment, the management of the regionally threatened native fern *Anogramma leptophylla* and the effects of grazing removal on weed control. The sites

also have archaeological and geological values. The topics were addressed with respect to the values of Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau for whom these maunga are highly significant.

Kauri dieback was the focus of a field trip to Cascade Kauri Park in the northern part of the Waitakere Ranges regional Park. The area contains one of the last stands of original kauri forest in the region, many mature kauri are between 500 and 1000 years old. The group also heard about the "Ark in the Park" project where the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society and the Auckland Council are working to create and open sanctuary in the park. Since the beginning of 2003 the volunteer-based project has achieved over 1000 hectares of predator-controlled parkland where a number of native bird species have been returned to the area.



Marine field trip - oyster processing



Cameron Bainton with his marine pest collection



Campbell Perrin makes a point



Katrina Merrifield and Paul Marshall



Don Mackenzie talks about the Mediterranean fan worm



NETS 2016

Shells on Ohinerau (Mt Hobson) where rabbit burrows are destroying middens



The Waiheke field trip



Maurice Kennedy received the Peter Nelson Memorial Award for Invertebrate pest management for his guiding role within National Pest Control Agencies.

Peter Russell received the Peter Ingram Memorial Award. The Award is presented to an Institute member who has successfully undertaken or enabled others to achieve in the field of pest plant education and information sharing.

The Maori Biosecurity Network was the winner of the inaugural Dave Galloway Award for Innovation.

Ann Brow and Genevieve Bannister won this year's Stook Award for the best presentation by an NZBI member. This year the Stook was presented in honour of Pedro Jensen.



On the mount - Rob Mouldey, Malcom Harrison, Janine Collings and Scott De Silva manager Tūpuna maunga



The Maunga field trip - It does rain in Auckland

Evergreen sponsors Key Industries were well represented by their usual interesting displays.

About 65 members attended the AGM in which Darion Embling was elected President replacing Rebecca Kemp who stepped down after three years at the helm. Rebecca retains the position of acting treasurer. Jono Underwood was elected vice President joining Sara Moylan as the second of two vice presidents and Alice McNatty was retained as Secretary.

Rebecca said she was really proud of where the Institute has come over the past three years of her presidency.

"I would now like to turn my focus on supporting the Executive and returning the favours, strengthening our systems and ensuring that they are not onerous on future officer holders.

"One thing the past year has taught me is that we need to be able to be replaced and this requires systems and processes that others can easily pick up and run with under any circumstance," she said.

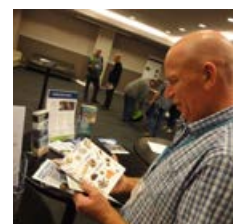
Davor Bejakovich from Greater Wellington Council ended the three days of learning, sharing and socialising by inviting one and all to learn about "The birds and the Beehive" at NETS2017 to be hosted in Wellington in August 2017.



Steve Payle, Craig Smith and Ken Wright



One of the big fellas on Waiheke



Valuable research - Steve Palmer



Davor Bejakovich invites all to Wellington for NETS2017

Ensuring high standards met:

Peter Nelson Memorial Award for Maurice Kennedy

Maurice Kennedy received the Peter Nelson Memorial Award which is presented for excellence in invertebrate pest management.

Maurice received the peer recognition particularly for his involvement with National Pest Control Agencies.

Originally called The National Possum Control Agencies, NPCA was established in the early 1990s to co-ordinate strategic planning, standardise quality control and provide training and information exchange between agencies for possum control.

The member agencies of the NPCA are: the Animal Health Board which became known as TB Free New Zealand and is now part of Ospri; Regional Councils; the Department of Conservation; and the Ministry for Primary Industries.

Maurice acknowledged the many people who contributed to the success of the group of agencies.

"I am pleased to receive the award and see it as much as a credit to the framework offered by the NPCA and to the many individuals who contributed their time and expertise over this time as it is to me personally," Maurice said.

He said it was of interest to note that the NPCA was established and began its work over twenty years ago as a result of a dramatic increase in funding (240%) for possum control between 1993 and 1994 to provide a light-handed coordinating forum between the agencies involved, to ensure that high standards were met, and communications with the public for animal pest control were effective.

“The award is as much a credit to the framework offered by the NPCA and to the many individuals who contributed.

- Maurice Kennedy

”

"There are now over 50 best practice guidelines in NPCA's resource library aimed at animal pest practitioners and those involved with community schemes.

"This in itself is a credit to the large number of technical experts, control practitioners and researchers who have given their time often on a voluntary basis to make this happen.

"NPCA began this work at a time when national best practice guidelines for pest control and population monitoring with national standards

either did not exist or was very much in its infancy

"Possum monitoring was the first best practice guideline produced and has been a key tool in the management of performance based contracts by control agencies.

"From this point all control operation wherever they took place in NZ, used the same best practice and performance standards."

Maurice said with the announcement of the 2025 Biosecurity initiative, the wheel may have turned full circle and the associated need for a comparable forum as the NPCA evolves and transitions as a part of the "Tool Box" Initiative.



Maurice Kennedy, centre, receives his award from Frank Visser, left, and Steve Ellis



Commitment to excellence and to biosecurity:

Peter Russell wins the Peter Ingram Memorial Award

Peter Russell received the Peter Ingram Memorial Award. The Award is presented to an Institute member who has successfully undertaken or enabled others to achieve in the field of pest plant education and information sharing.

Here is a selection of comments made by colleague Darion Embling in his presentation address:

Not only do I consider he is a most worthy recipient of the Award for his service and commitment to Biosecurity, but he has been a great mentor and leader to me personally.

Born in a nor'wester in Canterbury, Peter has retained his allegiance for the Crusaders Rugby Team for all time, and has the South Island firmly imprinted into his personality.

To illustrate his unique but innovative style, one university holiday he and a mate toured NZ playing golf on all the courses they could find and writing a course review book which was published.

Upon leaving Canterbury University well known to the Vice Chancellor and Bursar for his student

pranks he applied his BSc in Geography to prove that the world was not flat by travelling to the other side of the globe.

Being a versatile sort of bloke he turned his hand to many occupations in Blighty, France, and goodness knows where else. He built an impressive CV such that upon his return to NZ that the newly formed Department of



Peter Russell and Darion Embling

Conservation had to engage him to prepare plans, licences, permits, and maybe visitor strategies, mainly in Hokitika I seem to recall.

After the launch of his career in DOC he decided to branch out into what he saw as a growth opportunity—Land Transport, and moved to the Waikato to take a role with the then new Waikato Regional Council. Whilst Transport was exciting it lacked the intellectual rigour that Peter was seeking so he sought a career move into the rapidly emerging and challenging area of Biosecurity and Biodiversity. Infatuated by this area of work it become his area of specialty over the next twenty years. He has served on many working groups, the wilding conifer Working Group, authored several Regional Pest Management Plans, been applicant for a number of region wide consents, managed significant contracts for Council and generally become the go-to person for anything biosecurity.

“ He will look back with pride on the first Regional Pest Management Strategy and the Key Ecological Sites identified as the genesis of a biodiversity policy for Council.

- Darion Embling

” I think he will look back with pride on the first Regional Pest Management Strategy and the Key Ecological Sites identified as the genesis of a biodiversity policy for Council. He has compiled an amazing compendium of biosecurity tales and

yarns because it is such a fertile field for stories and legends to emerge.

He is now Managing Director of his own enterprise Better Biosecurity Solutions Ltd, providing his knowledge and expertise to the market.

Thank you for your commitment and excellence to Biosecurity in NZ, particularly in the realm of pest plants. You are an exemplar in many ways, and on behalf of the conference I wish you well in your new consultancy business continuing to do great work for the biosecurity cause.

Innovation Recognised:

Māori Biosecurity Network wins Dave Galloway Award for Innovation

The Māori Biosecurity Network was the winner of the inaugural Dave Galloway Award for Innovation.

The establishment of a National Māori Biosecurity Network to respond to pre and post border biosecurity threats is long overdue say its founders.

Accepting the Award on behalf of the network co-founder Nick Waipara who had worked with Dave, said it was an honour to receive the first Award in memory of a highly valued colleague.

Nick Waipara speaks about winning the inaugural Dave Galloway Memorial Innovation Award while Dave looks down.



Powerful Talk on Partnerships:

Ann and Genevieve win Stook Award

Ann Brow and Genevieve Bannister won this year's Stook Award for the best presentation by an NZBI member.

Her presentation "Powering up through partnerships" was a celebration of the QEII Community Weedbusting Project. She showcased the evolving relationships between the QEII National Trust and Weedbusters as they worked together in a changing funding environment. She highlighted the value of sharing resources, trialling creative ideas and supporting groups to increase community engagement and weed control. The Stook—a cross between a sword, stick and book is a record in wood of all past winners. It is carved from Pacific mahogany and was first presented in 1984.

On appropriate occasions the Stook may be presented in memory of an NZBI member. This year the award was presented in honour of Pedro Jensen.



Ann Brow receives the Stook award from Sara Moylan



High alert this stink bug season

The Ministry for Primary Industries is on high alert to stop the invasive brown marmorated stink bug from making a home in New Zealand.

The bug is likely to start showing up in imported cargo from the northern hemisphere.

"The stink bug season for New Zealand runs from September to April - the autumn and winter months in the northern hemisphere. That's when the bug starts aggregating in dark sheltered places, including cargo," said MPI response adviser Catherine Duthie.

Brown marmorated stink bug is a serious horticultural pest in the United States and is also starting to spread through Canada and parts of Europe.

Dr Duthie said MPI and industry groups have been working together to prepare for the increased risk.

"A big focus has been bolstering New Zealand's border defences. Our border team has redeployed its officers to target inspections on containers from the United States and Italy, where the bug is well-established in some areas."

"We know brown marmorated stink bug has been causing major problems for farmers in northern Italy, so we'll be watching imported goods from this country very closely."

In addition, MPI has increased its surveillance of wharves and vessels, particularly ships that carry imported vehicles and machinery, and areas where cargo is held on ports.

MPI believes the bug is most likely to establish itself in an urban setting if it gets past the border. So the ministry is running a marketing campaign to alert gardeners, city councils and other urban groups on how to recognise the bug.

"We want anyone that sees a brown marmorated stink bug to catch it and call MPI."

The ministry is also encouraging arriving air passengers to check their baggage and notify MPI if they find anything.

“ We want anyone that sees a brown marmorated stink bug to catch it and call MPI.

- Dr Catherine Duthie, MPI

Dr Duthie said MPI is well prepared to handle a border incursion by the bug.

"Among other things, we've just completed successful trials with the United States Department of Agriculture to see if

detector dogs can be used to sniff out the bug in an outdoor environment."

"We know we can get sniffer dogs into the field at short notice if required."

She said MPI has also been developing traps and has been working to register insecticides for use against the bug should it be detected in New Zealand.

MPI border staff intercepted 406 brown marmorated stink bugs between January 2015 and April 2016.

The bug is resistant to many insecticides, making it difficult and expensive to control. When it gets cold, it tends to bunch up in large numbers in dark spaces in homes and other dwellings, making it a major public nuisance as well as a major horticultural pest.



Why talk about ants and rats?

Pacific Network helps experts connect on invasive species

Environmental staff from 16 countries and territories around the Pacific learned how to get people talking about invasive species at the Pacific Invasives Learning Network 2016 conference held in Samoa in August.

Animals and plants that come from other places can sometimes take over, hurting local species and environments, which also hurts local people and local economies. Farmers spend backbreaking hours pulling and cutting invasive weeds, while myna, bulbul, and rats steal fruit and cause other problems. Members of the Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN) are learning how to help solve issues and explain solutions to communities.

“ Am I being entertained, am I being informed, am I getting something new? It's not very complicated beyond that.

- Steve Menzies

Sessions gave the participants tools to improve their field work and to reach communities, because local people have a lot of power to battle invasive species. New tools like social media can connect the right people with the right knowledge.

"Using social media helps me share how blessed we are to get food from the sea and land, and how invasive species hurt our blessings and our culture", said Huggard Tongatule, Project Coordinator in Niue for a Global Environment Facility - Pacific Alliance for Sustainability project on invasive species.

Mr Tongatule described how Facebook posts about feral pig control created attention from Coconut Wireless and even the show "Hunting Aotearoa", which came to make two episodes on Niue.

Some of the participants used words from the Bible to connect everyone to idea that



The Biosecurity Battlers of the Pacific

we can take care of our environments. After quoting Genesis 1:26, Mr Yalap Yalap, Education Programmes Coordinator for the Palau Conservation Society, said, "That's why we made protected areas. We can be the managers of species and ecosystems."

People were encouraged to use a variety of methods to get their messages across. "Am I being entertained, am I being informed, am I getting something new? It's not very complicated beyond that," said New Zealand communication practitioner Steve Menzies. "Audiences all over the world have similar needs."

The workshop was hosted by Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and Samoa's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE). "PILN brings experts together to share their knowledge and find out how they can support each other", said David Moverley, Invasive Species Adviser to SPREP.

From an Article supplied by PILN



David Moverley addresses the Pacific Invasive Species Learning Network conference.



Lynley Hayes addresses the group about biological control.



Biosecurity briefs

Palm kernel ship denied discharge

A vessel carrying 23,000 tonnes of palm kernel expeller (PKE) will not be permitted to discharge its cargo in New Zealand. PKE is a waste by-product of palm oil production imported to New Zealand as supplementary livestock feed. The Ministry for Primary Industries initially prevented discharge from the ship after finding some of its cargo had come from an unregistered PKE facility in Malaysia. The vessel arrived at Tauranga on 6 September. The decision ensures that potentially contaminated PKE will not enter New Zealand.



Cruise ship biosecurity

The Ministry for Primary Industries and the cruise ship industry are set to trial a new accreditation scheme to reduce the biosecurity risk posed by arriving cruise passengers.

The scheme involves collecting background information about vessel stores to determine biosecurity risk.

The trial scheme involves getting assurances from cruise lines that vessels have strict systems for pest control and they actively promote biosecurity messages, such as restrictions on carrying fruit fly-host materials like bananas and apples.

Unaccredited cruise ships will continue to face MPI's full range of biosecurity compliance controls on arrival, including bag inspections, x-ray scanning and scrutiny by detector dogs.

In the 2015/2016 season, 32 international cruise ships made 466 port visits in New Zealand, unloading a total of 197,541 passengers.



Illegal import of reptiles

An Auckland student was fined \$15,000 in October after admitting to importing a range of banned reptiles including an American corn snake considered to be a serious risk to New Zealand's ecology and economy. The charge was laid by the Ministry for Primary Industries after a two-year investigation. The package was intercepted by MPI staff at the Auckland International Mail Centre.

Fewer low-traffic quarantine facilities?

MPI announced in September that the number of low-traffic quarantine facilities may be reduced.

MPI is looking to revoke approval for "transitional facilities" that have been operating for a year without receiving containers or other cargo.

MPI said the move is about ensuring that private operators who deal with imported goods have the skills and experience to meet New Zealand's strict biosecurity standards.

MPI will now also consider container volumes as part of the approval process for new quarantine facilities.

There are currently some 5,800 private quarantine facilities operating in New Zealand. They range from large commercial operations near major ports, to small businesses that rarely receive imported goods.

Avoid left over fodder beet seed

Farmers are being warned to avoid planting left over seed from six lines of fodder beet seed imported last year that was contaminated with velvetleaf.

Australasian Wildlife Management Conference

The Australasian Wildlife Management Society conference will be held from 29 November -1 December 2016 at the Quality Hotel in Auckland. Symposia are: Indigenous Partnerships - Mātauranga Māori, Wildlife Disease, New Tools & Technology and Urban Wildlife.

For more information: www.awms.org.au/conference

X-Tree Basal – Flexible Wilding Conifers Tool

In May this year the government announced additional funding to target New Zealand's number one weed problem, wilding conifers. This fund will provide an additional \$16 million over four years to assist what the Department of Conservation and Regional Councils are already investing to tackle this issue.

A recent Wilding Conifers workshop held in Twizel saw MPI bring together representatives from DoC, Regional Councils and other interested parties such as application contractors and helicopter companies.

Speakers discussed the size of this challenge and how those involved are currently managing the spread of wilding pines which have spread to more than 1.3m hectares of New Zealand's high country.

Many techniques and practices were discussed which included; Aerial Basal Bark, Ground Basal Bark, Cut Stump, Drill and Fill and Boom Spraying applications.

Matt Strahan, Etec Crop Solutions Business Development Manager says "It's great to see the country coming together to share knowledge on how to tackle this issue. Etec has been working with some of those involved in this challenge over the last several years and the result of this has been a product called 'X-Tree Basal'®.

As a New Zealand company, we are pleased to be able to assist in this area. X-Tree Basal is one of a few products approved for this market and has the benefit of proven efficacy in the form of an easy ready to use pre-mix. It does not have the toxicology and health issues of some of the older mixtures that have been used. X-Tree Basal Bark treatment also offers a significant increase in efficiency over other methods of control

X-Tree is very flexible as it has label claims for the following methods; Aerial Basal Bark, Ground Basal Bark and Cut Stump. Depending on the species and the time of year X-Tree is applied it can take some time to see visual control but when applied correctly it is very effective. X-Tree comes in a range of pack sizes to suit a range situations." concludes Matt.

® X-Tree Basal is a registered trademark of Etec Crop Solutions.





X-TREE Basal
THE X-TREEMINATOR

- ✓ Ready to Use for chemical ring barking and cut stump treatment.
- ✓ Highly effective, convenient premix of BioDiesel + Herbicide + Penetrants.
- ✓ Minimal environmental impact and maximum efficacy.
- ✓ A little goes a long way.

www.etec.co.nz

Bottom of trunk treated with X-Tree Basal



X-Tree Basal treated

Etec CROP SOLUTIONS

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No more predators

Let's not condemn those that have gone before, nor those yet to come

Senior Biodiversity Advisor for Greater Wellington Regional Council Jamie Steer recently put the ferrets among the kiwis so to speak when he launched an attack on the Minister of Conservation's bid to free New Zealand of predators by 2050. In so doing he scorned those who had gone before in their best attempts to keep predators at bay.

On Minister Maggie Barrie's appeal for support of her ambition he said:

"It's the tried and true way of drumming up impassioned support for a strategy that, while seeming exhilarating and empowering to begin with, will ultimately fail"

Effectively Mr Steer said biosecurity efforts have been a waste of time and will continue to be so.

In the hands of Radio New Zealand interviewer Kim Hill, his assertions were diminished somewhat. However, while I acknowledge that deliberate provocation and the promotion of new views and approaches is healthy in any debate, his attack on the good work and best attempts of those who have gone before demands a response for the record.

Mr Steer needs to decide whether he wants to be a scientist or satirist, and of which of these he plans to take seriously. He makes some good points but his approach is disrespectful and malicious.

On the work of those gone before he says: "our wars on wildlife have amounted to a series of enormous turds: at first satisfying, but the smell lingers."

He concludes: "Major Maggie and her company need to come to their senses and start connecting with a little common sense. These pathetic, phoney "wars" are malicious, incompetent and uneducated and they need to stop."

I believe everyone in the biosecurity sector knows you have to pick your battles carefully, and there is an understood assumption of the aim of a predator free NZ by 2050 that the ambition relies on technology still being perfected and science still underway.

Mr Steer's comments show a mean spirited attitude towards those who had gone before and those who are working for the future. His general assumption that we have already lost the battle is not really anything new, and similar comments must crop up at every Regional Pest Management Strategy review when control of legacy pests is debated. An example of such recent debates could be: should we leave possums alone now that significant areas are Tb free? or do we need to worry about rabbits now that RHD is here and dairying and its greening of the landscape has reduced their threat?

"Indeed, we've been comprehensively defeated", he said.

I'm not sure the biosecurity sector has been comprehensively defeated. We have not lost the battle against Tb and rabbits don't rule as they once did, but we need to keep our foot on the pedal.

A predator free New Zealand has always been something to aspire to, and science and control programmes should continue to work in that direction.

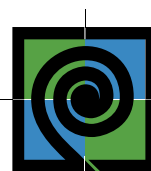
These are the opinions of the Editor only.

Chris Macann is the editor of Protect magazine and the co-ordinator of the NZBI Archives and Oral History project. **Jamie Steer** recently completed a PhD in Environmental Science entitled "The Reconciliation of Introduced Species in New Zealand".

The tail

Spot the unusual word

An example of inattention to detail which must have rather upset the Minister of Conservation when it appeared in her opinion piece, and in such an unfortunate place.



**New Zealand
Biosecurity Institute**