

Spring — 2004

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Protect



New Zealand
Biosecurity Institute

Our mission: "To preserve and protect New Zealand's natural resources from the adverse impacts of invasive pests."



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Protect

Spring 2004

Magazine of the New Zealand Biosecurity Institute

Contents

Editor's Note	.....4
NZBI Contacts	.....4
News from the Executive	.....5
News from the AGM	.....8
NZBI Travel and Study awards	.....9
President's Report, July 2004	....10
Hundreds go mad in Rotovegas! Carolyn Lewis reports on NETS2004	....14
Getting linkages working Lynley Hayes details a NETS workshop	....17
Member profile: Randall Milne	....19
Member profile: Monica Singe	....20
Weedbusters' update	....21
Working for water and against weeds in Sth Africa Ian Popay	....23
Maximising the effectiveness of aerial 1080 control of possums Abstract submitted for PhD thesis submitted by Dave Morgan	....26
Bowhunters take aim at koi carp again	....28
Biosecurity bits	....29
Conferences & workshops	....31

Editor's Note

It's been a year since I took over from Lynley Hayes as co-ordinator, article and photo sourcer and writer for *Protect*. Now Col Pearson has promoted me so I get to write the Editor's Note for issues from this point onwards too. Col will continue as our indispensable sub-editor and layout guru.

I'd like to use this particular Editor's Note to thank all the members and non-members who have taken the time to contribute articles, ideas, profiles and photos for the last four issues of *Protect*.

I'd also like to use this blurb to warn all those members out there that I am on the prowl for more articles, ideas, profiles and photos for the next four issues, and am likely to tap you on the shoulder (via email) if I hear through the grapevine that you are involved in something that other members might be interested in reading about.

If you are heading off for any conferences in New Zealand or overseas, have got yourself involved in any interesting programmes or initiatives, or have found or are researching a new control method for an invasive species, please take the time to either write something yourself or let me know so that I can find someone to write it up for you.

The NZBI now represents people from every imaginable field of biosecurity; *Protect* needs to reflect this, but can only do so with your participation.

As well as the usual coverage of a post-NETS *Protect*, this Spring issue covers a South African weeds conference, the World Koi Carp Classic, upcoming biosecurity events, more members' profiles, and the now established Biosecurity Bits column.

Enjoy.

Carolyn Lewis

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New Zealand
Biosecurity Institute

The New Zealand Biosecurity Institute can be found on the web at **www.biosecurity.org.nz**

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News from the Executive

NETS2004

Well, despite torrential rain, a series of earthquakes and a civil defence emergency in the Bay of Plenty, NETS2004 was another great success.

With the Vertebrate Pest Management Institute of New Zealand (VPMINZ) joining with us again we had a fantastic turnout (around 250 people) which was our biggest yet, being 25% bigger than our previous record breaker the year before. I would like to say a big thank you to the great team who pulled the show together. Carolyn Lewis, Kirsten Crawford, Gordon Hosking, Richard Mallinson, Toni Withers, John Mather, Paul Champion and David Moore, you were all stars. Our conference organisers, Event Impressions, also did a great job of handling many of the logistics that go into putting on a show of this size in an efficient manner.

I would also like to acknowledge our wonderful sponsors who helped us to put on a five-star event while keeping registration fees as low as possible. They were Environment Bay of Plenty, Environment Waikato, Auckland Regional Council, Landcare Research, Department of Conservation, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Health, National Institute of Water and Atmosphere, NZ Industrial Abseilers, Dow Agrosiences, EPRO, Target Pest, Animal Control Products, Connovation, AgPro, Vigilant Gel, and Frontline Biosecurity.

We were also delighted to have the continued support of the Department of Conservation and the Biosecurity Managers Group which ran meetings in tandem with our event to ensure maximum participation. The Grand Tiara proved to be an excellent venue with many enjoying the hot pools until the wee small hours. The management even provided a guard to stand over the vegetarian lunch table, to ensure this food was not unwittingly poached by those with broader dietary preferences! We were fortunate to have three excellent overseas speakers: Mark Lonsdale (CSIRO, GISP), Sarah Russell (AQIS), and Tetsuro Uesugi (Japan's Ministry for the Environment) to add an international flavour to the conference. I hope you all saw Mark talking on *Breakfast TV* early on the Thursday morning. The conference theme — "Biosecurity for Biodiversity — forging the links" — seemed to strike a chord with many people and it was great to be able to go on field trips to see examples of this in action. A full report on NETS2004 is provided in this issue and no doubt a selection of photos and the abstract volume will go up on our website in due course.

Awards – serious and otherwise

Robb MacGuinness Stick

The Robb MacGuinness stick for the NZBI member who gave the best paper was awarded to Kerry Bodmin of the Waitakere City Council for her talk on controlling



Kerry Bodmin, winner of the Robb MacGuinness Stick for her work on controlling willows in the Te Henga wetland.

Photo: Western Leader

willows and other weeds in Te Henga wetland. Congratulations Kerry!

Peter Ingram Memorial Award

The Peter Ingram Memorial Award was commissioned by Environment Bay of Plenty staff to recognise an NZBI member who undertakes further study in the field of pest plants or helps others to learn more. This



Peter Ingram's widow, Janice, together with son David who were at NETS2004 to present the award (inset) in her late husband's honour. Margaret Stanley was the recipient.

News from the Executive Continued

award was given out for the first time at NETS2004 and we were lucky enough to have Peter's widow, Janice, and son, David, on hand to do the honours. The award was given to Margaret Stanley who easily met the criteria having recently completed postdoctoral study on weeds, designed an educational website on weeds, given ecology lectures at Auckland University, and organised the weed biocontrol and ecology workshops at Tamaki earlier this year. Margaret was unfortunately not able to attend the conference, being involved with some ant work in Fiji, so I accepted the award on her behalf. Well done, Margaret!

Heros and Zeros

This was a new initiative this year to add a bit of fun to the dinner. Paul Champion made a wonderful MC and presented the following:

- **Cyclops Award** for a one-eyed approach e.g. "let's introduce a spiny hedge plant with lovely yellow flowers", or "stoats eat rabbits don't they?"
- **Someone Else's Problem Award** for the people who are currently exporting known pests like possums and wallabies by mail order over the internet.
- **On Ice Award** to the man from Raglan who found a strange looking wasp and put it in his freezer for two years before telling MAF.
- **Garfield Award** for the Forest and Bird cat that was licensed to inspect containers for MAF.
- **Texan Award:** Shoot First Ask Questions Later, for killing the first mainland Bay of Plenty site of native mawhai (*Sicyos australis*) found in over 100 years thinking it was an evil scrambling weed.
- **Capital Award** (shouldn't let them out of Wellington) for the government agency responding to a parrot's feather (aquatic weed) enquiry from Canterbury: "Not our responsibility, but if the parrot is endangered then it could be a CITES matter"!!
- **Hero Award** – we're all heroes in this room!
- **Good Buzz Award** to the two MAF Quarantine Services staff, Gary Higgins and Ron Mathews, (aka Batman & Robin), at the Ports of Auckland whose diligence has seen over 20 interceptions of exotic mosquitoes on risk goods being imported into Auckland.
- **Kermit Award** to the tourist who trapped and handed over the frog they found in their salad on an aeroplane.
- **Guerillas in the Mist Award** to Hugh Gourlay for dodging bullets in Colombia in pursuit of passion killers.
- **Rocket (or Controlled Snowball) Award** to our Weedbuster extraordinaire, Amber Bill, who has done such a great job in getting Weedbusters launched and off the ground.
- **One Woman Armada Award** to Carolyn Lewis for organising the conference, producing *Protect*, and representing the NZBI on the Weedbusters committee while undertaking study and holding down a job

- **Princess Leia Award** to me for uniting the forces of good to repel the alien invasive hordes.

Don't forget to store up good ideas over the coming year for other worthy recipients for these awards!

We also had a whip round at the dinner (thanks to Dave Galloway for organising this) for raise some funds for the people in the Eastern Bay of Plenty who had been seriously affected by flooding, and managed to raise more than \$1000.

Travel and Study Awards

We have also decided to offer our Travel and Study Awards again this year so get those applications in before the end of October. Note that the money will not be paid out until early 2005. Up to \$3000 is available to help you to undertake study or to travel to learn new skills or attend a special meeting or conference. All the details are available on our website.

Posters

Our new posters have been printed and some were handed out at Rotorua. Branch secretaries have each been sent a bundle to give to members who didn't get to NETS. If branches would like to order an AO or A1 sized version of the poster then they should contact me (hayesl@landcareresearch.co.nz).

NETS2005

Preparations are now well under way for NETS2005 which will be held at Christchurch, July 27-29. A booking has been made for Rydges Hotel which is right in the centre of Christchurch overlooking the Avon River, and is part of the infamous "Strip" — an area known for its restaurants and bars. If you would like to present a paper or have any other suggestions regarding speakers, the format, field trips or entertainment etc, then please contact the head of the organising committee, Hugh Gourlay (gourlayh@landcareresearch.co.nz).

New Members

We would like to warmly welcome the following new members who were accepted at our Rotorua meeting:

Geoff Angell – Aqua Ag

Joanne O'Reilly – Department of Conservation

Jenny Rodgers – Greater Wellington.

Kevin Bennett – Horizons Regional Council

John Clayton – National Institute of Water and Atmosphere

Mairi Jay – Waikato University

Susan Keenan – Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

News from the Executive Continued

Trial membership

At NETS2002 we instigated a system whereby non-members attending NETS paid a higher registration fee and were offered an 18-month free trial as an NZBI member. Speakers were also given a trial membership. The executive has decided that from now on people will only be offered one trial membership and if they do not join up at the end of that time as a full member they will not be offered another one, even if they subsequently attend NETS as a non-member.

The following people are being offered trial memberships as a result of NETS2004:

Sarah Beadle	Wildland Consultants Ltd	Ian Moore	Horizons Regional Council
Willie Shaw		Gary Gardner	
Tim Payne	Taranaki Regional Council	Richard Turner	
Brian Calkin		Phil Thompson	
Craig Hornby		Ray Brown	
Adam Mason	Southern Monitoring Services Ltd	Heather Leckie	Hutt City Council
Natasha Symmonds		Graeme Clare	HortResearch
Brian Ronke	Hawkes Bay Regional Council	Max Suckling	
Allan Beer		Mick Clout	Invasive Species Specialist Group
Dean Roughton		Alan Saunders	
Darion Embling		Maj De Poorter	
Alistair MacArthur	Auckland Regional Council	Katrina Potter	Forest Research
Rebecca Kemp		Darren Kriticos	
Steve Simpson		Dave Rowe	National Institute of Water & Atmosphere
Scott de Silva		John Simmons	Environment Waikato
Pedro Jensen	Greater Wellington Regional Council	Peter Russell	
John Bissell		David Hodges	
Amelia Pascoe	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Wendy Mead	
Barry Wards		Dave Byers	
David Wansbrough		Mark Lonsdale	Global Invasive Species Programme
Andrew Harrison		Simon Mowbray	Department of Conservation
Simon O'Connor		Malcolm Brennan	
Paul Bradbury	Target Pest Enterprises Ltd	Alastair Fairweather	
Kurt Loklindt		Laurence Smith	
Brent Hazeldine		Chris McKay	Environment Bay of Plenty
		Tony Hall	
		Nigel Heron	Kaingaroa Timberlands
		Bryce Herman	Gisborne District Council
		Tim Allan	
		Richard Calvert	AgriQuality Ltd
		Sarah Clinehans	Lincoln University
		Mike Mohi	Nga Whenua Rahui
		Tetsura Uesugi	Ministry of the Environment, Japan
		Sarah Russell	AQIS
		Joanna Govern	University of Canterbury

News from the AGM

The new line-up

After a big shake up in 2003 there haven't been many changes this time round, and yes, this is definitely my last year in the hot seat!

National officer holders

Lynley Hayes	President
Alison Gianotti	Secretary
Carolyn Lewis	Vice President
Helen Braithwaite	Treasurer

Branch Representatives

Greg Hoskins
Paul Champion
Mike Ulrich
Mike Taylor
Jenny Williams
Randall Milne

Seconded Members

Christine Reed	MAF Representative
John Gardner	MoH Representative

While on such matters, a summary follows of who is holding positions at the branch level following the latest round of AGMs.

Branch	Chair	Secretary	Executive Member
Auckland/Northland	Brett Miller	Tony McCluggage	Greg Hoskins
Central North Island	Chris Hale	Ester van den Bosch	Paul Champion
Southern North Island	Michael Ulrich	Mark McAlpine	Michael Ulrich
Top of the South	Mike Taylor	Mike Taylor	Mike Taylor
Canterbury	Hugh Gourlay	Jan Crooks	Jenny Williams
Otago/Southland	Randall Milne	Peter Raal	Randall Milne

Subscriptions

Because of our good financial position (we actually made a profit last year) it was agreed that we hold subs at the current rate of \$40 with a \$10 rebate for early payment.

Possible merger with VPMINZ

The VPMINZ (which has about 60 members) indicated shortly before NETS2004 that it might be interested in merging with the NZBI and that it would be discussing this possibility at their AGM. At our AGM we talked about how NZBI members felt about this possible merger if the VPMINZ did come back to us and wanted to proceed. The general feeling was that it would be a good thing and that we should welcome them with open arms. The outcome was that the VPMINZ agreed at

their AGM to look at a possible merger over the next year and to see if there was any way that they could keep their identity under an NZBI umbrella. VPMINZ President Bill Simmons, and myself subsequently agreed that there was not much point in a merger if the VPMINZ wanted to retain its identity and talked about ways the two institutes could just work more closely together. Bill then contacted me again and said that the majority of their members were in favour of amalgamating with NZBI and dissolving the VPMINZ so long as vertebrate pest control interests continue to be well served, so discussions will be continuing as to how and when this merger should take place.

GM Policy

At our AGM in Nelson, Peter Russell gave a brief summation of the GM debate and suggested that the NZBI look at developing a policy on genetic engineering and modification. The meeting agreed that this would be a useful thing to do. A sub-committee of Peter Russell, Helen Braithwaite, Nick Waipara, Lisa Maria, David Stephens, Doug Foster and Catherine Law agreed to work on this task and report back to the 2004 AGM. However, this sub committee has not yet been able to come up with a draft policy for wider consideration so this matter has been deferred until the 2005 AGM.

Exports of pests from NZ

As has been mentioned before, we are aware that people in New Zealand are making money out of selling well known pests such as possums and wallabies over the internet to anyone who wants them. It is not illegal for people to do this because the onus is on the importing country not to import risky goods, rather than on the exporting country not to export them.

MAF has in the past warned some countries about what they are importing, but the real problem is that many countries do not have good enough biosecurity systems in place to stop these practices at their end.

At the AGM we talked about this unsatisfactory situation and what the NZBI could do about it. Some of the options included lobbying for a change to legislation; ensuring that importing countries are always advised about risky goods; and working to strengthen international agreements to prevent such things (such as the International Convention on Biodiversity).

It was revealed that this practice could already, in theory, be stopped as there are rules against propagating, distributing, selling and transporting various pests in Regional Pest Management Strategies. For example, regional councils should

News from the AGM Continued

be able to prevent people from transporting possums or wallabies to the airport. While existing legislation should be enough to stop movement of pests prior to export it was agreed that the executive should write to MAF asking them to look at other ways of shutting this practice down.

Tertiary biosecurity qualification

At the moment it is not possible to study for a tertiary biosecurity qualification. Carolyn Lewis suggested, and it was agreed, that she would initiate some dialogue with various tertiary providers about whether it might be possible to remedy this situation.

NZBI Awards

The New Zealand Biosecurity Institute offers two grants annually from a total funding pool of \$3000. The two grants comprise a Travel Award and a Study Award.

NZBI STUDY AWARD

The purpose of the NZBI Study Award is to provide funds to assist with an individual's research to improve knowledge in the field of biosecurity.

The NZBI Study Award is restricted to New Zealand citizens or residents of New Zealand, working in the field of biosecurity, or studying a discipline related to biosecurity.

Evidence of employment and/or of registration with a recognised university or other tertiary training provider is required.

Where the applicant is currently in employment, preference will be given to applicants who have their employer's approval for the research.

NZBI TRAVEL AWARD

The purpose of the NZBI Travel Award is to provide a member of the NZBI with funds to assist with travel expenses where that member is undertaking travel to further his or her knowledge in the field of biosecurity.

The NZBI Travel Award is restricted to currently paid-up members of the NZBI. Preference will be given to applicants who have been continuously paid-up members for more than one year.

Where the applicant is currently in employment, preference may be given to applicants who have their employer's approval for the travel.

Applications for both the NZBI Study Award and the NZBI Travel Award close 31 October 2004. Further details and application forms can be found on www.biosecurity.org.nz

President's Report, July 2004

The past year has been another successful one for the New Zealand Biosecurity Institute (NZBI). I'm going to run through how well we achieved our annual plans for 2003 and also let you know how we are doing with our plans for 2004 so far.

2003 Annual Plans

- 1 **Seek to increase our membership by signing up at least 20 new members, especially from groups that are poorly represented at present (e.g. MAF, health, people involved with vertebrate and invertebrate pests, industry representatives etc).**

We will encourage all branches to invite prospective members to attend branch activities and NETS (non-members attending NETS will pay a higher registration fee that will automatically sign them up for the following 18 months). We intend to attract more members by raising our profile (see 2, 3 & 8 below). We intend to continue to grow and diversify in subsequent years in a sustainable way.

In 2003 we signed up 24 new members and gained about 74 trial members arising from our Nelson conference, with our membership again reaching a new high.

- 2 **Seek to raise awareness of the NZBI and biosecurity issues.**

We will print some promotional posters and make at least two press releases. We will investigate ways of enhancing media coverage of NETS. We will write to DOC's National Weeds Public Awareness Co-ordinator with an offer of technical assistance and support for Weedbusters Week in 2003.

The posters were completed but we decided to hold off on printing until 2004 subs were in and hence distribution of the new posters is beginning at this conference. Branch secretaries will also be sent stocks of posters to give to any members not able to attend this meeting. Thanks very much to Landcare Research for preparing the artwork free of charge. Branches can also order A0 or A1 sized versions of this poster if they wish on a cost-recovery basis – see me about this.

A press release went out to raise awareness about NETS2003 and the NZBI. Despite our best efforts the media coverage of NETS2003 was a little disappointing compared to the previous year. Thanks to Amber Bill an article

appeared in a Nelson paper following NETS as part of our public awareness session that featured, of course, Woody Weed.

A letter of support was sent to Amber Bill, and Carolyn Lewis accepted a position on the Weedbusters Establishment Group on behalf of the NZBI.

- 3 **Seek to ensure that the NZBI becomes more involved in matters of policy, strategy and advocacy.**

We will comment on any matters or documents where it is appropriate for us to do so.

We made a submission on the Draft Biosecurity Strategy, and a submission in support of the use of Rotenone. We wrote a letter to the Listener in response to some unsupportive articles they published. We also wrote to the Minister for Biosecurity and the Director-General of MAF about our desire to see better use made of internal borders but did not get the kind of response we would have liked. Thanks to Ian Popay, Paul Champion, Andrew Wilke, Mike White, Randall Milne, and Carolyn Lewis for helping to prepare the above letters and submissions.

- 4 **Seek to make it easier for our members to access the knowledge and information they require to do their jobs effectively.**

We will seek to improve the amount of information available on our skills register. We will endeavour to more effectively interact and network with other like-minded organisations both here and overseas.

We have struggled to get members to fill in skills register questionnaires and so this information has not yet been made available on our website. By joining forces with the Vertebrate Pest Management Institute of New Zealand (VPMINZ) at Nelson we have begun to forge a closer relationship.

- 5 **Seek to improve biosecurity in New Zealand by offering a scholarship to allow one member to travel to learn new skills and another scholarship to assist a student to undertake some relevant research.**

We will assess the success and viability of these awards and decide what should be offered in 2003/04.

President's Report Continued

We offered these awards again in 2003 with the Study Award going to Esther van den Bosch for her Masters Research into woolly nightshade and the Travel Award going to Carolyn Lewis for her work on the Weedbusters Committee.

6 Seek to improve biosecurity in New Zealand by holding a National Education and Training Seminar (NETS) in July.

The organising committee and executive will consult widely about the topics and activities to be covered at NETS and prepare a questionnaire that will go in the registration packs to allow participants to provide feedback about NETS and any other matters relating to the NZBI. We will use this feedback to help us to continue run at least one highly successful NETS per year. We will explore the possibility of running joint conferences with other like-minded organisations.

In 2003 we held our biggest NETS ever with the organising committee working hard to pull together a stimulating programme and create a memorable event. Feedback from attendees was overall extremely positive. It was really great to have the VPMINZ on board and the continued support of the Department of Conservation and Biosecurity Managers Group.

7 Seek to improve biosecurity in New Zealand by producing quarterly issues of Protect.

We will make every effort to cover a broad spectrum of topics, as well as information about members, branch and nationwide activities. We will assess the size, style and frequency of *Protect* now that it is being posted on our website.

A questionnaire was included with the spring edition of Protect to gauge member's satisfaction. Only about three people filled these in so we take your silence as approval of the status quo. We had some feedback at the last AGM that issues could perhaps be a little shorter which would also keep the cost down and this has been taken on board. I would like to thank Col Pearson for continuing to help us to get quality issues out quarterly, and Dow Agrosiences for their assistance with the production of hard copies. A huge thanks also to Carolyn Lewis for taking over the role of overseeing Protect towards the second half of the year, which lifted a large burden from my shoulders.

8 Seek to improve biosecurity in New Zealand by developing and maintaining a website.

We will continue to maintain and improve our website. We will again hold a forum at NETS to discuss our website. We will seek to be included as a hot link on more other relevant websites.

Mike Harré has kept our website running. The Cawthron Institute very kindly provided us with our domain name free of charge. I'm not sure if we did manage to get included as a hotlink on any other websites in 2003. Don't forget that members' contact details are available on our website, and that we need your help in keeping these as up to date as possible.

9. Seek to ensure that the NZBI continues to be an active organisation that gets things done and makes a difference.

The executive will meet on at least a quarterly basis and annual and strategic planning will be undertaken every year. Reports on progress and achievement will be provided in *Protect* and at the AGM.

I would like to thank all the people who served on the executive in 2003. We had a number of personnel changes during this time. At the AGM Dave Galloway stepped down as Secretary after six years in the position with Alison Gianotti taking over this key role. Paul Champion stepped down as Vice-President after three years in this position and was succeeded by Richard Gribble. After three terms of keeping our finances in order, Ken Massey handed over the job of Treasurer to Helen Braithwaite at the end of the financial year. Keith Crothers also stood down after 18 years of continuous service on the executive.

We seconded several people on to the executive to ensure that new members have a voice and to allow us to grow into new areas. John Gardner and Christine Reed were seconded to give us insights into the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry respectively and Carolyn Lewis was seconded as our Protect co-ordinator and Weedbusters representative. Thanks very much to these people for their various contributions.

The NZBI is extremely fortunate to have so many capable people who are prepared to contribute their time, skills and knowledge to our organisation. I'd also like to thank all the

President's Report Continued

organisations which have generously let their staff use work time and resources on NZBI matters.

2004 Annual Plans

These plans are fairly similar to the 2003 plans.

- 1 Seek to increase our membership by signing up at least 20 new members, especially from groups that are poorly represented at present (e.g. MAF, health, people involved with vertebrate and invertebrate pests, industry representatives etc).**

We will encourage all branches to invite prospective members to attend branch activities and NETS (non-members attending NETS will pay a higher registration fee that will automatically sign them up for the following 18 months). We intend to attract more members by raising our profile (see 2, 3 & 7 below). We intend to continue to grow and diversify in subsequent years in a sustainable way.

We have so far signed up 11 new members this year and we approved another seven applications at our executive meeting yesterday. Also 12 trial members arising from NETS2002 have become full members this year so we look on track for another year of steady growth. We have gained a few new members from our target groups over the past 18 months but we still need to work harder to attract these people. For example I would still like see branches be more proactive by inviting prospective members to join in any activities they are organising. It would also be useful if we could make more effort to involve members of the New Zealand Plant Protection Society for example. This could be done through their newsletter or by having notices sent out to their email group. If we can continue to increase and diversify our membership then we will have more funds available, more resources to call upon, and more hands to make light work.

- 2. Seek to raise awareness of the NZBI and biosecurity issues.**

Promotional posters will be sent to branches for distribution amongst members. We will produce at least two press releases. We will investigate ways of enhancing media coverage of NETS. We will continue to support Weedbusters in any way we can.

As I mentioned earlier the posters are now

available. Several press releases have gone out about NETS2004 and a lot of effort has gone in to ensuring that the media know about this event and can get what they need.

- 3. Seek to ensure that the NZBI becomes more involved in matters of policy, strategy and advocacy.**

We will comment on any matters or documents where it is appropriate for us to do so.

We have been asked to contribute to the LGITO's revision of the National Certificate in Pest Plants. Jan Crooks has kindly agreed to represent us at this forum. Please continue to bring to our attention any matters that we should be commenting on.

- 4. Seek to make it easier for our members to access the knowledge and information they require to do their jobs effectively.**

We will seek to get a skills register up and running on our website. We will endeavour to more effectively interact and network with other like-minded organisations both here and overseas.

The executive has now had an opportunity to discuss how best to present the skill register information and we are looking for volunteers to help enter this information.

The VPMINZ has indicated that they might be interested in becoming part of the NZBI instead of a stand alone organisation and we will be having further dialogue with them about this. We still need to work towards developing better linkages with the New Zealand Plant Protection Society. We also need to think about how we can strengthen ties with Australia and our Pacific Island neighbours. I'm hoping that after this conference we will have managed to achieve closer ties with the Global Invasive Species Programme, Invasive Species Specialist Group and groups in Japan.

- 5. Seek to improve biosecurity in New Zealand by offering a scholarship to allow one member to travel to learn new skills and another scholarship to assist a student to undertake some relevant research.**

The executive has decided that we should offer these awards again this year. A call for applications will be made soon with an end of October deadline and the money will be awarded early in 2005.

President's Report Continued

6. Seek to improve biosecurity in New Zealand by holding a National Education and Training Seminar (NETS) in July.

The organising committee and executive will consult widely about the topics and activities to be covered at NETS and prepare a questionnaire that will go in the registration packs to allow participants to provide feedback about NETS and any other matters relating to the NZBI. We will use this feedback to help us to continue run at least one highly successful NETS per year. We will explore the possibility of running joint conferences with other like-minded organisations.

The Rotorua organising committee has managed to pull off another fantastic conference this year. It is becoming more difficult for organising committees to stage NETS as our membership continues to diversify and people's expectations become greater. Don't be backward in coming forward with topics and activities you would like covered, or in offering to give a paper or workshop at an early stage. Typically planning for the following year's programme begins in earnest in August so now is a good time to put up your hand up for NETS2005. The organising committee look forward to hearing from you! Please also assist future organisers by filling in the questionnaire on the last day — they do take this feedback into account.

7. Seek to improve biosecurity in New Zealand by producing quarterly issues of Protect.

We will make every effort to cover a broad spectrum of topics, as well as information about members, branch and nationwide activities. We will assess member satisfaction with the size, style and frequency of *Protect*.

Under the guidance of Carolyn Lewis I believe that Protect is going from strength to strength. Please keep ideas or offers of stories flowing in.

8. Seek to improve biosecurity in New Zealand by developing and maintaining a website.

We will continue to maintain and improve our website. We will discuss our website at NETS. We will seek to be included as a hot link on other relevant websites.

The Cawthron Institute has now kindly given us our domain name and we are very grateful for such generous support. We really need more assistance from members and particularly branches with the upcoming events section otherwise it is likely to be pulled. Richard Gribble has agreed to regularly check the website to make sure everything is up to date. Thanks also for to Mike Harré for the technical work behind the scenes of loading documents and keeping the website running.

9. Seek to ensure that the NZBI continues to be an active organisation that gets things done and makes a difference.

The executive will meet on at least a quarterly basis and annual and strategic planning will be undertaken every year. Reports on progress and achievement will be provided in *Protect* and at the AGM.

The executive is continuing to meet and manage NZBI business on a regular basis and our finances are in a healthy state. I am prepared to continue on as National President for one more year but I will definitely be stepping down this time next year at Christchurch. After five years in the job it will be time for a change and some new directions for both myself and the NZBI. I believe that the NZBI has now got a strong enough foundation to be able to tackle some new challenges, break some new ground, and gain a much higher profile. I look forward to your thoughts about how the NZBI should develop in the near future and your continued support during my final term.

Lynley Hayes 

Hundreds go mad in Rotovegas!

Carolyn Lewis reports on NETS2004

First there was flooding, then swarms of earthquakes, and to top it all off, a plague of biosecurity buffs descending on the Bay of Plenty for three days. NETS2004 kicked off to a fine start in the midst of chaos as July's weather inundated much of the surrounding region. With a record crowd of more than 250 people attending the event, NETS2004 was a steep learning curve for all involved.

In keeping with the Rotorua setting for NETS2004, the three days was opened with a powhiri from Bishop Kingi, Tai Eru of Environment Bay of Plenty, and the kapa haka group from Rotorua Girls' High School. Rosemary Miki, Chair of Environment Bay of Plenty and NZBI President Lynley Hayes welcomed delegates, before launching into a very full programme.

Information rich region

Willie Shaw of Wildland Consultants Ltd set the scene speaking about the importance of biosecurity to the success of biodiversity projects in the Bay of Plenty area. Describing the region as the most information rich in New Zealand, Willie outlined the challenges facing geothermal areas and their associated ecosystems.

Tony Hall of Environment Bay of Plenty followed this up with a reminder that New Zealand is only able to tackle biodiversity issues because we are so lightly industrialised; countries with heavier industry have more pressing issues with pollution and toxic waste. Tony also outlined the response to the flooding in the region.

Mike Mohi put another angle on things by explaining the Nga Whenua Rahui scheme for putting kawanati (covenants) on Maori-owned land in a similar way to those achieved under the QEII scheme. Mike says that the main point of difference for Maori owners is that they are entering an agreement that does not involve DOC, an organisation that is seen with suspicion by many Maori landowners. Mike made the point that although Maori own a large percentage of private land with conservation values, the Nga Whenua Rahui scheme only gets a fraction of the funding given to its sister-scheme, the National Heritage Fund, which is concerned with non-Maori owned land.

The remainder of the speaking programme for Day One consisted of concurrent sessions concentrating on issues at the coalface and biosecurity research. It was good to see so many students are choosing to look at biosecurity issues as part of their masters and doctoral research projects, something the NZBI has been encouraging through its annual study awards.

The mix-and-mingle function that night was a great



Willie Shaw from Wildland Consultants Ltd giving keynote address.

success; the ticketing system worked well, although some, who shall remain nameless, seemed to have managed to purloin large quantities of blue drinks tickets for themselves! Groups dispersed throughout Rotorua to various eateries for dinner.

Day Two kicked off earlier for some than for others, with Dr Mark Lonsdale from Australia kindly obliging TV One's *Breakfast* programme with a live interview. The message about the importance of biosecurity was well stated, with viewers being alerted to the problems faced worldwide with invasive alien species.

For the rest of us, Day Two started with a session that many delegates described as the highlight of NETS2004. Alan Saunders of DOC (now Invasive Species Specialist Group based at Auckland University) started off with a broad overview of biosecurity and biodiversity issues for islands and 'mainland islands', and how to pull back from what ecologist Bill Lee has called "the enveloping silence". Alan's main points were that we have made great strides in New Zealand in protecting our country's wildlife areas; those who say that something can not be done usually mean that it never has been done before; and our biggest risk in protecting biodiversity is in being limited by our own lack of vision.

Dr Mick Clout of the Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) then took the stage to outline the global nature of invasive species problems and the work that the ISSG is doing to help combat this threat. One of the main initiatives being introduced is the ISSG database that has 200-plus invasive species already on it, and the Aliens-L email group that encourages international dialogue on invasive alien species issues.

Dr Mark Lonsdale, Australian-based Chair of the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP), continued the global theme, looking at good and bad biosecurity "links" and how to maintain or break them to the benefit of biodiversity. He also commented that the ISSG and

Hundreds go mad in Rotovegas Continued

the GISP had to talk about avoiding overlaps in their work, and it was good to see the boffins from both organisations promptly meeting over lunch in a serious huddle in one corner of the conference room doing just that.

Tetsuro Uesugi from the Japanese Ministry for the Environment outlined the new invasive alien species legislation that has been introduced in his country to stem the tide of pests into the country and manage those already there. It was interesting to note that most of the problems that Tetsuro referred to were pests that had been introduced to Japan as pets; this is an issue that the NZBI has been grappling with as the live possum, ferret and wallaby exports from New Zealand continue.

A telling cultural difference was revealed when Tetsuro was asked what capacity Japan had to enforce this legislation; his reply was that, once it was law, people would simply obey. I am sure there are other members of the audience who were wondering where we have gone wrong in New Zealand not to have this compliance mentality, but maybe the Japanese fine system under this act has something to do with it — NZ\$43,000 for an individual breaking the law, and \$1.4 million for a corporation. Our lawmakers and courts could learn a thing or two from this!

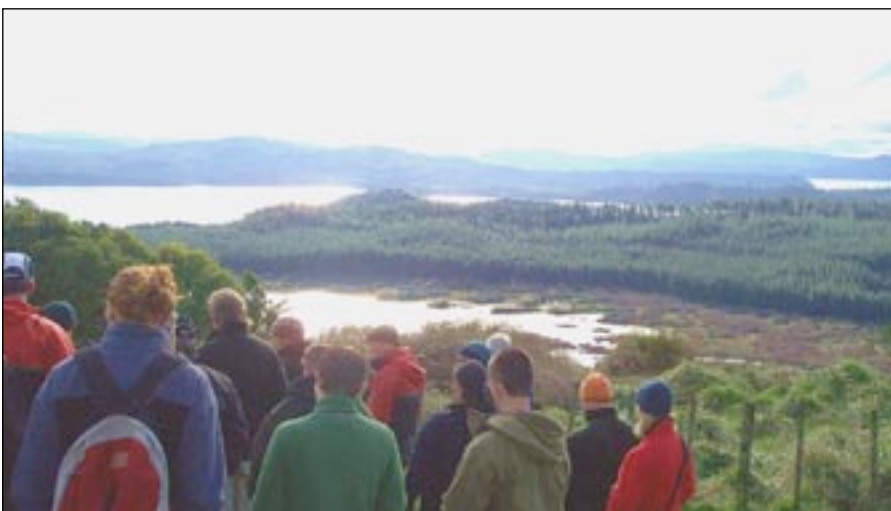
Morning tea was followed by our last overseas speaker, Sarah Russell from Australian Quarantine and Inspection Services. From the slides that Sarah showed to introduce herself, it was obvious that her job involves a very varied range of activities from camels to helicopters, all in the name of keeping Australia's borders under lock and key from invasive species.

Andrew Wilke (Hawke's Bay Regional Council) and David Wansborough (MAF) then outlined the New Zealand biosecurity strategy's future as they saw it, according to their own organisation's work.

The field trips on the Thursday



Coastcare



Onuku Station



DOC staff enjoy the conference dinner.

Hundreds go mad in Rotovegas Continued

afternoon proved a great hit, with Environment Bay of Plenty implementing a contingency plan with four-wheel drive shuttles at the Onuku Station site as the track was too muddy for the buses to access. The coastal trip was also popular, with plenty of discussion about the role of Coastcare groups in restoring these valuable ecosystems.

Happy hour was followed by the conference dinner, with entertainment from both Hilary Bryan and then Paul Champion presenting awards. The DJ proved popular with a large contingent hitting the dance floor while an equally large contingent hid in the house bar away from the threat of dance invitations. The bar staff report that the last person left at 4.30am, which would account for some of the long faces seen the next day. Others took advantage of the hot pools and sauna; some of them learnt to their peril that heat and alcohol do not mix that well!

Workshops kicked off on Friday morning, with three sessions catering for a wide range of interests. These were followed by more concurrent sessions and the final community outreach session. Unfortunately, the weather further south was wreaking havoc on the roads and so some groups chose to leave early to ensure that they had a safe passage home and didn't get snowed



Mokoia Island daytrippers

in along the way.

For some of us though, NETS2004 did not end until the Sunday, by which time we had endured the world's cheesiest lounge singer at the Grand Tiara seafood buffet, explored Mokoia Island, soaked at the Polynesian Spa (Lynley and Sarah), got lost finding the wine and cheese pre-dinner drinkies (Lindsay), and tried to destroy a glass-topped table with a misplaced pool shot (Richard M), not once but twice.

Needless to say, a good time was had by all.

Getting linkages working

One of the strong messages from the international speakers at NETS2004 was the need for biosecurity organisations in different countries to work together to share information and expertise from management to field level. Dr Mark Lonsdale from the Global Invasive Species Programme in particular emphasised the need to forge 'good links' that can be of benefit to the wider international community.

In the first of our workshop reports from NETS2004, Lynley Hayes details the action points that the participants identified as necessary to forge and strengthen these good links both at home and abroad.

Linking NZBI, VPIMNZ and International Biosecurity Initiatives

The first part of this workshop was spent thinking about what we wanted to discuss and the topics below were suggested. There was only time to discuss the first seven items on the list. Actions arising from workshop discussion are shown in italics.

- Potential NZBI/VPIMNZ merger
- Email networks
- Involvement in international initiatives
- Central co-ordination of information
- Combined messages for the public
- Working with indigenous people
- Sharing expertise in the Pacific
- International exchanges
- Sharing forums e.g. Convention on Biodiversity
- Joint research and development
- Joint political leverage

Potential NZBI/VPIMNZ merger

- There has been some talk in recent time of a possible merger between the NZBI and VPIMNZ. The VPIMNZ want to work in closer with the NZBI while retaining their identity.

The two presidents of these organisations (Lynley Hayes and Bill Simmons) will talk about this further and seek to find a way to make this possible.

- It would also be useful to involve land managers in this conference and biosecurity work in general. At regional council level currently the two groups often work in isolation. Land managers have their own institute and have not shown much interest in interacting with the NZBI in the past.

All NZBI members to make an effort to invite land managers to our conference and branch activities.

Email networks

- A number of useful list servers are already available including Aliens, Enviroweeds and PestNet. A show of hands suggested that less than half the people present at the workshop were already subscribing to some or all of these.

Add information in Protect about these list servers and how to access them.

- We talked about whether it would be useful to set up a new list server for New Zealand issues only (the others are international) but as list servers take quite a lot of up-keep this was thought to not be appropriate at this stage.

Make more use of our NZBI members' email list while being mindful of the amount of email that many people already have to cope with. Send any relevant messages to NZBI secretary (Alison Gianotti) for distribution.

- We also talked about our hotlinks on our website pages.

Check these links often to make sure they still work and add some words explaining about what you will find if you click on them.

Involvement in International Initiatives

- At present people only hear about or get involved in international initiatives in an ad-hoc way.

Make sure that we have hotlinks on our pages for international initiatives such as Invasive Species Specialist Group and Global Invasive Species Programme. Continue to invite overseas speakers to our conferences.

- We talked about sending an NZBI representative to international meetings such as the Australian Weeds Conference. However, some members are often already going to these events anyway.

Encourage all NZBI members to report back when they have attended international conferences etc.

- The NZBI also annually offers a travel award to assist members wanting to go overseas to upskill themselves and make new contacts etc. There are not usually a lot of takers for the travel award.

Publicise this award more. Put more information on our website and in Protect about upcoming events such as international conferences and workshops (as well as local ones) to help to stimulate members to apply.

Central co-ordination of information

- Information sharing between organisations and countries is to be encouraged. The Auckland-based

Getting linkages working Continued

Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) operates a database on invasive alien species that is free to all – other international databases sometimes charge for information. ISSG is still wishing to actively add more information to its database.

ISSG will provide information for inclusion in Protect to tell members about this database, and also the kind of information they are looking for that NZBI members may be able to supply. NZBI members may in future also be asked to critique the database.

- Internationally there are moves afoot to link databases to allow better information sharing.

Put information in Protect about the GISIN initiative.

Combined messages for the public

- Some participants felt that the average person on the street still did not really understand about biodiversity and the need to protect it which could make it difficult for NZBI members to do their jobs. The more that some of these messages can be stated and reinforced the better. High profile personalities have been useful in this regard in the past. Maori TV may also offer new opportunities.

Talk to Protect NZ about the possibility of producing more reality TV programmes relating to biodiversity and biosecurity.

Working with indigenous people

- Mark Lonsdale (Chair of the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP)) explained that GISP's main thrust in

future would be working with developing countries. GISP is therefore interested in knowing about any initiatives in which indigenous people have been managing their own biodiversity/biosecurity projects so it can learn more about approaches that do or don't work.

All NZBI members to provide any information they have to Mark that could help GISP in this endeavour (mark.lonsdale@csiro.au).

Sharing expertise in the Pacific

- Pacific island nations have serious weed and pest problems and usually limited capacity to deal with them.

Include a story on biosecurity issues in the Pacific in Protect to raise awareness amongst members.

- The Department of Conservation has signed a memorandum of understanding that allows its staff to be released on secondment to help Pacific nations. It is possible that MAF may do something similar now it is the lead agency for biosecurity in New Zealand. It would be good to foster more exchange visits and involvement in demonstration projects. NZBI members may also be able to assist with peer review of management plans and funding applications.

Keep working to develop a skills register for NZBI members so that information about relevant expertise can be made readily available and people approached to become involved.

- Perhaps at some stage New Zealand and Australia could develop a biosecurity strategy for the region as a whole?

Member Profile: Randall Milne

Looking up at the abrupt distinction between pasture and native forest on the hills of Elsdon, close to Wellington, I developed an awareness of two important characteristics of New Zealand — the agricultural backbone that has and continues to contribute to this country's prosperity, and the indigenous vegetation that says we are in New Zealand.

Throw in the urban melting pot of Pacific cultures that gravitate to areas of low-cost housing and its no wonder I grew up thinking of New Zealand as a Pacific nation, rather than an extension of some distant stranger in the Northern Hemisphere.

A love of soil and plants was nurtured from a young age helping out in the veggie garden at home. Later on, this affinity grew working as a gardener, then undertaking studies at both Massey and Victoria universities. In between, there were various periods of employment to help fund studies and keep the wolf from the door. After learning how to sit and pass a multitude of exams, I was happy to leave the ivory towers behind and get out into the real world. However, one benefit of a tertiary education was gaining exposure to what makes New Zealand special in terms of our natural resources. A stint overseas confirmed my suspicion that we're also fairly fortunate in terms of our human resources — though I do have a lot of time for an Irish barman called Pakki who pours a liquid dream called Guinness.

So how did a Guinness-loving, Pacific Islander get involved in biosecurity? I could say it was all part of a master plan, but it certainly wasn't mine. After a short stint working for Wildlands Consultants Ltd in Rotorua, I started work at "The Regional Council" (now Greater Wellington) in 2000. However, I missed the sunshine



Pest control: Randall Milne deals with a familiar office pest!

and the call of the south took me to Invercargill and Environment Southland in 2001. I have been here for just over three and a half years, battling away, raising both my own and the region's awareness of pest plants and biosecurity in general.

I now know what biosecurity means, though there is still a need to raise its profile given the blank stares I get when people ask what I do for a job. As David Wansborough said at NETS in Rotorua, "biosecurity is not an outcome in itself, but a means to achieve social, environmental and economic outcomes." Or as I think of it, although it's not a war we will win, it's the battles that count. And as our beloved Prime Minister has said — "Bring it on".

**Cheers
Randall Milne**

Member Profile: Monica Singe

Fresh from NETS2004 (which I thoroughly enjoyed) Carolyn repeated an earlier request for a profile, so taking Dave Galloway's advice from last *Protect*, I thought I'd get it over and done with.

I was born in Wellington and raised in Titahi Bay with three siblings and hoards of other Bay kids. I went to Ngati Toa Primary, Titahi Bay Intermediate and Mana College. At 17 I headed off to Victoria University and completed my first year of a BSc (Zoology). Over the summer break, in my wisdom — something to do with money for beer and flatting — I decided that I needed a job. So I left uni and went to work in Wellington Hospital's Clinical Biochem lab. Thanks to a great boss, a couple of years later I had qualified as a qualified technical assistant and completed the second year of my degree via correspondence and part-time courses at Victoria University (my flatmates were not overly keen with all the formalin-preserved inverts forever sitting at the bottom of the fridge ready for dissection).

I also had a nice stack of New Zealand dollars that could be converted into English pounds, so I headed off with a friend to do the OE. The inevitable happened — arriving in London via the US, we blew all our savings in about two months, then had to get jobs. I worked as a locum medical lab scientific officer and got paid well enough to support the OE lifestyle and travel around numerous parts of the world for a few years.

In 1990 my visa was running out and with my unfinished degree beckoning, I came home and finished my BSc

in 1991. I then completed the Graduate Diploma in Environmental Health Science which included six months training at the Marlborough District Council. After that I was employed as a Health Protection Officer (HPO) with Southern Health in Invercargill.

In 1995 I was lucky to be in the right place and amongst some great HPOs who formed Southern Monitoring Services Ltd (SMS). We were successful in a tender

process with the Ministry of Health and SMS set up and ran the local public health service for Southland for three and a half years, during which time I worked as an HPO.

When the southern saltmarsh mosquito was found in Napier in 1998 I was eight months pregnant with my first child; when it was found in Gisborne and Porangahau in 2000 I had just had my second child. SMS established a biosecurity division and, trading as New Zealand BioSecure, set about eradicating this Aussie mossie. When it was found in the Kaipara Harbour in February 2001, I wasn't pregnant, so made a plan to get more involved, and in August 2002 we left Invercargill and

moved to Rodney just in time for the start of the Kaipara Eradication Programme.

I love being an HPO, and I get involved and try to stay current whenever I can (I have just completed the Diploma in Drinking Water Assessment), but the eradication and mosquito work is something else. Biosecurity for me ties together some great interests and subjects — insects, disease, public health, and our great part of the world. What a great job.

Monica Singe





Weedbusters update

A vision for Weedbusters

By Amber Bill

National Weedbusters Co-ordinator

Allow me to invite you into my time machine and please join me for a coffee in the café of the future, say 2008. Now, let's sit quietly for a moment and indulge in a little eavesdropping...

A woman is telling her friend how she'd been for a holiday recently and kept seeing all these signs about weeds, signs like 'Welcome to Weed Free Waitakere' and 'Proud to be Wild Ginger Free'.

"Then as I was driving through these towns I noticed that they had kerbside composting of pest plants. Just out of town there were gangs of people working on the roadside, clearing all that old man's beard and cotoneaster I hate so much. It was 'Weedbusters at Work' according to their signs.

"And then the strangest thing happened: after my holiday I was at the mall and there was a display about weeds and pest plants. I remembered all those signs I saw on my trip. I didn't have time to stay and chat, so grabbed a pamphlet on my way past.

"Lo and behold, when I checked out the pamphlet there was that Weedbusters logo again — you know the one with the crazy purple weed and the green Weedbusters slash through it? Well, I checked out the



Waikato Weedbusters at Te Aroha weed day.

internet and found this great website and discovered 200 Weedbusters groups in my area — everything from coastal restoration groups, to reserve clean-up clubs, to mean-keen Weedbusters.

"I just can't believe that all these people are investing their free time getting rid of weeds! This must be serious."

"I know!" exclaimed the woman's friend. "Did you see the article in the paper the other week? It was all about

Weedbusters Regional Co-ordinators and Contacts:

Region	Main	Contact	Phone
Northland	Liz Sherwood (Department of Conservation)	lsherwood@doc.govt.nz	09 430 2470
Auckland	Mike Harré (Auckland Regional Council)	mike.harre@arc.govt.nz	09 366 2000
Bay of Plenty	Wendy Baker (Environment Bay of Plenty)	wendy.b@envbop.govt.nz	0800 368 267
Waikato	Wendy Mead (Environment Waikato)	wendy.mead@ew.govt.nz	0800 800 401
Gisborne/ Hawke's Bay	Robyn Wilkie (DOC)	rjwilkie@doc.govt.nz	06 869 0460
	Louise Hampton (Hawkes Bay Regional Council)	louise@hbrc.govt.nz	06 835 9200
Taranaki/Wanganui-Manawatu	Elaine Iddon (Horizons Regional Council)	elaine.iddon@horizons.govt.nz	0508 446 749
	Graeme LaCock (DOC)	glacock@doc.govt.nz	06 345 2402
Wellington	Mark McAlpine (Greater Wellington, Regional Council)	Mark.McAlpine@gw.govt.nz	04 384 5708
Marlborough	Ben Minehan (Marlborough District Council)	bmi@marlborough.govt.nz	03 578 5249
Tasman	Robin Van Zoelen (Tasman District Council)	robin.vanzoelen@tdc.govt.nz	03 543 8400
Canterbury	Jenny Williams (Environment Canterbury)	jenny.williams@ecan.govt.nz	0800 324 636
West Coast	Tom Belton (DOC)	tbelton@doc.govt.nz	Hokitika 03 755 8301
	Mary Traves (West Coast Regional Council)	mt@wrcr.govt.nz	Greymouth 03 477 0677
Otago	Peter Raal (DOC)	praal@doc.govt.nz	03 477 0677
	Aalbert Rebergen (Otago Regional Council)	Aalbert.rebergen@orc.govt.nz	0800 474 082
Southland	Keith Crothers (Environment Southland)	keith.crothers@es.govt.nz	03 215 6197

Weedbusters' vision continued

weeds spreading from gardens. Well, straight after that article we got a letter from the regional council, Department of Conservation and the city council that had a list of problem weeds with really good pictures.

"Well, you know how we live next to that patch of bush? We thought we should probably get rid of some of those dodgy plants in our garden or it'll be our fault if they get into the bush. So last weekend we got to work and filled a trailer and took it to the tip. There were heaps of weeds so we thought it was going to cost a bomb — but it was free because our trailer was chokka full with the weeds in the letter!

"Then on our way home we popped down to the local garden centre to get some replacement plants and they recommended exactly what to plant instead, and guess what, joined me up as a Weedbuster..."

But now we'll leave the café couple to their conversation and zoom back to the present where, believe it or not, that vision is not as far fetched as it sounds.

Thanks to the regional co-ordinators, contacts and Weedbusters Management Committee, Weedbusters now has a communications network throughout the country. This network allows us to share ideas and strategies in ways that have not been possible before. We have a new website (www.weedbusters.org.nz) which gives us a foundation for working together and motivating action for weed control among the community. We are seeing the logo used more widely; there has been a Weedbusters' presence at major home, garden and agricultural shows over the last

year; there are 'Weedbusters at Work' signs to raise the profile of interagency and community weed-busting efforts; and there are Weedbusters community projects throughout the country.

To continue to build capacity and motivate those already taking action in weed issues, Weedbusters has two priorities this summer: (1) motivating and encouraging on-the-ground weedbusting action, and (2) working together. Regional Weedbusters groups are proving to be the first step towards working together effectively. These groups can be co-ordinated by the regional contacts/co-ordinators and present an opportunity to discuss priorities, pool resources and synergise programmes. The working groups will expand existing networks, and catalyse on the ground weedbusting action. By working together we can more effectively utilise tools of technical

advice, media coverage, Weedbusters awards, newsletters, registrations and events.

So here's to looking forward to the future, while celebrating the energy of the present.



Getting the message out: Weedbusters had a presence at this year's Fieldays.

Weedbusters Management Committee:

Ian Popay (DOC)
 Jack Craw (Biosecurity Managers Group)
 Malcolm Woolmore (Nursery and Garden Industry Association)
 Emma Monk/Carolyn Kildare (MAF)
 Carolyn Lewis (NZBI)
 Nicola Ekdahl (Federated Farmers)
 Amber Bill (Weedbusters, National Coordinator)

Working for water and against weeds in Sth Africa

By Ian Popay

Department of Conservation,
Hamilton



The International Weed Science Congress is only held every four years and this year was in South Africa. The opportunity was too good to miss and I managed to “arrange” an invitation to present a paper on post-border management of invasive weeds.

I had three reasons for wanting to go. Firstly, I had visited South Africa 30 years ago when apartheid ruled, and I wanted to see the new South Africa, 10 years after the election of Nelson Mandela and the first black majority government. Secondly, I was desperately keen to take another look at African wildlife in all its glory. Some of the mammals are so unlikely — straight out of nursery rhymes — and it’s hard to see how either creation or evolution could have produced elephants and rhinoceroses. The birds, too, are such vivid colours, and shapes and sizes. Here, starlings are dark-coloured and dull; African starlings come in a variety of bright, vivid colours. The third reason was the opportunity to learn something about “Working for Water”, the South African initiative that welds invasive weed control, sustainable water supplies and social justice into a single brilliantly conceived movement.

The new South Africa was delightful in many respects. Gone were all the repressive “whites only” and “no blacks” notices in parks, on beaches and public benches. Poverty was much more apparent though, and we had to be very careful of our personal safety, especially in the cities. The International Conference Centre, location of our conference, lived up to its bad reputation, and six delegates were involved in “incidents”, with one spending his conference in intensive care having been stabbed when someone tried to take his wife’s handbag. We were lucky in spite of finding ourselves in less-savoury parts of town and among less-savoury groups of people on the odd occasion. Outside the cities, we found everybody — of all colours — friendly, very helpful, and able to converse in English. A hotel waiter I was talking to in a small tourist town asked where I was from. I told him and he repeated “New Zealand!” and added “Rugby. Jonah Lomu.”

The inspirational opening address at the congress was given by Guy Preston, national leader of the Working for Water programme, who highlighted some of its many successes. We saw “Working for Water” notices almost



Working for Water sign

everywhere we went in South Africa — in game parks, in beauty spots, near forestry plantations.

The programme’s mission statement explains: “The Working for Water programme will sustainably control invading alien species, to optimise the potential use of natural resources, through the process of economic empowerment and transformation. In doing this, the programme will leave a legacy of social equity and legislative, institutional and technical capacity.”

The programme, started in 1995, has, according to Guy, been one of the country’s greatest successes. This is reflected by the increase in its budget, from 25 million Rand in 1995/6 to 442 million Rand in 2003/4 (at the time of our visit NZ\$1 = 4 Rand). Upwards of 20,000 people have been trained and employed, and over one million hectares of land cleared of invasive alien plants over the past eight years. Despite these successes, invasive weeds continue to expand.

One of the great things about the programme is that it links the country’s shortages of good quality water and unemployment with the need to stem the tide of unwanted aliens. In South Africa, they claim, invasive alien plants waste 7% of the country’s water resources; reduce the ability to farm; intensify flooding and fires; cause erosion, destruction of rivers, siltation of dams and estuaries, and poor water quality, and can cause mass extinction of indigenous plants and animals. The

Working for water and against weeds in Sth Africa

continued

programme has been effective, too, in making people familiar with the problems weeds cause. Many of the people we spoke to in South Africa knew about weeds and what they can do.

I enjoyed the conference itself, met several old acquaintances and made many new ones. Although the focus of the conference was on weeds, many of the papers dealt with weeds of agriculture and most of the papers on environmental weeds came from the United States, Australia and New Zealand.

One paper that intrigued me was by Lewis Ziska from Beltsville, Maryland, USA. He established three field plots of uniform soil along a gradient from urban downtown Baltimore, a suburban area, and on an organic farm 45 km away. Along the gradient, carbon dioxide and temperature declined with increasing distance from the city, reproducing the conditions of most climate change scenarios. Above-ground biomass was highest at the high temperature, high carbon dioxide, urban site. This site also had the greatest number of species, both herbaceous and woody, and was rapidly becoming covered in tree species. The message? Woody perennials will become even more of a problem as the climate warms and carbon dioxide levels rise.

After the conference, Susan Timmins and I set off northwards on safari in a rented Chrysler PT Cruiser modified so that I could drive. Our first destination was Hluhluwe Game Reserve (pronounced shush-loowe). We reached the locked entrance gate just after closing time at 6pm, but luckily the gatekeeper had noticed us passing and came along to unlock the gate for us. The

road to Hilltop Lodge was tarsealed, but we regularly caught huge elephants in the headlights, and had to wait until they went about their business before we could pass. Their passage was marked everywhere with huge piles of steaming dung.

The next couple of days were fantastic — we saw hippos, rhinos, zebra, nyala galore, and brightly coloured birds were everywhere. One evening, out on a dusk drive, we followed a journey of giraffe along a road. Our headlights dazzled them, and they had trouble finding gaps in the bush big enough for them to escape through. "Journey" is the correct collective name. Even better is a "dazzle of zebra", but

best of the lot is a "crash of rhino". Nearly as impressive as the animals were the plants, many of which were heavily armed with spines. Weeds have invaded paradise, I'm afraid, and often our views were spoiled by

tall hedges of Siam or trifid weed (*Chromolaena odorata*) growing at the sides of the road.

From Hluhluwe we headed north again, but, before we left, our favourite reserve had another treat in store — Cape hunting dogs. We weren't far from the lodge when we had to stop because of cars and zebras blocking the road. Then they were there, streaming out of the scrub on our left, across the road,

and into the bushes on the right, big, impressive dogs, with brown and black markings, moving quickly. Not common, and well worth going all that way to see! We were sorry to leave Hluhluwe, but Kruger beckoned.

We stayed in Kruger National Park for three days. Besides the now-routine elephants, zebra and white rhino, we saw many impala here, and were lucky enough to see a leopard, after dark, from our safari Land Rover. We also saw opuntia cacti that are a real and increasing problem, their fruits and seeds spread by baboons. While visiting the park headquarters at Skukusa we met



Above: Give way, elephants crossing! (Where is that zebra crossing?)

Right: Heavily armed acacia.



Below: Chromolaena at roadside in Hluhluwe.



Working for water and against weeds in Africa continued

alien biota specialist Llewellyn Foxcroft, who showed us the biocontrol facilities, and explained about the problems of invasive weeds in the park. Kruger, and other places also have huge problems with invasive South American water weeds like salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*), water hyacinth (*Eichornia crassipes*) and water lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*). Biocontrol programmes are in place to try to combat their menace, and Kruger has active weed monitoring programmes in place to track, and hopefully limit, the apparently remorseless spread of invasive weeds.

From Kruger, we visited Pilgrim's Rest, a small tourist town, once the centre of a gold rush, and from there visited scenic lookouts on the escarpment looking over the lowveld about 750 metres below. The contrast in vegetation between the tropical plant species of the lowveld and the temperate species of the highveld was amazing. In gardens around Pilgrim's Rest we noted familiar New Zealand plants such as flax and cabbage



Left:
Malelane
Gate,
Kruger
National
Park.



Llewellyn Foxcroft, alien plant specialist.

trees, but also familiar invasive weeds like Mexican daisy (*Erigeron karvinskianus*).

In conclusion, we found South Africa, despite the many problems it faces, to be a dynamic country with huge potential for the future. Its wildlife, and the way in which its biodiversity is being preserved, is outstanding. Its Working for Water programme sets an example to the world on how invasive weed control might be tackled. The people seem hard-working and approach their many problems in a positive fashion. If you ever get the chance to go, don't hesitate — you won't regret it.

Ian Popay's travel was supported, in part, by the Department of Conservation, the Wellington Paraplegic and Physically Disabled Trust Board and the Lottery Grants Board.

Maximising the effectiveness of aerial 1080 control of possums

By David Morgan

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Abstract of a thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree of PhD, Lincoln University 2004.

Aerial control using 1080 (sodium monofluoroacetate) baits is widely used in New Zealand for the control of introduced brushtail possums (*Trichosurus vulpecula*), with the aim of protecting national conservation and agricultural values from these damaging pests. This thesis integrates research, completed over 25 years, that was motivated by growing recognition in the 1970s of the extent of possum impacts and the need to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the control operation.

Field research assessed the palatability of three types of cereal-based pellet baits and carrot baits in different regions, habitat types and seasons. Palatability was assessed by the consumption of the different bait types presented independently of each other on 15-30 plots, with rotation of bait types at plots on successive nights to provide equal exposure to each bait type. There was regional variation in possums' bait preferences, possibly reflecting genotypic differences, whereas seasonal variation was less evident. Carrot bait was preferred or equally preferred to cereal bait in 14 out of 20 field trials.

The proportion of possums eating baits was then investigated by, firstly, developing a technique for tracing bait acceptance using rhodamine B, a UV-fluorescent dye. In four field trials, more than 95% of possums accepted three types of dye-marked bait, eliminating bait refusal as a major reason for low kills in winter control operations. In a fifth trial, conducted in summer, only 68% of possums accepted bait suggesting that seasonal availability of favoured foods may influence bait acceptance.

Since possums must encounter baits before deciding whether to eat them, field studies were undertaken to assess the coverage achieved in normal aerial baiting operations. Large gaps, up to 400m in width, were often found between baiting swaths; these could allow some possums to survive. A controlled field experiment, using acceptance of rhodamine-dyed bait as a measure of effectiveness, showed that bait distribution was least accurate where flight paths were not marked. Where gaps of 100m between flight paths were deliberately created, bait acceptance was slower and less than where coverage was complete. Sowing baits at 3kg/ha was as effective as at 10kg/ha, indicating the potential for substantially reducing operational costs by using machinery capable of faultlessly distributing baits at low rates. Navigational guidance systems were evaluated and found to improve the accuracy of bait distribution.

During 1993-1997, when a lower sowing rate of 5kg/ha was adopted operationally by regional managers, control effectiveness was unchanged but annual savings of around \$9 million accrued. Because of the lack of suitable sowing machinery, a bucket was developed to permit faultless distribution of baits at lower rates, demonstrating the possibility of yet further cost-savings.

The possibility of seasonal food availability affecting bait acceptance was investigated in three different forest habitats. Dyed baits were aerially distributed on 100ha at each site in each season over two years. In each trial, fat-based condition indices of possums were calculated and the abundance of possum-preferred plant foods described. Bait acceptance was consistently high (85-100%) in the 24 trials, and was not influenced by either condition or availability of preferred foods. It seems likely that seasonal variation in operational effectiveness is caused by either the availability of sharply seasonal, scarce foods that possums may feed on intensively for brief periods, or by warmer temperatures that render 1080 less effective.

The influence of 1080 on acceptance of (rhodamine-dyed) baits was investigated in a field trial. Examination of possums for dye-marking showed that 25% of possums refused to eat either a lethal quantity of bait or any bait at all, compared with 98% of possums eating non-toxic bait. This indicated that 1080 is aversive to possums, which is a potential major reason for their surviving control operations. Pen trials were therefore conducted to further examine the problem and to seek solutions. Toxic carrot baits were rejected by 27.5% of possums, equally by smell and taste aversion, whereas toxic cereal pellets were rejected by 34%, mainly by taste aversion. Orange and cinnamon were shown to be among the most preferred of 42 flavours tested and, when applied to toxic baits, 1080 was effectively masked. Bait refusal was reduced to $\leq 7\%$, the same as that recorded for possums presented with flavoured non-toxic baits.

For long-term control of possum populations, aerial 1080 baiting can be used sequentially with other poisoning methods. However, the compatibility of these methods is dependent on the likelihood of possums developing bait shyness if sublethally dosed. Studies were therefore conducted to characterise and compare the four main toxicants used (1080, cyanide, cholecalciferol and brodifacoum) for induction and mitigation of bait shyness. Shyness was induced in approximately 80% of possums sublethally dosed with

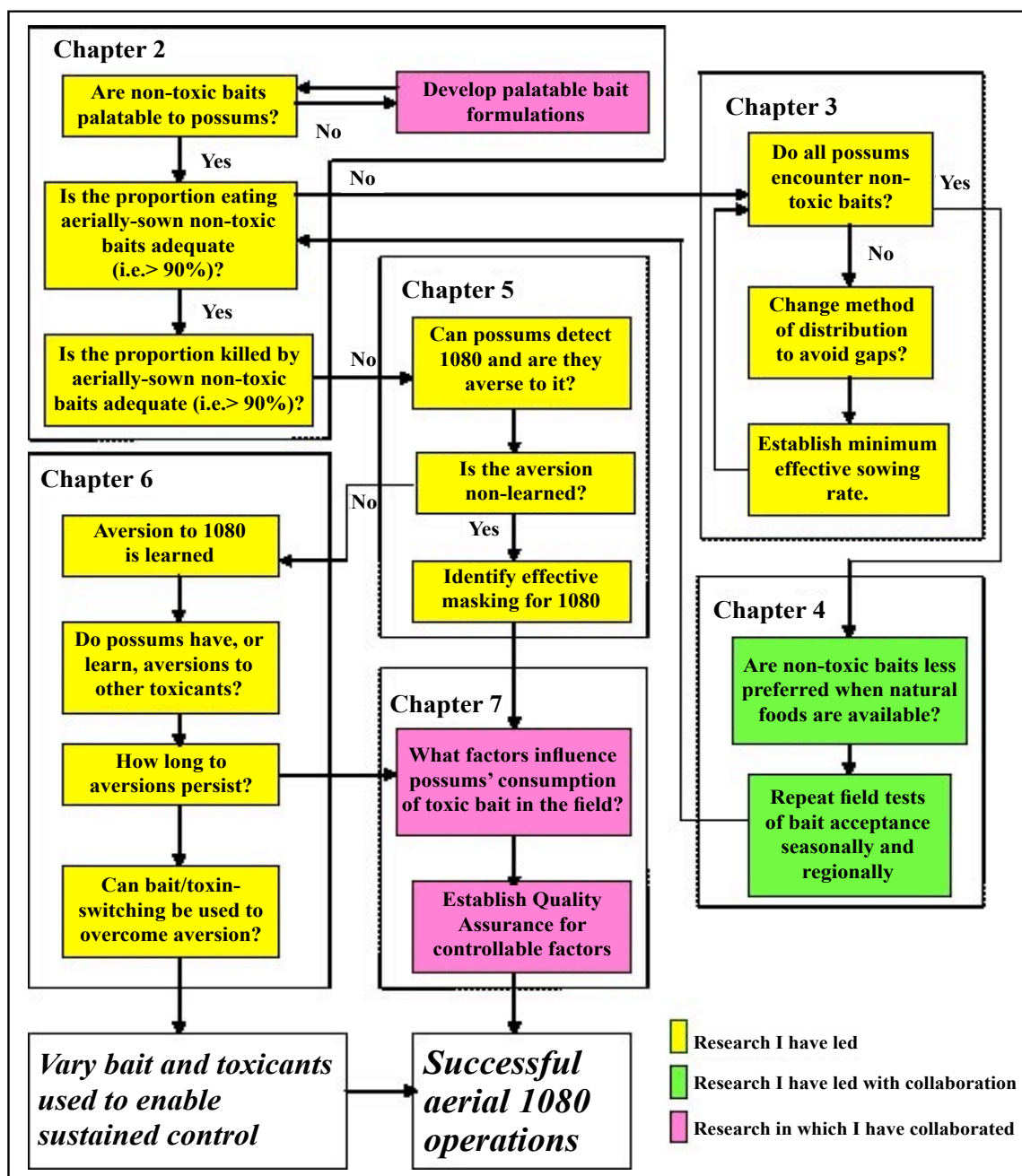
Maximising the effectiveness of aerial 1080 Continued

cyanide, 60% with 1080, 20% with cholecalciferol, and 0% with brodifacoum. Cyanide and 1080 shyness were found to persist in many possums for at least 12 and 24 months, respectively. Use of alternative bait types, and of baits containing an alternative slow-acting toxin (brodifacoum), were shown to be effective ways of overcoming shyness.

This, and other related research, is reviewed to provide operational specifications that maximise the

likelihood that all targeted possums will (i) encounter bait, (ii) eat it, and (iii) die. The likely future use of aerial 1080 baiting is described and the technological, economic, environmental and social constraints on its sustainability are discussed. Finally, the uptake of the research by possum managers is considered, and areas identified in the thesis where information is incomplete are summarised as prioritised topics for further research.

Flowchart showing logical arrangement of technical questions posed and solutions sought in optimising and sustaining aerial 1080 control operations. Shaded boxes indicate the structure of the thesis.



Bowhunters set to target koi carp again

Bowhunters from around the globe will converge on Huntly for the 2004 World Koi Carp Classic in November. For two days, their goal will be to shoot their way to the top of the field by killing as many of these orange pest fish as they can.

Nicknamed "rats of the waterways" because of the damage they cause to aquatic systems, koi carp are increasingly infesting Waikato and Bay of Plenty rivers and lakes. For the last four years, the New Zealand Bowhunters Society has run the World Koi Carp Classic in association with Rotary, with proceeds going to charity and as much as \$5000 in prizes up for grabs.

In 2003, over 80 teams took part, from as far afield as England, USA, South Africa and Canada. Over 1500 koi carp were killed during the event — a total of 3.4 tonnes of fish.

Prizes are to be awarded for heaviest koi carp (11kg in 2003), smallest koi carp, heaviest white koi carp, best hybrid carp, heaviest other fish, junior section (16 and under), Department of Conservation teams event (two persons) for total kilograms of fish, and of course, best dressed team!

Disposal of tonnes of an unpalatable fish after the event has caused some problems in the past; options tried over the last three years have included use as fish fertiliser and cat food, burial, burning and most recently, mulching for bait.

The National Institute of Water and Atmosphere,



Mulching for bait is one of the options for the fish killed in the annual World Koi Carp Classic for bowhunters set to take place early in November.

Department of Conservation and Waikato University also take part in the World Koi Carp Classic as the two days gives them a chance to gather statistics and information that is helping them to research future control initiatives for this destructive species.

The 2004 World Koi Carp Classic is being held November 6-7. Further information is available at www.nzbowhunters.co.nz or from club president Allan Metcalfe ametcalfe@xtra.co.nz or 292 Ginn Road, RD1, Huntly.

Biosecurity bits

It's been another weird and wonderful few months in the media world, with biosecurity stories ranging from enraged bulb growers threatening civil disobedience and mutant turtles in the Waikato River, to imported wolves roaming filmsets and the Catholic Church planning to import human bones for a national tour.

Bulb-lovers around the country are up in arms about moves to change the **quarantine requirements for the import of dormant bulbs**, accusing MAF of "ecofascism" in the toughening of quarantine laws and accusations that the changes will drive law-abiding citizens to illegal importing. Meanwhile, Auckland's Wintergardens face further spraying for the Florida red scale (*Chrysomphalus aonidum*) that is now linked to the import of draecenas.

While farmers call for a change of category for **Canada geese** under the Wildlife Act so that they can be treated as pests and culled accordingly, Fish and Game argue that these birds are a valuable hunting resource. In large numbers, Canada geese can munch through acres of feed within hours, causing economic loss.

A Northland man has been fined for possession of a protected native bird after trying to pass off a **dead, stuffed, chilled kiwi** to the media as a victim of a recent 1080 drop, and then refusing to say where the bird really came from. Scientists are still trying to work out how the kiwi, stored in the man's deep-freeze, actually died. The man justified his actions by saying that he was trying to stimulate debate on the effects of 1080.

Far North farmers lamenting the loss of their kikuyu pastures to a **greedy tropical webworm** will get some help from a Korean wasp (*Meteorus pulchricornis*) and a fly from the Tachnidae family, both of which parasitise the pest webworm. The webworm is thought to have blown over from Aussie as an adult moth, and at high infestations is capable of eating several hectares of pasture in less than 48 hours. At the height of the webworm "explosion" five years ago, one farmer reported losing 30 hectares of kikuyu pasture in three days.

Boneseed in Canterbury could take a beating from a new biocontrol agent if Environment Canterbury gets its way. The organisation has sponsored applications to import **boneseed leafroller moth** from South Africa to tackle the coastal pest plant that is wreaking havoc in some parts of the region. At the same time, another not-so-welcome moth is still making waves in the Waikato, with several compensation claims resulting from MAF's aerial spraying of Hamilton for **Asian gypsy moth** remaining unsettled and looking set to go to arbitration.

Feral cats urinating in hay and bedding straw are putting exotic animals and wildlife at Christchurch's McLean's Island wildlife park at risk

from toxoplasmosis, a fatal disease. Big cats and kangaroos are the most susceptible, and the park is now using newspaper as bedding for its cheetahs to minimise the possibility of this disease being transmitted.

An outbreak of **bovine Tb** on a Northland farm has led to the slaughter of a deer herd and sparked a hunt for the "sleeper" that was the source of infection. Northland wildlife, currently officially classified as Tb free (vector free status) could be reclassified as vector risk status. The chairman of the incorporation running the deer farm says it will quit its 10 year deer operation as a result of the outbreak, and a slaughter of wild pigs and possums in the area will be undertaken to see if Tb has spread that far.

Seen an unusual orange coloured lizard lately? Old, unconfirmed sightings of the **Australian bearded dragons** around Piha are being revisited as Auckland Regional Council and DOC look at ways to prevent the sale of "dragons" and other imported reptiles that



Photo courtesy Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. © 2004

compete with native skinks and geckos. An Aussie **rainbow skink** is already established in Auckland and the university is looking into the impact this species is having. Further south, DOC is on the lookout for leftovers from the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles craze;

red-eared slider turtles are thought to have been released into the Waikato River once the novelty of the reptiles and the popularity of their cartoon counterparts wore off.

While Auckland residents suffer a "**plague**" of rats from the nearby Mt Albert reserve, and Wellington motorists are theoretically required by a new bylaw to offer assistance to any rats and possums they may run over, Little Barrier Island is preparing to go rat-free. DOC hopes that the Cook's petrels will be the winners without the rats destroying their nests and chicks. Little Barrier will be the second largest island rat eradication by DOC after Subantarctic Campbell Island.

Biosecurity bits Continued

A warning is being sounded that the “**wireworm**” **Anematode parasite** (*Libyostrongylus douglassii*) that has recently been found in farmed ostriches in both Hawke's Bay and the South Island could spread to kiwi. Wireworm causes ‘vrotmaage’ or ‘rotten stomach’ in South African farms, killing up to 50% of juvenile birds. DOC is taking a watching brief, but critics are concerned that MAF is leaving this issue up to biosecurity workers who deal mainly in the farm sector rather than those who can see the implications for conservation.

Blueberry leaf rust recently found in the Waikato is on the move to the Bay of Plenty. This windborne pathogen, thought to have been blown over to the east coast, as it cannot be traced to any recent imports, causes leaf drop in affected plants. The blueberry industry is warning growers to a careful of what they transport from homes to blueberry farms.

And a semi-putrid body of a snake found in an Onehunga warehouse may be the least of our worries; MAF fear that a black-market in **snakes** may already be operating in this country as people look for more unusual pets. This follows the interception of a man trying to smuggle baby pythons into Australia in a cigarette box.

Biosecurity Australia faces a major shake-up because of Kiwi apples and a perceived conflict of interest between biosecurity and economics. The decision to reconsider the 80-year-old ban on the import of New Zealand apples into Australia has angered the pear and apple industry, which argues that **fireblight** is still a major risk. The industry puts the cost of a possible fireblight outbreak in Australia at \$A830m and 2500 jobs over five years.

The ability of fish to “smell” could be used to detect the presence of **invasive fish species** before the population becomes established, say researchers. They have found that some fish species avoid areas where other fish have been; these same pheromones could be used to track pest fish. Other pest fish control research by Aussie's CSIRO indicates that **koi carp** could be rendered a male-only species by manipulation of genes to eradicate daughters, leading eventually to a single sex population. Whether or not the GM fish that would result from successful research would be able to be imported into New Zealand is another issue entirely.

Environment BOP has already gone to war against **invasive mangroves** and Environment Waikato looks set to follow, considering a blanket consent that will allow community groups to clear these plants where they have started to choke up estuaries and harbours.

The **Asian bird flu** continues to be in the news, with New Zealand egg exporters the winners as Singapore bans poultry products from its main supplier, Malaysia, and looks for new sources. While New Zealand poultry farmers are warned to keep wild birds away from their flocks, MAF is checking migratory bird populations to see if they are carrying any of the strains that are cause for concern.

Strict conditions are being enforced on the pack of **10 cross-bred wolves** that have been temporarily imported into New Zealand for the filming of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. A small group of reindeer would have been joining them, but the bid failed when one of the herd tested positive to Q fever, a rickettsial disease that can be transmitted to humans. Animated reindeer will be used instead.



One pest solution: Janice, Pete and the makings of Janice's Pukekura Possum Pies.

Photo courtesy Cheryl Riley, Greymouth Evening Star

Possum cuisine from the little West Coast town of Pukekura is again in the media spotlight, this time on a recent television current events show. Australian animal rights activists are apparently disgusted by the way that we are treating an animal that is much loved in their own country but a menace over here. Unfortunately the activist interviewed could not offer an alternative to current possum control methods in New Zealand apart from advising that we need to get to know the animal better and appreciate that it has feelings and a family.

It's amazing what the glint of gold will do. First our Olympic medal-winners were told that their **olive wreaths** couldn't come into New Zealand as they were made of live material that could cause a biosecurity risk. Then, as the medal tally and national pride swelled, an official backtrack meant that the wreaths were coming home with the athletes after all, after being heat-treated or irradiated.

The Catholic Church will need to seek approval from MAF to import the **bones of the revered St Theresa** for a tour of New Zealand. MAF says that these won't be a problem allowing these religious relics in as long as there is no soil or plant matter with them. The bones will be enclosed in a jewelled casket which will not be opened in New Zealand.

Insect detectives have found **several new species of insects** that were not known to have established in New Zealand. These include two beetle species, three new fungus gnats, and various new ant species. These results have led to a call for surveillance of urban areas for “sleepers” species that are new to New Zealand but not yet widespread.

Want to live for a very, very long time? Researchers investigating the use of **natural possum parasites** to sterilise these furry little critters have found that these same parasites have a “longevity” gene they can switch on and off. Similar genes are found in humans that, if they could be switched on, could possibly extend our lives up to 2400 years. Now that's a very scary thought.

Conferences & Workshops

ISSG Workshop

17 November (1-5pm)

Waipuna Conference Centre, Panmure, Auckland

"No-one is an island – a global perspective on alien invasive species is critical to New Zealand's biosecurity"

Even though New Zealand is a world leader in the field of biosecurity and a front-runner in the development and improvement of techniques for management of invasive alien species, we still learn from others' experience. New Zealand's biosecurity and conservation people need access to invasive alien species (IAS) management skills, techniques and experience from elsewhere.

In addition, information about invasive behaviour of species elsewhere (especially with regards to ecological impacts) is a critical component in prevention, incursion response and management prioritisation.

Last but not least, improved biosecurity, especially in our trading partners and neighbours, will provide less opportunity for invasives to reach New Zealand. New Zealand support for international invasive alien species efforts, hence is not simply something we do out of the kindness of our hearts to benefit the rest of the world – but, and this is often forgotten, it is a direct contribution to our own biosecurity and hence to protection of our native biodiversity. Our self-interest alone would justify increased involvement in global efforts.

Speakers at this workshop will illustrate various aspects of the relation between New Zealand and international IAS activities. There will be time for participants to discuss and identify their own requirements for international cooperation and information.

Registration for this ISSG Workshop is not required; however, expressions of interest would be appreciated. For further information, please ISSG@auckland.ac.nz or call Carola Warner on (09) 37 37 599 extension 85210.



Second New Zealand Biosecurity Summit

18-19 November 2004

Waipuna Conference Centre, Auckland

The aim of the 2004 Biosecurity Summit is to clarify aspects of the Biosecurity Strategy, including the changes being made to implement the strategy and the difference the strategy will make to biosecurity in New Zealand. Two separate themes of pest management and marine biosecurity will give participants the opportunity to work in interactive sessions to identify current restraints and to propose new strategic outcomes for these areas.

For more information and registration forms, go to www.maf.govt.nz/biosecurity/biosecurity-summit/



Protect New Zealand

Tiaki Aotearoa
www.protectnz.org.nz

Conferences & Workshops

13th Australasian Vertebrate Pest Conference

2 – 6 May, 2005 at Te Papa Tongarewa, the Museum of New Zealand, Wellington, New Zealand

Nau mai, Haere mai

The Vertebrate Pest Committee (VPC) represents government agencies in Australia and New Zealand that have responsibilities for vertebrate pest management. Every three or four years the VPC holds a conference of submitted oral and poster papers on research, policy and management of vertebrate pests. This is the first time that this conference is being held in New Zealand.



Manaaki Whenua
Landcare Research

Papers are invited for either oral or poster presentation. Contributed oral papers are 20 minutes in length and are presented either within symposia on themes selected by the VPC or in general sessions.

Symposia in 2005 include:

- ☐ Management of bird pests
- ☐ Management of freshwater fish pests
- ☐ Surveillance, detection and search theory for new invasions and eradication of pests and their diseases
- ☐ Threat abatement plans and national control plans for critical pest species
- ☐ Diseases of vertebrate pests

Details are available at

www.landcareresearch.co.nz/news/conferences/vertebratepest/