



# Institute of Noxious Plants Officers

## NEWSLETTER

MARCH

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### Presidents Notes

On accepting the position of President of our Institute I undertook to ensure that several Issues that had been stalled for some years would be resolved. The Annual General Meeting voted very clearly on what was wanted and myself and the executive are determined that we will have these issues resolved and ready for your consideration at the 1997 A.G.M. The three issues are as follows.

- A. The Constitution Review.
- B. The Institute Name Change.
- C. The Training Package.

Lets now look at each of these and bring you up to date.

#### 1. Constitution Review

The second draft has gone out to all executive members, branch secretaries and branch chairpersons for discussion at their first meetings in 1997, with a little fine turning the constitution will be ready for your consideration at the next A.G.M.

#### 2. Name Change

The second poll of members showed 68% wanted either NZ Plant Pest Management Institute or NZ Pest Plant Managerial Institute. The executive is waiting for the results of the preference shown by members at their next branch meeting. ( Please ensure this happens) before finalizing this.

There has been some suggestion that we should delay these while we look at possible alliances etc.. The over-riding consideration of the executive and myself for both the Constitution and the Name change are - is this in the best interest of the existing members ? and not theoretical potential members, and is it what the existing members indicated they wanted ? I believe that will be answered at the next A.G.M. when members will have the opportunity to accept or reject the proposed name change and constitution.



### 3. Training Package

At a recent meeting held in Wellington and attended by myself, Steve Hix, Kevin Worsley, Peter Ingram and Bob Morgan, the institute as a group identified a range of " Unit Standards " that we believe should form the basis of the Plants Officer training package. Some are already registered with NZ Qualification Authority, some are in the process of being registered and one or two are yet to be written. This grouping of " Unit Standards " will then be put forward to the newly restructured L.G.I.T.O in April for them to consider. The L.G.I.T.O will also consider at that time whether or not they will continue to be involved with training or whether training is better handled by some other organization. It is my belief that we are now making some progress with this.

Further to the letter from Mr J. Jones the C.E.O's rep on the L.G.I.T.O. suggesting that we consider possible amalgamation with the Animal Pest Institute. Mr Peter Nelson, President of that Institute and myself have both indicated that we would be happy to attend and discuss this issue if he wished to convene a meeting.

In closing I trust that you find these comments informative and helpful. Please do not hesitate to call me if you require more information.

Regards

Peter Joynt  
President.

### Secretarial Notes.

I hope all members have had a good break over the New Year and are looking forward to a successful year. The Canterbury Branch have been pretty busy over the last few months and will continue to be so until later in the year. They started off by producing the autumn issue of Protect and are well into organising N.E.T.S. 97. I have had a brief look at the proposed draft programme and I can say that there will be some new and inovating features about this seminar. They are looking for plenty of input from Biosecurity Officers so, if you are involved in an interesting project or you have access to some information that would be of interest to others I'm sure the organising committee would like to hear from you. The contact is either Rob McCaw or John Thacker c/ Canterbury Regional Council.

We have had six new applications for membership this year. Most of the retiring Officers from Canterbury hacve chosen to continue their membership, which is very encouraging. However, we did loose one past member earlier this year. Alan Teale had a brief but hard fight with cancer and was just able to see in the New Year. Many will remember Alan for his forthright views but found him to be a great chap to be with.

The Protect roster has gone it's first round so we are back to the turn of the Auckland Branch for the winter 97 issue. If you have any suggestions on how this magazine could be improved please sent me a fax or note. I will pass the information on to whoever is producing the next issue. Monsanto N.Z. did apologise to me for the rough binding in some of the copies of the last issue. They assured me that they have remedied the problem.

Happy reading

A.J.B. (Tony) Banks  
National Secretary



## ZIP OF A VIP (V.P.)

Born, bred and forever branded a Cantabrian. Raised in Christchurch, I have early memories of farms at Little River and Amberley (now planted in famous grapes!). My association with agriculture began here and at the A & P Shows everyone went to. They were shows in the 1950's - huge entries in the livestock especially - pastoral farming was king.

Reality was working for the Amberley farmer friend to find out farm wages were not town wages. Still I can't have been deterred as the Xmas holidays between high school and Lincoln College were spent on the sledge behind the baler - nor westers, hay dust, thistle thorns for the princely sum of one penny a bale and then the union dominated monotony of the freezing works.

Masochism continued with spud picking - at least afterwards I knew I had a spine. I surrendered in favour of the Lyttleton waterfront after that and my worldly education went ahead.

The practical work associated with the Lincoln degree course rounded out an insight of rural folk and differences to their city cousins - interesting to have a foot in each camp.

Unlike most degree students I left the compulsory North Island dairy farm practical work until the end of my last year in 1963. The Waikato dairy farmer was really something (not someone!). All the Rural Sociology lecture stuff didn't apply to him, character building! After the bare minimum dairy practical time Ivor Elliott took me on board at the MAF Rukahia Soil Research Station. I spent the next eighteen months involved in fertilizer trials in Kaikohe and the Taupo area. Saw some 'raw' dirt - how comforting would it have been to tell those newly settled farmers "this place will be great on 20 years time if you keep up the fertilizer, don't stock to the maximum and don't ask me how you pay the bills meantime."

Then a decision to try the "commercial" side of agriculture. I joined the AHI firm in Hamilton making Waikato milk meters and electric fences. A lot of firms wanted the prestige of 'technical graduates' but didn't know what sort or what to do with them once they had them - frustrating.

Stayed in Hamilton as Field Officer to the local town milk dairy company - this was my niche! A major responsibility was a six monthly hygiene and appearance accreditation of each dairy farm. Failure to make 281 points out of 330 resulted in their accrediting bonus (money!) being suspended until they had achieved the standard. So - my introduction to regulatory compliance! Innocence or stupidity, I'm not sure which, but even the Chairman's farm was failed once. I don't think he ever forgave me but my principle was and still is - "without fear or favour." He did respect that though.

The Town Milk Industry was to be my career and after four years 'terrorizing' the Hamilton producers I joined the N Z Milk Board as Production Officer covering the whole of the southern half of the North Island from a base in Palmerston North. I now had 600 town milk farmers to keep in touch with. I travelled between the various producer groups regularly running discussion groups, field days, recruiting new supplies, giving farm management advice and generally being the Board's eyes and ears to report on the grizzles etc. coming back via the town milk producer's organisation.



This was a grand time but after nine years I was stale and recognised that I had helped all those I could and appreciated that perhaps someone else could help those I couldn't. So it was the big O.E. as a 'BAP' man (Bilateral Aid Programme), seconded to Fiji MAF headquarters in Suva for two years. In retirement I'll write a book called "The Aid Game" - a sort of Pacific counterpart to Monsarrat's "Richer than all his Tribe". My favourite memories - half a pawpaw every morning and the Fiji Rucksack Club (it saved my sanity).

Back in N Z in the mid eighties and self employment in horticulture seemed the only way to go. After a working spree in the Hawkes Bay apple scene and another year with Te Puke kiwifruit I chose neither but took the plunge and bought a Tauranga seedling nursery business at Pyes Pa. Seasonal staff peaked at 30 and the seasonal overdraft matched it! A much enjoyed but undercapitalised experience resulting in the hardest decision I ever had to make - to close down a viable business because no one wanted to take it over after building turnover up by 300%.

Then to Pukekohe as a 'geriatric' recruit to the new 'user-pays' MAF. Whoever believed that most farmers would pay for what they were used to getting for free got their sums very wrong. Private consultants had picked off the easy targets for ongoing work and that left the yuppies and others. It became apparent to me that the trick to catching clients was an "entrapment" technique more suited to second hand car sales. We parted company.

I commenced duties as a Noxious Plants Officer with Manukau City Council in 1994 for the Clevedon, Kawakawa Bay areas. Regulatory compliance is again a primary aspect. I appreciate the educational emphasis which the Council and ARC Environment foster so we are seen as consultants and advisors in the first instance.

Regrettably the local streams do not hold trout however annual pilgrimages are made to Taupo. Proficiency at scallop dredging has been achieved and a new outboard motor will see the Waitemata snapper put at risk.

I truly enjoy the blend of facets which make up the work I do and look forward to the opportunities which lie ahead as we settle into the new order with the Auckland Regional Council.

**Michael D White**  
**November 1996**

## OBITUARY

**Alan Ramond TEALE**

Alan was born in mid 1947 and attended primary schools at Parnassus, Ranfurly and Westport, and secondary school in Westport. He joined the North Canterbury Nassella Tussock Board in 1970, spent some time as a foreman at Waiau and eventually became a ranger there, often supervising over 100 staff at the height of the grubbing season. In 1975 he moved to Amberley as a Nassella Tussock Inspector. Eventually Alan moved to a position as Noxious Plants Officer for the Ashburton District Council in 1979. Later he became the Personnel Officer for the same employer. Alan always said what he thought, was always honest and straight with people and, though he may have upset some people, was very highly thought of by his employers. Alan's outside interests were fresh water fishing for trout and salmon and for 16 years he tied his own flies. Alan regularly fished the Hope, Rakaia and Rangitata rivers and caught his last salmon on the 29th November 1996, just four weeks before he died. He regularly played golf and badminton and at the time of his death he was married with one dependent child. Alan died on the 1st January 1997 after a hard but brief illness.