

# The Institute of Noxious Plants Officers Inc.

## NEWSLETTER

No. 9

*Editor*

*Eric Eden*

*P.O Box 3050*

*Richmond*

### TIMARU CONFERENCE - INFORMATION:

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Institute of Noxious Plants Officers Institute will be held on Tuesday 2nd May 1989 in the Caroline Bay Hall, Timaru commencing at 2.00 pm.

### AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES
2. MARK OF RESPECT
3. CONFIRMATION OF 39TH A.G.M. MINUTES
4. ANNUAL REPORTS
  - 4.1 President
  - 4.2 National Secretary/Editor
  - 4.3 National Treasurer
5. SUBSCRIPTIONS 1989/90
6. CONFERENCE FEES - 1990
7. HONORARIA
  - 7.1 National Secretary
  - 7.2 National Treasurer
  - 7.3 National Editor
8. VENUE FOR 1992 CONFERENCE
9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS
  - 9.1 National President
  - 9.2 Vice Presidents, Senior, Junior
  - 9.3 National Secretary
  - 9.4 National Treasurer
  - 9.5 National Editor
10. REMITS AND NOTICES OF MOTION
11. GENERAL BUSINESS
12. EXECUTIVE TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT
13. T.C.I. TUTORS REPORT.



## PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 1988/89

It is with pleasure that I present my Annual report.

At the 1988 Conference in New Plymouth when asked by the "news media" how I felt the Conference had gone, I said that if nothing else it was hoped that this Conference had allayed some of the fears that Noxious Plants Officers had about their futures. Whilst that may have been the case then, things have certainly changed since with the introduction of Local Government reform.

Of prime importance to this Institute during the latter part of the year has indeed been Local Government Reform. This Institute with considerable input from all members forwarded to the Local Government Commission a submission in November. At the time of writing this report, no clear policy had been made by the Commission on the future of noxious plants administration, and it is with this uncertainty the final outcome is awaited.

The Institute sought a meeting with the Local Government Commission but it was felt that little would be achieved, however, an approach was made to the National Transition Committee for a meeting and it was hopeful that this might take place.

At the beginning of last year the Institute was invited to put forward its comments to the Ministry for the Environment on the pesticides issues and options report. The submission was presented and we now look forward to receiving the report and to having some further input into the future use of pesticides in this Country.

In 1987 the Institute met with officers of the Pest Destruction Officers Institute with the view to amalgamation of the two Institutes. It had been intended to have another meeting towards the end of last year but with the outcome of local government amalgamation being uncertain, it was with mutual agreement decided to leave any future meetings until things were more definite.

No further information has been received with regard to the Lincoln seminar on amalgamation of pests and noxious plants control but it is understood that again local government reform has meant this being placed on hold in the meantime.

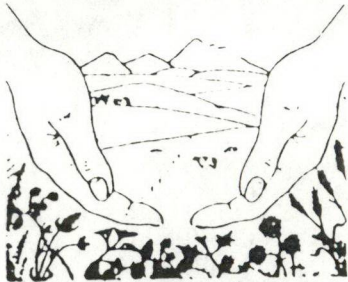
My thanks to Peter Ingram for representing the Institute at the Chemical Applicators Conference, Murray Turner and Keith Crothers representing the Institute at the Pest Control Officers Institute Conference. Kevin Worsley for his work on the Training Committee



and latterly the Moderating Committee. Keith Crothers and Jack Crow for their work in getting together the submissions on local government reform and pesticides use respectively. Eric Eden for his hard unrewarding work in keeping the Executive and members well informed of happenings within the Institute and to the Executive generally for your work behind the scenes during the year.

Finally, to those attending this Conference I wish you all an enjoyable time and that by your being here, it will be well worthwhile.

D J Brown  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT



# The Institute of Noxious Plants Officers Inc.

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File Ref. \_\_\_\_\_

## NATIONAL SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT 1988-89

The following is my report for the 1988-89 financial year.

In compiling this my first Annual Report I wish to acknowledge the tremendous support that I have received during the year.

Considerable time has been spent in trying to keep Institute members advised of the proposed changes in Local Government reform. My thanks goes out to Keith Crothers who at very short notice tabulated and prepared our submission to the Local Government Commission. While all may not agree with some aspects of the report members must gain some satisfaction in the fact that we responded to the Local Government Commissions request for submissions. Unfortunately we were not able to meet with the Local Government Commission to discuss members concern over the employment of officers. By the time you read this report David Brown and myself will have been to Wellington to meet with Mr Archer from the National Transition Committee. We will, through Mr Archer be attempting to set up a meeting with the full transition committee and a delegation from the Institute.

Membership over the last twelve months has shown a slight decrease with eight resignations and only four applications.

It was with regret that we heard of the passing away of Bert Garnity and Samuel Neill (life member).

Members through necessity may need to give some consideration to redefining branch boundaries. One suggestion has been that branches be formed along the lines of the regional areas proposed by the Local Government Commission.

By conference, five issues of the newsletter will have been sent out throughout the year. Having established a successful format I now feel it maybe time to pass over the editors position to someone else. Anyone interested please contact your Executive member.



My thanks must also go to David Brown, Kevin Worsley and Murray Turner. Without their direction and guidance the position of secretary would have been that much more difficult. I have enjoyed the challenge and look forward to the opportunity to continue for another year.

EJ Eden  
NATIONAL SECRETARY

## OFFICERS OF THE INSTITUTE

### PRESIDENT:

D.J. Brown,  
Marlborough D.N.P.A.

### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:

K.J. Worsley,  
Masterton D.N.P.A.

### VICE-PRESIDENTS:

J. Craw,  
Whangarei D.N.P.A.

J. McNaught,  
Rotoroua D.N.P.A.

### NATIONAL SECRETARY/EDITOR:

E.J. Eden,  
Waimea D.N.P.A.

### NATIONAL TREASURER:

M. Turner,  
Vincent D.N.P.A.

### EXECUTIVE MEMBERS:

B. Blick,  
Waimate D.N.P.A.

R. Broadhurst,  
Golden Bay D.N.P.A.

K. Crothers,  
Southland D.N.P.A.

P. Hoskin,  
Pahiatua D.N.P.A.

P. Ingram,  
Tauranga D.N.P.A.

A.M. Kreft,  
Stratford D.N.P.A.

D. Rhodes,  
West Auckland D.N.P.A.

J. Salmon,  
Manawatu D.N.P.A.

C. Stark,  
Hawkes Bay D.N.P.A.

### LIFE MEMBERS:

D.J. Brown  
A.T. Carter  
E.N. Daniel  
A.J. Healey M.B.E.  
F.J. Marsh  
S. Neill  
J. Robinson  
W.J.H. Sutton  
F.W. Smart  
I.H. Williams

NOMINATIONS FOR NATIONAL OFFICE (as at 10/3/89)

National President:

D Brown            Northern South Island  
Jack Crow        Northland Branch

Vice Presidents:

Jack Crow        Northern South Island  
                  Northland Branch  
Peter Ingram     South Auckland  
Bob Blick        Northern South Island

National Secretary:

Eric Eden        Northern South Island

National Treasurer:

Murray Turner   Northern South Island

Membership Applications:

George Stanisich   South Auckland D.N.P.A.  
Peter Franklin     Waikato D.N.P.A.  
Paul Champion      Ruakura (Associate)  
Peter Martin        Waipa D.N.P.A.

Resignations:

KJ Field            Waipa D.N.P.A.  
A Roberts           Grey D.N.P.A. (retired)  
J McNaught         Rotorua D.N.P.A. (retired)  
J Salmon            Manawatu D.N.P.A.  
A Coster            Otorohanga D.N.P.A. (retired)  
C Katterns          Tauranga D.N.P.A.  
M Kreft             Stratford D.N.P.A.  
P Hoskins           Pahiatua D.N.P.A.



FROM THE SECRETARY EDITORS DESKS

Name Change:

(sorry guys) Jo Geddes has married Chris Katterns therefore wishes to be known as Jo Katterns.

Walter Stahel - new Noxious Plants Officer at Tauranga.

A full list of Executive Members and Branch Secretaries will be published once I have reviewed the information.

International Conference on:

Alternatives to the chemical control of weeds.

Rotorua 25 - 27th July 1989.

Any further information please contact

Mrs Robyn Gaskin or  
Dr JA Zabkiewicz

Forest Research Institute  
Private Bag 3020  
ROTORUA



## NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

OTAGO DAILY TIMES 15TH FEBRUARY 1989

### ILLNESS LINK WITH PESTICIDE UNLIKELY by John Gibb

**Claims that pesticides cause ME syndrome have been challenged by the National Poisons and Hazardous Chemicals Information Centre.**

A report by the centre director, Associate Professor Ralph Edwards of the Otago Medical School, and scientific director Dr Wayne Temple, said that with the winding up of 245-T production in New Zealand the pesticide glyphosate had gained an unwarranted reputation as "the villain of the moment."

"So far, from inquiries to the centre, we can only say that the link between glyphosate, or any other pesticide, and the ME syndrome is far from proven and unlikely in most cases," the directors said.

In New Zealand Roundup is the major herbicide using glyphosate as an active ingredient, Dr Edwards said.

There had been a number of calls to the centre from people genuinely worried because they had heard that pesticides caused ME.

"This fear of harm from chemicals seems to be spreading and is distinct from respect for the potential for harm from chemicals and a realistic concern that they should be used safely.

#### DEPLORABLE

"This is a deplorable situation, and we would urge all those who make pronouncements on chemical effects in humans to examine the evidence first."

Most, if not all, of the adverse effects of pesticides on humans would be prevented if the procedures recommended by manufacturers and distributors were followed.

But the directors said they would like to see the National Toxicology Group, which runs the centre, given responsibility for monitoring some new chemicals for possible side effects.

The toxicology group already monitored new medicines to provide early warnings of any possible health hazards.

The directors said that between 1982 and March last year 16 cases involving the chemical had been reported to the centre.

In seven cases people had deliberately taken the substance, often together with alcohol or medicine. Two of the people had died.

In one of the other nine cases a three-year-old child had accidentally ingested a diluted glyphosate spray mixture. Prompt medical attention was given and there had been no adverse results.

#### NORMAL

The eight remaining cases involved "normal use" of the chemical in herbicide spraying. None had resulted in major health problems.

The only significant problems seen by the centre in these cases had been a temporary irritation of mucous membranes from inhalation of spray mist and skin irritation from prolonged exposure to the chemical.

Protective clothing or equipment were not always used even though they had been recommended.

Thanks Murray

TARANAKI HERALD 13TH FEBRUARY 1989

#### QUARANTINE CLAMPS ON GRAIN CARGO

A strict quarantine area is being around a ship at Port Taranaki unloading more than 4000 tonnes of contaminated grain.

Seeds from the noxious weed Johnson grass have contaminated sorghum being discharged from the Promoter at the port's Blyde Wharf and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has the operation under tight supervision.

The district manager for MAFQual in New Plymouth, Mr Brian Milestone, said sorghum crops were well-known as being a good host for the grass, which was hardy, grew well and was unpalatable to stock.

While the grass was not the only weed in the shipment that MAFQual was concerned about, Mr Milestone said he could not comment on other contaminants aboard. Supervision would continue throughout unloading and he was satisfied there had been few problems so far.

That supervision covered the grain as far as its treatment by NRM Feeds Ltd, before it was converted to stock food, said Mr Milestone.

"The method of treatments will depend on the degree of contamination. The objective is to ensure there's no viable weed seed left. The best way of ensuring that is to crush hell out of the seed, in the same way as the grain will be crushed."



The ship was expected to continue unloading today and although scheduled to sail later in the day, might not leave until tomorrow.

### CONTROLS-CALL

Importers of grain and other agricultural feeds should match the strict quality controls imposed on exported New Zealand farm products.

The comparison was made at Federated Farmers' Taranaki dairy section meeting in Stratford yesterday.

The section committee's chairman, Mr John Boddy, was commenting on the news that special quarantine conditions had been imposed at Port Taranaki by MAFQual around a shipment of grain contaminated with noxious weed seeds.

The section committee supported him in taking the issue up with Federated Farmers at a higher level.

### NOXIOUS PLANTS NEED WEEDING OUT

New Zealand is heavily dependent on primary production for its well-being. Because of this, exceptionally stringent, complicated and expensive measures are taken to ensure foreign noxious weeds and pests are not unwittingly imported into the country to threaten our livestock, crops and pastures. Evidence of such precautions were visible in Taranaki over the weekend, when a grain shipment from the United States contaminated with noxious weed seeds was unloaded under the strictest supervision at Port Taranaki.

The area around the ship was placed under quarantine and trucks carting the sorghum from the vessel were sealed to avoid any spillage which may allow the weed to become established here before it can be destroyed. But what of the noxious plants already growing in abundance throughout the land? There is mounting concern that some of the more prolific varieties may be getting out of hand. In rural areas, many farmers hit by the economic squeeze have postponed or curtailed spraying programmes, but even in the urban centres it is not unusual to find gorse and ragwort have taken a foothold.

The ragwort problem has reached such proportions in the Okato area that earlier this month it was proposed a joint helicopter spraying scheme be undertaken. Private property owners are not the only ones who have been feeling the pinch either. Funding cuts and changing budget priorities have also affected the weed eradication ability of organisations such as local bodies, the Railways Corporation, the Department of Conservation and Land Corporation, just to name a few.



The result can be lower land values and frayed tempers as seeds borne by the wind are scattered for miles, not just on neighbouring properties. The work of years can be undone in just one season as clear land becomes victim of that with the weeds left unsprayed. Plants are declared noxious for very good reason: They affect land production by threatening to consume pasture, may be harmful to stock and man, or play host to parasites. Yet the city which houses the nation's lawmaking establishment has for decades blithely ignored the noxious weed which holds its hillsides together. Wellington turns bright yellow when the gorse flowers each year.

Thanks Dan.

N.Z. HERALD 1st MARCH 1989

PESTICIDE RISK SEEN  
NZPA-Reuter      Washington

A study by a United States consumer watchdog group has found that allowable pesticide traces in farm produce cause cancer and nerve damage to children.

It has announced a campaign, headed by the actress Meryl Streep to tighten pesticide laws.

The study found that children were far more at risk than adults from the impact of pesticides, and that the United States system of regulation had completely overlooked children, said the executive director of the Natural Resources Defence Council, Mr John Adams.

The non-profit group said its two-year study found that 5500 to 6200 children in the United States now aged five or younger would develop cancer sometime during their lives, as a result of pesticide residues in fruits and vegetables.

It said at least three million children five years old or younger were now being exposed to pesticides able to damage their nervous system at levels above those called safe by the federal Government.

The group said its study, covering 23 pesticides and 27 common fruits and vegetables, was the most comprehensive on the problem to date.

It said previous studies underestimated exposure risks for children because they incorrectly assumed children and adults ate similar amounts of fruit relative to their body weights.

"For many foods, children actually eat up to 15 to 20 times the amount of fruits and vegetables used in setting pesticide residue limits," the council said.

Thanks Don