



NEWSLETTER

Editor

Eric Eden

P.O Box 3050

Richmond

NEWSLETTER NO. 4

MARCH, 1988

MEMBERS:

As this is the last Newsletter before Conference I would like to take this opportunity to thank those Branches and individual members who took time to submit material or articles for inclusion in the Newsletters. To date I have received no correspondence for the "letters to the Editor" section. Let's have some feed back coming through. It may well stimulate others to put pen to paper.

At the time of writing no new or additional information has been forwarded through regarding the M.A.F. paper or the rationalisation of Pest and Plant control.

Included in this issue is notice of the A.G.M. at New Plymouth along with remits, notices of motion, nominations for National Office and proxy voting forms for those not so lucky to be attending Conference.

NEW MEMBER: John Ross, Ellesmere, (Welcome)

RETIREMENT: Geoff Burnside, Manukau City (Best Wishes)

JOINT COUNCIL, SHELL AND AIR NEW ZEALAND:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDY AWARD

Through the generosity of Air New Zealand and Shell Oil New Zealand Ltd a Local Government Study Award has been established to enable personnel from all sectors of local government to gain further experience, skills or knowledge that can be important to others for the good of the community at large.

If you require any further information write to:

The Chief Executive Officer, Joint Council or Local Authorities Services, P.O. Box 5034, Wellington, from whom application forms may be obtained. Applications close 31 July.

INSTITUTE OF NOXIOUS PLANTS OFFICERS INC.

C/- MASTERTON COUNTY COUNCIL

P.O. BOX 39, MASTERTON

29 February 1988

TO ALL MEMBERS

I would like to make few comments in this the last Newsletter before the 1988 Conference.

Copies of the report from the Lincoln Seminar on the future of Plant and Pest Control have been sent to all Executive Members. It is obvious that Government is determined to amalgamate these two functions in some form and with this in mind I arranged a meeting between an Executive Group of this Institute and the Institute of Pest Destruction Officers.

A very amicable meeting was held on the 24 February 1988 where we agreed that in the long term an integration of the two institutes is likely. A copy of a joint statement from the two Presidents indicating the total agreement of the meeting is included in this newsletter.

At the final Executive Meeting of the 1987 Conference it was agreed that as National President I should remind members prior to the 1988 Conference of the Institute's expectations regarding Conference attendance.

Firstly neat dress is expected during Conference with particular attention at the opening session when at least a tie and jacket should be worn. All officers attending Conference are expected to be present at all sessions. If for any reason you may wish to absent yourself from a session then you should advise the President.

There was one serious breach of attendance at the Nelson Conference to a degree that the Executive had no option but to advise the employing authority of the person involved.

Following the judging of the Du Pont Awards for 1987 I was approached by Mr. David Bassett, Chief Executive Officer, Joint Council for Local Authorities Services, regarding NPO's applying for Local Government Study Awards. He was so impressed by the standard of the applications for the Du Pont Award that he felt there is a potential in our ranks to do very well in Local

Government Study Awards. He also advised that the organisers of this award are keen to see more awards granted to people in Local Government at middle management or lower level.

A copy of the Information Brochure on the Local Government Study Award is included in this newsletter.

No information has been received by the Institute following our submissions to MAF last November on Noxious Plants Administration.

KEVIN WORSLEY,
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

INSTITUTE OF NOXIOUS PLANTS OFFICERS

N.Z. INSTITUTE OF PESTS DESTRUCTION OFFICERS

JOINT STATEMENT FROM BOTH INSTITUTES

Following a meeting held in Wellington 24 February 1988 chaired by G. Ward between the Institutes Executives Officers there was a consensus agreement that the proposal brought down by the Lincoln Seminar for the integration of vertebrate pests and noxious plants functions is both practicable and desirable to facilitate cost effective pest/plant control in the future and in the national interest. Following from this there is a logical benefit to be gained from a closer association between the members of the appropriate Institutes. Those present accepted that in the long return the two Institutes may very well become one (Integrated). As a move towards this end a working party has been set up to liaise and reciprocal invitations have been extended for representatives of each Institute to attend conferences and executive meetings.

K. WORSLEY,
PRESIDENT I.N.P.O.

A. WILSON,
PRESIDENT I.P.D.O.

DU PONT AWARD - AUSTRALIAN VISIT, JULY 1987

Five interesting days were spent at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College at the 4th Biennial Noxious Plants Conference. This conference is run by the New South Wales Department of Agriculture for Noxious Plants Inspectors in New South Wales.

In summary, I believe that the Australians learned more about Noxious Plants Officers training and administration than we three New Zealanders did. The Noxious Plants Inspectors belong to an Association which is very loosely organised. Their training set-up is virtually non-existent although many officers study various diploma courses in associated fields.

The greatest benefit to me occurred in three fields, botanical aspects, biological control and weed control chemicals.

The plants of interest (and ones we shall have to be wary of in New Zealand) included Parthenium weed, dodder, spiny burrgrass, Paramatta grass (actually a variety of ratstail which grows up to 2 metres high), groundsel fireweed, Rhus tree, the prickly pear family, pellitory, mesquite, bitou bush, camphor laurel and heliotrope. Species growing in New Zealand were also studied, including, lantana, blackberry, boxthorn, pampas, Patersons curse, St. Johns wort, various thistles and privet. The Department of Agriculture treats the pampas problem in particular with urgency. One reflects that perhaps we "missed the boat" with this species twenty years ago. However, our efforts with nassella tussock are lauded in Australia.

In the field of bio-control, I found the concept far more solidly entrenched in the minds of most Australians, almost certainly as a consequence of the quite amazing prickly pear saga. 25 million hectares of pear were (and are) controlled by the Cactoblastis insect, introduced in 1926. Other bio-control schemes are working well, particularly on St. Johns wort, with the illegally introduced blackberry rust Phragmidium violaceum showing excellent results to date. A close look at blackberry rust varieties should probably be made in New Zealand, although the horticultural interference aspect will be important. Biological control experimentation is being conducted (and funded) far more extensively in Australia than New Zealand. Considering that our weed problems are very similar in all regards this indicates a lack of foresight by successive New Zealand Governments over a long period of time.

New chemical weed control application in Australia is on a par with advances in New Zealand, but I detected a greater awareness of herbicide soil residues in Australia. This is probably because of the lower rainfall in most areas coupled with more widespread cropping. Most New Zealand farmers are fortunate in that the high rainfall usually ensures rapid leaching.

One item of special interest was the newly developed Ag-Murf Gas-gun, a hand held spray gun with the spray liquid propelled by L.P.G. This apparatus can enable reductions in herbicide rates through the elimination of much waste. It is lighter than both the motorised and hand knapsacks and also more versatile. The gas gun has subsequently been released onto the New Zealand market.

Overall it appears that the New South Wales Department of Agriculture is moving towards intensifying its efforts in the noxious plants field - stepping up actions on several new species and spending more on surveillance. Ironically it seems that in New Zealand the reverse is happening. Taking the adage that an ounce of prevention is worth a ton of cure, one is left with the impression that the NSW Department of Agriculture is showing more foresight than its New Zealand counterpart.

I found a lecture from Dr. Richard Groves of the CSIRO, particularly fascinating. On the subject of weed invasiveness, he stated that of 1000 plant species introduced to a new country, only about 10 would become locally abundant and of these perhaps 1 or 2 would become a nuisance generally. This is till an intolerably high number but nevertheless new garden plant species are being introduced into Australia all the time. The modern trend is for new problem species to originate in countries of similar climate to Australia, whereas between 1850 - 1920 most of the weeds came from Europe (along with the seeds, technology and people). Dr. Groves felt that particular attention should be given to species from the Daisy, Amaranth and Crucifer families as many of these have proved troublesome. Dr. Groves pointed out that plant quarantine appears insubstantial world wide.

For those NPO's who have cursed Australia (for its weeds) there is the interesting fact that *Carduus acanthoides* found its way into Victoria from contaminated New Zealand rye-grass and/or lucerne seed. Clean seed legislation only began in Britain and the Empire when European seed merchants began adulterating seed samples with "packing", for more profit. This packing was usually weed seed.

A political storm has been brewing in Australia which we could well heed in New Zealand. It is the blackberry leaf rust (*Phragmidium violaceum*) saga. Many farmers with blackberry problems grew tired of the long wait to get the rust approved by the relevant authorities for release and released it themselves in Victoria. With much help by man, it spread into many other parts of Australia, and has shown good results in certain locations. However, the CSIRO has condemned the move as other rust species still in quarantine show greater potential efficacy than the illegally introduced one. Haphazard introductions in this manner are also likely to bring in natural predators of the agent which not only affect the efficacy of the agent, but many also wreck plans to introduce other related agents. Of course other unwanted pest problems may also arise. One can see a strong parallel here with the myxomatosis issue in New Zealand.

I hope that the Australian officers enjoyed the five days spent at Hawkesbury as much as I did. One of the most important factors in such conferences is the bringing together of people for the exchange of practical information on a one-to-one basis, outside of the lectures themselves. In this regard the conference was a resounding success.

The companionship experienced between like-minded individuals is also a motivating factor in itself. I believe that relations between both Officers Associations were enhanced by our trip and I look forward to hosting Jim Cherry when he pays us a visit in 1988. Other Officers may also make the trip and our invitation to give every assistance will extend to them also. I particularly look forward to renewing acquaintance with Ken Hayes.

I thank Du Pont for everything they have done, not only for the award itself, but for the wonderful hospitality accorded to me by the whole NSW Ag-Chem. team. In particular, Bernie and Shirley Horsfeild, Frank Noone and Jim O'Shea were especially kind to Fred Marsh, Ted Gard and myself.

I also thank Max Lloyd-Jones, Fergie Sumich, Mark Christie and the New Zealand Du Pont team for their efforts in making the whole award such a worthwhile venture. I look forward to passing on to the NPO's of New Zealand much of the important knowledge gleaned at the NSW Conference.

JACK CRAW,
NOXIOUS PLANTS OFFICER

FROM THE NATIONAL SECRETARY:

All Members are to take note that the 39th Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 3 May, 1988 commencing at 8.30 a.m. in the Taranaki Country Lodge, Bell Block, New Plymouth.

AGENDA

OPENING

APOLOGIES

MARK OF RESPECT

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - 38th A.G.M.

MATTERS ARISING

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

RESIGNATIONS

ANNUAL REPORTS

- a) National President
- b) National Secretary

c) National Treasurer (and Balance Sheet)

SUBSCRIPTIONS 1989

CONFERENCE FEE 1989

HONORARIUMS

- a) National Secretary
- b) National Treasurer
- c) Editor

VENUE FOR 1991 CONFERENCE

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

REMITTS AND NOTICES OF MOTION

GENERAL BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE TRAINING OFFICERS REPORT

T.C.I. TUTOR'S REPORT

Remits, Notices of Motion to the A.G.M. are as follows:

NORTH SOUTH ISLAND BRANCH

1. The Executive to review the objects of the Institute as set out in the Constitution and rules to incorporate disciplinary proceedings when considered necessary of members by the Executive.

MANAWATU/WEST COAST BRANCH

2. "That the Institute bestow honorary membership to the Noxious Plants Officers Association of New South Wales.

Explanatory Note:

In 1987, the Noxious Plants Officers Association of New South Wales, Australia, hosted Ted Gard, Jack Craw and Fred Marsh at their fourth biennial Conference held at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College, Richmond, New South Wales from 29 June to 3 July, 1987. We were accorded the highest hospitality and also attended their Annual General Meeting. It was the feeling of that Conference that a close association of our institutes should be maintained and by giving their association Honorary Membership a definite close linkage with our Institute especially now that there is a Du Pont Scheme operating in New South Wales with the winner receiving a trip to New Zealand.

MANAWATU/WEST COAST BRANCH

3. "That the rules of the Institute be changed to allow any officer who holds a warrant of appointment under the Noxious Plants Act 1978 be entitled to full membership of the Institute by deleting the words "Associate Membership" from Clause 4(e) and the deletion of Clause 4(d)."

Explanatory Note:

As it stands at present, the guidelines as to whether or not an officer is predominantly active it was considered by the Branch that a great number of Officers have now been given other duties the time factors involved would preclude them from full membership. The withdrawal of subsidy has now meant that employers are making big changes and it is felt that any person who holds a warrant of appointment under the Act should automatically be entitled to full membership no matter what other duties are required.

Nominations for National Office are as follows:

President

M. Turner
J. McNaught
D. Brown

Vice Presidents

J. Craw
E. Eden

National Secretary

K. Crothers
E. Eden
D. Brown

National Treasurer

R.S. Morgan
R. McCaw

NATIONAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

The following is my report for the 1987 year.

Membership to the Institute is again down on past years with resignations exceeding new applications which reflects the withdrawal of subsidy money and local body amalgamations taking place.

The local branch which organised this years Conference unfortunately found that the programme had to be amended due to changes which are happening now and future change to come. However, considering all things they have done a good job.

After the National Field Days display by the Institute I investigated a further reprint of the "Ask Us" stickers. To date the outcome of our approach to the sponsor is still awaited. During November, 1987 a special emergency Committee meeting was held in Blenheim to formulate a submission to M.A.F. Qual. on noxious plants administration and to review progress on Conference, 1988 at New Plymouth. Thanks to those branches who forwarded their comments to me for consideration in the preparation of the final submission.

In February, 1988 I attended along with other senior members of this Institute a meeting with the Institute of Pest Destruction Officers in Wellington on the future possible integration of the two Institutes. Thanks go to Geoff Ward for chairing what was a worthwhile and fruitful meeting.

Overall, things were quieter than the previous year possibly because of everybody sitting back and pondering about things to come.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to those who have assisted me during the year.

D.J. BROWN,
NATIONAL SECRETARY

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT - 1987-88

Since writing my last report the concerns expressed then still continue and although much is happening at Government and Local Authority level which may directly affect Noxious Plant control and the role of Noxious Plants Officers, lack of decisions and information does little to alleviate the apprehension for the future felt by many members of the Institute.

This uncertainty I believe will continue for some time but as officers we should not allow the situation to overly concern us but get on with the job and show the importance of our role in New Zealand land protection.

At this time last year we had become aware of Governments proposed intention to rationalise vertebrate pest and noxious plant control. There followed the Lincoln Seminar at which the Institute was involved and from the findings of that Seminar and various other indicators it now appears that some form of amalgamation of the two functions will take place.

With this in mind, a meeting was recently held of representatives of the Institute and the Institute of Pest Destruction Officers. We met to explore the possible effect rationalisation might have on the two Institutes and what changes may need to be made by the two organisations. We agreed that at some stage the Institutes may combine, that this possibility should be explored further and that a close contact at executive level should now be maintained. Representatives from the Institute of Pest Destruction Officers have been invited to attend and address this Conference and to them I extend a warm welcome.

Following the Lincoln Seminar discussion paper on the Administration of Noxious Plants control was circulated by M.A.F. Many of its proposals were seen as rather radical and if implemented could make sweeping changes to both weed control and the role of Noxious Plants Officers. At a special Executive meeting at Blenheim a submission from the Institute was collated from submissions to the Executive from the various branches. I thank all members involved in drafting those submissions which helped in no small way in the final draft to M.A.F.

At this stage there has been very little information received regarding the discussion paper and invited submissions.

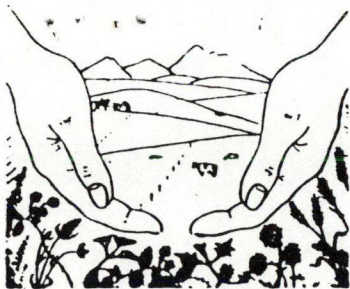
As President it has been a busy year both for myself and the Executive with our particular involvement in the Lincoln Seminar and the M.A.F. Discussion Paper. I have attended meetings of the NPO's Training Committee which continues to actively carry out its responsibilities for training and has now established the positions of Training Managers.

I have attended two meetings with the Organising Committee for this Conference and I would like to thank them for their efforts and the high standard they have set. The Conference goes from strength to strength and it is no small task for the organisations to continue in that vane.

It is my intention not to seek re-election as President at the Annual General Meeting. This Conference will be my fourth as President and in first taking this office I had only intended to remain for three years.

I would like to record my thanks to the Executive and members for their encouragement and support over my term and seek their continued support for the incoming President.

K.J. WORSLEY,
NATIONAL PRESIDENT



REF.

When Replying Please Quote

The Institute of Noxious Plants Officers Inc.

P.O. BOX 61, BLENHEIM, NEW ZEALAND

NATIONAL SECRETARY:

Phone (Bus) 85-249

Phone (Pvt) 84-267

NOTICE TO THOSE MEMBERS NOT ATTENDING CONFERENCE:

If you are a financial member you are entitled to have your vote recorded at Conference by way of proxy. Any member attending Conference may cast a proxy vote subject to that person showing the Chairman written evidence that he has such authority. The following is the Form of Proxy.

Date

The National Secretary,
Institute of Noxious Plants Officers,
P.O. Box 61,
BLENHEIM.

Dear Sir,

I hereby advise that being a financial member of the Institute of Noxious Plants Officers, and entitled to vote, that I hereby give written authority to the member mentioned hereafter to cast my vote by proxy under Section 12 (f) of the Constitution.

I also hereby ask that the Annual General Meeting be advised of this vote of Proxy, and that it be recorded.

MEMBER WITH POWER OF PROXY _____

THE MEMBERS ADDRESS _____

MEMBERS SIGNATURE _____

Yours faithfully,

Signature of Authorising Person.

LOCAL AUTHORITY _____

ADDRESS _____

Dated at _____ this _____ day of _____ 198