



New Zealand  
Biosecurity Institute

the magazine of the NZBI Spring 2019

# Protect

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New Zealand  
Biosecurity Institute

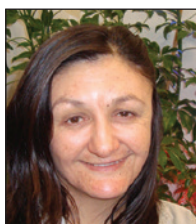
# NZBI CONTACTS



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Immediate Past President



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**Jono Underwood**  
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The New Zealand Biosecurity Institute can be found on the web at [www.biosecurity.org.nz](http://www.biosecurity.org.nz)



# THERE IS ALWAYS GOING TO BE A NEW ERA OF SOME SORT

**This Issue of Protect Magazine celebrates the best of biosecurity.**

We take a look at the achievements of this year's NZ Biosecurity Legacy Award winners. This issue takes a peek at what was being said around thirty years ago on the need for collaboration. This was a time of change and uncertainty.

New systems and institutions appeared and old ones disappeared. Inventive new ideas for funding were developed.

**The need to work together became important** in the new era of biosecurity. Every couple of decades there is always going to be a new era of some sort. Judging by the attendees and presenters at this year's NETS the future of the biosecurity sector is in good hands.

CHRIS MACANN,  
PROTECT MAGAZINE EDITOR

## ■ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT WITH OTHERS

**This year's Annual General meeting saw some changes to the Executive team, with Darion Embling stepping down from President after three years at the helm, and Rebecca Kemp standing down from her dual roles as Treasurer and Membership Officer.**

A huge thank you to both Darion and Rebecca for their commitment and dedication to the New Zealand Biosecurity Institute over the years.

Welcomed onto the Executive team were Diane Fraser who has filled the role of Secretary, and Duncan MacMorran who is the new Treasurer. Jono Underwood has had a change of roles, from Vice-President to Membership Officer, and Darion Embling is staying on as Immediate Past President.



Alice McNatty  
President

The NETS2019 Organising Committee and Conference Organiser Carolyn Lewis did a fantastic job for this year's conference, with more than 200 people attending, absorbing a wide range of presentations and field trips incorporating this year's theme of '*He waka eke noa – All Hands on Deck*'.

*Common threads included* building partnerships and collaborating on joint initiatives, the drive and enthusiasm to engage our young people, and the expansive role citizen science can play in biosecurity. The NETS Conference was **a time to forge new contacts, solidify existing ones and share our knowledge and expertise.**

I would like to encourage members to continue with this theme – to use the contacts that you have, **reach out and ask what others are doing**, what are they doing differently from you that you could use, adapt or change. Learn from others' lessons, and **once you have learnt a lesson, share it with others**. Collaborate and connect – make sure All Hands are On Deck.

ALICE MCNATTY  
PRESIDENT, NZ BIOSECURITY INSTITUTE



## BIOSECURITY INSTITUTE ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT

Here below is the news item the NZBI Executive Committee prepared announcing the election of new President Alice McNatty.

The New Zealand Biosecurity Institute has elected Hawke's Bay Senior Biosecurity Advisor Alice McNatty as its new President.

Ms McNatty succeeds Waikato Pest Management Officer Darion Embling who stepped down from the role in July. Mr Embling will remain an executive member of the Institute.

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

Ms McNatty said the past few years have been significant for the Institute.

"The government has announced its initiative to make New Zealand predator free by 2050, and released its guiding document for biosecurity until 2025.

"As well, the unwanted establishment of plant diseases kauri dieback and myrtle rust and the sustained control efforts to eradicate the cattle disease *Mycoplasma bovis* have tested biosecurity workers nation-wide as they have come together to manage the diseases' further spread.

"All this on top of Institute members' efforts to control legacy pests such as gorse, broom, rabbits and possums, among many other unwanted organisms," she said.

Ms McNatty said the expansive role citizen science can play in biosecurity, from gathering large amounts of data to identifying a species not yet recorded in New Zealand is also helpful to Institute members efforts

Ms McNatty was previously the NZ Biosecurity Institute's National Secretary.

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

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

The NZ Biosecurity Institute is the professional training and networking organisation for people involved in all aspects of biosecurity including pest animal and plant management, and border control. Its members work for research organisations, educational institutions, regional councils and government departments.

All are involved in protecting NZ from invasive species.



“ The Institute wants to engage the young people of New Zealand in what we do, and encourage the hunger and passion they have to learn how they can help to protect and enhance our natural environment. Targeting our young people is crucial. It has an immediate flow on effect through families and the community. The involvement of our young people is the critical element that we can never leave out.”

~ Alice McNatty

”



## YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS VALUED

### Canterbury Branch Chair's Report

BY GEMMA LIVINGSTONE

At our branch meeting last year in Lincoln we agreed to engage Carolyn Lewis to be our conference organiser for Christchurch NETS 2020.

Carolyn has a wealth of experience in delivering successful NETS conferences and understands our industry. Many of our members are widely spread around the region and are not able to attend meetings. Please still let us know your ideas and thoughts for our upcoming hosting of NETS 2020. Your contribution is valued. The organising committee will be seeking volunteers to help with the delivery of NETS in Christchurch, so if you are coming to NETS **2020 we would love your support in any way you can** on the day.

This year the branch in collaboration with Environment Canterbury's Biosecurity team produced another great local training and networking opportunity through METS (Mini Education Training Seminar). The two-day seminar was held in March with a field trip around Christchurch and the Port Hills. It was great to have branch members be part of the delivery on the day introducing speakers and helping with time keeping.

A special thanks to our Branch Secretary Rich Langley and Treasurer Laurence Smith who put in a substantial amount of time to pull it all together. Thanks to Christchurch City Council (John Skilton) for arranging the free use of its facilities at Travis Wetland for our field trip. Thanks also goes to those individuals, and their organisations that allowed them to come and share their knowledge and experiences with us.

GEMMA LIVINGSTONE

CANTERBURY/WEST COAST BRANCH  
CHAIR



*Some of the Canterbury West Coast branch members: Mark Handen, Juliette Curry, Rich Langley, Laurence Smith, Wayne Godfrey, Ronny Groenteman, Kevin Gallagher, Stephen Brown and Murray Dawson.*



*Rich Langley talks about plant pest control on Christchurch's estuary margins.*





## SUCCESSFUL CANTERBURY/WEST COAST GATHERING

The Canterbury/West Coast branch has met two times this year. The first in March for a mini nets (METS) the second in the lead-up to NETS for an annual general meeting.

METS saw around 85 people get together to share the projects they were involved with nationally and locally. **Being divided by the Southern Alps, the Canterbury Westland Branch has quite a job getting together in one place** so it was particularly pleasing that Juliette Curry from West Coast Regional Council was able to make the gathering. **The branch also incorporates Chatham Islands** which is often represented by Environment Canterbury's Chathams-based staff when opportunities arise.

A key theme established early was was a major issue faced by ECan and likely all other regional councils; that of behavioural change to prevent spread.



*A stroll through Travis Wetland.*



*A suspicious bird being identified above Lyttelton Port.*

A field trip visited sites of pest plants including sour's ear among many on Christchurch's Port Hills, as well as sites of puna grass, spartina and Canada geese control programmes in coastal areas near the estuary. The group visited the Christchurch red-zone where natural and assisted revegetation is occurring.

Former garden plants continue to be problematic but in some cases a pragmatic approach has taken place. At nearby Travis wetlands the group were shown efforts to control pest plants, in particular giant willow herb.

ECan's Laurence Smith, also branch treasurer, explained the reduction in number of the council's pest committees, which is now well underway. He spoke of the processes of getting an organism declared a pest. There are 47 organisms defined as pests under Canterbury's





*Pest control in Travis Wetland.*

Regional Pest Management Plan 2018-2038 but as Laurence explained, pressure to include further pests allows the plan to be amended during its term.


Janine Duckworth updated all attended on the results of the Autumn 2018 release of the K5 version of the rabbit haemorrhagic virus (RHD1 K5) released at over 200 sites between March and December.



*Port Hills plant pest overview.*

She emphasised the long-term effects of the K5 virus and other strains are uncertain.


Other discussion subjects vitally relevant to Canterbury included wilding pines among many others.



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## KEEP LEARNING AND KEEP TEACHING:

### Remembering Ian Popay

Long-time institute supporter and winner of the Peter Ingram Award in 2011, Ian Popay passed away in September.

Here are some extracts from the award citation prepared by his colleagues which celebrate Ian's commitment to plant pest management in New Zealand.

Ian had an extensive science career in New Zealand since arriving in the 1970s after a five-year stint as a cotton agronomist in Uganda and Kenya. His first NZ publication in 1975 was on barley grass control and was followed with many other papers in the old Weed and Pest Control Conference Proceedings, now known as the Plant Protection Journal. Subjects included nodding thistle, gorse, Californian thistle and field horsetail management, organic farming methods, then considered very alternative, urban weeds and even on the first recognised environmental weed old mans beard, as well as another dozen-or-so papers on barley grass.

He worked for MAF and spent many weeks on weed safaris with his colleagues. Undoubtedly this is where he grounded his extensive knowledge of weeds and their distribution.

His knowledge of pasture and other weeds is well recognised and he served on the Technical Classification Committee of the old Noxious Plants Council.

New legislation and restructuring saw transfers for Ian to AgResearch, forming a private consultancy, then a stint with DOC in 2001 where he transferred his focus to environmental weeds and designing a weed monitoring system. Finally he was a Landcare Research Fellow. He was a member of Technical Advisory Groups for the National Pest Plant Accord and National Interest Pest Response Programmes for MAF. He served on the Plant Protection Society Committee for decades and was President from 2003 to 2005 and gained a Life Membership in 2006. He was also an active



*Ian Popay with his Award in 2011.*

member of the Australasian Council of Weeds and had a long history of involvement in our institute and its predecessor, the Institute of Noxious Plants Officers.

Ian gained the Peter Ingram Award not just for his long service in weed research, or even for this role in spearheading the Common Weeds of New Zealand book, but for the many ways that he had made this knowledge available to others in the weeds field. He was committed to ensuring that the scientific knowledge that he accumulated during his research, and other information that passed over his desk from other sources, was disseminated to others in the weeds field in a way that was of use to them, and in a way that they could understand. He acted as a mentor to many weeds folk across New Zealand. He was unstinting in his willingness to support and encourage work around weeds awareness and community involvement, notably in an advisory role and sounding board for initiatives under the national Weedbusters programme. **He was a person who could always be counted on to have the answers, or know who to ask to get them, for any weeds question.**

Ian's message to all when he won the Award was:

"I want everybody involved in the fight against noxious beauties and alien invaders to keep learning and keep teaching - it's the only way we can continue to improve our performance in weed and pest control."



## ALL ABOUT COLLABORATION AND MORE:

### NETS2019

More than 200 knowledge seekers and sharers converged on Tauranga for sell-out NETS2019. "He waka eke noa – All hands on deck", was the theme and this was certainly echoed throughout the busy three days.

As President Darion Embling said, it was not a holiday but "an opportunity to take a breath and show off who we are and what we do."

"Our industry is constantly changing," he said. "So **it is crucial that we focus on innovation in order to continue to tackle our old pesty foes and keep ahead of the new ones.** Innovation also helps give direction to the passionate people, you and me, within the biosecurity system."

From the word "welcome" onward the local delegates' enthusiasm for their region was infectious which clearly showed in presentations and field trips.

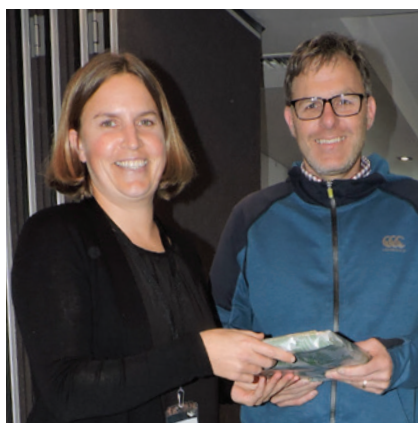


William Anaru with a villain from the deep.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council chairman Doug Leeder set the host region's biosecurity scene. Carlton Bidois from the Tauranga Moana biosecurity capital group and Reon Taaanu from Ngaiterangi Iwi spoke about shared biosecurity initiatives in Tauranga Moana and welcomed all gathered.

Hamish Lass from Bay of Plenty Regional Council spoke of the collaborative surveillance and management programme for the Mediterranean fan worm (*Sabella*) in the region's waterways. A national perspective on that pest was offered by MPI's Kathy Walls and Auckland Council's Sam Happy and Northlands Don Mackenzie spoke about the challenges and benefits of the previously uncharted waters of inter-regional pathway management.

John Innes and Rachelle Binny from Landcare Research spoke about the achievements of ecosanctuaries and they showed-off their data to prove it.



New president Alice McNatty thanks immediate past president Darion Embling.



Canterbury-West Coast branch secretary Rich Langley invites one-and-all to NETS 2020 in Christchurch.

Choosing a field trip was a tough choice.

Many joined a trip following the kiwifruit from the vine to the vessel, showing where the region's iconic fruit is grown and from where it is exported. Along the way the group visited a packhouse and a site of unwanted vines.

Catfish and water weeds were on the agenda of the field trip I joined. The journey on Lake Rotoiti featured, as well as biosecurity matters, water quality issues, including a close-up look at a diversion barrier which prevents possibly contaminated water from connected Lake Rotorua from entering Lake Rotoiti. A cordon is in place to prevent the spread of pest catfish, and there is a clever monitoring system in place to check they stay confined. Lakeweed harvesting contractor Howard Emeny spoke about mowing the lake, and the impressive weed harvesting machine with which he does it.



Local schoolchildren check their nets for catfish beside Lake Rotoiti.





# NETS Report



*Davor Bejakovich and Kerry Bodmin.*



*Howard Emeny talks about his giant lawnmower on the shore of Lake Rotoiti.*

A community catfish catching programme is in full swing in the lake. The programme centres on local schools and it was the enthusiasm of the primary school children involved in the programme which stole the show as they proudly uplifted their nets to show-off their catch. William Aneru the Catfish Community Coordinator for the Te Arawa Lakes Trust explained the successes and challenges of the project. Others to thank for this adventure include field trip leader Shane Hona and co-hosts Lucas Macdonald, and Andy Bruere, all from the Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

Other NETs-goers took a trip to the Papamoa Hills Regional Park and the Kaituna Wildlife management area, which showed pest control and ecological restoration initiatives as well as historically significant sites. Restoration sites included Maketu Estuary where engineering works attempt to restore the life force of the site bypassed decades before by flood control works.

Aquatic pests particularly alligator weed, were the subject of another field trip which also learned about viability testing of the nests of invasive red eared-slider turtles. The release

of aquatic pests and pest fish into Tauranga's stormwater and reserves is a growing problem. This group also visited Mauao (Mt Maunganui) and learned about pest control and biodiversity initiatives on adjacent Matakana Island.

## Legacy Awards

NZ Biosecurity Institute Legacy Award winners announced during the conference dinner went to Chris Winks for the Peter Ingram Award for plant pest knowledge sharing, and Roger Lorigan for the Peter Nelson Award for excellence in vertebrate pest management. President Darion Embling spent a moment remembering close colleague and executive committee member, Wendy Mead who died in January.

Perhaps the very best NETS band ever entertained at the conference dinner. The comment was heard from old-timers more than once during the course of the energetic evening.

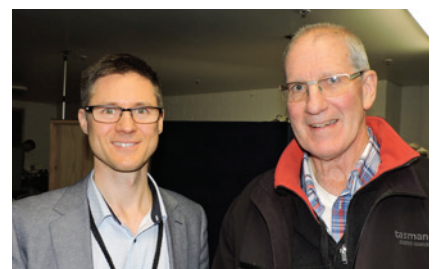
The next day Jordan Leithbridge was presented with the "stook" award for best presentation by an Institute member.



*Graham Bourdot and Fiona Thompson.*



*Keith Briden and Peter Raal.*



*Marcus Girvan and Ken Wright.*



*Some of the Environment Canterbury contingent Noel Crump, Rich Langley, Matt Smith, Bianca Marshall and Jemma Hippolite.*



*Jordan Leithbridge, left receives the prized Stook Award from NZBI President Darion Embling.*



*Trevor James and Gavin Loxton.*



# NETS Report



Kevin Gallagher and Rowan Sprague.



Heiko Kaiser and Steve Thompson.



Murray Dawson, Richard Bowman and Euan Kennedy.



Peter Russell and Hannah Palmer.



Ruark Redwood and Matt Way from Econode at their exhibit.



Sharon Leathem and Peter Visser.



Kevin Christie with new treasurer Duncan McMorran.



Matt Mooney from Bay Dynamics displays his wares.



Alley Davey and Kim Parker.

## Summing up the call for collaboration

Closing sessions bought together nicely the call for all hands on deck and the collaborations that that entails.

Diane Fraser from Unitec presented a story of the success of her student internship collaboration between Unitec and Auckland Council. Chelsea Neverman assisted. Chelsea has attended past NETS' as a Unitec student and this year was present as an Auckland Council employee.

Malcolm Harrison from Auckland Council presented a thoroughly interesting story of a plague skink response on pest free Rakino Island in Auckland's Hauraki gulf, as a result of relocating a garage to the island. Cooperation of all parties was essential and this was secured by a common desire to keep the inhabited Island pest free.

Kevin Gallagher from Land Information NZ entertained as he explained how crown money is spent on biodiversity

and biosecurity on crown administered land, and made his case that it is something everyone should take an interest in, and play their part where they can.

Freelance citizen science consultant Monica Peters said that technological advances have made citizen science a real force in monitoring biodiversity outcomes. She shared her vision for the future of citizen science and perhaps some guidelines that should be observed as it evolves into a strong force.

Freelance Social media storyteller and master communicator Hana Tapiata entertained and inspired as she shared tips for effectively communicating biosecurity messages. Her passion, enthusiasm was infectious and her clear sense of place in the environment shone through.

The immense talent of Institute members was obvious as was their enthusiasm for their work. It was great to see so many new faces young and old, but especially young. NETS continues to be an ideal forum for the senior members to support and nurture new talent from all agencies.







*All in the name of duty. A hot pool soak at Lake Rotoiti.*

Also apparent was the increase in number as well as diversity of trade displays. Drones both aerial and underwater, chemical products and trapping products, mapping and data collecting products and science and research and environmental agencies. All signalling that there is a clear and exciting career path in biodiversity.

NETS2019 could not happen without a strong organising committee. Thank you: Heidi Pene, Donna Watchman, Thomas Malcolm, John Mather, Shane Hona, Dale Williams, Nicky Oliver-Smith, Darion Embling and conference organiser Carolyn Lewis.

NETS also relies on generous sponsorship from sponsors large and small who this year were: Key Industries, NIWA, MPI, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Boffa Miskell, Land Information NZ, Manaaki Whenua-Landcare Research, Bay Dynamics, Wildlands Consultants, Connovation, UPL, Alpeco, and Econode.

**CHRIS MACANN**  
PROTECT MAGAZINE EDITOR



*Outgoing President Darion Embling, Outgoing Treasurer Rebecca Kemp, and outgoing Secretary and new President Alice McNatty keep the Annual General Meeting on track.*

## AN INNOVATOR AND A NOTABLE LEADER:

# Roger Lorigan earns the Peter Nelson Memorial Trophy

Managing Director of Epro Ltd—Roger Lorigan was this year's recipient of the Peter Nelson Memorial Trophy for achievement in Vertebrate Pest Management.

Colleagues described him as a very deserving recipient of the Peter Nelson award, having spent his lifetime in pest management, as an innovator and a notable leader.

Here is a summary of the citation prepared by colleagues and presented by Peter Russell.

It has been over the use of 1080 in NZ that Roger has been most proactive and one of the staunchest of supporters. He has repeatedly gone into bat for the ongoing use of 1080 as the only viable landscape-scale option to bring the country's predator problems under meaningful control. His position has been validated by the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, the Environmental Risk Management Authority review of 1080, and numerous scientific reviews on the impacts of 1080.

This strong support has meant that he has put both his reputation and personal safety on the line many times. I have been at the front line with him facing down anti-1080 protestors on several occasions.



*Well-deserved. Roger Lorigan holds the Peter Nelson Memorial Award.*



His **ability to remain cool and collected and to defuse volatile situations**

is an absolute credit to him. After the fracas he would enjoy describing these people using numerous farm words, and other mutterings to ease the tensions.

Roger was employed by the Rotorua - Taupo Pest Destruction Board as a supervisor back in the day and provided considerable advice and support in the transition process of combining several organisations into the regional council. He was recognised then for his entrepreneurial flair, leadership qualities, ability to communicate well and build teams.

After a period as a council bureaucrat, a management buyout of council's pest control arm was on the cards. This was agreed and the sale was made. That was 21 years ago. It provided the perfect environment for Roger to put his business flair into effect, where he formed strategic alliances, initiated research investment, and challenged the status quo in terms of work practices and procedures.

A close working relationship with the Animal Health Board developed to address the growing bovine Tb problem facing the region. And so began a 25 year intensive programme of possum and mustelid control, with the present day outcome being a Tb free Waikato. Roger deserves a large amount of the credit for achieving this position. It is not just the Waikato that has benefitted from his work. He has successfully operated all over the country—for TBfree and DOC on a variety of projects.

Roger has developed his enterprise into a leading pest management company with an outstanding track record over the 21 years that it has been operating. A huge amount of possum control has been achieved through aerial baiting and his company has become a world leading specialist in its application. It is no coincidence **that success has come because of a committed team of long serving staff members.** This exemplifies Roger's skill at picking competent staff, building a strong and loyal team, and retaining them through the ups and downs of the commercial world.



*The Peter Nelson trophy in detail.*

If not for Roger, the country would not have made the advances it has in pest control. **He has been a tower of commitment to the conservation movement and pastoral farming.** Being the recipient of the Peter Nelson Award is a highly appropriate acknowledgement, and one that Peter Nelson would certainly approve of.

#### Roger responded:

"Having trained with Peter Nelson it was really great to get the award. It is nice to get recognition after forty-odd years being involved in the pest control industry. I've seen lots of changes, from rabbit boards to council operations.

There are so many opportunities in pest control. There is so much good work to be done and so much technology available now. The industry has done a good job with Bovine TB. We have come a long way but have to go a lot further now with biodiversity gains to be had. The Institute has done good work. The challenge is to get more young people involved."

The trophy is a carved kokako standing on a limb above the skulls of small predatory mammals—a rat, a possum and a stoat. The trophy was designed and made by Ray Weaver.





## CHRIS WINKS WINS THE PETER INGRAM AWARD

Landcare Research research technician Chris Winks has won the Peter Ingram Award for excellence in sharing knowledge in plant pest management.

Here is the citation accompanying the award which was penned by his colleagues and collaborators.

Chris has worked for Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research and its predecessor, DSIR, since 1984.

He has primarily worked on weed biocontrol, initially rearing and releasing biocontrol agents for alligator weed and ragwort.

In the 1980s and 90s Chris worked with the person who gives his name to this award. Peter Ingram was fortunately able to see the good results arising from the release of the ragwort flea beetle that they made before his life was cut short.

Chris has also worked on other systems, notably helping identify the vector 'candidatus' *Phytoplasma australiense* in cabbage trees.

He was also given the task of captive rearing the last three known individuals of the Middle Island tusked weta, successfully rescuing this spectacular iconic species from extinction.

More recently Chris has been rearing and supplying councils with thousands of tradescantia beetles, privet lace bugs and white admiral butterflies (another species that proved virtually impossible to rear in captivity until Chris got involved). It is for this work that he was nominated for this award by Darion Embling (leader of the Pest Plants Team at Waikato Regional Council).

Never one to make a fuss, he has quietly and diligently got on with the job with legendary



Peter Ingram Award winner Chris Winks (right) with Quentin Painter.

thrift (he is the only person we know who was ever had an expense claim rejected because "it was so small it would make Landcare Research look like a terrible employer")

Chris has in the spirit of the award continued to extend his knowledge, including the insect fauna of NZ through all his survey work. Chris has also passed on his knowledge to many people, both one on one in the field during site visits to release agents or look for evidence of establishment, and also at various workshops.

He is extremely deserving of this award.

Chris who was presented with his award at Landcare Research in Auckland thanked the Institute and said he was extremely honoured to receive the award.



## GREATFUL FOR THE GENEROSITY OF INDUSTRY:

### Meet the NZ Biosecurity Institute's new Secretary, Dr. Diane Fraser

Having spent the first two years of her life in Nigeria where her father was working, Diane was raised and schooled in Glasgow, Scotland. She attended Aberdeen University where she graduated in 1984 with an Honours degree in agriculture specialising in animal science. She completed her doctorate in the Applied Nutrition Department at the Rowett Research Institute and Aberdeen University in the limiting amino acids for lactating dairy cows. In 1988 she moved to New Zealand to embark on a research fellowship position in the Animal Science Department, studying protein supply and utilisation of grazing lambs.

In 1991 she was employed by Bay of Plenty Polytechnic, Tauranga to develop a one year Certificate in Animal Technology. Three years later she and her husband moved to Molokai, Hawaii, where they were employed by Molokai Ranch. Diane was curator of the exotic species Wildlife Park owned by the ranch.

On return to New Zealand in 1997, Diane was employed by Unitec to write curriculum in the Animal and Health Sciences department.

Since then, her role in the department has been ever challenging and changing. She has undertaken a range of positions, including the programme Leader for the Diploma in Veterinary Nursing, the development and implementation of the Bachelor of Applied Animal Technology, teaching and coordination of courses in the Certificate in Animal Management (Captive Wild Animals), and course coordination and teaching into both the Animal Behaviour and Welfare and Biodiversity management majors of the current Bachelor of Applied Science within the School of Environmental and Animal Sciences at Unitec. As a Senior Lecturer in the School, one of Diane's main interests is research, particularly the supervision of the third year undergraduate student (BAppSci) self-directed study research projects. **Diane is very grateful for the generosity of industries such as Auckland Council, Key Industries and the Department of Conservation for providing funding and support for summer studentships** for the completion of current research questions, which students can use for completion of their degree programme and presentation at the NZBI NETS conference.

Diane feels very lucky to be living in the beautiful rural setting of Taupaki, North West Auckland.



*Diane Fraser speaking at NETS2018*



## DAVE REALLY KNOWS HIS CONES

Taumararui-based Dave Alker from Horizons Regional Council won the Boffa Miskell competition to correctly identify a series of different pine cones. Dave got the answer 100 percent correct which is not surprising because he deals with them fairly often in the course of his job. He took away a \$500 voucher for Stihl products. "It's not always so simple when it's just the cones on their own without the trees around," he said.



*Dave Alker, left receives the Boffa Miskell prize for correctly identifying a variety of pine cones, from Marcus Girvan.*





# THE PATH FORWARD MAY BE OBSCURE BUT THE SIGNPOST IS CLEAR

Extracts from the Institute of Noxious Plants Officers conference proceedings 1990 at Waikato University 7-9 May.

"We have to forget the way we have worked in the past. We accept the reality of the new environment into which change has placed us. We can't beat the system, but we all do have the opportunity to make the system work, to recognise the challenges that face us in the future, and to position ourselves to meet those challenges and seize the opportunities which change has created."

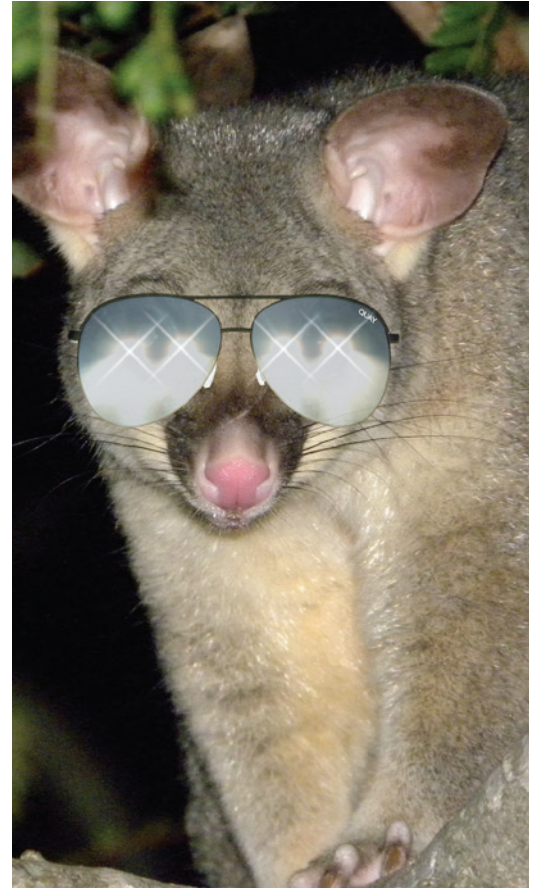
W [Willis] J Burns, Chairman, Noxious Plants Control Training Trust.

"Regional councils have inherited responsibilities and staff, and those staff have philosophies and accustomed ways of doing things. They have brought them with them from organisations that no longer exist - district, noxious plants authorities, pest destruction boards, etc. Accustomed ways of doing things tend to give an impression of stability in times of stressful change and as such they could be potent barriers to change. We need to guard against this. As a conference we must look objectively at the possibilities of change at what could develop for us as part of a unique and developing regional government structure and culture. It doesn't matter if the path forward is obscure, because the signpost is clear. We know what we must do. Just a thought - it takes energy to resist change and it is generally not productive. If we put our energy behind change and try to steer it towards our goals, our perceptions of what the future should be, it is energy well spent."

David Parkes, Executive Training Officer, Noxious Plants Training Trust.



## Possum:



**A flat animal that lives in the middle of the road.**



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