
National Pest Control Agencies (NPCA) Chairman's Report for the 2013 Year

1. Introduction and Year in Perspective

I am pleased to report on the work undertaken by the NPCA during the 2013 year

2. The Year in Perspective

The big picture for NPCA activity during the 2013 year has been one where the scope of its services has been widened into weed pests as well being a busy time for its traditional roles in pest control in producing best practice guidelines and facilitating technology transfer via the NETS conference, newsletters, email lists and website.

The machine hygiene best practice guidelines and logbook were completed and were launched yesterday.

We took the lead role in organising the animal pest component of the 2013 NETS. This being the second NETS run jointly by NPCA in partnership with the Biosecurity Institute.

We have worked hard with MPI and the stakeholder organisations associated with the development of the tool box to get a clear definition of the roles we might play. I can report that some while some progress was made a role in the management and operation of the Pest Management Toolbox initiative is still very much work in progress.

3. Management Committee

The Management committee administers and manages the affairs of the NPCA on behalf of its members between Annual General Meetings

The Management Committee membership for the 2013 year was:

Bill Martyn	Local Government (Chair)
Euan Kennedy	Department of Conservation
Brent Rohloff	Animal Health Board
Martin Brenstrum	Contractor representative
Bruce Warburton	Landcare Research
Sherman Smith	Ministry of Primary Industries

The committee met five times during the year and dealt with the governance matters associated with NPCA's operation. That is finances, projects, technology transfer and matters related to other service provision areas.

While reports from members are a relatively small part of the meetings, this aspect is still one of the most important for the management committee as it's a very good means of

keeping up to date in some detail with developments across the board in the pest control industry.

The committee also discussed more cost effective meeting alternatives and has agreed in principle to use teleconferencing and Skype for at least some of its 2014 meetings.

4. Operations and Project Programme

The focus for the 2013 programme was on completing the machine hygiene guidelines and in moving the pest sign project through the stages of completing the detailed specifications, sourcing funding and tendering for the pest sign project.

The machine hygiene guidelines and log book have been developed in association with the rural contractors and Federated Farmers. It is a good example of the widening NPCA role. It is an initiative aimed at controlling the spread of weed pests from farm to farm through contractor's machinery.

It is also pleasing to report the very good contributions that have been received from individuals and stakeholder organisations involved with the pest weed industry.

That said the challenge will be to get the best practice and logbook being used by contractors. We are currently in discussion with Federated Farmers and Rural Contractors on public awareness initiatives to achieve this.

Work on the Pest Sign Project has focussed sourcing the funding for the writer, illustrator and website designer. It is pleasing to note that funding has now been confirmed and this project can now get underway.

NPCA's resource library with over 50 best practice guideline publications is arguably one of the largest relating to vertebrate pest control in NZ. This draws attention in turn to the growing need to keep them up to date. It is pleasing to report that the management committee have made this a priority going forward.

5. NETS Conference

Planning for the second joint Bio-security Institute/NPCA conference involved took a considerable input from NPCA. We had two representatives and additional support from Bruce Warburton to attend the Christchurch based meetings. With over 200 participants, the West Coast NETS and its Shanty Town venue have to be judged a success. In particular we can be very pleased with the animal pest component of the programme. NPCA took a lead role here and with 28 animal pest presentations we can be very pleased with the contribution it makes to NPCA's strategic roles in the pest control industry of technology transfer, information sharing, training and networking.

6. Monitoring Accreditation and Training

The monitoring accreditation scheme continues to be a very important service in ensuring minimum standards are being met. We receive an ongoing level of enquiries around 30 per month from both control agencies to verify status as well as from monitors on aspects of accreditation renewal.

Current accreditation information is available on the NPCA website www.npca.org.nz. This includes the current accreditation status of monitors, expiry dates, and registration numbers. It is a website service that is being well used as evidenced by website use and phone enquiries being received.

In summary the records show a total of 367 accredited monitors which is a slight increase (4.6%) over the 2012 total of 351.

Qualification	2011	2012	2013
Field Operative (trap catch only)	152	122	164
Field Op (trap catch and wax tag)	181	190	169
Designer (trap catch only)	23	17	18
Designer (trap catch and wax tag)	21	18	12
Planner	3	4	
Total	380	351	367

An additional 20 accredited monitors were trained from four courses run at three venues. The demand for accredited monitors continues to be steady.

7. Communications

Newsletters

Three newsletters were produced during the year and are a very effective means of keeping the wider pest control industry up to date with developments. They set a high standard in terms of content, visual appeal and readability and are a credit to all those involved; in particular to Shona McCahon our newsletter editor.

Website

Is the centre piece of our communications the user statistics continue to show that it continues to be well used as a source of pest control information.

That said it has been a consolidation year for the website with major Joomla upgrade and further developments pending. Currently under consideration are linkages to the new pest busters and rabbit control websites.

8. In Conclusion

The 2013 year has been a year of change and consolidation for NPCA.

We have broken new ground in widening the scope of our work in the pest control industry and have proactive in advocating for an NPCA role as part of the toolbox initiative. While this is still work in progress, using the existing NPCA framework makes a compelling case in both financial and operational aspects.

The 2013 year achieved further consolidated of our roles in delivering services across the wider vertebrate pest control industry as well as aspects of plant pest control.

I would like to pay particular thanks to members of the Management Committee for their contribution to the committee and for their assistance to me in my role as NPCA Chair.

Finally thanks also Eurotafts, NPCA's service provision provider, Shona McCahon for her excellent work as newsletter editor, other staff and the many people and subcontractors contributing to the range of services that has made the 2013 year a very good one for the NPCA.

Bill Martyn

NPCA Chair

21 November 2013