
NPCA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE 2011/2012 YEAR

1. Introduction and Year in Perspective

I am pleased to report on the work undertaken by the NPCA for the 2012 year. It has been a year marked by a number of significant developments and achievements.

The first of these was combining with the Bio-security Institute to run the first and very successful joint conference in Taupo under the NETs umbrella.

The second was getting agreement from members at a special general meeting to change the rules. This to align membership and funding more closely with the wider role NPCA now plays in vertebrate pest control and to apply for charitable donor status.

The third has been the tool box initiative and the playing of an advocacy role for NPCA's resource library and best practice development experience to be part of the initiative and available to the wider pest control industry.

Finally in parallel with these developments it's been a year of achievements in all our service provision areas.

Not the least of these are the services we provide to assist the transfer and adoption of new pest control technology in the field. At the heart of this is an integrated approach to communications where best practice is extended to the wider industry publications by conference supported by the website and newsletters.

2. Management Committee

The Management Committee manages the affairs of the NPCA on behalf of its members. They have made a particularly important contribution this year in guiding through very some important developments the rule changes and the NETS conference in particular.

Membership of the Management Committee for the 2012 year was:

Bill Martyn	-	Local Government (Chair)
Mike Hawes	-	Department of Conservation
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 the DoC membership changed

during the year with Euan Kennedy replacing Mike Hawes.

3. Reports from Management Committee Members

This is a small part of the meetings but is still one of the most valued as it keeps members up to date with developments in other stakeholder organisations.

4. Operations and Project Programme

The annual operations and project programme continues to have a focus on best practice. However it is of interest to note that the 2012 programme reflects the wider NPCA role referred to earlier with the pig jaw aging tool, machine hygiene and pest signs projects all examples of this trend.

The pig jaw aging tool will have application not only for the AHB but also with recreational hunting groups. The pest sign recognition guide is a resource that will be useful to all those with an interest in conservation and the outdoors.

The machine hygiene project is another example of NPCA providing a project management services to develop an industry best practice with a significant contribution to make in this case in controlling the spread of weed pests by machinery.

It is also pleasing to report the very good contributions and feedback that have been received from technical experts, individuals and stakeholder organisations. This input is an important part of the process involved with the development of best practice. Most importantly it is provided as voluntary contribution from industry groups and is acknowledged with our thanks as it ensures we get a quality job done at a cost effective price.

NPCA's best practice resource library now has over 50 best practice guidelines and additions, amendments, updating and final drafts produced in the year under report include: the Pig Jaw aging tool, Pest Sign Guide, Rabbit control and monitoring and machine hygiene guidelines.

5. NETS Conference

The first joint Bio-security Institute/NPCA conference held in August under the NETS umbrella was well launched at the 2012 NETS in Taupo.

While it was the 17th annual conference NPCA has been associated with, it was the first in conjunction with the Bio-security Institute and succeeded on a number of fronts. Feedback from the evaluations confirms high levels of participant satisfaction.

Of particular note was the number of participants which at 230 were nearly 30% up on planned levels. In addition the expanded vertebrate pest content attracted good numbers of vertebrate pest control practitioners.

It confirms last year's decision to align the conference with NETS as the correct call. Having a one stop conference for practitioners involved with vertebrate, aquatic and weed pests is a sound basis for the future. While there are some improvements to be made the overriding message from 2012 NETS is that a good start has been made in combining conferences in this way.

The 2013 NETS will be a conference with a difference with participants travelling from Christchurch to Greymouth and return by train as part of the conference itself.

6. Monitoring Accreditation and Training

Administering the accreditation scheme is a small but important NPCA service as provides the assurance that monitors will meet minimum standards.

During the year 180 renewal applications were processed with the number of accreditations declining by 5%. This continues the trend of a small annual decrease as the shift to the use of more survey work continues.

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 is the number of phone enquiries being received.

In summary the records show a total of 351 accredited monitors down from 380 in the previous year.

Qualification	2010	2011	2012
Field Operative (trap catch only)	163	152	122
Field Operative (trap catch and wax tag)	196	181	190
Designer (trap catch only)	25	23	17
Designer (trap catch and wax tag)	20	21	18
Planner	7	3	4
Total	411	380	351

On the other hand there was an increase in the number of people training as monitors. Five courses were run during the year in venues in Mosgiel, Nelson and Turangi.

7. Website and Newsletter

The website and the newsletter both play a very important role in communicating NPCA services and industry developments to those involved across the board with the pest control industry. A new feature this year for the newsletter has been to profile people who have made a prominent contribution to the industry.

Web site user statistics for the year show that it is being well used with an average of 100 visits and 500 pages viewed daily. A substantial proportion of the user stats relate to the online use of the best practice guidelines. The rabbit guidelines are a good example of this with one full set of guidelines being downloaded daily. This at a time when the rabbit coordination group's programme is just beginning to get into gear

8. In Conclusion

The 2012 year has been a year of change and consolidation for NPCA.

We have made constitutional changes to better play our part in the wider industry and we have consolidated our roles in developing best practice and providing project management services across the wider plant and vertebrate pest control industry.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution of the Management Committee members for their work during the year in managing the affairs of the NPCA and for their assistance to me as Chair.

In addition I would like to place on record our appreciation for the contribution that Mike Hawes has made as a member of the management committee in representing the Department. He has been the DoC representative on the committee since 2006 during changing and difficult times; as well as making a valued contribution across the board to Management Committee meetings.

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 2012 year a very good one for the NPCA.

Bill Martyn
NPCA Chair
30 November 2012