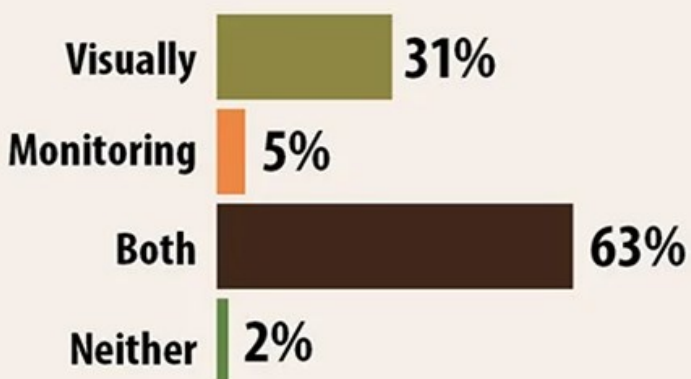


WHAT'S BUZZING?

News from the World of Pest Management



Invasion of the Aussies



Use Visual Inspections
and Monitoring

What's Buzzing



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The executive secretary David Warrick, handles all membership renewals, certificates and ID cards as well as provision of vehicle stickers. He may be contacted on:

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Fair Dealing

Articles provided in "What's Buzzing" are drawn from a number of sources. The source of the material is always quoted, either by author, publication and/or organization, in line with the practice of 'Fair Dealing' under the [Copyright Act 1994, Section 42 \(3\)](#), which allows news reporting of current events without infringement of copyright. This news is for PMANZ members and friends of the association for their ongoing education. The information contained in this newsletter does not necessarily reflect the official views or opinions of the PMANZ Council and/or its members.



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This summer will be remembered for the stunning Pohutukawa (NZ Christmas Tree) displays across the country, such as the photo below.

Whilst this is a delight to the eye, it's the pesky flies and other summer bugs that will be on everyone's mind as we embrace a very warm summer across New Zealand.

Dr Paul Craddock has already been dealing with a number of unusual summer pest queries, which you can read about in our lead story, "Invasion of the Aussies".

With the increased cockroach activity in some parts of the country, there are a number of good articles and tips about monitoring for them.

We conducted an Outlook 2024 Survey of members' thoughts for the year ahead. Have a look at the results, as it was interesting to note the broad optimism which is prevailing amongst us. Long may it last!

The executive board will be finalising the speaker line-up in February to compliment Dr Bill Robinson, for the August conference, as well as sponsorship options for our supplier exhibitors. So, watch out for this in the April edition.

Registrations will also begin in April.

As usual there is lots to read in this issue.

Warm regards

Peter



Pohutukawa blooms in Howick, Auckland



President's **Pen** Maihi Cooper

Kia ora PMANZ members, suppliers, family, friends and other interested readers.

Welcome to the first edition of the PMANZ What's Buzzing newsletter for 2024.

I would like to begin by wishing you all a safe and successful year ahead and I do hope you've all found time to recharge yourselves over the past couple of months to prepare for what is shaping up to be a great start to the year for the pest management industry.

My summer has been spent outside around our home doing various jobs. The weather in Auckland has been a mix of hot and humid with rainfall at times. These conditions have been perfect for me to observe the increase in ant activity around paving stones, flies resting on the walls in sheltered areas and various beetles and other flying insects circling outdoor lights at night. All good indicators that we're in for a busy end to the summer.

Please enjoy and share the interesting articles and information you will read and thanks to all who have contributed and those who continue to support this newsletter, it is greatly appreciated.

Following the theme of the weather, an important safety topic for this time of year is to remind everyone to be sun-smart, stay hydrated and take regular breaks when doing physical activities such as insecticide treatments. It is very important that you do follow label directions and wear all of the recommended personal protective equipment even when it's hot and humid. It is recommended to protect you from exposure to these products and to prevent you from feeling adverse effects.

Something to consider during hot spells is to plan differently, for example; you could book spray jobs in the mornings up until midday and after that book other activities such as ant baiting or commercial servicing that can keep you out of the late afternoon temperatures. There are many useful weather forecasting apps available to assist you in planning, my preference is the [MetService website](#)

You will read more in this issue about the conference to be held at Waipuna in Auckland on the 29 and 30 August and I encourage you to start planning to attend as it will be a great opportunity to listen and interact in person with a very well recognised pest management specialist and author of many useful books, Dr Bill Robinson. Furthermore, we are confirming other subject matter experts and you will also get the opportunity to meet the industry suppliers and technical experts behind the products. I look forward to seeing those of you who decide to attend.

As summarised in the last issue, the PMANZ executive council will have an ongoing focus on education and training along with establishing a future proof website and system to enable us to deliver more for members in 2024 and beyond. We will continue to liaise with government agencies and advocate on behalf of the pest management industry on matters that are changing the way we operate looking to balance those restrictions along with recognition of our industry as a professional body. If you haven't taken the opportunity to login to the PMANZ website and complete the training modules on Ants, please do. It's training offered to all of current members and upon successful completion it also contributes to maintaining your Master Qualified membership status. I am looking forward to working alongside the executive council to make the most my term as president of the association

Pest management continues to interest and attract new people into the industry, it is great to see the continuing growth each month. Again in the past 2 months, we have had 3 members join the association which is really great that brings us to a current total of 554 in

our membership. We are anticipating this growth to continue this year and I would like to thank you all for your continued membership during this past year. Please join me in welcoming the following members:

New Qualified Technicians

Luke	Smith	Genus Pest Management
Tyler	Townsend-Campbell	Rentokil
Harry	Bristow	Independent

Recently upgraded to Qualified status

David	Skelton	Ecomist Otago
Ankit	Bhardwaj	PCS Pest Control
Sarah	Lockwood	RNZAF
Arvin	Singh	Ecolab
Sandra	Collins	Rentokil
Harish	Chauhan	PCS Pest Control
John	King	Rentokil
Tim	Phelps	Rentokil

Recently upgraded to Master Qualified status

Gerwyn	Jones	Brecon International
--------	-------	----------------------

Kind regards,

Maihi Cooper

Maihi

PMANZ President





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Invasion of the Aussies!

By Paul Craddock



In the past couple of months, several PMANZ members and the public have queried sightings of three unusual insects that have caused some apprehension. Most of these sightings are in the upper North Island. With the warm humid weather we are having at the moment there is obviously a general increase in insect activity, however these three species of insect seem to be undergoing a particular surge in activity and are generating enquires.

Of the three species, two of them are cockroaches and one is a beetle species. Two are also relatively recent arrivals to New Zealand from Australia and so are being increasingly seen by customers and pest controllers in places not previously seen as they expand in range.

Article continues on next page



Phyllotocus macleayi. Photo © Reiner Richter, some rights reserved (CC-BY-NC-SA)

**Two-tone Nectar Scarab beetle,
(*Phyllotocus macleayi*)**

Phyllotocus macleayi is a small 10mm long species of chafer beetle originally from Tasmania, Australia and is now present in New Zealand since around 2010. The beetle has a light brown body with a distinctive dark brown tip to the tail (giving it the common name). Present in the upper North Island currently, its range appears to be expanding north and southwards and has been sighted in Tauranga and Mangawhai.

The adults feed mainly on the flowers of Eucalyptus (Australian gum trees), while the grubs live in the soil and feed on the roots of plants.

This little beetle can be a huge nuisance, as during mid-December every year for 2 to 3 weeks they swarm at night in their hundreds, typically attracted to lights. Some will inevitably find their way into houses

and will fly in clumsy circles around light fittings, alarming residents.

Outdoor activities and gatherings in the early evening become fraught as the beetles swarm towards lights and land on people, causing distress.

Large swarms are often seen circling around streetlights at night in affected areas, and residents with gum trees planted nearby are particularly impacted.

From a pest management point of view, little can be done. Due to their highly mobile nature, spray treatments are ineffective as they simply bypass the insecticide. Otherwise closing windows and curtains at night and switching off outside lights reduces the attractiveness of houses and closes off entry points. Removal of nearby gum trees, if possible, is another way to reduce impact.

Article continues after the advertorial



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Balta bicolor. Photo© Reiner Richter, some rights reserved (CC-BY-NC-SA)

Balta Cockroach (*Balta bicolor*)

The Balta cockroach is a small cockroach around 12 to 15 millimetres long. It is a light brown colour with distinctive dark striped legs, visible finely veined wings and a light stripe behind the head. Originally from Australia it was first observed in New Zealand in around 2009. Currently it appears to be present mostly in the Auckland region, but has been sighted further south in Hamilton and Waihi Beach and further north in Warkworth.

This species of cockroach is unusual in that it is regularly active and visible during the day. It can frequently be seen moving on broad-leafed vegetation in gardens and on hedges.

Because of its daytime habits, it is often seen by people where it can be confused with the superficially similar pest German cockroach (*Blattella germanica*) causing some apprehension. It is in fact harmless and is not known to have any pest status.

From a pest management point of view, numbers are typically low enough that it doesn't cause an issue, however combined with the many other outside bush & garden cockroach species present in urban areas, customers may want treatments undertaken. In this case a general contact insecticide spray treatment around the base perimeter of the building and around window and door frames, combined with a granular insecticide application into gardens areas is likely sufficient to reduce the issue.

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Neotemnopteryx fulva. Photo © Greg Holwell, some rights reserved (CC-BY-NC)

Australian golden cockroach (*Neotemnopteryx fulva*)

This large golden cockroach is a native of Australia that has been present in New Zealand for around 50 years. Adults are around 30-35 mm in length including wings. It is an evenly light brown coloured over its entire body, with no other distinctive colour patterns or markings. It appears to be increasing in numbers and is spreading out of Auckland region where it was first found and is now present in the Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Hawkes Bay and Far North.

It is an active runner and unlike most other cockroaches in New Zealand it has fully developed wings and is an effective flier, often being attracted to lights at night-time in the warm summer months when it is most active. It is often seen in swimming pools where adults have drowned, presumably being attracted by nearby lights on a warm evening. It will enter houses through open windows and doors at night, again attracted by lights and will distress residents due to its size and flying ability.

Article continues on next page

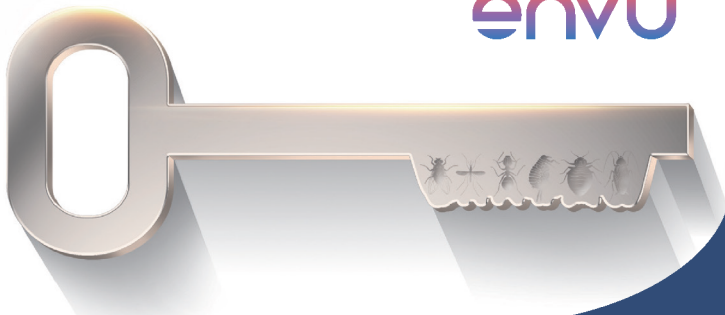


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As it is a large, light brown cockroach, it can be easily confused with the superficially similar pest American cockroach (*Periplaneta americana*). It is in fact harmless and is not known to have any pest status. The key distinguishing identification feature is that it is evenly light brown coloured over its entire body and does not have the dark and light brown markings behind the head that American cockroach has. It is also a distinctively lighter, slimmer bodied cockroach compared with the heavier, stouter bodied American cockroach.

From a pest management point of view, not much can be done. Due to their highly mobile flying nature, spray treatments are generally ineffective as they simply bypass the insecticide. Otherwise closing windows and curtains at night and switching off outside lights reduces the attractiveness of houses and closes off entry points. As they inhabit gardens and vegetated bush margins, a granular insecticide application into these areas may reduce the issue.

Dr Paul Craddock, PMANZ Councillor
Training and Technical Manager



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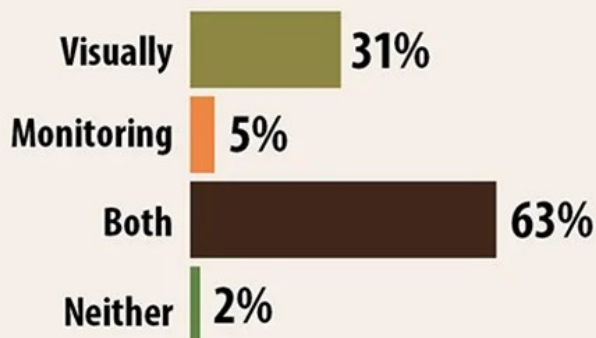


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Use Visual Inspections and Monitoring When Assessing Cockroach Infestation Levels

Before making a cockroach application, do you assess the infestation level visually and/or by using monitors (e.g., glue traps)?



Source: PCT Reader Poll, December 2023



Many pest management technicians consider monitoring devices like glue traps to be a crucial component of their toolkit, forming an integral part of an integrated approach to cockroach management.

According to a recent [PCT Reader Poll](#), 63% of respondents utilize visual inspections and monitoring when evaluating cockroach infestation levels, while 31% rely solely on visual assessments.

The importance of combining visual inspections with treatment and the addition of monitoring devices during the initial account visit cannot be over emphasised. The need to conduct visual inspections is crucial to target applications accurately and avoid delaying treatment in problem areas. Treatments typically includes activities like gel baiting, allowing for simultaneous inspection.

Many pest professionals emphasized the strategic placement of monitoring devices during the initial visit to gather activity information. This information becomes instrumental in subsequent visits, enabling more precise targeting of applications for better efficacy. They noted that monitoring devices not only provide information on numbers, locations, and directions but also demonstrate decreases over time, a valuable aspect when communicating progress to customers, especially concerning sanitation efforts.

Dr Paul Craddock, also advocates for a combined approach, utilizing both visual inspections and monitors for assessing cockroach infestations. While acknowledging certain challenges, such as impracticality in areas with wet wash-up, high temperatures, or the risk of falling into products, Paul emphasized the overall effectiveness of monitors over visual inspections alone.

Monitors are particularly beneficial for tracking and trending counts over time, offering a more objective method compared to visual counts. It also enables the detection of small infestations that may not be seen during visual inspection.

In cases of chronic or periodic re-infestations, monitors prove especially useful. In scenarios like food facilities where introductions may occur in stockrooms following product deliveries etc., monitors can confirm the source and enable quicker responses. Similarly, monitors can indicate the presence of a concealed access point or cockroach harbourage (such as hidden gaps

around drainpipes and water pipes obscured behind kitchen equipment).

A key point with disposable glue-board cockroach monitors is to make sure they are baited with the supplied attractive bait, and most importantly are marked with a date when they are placed. This helps the technician who checks the monitor in subsequent visits determine the age of the captures and hence the timeline of the infestation.

By Paul Craddock

PMANZ Technical Executive



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Artificial Sweetener Could Be New Tool in Cockroach Management



German cockroaches (*Blattella germanica*) are a major global insect pest in urban buildings as purveyors of allergens as well as pathogens such as *Salmonella*, *E. coli*, and Rotavirus. Control of German cockroaches is usually done with insecticide sprays and insecticide-loaded baits, but cockroach populations can evolve resistance to insecticides, and insecticides can also affect non-target animals.

Researchers at the University of California, Riverside (UCR), are exploring the efficacy of a novel type of chemical control of German cockroaches—the artificial sweetener sucralose (also known as Splenda). In a study published in November 2023 in the *Journal of Economic Entomology*, the researchers found that sucralose-water solutions were effective in reducing survival of German cockroaches via effects on their gastrointestinal system.

Source **Entomology Today**— Read Original [HERE](#)

Science News

Dengue fever: the tropical disease spreading across Europe



**Aedes aegypti: From Wikipedia GNU
Free Documentation License 1.2**

The disease is, indeed, spreading rapidly in warmer regions: Peru – which has mixed subtropical and tropical climates – has recently recorded some of the highest numbers of the virus (both cases and deaths) within memory. This has led to the declaration of a state of emergency in most of its regions, as cases continue to climb year after year.

Record numbers of cases in 2023

We are also seeing more and more new cases outside of Latin America. There have been increasing numbers of locally transmitted cases in the USA, Italy and France, as well as the first recorded cases in many years in Spain.

In 2022, there were 2.8 million registered cases of dengue on the American continent alone. This was more than double the 1.2 million cases in 2021.

Although the majority of cases affect tropical and subtropical areas of America, Asia and Africa, a significant increase has recently been observed in more temperate areas, such as Europe.

This is especially true in the south of the continent, where the disease has been present since the 1970s.

According to statistics from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, 71 locally transmitted cases of dengue were reported in 2022 in mainland EU countries. This is an increase of over 20% compared to 2021.

DENV is transmitted through bites from infected Aedes mosquitoes, primarily Aedes aegypti, but also to a lesser extent Aedes albopictus, also known as the Tiger Mosquito. These insects, which feed on human blood and transmit the virus through their saliva, are found in tropical and subtropical areas. However, in recent decades they have become more and more common in temperate areas.

Source **The Conversation**— Read Original [HERE](#)

The Global Bed Bug Resurgence began 25 years ago, but what have been the major highlights and research initiatives?



The modern bed bug resurgence has involved two species; the common bed bug (*Cimex lectularius*) and the tropical bed bug (*Cimex hemipterus*) above.

In the dead of night, they emerge—a creeping tide of tiny predators that have haunted the annals of sleepy-time tales and now, the modern bedroom. The bed bug, a pest thought to have been all but vanquished in the mid-20th century, has made an unwelcome return to the global stage. This article pulls back the sheets on the last 25 years, examining how these bloodthirsty insects have crept back into our mattresses, our lives, and our nightmares. The resurgence of bed bugs has not just been a minor inconvenience; it represents a complex intersection of global travel, urban living, and, most importantly, pesticide resistance. This article aims to explore the major developments in the bed bug saga, examining their subtle return and the reasons behind this. It will also review the crucial science and efforts undertaken to combat this pest. Importantly, many bed bug management techniques were implemented before their effectiveness was scientifically verified. These methods only gained widespread acceptance after being published and scientifically improved. In this context, the year of first publication is considered the benchmark for each milestone. The global journey of these nocturnal nuisances will be traced over the past quarter-century, highlighting the key breakthroughs in the ongoing war against the bed bug.

Read the full Article by Stephen L. Doggett & Richard Cooper [HERE](#)

News Worth Sharing

Mouse in Dunedin house sparks police callout over domestic violence fears



Three women screaming for their lives in a Brighton Rd house sparked a rapid Dunedin police callout.

Senior Sergeant Anthony Bond said a neighbour called police about 11.15am yesterday, telling them they could hear a woman screaming loudly next door and a man telling her to calm down.

They called police, fearing a domestic violence incident was taking place.

“On arrival, it was revealed that three young women were screaming at the address because of a mouse that had been discovered in the house, and they showed police a video of it.

“No further police action was required.

“It’s good that we are being called to things like that, but obviously we’ve investigated and discovered that there was no criminal activity. So it was a happy ending.”

As for the mouse?

“The mouse is still being sought,” he said.

See Original Herald article [HERE](#)

News Worth Sharing

Alarm as new NSW fire ant infestation found at Wardell, 85 km south of Queensland border



Invasive Species Council Media Release: T

he Invasive Species Council are calling for a massive government and community response to the breaking news that at least one new fire ant nest has been found in NSW at Wardell, 85 km south of the Queensland border.

‘This is a very alarming development. The government must spare no expense in responding to this outbreak and the whole community should treat this very, very seriously,’ said Reece Pianta, Advocacy Manager for the Invasive Species Council.

‘We have long feared that the Murwillumbah outbreak would not be the only case of spread of this super pest into NSW and now we have them turning up south of Byron Bay at Wardell.

‘The threat of fire ants to our environment, agriculture and communities is so significant that eradication cannot be allowed to fail.

‘Everyone in the northern rivers should be out checking for fire ants, particularly if you have had any recent material delivered to your property like soil, turf or mulch.

‘This infestation was identified by a member of the public who was painfully stung by these fire ants. We need the government to urgently ramp up community education and engagement across the whole of northern NSW.

See Original Media Release from Invasive Species Council [HERE](#)

Red Fire Ant Fact Sheet

News Worth Sharing

New Book from Partho Dhang

Partho Dhang received his PhD in Life Science from the University of Madras, India. His research interests are on insecticides, natural product chemistry, insect pheromones, biopesticides, and insecticide baits.

Once again a great book by Partho Dang and his associates that discusses the escalating environmental challenges of the 21st century, attributing them to factors like population growth, urbanization, global temperature rise, pollution, and delayed collective actions. Simultaneously, pests are adapting swiftly, capitalizing on human migration and transportation networks to expand their ranges and habitats unnoticed.

The stance of pest management professionals is outlined, navigating the complexities of pesticide regulations to combat infestations. Pesticides, while a global primary pest control method, face increased scrutiny. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices, blending technological advancements, emerge as a response to these challenges.

The urban environment, housing over 55% of the global population, is stressed by climate change, impacting public health, and creating ideal conditions for explosive urban pest population growth. It explores the shift from syl- vatic to domestic habitats for pests and the potential emergence of urban public health challenges.

Technological developments in pest control are highlighted, emphasizing the need for efficiency, economy, and reduced environmental impact. Topics include education, communication, data technologies, pesticide drift reduction, and nonchemical products. Insect baits and termite baiting systems are discussed as environmentally friendly alternatives.

The use of encapsulation technology to deliver pesticides efficiently and reduce non-target impacts is explored. Insect light traps for flying insect pest elimination and biorational pest management technologies using insect pheromones are examined for their environmental soundness.

Pesticide resistance in urban pests poses challenges, with bed bugs showcasing resilience. The need for environmentally sensitive methods and the impact of climate change on pest control methods are discussed.

Regulatory trends in urban pest management address the growing need for conservative global approaches, vulnerability assessments, and oversight, especially for cryptic pests. The book calls for a new regulatory paradigm to counter emerging urban pest problems and vector-borne diseases.

Consumer protection and the role of third-party quality assurance agencies in maintaining standards are emphasized. The book concludes by highlighting the vulnerability of urban populations to climate change, discussing vector-borne diseases in Brazil, and emphasizing the importance of effective pest control for public health.

Who should read it: Researchers and graduate students of urban entomology and pest control and practitioners in pest management in urban environments; also pest management experts in pesticide manufacturing and design; and pest control practitioners.

The book is available from Amazon for US\$130.00 Click [HERE](#)

URBAN PEST MANAGEMENT

An Environmental Perspective

2nd Edition

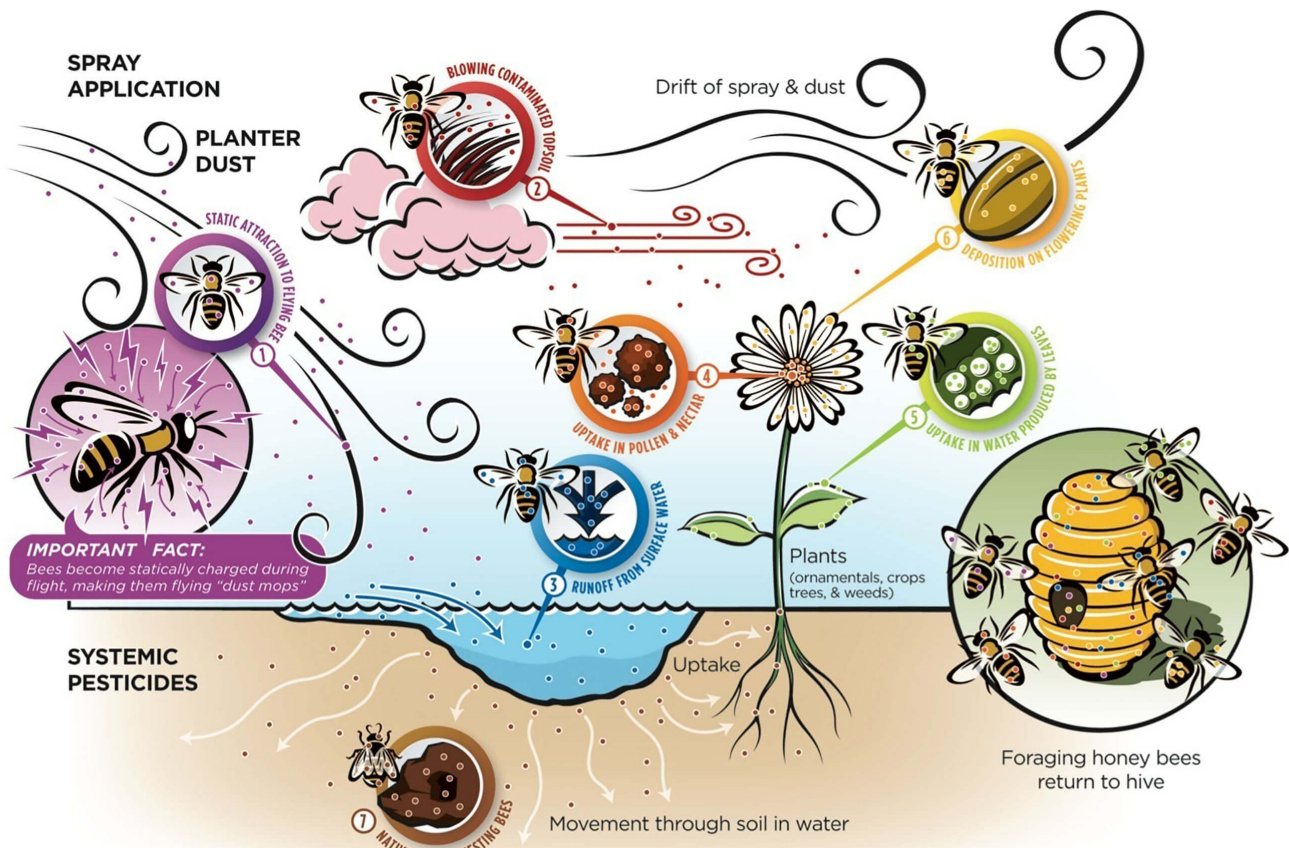
Edited by Partho Dhang



CABI



Major Routes of Pesticide Exposure for Foraging Honey Bees and Their Transmission to the Hive



© Purdue University 2016

Farmers cultivating pollinator-dependent fruits and vegetables face a potential trade-off in meeting two essential requirements for crop production: pest suppression and pollination. The use of insecticides to combat pests poses a challenge, as it can have adverse effects on bee populations. This predicament becomes particularly pronounced in the case of cucurbits, which are vulnerable to various economically significant insect pests, such as cucumber beetles, posing a threat to overall production. While neonicotinoids effectively control these pests, the dilemma arises as the crop relies on bees for crucial pollination and fruit set. The question emerges: Can we deploy these potent and widespread insecticides to target pests while simultaneously preserving vital pollinators? To tackle this overarching objective, their interdisciplinary team, spanning diverse fields and geographical locations and inclusive of various stakeholders, will address the problem.

Read the full article [HERE](#)

News Worth Sharing



Phil Gould, the new Business Development Manager at Syngenta Professional Solutions New Zealand, brings nearly two decades of experience to his role.

Phil started his career in 2004 as an apprentice Greenkeeper at Royal Auckland Golf Club. Prior to joining Syngenta, he worked at Landscape Solutions NZ, where he utilized his extensive technical and management skills to ensure successful management of customers' grounds and gardens.



With a strong network and extensive experience in Australasia, Phil has collaborated across various Turf and Landscape sectors, including airports, hospitals, aged care facilities, private and public schools, and golf courses.

Carole Cast, Syngenta ANZ Business Manager – Professional Pest Management & Consumer Pest – adds:

“We are very privileged to have Phil join the Syngenta Professional Solutions team in NZ; Phil brings a wealth of experience across all sectors of the Professional Solutions Industry. We believe he will be a valuable resource for our customers across Aotearoa”

Phil will be based in Auckland, New Zealand and can be contacted via:

Mobile phone: +64 27 235 1456

E-mail: phil.gould@syngenta.com

Breaking News



Announcement of the Voluntary Winding Down of Women In Pest Management

Dear Members, Sponsors, and Supporters of Women In Pest Management (WIPM),

It is with a profound sense of disappointment and regret that we announce the voluntary winding down of Women In Pest Management (WIPM). This decision, though difficult, has been made in light of recent developments within our industry, including a lack of continued support and sponsorship which are essential for our operations.

As many of you are aware, the Australian Women In Pest Management Association (AWPMA) recently amalgamated with the Australian Environmental Pest Managers Association (AEPMA). Subsequent communications from the CEO of AEPMA have indicated that our financial Associate Membership, which was maintained diligently for the past two years, now presents a conflict of interest with the newly amalgamated AWPMA/AEPMA. Unfortunately, this has resulted in our inability to renew our membership, effectively leaving us without the support of our national body.

The repercussions of these changes, compounded by a reduction in sponsorship, have placed us in a position where we must, regrettably, cancel all planned events for 2024. This includes the Recognition Awards, Workshops, Networking Breakfasts, and our digital magazine, which has been a beacon for highlighting the achievements of extraordinary women in our industry.

As a committee, we have strived to fill a crucial gap within the Australian Pest Management Industry. Our efforts have been driven by a commitment to showcasing the talents and accomplishments of women in our field, fostering a sense of community and support through our initiatives. The decision to wind down WIPM is not one we take lightly, but it is necessary under the current circumstances.

We extend our sincerest wishes to AWPMA for a successful amalgamation and hope that they will continue some of the initiatives that WIPM championed so effectively in 2023.

We would like to express a big thank you to everyone who has supported WIPM. Your involvement and encouragement have been the backbone of our endeavours. As a symbol of our ongoing commitment to this community, the WIPM closed Facebook group will remain active, and our admin team and current committee members will continue to be available for support.

In closing, we want to acknowledge the passion, dedication, and hard work of each member of the WIPM committee, our sponsors, and our supporters. Your contributions have been invaluable, and it is our hope that the spirit of WIPM will continue to inspire and influence the industry in meaningful ways.

Regards,
Women In Pest Management Committee

Read Original [HERE](#)



NEW ZEALAND NEWS



Māori-led trapping effort aiming to wipe out ship rats, feral cats on Great Barrier Island



A conservation project on Aotea Great Barrier Island is on track to wipe out feral cats and free the nearby Broken Islands from ship rats. Credits: Newshub

A conservation project on Aotea Great Barrier Island is on track to wipe out feral cats and free the nearby Broken Islands from ship rats.

Tu Mai Taonga is led by local Māori, and is providing employment for young people, many of whom have never worked in conservation before.

A work day for trappers on the Tu Mai Taonga project starts with a boat trip to Rangiahua, one of the smaller islands off Aotea Great Barrier Island to check rat trap lines.

The field trappers on the boat while Newshub visits have no background in conservation, the only prerequisite for this gig is a good attitude.

Tu Mai Taonga field worker Dane Kemp can't imagine going back to his previous building job now.

"It helps everyone out, it's just good for your wellbeing," he told Newshub.

It's also Lindsey Davies' first job in conservation, and he's now the team lead of the rat eradication project.

"My family didn't think of me as much of a bush person," Davies said.

"And when they heard I was doing conservation and living in huts up on the hills they thought, no, there's no way."

Article continues on next page



Davies' crew was bringing supplies ashore to stay for the week because they are down to the very last couple of rats on the whole island.

"Being able to do our work to the point where I can have my daughter come here, and have her hearing the same birds that our grandparents heard would be awesome."

Rangiahua is the biggest island off Aotea. It's previously had rats eradicated, but the biosecurity measures weren't sufficient to keep them away.

Tu Mai Taonga project lead Makere Jenner is determined that this time the efforts of trappers won't go to waste, not only getting rid of rats, but wiping out feral cats in the island's remote mountainous northern forests.

"We're not looking to control, our goal is to eradicate," Jenner said.

"Bringing long-term, lasting, holistic benefits to the land, the sea and the people."

And for her, creating meaningful jobs on the island to bring mana whenua home is just as important as the conservation work.

"We have seasoned conservationists - people who are qualified to be in there managing a feral cat eradication, managing a rat eradication, but also we have people who are keen to get stuck in and just help with the work."

Tu Mai Taonga has been funded by the Jobs For Nature programme and Auckland Council, but that funding will run out next year.

They're hoping local and central government will come to the table so their work can continue.

"To just have the opportunity to look after our home like we once did, is the most important," Davies said.

To reclaim their role as kaitiaki of Aotea Great Barrier Island, hoping to restore to the flourishing feral cat and rat-free paradise it once was.

Read and see video [Original HERE](#)

Newshub.

Predator control and a Coromandel kiwi dream team



A brown kiwi snapped on a trail camera is evidence of predator control success. Photo: Whenuakite Kiwi Care.

Brown kiwi are thriving in Eastern Coromandel as sustained predator control by DOC and the local community pays off for the threatened birds.

Surveying of kiwi in the area between Tairua and Hot Water Beach has shown a 10 per cent increase from 2015 to 2020.

Numbers are expected to continue to increase following the recent distribution of biodegradable 1080 bait pellets at Whenuakite which will provide further protection to kiwi from stoats.

The area's kiwi benefit from a combined predator control approach, says Whenuakite Kiwi Care Group spokesperson Janice Hinds.

“We have an amazing crew of landowners who contribute to on-ground predator control covering 3,500 hectares.

“Then, every three to four years the Department of Conservation and Waikato Regional Council apply 1080 bait – cleaning up the possums destroying the canopy, and the trap-shy rats and mustelids we miss.

“The difference is extraordinary.”

Coromandel has a long history of environmental protection and conservation work, much of it focused on species found in its expansive forests.

Article continues on next page



A 'small' flock of kererū takes flight. Photo: Janice Hinds.

DOC Biodiversity Ranger Leon Pickering says vulnerable brown kiwi are a particular focus of the aerial predator control programme.

“We know that kiwi chicks are especially at risk – with up to 95 per cent loss of chicks being killed by predators in some locations.

“Sustained predator control, a paired system like this, means around 60 per cent of the chicks make it to adulthood.”

Monitoring has shown the recent aerial 1080 operation in Whenuakite managed to reduce rodents to an undetectable level.

Stoats have also been controlled, at a rate of 90-100 per cent on average, through secondary poisoning as they feed on rodent carcasses.

While kiwi are more active at night, Janice says during the day there are further signs of the biodiversity gains from the programme.

“We’ve seen flocks of kererū – up to 250 at a time, and the tomtits are spreading up from the

South, we’ve seen pōhutukawa trees flower for the first time in a lifetime.”

The support of the community has been critical to achieving this success, says Leon.

“We’ve had landowners coming across kiwi in their backyards – they’re seeing the results – more and more are coming to us and asking to be involved.”

Whenuakite Kiwi Care Group is in it for the long haul. “Dad (Arthur Hinds 1946-2017) was involved from the early days, and now it’s a family thing – we just got our 2-and-a-half year-old grandson some tramping boots, that’s some succession planning!”, says Janice.

“We would like to thank Save the Kiwi and Waikato Regional Council for their financial support to keep our work going.”

Whenuakite kiwi, and the whole forest ecosystem around them, are in good hands.

Read original [HERE](#)

Why there seem to be fewer cicadas this summer



Where have all the cicadas gone? That's the question for some. Photo / Landcare Research

Where have all the cicadas gone?

That's the question bugging some RNZ listeners, who say instead of New Zealand's iconic [summer](#) chorus, all they've heard from forests and fields so far this year is silence.

Bugman Ruud Kleinpaste told RNZ *Afternoons* host Jesse Mulligan a lack of cicadas in some areas was likely linked to the insect's life cycle.

Kleinpaste said he had not heard any cicadas this summer until a few days ago in the Port Hills near Christchurch, and then it was only one or two.

"And to be quite honest, it doesn't surprise me sometimes. Five years ago I wrote in my diary there weren't many cicadas that year either."

The reason it was not surprising was that cicadas - depending on the species - generally had a life cycle, from egg to egg or larva to larva, of three or five years.

"Which means that if five years ago there weren't very many parents, this year there won't be many juveniles that can come out of the ground. It's the same as happens in America with their 17-year cicada and 13-year cicada," he said. "They come in waves, and those waves are pretty determined by the calendar."

Kleinpaste said New Zealand had more than 40 species of cicada. Each lived in a different environment, had a different life cycle and fulfilled a different ecological role.

There's no cycle of three or five years."

Article continues on next page

Some listeners also reported hearing fewer crickets, which usually took over the chorus from cicadas once night fell. That was backed up by an unscientific poll of RNZ staff.

Kleinpaste said he could not verify that because he lived in Canterbury and black field crickets were limited to northern New Zealand.

However, if correct, the drop in cricket numbers would have a different cause.

“That’s because they have a one-year life cycle. They basically get out of the eggs in October or November, go out at night and eat the grass in the paddocks and lawns, and then, by January, they become adults and start making these mating calls.

If crickets were in decline, that would not worry the Bugman.

“They are not native, they are introduced, and they are actually pests for farmers. Ten crickets per square metre is the same as one stock unit in terms of the amount of grass they eat.”

Mulligan told Kleinpaste his favourite bug find of the year - discovered by his son on the kitchen floor, prompting great excitement in the household - was a giant New Zealand centipede.

Mulligan described it as a beautiful creature, but Kleinpaste said it was one of the very few invertebrates he was not fond of.

“I was bitten once by a centipede in Auckland. I was paralysed for two-and-a-half

hours on my right hand. They have no sense of humour. They are incredibly aggressive when you grab them. Don’t touch them.”

However, the giant centipede had some remarkable abilities. Kleinpaste said the female laid its eggs in a rotting log, then licked each egg every 20 to 30 minutes to remove bacteria and fungi.

If the centipede was disturbed and abandoned its eggs, they would rot within an hour.

He said the creature’s saliva must contain an as-yet undiscovered substance with powerful antifungal and antibacterial properties.

“We could have something really cool here,” he said.

Kleinpaste said the best thing anyone could do for insects around their property - be they cicadas or giant centipedes - was to boost biodiversity.

“Put as many native plants as you can in your garden, as well as plants that give you flowers for the native pollinators and birds. Literally everything starts with insects, those lowly creatures that people love to hate sometimes.”

Source RNZ and NZ Herald

Click [HERE](#) to read original

The \$11million wasp to end (hopefully) all wasps

A new project to eradicate wasps, which cost the country millions of dollars, has begun in Dunedin.

The key to that \$11million project would be a genetically altered wasp, capable of destroying wasps colonies from the inside.

Professor Peter Dearden, Genomics Aotearoa co-director, said: “We are using this as a test case for all New Zealand pests, a prototype for what can be done in the most ethical way, the safest way, and the way that follows the science.

“What we want is to develop research to make this firstly, scientifically possible, and secondly, offer a blueprint for how it can be done, if and when New Zealand decides we want to do it.”

The nationwide research led by Genomics Aotearoa began with the opening of new labs in Dunedin this week.

It will be in that controlled environment where researchers will make the transgenic organism - a wasp that has been genetically modified with a flaw.

New Zealand had some of the highest densities of wasps in the world. That contrasted with their native environment of Europe,



Peter Dearden, a geneticist who studies insects, especially bees. He is co-director of Genomics Aotearoa.

SUPPLIED / THE-PRESS

which had natural predators and colder climates to keep the population in check.

“Wasps just shouldn’t be in New Zealand. In some beech forests there are 10,000 worker wasps per tree and more wasps per weight than all other creatures. That’s birds, insects, stoats, the lot. That is actual published research,” Dearden said.

These numbers also meant [massive economic and environmental damage.](#)

Article continues on next page



A close-up of the type of wasp now found all over New Zealand. ANDY MACDONALD / NELSON MAIL

“Getting rid of wasps would save millions of dollars [for the honey industry], said Wellington beekeeper, Frank Lindsay.

“We have plague years of wasps, and as soon as the nectar disappears, they attack hives. It used to only be the German wasp killing bees, but now they are breeding with common wasps...[It's getting worse.](#)”

In 2015 wasps were estimated to cost the economy \$133 million a year, with wasps destroying 12% of bee populations annually.

“The economic benefits of removing invasive wasps would not only save over 100 million in control costs a year, that’s insecticides and other nasties in the environment, but also trigger an estimated \$62 million a year increase in the pastoral sector and \$58 million for the honey industry. That is huge for New Zealand,” Dearden said.

New Zealand’s environment was also suffering:
“They eat native birds’ food sources,

starving them, and they attack those birds directly. There are just so many our native species can’t cope,” Dearden said, noting the problem was growing with climate change.

“The warmer weather means that hibernations are not happening, we are now getting multi-year nests and they are just huge. More and more social wasp species are getting settled here. Murder hornets could be the next wave. Developing a genetically modified wasp gives us a potential tool to stop that happening.”

The project aims to provide the tools to do this, but also assist with research policy development and find out public appetite for the introduction of the technologies developed in the lab.

“I am agnostic really,” said Dearden, on the release of the developed wasp. “If gene-drives are shown to be effective and safe, that is one thing. If gene-drives are shown to be neither safe, nor effective, then the project will definitively demonstrate this, allowing us to move on to other solutions.”

The project will run until September 2028 and was funded by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) Endeavour Fund for a total of \$11million.

Source Stuff—Click **HERE** to read original and see the video of a large wasp nest in a Phoenix Palm Tree

YOUR OUTLOOK for 2024

Survey Results

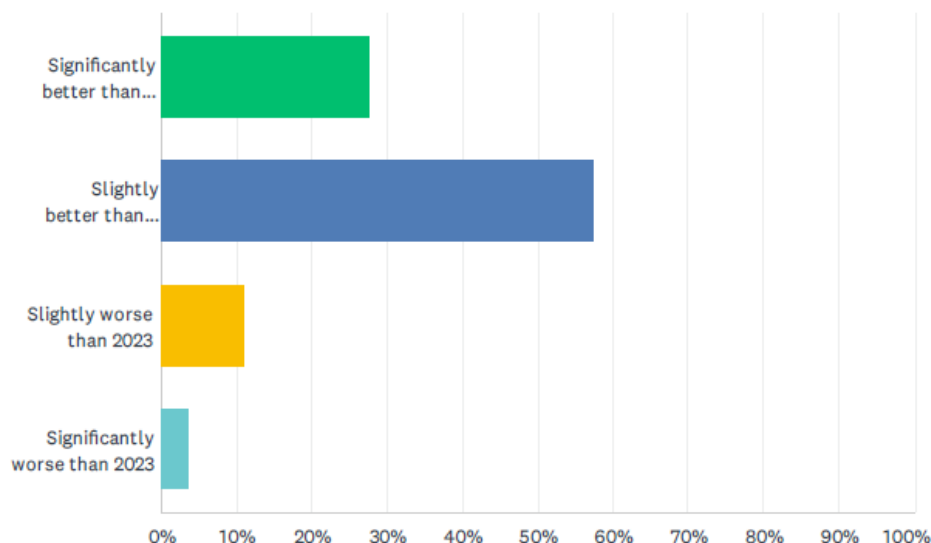
According to the [World Bank press release of 9th January 2024](#), global growth is projected to slow for the third year in a row—from 2.6% last year to 2.4% in 2024, almost three-quarters of a percentage point below the average of the 2010s. Developing economies are projected to grow just 3.9%, more than one percentage point below the average of the previous decade.

Thus, against this background it is welcome news to view your optimistic feedback from “Your Outlook for 2024” survey that we conducted in mid January across NZ.

Your optimism is welcome after a tough couple of years. Long may it last through 2024.

Q1 Which best describes your 2024 outlook

Answered: 54 Skipped: 0

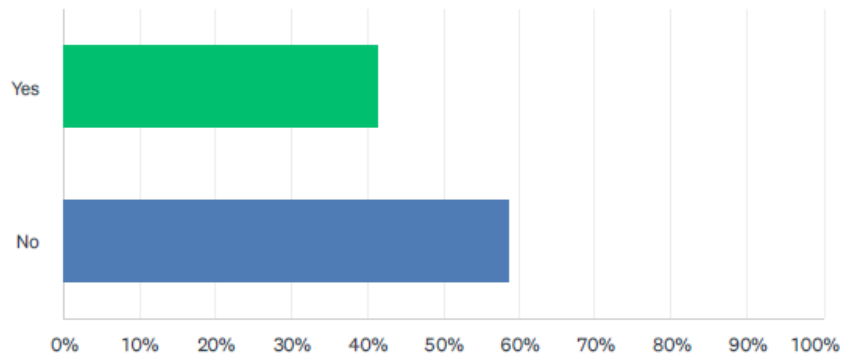


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Significantly better than 2023	27.78%	15
Slightly better than 2023	57.41%	31
Slightly worse than 2023	11.11%	6
Significantly worse than 2023	3.70%	2
TOTAL		54

Results continue on next page

Q2 Do you intend to employ additional technicians in 2024

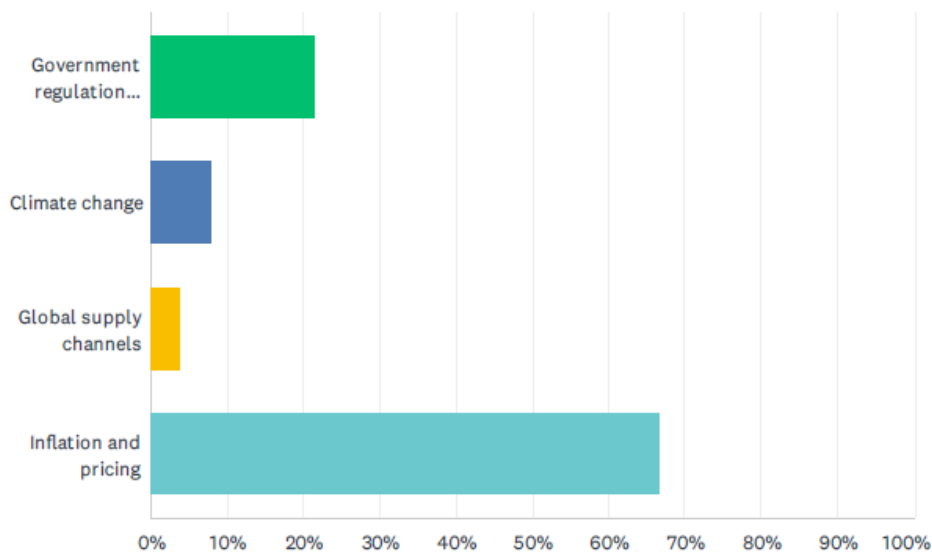
Answered: 46 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	41.30%	19
No	58.70%	27
TOTAL		46

Q3 What do you see as the biggest challenge for 2024

Answered: 51 Skipped: 3

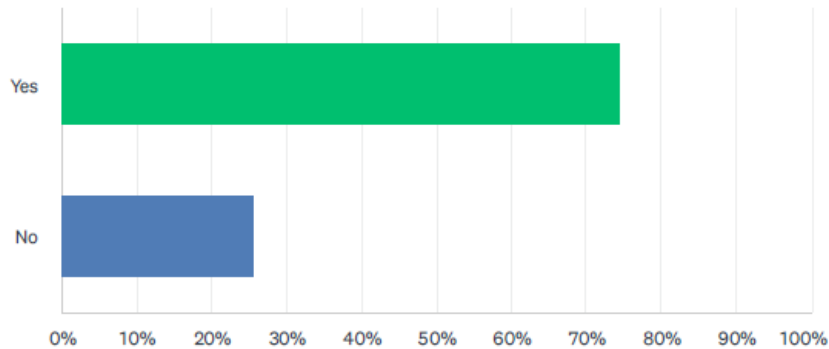


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Government regulation changes	21.57%	11
Climate change	7.84%	4
Global supply channels	3.92%	2
Inflation and pricing	66.67%	34
TOTAL		51

Results continue on next page

Q4 Will you change your pricing in 2024?

Answered: 47 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	74.47%	35
No	25.53%	12
TOTAL		47



PMANZ CONFERENCE 2024

"EMERGING CHALLENGES IN PEST MANAGEMENT"

This conference will focus on the evolving nature of pest management and the new challenges it presents. Discussions will cover the need for adaptive pest control strategies.

Thursday 29th and Friday 30th August 2024.

Your Executive is in the throes of finalising the speaker line up that will accompany Dr William Robertson in August 2024.

A full programme will be published in March with full registration details

Watch your email!

A walk down Memory Lane

Extracted from PMANZ Newsletter of
February 2016

Wasp control programme in Abel Tasman National Park



Wasps are not endemic to New Zealand and have a significant impact on the country's economy. An extensive wasp control programme will take place in Abel Tasman National Park over the summer to try and hold back the invasive species.

The operation will stretch along the 46km of the Abel Tasman Coast Track, include around 17 campsites and four huts, and account for 110 ha at Pitt Head and another 736 ha in the Falls River Block.

The Department of Conservation are conducting the push thanks to funding from Project Janszoon and the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve Fund, which in turn draws money from foreshore concession fees.

A protein bait called Vespex will be used to combat the wasps. Importantly, it contains a commonly used insecticide called fipronil, which does not impact on crucial bee populations.

The wasps gather the bait and return it to their nests, feeding it their larvae and destroying entire colonies thanks to a single bait station.

Vespex was developed by Nelson company Merchanto with help from DOC.

Project Janszoon director Devon McLean says a similar anti-wasp operation in February 2015 was successful, and took place as part of a pilot campaign by DOC.

"The pilot reduced wasp activity by more than 95% so this extended control programme should greatly improve visitors' experience of the Abel Tasman over summer and also provide substantial biodiversity benefits," says McLean.

Recent studies have found that wasps cost the New Zealand economy over \$130 million per year.

Wasps are not endemic to the country, and provide stiff competition with native birds, insects and honey bees for limited food supplies.

Chris Golding, DOC's Motueka Biodiversity Operations Manager, says this latest campaign will begin in the second half of January.

"We need to wait until the wasps are feeding on protein which could be any time from mid January. We will be using single lines of bait stations along the coastal track and around campsites. This is expected to reduce the nuisance to visitors who might see the odd stray wasp, but not experience the annoyance of past summers."

The operation in Abel Tasman will only cover public conservation land, but Merchanto says the Vespex wasp

bait can now be used on private land by people who take an online training test.

Continuing Professional Development

In our last newsletter we informed PMANZ members of a project to establish a Continuing Professional Development training system for Members. We are pleased to announce the first training modules will go live on the PMANZ website on 4th December!

Initially there are two web based training modules on Ant biology and control, with more to come as we add to the library.

Completing these modules will count towards achieving and maintaining Master Qualified Technician membership status (from April 2024).



To complete the modules members will first need to log in to the PMANZ website using your normal credentials, and then go to: <https://pmanz.nz/cpdmodules>

At this link you will see two training modules:

1. Click to open into a new window to be viewed like a slide show.
2. Once you have finished viewing the slideshow a link will take you to the CPD Quiz Page.
3. Once at the Quiz Page you will need to open the appropriate quiz and answer a few multi-choice questions based on what you just learned in the module.
4. Successful completion of the quiz will be recorded on your PMANZ user account.

NOTE: The modules and quizzes can be completed on both desk-top, mobile and tablet devices.

Aside from supporting you with professional development, Paul is able to provide technical support to members on a range of issues.

Paul can be contacted on paul@pmanz.nz



New Website System Updates

The main news on our system developments this month has been the “go live” on the interactive Finder Facility. Along with this, the old-school “Registered Technician by Region” page has now gone.

Just as a reminder, the Finder Facility allows prospective customers to search by pest type, locality and residential/commercial.

BUT....your business will NOT show to customers unless YOU populate your organisation’s account with the necessary information on pest types that you service and areas that you cover. This is all done in the “Finder results” section at the foot of the Edit tab on your organisation’s page. where you will need to select services for each area that your business services.

A lot of members have taken advantage of this facility and their business now shows in results for customers, BUT there are still quite a few who have yet to take the plunge.

Members who have done the work, tell us that this is really only a “five-minute job”, but, if in any doubt, call **David on 0800 476 269** for any help you need.

The “Finder Facility” allows prospective customers to search by pest type, locality and residential/commercial. The search screen they will use looks like this:

Find A Professional Pest Manager

To find properly qualified pest management in your area, just:

- click on “*I need help with*” to list pests types
- then click for your locality
- and, residential or commercial?
- Finally, click on “*Find services in my region*” to see a list of the businesses in your area who can assist

Click on the suggested results and you’ll see all the details you need to help get your pest problem resolved.

If you still have queries, please feel free to call PMANZ on: 0800 476 269

Every PMANZ member has been set up as a user on our new system. If you go to the homepage: <https://pmanz.nz/> you will find a button towards the right-hand side to login. Using your email address, you can create a password exclusive to yourself – the system will enable this through a “lost password” process.

Once you have done this, you will have full access to the members’ area and ALSO...

... you will be able to populate your own organisation’s service offering by pest type and locality and to feature when customers come looking!

Don’t forget – for any help you need.

Call David on **0800 476 269** or email him on info@pmanz.nz

Find resources and tips for small business owners to help you look after yourself and your team.

If you're suffering financial-related stress and anxiety, talk to your GP. They'll be able to assess where you're at and refer you to a specialist if necessary.

You can also access trained counsellors for free by texting or **calling 1737**. Find out more at 1737.org.nz:

1737.org.nz(external link)

Other mental health and wellbeing support can be found at Depression.org.nz:

Depression.org.nz(external link)

Sorted has free finance tools, guides and resources on its website:

Sorted.org.nz(external link)

If you want to talk to someone for support around debt or personal budget issues, you can ring the free

Money Talks helpline on 0800 345 123:

[Money Talks](https://MoneyTalks.org.nz)

Call or text for free support

If you have questions about government financial support or business help, call the COVID-19 Business Helpline:

North Island 0800 500 362 or

South Island 0800 505 096.

If you feel a bit overwhelmed, anxious or just

want to talk, free services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

call or text 1737 for support from a trained counsellor

Lifeline 0800 543 354 or text 4357

Samaritans 0800 726 666

[Helplines\(external link\)](#) — Mental Health Foundation

[Mental health and wellbeing support](#)

Source Information Provided by:



BUSINESS.
GOVT.NZ



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**
HIKINA WHAKATUTUKI



**Take the stress
out of tax**



NEED TAX GUIDANCE

Just click on the illustration to
take you to the IRD Tax
Toolbox

PMANZ website Statistics

For the two months between late November 2023 and late January 2024, the PMANZ website received 1634 visitors that viewed 2712 pages - that is an average of 1.7 pages per person. The top page views are listed below. This gives us a great indication of what pest activity is of current concern to the public.

Home	128
Flies	99
Find a Professional	62
Ants	42
Wasps	39
Latest newsletter	36
About us	28
Join us	23
Urban Pest Management Qualifications	22
Find a Professional (old page)	18
Spiders	17
Cockroaches	16
Mice	14
Rats	14
Bed Bugs	11
Alphabetical list of registered technicians	10
Why Ants Quiz	7
Ant Control Quiz	2

more than a membership
IT'S A PARTNERSHIP

NEW ZEALAND TECHNICIANS' FORUM

A big SHOUT-OUT to Gary Curran of Propest in Torbay who sorted-out a wasp nest in a ceiling of a lady on the North Shore. She was pleased with his service.

Well Done!

I received the thank you from her via a friend. Its great to get this excellent feedback from members of the public about our unsung pest heroes.

If you are not certain what wasp you are dealing with click on this link below to take you Landcare Research website where they have a great Wasp Identification guide. Happy hunting!

Click [HERE](#)



Common Wasp

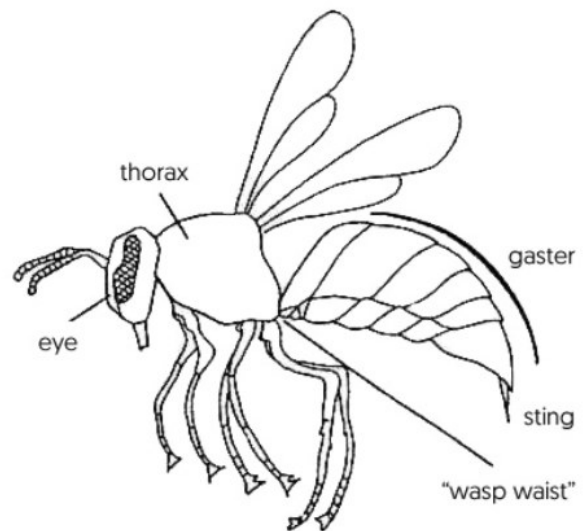


Diagram showing wasp body parts.

more than a membership
IT'S A PARTNERSHIP

Technical Hints

Cockroach Baiting Basics: 14 Do's and Don'ts

For most technicians, baiting has become the “go-to” treatment protocol for cockroach control. But even the finest tools used improperly will fail. To help ensure your technicians are applying baits in the most professional way possible, following are critical do's and don'ts of baiting from cockroach experts.

As industry product suppliers have continued to innovate, baiting has become the “go-to” treatment protocol for cockroach control. But even the finest tools used improperly will fail. To help ensure your technicians are applying baits in the most professional way possible, following are critical do's and don'ts of baiting from cockroach experts.

Do's:

1. Place bait close to or in cockroach harbourages. Use visual inspections, client sightings, and glue trap monitors to guide placements.
2. Apply bait to cracks and crevices, enough to kill present cockroaches. This protects bait from moisture loss in narrow cracks.
3. Inspect bait placements to ensure cockroaches are eating it. Rotate products if aversion is observed.
4. Clean up food residues and seal food storage containers to leave cockroaches with fewer alternative food sources.
5. Remove old bait with a putty knife. Carry a towel to wipe up bait drips and spills.
6. Read and follow the label. Adhere to crack and crevice instructions if specified.
7. Store baits at proper temperatures for effective application.

Don'ts:

1. Don't make just a few large bait placements; placing many smaller ones is more effective.
2. Don't make placements too small or they will dry out too quickly.
3. Don't place bait where pesticide has been sprayed, or where it may be washed away or mopped up.
4. Don't apply bait to food surfaces.
5. Don't place bait beyond the areas where cockroach activity has been detected.
6. Don't apply bait to hot surfaces, where it may melt or run.
7. Don't expect that gel baits are the only option for all cockroach control. Consider insect growth regulators and granular baits based on species and situation.

more than a membership
IT'S A PARTNERSHIP

