



## PineNet Newsletter

The newsletter for biosecurity readiness and response teams in the forestry sector

*Issues number 3/31 March 2017*

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2017. It's shaping up to be a busy year in biosecurity.

### **Joint MPI/FOA Forest Biosecurity Workshop**

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual workshop was held at Scion over 7 and 8 March and was attended by a good mix of MPI, industry, and research staff. The theme of the workshop was 'Time to get real: the bugs are here'. The focus was on planning real-life responses to an incursion. Angus Carnegie, from NSW's Department of Primary Industry's was the keynote speaker. His address focused on risks, costs and responses to incursions in Australia. He presented a number of statistics around the cost/benefit of various types of controls, and relayed a number of good, bad, and ugly emergency responses for New Zealand industry and government to learn from.

The second day of the workshop involved workshopping the response plans for nun moth and pine pitch canker with industry, technical experts and officials from MPI all sharing their expertise and knowledge. The exercise highlighted the need to make decisions quickly, based in available information, and to have clear processes for when industry is notified about an incursion.



The nun moth scenario team workshopping the urgent response meeting options – what do we know and what needs to be done urgently?

The keynote address and the programme for the workshop are here on the FOA website.

<http://www.nzfoa.org.nz/resources/file-libraries-resources/foa-workshop-conference-reports/forest-health-workshops/2017-7-and-8-march-rotorua>

## Forest Biosecurity Committee (FBC) updates

The FBC quarterly meeting was held prior to the workshop on 7 March. Fiona Roberts will be attending these meetings in 2017, along with Paul Stevens from MPI. Fiona is responsible for forestry and citrus in the MPI Intelligence, Planning and Coordination Directorate under GIA and has a good working relationship with FOA staff.

At the meeting there was a suggestion that FBC members and regional Wood Council members could be better connected. If you haven't already done so, it might be time to contact your FBC regional buddy and arrange a meeting or coffee catch up.

The GIA Secretariat is finalising a standardised template for Operational Agreements (OA) and it is hoped the forestry will be able to start discussions on this shortly, with the aim of signing an Agreement as soon as possible. FOA is currently reviewing the template signed between KVH and MPI to adapt to the forestry sector.

The FOA is also working on bringing the forest nurseries association into the forestry sector umbrella for the GIA. The process is being worked through with the association, FOA and MPI. FOA staff recently visited a forest nursery to understand the biosecurity precautions taken by nursery growers. It was clear that biosecurity starts at the seedling stage.



The new Forest Biosecurity System (FBS) is being piloted shortly and is being implemented with FOA and MPI funding. The new model is based on risk analysis and the pilot will determine where to put the most effort in.

## A guide to the National Biosecurity Capability Network (NBCN)

*How does the network work? And what might my role be in an incursion?*

These are two questions that people ask as it isn't always clear how the biosecurity system all works together.

The network is managed by Assure Quality and MPI and is intended to act as the field team in the event of an incursion. The network is designed to provide quick access to a range of resources in the event of an incursion. These are not necessarily biosecurity related. For example, the incursion response might need diggers and tractors to help destroy infected plants, other supplies such as fuel and equipment, as well as people with forestry-related skills and expertise. So you might be doing what you would normally do – waste management, veterinarian work, or setting traps, just under a commercial contract to Assure Quality/MPI.

If you would like to join the network call 0508 00 11 22 and speak to the biosecurity capability team. They also have a number of newsletters on their website here.

<https://www.asurequality.com/our-services/pest-and-disease-management-solutions/national-biosecurity-capability-network-nbcn/>

## Community-Based Social Marketing Workshop

A number of organisations, including FOA, contributed to a workshop by Doug McKenzie- Mohr in Hamilton focussing on how to enhance biosecurity using community-based social marketing. Put simply, the framework asks the biosecurity sector to think about and break down the biosecurity behaviours we want to encourage, and provides a framework for increasing the chances of these changes taking place. And not only being taken up, but being durable and visible to others.

The workshop focused on agriculture and horticulture examples and some lessons were shared by KVH about combating the level of complacency the growers can experience, even after a serious incursion. The workshop provided a number of tools and strategies for gaining social traction on desirable behaviours but it was clear from all the attendees that biosecurity needs firstly to determine the key behaviours that will provide 'bang for buck' on risk reduction. For example, which vectors are most likely to see an incursion, and therefore, what are the behaviours we need to ask people to undertake?

## Incursion updates

MPI formed a Governance Response to manage the **Eucalyptus variegated beetle (EVB)** incursion that was discovered by the FOA Forest Biosecurity Surveillance in March 2016. Due to the rapid spread of the insect in high winds last autumn the insect has now established in Hawkes Bay and management options are being investigated.

FOA is currently attending meetings in order to work with MPI to develop an Operational Agreement relating to the **Brown Marmorated Stink Bug**. Forestry is not an affected sector, and is not likely to be a host, but we are attending as an observer to keep in the loop with how this develops. A number of other sectors (avocadoes, horticulture, and kiwifruit vine health) are also involved as BMSB likes to eat a number of plant species.

A video showing a BMSB invasion is here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2sYldxVbmRQ&feature=youtu.be>

## PineNet folder

A PineNet folder has been created on the FOA website and will serve as a way to provide general information to members. <http://www.nzfoa.org.nz/resources/file-libraries-resources/forest-health/pinenet>

Please share this newsletter with others in your network or wood council.

For further information or questions, please contact Bill Dyck on 0274 742 161 [billdyck@xtra.co.nz](mailto:billdyck@xtra.co.nz) or Venise Comfort on 027 530 4443 [venise.comfort@nzfoa.org.nz](mailto:venise.comfort@nzfoa.org.nz)