
In this issue

In our first article, *The outlook for control of New Zealand's most abundant, widespread and damaging invertebrate pests: social wasps*, Phil Lester and colleagues introduce us to some startling facts about the invasive social wasps (*Vespula germanica* and *V. vulgaris*). Firstly, that in addition to being New Zealand's most widespread invertebrate pests, they can in large areas of native beech forest attain a biomass as great as, or greater than, the combined biomass of birds, rodents and stoats. Secondly, while toxic baits are extremely effective as control agents, the most effective pesticide, fipronil, is not currently available commercially for wasp control.

In their paper the authors discuss biocontrol agents and the need for further research in their use as well developing a suite of control tools. Both government and the public are urged to take action to control the wasp problem.

In his second instalment of NZAS's history, *The mechanism of prosperity: New Zealand Association of Scientists 1954–73*, Geoff Gregory commences with the following remarks taken from Dr Brian Shorland's 1955 Presidential address,

The issue is: Have the authorities properly looked after the mechanism of prosperity and not only retained the best scientists but attracted further talent from overseas?

This, as Geoff indicates, was the issue that occupied a prominent part of the Association's activities over most of the next twenty years. Time and time again, representations were made to Government and officials about the need to provide competitive salaries and working conditions for New Zealand's scientific workforce.

As in his first article, Geoff gives us an insight into the activity of NZAS during the period in question and by doing so, highlights important issues facing New Zealand at that time, including the need for professional training and status for science technicians, development of a national science policy framework, and the rise of the environmental movement. He concludes with mention of the challenges ahead from the impending oil crisis and radical changes in New Zealand's main markets. We will, however, need to wait for Geoff's next instalment for this to be revealed.

Also in this issue we carry NZAS 72nd Annual Report, that of the Treasurer and the audited Financial Statement for the year ending 31 July 2013. The Association's awards for 2013 are announced and, as mentioned in the preliminary notice for the 2014 annual conference (see p. 81), will be presented at the conference in April.

Enjoy!

Allen Petrey
Editor