



NEW ZEALAND BIOSECURITY AWARDS 2017

Recognising our biosecurity team of 4.7 million





Recognising our biosecurity team of 4.7 million

THE SUPREME AWARD

Recognises the category winner which demonstrated excellence in action towards maintaining biosecurity within New Zealand.

COMMUNITY AWARD

Recognises individuals and groups that have committed to a project or body of work that supports biosecurity in New Zealand.

GOVERNMENT AWARD

Recognises individuals and groups within government that have demonstrated a significant contribution to supporting or improving New Zealand's biosecurity integrity.

INDUSTRY AWARD

Recognises individuals, groups or organisations in industry that have demonstrated a significant contribution to supporting or improving New Zealand's biosecurity integrity.

MĀORI AWARD

Recognises individuals and groups that have committed to a project or body of work that supports biosecurity in New Zealand.

MINISTER'S AWARD

To recognise an individual who has made at least 10 years of continuous outstanding contribution to biosecurity in New Zealand.

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



WHAT IS BIOSECURITY?

Biosecurity is the exclusion, eradication or management of pests and diseases that pose a risk to the economy, environment, cultural and social values, including human health. It's all about protecting our taonga, the things that we value – and is a key part of being a New Zealander

CONTENTS

Message from the Minister for Primary Industries, Hon. Nathan Guy 1

Message from the Ministry for Primary Industries Director-General, Martyn Dunne 2

Introduction to the Awards Judging Panel 3

New Zealand Biosecurity Awards Winners

Minister's Biosecurity Award 5

Community Award 7

Industry Award 9

Government Award 11

Māori Award 13

Supreme Award 16

Thank-you 18



FROM THE MINISTER

New Zealand is unique and precious, and we need to protect it.

Biosecurity is a vital part of growing and protecting New Zealand's primary sector, tourism, and our everyday way of life. We already have a strong and effective biosecurity system which is widely regarded as one of the world's best.

However, threats we face are growing in scale and complexity. Growth and diversity in trade and tourism, changing risk pathways, climate change, and pressure from established pests are just some of the pressures we face.

Biosecurity is a shared responsibility. It impacts everyone. Whether you're a farmer, grower, gardener, tramper, business person, or nature lover, we all reap the benefits of having good biosecurity, and we all suffer the consequences – and even the smallest action makes a difference.

The Government's forward-focussed project to strengthen New Zealand's biosecurity system, Biosecurity 2025: A Direction Statement for New Zealand's biosecurity system acknowledges that we're all part of a team of 4.7 million. We all have a role to play in protecting our taonga, the things we value.

Only with everyone doing their part will the biosecurity system remain resilient, and successful. These awards celebrate that work.

Hon Nathan Guy
Minister for Primary Industries



FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

The New Zealand Biosecurity Awards recognise and celebrate people across New Zealand who are making important contributions to New Zealand's biosecurity – in our communities, businesses, government, in the bush and in our backyards.

For these inaugural awards, the calibre and number of entries received far surpassed our expectations and made it a challenging job for our panel of judges to choose the most deserving winners. Everyone involved found it extremely rewarding to be part of the process and to hear about the number of fantastic programmes and activities underway across New Zealand.

This year's winners are being celebrated for the outstanding contribution they've made to New Zealand's biosecurity within the last five years across six categories. The categories are; community, maori, industry, government, supreme (chosen from the winners of the first four categories) and a Minister's biosecurity award (for an individual who has made at least 10 years of continuous outstanding contribution to biosecurity in New Zealand).

I'd like to congratulate all the entrants and winners and thank you for your ongoing contribution to New Zealand's biosecurity.

I'd also like to thank the judging panel who accepted the challenge without question and gave up their own time to review the many applications received.

Martyn Dunne
Director-General
Ministry for Primary Industries

INTRODUCTION TO THE AWARDS JUDGING PANEL



DR JOHN HELLSTRÖM ONZM

John chaired the Biosecurity Council from 1997-2003 and led the development and publication of the 2003 Biosecurity Strategy.

Subsequently he chaired a group to peer review the Biosecurity 2025 Direction Statement. He was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) for Services to Biosecurity in 2011 and received Minister's Award for Biosecurity in 2016.



NADINE TUNLEY

Nadine has been Chairman of Pipfruit NZ since August 2012, her involvement in the industry began just prior to deregulation in 2001.

Nadine is also a Director with Lincoln Hub He Puna Karikari and CEO Watson & Son LP, New Zealand's largest integrated apiary business. Nadine has always been associated to the primary industries having also worked in seafood and the dairy sectors.



DARION EMBLING

Darion Embling is the Biosecurity Pest Plant Team Leader for Waikato Regional Council and President of the New Zealand Biosecurity Institute.

He has been in the Biosecurity world for over 15 years where he has been involved in a wide range of steering and technical advisory groups to include Kauri Dieback, National Pest Plant Accord, Velvetleaf and more recently Biosecurity 2025.



SUE YEREX

Sue Yerex spent sixteen years in rural banking prior to becoming a dry stock farmer in the Lake Taupo catchment with her husband in 1998.

Sue has developed her governance career over the past 12 years, predominantly in environmental protection and conservation roles which currently include Deputy Chair of the Lake Taupo Protection Trust; Director, Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust; Chair of the Regional Council Lake Taupo Catchment Committee and member of the Biosecurity Ministerial Advisory Committee.



KAREN ADAIR

Karen is Group Manager, Policy and Sector Performance at the Ministry for Culture and Heritage.

Prior to this Karen was Director Food and Regulatory Policy at the Ministry for Primary Industries. Karen has experience right across government in strategic policy, regulatory systems and law reform.



KELLY BINGHAM

Kelly is a current postgraduate student studying Environmental Management at the University of Auckland, with keen interests in biosecurity and community conservation.

Current projects she is involved with include the Sustainable Seas National Science Challenge and the Biosecurity 2025 4.7 million working group, where she is on board as a youth representative.

Don McKenzie

Don McKenzie is a leader in regional biosecurity.

***Minister's
Biosecurity
Award
for Outstanding Contribution***

Northland Regional Council

As Biosecurity Manager at Northland Regional Council, he has worked tirelessly for better biosecurity in Northland. He has empowered his team, his council, and his community to develop a range of marine and land-based biosecurity programmes, some of which are world leading.

Because of Don, marine biosecurity for the Northland Regional Council now has the most advanced programmes for dealing with hull fouling in the world. They inspect more vessels, treat more vessels, have more integrated management, and a huge amount community support.

Looking to the future, the Northland Regional Council, under Don's leadership, is stepping up all aspects of its marine biosecurity programme. This year they will complete the processes to make New Zealand's first integrated Regional Pest Management Plan and Pathways Plan operative. They will step up from surveying 1000 vessels per year to 2000 and will continue to lead and inspire the Top of the North inter-regional collaboration.

Don's influence on marine biosecurity in Northland is ongoing and it is acknowledged that his approach to managing marine biosecurity could make a huge difference to our entire country if it was adopted by every regional council in New Zealand.

But it's not just marine biosecurity that Don is passionate about. Over two decades, Don has continued to push for a wild deer free Northland, a campaign which has been running for 20 years and is still relevant. He was also the key driver in the development of a national Biosecurity Act enforcement manual used by Regional Councils throughout the country.

More recently Don reorganised the biosecurity approach in Northland to better support MPI with new incursions such as fruit fly events.

Don's commitment to biosecurity in Northland is ongoing and this is reflected in his recent completion of a post graduate degree in biosecurity. He also leads training and development opportunities with his team, the wider community and school groups. He is also continuing to learn Te Reo to better engage with Maori communities on hapu restoration projects.

Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust

The Wildside Project, coordinated by the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust (BPCT) with government agency partners and driven by the Wildside community is perhaps the longest running landowner driven predator control project in the country.

Highly Commended: Motutapu Restoration Trust

Community Award

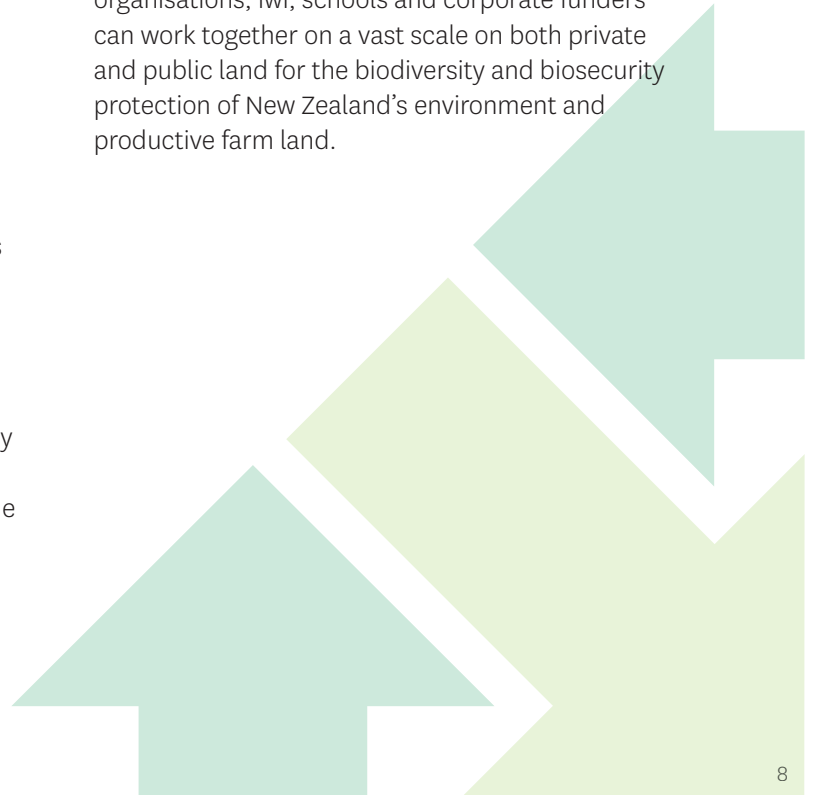
Wildside Project

With 30 years of stoat, ferret and wild cat control for the protection of white-flipped little blue penguins (endemic to Banks Peninsula with the largest penguin colony on mainland New Zealand at Flea Bay), yellow-eyed penguins (endangered and at their northern breeding range on Banks Peninsula) and titi or sooty shearwater (protected at their last mainland breeding site in Canterbury).

Predator control on the Wildside didn't start from a push from local or national government agencies, it was the landowners who saw the problem and initiated the response. They noticed a decline in penguin numbers but didn't know the cause until a farmer showing a visitor a penguin nest under the woolshed floor found a ferret inside the nest eating the two chicks. He went for his shotgun, killed the ferret and with that started a predator control operation that now covers 7000ha, 10 Banks Peninsula bays, over 25 farms and includes 750 predator traps.

These landowners and the wider community have invested 30 years of their own funds and time into this public resource on private land, not for monetary gain but from a sense of responsibility for the protection of these taonga species and the love of the natural world.

The Wildside is a great example of how partnerships with government agencies, landowners, community organisations, iwi, schools and corporate funders can work together on a vast scale on both private and public land for the biodiversity and biosecurity protection of New Zealand's environment and productive farm land.



Port of Tauranga Limited

Port of Tauranga Limited is providing strong biosecurity leadership within the freight and logistics sector, through its Biosecurity Excellence at Port of Tauranga initiative.

Highly Commended: New Zealand Plant Producers Incorporated (NZPPI)

Industry Award

Biosecurity Excellence at Port of Tauranga

Working in partnership with Kiwifruit Vine Health, the Ministry for Primary Industries and other government agencies, industry and science organisations their goal is that there are no biosecurity incursions coming through the Port of Tauranga.

The partnership encourages everyone who works around the Port to play their role in keeping pests out of New Zealand, including the wider freight and logistics sector (all Transitional Facilities in the Bay of Plenty) and the local Mount Maunganui community living near the port.

This is a community of 10,000+ people operating on the front line, who are a key part of the biosecurity team of 4.7m New Zealanders.

To achieve no biosecurity incursions coming through the Port of Tauranga the partnership are working together to sustain a port community committed to biosecurity excellence.

Activities include a biosecurity induction for all port workers; awareness campaigns focused on key pests such as Brown Marmorated Stink Bug; hosting “Biosecurity Week” in the Bay of Plenty; wide distribution of calendars, wall planners and other collateral showing potential pest risks; biosecurity alerts (e.g., for BMSB, myrtle rust and red vented bulbul) and regular biosecurity communication with the port community.

The approach also includes improving collective understanding of the biosecurity risks faced locally, pursuing innovation in areas such as Port surveillance, and understanding how the different activities or new technologies impact on biosecurity performance.

A key focus for the initiative is to develop a model that can be adapted and applied nationally across all Ports - something that can realistically be achieved by 2025.

Port of Tauranga’s commitment to biosecurity excellence and actions and investments are speaking volumes. It has the potential to significantly reduce the number of incursions coming in through our ports and airport, including hundreds of thousands of people working in or closely associated with marine and airports being more knowledgeable, aware and committed to playing their part in the biosecurity system.

Department of Conservation

The Great White Butterfly Eradication Project was a four-year project led by the Department of Conservation (DOC) to eliminate a pest butterfly from New Zealand. It was the first eradication of an unwanted butterfly population in the world.

Highly Commended: Marine Biosecurity Programme, Northland Regional Council

Highly Commended: Top of the South (TOS) Marine Biosecurity Partnership

Government Award

Great White Butterfly Eradication Project

The Great White Butterfly is a significant pest of brassica crops in numerous countries across Europe and western Asia. Its caterpillars feed voraciously in groups, rapidly reducing host plants to a skeleton.

For New Zealand, it posed a major threat to our 79 native cress species, especially the 57 at risk of extinction. It also would have been damaging to commercial and farm forage brassica crops as well as being a menace in home gardens.

The Great White Butterfly was first found in Nelson in 2010 following a Nelson resident reporting the find to the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), triggering a biosecurity response. After a period of surveillance and careful deliberation, MPI and DOC agreed that DOC would take responsibility for the project, which was launched in 2012.

Once fully underway, the project had the largest field team within the Department of Conservation at the time. Rangers worked predominantly in an urban environment, visiting properties and checking plants (mainly vegetable brassicas) for the pest in various stages of its life cycle. They carried out more than 263,800 searches of around 30,000 properties in Nelson city and surrounding areas.

The project had tremendous support from the Nelson Tasman community and involved them in a number of ways, including holding awareness-raising activities at local events, a team entry in the local Arts

Festival parade, and offering a \$10 bounty for dead great white butterflies during the 2013 spring school holidays which proved a hit with school children who netted 134 great white butterflies.

By December 2014, the number of detections had dropped to zero, and remained this way over a sustained period of surveillance until the Ministry of Primary Industries declared the eradication successful in 2016.

Taking on this task was audacious for many reasons, but primarily for the fact that it had not been done before. A large effort was made to bring knowledge, experience and innovation together to assess how an eradication could be achieved. It was this professional knowledge that gave the project momentum, defined the boundaries of the task at hand, and made it possible to overcome obstacles.

The eradication was also unique because the public made such a large contribution towards the success of the project. The Great White Butterfly eradication was a success because public support was strong. A great example of how communities and organisations can become part of our biosecurity team of 4.7 million.

Te Tira Whakamātaki

Te Tira Whakamātaki – the Māori Biosecurity Network – was established in 2015 to help understand how Māori knowledge, interests and values can be embedded in New Zealand’s biosecurity system.

Highly Commended: The Karioi Project, Te Whaanga 2B3B2 & 2B1 Ahu Whenua Trust (AWT)

Māori Award

Maori Biosecurity Network

The Network, whose name means ‘the watchful (vigilant) ones’, was established to ensure Māori have a voice in New Zealand’s biosecurity systems and Government Industry Agreements (GIA); guard biosecurity processes to ensure the Māori voice is being heard, and Māori are being included; provide or solicit biosecurity research that includes Māori perspectives and solutions, and advocate the effects of biosecurity threats and policy on Māori social policy, political strategy, economic interests, technology and culture.

There has long been a need for a Māori-led organisation to coordinate, engage and involve Māori in biosecurity, and this team have established the perfect vehicle. During the last three years the team have made substantial progress: they have consulted extensively with Māori; developed a strong identity and mandate for Te Tira Whakamātaki; assembled an experienced and well-respected executive team; and will soon have a legal structure and kawa (protocols) in place.

The need for Te Tira Whakamātaki was highlighted in early 2017 with the first detection of myrtle rust on Raoul Island. This disease-causing fungus could devastate taonga trees under the kaitiaki of iwi in the North Island. The Network has become a source of reliable information for Māori and is continuing to consult with them to ensure that they have a voice in the resulting biosecurity response and decision-making process. This is especially important in regions where there is traditionally low levels of trust between Māori and government officials.

While most of Te Tira Whakamātaki’s engagement with Māori has been through face-to-face meetings, they have also released position statements to provide iwi with information about myrtle rust (following the Raoul Island incursion) and the brown marmorated stink bug. The Network has become a source of knowledge and trusted information for iwi and Māori.

By harnessing the contribution, skills and views of Māori, who have the longest memory of our environment and ecosystems, Te Tira Whakamātaki are helping to ensure that New Zealand’s biosecurity system is robust, resilient and representative of the country as a whole.



Department of Conservation

Great White Butterfly Eradication Project

“Nelson citizen’s effort to eradicate the Great White Butterfly is a wonderful example of what we are hoping to realise for Biosecurity 2025: A biosecurity team of 4.7 million.”

Dr John Hellström, Chair of the New Zealand Biosecurity Awards judging panel

Supreme Award



We'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in the inaugural New Zealand Biosecurity Awards 2017.

The level of entries far surpassed our expectations; a testament to our biosecurity team of 4.7 million who are taking steps every day to protect our unique environment.

We're extremely excited to see how this progresses for 2018 and look forward to hearing from more communities and organisations across New Zealand.



If you'd like to take
part in the New Zealand
Biosecurity Awards 2018,
keep an eye on our website.
We anticipate entries will
be open July 2018.

www.mpi.govt.nz







NEW ZEALAND BIOSECURITY AWARDS

Recognising our biosecurity team of 4.7 million

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

