

[Home](#)[Research](#)[Education](#)[Profile](#)[Contacts](#)

CRC Plant Biosecurity now operational...

The Cooperative Research Centre for National Plant Biosecurity became operational on 18 November 2005 when the signed Agreements were delivered and accepted by the Department of Education, Science and Training. I would like to thank all participants who assisted us in getting the Agreements signed, executed and delivered, as well as Tania Kearsley from FAL lawyers who managed this process and ensured we made it to the point now where the CRC is operational.

I officially commenced employment with the CRC on 28 November 2005 and my first challenge has been to set up the new office and make it functional. The Centre's office contact details are on the [last page of this newsletter](#).

I foresee an exciting future for the CRC for National Plant Biosecurity, with the focus on broad projects that will benefit all plant industries, and real outcomes that will benefit the grower on the ground.

As has been outlined in our Strategic Plan, the CRC for National Plant Biosecurity will play a vital role in enhancing the scientific effort to enable Australia's plant industries to pre-empt and, therefore, diminish the economic, social and environmental impact of Emergency Plant Pests and will supply the scientific expertise and training to increase Australia's capacity to deal with future plant biosecurity incursions.

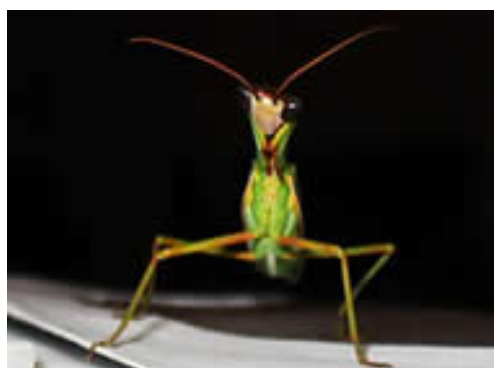
The CRC for National Plant Biosecurity is all about collaborative research and it is important that the Centre is seen as the facilitator of leading-edge cooperative/collaborative plant biosecurity projects and not just another funding body.

In the new year, I will be travelling to meet with all participant organisations to discuss the full involvement and best utilisation of our resources.

I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and look forward to the commencement of our first projects in January 2006.



Simon McKirdy
CEO





Research Update

At the November CRCNPB Board meeting, a small set of projects was approved for commencement on 1 January 2006, listed below. These projects include three funded by GRDC, two larger projects funded by the CRC funds and four PhD scholarships.

CURRENT CRCNPB RESEARCH PROJECTS

Program 1: Preparedness & Prevention

- Project 1.1: Early warning of pre-emergent emergency plant pest threats.
- Project 1.2: Biotic factors affecting the spread of a small wind dispersed insect. [PhD Project]
- Project 1.3: Biotic factors affecting the spread of an air-borne/splash-borne fungus. [PhD Project]

Program 2: Diagnostics

- Project 2.1: Improved Karnal Bunt Diagnostic.

Program 4: Impact Management

- Project 4.1: Virulence of Russian Wheat Aphid.
- Project 4.2: Development of an economic module as a key component of a national predictive simulation system.
- Project 4.3: Postgraduate Training in Terrestrial Data Assessment. [PhD Project]

Program 6: Commercialisation and Utilisation

- Project 6.1: National Surveillance Strategy for the Grains Industry.
- Project 6.2: Community engagement in biosecurity – the OrdGuard case study. [PhD Project]

Discussions still continue with RIRDC to finalise the details of some projects. We encourage discussion with the relevant Program leaders to assist the Science Committee in developing collaborative projects that will address the Strategic Plan of the CRC and the Milestones listed in the Commonwealth Agreement (contact details for program leaders are provided on the [last page of this newsletter](#)).



[Strategic Plan](#)
download online

Strategic Plan

CRC Plant Biosecurity's Strategic Plan was endorsed by Participants and approved by the Board in October. It is now being printed and will be made available on the CRCNPB website www.crcplantbiosecurity.com.au (currently under development) in the near future. In the meantime, please email [Simon McKirdy](#) to obtain an electronic or hard copy of the Strategic Plan.

Project Selection Process

The following Project Selection Process was endorsed by Participants and approved by the Board in October 2005. The brief overview of the project selection process is given below (a full copy can be found in the Centre's Strategic Plan).

1. **Preliminary Proposal:** preliminary project proposals will be developed by CRC staff (employees committed by participants) and submitted to the relevant Program Leader. Proposals will be sought in January of each year.
2. **Project Evaluation:** in consultation with the project proposer, through the Program leader, a Project Proposal is developed and forwarded to the Science Committee for consideration. Specifically, new CRC NPB projects will be evaluated on their capacity and ability to demonstrate: CRCNPB's objectives; project leadership; quality of science; project outcomes; collaboration; and technology adoption.
3. **Project Approval :** The CRCNPB Science Committee assesses all new and continuing projects and makes recommendations to the Board, via the CEO, for its consideration. The CRCNPB Board is responsible for determining the projects that are to be undertaken.
4. **Project review:** The Science Committee, along with science peers, reviews progress towards milestones and outputs from each project.



Honours Scholarships in Plant Biosecurity

The Cooperative Research Centre for National Plant Biosecurity invites interested students to apply for Honours Scholarships.

Honours Scholarships at the CRC for National Plant Biosecurity are offered in four separate fields:

1. **Preparedness and Prevention** (CRCNPB Research Program 1);
2. **Diagnostics** (CRCNPB Research Program 2);
3. **Surveillance** (CRCNPB Research Program 3); and
4. **Impact Management** (CRCNPB Research Program 4).

The scholarship holder will have a unique opportunity to interact with all participants of the CRC and to gain a detailed understanding of Australia's plant biosecurity system.

The scholarships are worth \$5,000 each and will be available from 1 January 2006. Students do not have to be enrolled at CRCNPB-affiliated universities to take advantage of Centre scholarships.

For further information on Honours projects, please contact the relevant CRCNPB research program leader (contact details for program leaders are provided on the [last page of this newsletter](#)).

Scholarship applications may be sent by email to the Chief Executive Officer, Dr Simon McKirdy, at s.mckirdy@crcplantbiosecurity.com.au. Applications should include:

- a brief outline of the proposed Honours project;
- contact details of project supervisors; and
- a copy of the applicant's academic transcript.

For students commencing in semester 1, applications should be received no later than **28 February 2006**.

*Know any students
with an interest in
plant biosecurity?*

*The CRC for
National Plant
Biosecurity is
offering Honours
scholarships in
plant biosecurity
worth \$5,000
each.*





Profile: David Eagling



David Eagling
Program Manager
Program 4: Impact Management

A thumbnail sketch of CRCNPB's Program Manager for Program 4: Impact Management, Dr David Eagling...

Where he comes from:

Employed as: Key Project Manager: Product Integrity, Department of Primary Industries, Victoria.

Describes his career path in one sentence as: a journey from research in plant and insect virology via horticulture extension and new industry development to program management in biosecurity and market access.

What he does at CRCNPB

Works as: Manager, Program 4: Impact Management. **Decided to be involved with CRCNPB because of:** the opportunity to contribute at the national and international level. **Would like to see:** enhanced impact and recognition of Australian biosecurity R&D. **Expectations for the CRC include:** international recognition and a lasting national legacy.

What you should know about him

Interests: Music.

Profile: David's preferred bubble wrap strategy indicates that he is a **Twist and Shout Popper**. This suggests that he is unconventional, independent and individualistic, with the freedom to plot his own course. David is action-oriented and likes to see results for his efforts. If he weren't already a project manager, David would be well suited to a career as an entrepreneur, culinary chef or safari guide.

Indicates that his preferred bubble wrap popping strategy is to:

- 1) Pop each bubble individually, starting at the top and moving across the rows to the bottom of the sheet
- 2) Randomly choose bubbles to pop, slowly squeeze the air out of each bubble for maximum effect while displaying the pinched bubble for all to see
- 3) Throw Bubble Wrap ® material on the floor and stomp on it
- 4) Grasp it firmly in both hands and twist, popping the bubbles in rapid fire succession**
- 5) Prefer to pop bubbles only from left to right or right to left
- 6) Always keep a stash of Bubble Wrap ® material on hand for quick pick-me-up or stress reliever
- 7) Quickly get on the internet and research what the implications for answering any of the above questions might be.

[Home](#)[Research](#)[Education](#)[Profile](#)[Contacts](#)

KEY CONTACTS

CRC for National Plant Biosecurity

2/4 Phipps Close
Deakin ACT 2600
Phone (02) 6163 6200
Fax (02) 6162 1297
Email info@crcplantbiosecurity.com.au
Web crcplantbiosecurity.com.au
[website under construction]

Chairman, Interim Board

Professor John Lovett
Phone (02) 6227 5050
Email lovettassociates@bigpond.com

Chief Executive Officer

Dr Simon McKirdy
Phone (02) 6163 6200
Email s.mckirdy@crcplantbiosecurity.com.au

Science Coordinator

Dr James Ridsdill-Smith
Phone (08) 9333 6640
Email j.ridsdill-smith@crcplantbiosecurity.com.au

PROGRAM LEADERS

P1: Preparedness & Prevention

Dr Paul DeBarro
Phone (07) 3214 2811
Email p.debarro@crcplantbiosecurity.com.au

P2: Diagnostics

Dr Caroline Hauxwell
Phone (07) 3896 9362
Email c.hauxwell@crcplantbiosecurity.com.au

P3: Surveillance

Dr Darryl Hardie
Phone (08) 9368 3799
Email d.hardie@crcplantbiosecurity.com.au

P4: Impact Management

Dr David Eagling
Phone (03) 9210 9292
Email d.eagling@crcplantbiosecurity.com.au

P5: Education & Training

tba

P6: Delivery & Adoption

tba

PARTICIPANTS

Core Participants

- [Plant Health Australia Ltd](#)
- [Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries](#)
- [CSIRO Entomology](#)
- [Western Australia Department of Agriculture](#)
- [Victoria Department of Primary Industries](#)
- [Queensland Department of Primary Industries & Fisheries](#)
- [New South Wales Department of Primary Industries](#)
- [South Australian Research and Development Institute](#)
- [Murdoch University](#)
- [Charles Darwin University](#)
- [Grains Research and Development Corporation](#)
- [Saturn Biotech Limited](#)

Supporting Participants

- [University of Adelaide](#)
- [Horticulture Australia Ltd](#)
- [Northern Territory Dept of Business, Industry and Resource Development](#)
- [Rural Industry Research and Development Corporation](#)
- [Southern Cross University](#)