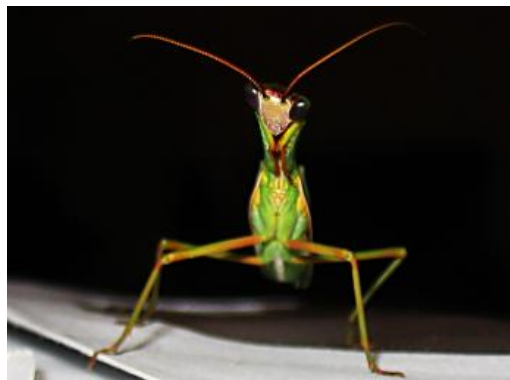


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CRC for National Plant Biosecurity - 2004 Bid



New Interim CEO & Science Coordinator: After a lengthy search, we welcome Bill Roberts as the CRC for National Plant Biosecurity's new interim CEO, with James Ridsdill-Smith stepping up to be the CRCNPB's Science Coordinator. Read more about Bill and James in the [Profiles](#) section of this newsletter.



Ian Muirhead Retiring: Ian Muirhead has decided to hang up his laptop and retire. Ian has worked for many years as a consultant in plant health and biosecurity since leaving the Queensland Department of Primary Industries. Along with Margaret McGrath, Ian took on the task of turning a good idea into a final CRC proposal. Despite retirement Ian has agreed to provide further assistance to the CRC if it is needed – you can't keep a good consultant down! We would like to take this opportunity to thank Ian for his hard work in preparing the crucial early stages of the bid and we wish him all the best for his retirement (John Lovett says he'll believe it when he sees it!).

Potential New Participant: the Victorian Department of Primary Industries has expressed interest in joining our collaborative research effort. Active negotiations on VDPI's participation are taking place. Read more about the Centre's members in the [Participants](#) section of this newsletter.



Biosecurity Election Promises: The CRCNPB team is watching the current Federal election closely for policy decisions which might affect the bid's success. As we write this newsletter, the Liberal Party has announced that it would establish a "Centre of Excellence for Risk Analysis" if re-elected, although there is no mention of new funding for plant biosecurity science. Amongst other upgraded quarantine measures worth \$26 million over 4 years, the Liberal Party has announced that Biosecurity Australia would become a fully (financially) independent agency of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Interview Preparation: Despite the confusion caused by the current election around dates for interviews, preparation is well underway for the CRC NPB. Program leaders spent a valuable two days with the Science Coordinator in Canberra recently refining the science program and developing a draft presentation for the interview.... Read more about the interview preparation in the [Status](#) section of this newsletter.



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Status of the Bid: Shortlisted applicants were originally expected to be notified of interviews by 23 September 2004 with interviews to be conducted over the period 5-29 October. The current Federal election has caused a delay in the selection process for CRC applications, however, and the CRC Secretariat in the Department of Education Science and Training has informed us that the CRC selection process is on hold until after the Australian election. This means that the interviews originally scheduled for October will be substantially delayed, although feedback from political sources indicates that the round will proceed as planned... stay tuned! The [CRC](#) Committee are still expected to make recommendations to the (new?) Minister on those applications that should be funded in Dec 2004, with the CRC beginning operations on 1 July 2005.

Preparation for interview: Despite the confusion around dates for interviews, preparation is well underway. Program leaders spent a valuable two days with the Science Coordinator in Canberra recently refining the science program and developing a draft presentation for the interview. On the second day, the program committee met with some members of the Steering Committee and outside invitees to develop a draft presentation and carry out a mock interview. Dr Graham McMaster, Chief Executive of BRI Australia Ltd, generously attended the practice run to critique the draft presentation. Graham, along with Peter Baverstock and John Lovett, were involved in the successful bid to establish the CRC for Innovative Grain Food Products in CRC Round 8. Some very valuable feedback was provided by this experience, including the need to further develop some of the proposed business arrangements for the CRC. It will be particularly important for us to focus on those points which differentiate our bid from "the competition". The presentation is being refined and we are seeking the assistance of Sue McKell from the CRC for Tropical Plant Protection to apply an appropriate amount of polish. A further preparation meeting is planned for mid-October.

Research program planning: CRCNPB's research leaders have been meeting with Centre Participants (including PHA, DAFF and DAFF-associated groups, State Departments, and research providers) to further refine the Centre's research projects, looking for synergies from collaborative research to address Australia 's biosecurity needs. The aim is to prioritise projects that will profit from cross-organisation collaboration and to use CRC money to create capabilities that would not otherwise be possible, thereby developing a research program that will be the best response to industries' needs. The CRC's projects will be designed to tackle those issues that individual organisations would not otherwise be able to address on their own. The process of shaping our research program will continue for some time yet and there are still opportunities for influencing projects within programs. Please contact the relevant Program Manager for input and further information.





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CRCNPB Interim CEO & Science Coordinator



Bill Roberts

Interim CEO

Bill Roberts, from the Australian Government's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, has accepted the invitation of the Steering Committee to take on the role of interim CEO.

Bill has extensive experience in plant biosecurity and risk analysis and has been a Board member of the CRC for Tropical Plant Protection. He was Australia's Chief Plant Protection Officer until early 2003 when he assumed the role of Coordinator of the International Plant Protection Convention at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome. Since returning from Rome he has been working in the Product Integrity, Animal and Plant Health area of the Department.



James Ridsdill-Smith

Science Coordinator

The Steering Committee was delighted that James Ridsdill-Smith, Strategy Director from CSIRO Entomology in Perth agreed to take on the role of science co-ordinator. James has been a member of the planning group for this CRC bid all year, and is now working closely with the program leaders to further develop the scientific program. James has considerable experience in

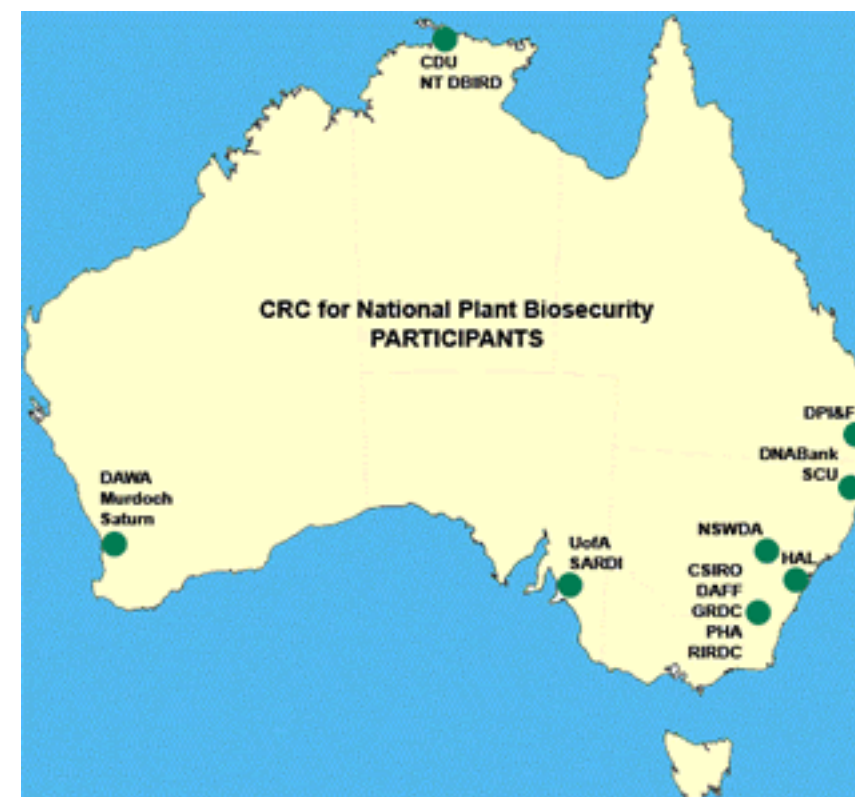
developing collaborative research and research planning both in CSIRO and as a GRDC Western Panel member. In the CRC for Mediterranean Agricultural Research, he was leader of the pest and disease group. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Science and Engineering and the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology.

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As the name suggests, Cooperative Research Centres are about cooperating to achieve better outcomes. The organisations listed below are supporting the *National Plant Biosecurity CRC bid 2004*. The CRC NPB welcomes the Victorian Department of Primary Industries to the team, and the Steering Committee is continuing to develop better networks and linkages with States and other organisations that are not yet formal participants, other CRCs, additional SMEs and other countries. More information will be provided as these links are formalised.

CRC for National Plant Biosecurity - Bid Participants

1. [Australian Plant DNA Bank](#)
2. [Charles Darwin University \(CDU\)](#)
3. [CSIRO Entomology](#)
4. [Department of Agriculture Western Australia \(DAWA\)](#)
5. [Dept of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries \(DAFF\)](#)
6. [Grains Research and Development Corporation \(GRDC\)](#)
7. [Horticulture Australia Ltd \(HAL\)](#)
8. [Murdoch University](#)
9. [New South Wales Dept. of Primary Industries \(NSWDPI\)](#)
10. [Northern Territory Dept of Business, Industry and Resource Development \(NT DBIRD\)](#)
11. [Plant Health Australia Ltd \(PHA Ltd\)](#)
12. [Old Dept. of Primary Industries & Fisheries \(QDPI&F\)](#)
13. [Rural Industry Research and Development Corporation \(RIRDC\)](#)
14. [Saturn Biotech Limited](#)
15. [Southern Cross University \(SCU\)](#)
16. [South Australian Research and Development Institute \(SARDI\)](#)
17. [University of Adelaide \(UofA\)](#)
18. [Victorian Department of Primary Industries](#) **POTENTIAL!**





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