



| [Home](#) |

[Status](#) |

[Profiles](#) |

[Participants](#) |

[Contacts](#) |



A View from the (Arm of the) Chair

Thankyou for all the well wishes that we have received following our funding announcement late last year. It is encouraging to know that there is so much support behind a CRC for National Plant Biosecurity. In some respects, the hard work has only just begun with efforts now well underway during the CRC start-up phase. Dr James Ridsdill-Smith (Science Coordinator), Dr Bill Roberts (Interim CEO) and I are coordinating the work needed to get arrangements in place for operations to begin on 1 July. Any assistance that participant organizations could provide would be very welcome.

Science program

In consultation with the Program Leaders and Participants, James Ridsdill-Smith has developed a draft science program with details for initial projects. This has been circulated to participants for comment. The intention is to include some initial projects in the participants' agreement. A teleconference was held last week to discuss these issues further and a face-to-face meeting is planned for 18 April to finalise our agreements. It is not our intention to commit all of our resources at the outset. Further projects will be developed and approved by participants through an on-going consultative mechanism after the CRC's commencement.

Visits to participants

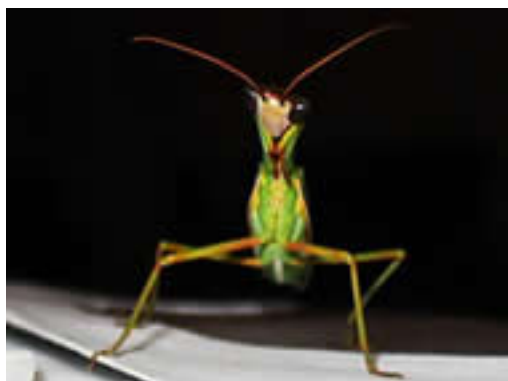
Bill, James and I have undertaken to visit each participant on their 'home turf' before the important meetings scheduled for 18/19 April. I received a very enthusiastic welcome in Darwin and Brisbane a couple of weeks ago and look forward very much to helping further with building the linkages that hold a CRC together. Stay tuned for further visit details....

In this newsletter

Read more about progress on Business Arrangements and Agreements in the [business report](#) in this newsletter. The CRC's [search for a CEO](#) has also been outlined, along with the job description and application details, later in the newsletter. For those of you who would like to know more about the [CRCNPB Interim Board](#), brief bios of Board members have also been given. As always, I encourage you to [contact us](#) to discuss your ideas and interest in the new CRC. Contact details are on [page 5](#) of this newsletter.



John Lovett
Interim Board Chair





Business Report

The CRC's business arrangements are now at the forefront of our activities, with the goal of having the Centre up and running on 1 July. An overview of the progress that we have made on business arrangements and Centre agreements is given below. Although the business of establishing the Cooperative Research Centre for National Plant Biosecurity is necessarily new to us, we are capitalising on the expertise of people who have experience and skills in setting up new CRCs to help us in this task. With the knowledge that there are other newly-funded CRCs encountering the same issues as us, I have met several times with fellow interim CEOs this year and there is agreement between us to share ideas and cooperate in finding solutions to common problems.

Business arrangements

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has agreed to underwrite the costs incurred before the start-up of the CRC, on the basis that these will be recovered from the CRC after establishment. These costs include: lease of premises; legal fees; recruitment costs; meeting costs; travel costs; and CEO salary (after recruitment). The CRC funding offer made by DEST at the end of last year specifically allows for the recovery of startup costs from the funding provided by the Commonwealth. Participants have agreed that the administrative office of the CRC should be co-located with the offices of PHA Ltd in FECCA House, Deakin, ACT. We have managed to secure suitable independent office space in this building and the details of the lease are currently being finalized.

The start-up phase presents a number of administrative challenges to a new CRC, lying as it does in that legal grey area between non-entity and entity. Synova (Science Management Services Pty Ltd), a company based in the Innovation Centre at the Australian National University, offers business services during the start-up phase to CRCs like our own. Synova will act on our behalf until the CRC is established. Given the CRC's present lack of corporate identity, Synova will provide us with an ACN/ABN Number, a registered name and a registered address. This will, for example, allow us to enter into a lease for our premises at Deakin. Synova will also arrange necessary insurances on an interim basis.

Agreements

FAL Lawyers has been approached by Synova to provide advice for our Centre and to draft the documents which will enable CRC National Plant Biosecurity Ltd to commence operations on 1 July, next. FAL is an experienced advisor to a number of CRCs. FAL are producing a Fundamental Issues Document (FID) setting out the key issues on which participants will need to reach agreement. A teleconference will be arranged in approximately 2 weeks after circulation of the FID to discuss our progress. A face-to-face meeting is planned for 19 April to reach final agreement between Participants. The draft Schedules for the Commonwealth Agreement, as populated by DEST, have been circulated. All participants have been requested to provide feedback on the issues that DEST has requested we address.



Bill Roberts
Interim CEO



| [Home](#) |

[Status](#) |

[Profiles](#) |

[Participants](#) |

[Contacts](#) |

Search for a CEO

The Interim Board has appointed a Search Committee and the recruitment process for a CEO has commenced. The position has been advertised with a closing date for applications of early April. Consistent with undertakings made in the business case and at interview, the position has been advertised in Australia and overseas. Details from these advertisements have been given below for your reference.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE FOR NATIONAL PLANT BIOSECURITY

The Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for National Plant Biosecurity will combine the expertise of scientists, from a wide range of disciplines, who work in federal, state and territory agencies; universities and industry across Australia. The prime objective of the CRC is to pre-empt and diminish the economic and environmental impact of pests on the plant industries. To achieve this objective the CRC will develop and deploy novel technologies and new approaches to biosecurity to the advantage of agribusiness, producers and governments. The incorporated CRC will be a company limited by guarantee with an independent, skills-based board of six, plus the independent Chairman. The Head Office will be located in Canberra . Start up date is 1 July 2005 for an expected seven year term. Current CRC resources, cash and 'in-kind', exceed \$9 million per annum . Additional sources of potential investment are being identified.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) manages all aspects of the Centre's business and will be expected to inculcate and maintain the CRC's values of excellence, innovation and independence. A high level of competence in attracting and managing the finances of the CRC will be a key expectation of the CEO. The CEO is responsible to the Board for: providing leadership; building effective links between participants, stakeholders and the Australian community; managing a research portfolio consistent with the CRC's Strategic Plan; monitoring progress and achievement of outputs against performance indicators in the Strategic Plan; promoting the adoption of CRC outputs; promoting the education and training programs of the CRC; gaining recognition of the outputs and outcomes, including capacity building, from CRC activities; and managing the resources of the CRC in accordance with Board directions.

An attractive remuneration package will be negotiated with the successful applicant.

Contacts: informal enquiries may be made of the Chairman of the Interim Board, Professor Emeritus John Lovett (lovettassociates@bigpond.com or phone 02 6227 5050). Additional documentation concerning the position may be obtained from Kowalski Recruiting (nicoled@kowalski.com.au or 02 6230 6636). **Applications:** by mail or email to Kowalski Recruiting. Applications must comprise a document which addresses the selection criteria; a curriculum vitae , and the names and contact details (email included) of three referees. **Closing Date:** 4 April 2005.





[Home](#)

[Status](#)

[Profiles](#)

[Participants](#)

[Contacts](#)

Interim Board



John Lovett

The Interim Board, as endorsed by the participants before the final interview and subsequently confirmed, is listed below, along with a brief bio of each seven members. The Board met for the first time by teleconference last month and is being kept informed of progress being made with start-up preparations. A face-to-face Board meeting is being planned as part of the April meetings in Canberra.

Professor Emeritus John Lovett (Chairman). Chair: Agrifood Awareness Australia Ltd; CRC for Greenhouse Accounting. Board member: HRZ Wheats Pty Ltd. Australia 's nominee to Executive Board, Global Crop Diversity Trust (2003). Formerly, Managing Director, Grains Research and Development Corporation (1994-2003). Professor of Agronomy, University of New England (1987-1993). Professor of Agricultural Science, University of Tasmania (1984-1987). (Location: NSW).

Ms Christine Campbell. Executive Chair, Twynam Agricultural Group (TAG). Formerly CEO (1983) and Financial Controller (1977). TAG operates 17 farms, 3 cotton gins and an international marketing division for cotton lint. Chair: Australian Cotton Industry Council (2002-present); Cotton Australia (2001-2003); Private Sector Advisory Panel to International Cotton Advisory Council. Director: Cotton Australia (2003 – present). (Location: NSW).

Dr Jim Cullen. Member: Quarantine & Exports Advisory Council (1997-2003). Chief: CSIRO Entomology (1997-2002). Board member: CRC for Australian Weed Management (& Weed Management Systems) (1995-2002) (Acting Director 1995). Member: Australian Weeds Committee (1988-2002). External Advisor (Science & Research) Environmental Risk Management Authority NZ (2002). President: Australian Entomological Society (1997-2000). (Location: ACT).



John Irwin

Professor John Irwin. CEO: CRC for Tropical Plant Protection (1999 - present). CEO: CRC for Tropical Plant Pathology (1992 – 1999). Professor of Botany, University of Queensland (1993 – present). Member: National Crop Improvement Committee, Grains Research and Development Corporation (1991 – 1993). Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Reader (UQ) (1982-1992). Plant Pathologist/ Research Fellow, Queensland Department of Primary Industries/ University of Wisconsin (1972-1982). (Location: Queensland).

Mr Brian Newman. Board member: Plant Health Australia Ltd (2000 – present). Chief Executive Officer, Australian Vegetable and Potato Growers Federation (1993-2002). Secretary, Trans Tasman Horticultural Conference (1987 - 2001). Director: Crop Protection Approvals Ltd; CPA Research Pty Ltd. Member: Horticulture Market Access Committee. HAL/CSIRO Gene Search project management team. (Location: Victoria).

Mr Chris Richardson. Chair: WA Ovine Johnes Disease Advisory Committee (2004); WA Agricultural Protection Board (2002-present); Footrot Eradication Campaign Advisory Committee (1999 - present). Board member: Euco Ltd (oil mallee production company); Corredene Pty Ltd (company management and market development). CEO: Australian Merino Society Inc (1999 – present). Formerly, self employed farmer and contractor. (Location: Western Australia).



Christine Campbell



Brian Newman

Mr Barry Windle. Executive Director, Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Primary Industries and Resources SA (PIRSA) (2002-August 2004). Senior executive positions in PIRSA (1993-2002) including Acting Chief Executive (2002). General Manager, Agricultural Industries (1995 -1997). Principal Horticulturist and General Manager, Horticulture(1988 – 1993). Consultant to World Bank on horticultural development, India (1989-90). (Location: South Australia).



[Home](#)

[Status](#)

[Profiles](#)

[Participants](#)

[Contacts](#)



KEY CONTACTS

Interim Board Chair

Professor John Lovett

Phone (02) 6227 5050

Email lovettassociates@bigpond.com

Interim CEO

Dr Bill Roberts

Phone (07) 6272 4047

Email bill.roberts@daff.gov.au

Science Coordinator

Dr James Ridsdill-Smith

Phone (08) 9333 6640

Email james.ridsdill-smith@csiro.au

Proposing Organisation

Mr Neil Fisher

CEO, [Plant Health Australia](#)

5/4 Phipps Close, Deakin ACT 2600

Phone (02) 6260 4322

Fax (02) 6260 4321

Email admin@phau.com.au

PROGRAM LEADERS

P1: Preparedness & Prevention

Dr Paul DeBarro

Phone (07) 3214 2811

Email paul.debarro@csiro.au

P2: Diagnostics

Dr Caroline Hauxwell

Phone (07) 3896 9362

Email caroline.hauxwell@dpi.qld.gov.au

P3: Surveillance

Dr Darryl Hardie

Phone (08) 9368 3799

Email dhardie@agric.wa.gov.au

P4: Impact Management

Dr Simon McKirdy

Phone (02) 6260 4322

Email simon@phau.com.au

P5: Education & Training

Prof Peter Baverstock

Phone (02) 6620 3719

Email pbaverst@scu.edu.au

PARTICIPANTS

- [Australian Plant DNA Bank](#)
- [Charles Darwin University](#)
- [Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries](#)
- [CSIRO Entomology](#)
- [Grains Research and Development Corporation](#)
- [Horticulture Australia Ltd](#)
- [Murdoch University](#)
- [New South Wales Department of Primary Industries](#)
- [Northern Territory Dept of Business, Industry and Resource Development](#)
- [Plant Health Australia Ltd](#)
- [Queensland Department of Primary Industries & Fisheries](#)
- [Rural Industry Research and Development Corporation](#)
- [Saturn Biotech Limited](#)
- [South Australian Research and Development Institute](#)
- [Southern Cross University](#)
- [Tasmania Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment](#)
- [University of Adelaide](#)
- [Victoria Department of Primary Industries](#)
- [Western Australia Department of Agriculture](#)

