



**IOBC-APRS  
Newsletter No. 7  
December 2017**



**Message from the President**



**D**ear Members, it is again a great pleasure to welcome everyone in this, our seventh regional newsletter. I hope everyone has had a productive and stimulating year with many good things happening.

This is my last message as the present committee steps down after four years. I am absolutely delighted that all the present committee who could nominated for the next committee. Our two new faces,

president Geoff Gurr and secretary-general Toni Withers are wonderful additions so we have a strong experienced and dedicated executive team in place for the next four years.

Next year is a big year with two international biocontrol symposia in our region plus the weed biocontrol symposium in Switzerland. IOBC is keen to link the various strands of weed, insect, nematode and vertebrate biocontrol and facilitate integration. Some may remember that we did this on a smaller scale with our 2008 conference in Sydney. The IOBC sponsored conference in Beijing will cover biocontrol in its broadest sense. If this first conference is successful we hope a regular series will result. I do ask that our members give serious thought to attending and making it a success.

We again hosted a symposium at this year's Australian Entomological Society's AGM and held a dinner for members and others interested in biocontrol. These have generally been well supported and I suggest that we continue this practice, perhaps in alternate years. They do provide an opportunity for at least Australasian members to meet up. It would be good if similar linkages developed with national professional societies in other countries.

Perhaps I should say a few words about the work of this committee over its four year term. We recognised that IOBC APRS needed some revitalization and then began a building phase. One area of vital importance is communication and we have put considerable effort into designing a good internet page, establishing a functional email group for breaking or important events, starting a Facebook page to facilitate member discussion and producing this excellent

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biannual regional newsletter. We have also been actively recruiting new members and spreading the word of our existence among our colleagues. There is still much to be done here and I suspect we have still not achieved a critical mass nor attracted sufficient members from many of the countries within our region. We have begun to sponsor or facilitate various symposia, workshops, other meetings and working groups throughout the region. Just a few months ago we were able to provide three internationally recognised experts from our membership for a workshop in Pakistan next year. Finally we are taking an interest in policy issues of concern to our members. So we have made positive progress even though it is still a case of “from little things big things grow”.

I would like to thank our hard working committee for all that we have achieved over the four years. They are a great bunch of people and it has been a pleasure to have worked together over these years. I am sure the rest of the committee will not mind if I single out Barbara for special thanks. She has borne a very heavy workload for us while also serving as Global President. She has been a tower of strength for me over the four years and it is wonderful she is staying on the committee though stepping down as secretary-general. Leigh Pilkington should also be recognised as he steps down after being our Treasurer, President and Past President. Thank you Leigh. Finally, thank you, our members, for your support over the years. *[And on behalf of the committee, thank you Bill for doing such a great job as president, working hard initiating symposia, setting up facebook, being such a great communicator and much more—BIPB].*

With very best wishes for the holiday season, *Bill Palmer*

## Message from our new President Prof. Geoff Gurr

**G** Geoff Gurr hails from Britain where he trained at Imperial College, Rothamsted, and the National Institute of Agricultural Botany in Cambridge. Since moving to Australia three decades ago he's worked extensively on biological control of insect pests, especially using habitat manipulation approaches to enhance natural enemy impact. Having worked at the universities of Melbourne, New England and Sydney, he's currently Professor of Applied Ecology at Charles Sturt University and holds visiting professorial positions at Lincoln University (NZ) and Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University (China). Geoff works extensively in the Asia Pacific region, especially with collaborators in East Asia, Papua New Guinea and NZ. He is leading several major (>\$1 million) projects on dung beetles (biological control of nuisance flies and livestock parasites as well as other ecosystem services), conservation biological control in vegetables, and sweetpotato IPM.



In the role as President, Geoff is keen to raise IOBC's profile in the region, making membership a 'must' for all professionals working in biological control and related fields. At this core of that aspiration is the need to widely communicate a powerful value proposition - a suite of benefits that are irresistible to new members. The First International Congress of Biological Control, to be held in Beijing in May 2018, will be important in awareness raising as will be future joint conferences with national entomological and plant protection societies. Current members can also help by serving as ambassadors for our Section within our local networks. But all that needs to be underpinned with more tangible benefits of membership. On that front, he'd very much appreciate suggestions and offers of help. Whether it's journal special issues, training courses, symposia, industry linkage initiatives, policy engagement or more humble and local things; there's a host of ways we can make our Section of the IOBC a more dynamic and rewarding community.

*Geoff Gurr*

## Treasurer's Corner

Our membership continued to track upwards in 2017, from 84 to 97 members. This is encouraging, and with your continued support I am sure we can top 100 members in 2018. The bulk of members (~80%) are from New Zealand, Australia and China, with the remaining 20% of members from India, Japan, Vietnam, Pakistan, and Philippines. The Asian Pacific region is large and diverse and this comes with some challenges for our organisation such as communication and payment platforms not being available in all countries. However, there is potential to grow our membership significantly across the region. Currently, the primary means of raising funds to support the organisation is through membership fees, and therefore the success of the organisation and its ability to be relevant and beneficial across the region depends on continued and growing membership. In January 2018 you will receive a PayPal invoice to renew your membership. Please also encourage your colleagues to join.



Have a wonderful and relaxing festive season,

*Mike Cripps*

## IOBC-APRS membership & finance, December 2017

### Total membership: 97

Regular members: 78

Student/unwaged members: 6

Honorary members: 3

Fee-waived members: 10

BioControl journal subscriptions: 10

### Nationalities:

Nationality	Number of members	Nationality	Number of members
Australia	27	Oman	1
China	22	Pakistan	10
India	3	Philippines	1
Japan	2	USA (Hon.)	1
Vietnam	1	Italy (Hon.)	1
New Zealand	28		

## IOBC-APRS membership & finance, December 2017 contd...

### Finance

Please note, two different currencies in this report: AUD (how we calculate our fees), NZD (Our everyday account currently runs in NZD).

#### Income

	2016	2017
Membership fees	2608 AUD	3264
Journal subscription	1200 AUD	2000
<b>Total Income</b>	3808 AUD	5264

#### Expenses

	2016	2017
PayPal fees	129.92 AUD (3.35% on transactions within Australia; 4.35% on all other transactions)	<b>182.14 AUD</b> (3.35% on transactions within Australia; 4.35% on all other transactions) <b>10.37 NZD</b> (transfer to Kiwi-Bank)
Bank fees for international transaction to IOBC-Global		0
Bank fees for international transaction to Springer	50 NZD	50 NZD
Bank fees for international transaction for website fees	50 NZD	20 NZD
Website hosting fees + Website maintenance fees	139.18 NZD 1497.56 NZD	1058.26 NZD
Money paid to Springer for journal subscriptions	907.05 NZD	1389.28 NZD
Bill Palmer (President) conference reimbursement		294.07 AUD
Money owing to IOBC-Global for membership fees		0
<b>Total Expenses AUD</b>		<b>476.21 AUD</b>
<b>NZD</b>		<b>2527.91 NZD</b>

#### Current Assets

	2016	2017
Funds in Kiwibank account	1206.24 NZD	807.16 NZD
Funds in Swipe account	0	N/A
Funds in PayPal account	694.75 AUD	3503.37 AUD
<b>Total assets</b> (estimated in NZD)	~ 1936 NZD	~ 4658.46 NZD

#### Current Liabilities

	2016	2017
Bill's conference reimbursement	~NZD310 (AUD294.07)	0
<b>Total liabilities</b> (estimated in NZD)	~NZD310 (AUD294.07)	0

#### Net Assets

	2016	2017
Opening balance (01/12/2016)		~ 2050.48 NZD (805.57 AUD + 1206.24 NZD)
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year		2607.98 NZD
Closing balance (8/12/2017)		~ 4658.46 NZD



## THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

### BIOLOGICAL CONTROL FOR A HEALTHY PLANET

Beijing · China

14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> May 2018

[Home](#) [Organizing Committee](#) [Scientific Committee](#) [Program](#) [Registration](#) [Accommodation](#) [Contact](#) [Download](#)

This is a major conference coming up in May next year in our region, hosted jointly by Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), Chinese Society of Plant Protection (CSPP) and International Organization for Biological Control (IOBC). It will cover a wide range of biological control topics regarding insect pests, invasive weeds and plant diseases.

The purpose of the conference is to strengthen communication and cooperation between researchers investigating biological control techniques of insect pests, invasive weeds and plant diseases, and to promote the global development of biological control technology and industry. The theme of this congress is: *Biological Control for a Healthy Planet* with a sub-theme of *Interdisciplinary Biological Control*.

Please have a look at the website, which is being updated regularly <http://www.canevent.com/customPage/customPagePreview?pagelId=43608&eventId=10003226>

The Scientific Sessions are as follows:

- 1. Interdisciplinary Biological Control: Advances in Augmentative BC and Mass Rearing** Session Organizers: Alberto Urbaneja (Spain), Wang Zhongkang (China)
- 2. Interdisciplinary Biological Control: Risk Assessment and Biosafety in Biological Control** Session Organizers: Mike Cripps (New Zealand), Barbara Barratt (New Zealand), Zhang Runzhi (China), Zhu Shuifang (China)
- 3. Interdisciplinary Biological Control: Evolutionary Dynamics of Biological Control** Session Organizers: Ruth Hufbauer (USA), Lu Yanhui, Zhang Zehua (China)
- 4. Interdisciplinary Biological Control: Biological Control as a Means of Preserving Biodiversity** Session Organizers: Harriet Hinz (Switzerland [CABI]), Zhu Youyoung (China), Li Chengyun (China)
- 5. Interdisciplinary Biological Control: Biological Control as an Ecosystem Service: Advances in Conservation Biological Control** Session organizers: Frederic Francis (Belgium) Zhang Feng (CABI), Yang Puyun (China)
- 6. Interdisciplinary Biological Control: Biological Control in Support of Human Health** Session Organizers: Hamed Abbas (USA)
- 7. Interdisciplinary Biological Control: Biological Control and Climate Change** Session Organizers: Ding Jianqing (China [IOBC]), Joan van Baaren (France), Ge Feng (China), Ma Chunsen (China)
- 8. Interdisciplinary Biological Control: Socio-Economic Impacts of Biological Control**  
Session Organizers: Beatrice Muriithi (Kenya [ICIPE]), Rieks van Klinken (Australia), Gao Yulin (China [IOBC])
- 9. Interdisciplinary Biological Control: Natural Enemy Action: Mechanisms and Interactions**  
Session Organizers and/or speakers: Zang Liansheng, Zhenli, Zhang Fang, Zhanglisheng, Xu Xuenong (China)

- 10. Interdisciplinary Biological Control: Biological Control in IPM Systems** Session Organizers: Guo Jianhua (China), Zeng-Rong Zhu (China)
- 11. Biological Control Using Microbial Pesticides** Session Organizers and/or speakers: Fred Zhang Jie , Yang Qian, Ma Ping, Xia Yu xian, Sun Xiuliang
- 12. Compatibility Between Transgenic Crops and Biological Control** Session Organizers: Joerg Romeis (Switzerland), Li Yunhe (China)
- 13. Industrial policy and market development for biological control** Session Organizers: Gabriele Berg (Austria), Yang Ziwen, Lin Meigen, He Yueqiu (China)
- 14. Current status and update of Biological control in the Belt and Road countries** Session Organizers: Ulrich Kuhlmann (Switzerland), Kornelia Smalla (Germany), Wan Fanhao, Chen Xuexin (China)
- 15. Trichoderma and Soilborne Diseases Working Group** Session Organizers and/or speakers: Enrique Monte (Spain), Benjamin A. Horwitz (Israel ), Matteo Lorito (Italy), Chen Jie (China), Yang He Tong, Li Shidong, Jiang Xiliang
- 16. Bio Metabolites and the Molecular Bio Pesticides Working Group** Session Organizers and/or speakers: He Yawen, Zhang Xing , Xiang Wensheng, Zhang Kecheng (China)

International Scientific Committee	International Organizing Committee
<p><b>Academic committee chairs:</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div data-bbox="108 887 480 1144">  <p>Chairs : Kongming Wu (CAAS)</p> </div> <div data-bbox="627 887 817 1144">  <p>George Heimpel (IOBC)</p> </div> </div> <p><b>Vice chairs:</b> Youyong Zhu, Jianping Chen, Ulrich Kuhlmann (CABI)</p>	<p><b>Organizing Committee Chairs:</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div data-bbox="895 902 1098 1144">  <p>Huajun Tang (CAAS)</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1254 887 1477 1144">  <p>Barbara Barratt (IOBC)</p> </div> </div> <p><b>Vice Chairs:</b> Dewen Qiu, Jianqing Ding (IOBC)</p>

Both of these committees are supported by a large number of prominent biocontrol researchers from all around the world and China.

Meeting schedule			
Meeting place : Beijing Friendship Hotel - Beijing , Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences			
date	Time	schedule	Place
May 14, 2018 ( Monday )	AM	opening ceremony Plenary Lectures	Beijing Friendship Hotel
	PM	Scientific Session	Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences
May 15, 2018 ( Tuesday )	AM	Plenary Lectures	Beijing Friendship Hotel
	PM	Scientific Session	Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences
May 16, 2018 ( Wednesday )	AM	Scientific Session	Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences
	PM	Closing ceremony Visit the experimental base	Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences. Yanqing , Miyun

If you would like to know more about the congress, the official contacts are Dewen Qiu or Yulin Gao at ic-bc2018@caas.cn

Feel free also to contact George Heimpel (heimp001@umn.edu) or Barbara Barratt (Barbara.barratt@agresearch.co.nz) for further information.

The [second circular](#) for the congress is now available.

# IOBC-sponsored biocontrol training course in Vietnam and China



A very successful biological control training course, sponsored by IOBC and other organisations was held in Hanoi, Vietnam (first photo below) and Beijing, China (second photo) concurrently, linking the two training sites through a virtual 'digi-hub' and coupling classroom-based theory sessions with hands-on field or laboratory activities. Kris Wyckhuys (black circle in photo) organized the course and brought in a number of other trainers to assist. Over the course of one week, students learned how naturally-occurring beneficial organisms -from minute parasitic wasps to predatory beetles- can be actively conserved to combat pest problems, and how today's farming systems can be

manipulated to enhance the abundance of such natural enemies. They got exposed to novel concepts such as conservation biological control, wildlife-friendly farming and ecological engineering, and learned about how on-farm habitats such as flower strips or grass barriers can greatly boost natural pest control services. In more advanced sessions, participants familiarized themselves with methodological paradigms in chemical ecology, plant-microbe-insect interaction and food web ecology. Under the guidance of Profs. Steve Wratten (Lincoln University) (blue circle above) and Geoff Gurr (Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University), course participants including APRS member Dr Gonzalo Avila (white circle) shared experiences and insights from their respective countries, jointly worked on various problem sets, and de-

vised their own applied research programs. During the second half of the week, the course shifted to a well-equipped IPP research station at Langfang, China, and a demonstration farm near BaVi (Vietnam).



At both of these locations, students acquired first-hand experience in conducting natural enemy sampling, developing insect diversity metrics, or in quantifying overall 'health' and resilience of farming systems. At the end of the week all participants returned to their respective home base, equipped with new agro-ecological knowledge, insights and a great dose of motivation to tackle pesticide misuse in their respective countries in temperate or tropical cropping systems.

This field course not only trained young scientists on ecologically-based pest management, but also set up a regional 'community of practice' and working group on agro-ecosystem health and biological control of insect pests. The event planted the seed for further Asia-wide initiatives to counteract pesticide overuse, safeguard the integrity and sustainability of local farming systems, and to actively promote safe, environmentally-friendly pest management alternatives. The 2017 field course was made possible with financial support from the International Organization for Biological Control (IOBC), and the Food and Agriculture Organization (UN-FAO).



The ISBCA conference in Langkawi, Malaysia in September was an exceptionally successful event. All participants seemed to agree that the program was one of the most inspiring and engaging that we have had in this series. The venue was a beach resort which, of course, added considerably to the relaxing feel of the whole event, but don't be fooled, the program was very full and we certainly worked hard and felt we deserved a beer around the pool after the days sessions finished. The social aspects of the meeting were also very well conceived and executed, so the combination of Ulli Kuhlman and his scientific and organising committees, and Heike, Ulli's wife who happens to be a professional convention organiser couldn't really fail to deliver an awesome event.



Clockwise from top left: Conference dinner (BBQ on the beach); Conference venue entrance; several of our members enjoying

# International Conference on Biocontrol, Bengaluru, India



## 1<sup>st</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BIOCONTROL

APPROACHES & APPLICATIONS

27 - 29  
September  
2018

### ICBC 2018 ORGANIZERS

Society for Biocontrol Advancement (SBA),  
Bengaluru, India

ICAR- National Bureau of Agricultural  
Insect Resources (NBAIR),  
Bengaluru, India

Indian Council of Agricultural  
Research (ICAR),  
New Delhi, India

IN COLLABORATION WITH,

Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences  
International (CABI), United Kingdom

IOBC Parthenium Working Group &  
Tuta Working Group

The International Association for the Plant  
Protection Sciences (IAPPS)

Mail Us @

[icbc2018bengaluru@gmail.com](mailto:icbc2018bengaluru@gmail.com)

ICBC 2018  
CONFERENCE VENUE

HOTEL LE MERIDIEN  
BENGALURU, INDIA



ICAR - NATIONAL BUREAU OF  
AGRICULTURAL INSECT RESOURCES  
H.A. Farm Post, Bellary Road, Hebbal,  
Bengaluru - 560024, India.

[www.icbc2018bengaluru.com](http://www.icbc2018bengaluru.com)  
[icbc2018bengaluru@gmail.com](mailto:icbc2018bengaluru@gmail.com)

Contact Us



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Another first for biological control conferences has been announced for our region. This will be held 27-29 September in Bengaluru, India.

The main theme for the conference is 'Biological Control: Approaches and Applications.' Sub-themes will include:

Biodiversity and biosecurity

Conservation strategies

Biotechnological approaches in biocontrol

Production and utilization of macrobials for insect pest management

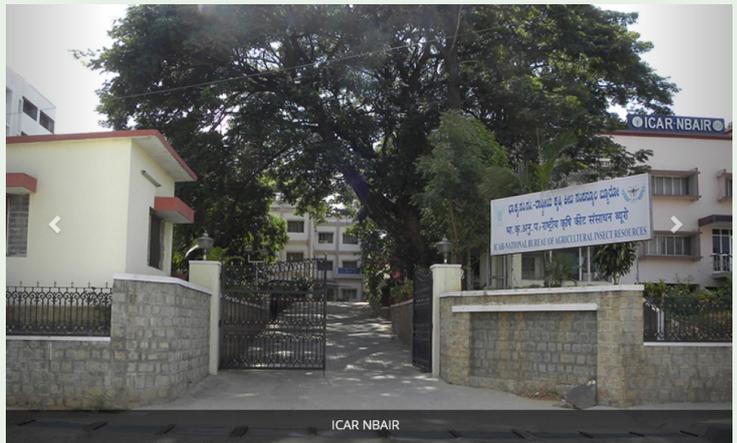
Production and utilization of microbials for insect pest management and disease management

Biological control compatible approaches

Biological control of invasive pests and weeds

Biological control: industrial perspective and policy issues

IOBC Parthenium Working Group workshop



ICAR NBAIR



NBAIR Quarantine Lab

For more information see: [icbc2018bengaluru](http://icbc2018bengaluru)

## Australian Entomological Society Conference, Terrigal, NSW

Australian Entomological Society

### 48th AGM and Scientific Conference

Biosecurity  
A Partnership Approach

17-20 September 2017  
Terrigal NSW



Greg Lefoe

The annual meeting of the Australian Entomological Society was held in Terrigal, New South Wales under the organizing chairmanship of our own Leigh Pilkington. Terrigal proved to be a glorious venue and Leigh organized a great conference. IOBC APRS again sponsored a symposium; this time entitled simply 'Recent advances in biological control'. The symposium, held on the Monday afternoon, 18<sup>th</sup> September, attracted good local and international papers. In the evening a very convivial dinner at a French restaurant was held for IOBC members and other interested in biological control. Several new members were signed up!



Rae Kwong

## Australian Government's Department of Agriculture and Water Resources workshop on BCAs

Our President, Bill Palmer wrote to our Australian weed biocontrol members of APRS to canvas views and concerns about the delays and difficulties in getting biological control agents (BCAs) through the regulatory system in Australia. Possibly as a result of this the Australian Government's Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) hosted a workshop to discuss the introduction and release of biological control agents. Representatives from the Department of Environment and Energy, and other organisations that practice biocontrol attended the workshop. Representatives from RIRDC also attended as interested parties as they are funding numerous weed biocontrol projects, under the Commonwealth's Rural Research for Profit program.

Current and proposed applications seeking the release of BCAs was discussed initially. It was noted that one application has been in the system for over 30 months while several dropped out following a blanket approval to release all future biotypes of a species previously approved for release. The next session dealt with the requirements of release applications, including background information, testing methodology and other related material which would be useful when assessing applications. DAWR suggested that proponents wishing to submit release applications advise the Department one month in advance of their intention to submit applications to help streamline the process. There was also some discussion on assessment arrangements and legislative requirements for release applications.

The final session was an open forum to discuss topics of interest. There was some discussion regarding the Live Import List which is under DoE&E. Unfortunately many BCAs which are already in Australia failed to be moved over to the Live Import List. These will need to be re-tested if re-imported and only the Minister can amend the List.

There was also discussion of the Invasive Plants and Animals Committee (IPAC) and its role and objectives. It is likely that this will be re-vamped and its roles re-defined. DAWR are also revising the guidelines for the introduction of BCAs to provide greater clarity. This will be circulated to the group for comment. The group agreed that the meeting was worthwhile and suggested a follow up meeting in 6 months and future meetings held every 12 months as was the case several years ago. This seems like a potentially positive outcome for weed biocontrol in Australia.

Mike Day

Principal Entomologist, Biosecurity Queensland.

# ISBCW Engelberg September 2018



[WELCOME](#)

[PROGRAMME](#)

[CONTACT](#)

The XVth International Symposium on Biological Control of Weeds will be held in Engelberg, Switzerland from 26-31 August. A call for papers will go out in January 2018 and abstract will be due in by 15 March 2018. Sessions will be held on:

Target and agent selection

Novel methods to determine efficacy and environmental safety of agents

Making classical biological control more predictive: moving from ecological to evolutionary processes

Regulations for agent release and access to genetic resources

Post-release monitoring and evaluation

Social and economic assessments of biological control

Integrated Weed Management and restoration

Opportunities and constraints for classical weed biocontrol in developing countries

Opportunities and constraints for classical weed biocontrol in developed countries

Bioherbicides

For more information see: <http://isbcw-2018.com/>

## Venue

The conference location is the hotel Bellevue-Terminus in Engelberg, Switzerland. The hotel is conveniently located in the midst of the magnificent village.





## Making weed biological control predictable, safer and more effective: perspectives from New Zealand

Quentin Paynter · Simon V. Fowler · Ronny Groenteman

Received: 7 March 2017 / Accepted: 31 July 2017  
© International Organization for Biological Control (IOBC) 2017

**Abstract** A persistent problem in weed biocontrol is how to reliably predict whether a plant that supports development in laboratory host-specificity testing will be utilized in field conditions, and this is undoubtedly preventing releases of safe and effective agents. Moreover, the potential for unanticipated undesirable indirect effects of weed biocontrol on ecological networks has raised concerns by policy-makers and the general public. The key to minimizing risks of non-target impacts is prioritizing candidate agents that are both host-specific and effective, such that the number of agents required to bring the weed under control is minimized. As a consequence both the weed and its biocontrol agents become minor components of the local biota. Here we review recent attempts in New Zealand to improve the predictive ability of host-range testing, to avoid potentially safe and effective agents being rejected. Research in New Zealand aimed at

predicting whether an agent is likely to experience enemy-release (i.e. reduced parasitism and predation) could assist agent prioritization, potentially making biocontrol both environmentally safer and more effective.

**Keywords** Host-range · Specificity · Weed biocontrol · Direct and indirect non-target impacts



## The status of biological control and recommendations for improving uptake for the future

B. I. P. Barratt · V. C. Moran · F. Bigler · J. C. van Lenteren

Received: 19 February 2017 / Accepted: 11 July 2017  
© The Author(s) 2017. This article is an open access publication

**Abstract** Classical and augmentative biological control of insect pests and weeds has enjoyed a long history of successes. However, biocontrol practices have not been as universally accepted or optimally utilised as they could be. An International Organisation for Biological Control (IOBC) initiative brought together practitioners and researchers from widely diverse fields to identify the main limitations to biocontrol uptake and to recommend means of mitigation. Limitations to uptake included: risk averse and unwieldy regulatory processes; increasingly bureaucratic barriers to access to biocontrol agents; insufficient engagement and communication with the public, stakeholders, growers and politicians of the

considerable economic benefits of biocontrol; and fragmentation of biocontrol sub-disciplines. In this contribution we summarise a range of recommendations for the future that emphasise the need for improved communication of economic, environmental and social successes and benefits of biological control for insect pests, weeds and plant diseases, targeting political, regulatory, grower/land manager and other stakeholder interests. Political initiatives in some countries which augur well for biocontrol in the future are discussed.

## Seasons Greetings from the departing Executive Committee



During the term of the current members of Executive Committee of APRS-IOBC, who are spread across Australia, New Zealand and China, there has never been the opportunity to physically assemble all members at the same location, at the same time. This is the closest we have got so the opportunity was taken to photograph (left to right) Mike Cripps (Treasurer); Mark McNeill (Vice-President); Barbara Barratt (Secretary General) and Yulin Gao (Vice-President). President Bill Palmer (who looks the most like Santa), and Past President Leigh Pilkington are shown as inserts. Ronny Groenteman was our Treasurer for most of the current term before Mike took over, and remained on the committee.

This photo was taken during the visit of members of the Institute of Plant Protection (CAAS), Beijing to New Zealand to further develop opportunities for research collaboration between our countries in the area of biosecurity and pest management, including biological control.

The out-going committee would like to wish all our members all the very best for the festive season, and we wish the new Executive Committee all the very best for the next four years. We would like to thank all our members for their support and participation and we hope for the future that your biological control activities are productive and most of all, enjoyable and rewarding.

## Newly Elected Executive Committee for 2018-2021

It is with great pleasure that we announce our new committee that will take the reins on January 1st, 2018 for a four year term. Nominations for elected positions on the new committee closed at the end of November. We received one, but only one, nomination for each of these positions. Because none of the positions was contested it was not necessary to conduct elections. You may also recall that the committee approved the addition to the next committee of all Global Executive members from our region to be ex officio members of the Asia-Pacific committee. I am delighted to say that all three accepted our invitation to join the committee. The new committee for 2018-21 is as follows:

<b>President</b>	<b>Prof Geoff Gurr (Australia)</b>	<b>Ex officio Global</b>	<b>Dr Barbara Barratt (NZ)</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Prof Yulin Gao (China)</b>	<b>Ex Officio Global</b>	<b>Prof Jianqing Ding (China)</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Mr Mark McNeill (NZ)</b>	<b>Ex officio Global</b>	<b>Dr Ronny Groentman (NZ)</b>
<b>Secretary General</b>	<b>Dr Toni Withers (NZ)</b>		
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Dr Mike Cripps (NZ)</b>		
<b>Past President</b>	<b>Dr Bill Palmer (Australia)</b>		

There are three new faces on our committee. Geoff Gurr (Charles Sturt University) is professor of applied ecology. His work over the last three decades has spanned biological control of insect pests, plant defence, insect-vectored plant pathogens, chemical and molecular ecology (see more below). Toni Withers is a forest entomologist with Sci-on and has worked on insect and weed biological control in both Australia and New Zealand. Jianqing Ding has been vice-president of the Global Executive for several years and is well known in weed biological control circles. A very warm welcome to these people.

Leigh Pilkington is stepping down from the next committee after very many years as Treasurer, President and Past President (and IT guru). We thank him for all his work for IOBC and hope that he will remain involved.

## IOBC-APRS Facebook Page

Finally a reminder to APRS members about the Facebook page to complement our other communications of the web page, emails and six monthly Newsletter. The Facebook page is additional and does not replace any of the others because we realise that not everyone has access to Facebook and that others, or their employing organization, choose not to use Facebook. Facebook offers more interactive communication among members who are spread over Australasia and Asia and that we may be able to generate interesting discussion on issues of concern to us.

Our Facebook page is a closed group accessible only to members. Members will be able to post new topics themselves and so not rely on things filtering down from the Committee. Another useful facility is that documents can be stored and shared under 'Files'.

We strongly encourage you to join. Please go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1132093136801336/> and "join" the group. Also make sure to click on the Notifications button and select "ALL POSTS" so that our posts will make it into your news-feed.

Facebook interface showing the IOBC APRS group page. The page title is "IOBC APRS" and the user profile is "Barbara". The main content area displays the text "International Organisation for Biological Control (IOBC)" and "Asia & Pacific Regional Section (APRS)". The page is marked as a "Closed group". Navigation buttons include "Joined", "Share", "Notifications", and a three-dot menu.