



THE SFAG RAG

NEWSLETTER OF THE STABLE FLY ACTION GROUP INC

AUGUST 2007



From the SFAG desk ...

BIOSECURITY & AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT BILL—declared pests

High on the agenda of the SFAG Inc Committee over the last few months has been efforts to achieve legislative reform via the new Biosecurity and Agricultural Management (BAM) Bill, which has now completed its passage through the State Parliament. Prior to its completion, The SFAG Committee obtained a copy of the Bill and its Explanatory Memorandum and studied it carefully before writing to the Minister for Agriculture with the proposal that stable flies be designated a “declared pest” under the BAM Bill legislation. As a result, Mr Bob Paulin and Mr Richard Walker from the Department of Agriculture & Food attended the July meeting of the SFAG Committee, to discuss the Committee’s proposal. Wayne Harris, Shire of Gingin Environmental Health Officer, was also present, and had valuable input into the discussion. Mr Walker is the Departments Biosecurity Policy Officer. Because there is an obligation on everyone in the community to report, and on landowners to control, declared pests, the Department officers were of the view it may be too burdensome for the community, particularly as stable flies may be difficult for some people to positively identify. It was decided to continue to rigorously pursue the development of a strongly enforced Code of Practice for the horticultural industry, with regulations which will be enshrined in the BAM Bill legislation. It is intended that this will include immediate infringements and heavier penalties for repeat offenders. These penalties have the potential to be up to \$20,000. The SFAG Committee will have an important role in reviewing and having input into the draft Code of Practice and Regulations.

Also in attendance at the July meeting was Mr David Lloyd from Bullsbrook. Mr Lloyd is a representative of the Horse Council of WA and is on the SFMSG. The SFAG Committee welcomes Mr Lloyd as a new member of the Group.

SHIRE OF DANDARAGAN PRESENTATION

On 14 June SFAG Chairman Bob Wilson and Dave Peckitt from Department of Health made a presentation to the Shire of Dandaragan on the effects of stable fly infestation. Mr Peckitt had prepared a comprehensive powerpoint presentation on the background and regulations pertaining to the stable fly problem, and Bob gave background information on the SFAG Inc and its aims and objectives, showed the Group’s promotional DVD and video, and drew the attendees attention to the fact that the Shire of Dandaragan had already experienced stable fly breeding in vegetable crop waste at a property in the south west corner of their Shire. The SFAG Committee is considering making a similar presentation to the City of Swan. **SEE PHOTO.**

MEET SFAG COMMITTEE MEMBER BILL WHITE!

Born in Charleville in Western Queensland, Bill grew up on a pastoral station managed by his father. After a short term working for a stock and wool firm, he went back into the pastoral industry, where he spent the rest of his working life. Bill worked for several years for NZ & AL Co on stations in NSW, and Yatheroo at Dandaragan, and then as overseer of Bundine station at Jerilderie in NSW.

In 1970 Bill and his wife Sandy (who originally came from the Moora district) came back to Esperance, where they ran a mixed grazing property for the Australian Agricultural Co for the next 14 years. When that was sold in 1984, they moved to Williams, where Bill managed another property for 10 years. After another couple of short stints at Frankland and Bindoon, and tired of moving, Bill and Sandy decided to buy a few acres of their own in the Shire of Gingin. Now semi retired, Bill still does some rural work, and Sandy works part time at the Gravity Centre.

Bill and Sandy have three adult children, and three grandchildren. Two sons, Daniel and Matthew, are based in Perth, and daughter Fiona lives in rural Victoria.

A keen sportsman in his younger days, Bill played cricket and tennis, and enjoyed equestrian sports.

Bill’s contribution to the SFAG committee is greatly appreciated, particularly the effort he put in to make the Groups promotional display at the Gingin Expo such a success. Thanks, Bill!

DANDARAGAN PHOTO

PHOTO OF BILL

...from the SFAG desk continued

WATER CORPORATION BIOSOLIDS STORAGE FACILITY SHIRE OF MOORA

The SFAG Committee has for some time taken an interest in the biosolids issue in so far as biosolids (human waste) has the potential to breed stable flies. This was the case some years ago, when an outbreak occurred in biosolids in the Shire of Gingin. Due to recent publicity regarding a Water Corporation proposal for a human waste storage facility at Annadale Farm in the Shire of Moora, the SFAG Committee wrote to the Shire of Moora during the submission period, registering the Committee's concern, and asking the Moora Shire Council to carefully consider the deleterious effects of stable fly infestation on their community should they approve the facility and stable fly breeding occurs.

The Moora Shire Council has since approved a trial biosolids storage facility under conditions and standards monitored and enforced by state government agencies, in view of productivity advantages biosolids offer to farm systems and the importance of agriculture to the Moora region. The trial will be for two years. Correspondence received from the Shire of Moora CEO, Mr SJ Deckert, advises that 23 submissions were received regarding the trial facility, only one being in favour of it.

The SFAG Committee will keep their ears to the ground regarding this issue. We are advised a management plan will be implemented and monitoring carried out throughout the two year trial. The Moora Shire Council reports that they expect sound management practices to be employed to ensure no nuisance or fly breeding occurs. Despite any approved management plan, the Shire will take action under the Fly Eradication Regulations if any nuisance fly breeding occurs. The SFAG Committee will be supporting any scientific trial work being carried out to control stable fly breeding in biosolids.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of THE STABLE FLY ACTION GROUP INC

**will be held at the Granville Civic Centre Meeting Room, Gingin
on Tuesday 25 September at 7.30 pm.**

**It would be appreciated if membership fees for 2007/08 could
be paid on the night, in order to save postage. Renewal forms
are attached to this issue of THE SFAG RAG and will also be
available from the Secretary at the AGM**

New memberships are always welcome.

Could members please bring a small plate of supper to share.

ELECTION OF SFAG COMMITTEE FOR 2007/08

All present Committee members, with the exception of **Mr Rob Kestel**, will be available for re-election at the AGM. Rob's contribution to The Stable Fly Action Group over the past two years has been greatly appreciated. Rob is the local representative of the WA Broiler Growers Association, and he will still be available to update the SFAG Committee from time to time on efforts being made by the poultry industry to combat stable fly breeding. Thanks, Rob!

If you feel you have the time to put in, and can assist the Group in the task of solving the stable fly problem, please consider volunteering your services as a committee member. Your contribution would be greatly appreciated.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Your Committee recommends that membership fees for 2007/08 remain at \$10 person so that as many people as possible may be encouraged to join the stable fly fight. Membership fees are payable at the AGM.