



THE SFAG RAG

NEWSLETTER OF THE STABLE FLY ACTION GROUP INC

DECEMBER 2007



Issue No 8

From the SFAG desk ...

MEETING with VEGETABLES WA REPRESENTATIVES—A POSITIVE AND PROACTIVE APPROACH!

On 12 November the SFAG INC Committee met with Gavin Foord (Research Manager) and David Ellement (Development Officer) of the WA Vegetable Growers Association Inc (VWA), as well as Bob Paulin (DAFWA) and David Peckitt (Dept of Health) to discuss and have input into the VWA Code of Practice. Wayne Harris (Principal Environmental Health Officer, Shire of Gingin) was also present. This meeting, which took place at the Shire of Gingin offices, had been convened by the SFAG Committee and Bob Paulin as a result of a request by the Minister for Agriculture that the SFAG Committee have input into the Code of Practice document.

The SFAG Committee expressed their appreciation to the VWA for being given the opportunity to have input into their Code of Practice, which is a horticultural industry guide designed to educate and encourage growers to carry out good practice with the use of raw manures and disposal of crop waste in order to prevent stable fly breeding. The Code of Practice, when finalised, will form part of the VegetablesWA Good Practice Guide, a comprehensive horticultural industry manual, which will be available to all its members. The VWA also intends to include a LOTE (language other than English) section. The VWA takes a proactive positive role in advocating good practice among its members, and is in the process of introducing an environmental assurance programme. The SFAG Committee and the VWA representatives were very pleased with the positive outcome of the meeting, where both Associations were able to discuss relevant issues, and resolve to work together to solve the stable fly breeding problem. Improved communication between all the stakeholders involved is a priority and will be addressed. Wayne Harris undertook to forward his monthly stable fly report in the Shire's Information Bulletin to the VWA so they would be aware of any outbreaks occurring in the Shire of Gingin, and the VWA already receive THE SFAG RAG on a regular basis. The SFAG Committee will be receiving copies of the finalised Good Practice Guide, as well as the quarterly magazine of the WA Vegetable Growers Association. The VWA has also offered to post THE SFAG RAG on their website, which was agreed to at the SFAG Committee meeting on 27 November. This will ensure the VWA membership is aware of the stable fly problem and the work being done by the two organizations to combat it.

SFAG Chairman Bob Wilson, in his closing address at the meeting, said that the Group appreciates the merits of the VWA's positive and educational approach, and agrees this is the most appropriate way forward and the approach most likely to achieve the desired outcomes. Nevertheless, he took the opportunity to remind the VWA representatives that the Group will continue to work towards the finalised Code of Practice being enshrined in the BAM Bill, and the establishment of regulations under the Bill to ensure a mechanism is in place to deal with those growers who fail to comply with the Code of Practice. This point was well understood and appreciated by the VWA representatives, and will form the focus of the SFAG Committee for the coming year.

Continued over ...

See Photo

L—R David Ellement, Gavin Foord, Wayne Harris, Dave Peckitt, Bernard McCarthy, Rod Withnell, Bob Paulin, Reg Beale, Bob Wilson. Behind the camera were Anne Sibbel and Jo Ottaway.



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- Deputy Chairman**
Rod Withnell ph 9575 2162
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MEET NEW SFAG COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNE SIBBEL!

The SFAG Committee is delighted to welcome onto the team Anne Sibbel, one of two new committee members from Bullsbrook. Anne and husband Frank moved to their Bullsbrook property 5 years ago from Pinjar, and run cattle and horses. Their eldest daughter Kate and her husband Adrian and their two children live on the property with them. Their second daughter Jocasta and partner Owen also live in Bullsbrook, and son Nick and his wife live closer to the city. Anne and Frank have 5 grandchildren. Frank is a mining engineer whose passion (apart from Anne!) is a 40ft fibreglass yacht he is building. Anne, a former primary school music specialist teacher, has a small consultancy business. She is a member of the local landcare group and particularly enjoys working with them to rehabilitate the EPP listed wetlands on their property. Anne and Kate joined the SFAG in 2006 after they had experienced infestations of stable fly on their property. Kate and Anne were pleased to become Bullsbrook representatives on the SFAG Committee at the 2007 AGM.



SFAG Committee member Anne Sibbel

... from the SFAG desk continued ...

AGM MATTERS

The Annual General Meeting of the SFAG Inc was held on 25 September 2007 at the Granville Civic Centre in Gingin. 15 of the Group's 80 financial members were present, with formal apologies being received from a further 14. Thank you to those members who supported your Committee by attending or registering your apology. Also in attendance were the Member for Moore, Hon Gary Snook, Mr Bob Paulin and Mr Richard Walker from the Department of Agriculture & Food (DAFWA) and Cr George Gifford, who chaired the election of Office Bearers. The Committee is very pleased to welcome onto the Committee Anne Sibbel and Kate Goh from Bullsbrook. Anne's profile appears in this issue of THE SFAG RAG. Rob Kestel has resigned from the Committee, due to other commitments. All other members accepted nomination for re-election. Rob will still be available from time to time to update the SFAG Committee on efforts being made by the poultry industry to control stable flies. The SFAG Committee congratulate Rob on being awarded a Nuffield Scholarship.

GUEST SPEAKER RICHARD WALKER

Mr Richard Walker, Biosecurity Policy Officer, DAFWA, was guest speaker at the AGM. Richard spoke on the Biosecurity & Agricultural Management (BAM) Bill and its ramifications for the agricultural industry, the horticultural industry, and stable fly control. The BAM Bill has now been passed by State Parliament, however it will take approximately 12 to 18 months for its regulations, including those pertaining to the VWA Code of Practice (which will be referenced in the Bill) to come into practice. An *ad hoc* monitoring arrangement for stable fly breeding in raw manure and vegetable crop waste will initially be in place, however there will be provision for this to be made more robust, should this prove to be necessary. Mr Walker discussed the funding arrangements for the monitoring process, and the inclusion of local government health officers, as well as state government officers, for the purpose.. It is intended that horticultural producers will be made aware of their responsibilities to the community, and be expected to carry out their practices accordingly. He congratulated the SFAG Inc on its work in publicizing the stable fly issue.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

SFAG Chairman Bob Wilson presented his comprehensive annual report to the meeting, outlining the achievements of the Group for the 2006/07 year, and thanking the Committee for their hard work and commitment throughout the year. Copies of Bob's report are available from the Secretary at kildare1@bigpond.com

MEMBERSHIP FEES
It was decided at the AGM that membership fees would remain at \$10 per person for 2007/08. A sincere thank you to those members who have renewed your membership for the current financial year. Your support is very much appreciated by your Committee.
For those who have not yet renewed, a green reminder notice is attached to this issue of THE SFAG RAG. Please note that this is the last SFAG RAG newsletter you will be able to receive if your membership is not renewed.

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" CR REG BEALE APPOINTED TO THE SFMSG
" Cr Reg Beale has advised that he has been appointed by the Councillors of the Shire of Gingin to represent the Shire on the " Stable Fly Management Steering Group. This position was previously held by Cr George Gifford. The SFAG Committee sin- " cerefully thanks Cr Gifford for all his efforts to devise strategies to solve the stable fly problem, in particular his success in " achieving a date for a total ban on the use of raw poultry manure. Reg joins SFAG Chairman Bob Wilson on the SFMSG, " making two members of the SFAG Committee on this statutory committee. "=====
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" **The SFAG Inc Committee wishes all its members a happy and fly free**
" **Christmas!** 
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