

# **SFAG CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – 2008**

## **Third Report**

This is my third report as Chairman of the Stable Fly Action Group, and I guess by now I was hoping that I could have conveyed to you a sense of achievement, that we had helped solve the Stable Fly problem.

However, that isn't the case, although I do feel that we are still making progress, albeit a little too slowly at times for my liking.

The SFAG committee has again been a hard working and proactive committee, which has put in some long hours for the long term benefit of the community.

## **Meetings**

We meet nearly every month, with most of the members travelling a considerable distance to attend. As well as the regular monthly meetings we have also organised a couple of other meetings to promote the problems of Stable Flies.

One such meeting took place in Nov 2007, when our committee met with two executives from Vegetables WA (VWA), plus Bob Paulin DAFWA and Dave Peckitt DOH, to discuss the inclusion of a section on Stable Flies in their upcoming Good Practice Guide. The SFAG was (and still is) hoping that the Code of Practice will be enshrined in the Bio-security & Agriculture Management (BAM) Act, with compliance being maintained by random checks on Vegetable farms.

With a new government just being sworn in, this means we have some work to do to bring the new Agriculture Minister up to speed about these issues.

## **Bullsbrook Information Evening**

In March 2008 with the assistance of our Bullsbrook committee members Kate and Anne, we organised an information evening at the community Hall. This was well attended, and some lively debate ensued. My thanks to all involved for organising the evening, and especially the speakers who gave up another evening at home to come and further the cause. These once again included Bob Paulin and Dave Peckitt, who continue to show true dedication to the cause.....Thanks Guys!!

### **Gingin Expo**

Once again in April the SFAG team had a display at the Gingin Expo, which was a source of much information and education for many people. Well done Team for another job well done!

### **The BAM Act**

During April we began to get rather frustrated with the lack of enthusiasm that we seemed to detect from the new people who were working on the drafting of the BAM act. We had had a good working relationship with Mr Richard Walker, who unfortunately left that position. We called upon our local member Mr Gary Snook to assist us to find out who the new draftees were. I would like to acknowledge the support that the SFAG has received over the years from Gary, and we look forward to our new local member being just as supportive.

### **New Ranger**

At our May meeting we were informed that Gingin had a new Shire Ranger and Health Officer, Mr Mike Kokir. (We would like to acknowledge and thank Joe Silvestrano for his efforts in this position previously).

### **Prosecutions**

By our next meeting we were informed that the Gingin Shire had undertaken 3 successful prosecutions of people for the out of season use of RPM. Although this was disappointing that this had to happen, the SFAG was pleased that the Shire was standing up for the welfare of animals and people in the district.

Once again the semi-composted product had been found wanting, and the SFAG continues to support only the use of a fully composted soil amendment.

### **Larvae Breeding in Winter**

Mr Mike Kokir attended our July meeting at which he outlined his thoughts on his role in controlling the breeding of Stable Flies. His enthusiasm was acknowledged and applauded. Mike also informed us that he had detected breeding of Fly larvae throughout the colder months of June and July. This was a concern to the SFAG and prompted another letter to the Mr Chance (the former minister for Agriculture).

### **WABGA – Pyrolysis plant?**

Through discussions we held with Dave Peckitt, we became aware of the WA Broiler Growers Assoc's attempts to get a Pyrolysis plant established at the Red Hill waste disposal facility. This group's proactive approach to disposing of their waste material was again foundering due to the intransigence from the beauracracy. This is one of the reasons that we have invited Mr Len Brajkovich to address us later this evening, so we can hear first hand what this group is planning.

What concerns the SFAG committee is that if some solution to the disposal dilemma is not found soon then we believe that there will be pressure from a number of parties to have the 2011 total use ban revoked. This would be totally unacceptable to the committee after all this time, and so we embarked on another round of letter writing to try to increase some political pressure.

### **Roger O'Dwyer - DAFWA**

In August we were informed (indirectly, I might add) that Mr Roger O'Dwyer, from DAFWA had been given the brief to 'sort this problem out'.....!! Mr O'Dwyer is Executive Director – Industries & Rural Services with DAFWA, and has already had a couple of stategy meetings with some people within the Dept's (DAFWA and DOH). We are encouraged by the level of this activity, but will continue to maintain pressure so that this doesn't become just another talk fest which will eventually disappear off the radar!

Let's hope the new government will make more happen in this area.

### **New Government – New Member**

At this stage I would like to congratulate the new Government, and wish them well for the next 4 years (and I bet it will be the **full** 4 years this time). I am especially pleased to welcome Mr Grant Woodhams as our new local member and congratulate him on his appointment as speaker of the Legislative assembly.

### **Thanks Kate and Anne**

As usual, I would once again like to thank all our hard working committee, but this evening I would like to make a special mention of the input that we have had from our 2 Bullsbrook members. Their contribution, and preparedness to get things done has been outstanding.....from organising public meetings to taking photos of RPM dumps, and later this evening you will see the culmination of many

hours of hard work which will be manifested in the launch of our very own SFAG web site.

(Thankyou and well done!)

**Thanks Jo**

Once again I must acknowledge the herculean efforts of our “Super Secretary” Mrs Jo Ottaway. As usual, Jo’s professional letter writing skills has meant that the SFAG is never forgotten by those that are supposed to be making decisions on our behalf! Thanks Jo

**Thanks Rod**

And finally, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of our Deputy Chair for the last 3 years, Mr Rod Withnell. Rod’s busy work commitments means that he no longer feels he can carry on in the position of DC, although he will still remain on the committee and attend meetings when he can. Thankyou Rod for your efforts on the committee, your support for myself, and your sage advice when it is needed. You are a Rock!

**Thanks members & Wayne Harris**

Thanks too, to the continuing support of all our members, and a special thankyou to Mr Wayne Harris EHO with the GG Shire.