

## OCTOBER 2014 ISSUE

Website: <http://www.faopma.com>  
 President: Myeon-Ha Park - (kpca2000@hanmail.net)  
 Administrator: Catherine Yan - (info@faopma.com)  
 Editor: Doug Howick - (doug@tpaa.com.au)



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Dear FAOPMA Members:*

The FAOPMA AGM Conference 2014 in Hong Kong is now only a few weeks away. Yet it seems not so long ago that we met for the 25th FAOPMA Convention in Seoul, so now I realize that time goes by very quickly.

Autumn is in all its fullness in Korea just now. We Koreans say about autumn that *“the sky is high and clear, and horses grow fat and sturdy”* (especially in the Year of the Horse!). Autumn in Korea is the most beautiful season with the brightness of the golden and red hues of autumn foliage in the hills and mountains, and the colourful cosmos in full bloom.

At this time, to prevent infectious diseases, pest managers in Korea are more proactive in exterminating mosquitoes which become really bad in the autumn season. Unlike our cool temperatures at night in autumn, the daytime is still very hot, possibly due to global warming, as the day’s highest temperature reached 27 degrees Celsius in mid-September.

**Autumn is thus a more favourable season for mosquitoes to survive, rather than in our hot summer.** Due to the great temperature difference between day and night, mosquitoes come indoors to avoid the cold, which makes people feel more threatened. Furthermore, there are increased risks of getting infected by dangerous diseases such as Japanese encephalitis caused by a virus that can be spread by some (but not all) types of mosquitoes.

Consequently, all our pest managers have been working very hard with their local health officials on various mosquito extermination programs.

**In terms of CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility), KPCA, as the organization for public health and environment, has nominated the first and fifteenth day of every month from April to October as ‘Pest Managers’ Volunteer Work Day’ and has carried out regular free pest control services.**

During this year, each local chapter in KPCA organized their own volunteer groups, and now we have about 300 volunteers from 198 companies with our 16 local chapters nationwide. These volunteer groups have been conducting pest control services for the poor and underprivileged in their communities, especially in the case of community events and national disasters such as torrential rains, typhoons and man-made disasters. As an example, our Seoul chapter entered into an agreement on a vermin extermination project with their local health centre and have done regular volunteer work, which inspires many other members.

My KPCA board always stresses that all our members bear an important responsibility to our environment and to our communities. We will keep reminding them to seek projects for the public good, which will help us to enhance our industry’s prestige and make our communities better. During the presentation sessions in Hong Kong, it would be most informative if we could also learn what community services other members conduct in their countries or regions.

**I am looking forward to meeting you all soon in Hong Kong where I’m sure we shall enjoy the beautiful night view!** (See Page 8 – Ed.)

**Myeon-Ha Park, President of FAOPMA, KPCA**

## **A Handbook to keep the Pests Away**

Restaurants and commercial kitchens now have a professional guide available to them for managing pests in the workplace. No, not the human kind of pest, but rather the kind found lurking in the darkest corners of kitchens everywhere.

**The Australian Environmental Pest Managers Association (AEPMA) has put together the Pest Management Handbook for Food Service Business Operators.**

It's a 'must have' book that will help keep you out of trouble from compliance officers and re-assure your customers or clients that you have their health at the top of mind – and your list of priorities.

As well as helping commercial kitchen operators choose the right professional pest manager, the book also offers tips and advice on how to self-manage an environment that is attractive to pests, where it is appropriate.

**AEPMA President David Gay** says the handbook also gives some guidance on the effectiveness and suitability of pest management products and devices.

**“Keeping kitchens clean of pests is taken seriously by the relevant authorities with fines of up to \$100,000 if regulations aren't adhered to. And that's before civil suits that may result from customers falling ill as a result of a pest infestation,” Mr Gay said.**

The handbook details the types of pests likely to be found in a kitchen and discusses the concept of integrated pest management which basically means not relying on one method of control but introducing a wide range of control options from planning to inspections and actual pest destruction or deterrent.

David Gay says best practice in the food preparation industry involves a combination of record keeping, being aware of the industry code of practice and choosing a pest manager who is licensed and right for the job.

**“AEPMA has developed a comprehensive Code of Practice for pest management in the food industry in Australia and New Zealand which goes into extraordinary detail on the topic,” Mr Gay said**

The Code of Practice is also freely available from AEPMA and should go hand in hand with the handbook. **It can be easily found on the AEPMA website at [www.aepma.com.au](http://www.aepma.com.au) where you will also find an online version of the handbook.**

**[Click here to view the Pest Management Handbook for Food Service Business Operators](#)**

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## **Unemployed cats looking for work as pest controllers**

**Looking for an environmentally-friendly solution to pest control? Then the Cats Protection charity (UK) reckon they have just the answer - a team of working, feral and semi-feral cats.**



The Milton Keynes & District branch reckon the service is ideal for anywhere with room to roam and rodents to catch, such as farms, stables, warehouses, smallholdings, garden centres, golf clubs and shops.

And the charity also believe it can provide a better future for the cats too. Branch co-ordinator Marie Gillin said: “Most feral cats prefer the freedom of a working life to a comfortable lap in suburbia. And we have had some very positive feedback in terms of reduced rodent problems.

**“A pair of feral cats can provide a very efficient and environmentally-friendly alternative to chemical pest control.** Anywhere where there is room to roam and rodents to catch they will provide working cats with a suitable environment in which to live and work.

“The cats are neutered, and we can offer vaccination and microchipping for a small fee or donation. Owners must be prepared to provide their feline employees with food, water, some shelter and veterinary care when needed.

“Contrary to popular belief, regular food and neutering will not affect a feral cat's desire to catch prey. Volunteers from our branch will also provide ongoing support until the cats are settled into their new homes.”

Although feral kittens aged up to 12 weeks can be successfully socialised and re-homed in a normal home environment, this is not usually possible with adult ferals. Once they have been neutered, volunteers return them to their colony, where a sustainable one exists, or find them a new home in a suitable environment where they can thrive and work hard doing what they like best.

**If you are able to provide a home for a feral cat, email Cats Protection's Milton Keynes & District branch**



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## **Fungicide-laden bees do heavy lifting in fight against cherry fruit rot**

*Sarah Martin- September 25 2014*



*Buzz: Phil Sweeney, from the University of Adelaide, at Lennane Orchards with some of the bees used to deliver disease control to cherry blossom. Picture: Kelly Barnes*

**BEES carrying fungicides to cherry blossoms are being used instead of spraying to prevent outbreaks of damaging fruit rot in commercial orchards.**

University of Adelaide researchers have developed the technique, which laces honey bees with biological control agents to be carried to flowering orchards in the course of pollination.

The fungicide prevents brown rot, caused by the fungal spores of *Botrytis cinerea* and *monilinia* species, and which has a big impact on the \$150 million-a-year cherry industry.

**The so-called “flying doctor” bees are a world first for cherry orchards and could be used for other flowering crops.**

Lead researcher Katja Hogendoorn said the technique, known as **entomovectoring**, had been used in Europe in strawberry farming, but this was the first application in Australia.

“It has been successful in suppressing diseases, just as good as spraying,” Dr Hogendoorn said. “The bees deliver control on-target, every day.

“There is no spray drift or run-off into the environment, less use of heavy equipment, water, labour and fuel.”

To spread the biological control agent, growers sprinkle the spores of the “fungus-fighting fungi” in a dispenser tray fitted to beehives.

The bees then walk through the spores, collecting them between their body hairs as they exit from the hives.

Dr Hogendoorn said the university was also researching any potential impact on the bees from carrying the spores, but that if there was any it would likely be temporary.

Cherry Growers Association of South Australia president Andrew Flavell, who grows cherries and apples in the Adelaide Hills, said growers were encouraged by initial data obtained from 11 trial sites across the region.

**“It’s a totally new concept that hasn’t been used before, but it holds quite a bit of promise. It is quite exciting for us,” Mr Flavell said.**

“They (the bees) are working all the time, anyway, so if we can use them to control disease at the same time that is fantastic.”

The project has been funded through a Department of Agriculture innovation grant.

**THE AUSTRALIAN**



*A worker honey bee covered in pollen. Honey bees add about 20 billion dollars a year to the US economy, mostly through their pollination services. Urbana, Illinois, USA.*

*Photograph by Alex Wild ©*

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## The British Pest Control Association invites you to attend PestEx

Following a complete sell-out in 2013, PestEx organisers the British Pest Control Association (BPCA) have made room for additional stands at the eagerly anticipated event of 2015.

**PestEx is the UK's largest trade exhibition and conference for the pest control industry. Taking place on Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 March 2015 at the ExCel Exhibition Centre in London (the Olympics 2012 site), this established and leading industry event is set to remain a prime choice for visitors and exhibitors from across the world.**

Promising to be the biggest ever UK exhibition, PestEx 2015 will not only feature 100+ exhibitors, but also a range of seminar and technical sessions designed to keep visitors up-to-date with the latest industry news, legislation, developments, products and innovations.

**BPCA President Mr Martin Harvey** commented, "Manufacturers from across the globe clearly see PestEx as the place to launch new products, and professional pest controllers know that PestEx is the place to pick up details on all the key innovations, research and best practice.

So to meet the growing demand, we have expanded the range of stands and seminar sessions for next year's event. We would like to invite every pest controller to attend PestEx, our free exhibition and conference event. It would be our honour to welcome you to London in March 2015."

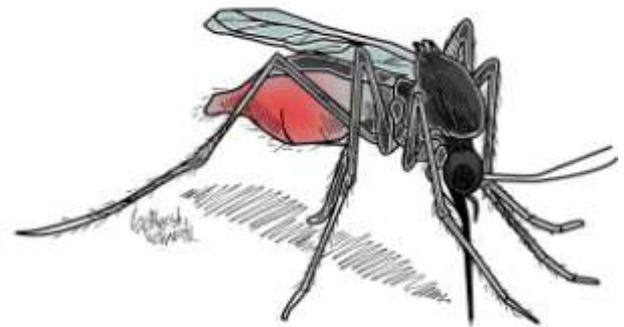
The much-anticipated seminar and technical programme is due to be announced in November. If you would like to attend the event as a visitor or exhibitor, BPCA can also help with guidance on visas for entry to the UK. **Register for your free visitor place or find out more about PestEx at [www.pestex.org](http://www.pestex.org)**

## **PestEx 2015 – Bigger, Better, Faster, Stronger!**



## Mosquitoes hold up Mysore-Ajmer train

*BANGALORE BUREAU*



*Passengers in AC coach pulled the chain after being unable to put up with the menace*

**Passengers of Mysore-Ajmer train were stranded at the Bangalore city Railway station for more than two hours after the passengers of Air Condition coach pulled the chain minutes before the train started from the station, complaining mosquito menace.**

Trouble began when 46 passengers of the AC coach pulled the chain protesting that they could not be able to travel in the coach due to unbearable mosquito menace.

**Vedavyas Koulagi** one of the passengers told **the Hindu** that the coach is badly maintained. Not only mosquitoes but also the bed sheets and pillows are dirty and the toilets are stinking.

When repeated complaints to the TT failed to evoke any response, irked passengers pulled the chain in protest.

The matter was brought to the notice of senior railway authorities who called back the train to replace the bogie with the "clean" one.

Additional Deputy Divisional Railway Manager, **Sunanda Arul** told the Hindu that the authorities have asked a replacement of the AC coach since the passengers have complained about the unclean bogie with bedbugs.

However she said that the Bangalore coaches do not have any bedbugs.



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## Pesticide that killed Filipino was not meant for domestic use

*Mohammed N Al Khan and Vesela Todorova*

DUBAI: The death of a man from the dangerous pesticide **phosphine** has thrown the spotlight on the illegal use of such substances, with pest-control professionals saying they are not for domestic use.

The Filipino died on July 28, after his neighbour used the pesticide, police said. Five others were treated at Zulekha Hospital in Al Nahda after displaying symptoms that doctors at first thought were food poisoning.

An investigation later found illegal use of phosphine gas in a neighbour's flat.

"If anybody happens to breathe this poison they will die," said Mohanan Achuthan, manager operations at Armour Pest Control, a licensed company based in Dubai. "It is highly toxic. Not all companies can use this chemical."

Fumigating tablets that release toxins in gas form are not allowed for use in residential areas in Dubai – only in industrial areas, said Mr Achuthan. "The problem is, many people are not aware of this and are buying it and using it illegally," he said. "How they are getting it, I don't know."

**Companies must have special licences from Dubai Municipality to be able to fumigate. Mr Achuthan said the licence was different to general pest control licences, where less harmful chemicals are used.**

Phosphine is mostly used to spray food items, preventing the spread of insects. Licensed companies cover the items to be sprayed with polyethylene sheets and seal them so that the packaging is airtight. Tablets are then placed through openings and the items are kept sealed for three days before being uncovered.

The Filipino's death is not the first time pesticides have killed in the UAE. In 2010, improper use of insecticide by a pest control company in Ajman killed two five-month-old boys and left their triplet sister badly ill in hospital. A year later, a 33-year-old man was killed in Dubai.

In May 2012, 10 people were treated in hospital after the chemical was used to kill insects in an adjacent flat in Dubai's Naif area.

Khalid Al Awadhi, director of food control at Dubai Municipality, said inspectors and emergency teams worked hard to work out what happened to the Filipino, after initially thinking food poisoning was the cause of death.

"The death was not caused by eating spoilt food or food poisoning, as has been said, but because of a gas leak of phosphine used as a pesticide, where one of the tenants left cylinders containing the gas not properly sealed in his apartment," Mr Al Awadhi said. "The gas leaked and led to the death of the one man and severe illness of five others."

He said that at a flat down the corridor from the victim's apartment, inspectors noticed tape around the door. The apartment owner was called and he told police that he used five containers of aluminium phosphine before closing down his apartment and heading to Hatta for Eid.

Pest-control experts, with the help of Dubai Police, later ventilated the scene and disposed of the containers safely. A health and safety team operated the ventilation to lower toxic gas levels in the air and also followed up on the evacuation of the building by Civil Defence.

**Mr Al Awadhi said that phosphine had been banned from use without the approval and authorisation of the Ministry of Environment and Water. He called on the public to avoid using such materials because of its harmful effects on public health.**

# TheNational

## Stop 'bombing' thy neighbor with pesticides

*The recent death of a man and a girl from pesticide poisoning once again shocked us all, but DM officials say such tragedies would stop only when people desist from hiring unauthorised pest control firms and using dangerous pesticides like aluminium phosphide and EC products*



# Khaleej Times

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## Pest Controller Encounters ‘Most Amazing Sight’ He’s Ever Seen Inside Woman’s Room

*Oliver Darcy*

A U.K. pest controller on a routine call encountered the “most amazing sight” of his 40-year-old career inside a woman’s guest bedroom. John Birkett of Longwood Services Pest Control said he was called to a home and directed to the home’s second floor when he immediately spotted the problem.

“When I went upstairs and went into the room, It was the most amazing sight I had ever seen.” he told Sky News. “There was a nice quilt on the bed and the woman wanted me to save it but when I pulled it, the nest split in half.”



*A pest controller received the shock of his life on a recent house call. (Image source: Longwood Services via Sky News)*

“Inside, there were layers and layers of grubs being produced. The pattern was wonderful,” Birkett continued. “The wasps were attacking me as I pulled at it. They were covering my veil. All I could do was keep spraying.”

Nevertheless, the pest controller said he felt slightly remorseful for destroying the nest.

“In some ways it was good fun but I also felt a bit guilty about it. All these little souls had worked their guts out to produce this. I feel for everything I kill,” he told Sky News. “But they can be quite dangerous, so I had to carry on until there was one left.”

Birkett added to the U.K. media outlet that when he had finished, the wasps laid about an inch deep on the floor. Further, the insects had managed to eat about an eight inch hole in the mattress.

The homeowner did not spot the giant nest for months because it was in an upstairs room that was hardly used in the old home, Sky News reported.



## Police helicopter called after men spotted carrying out pest control

*Michael Knowles*



Four police officers and a police helicopter were called after two men were spotted carrying out pest control in Croxley Green.

A member of the public called Hertfordshire Constabulary after two men were spotted in a private field in Scots Hill at 11pm yesterday.

But once officers carried out initial enquires, they discovered that the two men were carrying out pest control in the field and had permission to be there.

## Watford Observer

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## Best Places to Work 2014: Hitmen Termite & Pest Control

*Gary Quackenbush*

SANTA ROSA — Hitmen Termite & Pest Control is considered by its 80 workers as a best place to work because managers show respect and appreciation for employees.



“Every day is different, and you’re constantly learning, and the people who work here are happy and friendly.

There is no drama or unwanted stress. The owner and managers are very understanding people who are willing to listen and help.”

Owner Mike English said that the way to sustain an organization is “by providing good service, which translates into happy customers. But it also takes happy and satisfied employees to deliver good customer service.”



## Police dogs start new roles in South Korea as termite terminators

Brett Gibbons

Two Police dogs are swapping Solihull for Seoul to start work as international termite terminators. While their four-legged colleagues in Birmingham (UK) are more accustomed to helping officers sniff out weapons, drugs, cash, stolen items or explosives, two-year-old spaniels Olivia and Oxo have made the 5,500 mile journey to Asia to sniff-out destructive insects plaguing South Korea's public buildings.



Even in the era of thermal imaging and microwave emitting devices, the 20-month-old duo's sense of smell and ability to detect the presence of armies of termites is incomparable.

West Midlands Police breed scheme manager Dave Raymond said: "As they would when asked to search for hidden drugs or evidence, both Olivia and Oxo will use a sense of smell thousands of times more sensitive than their human handler to identify the odour left by the insects hidden within a wall or piece of furniture."

South Korea has experienced a surge in termite numbers of the past few years. Rising humidity levels have created the perfect conditions for the hungry insects which feed on wood causing millions of pounds worth of damage to historic buildings across the country.

Termite-detection dogs respond to the smells of the insects' hormones. Inspectors then use special equipment to find out if termites are actually present so that extermination and repair work can begin.

West Midlands Police runs the largest, most successful police dog breed scheme in the UK and has developed strong links with South Korea providing search and rescue dogs to emergency services in the country.

Mr Raymond added: "When one of the very first search and rescue dogs that we sent over to South Korea died recently it was honoured with a state funeral.

"Many people have asked us if we're sad when the dogs leave. Obviously we are, but this is outweighed by the pride we feel in knowing that we have nurtured and trained an animal that is coveted across the globe."

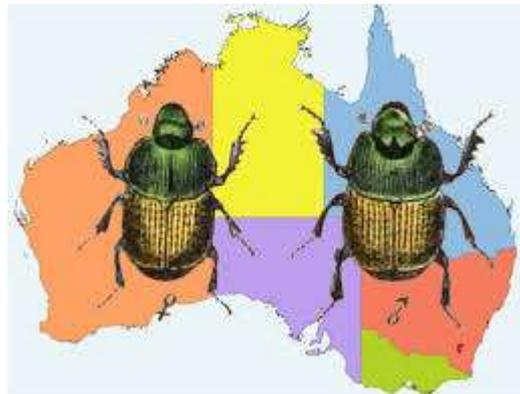


## New Dung Beetles are Coming

Australia, home to nearly 23 million people, is also home to 28 million head of cattle. Besides producing milk and meat, cattle also produce a lot of manure, which was a big problem in Australia until the 1960s because their native dung beetles preferred manure from kangaroos, koalas, and other native species.

That changed when Dr. George Bornemissza and his colleagues at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) introduced foreign dung beetles to the continent. Between 1969-1987, 43 different species of exotic dung beetle were released in Australia, 23 of which have become established.

Now, for the first time in more than 20 years, they're releasing two new dung beetle species. The first, *Onthophagus vacca*, will be released this week, and another one called *Bubas bubalus* will be released next year. It is hoped that the new species will be active in the early spring season and will provide services that the already established species do not, since they are most active in the summer.



Dung beetles are beneficial around the world because they bury manure, which helps aerate and fertilize the soil. However, in Australia they bring an added benefit by reducing populations of the bush fly (*Musca vetustissima*), a pesky nuisance insect. More dung beetles should equal fewer bush flies, because the beetles remove manure that is favored by the flies as a place to lay their eggs.

"They will be active and compete for the dung and therefore the influx of flies will not be able to breed so well, and what that means is we should be able to knock the top off that big surge of flies in the spring which you experience here," said CSIRO researcher Dr. Jane Wright.





# Timetable

- Date: 26 November 2014 (Wednesday) to 28 November 2014 (Friday)
- Venue: Marco Polo Hong Kong Hotel, Harbour City, 3 Canton Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon, Hong Kong
- Theme: Business Conference - Ensuring Higher Standards in Pest Management Services
- Participants: Approximately 150 persons
- Hosted by: FAOPMA & HKPMA (Hong Kong Pest Management Association)
- Official Language: English
- Program: Opening / Closing Ceremony, Conference Sessions, Gala Dinner, Booth Display, Sightseeing Tour.

26 Nov (Wed)
EXCO Meeting
Coffee Break
AGM
Cocktail Reception
AGM Dinner (by invitation)
27 Nov (Thu)
Registration
Opening Ceremony
Session I
Coffee Break
Session II
Summary for Session I & II
Lunch
Session III
Coffee Break
Session IV
Panel Q & A Session III & IV
The Way Forward for FAOPMA
Gala Dinner
28 Nov (Fri)
Full-day(8 hrs) / Half-day (5.5 hrs) Sightseeing Tour

\* Above program is subject to change without prior notice

