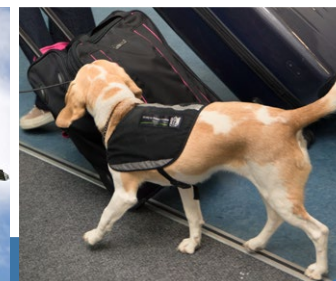


The BorderSpace



Biosecurity New Zealand
Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



Working together to secure New Zealand's borders from biosecurity threats

Issue 59 | December 2024

Summer readiness

The busy summer season is nearly upon us. Here's a breakdown of our preparations.

More officers and detector dogs

We have recruited more than 70 new officers this year, most of whom will assist with passenger duties over the summer.

We have also increased our detector dog capacity from 30 to 39 handlers since last summer, allowing us to expand the use of airport express lanes.



44

PART-TIME HOSTS PROVIDING
BIOSECURITY ASSISTANCE



39

NUMBER OF DETECTOR
DOGS WORKING

...continued overleaf

Summer readiness...continued

Biosecurity hosts

We have hired 44 part-time hosts to provide friendly biosecurity assistance to travellers arriving at New Zealand's four main international airports. This follows successful trials last summer using 19 hosts to welcome air passengers on arrival and help with queue management. As mentioned in the previous issue of **The Border Space**, the additional resources will allow hosts to support both cruise and airport passengers. New duties will also include collecting amnesty bins and assisting with search bench operations.

Border protection campaign

A biosecurity border protection campaign aimed at travellers to New Zealand will start in mid-December. Like previous years, the campaign will encourage travellers to declare or dispose of potentially harmful items upon arrival and prompt them to think about the things they are bringing before they arrive.

The more informed travellers are about our biosecurity rules before they visit New Zealand, the less likely they are to bring risk items in.

Auckland Airport

Twenty-four new officer graduates have joined our airport team, and we have recruited 20 part-time biosecurity hosts to support

peak demand. Twenty-eight dog handlers (up six from last year) will enable our team to run two express lanes during busy processing times. Additionally, we are redeploying officers from cargo duties to the airport to provide extra support during peak arrival times.

We are working closely with the airport company on summer initiatives to improve passenger processing efficiency while maintaining strong biosecurity. This includes extending express lane capacity during times of peak demand and using an express risk assessment process (see previous issue of **The Border Space**).

Wellington Airport

We have recruited an additional five quarantine officers for Wellington and six part-time biosecurity hosts to support peak demand. A new detector dog team has increased our canine capacity to three teams, covering 90 percent of arriving flights.

We are exploring options with Wellington Airport to widen the airport express lane, improving passenger flow. Trials continue leading into summer with assessing passengers for biosecurity risk before they collect their baggage, an approach that has shown potential to speed up processing in ongoing trials in Christchurch and Queenstown.

Summer surge November to March

- Passenger volumes are expected to be similar to last year – there is a marginal increase (1.8 %) in available seating to around 3.95 million seats.
- Peak international airport arrivals will likely be between December and January.
- There will be direct flights from 22 countries. The top five departure ports will be Australia (9696), United States (1387), China (1002), Singapore (794), and Fiji (607).
- Most international flights are scheduled to arrive at Auckland (78%), followed by Christchurch (11%), Queenstown (6%), and Wellington (5%).
- Auckland Airport's busiest day is forecast to be 24 January, with more than 18,000 arrivals.

16,267
FLIGHTS SCHEDULED TO
LAND IN NEW ZEALAND



December–January
PEAK INTERNATIONAL ARRIVALS



Summer readiness...continued

Christchurch Airport

Nine new quarantine officers will support biosecurity operations in Christchurch, along with 12 biosecurity hosts. A new detector dog team is in place, bringing the total to five teams.

Queenstown Airport

Queenstown will have two additional quarantine officers. Six biosecurity hosts will provide passenger support during summer. A new detector dog team increases the total to three.

Cruise ships

Previous issues of **The Border Space** have covered our preparations for the summer cruise season, so we'll keep this brief. We expect 45 cruise ship arrivals, 112 voyages, and close to 900 port calls during the 2024/25 season, which runs from October to April. We have worked closely with cruise lines to ensure they are aware of New Zealand's strict biosecurity requirements, both above and below the waterline.

We have assessed biofouling risk factors for individual arriving vessels prior to the season, including whether a vessel is a first-time visitor to New Zealand or has been laid

up for an extended period. The findings have been used to ensure cruise operators take appropriate action to address biofouling and to assist with approvals.

We have also used a new system to identify cruise vessels that visited a port during the risk periods for flighted spongy moth complex (FSMC). Those that have made visits are contacted to ensure they hold a Certificate of Freedom from FSMC before entering New Zealand territorial waters.

This will be the first full cruise season using the New Zealand Traveller Declaration (NZTD), allowing passengers to submit declarations online. NZTD was successfully trialled at ports last summer, going live in March.

Yachts and other small craft

We expect to clear up to 550 small craft by the end of the season in early December. In September, two Biosecurity New Zealand staff attended regattas in Fiji and Tonga to provide biosecurity advice and arrival information for yachties heading our way. Six officers have been redeployed to Northland to support the local team of two with yacht clearances.

International mail

We plan to begin transitioning officers from the International Mail Centre to New Zealand Post's new Auckland Processing Centre (APC) in February. This follows a decision to delay the APC's processing of inbound international postal items until February or March, reducing the chance of disruption during the peak Christmas period.

Commercial vessels

We have refined our pre-arrival document requirements to make life easier for commercial vessels. The new process will continue to help us identify potential biosecurity and ballast water risks, including biofouling.

The new Biosecurity Pre-Arrival Report (PAR) replaces the previous Master's Declaration and Biofouling and Ballast Water Declaration. The PAR has been available since 31 October. It will be mandatory from 1 May 2025.

The PAR must be submitted at least 48 hours before entering New Zealand territorial waters. Vessel operators are still required to submit an Advance Notice of Arrival. **Further information is available on the Ministry for Primary Industries website.**



45 CRUISE SHIP ARRIVALS **900** PORT CALLS **112** VOYAGES

Summer readiness...continued

Flights return to Hamilton and Dunedin

We're preparing for the return of international flights to Hamilton and new services to Dunedin.

Jetstar announced in September it would offer new direct flights from the Gold Coast, starting in June 2025, with three flights a week to both cities. It also plans to start a direct service from Sydney to Hamilton in June, with four arriving flights each week.

It's been a while since we've seen scheduled international flights for these cities. Pacific Blue was the last international airline flying regular services into Hamilton. It ended trans-Tasman flights in 2010. Dunedin stopped scheduled international services in 2020 when borders closed due to COVID-19.

Border agencies are working with the airport companies to ensure the design, construction, and fit-out of the international terminal areas provide a good passenger experience and allow appropriate screening of passengers.

We will be recruiting new officers to carry out biosecurity duties in Dunedin and plan to cover the Hamilton flights with additional officers based in Auckland. Both airports will need new equipment and construction work to meet biosecurity requirements. We are making good progress against very tight programme timeframes.

Of the two airports, Dunedin is closer to being ready, as there is already an existing international terminal and security screening.

Meanwhile, our MPI policy colleagues have been leading consultation on the development of new regulations to recover the costs of setting up border services for new or restarting international airports. Cabinet will decide how this will progress.

25 new officers

We celebrated the graduation of 25 newly warranted quarantine officers at a ceremony in Auckland on 1 November.

All but one of the new officers were from our second training cohort for 2024. Officers from this cohort will be based at Auckland Airport over the summer.

A special mention goes to Jayesh Bhana, who received the He Whai Whakaaro Award for embodying principles of thoughtfulness, demonstrating a thirst for knowledge, and making a positive impact during officer training.



The newly warranted quarantine officers at the ceremony in Auckland, 1 November.



Jayesh Bhana (right), winner of the He Whai Whakaaro Award with Mike Inglis, Commissioner, North.

The Biosecurity Business Pledge is a partnership helping all New Zealand businesses take a proactive approach to biosecurity practice.

Check out Biosecurity New Zealand's pest identification and containment posters – a resource for all businesses.

Quiet start to BMSB season

It's been a quiet start to the brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) season (September to April) – long may it continue!

At the time of writing, we've only seen six live bugs, all single hitchhikers. At the same time last year (mid-November), the live tally was 24.

Last year's high detection numbers, particularly in the passenger pathway, were likely linked to the Rugby World Cup, which saw huge numbers of travellers returning from France.


We are well prepared if the numbers start to increase. There have been reports of early BMSB aggregation activity in the United States, which may lead to earlier-than-usual interceptions in New Zealand.

While live bugs are down, we have seen a lot of dead ones – 487 compared with 31 last season.

Most of these are from arriving vehicle ships. The crew of a RORO (roll-on/roll-off) vessel from the United States reported 448 dead BMSB when it landed in New Zealand on 2 October. Another RORO vessel from Korea reported 17 dead bugs.

Other detections have involved solo dead hitchhikers. In one incident, a dead BMSB was found in an imported child's costume purchased in Auckland. As a precautionary measure, checks were carried out at all stores stocking the same costume. No further BMSB were found.

...continued overleaf



**One of the 3D printed giant brown marmorated stink bugs!
See story next page.**

Quiet start to BMSB season....*continued*

Surveillance underway

Meanwhile, Biosecurity New Zealand’s surveillance programme has been underway since early November. This season, there will be 160 traps in place near 80 high-risk areas like ports and transitional facilities.

Most of the traps are in Auckland and Christchurch, as these regions have the highest risk of early BMSB entry. Each trap contains a lure that mimics the bug’s natural aggregation pheromones, attracting BMSB present in the area.

Kiwifruit Vine Health has again funded six additional surveillance sites in the Bay of Plenty region. The BMSB Council has also provided funds for further trials of an aerodynamic BMSB trap that in Italy has been shown to very effective at dispersing a pheromone plume.

Summer campaign

Also underway is our annual summer campaign to encourage the public to report possible sightings of the destructive pest.

Like previous summers, the campaign will use digital ads to target online shoppers buying goods from overseas, and local gardeners. This BMSB season, the campaign is expanding to the 73 Warehouse stores (with garden centres), TikTok, and TV screens in 19 health centres and marae around the country, with the aim of reaching an even wider audience.

The campaign will also be translated into Te Reo Māori for the first time, encouraging the public to “Hopukia, Whakaahuahia, Pūrongotia” (Catch it, snap it, report it).

Giant stink bugs

A 3D printer, not nature (thankfully!), is responsible for some recently sighted giant brown marmorated stink bugs.

The computer-generated bugs, which come in three sizes (30mm, 50mm, and 100mm), will be used for public education about the biosecurity risk of BMSB. They will also be used for officer training.

The bugs are the product of a University of Canterbury research project, jointly funded by Better Border Biosecurity, involving Crown Research Institutes and other stakeholders, and the BMSB Council, a partnership between government agencies and industry to address the threat posed by the invasive pest.



The 3D computer-generated bugs come in three sizes (30mm, 50mm, and 100mm) and will be used for public education and officer training.

TO DATE MID-NOVEMBER

6 LIVE BUGS ALL SINGLE HITCHHIKERS

SAME TIME LAST YEAR LIVE TALLY WAS

24

DEAD BUGS THIS YEAR

487

SAME TIME LAST YEAR DEAD TALLY WAS

31





Biosecurity New Zealand
Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

THE BROWN MARMORATED STINK BUG IS A THREAT TO NEW ZEALAND



 CATCH IT

 SNAP IT

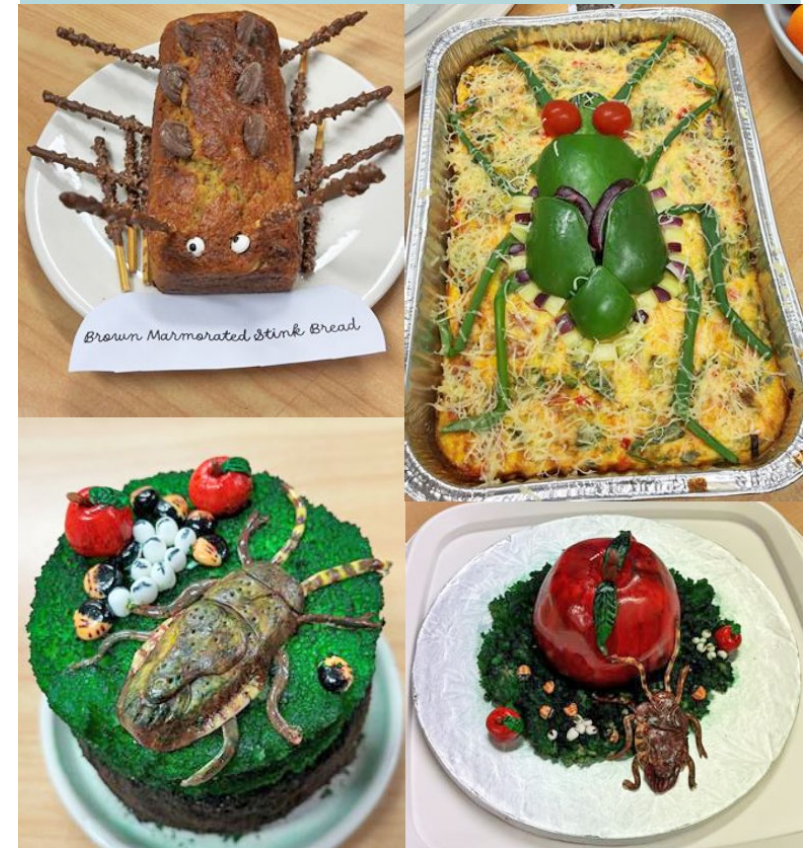
 REPORT IT

0800 80 99 66

The summer BMSB campaign is underway, targeting online shoppers and gardeners.

Brown marmorated stink bread and other culinary creations

Our biosecurity team at the International Mail Centre launched the 2024/25 BMSB season with a stink bug-themed bake-off. Take a squiz at some of the dishes.



Targeting online traders

Biosecurity New Zealand is targeting offshore suppliers and local importers that flout biosecurity rules as the volume of low-value goods entering the country continues to rise.

Fuelled by the growth of online shopping, our target evaluation team this year is expected to screen more than 27 million cargo consignments valued under \$1000. In 2023, the team screened 19 million items arriving through this “low-value pathway”, which excludes international mail.

While most importers and suppliers of low-value goods follow New Zealand’s biosecurity rules (see page 9), some don’t.

We have carried out multiple operations this year targeted at those thought to be falsely declaring goods to get past biosecurity restrictions. So far in 2024, we have seized close to 1000kg of risk items, including meat products, plant material, honey, and seeds.



The operations have focused on offshore suppliers identified by our intelligence team. The seized goods were falsely declared as items that don’t pose biosecurity risk, such as clothing or plastic toys, to avoid detection at the border.

We know the majority of New Zealanders care about biosecurity and do not intentionally purchase risk items online. However, the recent operations show some are attempting to import such items despite knowing the rules. We have even seen orders placed with suppliers who advertise they can get around New Zealand’s biosecurity rules.

Biosecurity New Zealand will continue to target importers and suppliers that break the rules. We will seize non-compliant goods ordered online and, where possible, look to prosecute deliberate offenders.

Festive flood for low-value packages

November and December are the peak months for low-value packages (under \$1000).

This is due to the increasingly popular “Black Friday” sales, followed by the Christmas season.

Over the three years to the end of 2023, the number of low-value package lines has increased by 74 percent.



Christmas decorations purchased online, like this one, often come with real pinecones.

The festive flood of low-value goods poses unique biosecurity challenges. We often intercept food packages from overseas. It’s also common to find untreated wood products in the form of Christmas trees, cones, and other festive ornaments.

We continue to strengthen our relationships with e-commerce platforms and distributors to educate them about New Zealand’s biosecurity requirements.

...continued overleaf



Targeting online traders....continued

Surveying low-value packages

A compliance survey is underway to determine the biosecurity risk posed by imported low-value packages.

The survey involves random checks of low-value packages arriving at transitional facilities that have not previously received these types of goods – a pathway that is seeing increased traffic due to the popularity of online shopping.

The survey results will help us assess the current risk level of the low-value entry pathway, evaluate the effectiveness of our existing clearance processes, and (all going well) provide assurance that everything is working as it should.

At the time of writing, the survey team has inspected 3200 packages across facilities that receive the highest volumes of these goods. The results so far indicate that, overall, the pathway is highly compliant, and our routine biosecurity checks are effective. As reported on page 8, when we detect compliance issues, we take action.

We already survey international mail to check the effectiveness of biosecurity processes for low-value goods arriving through this pathway.



Online Christmas shopping tips

New Zealand has strict biosecurity requirements to keep harmful pests and diseases out of the country. We ask online Christmas shoppers to:

- Purchase goods, especially seeds, plants, and animal products, from reputable New Zealand companies rather than buying online from unknown suppliers.
- Be aware that unknown suppliers may not know about, or be able to meet, New Zealand's strict biosecurity requirements. It is the purchaser's responsibility to ensure goods are allowed into New Zealand.
- When the item arrives, check it matches the declaration. If it doesn't match, call our exotic pest and disease hotline: **0800 80 99 66**
- Promptly report accidental or unintended receipt of risk goods (such as plant, animal or food products) to our exotic pest and disease hotline: **0800 80 99 66** or Biosecurity New Zealand online notifications: **report.mpi.govt.nz/pest**

Check whether the item you want to order can be imported into Aotearoa:
<https://piersearch.mpi.govt.nz>

ORDER ONLINE



From the frontline

A selection of interesting interceptions and other border activity...

Not for the faint-hearted

A 30cm centipede was one of many creepy crawlies in a parcel at Auckland's International Mail Centre.

Containing insect specimens, the parcel arrived in November from the UK. Scientific names were provided for each insect, and all, including the centipede, were found to be compliant with the rules for importing endangered species.

This meant the parcel could be released to the importer quickly after inspection.



Undeclared eggs

Undeclared eggs stuffed with silicon resulted in a \$400 fine for a passenger arriving at Christchurch Airport.

Arriving from China in October, the passenger used a translator on her phone to explain the eggs were intended as toys for her grandchildren after they were detected by x-ray.

The silicon was fine, but the eggshells were real and could have been contaminated with avian diseases.



Giant African snail detected

The detection of a live giant African snail brought praise for a Tauranga transitional facility staff member.

Brett Jobsen, an accredited person working for Qube Logistics, spotted the snail between the grates at the back of a reefer container. He immediately secured the container and called Biosecurity New Zealand.

One of our local officers collected the specimen and was surprised to see it was still alive. It was later identified as a giant African snail (*Achatina fulica*).

The species can grow up to 30cm long and has a voracious appetite for more than 500 plant species, including most vegetables.



Deformed duckling released

A duckling with two heads (we kid you not!) was yet another bizarre detection for our biosecurity team at Auckland's International Mail Centre. Declared as home décor from China, the taxidermy was picked up during x-ray screening in October. As there were no biosecurity issues, it was released to the importer.



Bats from Ecuador

A Wellington transitional facility staff member did the right thing by immediately notifying us after discovering two dead bats during checks of a shipping container from Ecuador.

After discussions with health officials, our Wellington team quickly decided fumigation was the best way to address the biosecurity and public health concerns.

The bats were later identified as an Argentine brown bat (*Eptesicus sp.*) and a velvety free-tailed bat (*Molossus molossus*).

It was the first recorded arrival of bats from Ecuador to New Zealand.

Below: The Argentine brown bat detected in a shipping container from Ecuador.



From the frontline...continued

Cat contamination

A dead cat in a shipping container from Italy sparked a collaborative effort to manage the biosecurity risk.

A Christchurch-based transitional facility staff member found the deceased cat along with live insects while devanning the container in October. The cat and soiled consignment were promptly placed back inside the container, with doors closed, until

further notice from Biosecurity New Zealand.

As standard fumigation using methyl bromide would have reacted with the sulphur products in the consignment, approval was needed to use an alternative insecticide for treatment.

This was soon granted, much to the relief of the importer.

A local officer supervised the unloading of the container, the collection of the cat, and

the separation of soiled packaging from the rest of the consignment. Another team member reached out to a second treatment provider to handle the authorised movement of the cat and packaging, which ended with steam sterilisation of the risk items.

Breadfruit seizures

Our Christchurch officers rarely seize breadfruit from air passengers, so it was highly unusual to stop two large hauls in one week.

Both were declared by air passengers arriving from Fiji in October. The first involved 4.4kg of breadfruit, which was seized by two of our newly recruited officers on only their second day at the airport search bench.

The second seizure, weighing 6kg, was also made at the search bench.

In both cases, the breadfruit was cooked but didn't meet biosecurity requirements, as it was not commercially processed and didn't arrive in its original sealed packaging.

Feather in unclaimed bag

A feather found in an unclaimed bag at Auckland Airport in October was likely from an eagle, according to its owner, an indigenous Canadian traveller.

Returning to the airport to collect the bag he had accidentally left on the baggage carousel, the passenger explained that he was frequently gifted feathers.

This one didn't pose any biosecurity risk, but it was seized and referred to the Department of Conservation to check its status under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Archie's fruit fly find

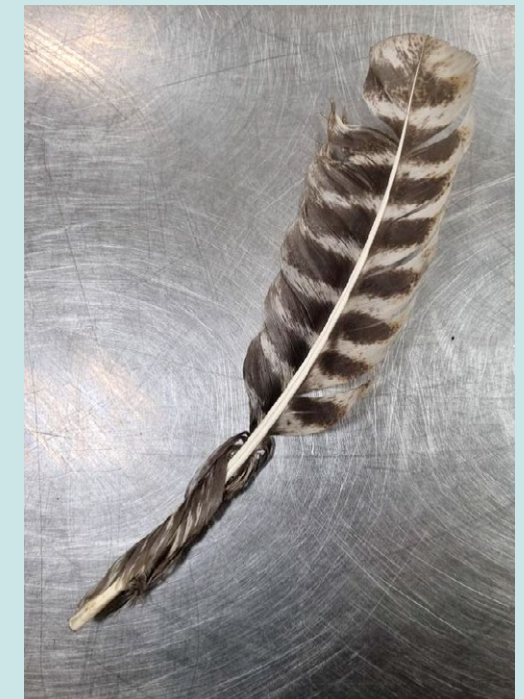
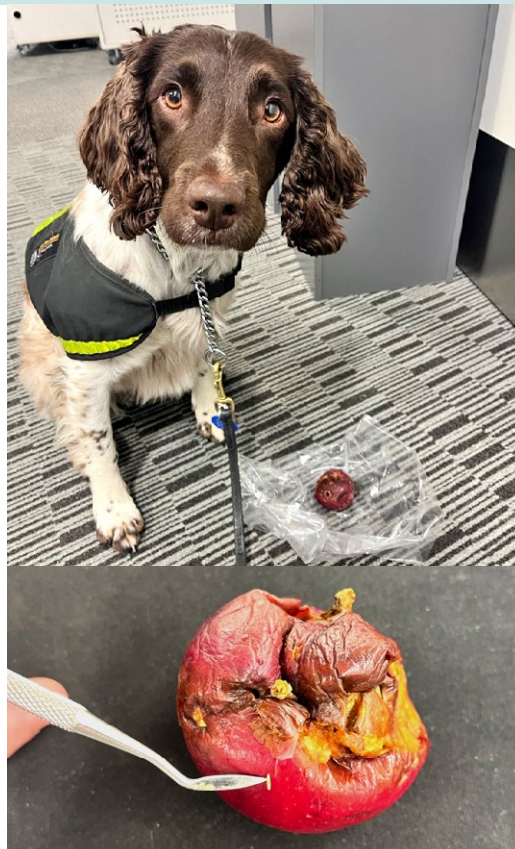
A passenger arriving from Fiji who forgot to declare an apple infested with fruit fly larvae received an infringement notice for their memory lapse.

Detector dog Archie sniffed out the apple in September during express lane screening at Christchurch Airport.

A single maggot was later identified as *Rhagoletis pomonella*, also known as the railroad worm, a serious fruit fly species in North America that primarily targets apples. The passenger had been in the United States prior to arriving in Fiji.

The remaining larvae (more than 20 maggots) were *Chymomyza amoena*, a species of vinegar fly that feeds on decaying or overripe fruit rather than healthy crops.

Right: Detector dog Archie with the undeclared apple.



From the frontline...continued

Box of butterflies

A box of butterflies arriving in the post from China caught the eye of one of our x-ray operators at the International Mail Centre.

Located in a parcel declared as photo frames, the box contained 10 specimens stapled to display boards.

There were no biosecurity issues, but the butterflies were referred to the Department of Conservation to check whether they were listed as endangered species.



Lanternfly find

Auckland officers recently detected three dead flies on a vehicle ship while carrying out routine surveillance for brown marmorated stink bug.

They were confirmed as spotted lanternfly, a high-risk pest native to Asia that invaded North America in 2014. The fly can damage some 70 plant species, feeding on sap and

excreting honeydew, which promotes black mould and inhibits plant growth.

Further checks did not detect any additional flies, allowing cargo discharge.



Avian cruisers

The Whangārei Native Bird Recovery Centre hosted three new guests after one of our Northland officers collected three seabirds from a visiting cruise ship.

The live birds were found by crew on the deck of the *Ovation of the Seas* in late October. Upon handover, our officer checked to see if they were native or exotic. All three were New Zealand species (one white-faced storm petrel and two common storm petrels).

Precautions for avian flu were carefully followed, but there was no indication of illness. The birds were passed to Department

of Conservation officials and then to the recovery centre for recuperation and assessment for release.

Below: A white-faced storm petrel enroute to the recovery centre.



Scary skull

This ornately carved cow skull, seized at Auckland Airport, had nothing to do with Halloween, but it did create something of a biosecurity scare.

Declared by a New Zealand passport holder, the skull was from Indonesia, where foot-and-mouth disease is present.

The skull was also visibly contaminated with insect eggs and spider web. Keen to keep the item, the passenger opted to pay for treatment.



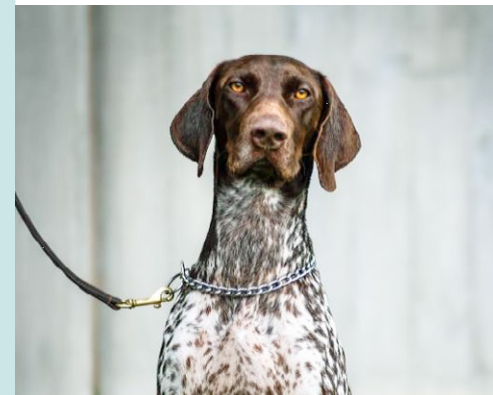
Declaration lesson

A passenger recently arriving home from Nigeria thought he didn't need to declare 1.8kg of cured beef because it wasn't fresh.

He did. He also needed to declare the snail meat, seeds, and other plant material that detector dog Pepper sniffed out in the passenger's baggage.

The risk goods were duly destroyed, and the passenger is now \$400 poorer.

Below: Detector dog Pepper – star meat sniffer along with the undeclared cured beef.



From the frontline...continued

Penalty for unannounced arrival

A yacht skipper was issued a rarely given fine after arriving unannounced at Northland's Marsden Cove Marina in early October.

Checks by a local officer revealed the skipper had not sent an Advance Notice of Arrival (ANOVA), a requirement for arriving international craft. The skipper argued that the vessel's communications went down while sailing to New Zealand.

However, the excuse wasn't accepted, as standard practice is for yacht operators to send their ANOVA via the internet from their last port stop before New Zealand.

He received a \$400 infringement notice. There were no other biosecurity issues with the vessel.



Beetroot seeds fail inspection

An inspection of a beetroot seed consignment came to an abrupt halt in front of the importer when a Christchurch officer spotted lumps of soil and pea seed.

The 10 bags of seed (7 kg) arrived from France last month. Inspection of the first three bags revealed large soil clods (22.6 g) and three pea seeds.

The entire consignment, imported for research purposes, was sent for dressing (screening) at our secure transitional facility. It was later cleared for release.

Our Christchurch team says it hasn't rejected imported seed for some time due to excess soil. The importer plans to clean out the harvester used in France to prevent future contamination.

Below: Lumps of soil in beetroot seed consignment.



Gōngfu hangs up biosecurity jacket

Another famous detector dog has hung up his biosecurity jacket for a well-deserved retirement with one of our handlers.

Gōngfu (also known as Gus) joined our detector dog programme in 2016, with a name chosen through a competition on social media in China – part of an initiative to promote biosecurity to arriving Chinese travellers.

Gōngfu means "excellence achieved through a long period of practice" – a fitting name for a detector dog.

A product of our in-house breeding programme, Gōngfu served at Christchurch and Auckland's international airports for nearly eight years.



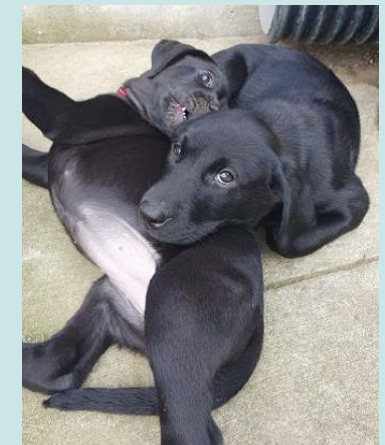
Welcome to Cody and Coco

Meet Cody and Coco – the latest additions to our detector dog programme.

The two black labrador puppies were recently purchased from an external breeder.

Coco is currently living with our kennel manager, and Cody is with our head trainer, while they both go through our puppy walking programme. The programme is designed to socialise potential biosecurity pups before they begin formal training, which starts when they reach around 14 months old.

We've purchased six labrador pups from three different breeders over the last few months. Three of the dogs have already passed their six-month assessment.



New biosecurity pups Coco (left) and Cody.

From the frontline...continued

Fine for removing imported plants

A nursery and its company director have been fined \$42,500 for illegally removing imported plants from quarantine after just one day.

Under the Biosecurity Act, imported plants must remain in quarantine for three months. Jeffrey Wayne Elliott (65) and Elliott Wholesale Nursery Limited, a registered post-entry quarantine facility, were sentenced in the Christchurch District Court in October after earlier pleading guilty.

In September 2022, Elliott Wholesale Nursery imported 600 *Nandina domestica* tissue culture – an evergreen shrub from Australia. After only one day, Elliott removed 220 of these plants, replacing them with similar-looking domestic plants to avoid detection. Fortunately, no pests or diseases were found on the plants taken out of the quarantine facility.



Praise for CHOGM support

Six of our officers provided biosecurity support for the recent Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Apia.

It was the first time a Pacific Island nation has hosted the international event, which was attended by King Charles III and Queen Camilla. It ran from 21–26 October. Our team assisted local officers with the arrival clearance for heads of state, dignitaries, support personnel, and visitors to Samoa from 56 member countries. They were part of a contingent of nearly 460 New Zealand personnel from more than ten agencies.

At the end of the meeting, the team carried out pre-clearance of personnel and a large volume of equipment returning home on defence force flights and the *HMNZS Canterbury*.

The Minister of Samoa's Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Honourable Laaulialemalietoa Leuatea Polataivao Fosi Schmidt, personally thanked our team for their support.



Above: The CHOGM team outside Apia's international airport.

Left: Our CHOGM biosecurity team with Samoan officials.



Border activity for September and October 2024

	Sept 2023	Sept 2024	Oct 2023	Oct 2024
Passenger				
Total arrivals	489,894	494,171	544,370	562,980
NZ/Australia	331,519	338,228	360,090	378,432
Rest of world	158,375	155,943	184,280	184,548
Risk items seized	9,556	7,549	10,107	8,854
Risk items treated or destroyed	6,613	4,932	7,139	5,927
Infringement notices	630	684	688	831
Mail				
Mail items screened	1,079,902	1,047,419	1,056,181	805,353
Mail items requiring further inspection	1,527	1,779	1,467	1,860
Risk mail items treated or destroyed	160	294	185	284
Sea Containers				
Sea containers arrivals	52,973	52,300	57,969	61,002
Sea containers inspected	1,911	2,014	2,478	3,637
Cargo				
Cargo lines of interest to MPI	18,289	19,017	20,030	20,894
Cargo lines inspected	5,417	5,347	5,543	5,607
Cargo lines treated, reshipped or destroyed	962	1,154	1,147	1,203



Mike Inglis
Commissioner, North
Biosecurity New Zealand



Andrew Spelman
Commissioner, Biosecurity Intelligence
and Systems, Biosecurity New Zealand



Diane McDermott
Commissioner, Central/South
Biosecurity New Zealand

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