

## PESTS VS PEOPLE

### Are we winning the war against pest animals in Australia?

***My simple answer is that we are losing! We must do a lot more to redress a worsening situation.***

With rabbits showing increased resistance to RHD virus, no new fleas to aid myxoma spread and potential attenuation of virulence for this virus, we are gradually losing the half a century of benefits of two disseminating lethal bio-controls for this devastating pest. I have said many times that the rabbit has the potential to turn much of productive Australia into a desert. No-one should be complacent enough to think that the rabbit problem is solved. This is very dangerous thinking. We must rely increasingly on conventional controls (baiting, trapping, ripping, fencing and shooting) to maintain the status quo with this pest. We must strive, wherever possible, for local eradication as the long term least-cost aspirational goal.

Foxes are still extending their range northwards and possibly increasing in density in established southern areas. The wild dog problem is rapidly increasing in magnitude, in geographical impact and in commercial impact. Wildlife loss from both species is incalculable. When I was young it was indigenous wildlife seen on the side of the road but now the most

common road kills are introduced pests like foxes and feral pigs. The evidence is in front of us but we do very little.

Now with several wet seasons in succession it is likely that the feral pig populations are again rapidly expanding after the decade of drought. Some estimates put the potential feral pig population at over 20 million, which is more feral pigs than cattle in Australia. The risk for disease spread is enormous.

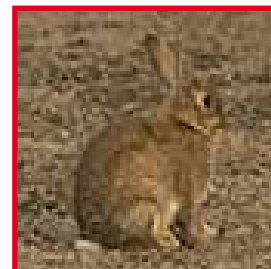
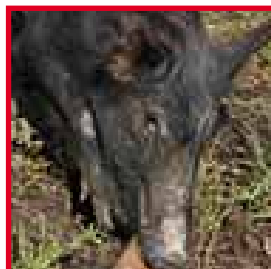
We have hundreds of thousands of camels, donkeys and horses roaming through public and private lands and even highly professional helicopter based shooting culls are hardly denting the true problem.

If anything, mice and rats are relatively easily addressed when they erupt in larger numbers, since the development in Australia (by ACTA) of reliable and cheap zinc phosphide baits. The mice will surely come again but the response is now well organised and it is possible here, unlike with other pests, to take a more tactical approach to emerging rodent pest threats to crops and food storages.

My assertion that we are losing the battles and the war is not good news for

many, especially given the investment of state agencies, federal governments and industry bodies in new research. However, this has not been wasted investment. For the first time in decades we have a potential new humane toxin for feral pigs, and an additional tool for wild dog and fox (and feral cat) control in the form of Para Amino Propiophenone (PAPP). We also have progress towards more virulent strains of RHD and we better understand the basis for resistance to the virulent strains conferred by the pre-existing benign virus. There is progress towards the bio-control of two key invasive fish species.

This is good news, but it is not enough to stem the tide. I am critical of the complacency implicit in the assumption that new technology will somehow fix the problem. If we do not apply it properly, we achieve nothing. I think the issues are deeper and more pervasive than this. A fundamental reason why we are failing is that the community is being obfuscated from taking action. We have ridiculous restrictions on the use of important chemicals under the misguided assumption that such over regulation is needed for public safety.



FOXOFF®  
Fox Bait



RABBAIT®  
Pindone Oat Bait



MOUSEOFF®  
Bromadiolone



RATTOFF®  
Rat Bait



DENCOFUME®  
Fumigation Cartridges



RABBAIT®  
1080 Oat Bait



PIGOUT®  
Feral Pig Bait



MOUSEOFF®  
Zinc Phosphide Bait



DOGGONE®  
Wild Dog Bait



SLUGGOFF®  
Slug & Snail Bait

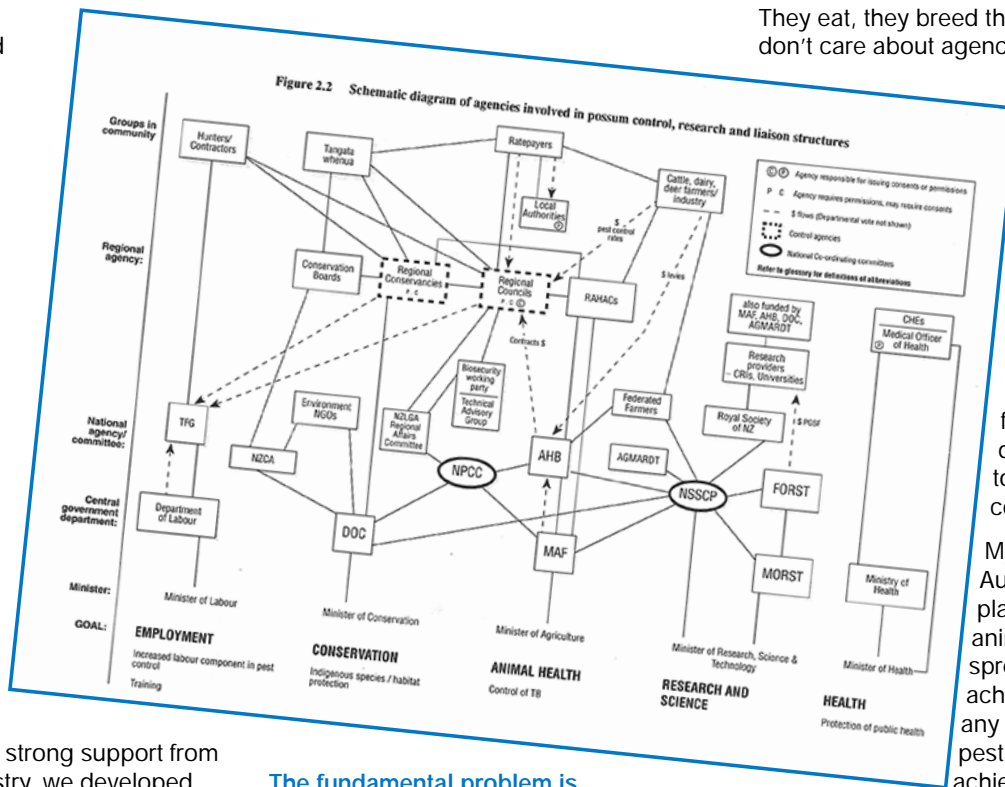


RODEMISE®  
Bromadiolone Rodent Block

A simple molecule like 1080 (acetic acid with a flouride atom substituted for a hydrogen atom) that is target- specific and biodegradable, is being treated with about as much restriction as plutonium. Now even the anti- terror people have started to consider this chemical. I can hardly see a terrorist seeking to take over the world using a fox bait, but what a wonderful job creation scheme this concern has become for so many agencies these days!

Some time ago, with strong support from the sugar cane industry, we developed a zinc phosphide based bait (RATTOFF) to control superabundant rats in cane crops. The project and technology were a great success and provided a solution to the non-target impact arising from food chain accumulation of anticoagulants, that were then being used illegally to control rats in crops. Despite the benefits of the new technology, the governments decided to make it necessary to obtain special permits to use this highly effective, safer and more environmentally beneficial technology. So the farmers simply said "bugger that" and just reverted to colossal misuse of second generation anticoagulants that faced little restriction. A blind eye was turned and we have a classic example of restrictive paperwork preventing, rather than encouraging, best practice.

This is happening over and over again. Land owners are frustrated, yet the established bureaucrats continue to justify the "need for public safety" issue well beyond the practical reality. The methods for control become less accessible and the pests run wild. I am not advocating a free-for-all access to chemicals and have never taken this approach, but I am saying that there needs to be quantum change in the mindsets of regulators, at both state and federal levels, to see the wood for the trees.



They eat, they breed they damage. They don't care about agencies, instruction books, restrictions or title boundaries. Given their freedom to operate, I suspect their plan will succeed, while a great many of us have multi-agency-strategic-task-force-meetings to discuss how better to regulate the control options!

My final point is that Australia is a huge place and the pest animals are widely spread. We will never achieve eradication for any major established pest, but we will achieve very little at all

**The fundamental problem is the pest animals and not the chemicals, so why do we focus on regulation of the available means for control, rather than focus on improved access and delivery to solve the primary problem?**

We also have very complicated structures for implementation. Our federal system of five states and two territories, each with local regulation, guarantees this. But we are not alone. The schematic diagram above is taken from a NZ government analysis of the agencies that interact (in their case constructively and effectively) to manage the tuberculosis risk from feral possums in NZ. We can draw similar diagrams for administration of pests in Australia! However, the pests have a much simpler business plan illustrated by the second diagram!

if we do not have the full support of the landholders themselves. They walk their land, they understand their pest issues, they have a reason to take action and they are geographically dispersed. They have a direct benefit from effective pest management and are our best ally to make a difference. I therefore suggest that we take more time to help facilitate their involvement rather than make it more and more difficult for them to take actions that are desperately needed.

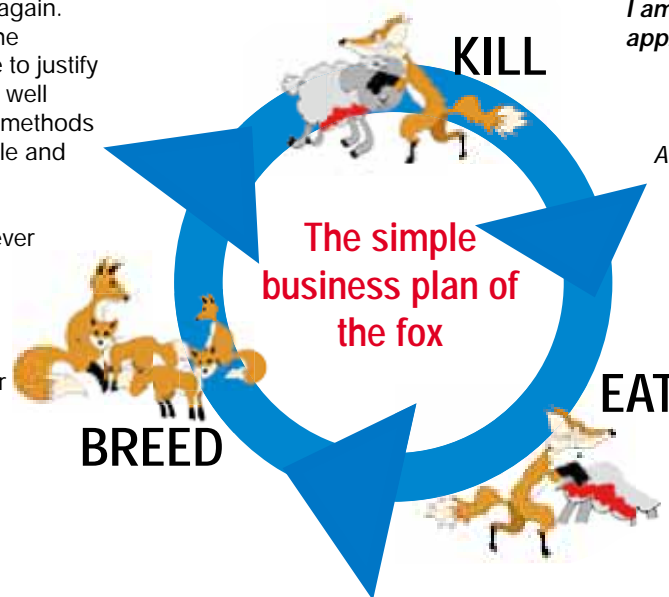
**The solution to the pest problems of Australia is a people and policy issue more than a technology issue at this time.**

**We need to change the mindset away from over-regulation and more toward facilitation in every way.**

**I am calling for a paradigm shift in the approach before it is too late.**

*Prof Linton Staples  
Managing Director*

*Adjunct Professor of Animal Science UQ*





# Mice rip into WA lupin crop

**The 2013 Autumn looks to be a low risk season for mice. This will be a welcome relief to many farmers who have battled the massive plague of 2011.**

The relatively low risk this season may be due to the extreme dry and hot summer in most Southern areas. In our experience, the occurrence of summer rains in December and January (which did not occur this year) can be one of the drivers for increasing mouse risk in Autumn. The 2013 summer was one of the hottest and driest on record in southern areas, so mouse risks for Autumn plantings appear to be low.

Nevertheless, mice can respond quickly to changed conditions, so vigilance is always

necessary at a local level. Mice can arise in localised hot spots with little warning.

GRDC spent quite a bit of time and money last season trying to monitor sites for mice in QLD, NSW, VIC and SA. Sadly they completely missed the real problem last year, which was in WA crops! This simply illustrates that monitoring on a state basis is generally not a great way to indicate real localised mouse risk. We have seen hot spots monitored, with no mice in the adjoining paddock and *vice versa* – so which paddock should be monitored? The answer is that all farmers should look at their own crops for mouse risk and not rely on general survey data for assessing their local crop risk.

A number of good techniques for monitoring are available (see ACTA

website) and they are all cheap and easy. The photos below were kindly sent by consultant agronomist Phil Smythe at Esperance and show the massive risks that mice posed to developing lupin crops last August in southern WA. This is the same type of damage that was seen a few years earlier in lupin crops around Geraldton. In both cases mice were successfully controlled with timely application of MOUSEOFF® Zinc Phosphide bait.

Note that the mice were chewing off the leaves at the high nutrition nodes and also totally destroying the flower heads. Those pods which did make it through to fill with seeds were also soon emptied by the voracious mice.



***Protect crops or lose them!***





# RODEMISE®

Bromadiolone Rodent Block

For control of mice & rats in domestic and industrial situations

**New  
Product**

RODEMISE® Bromadiolone Rodent blocks are individually wrapped for safer use and to enhance bait freshness.

Together with RODEMISE® bait stations they are a simple and very effective method for the control of mice and rats.

RODEMISE® blocks are prepared from high quality food ingredients to create very palatable baits that attract both mice and rats. The blocks are available from rural merchant stores, home & garden stores and hardware stores. No permits are required. Rodemise® 200g "Superblocks" are pierced to allow hanging.

## Why control rodent infestations?

Mice and rats are known to cause massive damage to processed and stored food products. Rodents also cause major damage to infrastructure and electrical installations. Rodents also carry bacterial infections and viral diseases that can be harmful to humans. Rodent litter size can be up to 10 and gestation is just 3 weeks, so populations can rise rapidly.


## Where are rodents found?

Rodents are found throughout Australia, in urban and rural areas with the common areas of concern being food storage areas, sheds, warehouses, roof spaces, wall cavities and under floors. Any place where shelter and natural or manmade food is available will harbor rodents.

## Features

- ✓ Highly palatable
- ✓ Individually wrapped for safety & freshness
- ✓ Available in 50g blocks and 200g "super" blocks
- ✓ Can be purchased, stored & used without permits
- ✓ Ideal for all domestic & industrial rodent programs
- ✓ Available in a wide range of pack sizes.





RODEMISE® rodent blocks and superblocks are made in Germany using the latest technology and are individually wrapped for maximum palatability and freshness

## Why use Bromadiolone?

When used in RODEMISE® rodent blocks and superblocks, Bromadiolone works as a single feed anticoagulant rodenticide. The highly palatable RODEMISE® Blocks contain enough Bromadiolone to kill mice and rats after a single feed.

## Is there an antidote?

Yes. Since anticoagulant poisons work by inhibiting the recycling of Vitamin K, the effects can be treated by administration of Vitamin K1 (phytomenadione) antidote. This is not required unless symptoms of anticoagulation develop.

## How to use RODEMISE®

RODEMISE® blocks are simple to use. The individually wrapped blocks can be torn open or left unopened as rodents will soon eat through the wrapper.


Blocks should be placed in areas where rodents are found. If other animals or pets also have access to the area, it is advisable to place baits in RODEMISE® bait stations. Baits or bait stations should be placed not less than 20 metres apart and along wall edges where rodents prefer to travel.

Baits should be checked every few days. Replace baits taken until uptake ceases. Residual bait can be left to provide control against reinvading rodents. Uptake will typically continue for at least a week after the program starts due to the delayed effect of the poison. If new rodents are entering the area it is best to maintain the baiting program for an extended period.

Detailed directions on product label.



Rodemise® 50g blocks



Rodemise® 200g "Superblocks" pierced for easy hanging.

**Order now**  
**[sales@animalcontrol.com.au](mailto:sales@animalcontrol.com.au)**  
**or Fax to 03 9308 9622**



# Community monitoring

- helping to understand the fox problem.

Through the sponsoring of fox control land holders on the Bellarine Peninsula participate in Bellarine Ark. This project is supported by the Bellarine Landcare Group, through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country.

The project is tenure-blind, as fox control occurs on both public and private land. Currently 35 private landholders are involved together with various agencies.

The target areas for fox control are the Bellarine Ramsar Wetlands and a larger buffer zone surrounding these natural assets. (See map for the project area.) Besides fox baiting, den fumigation and harbour destruction are also funded. The products used are FOXOFF® Econobait and Den-Co-Fume®. Baiting occurs via contractors, agents or licensed landholders. Free training is offered for landholders to complete their own baiting program in order to future-proof the program if funding suddenly drops.

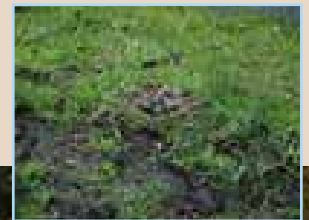
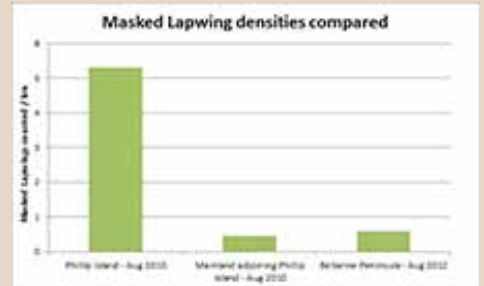
## Monitoring

To measure effectiveness of this program, a prey-response survey is conducted annually. Generally agreed upon, anecdotal observations and bait monitoring is not a conclusive indicator to see if a program is successful or not. The aim of our program is not to kill foxes as such, but to protect fauna and so improve biodiversity. Measuring the effect of fox control on biodiversity is for a community based organisation as Bellarine Landcare not an activity we are familiar with. With the help and assistance of industry and field experts, a simple and effective community monitoring program is set-up.

The population of a relatively common bird species is monitored annually. The Masked Lapwing, previously known as the Spur-winged Plover, makes an ideal study

object: it's rather large and gregarious, easy to identify and a relatively common bird. It's territory-bound at certain times of the year and above all, there is a direct relation between fox predation and egg survival. Similar studies proved to be successful as part of the awarded fox control program on Phillip Island.

For most community members, the foxes are sometimes a hard to comprehend issue. Foxes are often not directly visible to the community and often land holders comment they do not have any foxes on their property. The survey tries to demonstrate a correlation between lowering of the fox population and the population increase of an animal we can all connect to. This resulted in calls from all across the peninsula, reporting their sighting and experiences with this bird, sometimes even sharing childhood memories. These reports were often the starting point for a conversation about foxes and about necessary fox control. By lowering the initial barrier, people are far more likely to be involved and make fox control a priority.



## Results

During an 80 km transect count in the Bellarine Ark target area a total of 47 birds were counted, corresponding with 0.59 Masked Lapwing per transect kilometre driven. This initial count will become the baseline data to use for future counts. A similar survey has been conducted on Phillip Island (see graph), where due to a very intensive fox control program the population of Lapwings is approximately 10 times higher.



# Foxes in suburban settings

**Foxes are an increasing menace in the suburbs.**

A survey called "dob-in-a-fox", run by DPI in Melbourne some years back, found foxes in almost every suburb of Melbourne. Densities of up to 15 foxes/km<sup>2</sup> were found in the Eastern suburbs of Melbourne!

However, city folk are not able to shoot or bait in the area and have little experience of trapping!

Perhaps we should learn from this that we are powerless to meet this challenge while every method of control is constrained.

While there are good reasons why this is the case in the urban zone, the reality is that

we are not able to do what is truly needed to meet the challenge. When the urban foxes get infected with rabies, the priority will change to human health and pet safety. Only this tragedy will change the balance and see some constraints to action lifted.

Sadly it may take a disaster to enable action to control urban foxes.

These photos were taken from the family room of our Graphics company director just a few weeks ago in the Sandringham area.

The garden is fully fenced!"



If you have an urban fox problem in Victoria, members of the VPMAV can provide expert trapping services



# RODEMISE®

## BAIT STATION RANGE

Bait stations are an increasingly important means to safely deliver anticoagulant rodenticides. The ideal bait station has entry and exit points and is usually designed for optimal placement against walls where mice and rats like to run.

ACTA has secured a range of cost effective bait stations for use with our rodenticide products.

All feature lockable access and are made from durable plastics for long service life and re-use.



Rodemise® Rodent Bait Station  
(for rats and mice)



Rodemise® Mouse Bait Station



Rodemise® Large Rat Bait Station

# HogHoppers™ & PIGOUT® ECONOBAITS® control feral pigs at Dirranbandi



Feral pigs are one of Australia's most significant vertebrate pest species. They adversely impact agriculture and the natural environment and are vectors for numerous endemic and exotic diseases which threaten wildlife, livestock and human health. One of the most common control techniques used in Australia for feral pigs is poison baiting.

A study in August 2012, sponsored by MLA and run by Jason Wishart of the IA-CRC and assisted by Darren Marshall and John Scriven of Queensland Murray Darling Committee, has shown that HogHoppers™ can be used with a lower cost ECONOBAIT® version of PIGOUT® to effectively control feral pigs.

The central poison core feature of the normal PIGOUT® bait (see ACTA Newsletters #28-31, or visit [www.animalcontrol.com.au](http://www.animalcontrol.com.au)) is not needed as the HogHopper™ made the baits only accessible by the target feral pigs.

The concept of the PIGOUT® ECONOBAIT® is to have a smaller bait (approx 70g per bait c/f the 200g size of PIGOUT®), with the sodium fluoroacetate poison spread throughout the matrix, instead of just the central core. The dose of 1080 poison/kg of bait matrix remains the same at 0.3g/kg. The pigs can self-regulate uptake, so the smaller ECONOBAITS® delivered via the

HogHopper™ can address any size of pig.

The trial tested HogHopper™ delivered PIGOUT® ECONOBAIT for controlling feral pigs near Dirranbandi, in Queensland.

HogHoppers™ were positioned at feral pig hotspots and remote cameras were installed at each HogHopper™ which recorded feral pig interactions at each hopper. Independent cameras near dams or on travel pads provided an independent measure of feral pig abundance. Free-feeding was initially undertaken with dry wheat and non-toxic PIGOUT® ECONOBAITS®.



Thereafter, toxic (1080) PIGOUT® ECONOBAIT® were deployed over four consecutive days.

A statistically significant ( $p=0.007$ ) decline in the total number of feral pigs visiting HogHopper™s before (134

$\pm 7$  Std.Error.) and after ( $30 \pm 3$ ) toxic baiting, confirmed a 78% reduction. A 78% reduction in the number of feral pig passes per night at independent monitoring stations was also recorded (before =  $68 \pm 12$ , after =  $15 \pm 1$ ,  $p=0.049$ , see Fig.4).

The nightly average bait-uptake ( $n=2$  not including the first night of toxic baiting) by feral pigs at HogHopper™s declined from  $95 \pm 1\%$  before toxic bait deployment to  $5 \pm 5\%$  after toxic baiting. (Fig. 2)

On the first night of toxic baiting 887 toxic PIGOUT® econobaits were consumed by a potential 136 feral pigs, an average of 6.5 baits per pig (Fig.3). The trial showed that HogHopper™ delivered PIGOUT® ECONOBAITS® provided excellent population reductions.

The trial was undertaken during August when the mean maximum ambient temperature is 20°C and the average rainfall is 18mm, so seasonal creeks are often dry, and dams become focal points for feral pig activity.





In addition, age or gender bias was not obvious as a large demographic cross section of the population were affected by poison baiting. Some carcasses ranging in weight from piglets to 65kg were found near to the **HogHoppers™** after toxic baiting phase.

As a consequence of the dense vegetation present at each of the **HogHopper™** locations it was extremely difficult to locate feral pig carcasses. Nevertheless, five animals were found within 30 meters of the **HogHopper™** ranging in size from small piglets (<10kg) to large adults (65kg).



Figure 1 – Feral pigs feeding

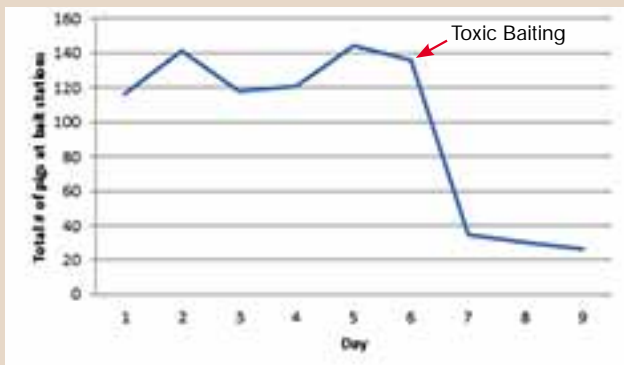


Figure 2 – Total number of feral pigs visiting HogHopper™s before and after toxic baiting.

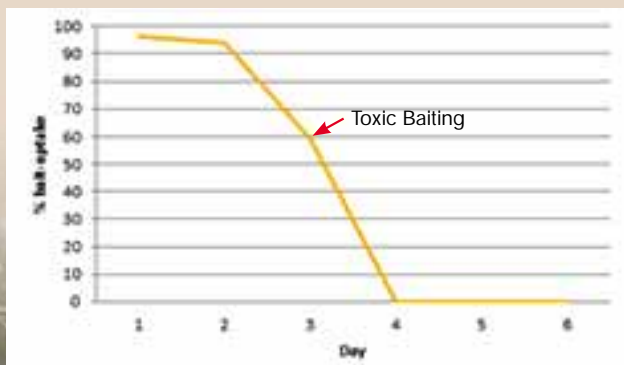


Figure 3 – Percentage PIGOUT® econobait uptake before and after toxic baiting.



Figure 4 – Total number of feral pig passes per night before and after toxic baiting at independent monitoring stations.

## No non-target impact

Numerous non-target species were recorded at the **HogHoppers™** during the trial, including Cattle (*Bos sp.*), European red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), eastern grey kangaroo (*Macropus giganteus*), apostle birds (*Struthidea cinerea*), crested pigeons (*Ocyphaps lophotes*), Australian magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*), Australian magpie lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*), Australian raven (*Corvus coronoides*), emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*) and galah (*Cacatua roseicapilla*).

However, the only animals other than feral pigs to remove **PIGOUT® ECONOBAIT®** from a **HogHopper™** were foxes. They were only able to do so, as one of the **HogHoppers™** jammed open between feral pig feeding events. Non-target species sightings remained consistent throughout the entire trial period.



Please Note, PIGOUT® ECONOBAITS® are not yet registered and are therefore not yet available for sale.

This trial will be used to support registration application.

ACTA Acknowledges the inputs of industry (MLA), IA-CRC, and MDBC staff in cooperation to advance feral pig management in Australia.



All feral pigs in groups are able to access baits from HogHoppers™





# How many foxes are really there?

*Farmers often state that they have a problem “with an old rogue fox”.*

They then describe him accurately as having a white tip on the tail, white insides to the ears and a white brisket – so they are sure this is the one!

We have not seen a fox that does not have these features. Remember, at 4 foxes per square kilometre we have 300 foxes in a 5 Km radius. Sometimes

more, sometimes less – but we are dealing with hundreds and not just a few rogues! Most foxes are just 1 or 2 years old and they all eat!

This trophy shot was kindly sent by Kevin Grisé, an American Fur and Animal Control Trapper, who has been trapping and Poisoning Foxes and Dogs

in Victoria for the last 15 years. Working with a leading VPMV pest control contracting team, he successfully trapped all these foxes in a park on the northern urban fringe of Melbourne. If you ever need some help with trapping, he can be contacted through Linton Staples at ACTA.



SLUGGOFF® is effective for slug & snail control in all situations

## Rat Lungworm from Slugs & Snails

There have been less than ten serious cases of Rat lungworm disease in Australia in the past 50 years. However, a recent cluster of infections in Sydney has indicated a risk to health authorities.

### *Rat Lungworm disease information*

Rat Lungworm disease has been documented in Australia, Asia, the Pacific region, the Caribbean and the United States.

Most infections are not severe but in the worst cases rat lungworm disease causes severe meningitis and death.

Humans can contract Rat Lungworm disease by eating snails and slugs or material contaminated by slugs and snails. The best way to prevent infection is good sanitation; always wash hands after touching slugs and snails or surfaces contaminated by them.

It is also important to thoroughly wash

and cook any produce that could be contaminated. Never eat raw snails or slugs. If infected, there may be no symptoms or only mild short lived symptoms. Most cases do not require medical attention. Sometimes the infection causes meningitis with headache, stiff neck, tingling or pain in the skin, fever, nausea, and vomiting. People who develop these symptoms should see their doctor. Rat lung worm infection cannot be passed on to other people.

# Notes from the field

## HogHoppers™ in action at Undara Volcanic NP

A feral pig baiting program is being conducted at Undara Volcanic and 40 Mile Scrub National Parks by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service as part of a broader pest management program.

The aim of the baiting program is to reduce feral pig numbers, in areas of significant conservation value including semi evergreen vine thicket and spring communities. HogHoppers™ and Pigout® baits are used in this instance to minimise risks to non-target species.

Baiting locations were created after Rangers identified impacts in the key areas and regular sightings of pigs in close proximity to water sources and dense vegetation cover. A combination of fermented cracked corn, molasses and non-toxic Pigout® baits have been used to attract

feral pigs to the locations and get them familiar with the Hog Hoppers™. The sites are constantly monitored with digital trail cameras. Once feral pigs are free feeding

and lifting the HogHopper™ doors, toxic Pigout® baits are then used.

Results at Undara Volcanic National Park have shown feral pigs visiting bait stations nightly with up to 160 photographs per night taking the free feed. On nights immediately following the use of toxic baits, feral pigs have not been recorded in photographs indicating success with the baiting program. Results at 40 Mile scrub have been less encouraging, with the feral pigs not taking to the free feed as readily as at Undara. One large boar has been baited, while other feral pigs seem to

just wander past the bait stations. Rangers are experimenting with different free feed at these sites to attract pigs to the bait stations. This will be an ongoing project, it is not very labour intensive and fits into the integrated pest

management program of the Undara management unit.

Ranger Doug Davidson, from Qld National Parks & Wildlife Service has kindly sent

these photos of his HogHopper program in the Undara National Park west of Townsville. He free fed with molasses and cracked corn, pigs were photographed moving past the hopper but none were eating any of the free feed. He then began to soak (ferment) the cracked corn and the pigs started to feed on it. Whip tailed wallabies in the area did not feed from the hoppers and left the area once molasses was deleted. He then switched to PIGOUT® free feed baits and achieved rapid uptake. His only problem was that the pigs sometimes uprooted the pegs securing the hopper from the basalt soil and pigs also bent one door [NOTE: ACTA has worked with manufacturers already to strengthen the doors and increase bracing in the latest 'Mark IV' models of the hoppers now in production]. He then closed the doors and filled the hoppers with poison PIGOUT® baits and achieved knockdown of 8 of 12 pigs. The remaining four did not take the baits and this is the first time we have seen this sort of shy behaviour in pigs. Doug can be contacted on 07 40971485 or at [doug.davidson@derm.qld.gov.au](mailto:doug.davidson@derm.qld.gov.au)

**Feral Pig Control at Undara Volcanic 40 Mile Scrub national parks using Hog Hoppers™ and Pigout® baits.**



## 1080 prices to rise

While the cost of 1080 is a small part of total costs of making and registering baits, we have had three price increases in the cost of 1080 during 2012. This has resulted in a **26% increase** in the cost of 1080 which is imported from the USA. Some of this has been due to increased freight and handling costs due to higher documentation requirements overseas.

While the exchange rate for US dollars remains favourable, some of the price hike has been absorbed by ACTA, but we would like all to realise that the cost of some products, especially those with high 1080 content, such as concentrates and high dose pig baits, will increase slightly as the higher material costs for active constituents are passed through.





# Delicia SLUGGOFF® Lentils:

# ACTA launches SLUGGOFF® Home & Garden pack

Cereal growers and large scale horticulturalists are already seeing the effectiveness of the new SLUGGOFF® lentil shaped bait for large-scale slug and snail control.

The bait is a high quality manufactured bait containing twice the typical strength of metaldehyde per gram of matrix. Moreover, it is entirely rain-fast making it ideal for irrigated crops and wetter areas. Details of the bait can be found on the ACTA web site and in previous ACTA newsletters #29, 30 & 31.

A feature of the bait is the high effectiveness at much lower application rates than most other products. In some cases SLUGGOFF® treats 6 times the area of cheap pellet baits for the same amount of product.

Now home gardeners can have the benefit of this latest European technology for slug and snail control.

ACTA has launched the 200 gram shaker pack (this bait does not need to be heaped). The launch was at the Melbourne Garden Show in Autumn 2012 and the bait achieved immediate acceptance. It is now gradually becoming available in garden centres and hardware chains and is also available direct from the SLUGGOFF® web site [www.sluggoff.com.au](http://www.sluggoff.com.au).

Call or email Toula Larosa at [enquiries@animalcontrol.com.au](mailto:enquiries@animalcontrol.com.au) or on

03 93089688 if you would like us to post a SLUGGOFF® booklet and a free 20 gram sample of this exciting new product.





**FOXECUTE®**  
Fox Bait

# PAPP BAIT UPDATE



**DOGABATE®**  
Wild Dog Bait



There has been much pre-publicity on the very long Para Amino Propiophenone (PAPP) bait development project so we are loathe to add too much more at this time. A technical summary was in ACTA newsletter #30 in 2011 and there have been many IA-CRC presentations over recent years.

Current news is that the submission for the approval of the new chemical, prepared jointly by the IA-CRC and ACTA with AWI support over 7 years, has now cleared initial screening at the APVMA. It is now being reviewed by the various agencies who consider the safety and scheduling of any new chemical active. ACTA has also submitted the full efficacy and environmental safety submissions for the two key products. While the product submissions are in screening we are improving the assays and working up better stability data to be added during the review, so as not to delay evaluation. We have received enormous collaboration for testing the new products and we look forward to fully acknowledging the many research staff, agencies, groups and landholders who have contributed to the project when the products are launched. This has been a true team effort toward a common goal of expanding options for control of critical vertebrate pests. Everyone can rest assure that every single trial data point was captured and used in support of these significant submissions.



The fox product (FOXECUTE®) contains 400mg PAPP and the dog bait (DOGABATE®) will contain 1000mg of

PAPP. A strong safety feature for the fox bait is that the 400mg fox dose is sufficient to slow a dog down (so probably reduce risk of finding several baits) but is less likely to kill larger dogs. So fox control can be tackled more aggressively than is presently the case. In addition the IA-CRC is working to supply an injectable antidote of methylene blue, to be called "BLUE HEALER®" which can recover a working dog even if near death. However, as the baits for dogs will kill quickly, the antidote must be administered within half an hour of bait ingestion. At present only an injectable (I.V.) form of the antidote has



been proven to work. Oral forms of the antidote for on farm use are not yet proven to be reliable.

Many have asked about the pricing of baits. It must be noted that the cost of PAPP is much higher than for 1080 so this alone will add to bait costs. So 1080 baits will remain a mainstay and

the lowest cost option in low risk areas. FOXOFF® and DOGGONE® baits remain the best proven and lowest cost bait option for fox and wild dog control in Australia and will remain fully available.

The 1080 and PAPP baits will also be upgraded with scat marker beads incorporated to enable fast diagnosis of what type of bait has been eaten. This provides vets with an additional diagnostic aid to confirm lack of bait uptake in some unexplained dog deaths. Use of different colour marker beads will indicate the best treatment to a working dog that has taken either type of bait. Scat beads can also be found in fox and wild dog carcasses as confirmation of bait effectiveness.

It is not yet possible to have a precise launch date, pending the APVMA processes, but

the data strongly supports registration, so we are hopeful to be in production very soon after the APVMA deliberations are complete.

Both products will be supported by the usual comprehensive technical support information from ACTA and the IA-CRC in due course.



*ACTA has been working closely with both the IA-CRC and AWI*

# Agencies look at terror potential of agricultural chemicals

*After the USA and Bali bombings it was clear that some fertilizers had explosive potential if in the wrong hands. Inevitably the question was asked as to what other industrial agricultural chemicals could pose a terror threat?*

Precursors to explosives, like hydrogen peroxide and nitric acid, became the first priority, but now the agencies are rating risks of poisons. Insecticides and pesticides, like 1080, and the metal phosphides rated highly in an initial short list of some 90 chemicals. There was some consideration of having transport tracking and user declarations "for the user to declare that he/she was not going to mis use the chemical supplied for terrorism", but it was soon pointed out that terrorists are poor at completing forms!

Also restrictions on finished products with high dilutions were inappropriate, compared to monitoring of the pure actives. But since a blind eye was recently turned to the illegal importation and supply of 20,000kg of zinc phosphide to farmers, we wonder if this is really being taken seriously in any case!

So far, the Attorney General's and Prime Minister's Departments, who are heading the push, have listened carefully to industry stake holders, including ACTA and relevant peak bodies. They have opted for a voluntary Code of Practice (see [www.chemicalsecurity.gov.au/publicconsultation/pages/default.aspx](http://www.chemicalsecurity.gov.au/publicconsultation/pages/default.aspx)) with a low key reporting process that attempts to flag any potential mis-use.

A national Security HotLine has been established (1800 123400) for anyone to report misuse of poisons or other agricultural chemicals. More information and background is found on the website [www.chemicalsecurity.gov.au](http://www.chemicalsecurity.gov.au).



*ACTA has very high level security facilities and processes which have found favour with the agencies. We have also pointed out that a "weapon of mass destruction" would be an RHD, Myxoma and 1080 resistant pair of rabbits!*

## ACTA Carrots providing a winner for rabbit management

Following requests from contractors, ACTA has established a high tech carrot cutter and dosing system that provides very high quality carrot cubes. The cutting system does not crush or pulverise the carrots so there is virtually no juice or fragments. The risk of fermentation is therefore reduced and the cut carrot free feed or dosed pindone or 1080 product can now be transported to most locations in Victoria, then used fresh.

These baits are freshly made to order and it is important to work closely with

ACTA logistics staff to achieve timely fresh delivery.

10kg pails and 100kg recyclable drums are available. This service has saved the costs of sourcing carrots, chopping and mixing locally and speeds up the organisation and delivery of programs - whether large or small

See ACTA website for more information.



1080

Free Feed

Pindone





# ACTA out there working

## PESTSMART ROADSHOW

### ACTA helps with IA-CRC Pestsmart Road Shows throughout Australia.

During late 2012 the Invasive Animals CRC showcased its latest research on pest animals and fish to industry groups and advisory staff around Australia in a series of workshops. ACTA staff were involved in many of the presentations and assisted with the programs. We also had a display of control options available.

The meetings were set up at fairly short notice so, despite our best efforts, few



landholders and merchant agronomists could attend. However, senior industry people gave introductory perspectives at each meeting and a large number of advisory agencies were able to get the latest from an extensive team of "experts". We all know that an expert is really just a "drip under pressure"

and this was certainly the case for the road show program – with more than 20 seminars in all states over a two month period, everyone was running ragged by the end despite the brilliant organising

logistics of Olympic shooter Suzie Ballogg who also acted as MC for each event.

A feature of the program was to raise awareness of the **Pest Smart Tool Kit** in which the IA-CRC has assembled a massive amount of useful information on key pests and how best to control or manage them. The tool kit contains fact sheets, published papers and product information and is free to access at [www.pestsmart.com.au](http://www.pestsmart.com.au). This is a lasting resource for all those involved in pest management whether in research, coordination or on-farm action.



## ACTA at Trade Shows around Australia



## Canid Pest Ejectors

ACTA is pleased to have been able to supply Canid Pest Ejectors (CPE's, known in the USA as "M-44" devices) under permit to NSW Parks and Wildlife Service over recent months. Following requests and support from most states we are now seeking registration in all States so the CPE's can be made available generally to all those with appropriate permits to use 1080 based products. We are also working on a disposable bait head for the devices to make them even more convenient to use. We will advise as soon as the APVMA approves registration and we have already obtained excellent stability data for the loaded 1080 capsules, that we also provide.



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## Graffiti hits ACTA whiteboards.

*Sometimes in life there are little surprises!*

On Australia Day we came to work to find that a graffiti artist had been at work on several of our white boards. Examples are below. We traced this to our receptionist and accounts receivable leader Ubie Zdravkovska. It has now become a regular event to mark any special days like Easter or Valentine's Day and brings a lot of cheer to all at work.



These two aerial snails were discovered in the ACTA reception area. Luckily they were shot and had not laid anything other than a few Easter eggs...



ACTA Magnets  
Now Available

## Additional weapons in the fight against pests!

Trust the proven performers



**FOXOFF®**  
Fox Bait



**RABBAIT®**  
Pindone Oat Bait



**MOUSEOFF®**  
Bromadiolone



**RATTOFF®**  
Rat Bait



**DENCOFUME®**  
Fumigation Cartridges



**SLUGGOFF®**  
Slug & Snail Bait



**RABBAIT®**  
1080 Oat Bait



**PIGOUT®**  
Feral Pig Bait



**MOUSEOFF®**  
Zinc Phosphide Bait



**DOGGONE®**  
Wild Dog Bait



**HOGHOPPER®**  
Feral Pig Bait Dispenser



**RODEMISE®**  
Bromadiolone Rodent Block



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## Excellence in Pest Animal Management