



PPM News

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Member of
**Global
Pest Management
Coalition**



President's Message



As many of you will have heard, it is with great sadness that the international pest community said farewell to Doug Howick on June 1, 2018, after a short illness, with his family by his side. His passing leaves a deep void in the hearts of many and indeed, the pest industry.

Doug was author of more than 60 scientific papers on forest products entomology, wood technology and pest management, as well as a further 50 reports, conference papers and presentations. At the age of 57, he was offered the position of the National Secretary of the Timber Preservers Association of Australia (TPAA) which he held for 20 years and during that time he also served as the National Executive Director of the Australian Environmental Pest Managers Association (AEPMA) for 10 years. His drive in both organisations saw an increase in membership and involvement with government and like-minded organisations and he was honoured by both with Life Memberships. The deepening ties between the AEPMA and the Federation of Asian and Oceania Pest Managers Associations (FAOPMA) led to Doug being given the title of Honorary Advisor to FAOPMA. Within this advisory role, he attended various conferences and edited and produced our bi-monthly newsletter, PPM News. He had a wealth of knowledge unparalleled, and was highly regarded and respected in the international pest community. We are richer for having known him, our Mr Dependable, Doug Howick.

18 Years Making Friends with Snakes

Among the people of Kalaburagi and surrounding villages, 27-year-old Prashanth Police Patil is not famous for his day job as an autorickshaw driver, but rather for his snake-catching skills. He not only rescues the venomous reptile but also “treats” the wounded ones with bandaging. Starting at the age of eight, he says, he has rescued over 4,000 snakes and “treated” over 700.

One snake had a broken spine, tied together with sutures and the stomach stitched. Whenever he learns of mistreated snakes, he rushes to rescue them. First, he sprinkles turmeric powder on the wound and wraps low tack adhesive tape around the trunk, before using more bandaging material over the tape and gauze dressing.

Besides rescuing snakes, Mr. Patil also collects snake eggs and preserves them until the hatching period, before releasing them in a suitable area. He says it is difficult to determine the number of times he has been bitten by his slithery friends.

Read the full article [here](#).



FAOPMA Pest Summit 2018

FAOPMA Pest Summit 2018 is being held from 26 – 29 September, 2018 in Shenzhen, China.

With a lineup of internationally renowned and talented speakers covering various topics relevant to our industry and ensuring that the content is interesting, valuable and engaging, you can't afford to not attend!

There will be over 300 booths and 200 exhibitors in attendance, as well as multiple networking and social opportunities.

Don't miss your opportunity, register now!

Click [here](#) to view the full schedule.

German Man Stalked by Squirrel

A German man called police after a baby squirrel would not stop following him around, officers said.

The distraught man called Karlsruhe emergency services on Thursday and claimed he was being chased down the street by the small rodent, [The Guardian reported](#).



Police in the southeastern German town responded to the call and found the squirrel running after the unidentified man. However, soon after police arrived on the scene, the squirrel abruptly gave up its pursuit and laid down and fell asleep, the publication reported.

“The squirrel has fallen asleep in fright,” the police write-up said.

Read more [here](#).

Naked Mole Rats: **The 10 Things You Didn't Know**

1. Their teeth can operate independently.

A naked mole-rat can move each of its front teeth separately, like a pair of chopsticks.

2. Naked mole-rats don't drink water.

That's right. They get all the hydration they need from their plant-based diet! Mole-rats eat the underground parts of plants. They typically only consume part of a root or tuber, leaving enough behind for it to survive and provide another meal.

3. At birth, a mole-rat pup weighs less than a penny!

Naked mole-rats are one of the only true eusocial mammals, meaning they live in large colonies with just one breeding female, called the queen. The queen is the only mole-rat to produce offspring, and a single litter averages 12 to 28 pups.

4. A quarter of a mole-rat's muscle mass is in its jaws.

Naked mole-rats use their powerful jaws and very large incisors to dig through hard-packed soil.



5. Colonies have soldiers at their disposal.

If a predator tries to enter a tunnel, "soldier" mole-rats pile up to block the entrance and protect the colony. Snakes are their greatest predators, and they will fight before letting one enter the burrow and eat the queen.

6. They can live into their 30s.

This makes naked mole-rats an anomaly among small rodents, which typically live for just a few years.

7. Mole-rats have 17 different vocalizations.

They communicate with each other using chirps, hisses and other sounds. Because mole-rats are virtually blind, their sense of smell is also very important.

8. A single colony's tunnels can be 2.5 miles long!

Large colonies produce complex underground systems of tunnels that connect chambers within the burrow. Mole-rats use these chambers for different activities, such as nesting and eating. They even designate a toilet room!

9. Naked mole-rats eat their poop!

Naked mole-rats practice coprophagy, the reingestion of feces, which helps them maximize their nutrient uptake.

10. They sleep belly-up.

No, they're not playing dead. Napping mole-rats often sleep on their backs, upside down.

Huntsman Spiders: New Pest Controllers?

The huntsman spider is the ultimate cockroach killer: it's fast, non-toxic to humans and likes to eat roaches.

That's why people in China are letting them loose in their homes to tackle their roach infestations.

Vendors selling the spiders on sites like Taobao have reported a recent increase in business, media reported. Videos posted in their stores show the huntsman in action, snapping up roaches with lightning speed.



The arachnid exterminators sell between 10 and 30 yuan (\$1.5 to \$4.4) based on size, with one Taobao vendor "xiaochongleyuan" receiving 1,536 orders in August.

Demand seems to be driving up prices. "At first I thought it was a bit expensive for a spider. But when I saw it preying on roaches, I felt it was money well spent," read one review.

However, not everyone is satisfied with their spider's performance.

"I have as many cockroaches as before. And it even spins webs in my house," read another review.

Source: <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1117683.shtml>

Covered in Bees...

A fearless Saudi national is hoping to set a new world record for most bees covering his body.



Zouhair Qatani is planning to make a fresh attempt on Tuesday morning (Sept 11) in a bid to enter the Guinness Book of World Records.

The daring man will try his best to break the current Guinness Book of World Record of 63.7 kilogrammes of bees.

Qatani underwent intensive training over the past weeks, hoping to set a new stunning world record, with more than 100 kilos of swarming honey bees covering his body.

Last year, he made a daring attempt to break the Guinness Book of World Record of 63.7 kilos of honey bees.

He blamed his failure then on the scorching heat. He claimed that the honey bee queen had left the place, taking the other bees with her.

Qatani had to stand for 1 hour and a half in his first attempt, hoping to attract a stunning 120 kilos of bees but he failed to reach his target and set a new world record.

Source: <http://www.gdnonline.com/Details/389868/Saudi-national-in-bid-to-set-new-world-record-for-bees-covering-his-body>