

Primetime

Autumn07



Looking back: 50 years of fruit fly protection

(From page 1):

Among the special guests was Rev Cant, who was the first inspector to take on the job when Yamba was set up in 1957 to protect the State from a fruit fly outbreak in peaches in Mildura.

Another guest of honour at the event was Tom Miller, who was the former Chief Horticulturalist with the Department of Agriculture who established the Yamba roadblock. Both Tom and Rev recalled their early days, and some of the problems confronted on a daily basis – such as having no electricity, using a few drums placed strategically across the road to stop the traffic, and having to have police on hand to provide authority to stop cars and confiscate fruit.

Rev told the ceremony: "We did what we had to do, and it works."

"In 50 years we have had only one fruit fly outbreak in the Riverland, at Loxton, some years ago. So the policy of exclusion, which is what it was all about, has been vindicated and no doubt resulted in great financial benefits to the Riverland in guaranteeing export markets and other benefits," Rev said.

"For me, it is nothing more than a good feeling and a privilege to play a small part in its success. We were only doing the job we had to do."

And that's a tradition that has continued to be carried on by PIRSA roadblock inspectors.

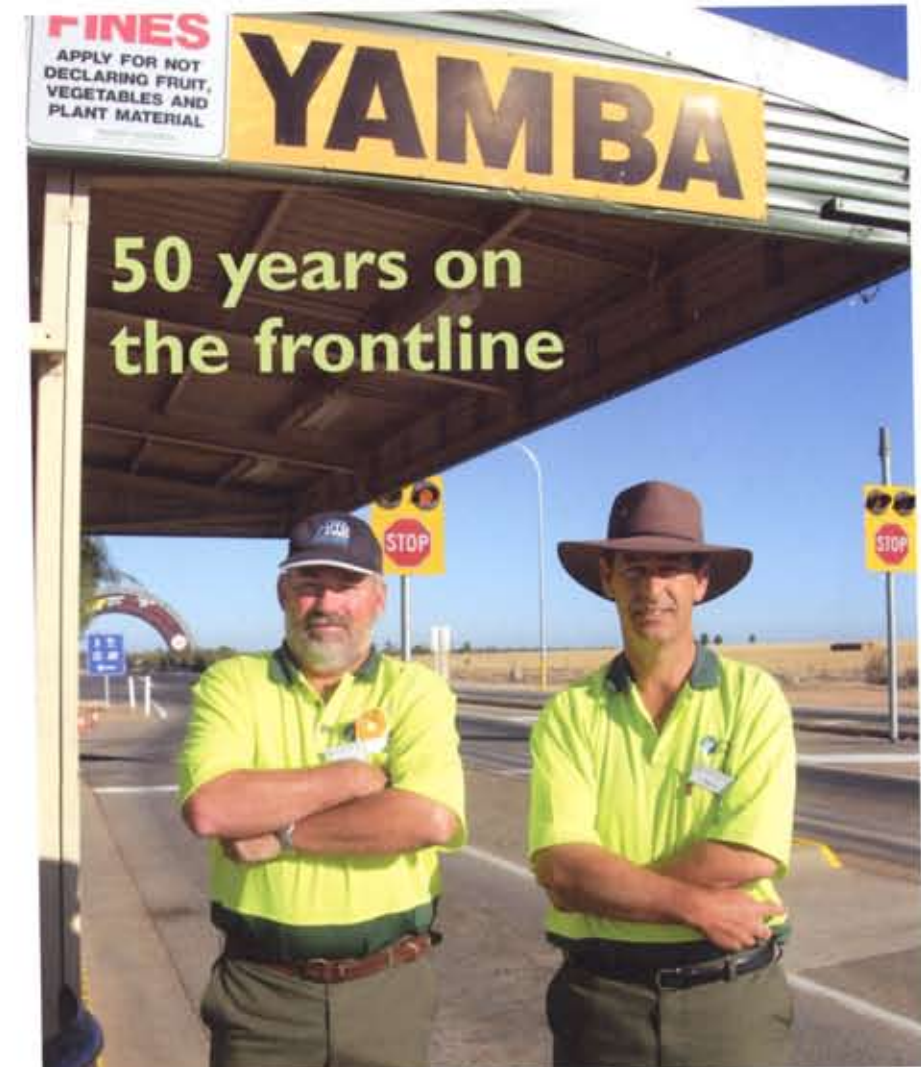


(Top): Drums were placed on the road to define the original roadblock 50 years ago. (Above): The current Yamba roadblock inspectors with the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Rory McEwen, holding an honour roll of all past and present inspectors.

www.pir.sa.gov.au

index

New SA food champion	5
Battling the elements	6-8
New industry for SA?	9
Hard work pays off for Fisheries	11
SARDI uncovers new seal breeding colony	13
Forestry opportunities flourish	21
Artisan butchery whets the appetite	22



South Australia's frontline fruit fly protection post, the Yamba roadblock, has celebrated its 50th year in operation.

Past and present staff came together at the Riverland roadblock on 9 March to commemorate the milestone.

The ceremony, organised by Plant Health Operations, was attended by 180 people including the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Rory McEwen, industry representatives from the Citrus Growers of SA, Phylloxera and Grape Industry Board of SA, Citrus Industry Development Board, SA Fruit Fly Standing Committee, the Tri-State Fruit Fly Committee, AQIS and the Department of Primary Industries Victoria.

Since records were kept, from 1980, almost 8 million vehicles have been inspected at Yamba, with about 535,000 vehicles detected with fruit – that amounts to a massive 997,000 kilograms of fruit being confiscated. In total, there have been 227 fruit fly larvae detections. (Continued on page 3).

(Above L-R): Current Yamba roadblock inspectors Richard Schepel and Barry McDonald.



Government of South Australia
Primary Industries and Resources SA