

## Quarterly Comments from the APPS President



Firstly, congratulations to Dr Ian Harvey for submitting the design that won the LOGO competition. I believe Dr Harvey's entry provides our Society with a much needed easily recognisable logo that we can add to our letter head, our newsletter and our journal cover. I really like the way Ian achieves an across the Tasman link in his design. Thank you again to those of you who submitted designs and commiseration to those of you who missed out. Like you, my design got the thumbs down, but I am sure when you see the logo you will agree with me that the winning design is a good choice.

In this quarterly comment I would like to devote some time to the proposed Pesticide Charter. Our society has received an invitation from the Australian Consumers Association to become a signatory to the charter. The Management Committee believes we should take a positive and proactive approach to the charter and I also support this approach. An abridged version of the proposed charter is included in this APPS News. To save room I have taken the liberty of remove some non essential parts (reduced by about 25%). A copy of the original is available from me.

The charter has been distributed to regional councillors and we have received some responses. We had a very detailed and helpful reply from the NSW branch through Dr Robert Park. We have also had very useful comments from Dr Chandrashekar and Professor Deverall. My original draft (attached below) was based on the submission from the NSW branch. The Manage Committee felt we needed to include specific examples of success stories, etc. Dr Chandrashekar believes "real case studies should be provided" and "effective alternative strategies should be clearly identified". Dr Chandrashekar also asks the question "are the alternative strategies viable on a commercial basis" and pointed out that a "mere listing of potential alternative methods is akin to a wish list". Professor Deverall felt "it is a responsible document in accord with the aspirations of today's academics and students" but added that some "pest and disease problems might have no current alternative to traditional chemical treatments".

I would like to hear the opinion of other members of our society before we become a signatory. If you want to make a contribution or have any other suggestions, I would like to hear from you soon. My fax is 090 761 227.

(Unfortunately, e mail has not yet reached Esperance.)

*Gordon Mac Nish*  
President.

### **Draft of response to Australian Consumers Association**

I have been asked by the Management Committee of the Australasian Plant Pathology Society (APPS) to reply to enquires about possible support for a "Pesticide Charter". The Management Committee believes the membership of APPS has considerable expertise in this area and as such should become a signatory.

The NSW branch of APPS and other members of APPS have studied the charter on behalf of the society and recommend we take a positive approach to the charter. They believe the following points should be drawn to the attention of the proposers of the charter.

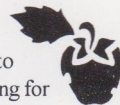
1 Plant pathologists have been doing research into alternatives to pesticides for many years. One alternative that is strongly supported by plant pathologists, but is missing from the charter, is the use of resistant cultivars. The use of this approach has lead to many success stories, especially in broad acre cropping.

2 A distinction should be made between "soft" and "hard" pesticides. For example, copper is accepted by organic growers as a safe or "soft" pesticide.

3 We need to optimise pesticide usage, but this does not necessarily equate with reduce usage in some cases. Integrated pest management, seen by some as a more responsible approach, has in some cases lead to increased pesticide usage. It is clear that such a situation is not necessarily acceptable.

4 If alternatives to pesticides are to be established, a long term commitment to research is needed. The success stories of finding alternatives to pesticides that have come from research in plant pathology have resulted from long term projects (e.g., it takes 10 years to

*An abridged outline of the proposed pesticide charter appears on pages 8-9 of this newsletter.*



develop a new cereal variety; research into biological control of take-all has been going for more than 10 years). People advocating the reduced use of pesticides often do not realise the time it takes to conduct this type of research.

5 Setting targets for reductions in pesticide use could be dangerous if we do not get a commitment from the funding bodies that they will increase support for research program aimed at finding alternatives.

If the above concerns can be addressed, the Australasian Plant Pathology Society will become a signatory to the charter and will make an active contribution towards achieving the aims expressed in the charter.

### **Notes from the Editor**

In this issue: the Society finally has a logo; what to do with the Society's Journal; a request for comments on the proposed Pesticide Charter from the Australian Consumers Association; and an interesting article on a notable plant pathologist, the late Mary Dilys Glynn.

My grateful thanks to Bob Dodman who produced the last issue of the Newsletter at very short notice due to my temporary absence.

*Michele Dale*  
Editor

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### ANNOYED? ANGRY? EXUBERANT? PHILOSOPHICAL?

Jot it down in a Letter to the Editor. Express your opinion to the people who count, or ask for help with culture or other collections, information, or long-lost journal articles. Or publicize your next Fungal Foray or Plant Pathology Picnic. Letters should be signed, and can be sent on floppy disk (IBM compat.) to speed publication.



#### *Share the journal? No thanks!*

Dear Michele

I would like to offer the following comments about some remarks made by the President in Quarterly Comments (APPS News, Volume 7 Number 2). While I agree and support the comments about the present status of APP I am not so sure that the cure suggested is the right solution. In 1972, Lester Burgess and others put in a lot of effort to bring about the birth of the APPS Newsletter, that was to be the forerunner of the journal as we know it today. One of the main reasons for establishing this newsletter was to provide a publication that belonged to the members of the Society. To now contemplate abandoning this sole ownership of our publication is in my opinion a retrograde step and perhaps one that could lead to the ultimate demise of our Society.

Before taking such a step I believe other options should be explored. One possibility that I think deserves some consideration is to set about making APP an international journal. Next year it is planned to modernise the cover of the journal and also include our new logo as part of this face-lift. I would like to suggest that we also consider the possibility of a name change to remove the restriction placed on us by the use of Australasian in the title. Obviously we can't use Plant Pathology as that name is already in use. So what are the options for a good name? The key words that are short and simple are plant(s) and disease(s), but again these are already in use. One suggestion from a colleague is Plant Disease Research. Does anyone have any other ideas?

If we expand to an international journal we

provide an opportunity for pathologists in neighbouring countries in the Pacific and south-east Asia to publish material that is very relevant to us. In this way the size and circulation of the journal can increase and as a consequence perhaps more of our members will publish in APP. One important matter that needs to be considered in making such a change is the cost. Publication costs money and it would be essential that the cost of publishing papers from non-members was adequately covered by a realistic publication charge. However, I believe that this issue can be addressed and that we could successfully make the transition to the international scene while still maintaining ownership of our own journal. I would be interested to hear comments from other members.

R L Dodman  
TOOWOOMBA

#### *Looking for DNA...*

Dear Michele,

I am writing to ask readers for help in obtaining DNA samples from select microorganisms for comparative studies. I am currently doing a project looking at the detection and differentiation of mycoplasma-like organisms (or phytoplasmas) in Australia using PCR-based techniques. I am interested to see whether the primers we are using will also amplify Rickettsia species and Mollicute species such as Acholeplasma (e.g. Acholeplasma laidlawii) and Spiroplasma species. If anyone out there has a small amount of DNA of any of the mentioned genera suitable for



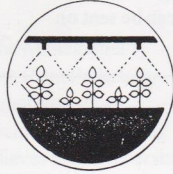
PCR assays, could you please contact me at the Northern Territory University, Faculty of Science, PO Box 40146, Casuarina, NT 0811; ph (089) 466 723; Fax (089) 410 460; email address [a\\_padovan@bligh.ntu.edu.au](mailto:a_padovan@bligh.ntu.edu.au). I would greatly appreciate any help and would gladly acknowledge any assistance received.

Regards,  
Anna Padovan.  
CASUARINA N.T.

### *Help with old records*

Dear Michele

Could I please use APPS News to appeal to members for help again? Now that my secretarial duties are minimal, I would like to try to organise the APPS records - not the membership records, but the correspondence and the minutes of Executive, Council and General Meetings and any



other extraneous records that have been retained. At the moment, I am not even sure where records relevant to the period before I became secretary are stored! Does anyone have any old records? Does anyone know where the old records are stored?? Does anyone have any suggestions about where such records could be stored if they could be brought together in one place? The importance of having such records is becoming increasingly apparent as Gordon Purss struggles to compile a history of the Society for the 25th Anniversary Edition of *Australasian Plant Pathology*. Our history is in great danger of being lost if the records cannot be assembled.

If you can help in any way, I can be contacted by phone or voice mail on (07) 365 1673, by fax on (07) 365 1177 or by mail addressed to the Department of Agriculture, The University of Queensland, Qld 4072. I'd love to hear from you.

Helen Ogle  
UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

### **Free to a good home (if you are willing to pay the freight):**

*Transactions of the British Mycological Society*

Bound volumes 44-49; 54-57; 59-64

Individual Issues: 65 i,ii,iii; 66 iii; 67 i,ii,iii

50 year index v1-30; 10yr index v31-40

Please contact Paul Guy, Botany Dept. University of Otago Box 56 Dunedin New Zealand, Fax +64 3 479 7583



## **Colour slides of diseases**

Many of us have difficulty in locating good illustrations of plant diseases when preparing lectures, extension talks, display posters etc.

We now have over 600 colour transparencies available illustrating disease symptoms on a wide range of fruit and vegetable crops. The transparencies were used in the books *Diseases of fruit crops* and *Diseases of vegetable crops*, recently published by QDPI.

Single slides are available for \$5 while sets for teaching and extension use are \$4.00 per slide. A discount would apply to large orders.

If you would like to improve your slide collection, contact Tony Cooke (07-877 9549) or Denis Persley (07-877 9375) [fax 07-371 0866].

## A NOTABLE LADY IN PLANT PATHOLOGY

**MARY DILYS GLYNNE, OBE (18/2/1895 -  
9/5/1991)**

Mary was the elder daughter in the family of five children born to Welsh parents John and Dilys Glynne Jones (Jones was deleted from her surname and in succeeding generations of the family). She was educated first at the Bangor Girl's County School that her mother had helped found and later, as a boarder at her mother's school, the North London Collegiate, where she specialised in Chemistry. After graduating from the University College of Wales, Bangor, in the summer of 1917, she came to Rothamsted Experimental Station, Hertfordshire, as a voluntary worker in the Botanical Laboratory. The Director, Dr (later Sir John) Russell was then looking for women with agricultural training to replace the men who had left for war service and Mary was soon appointed to the staff.

The only woman to receive a staff appointment in the first 60 years of Rothamsted's existence had been Winifred Brenchley, appointed by Director Daniel Hall in 1906. It had been admitted at the time that her appointment was made "because the funds available would not have attracted a suitable man". Mary Glynne thus became the second woman staff member and she was considered wealthy by her colleagues because her father had granted her an allowance of £100 p.a., nearly as much as her first year's salary of £102.

For the first years of World War I, food supplies in Britain were adequate but in 1916 the harvest was poor and food ships from Canada were being destroyed by German U-boats. The Board of Agriculture set up a Food Production Department and scientists were, for the first time, engaged in working for improved food production. Mary worked first on the composition of potatoes, on the value of certain seed dressings to keep birds away from crops and on 'pise de terre' or rammed earth. She devised a "dropping test" with balls of soil to test its suitability as a material for building walls of houses, but the noise of dropping the balls was distracting to others in

the laboratory. In 1920, she transferred to the newly formed Mycological Laboratory, forerunner of the Department of Plant Pathology, and continued her work on wart disease of potatoes (*Synchytrium endobioticum*). She successfully developed a test for demonstrating immunity in potato cultivars which subsequently became a statutory requirement for registration of all new potato varieties. This effectively controlled the disease that had been so serious during World War I. She was awarded the M.Sc. degree of the University of Wales in 1922 for her research on this disease.

In 1927, Mary was awarded a Georgina Sweet Fellowship by the Australian Federation of University Women, valued at £500. The Universities' Bureau of the British Empire presented her with a free first class return passage, available on any of the six main shipping lines of the day, and Rothamsted appointed a temporary worker for the period of her absence. Her experiences were described in some detail in an article she wrote for the Rothamsted Annual Report and which was reprinted in "The Old Bangorian" (No. 2, January 1930) of the University College of Wales, under the title "Experiences as an Australian Fellow". The following paragraphs have been extracted from the latter publication.

From her arrival in Australia in May 1928, she was given a tremendous welcome at every port - Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane - by the university women. At Brisbane she attended the Biennial Conference of university women where the education of girls was discussed from the educational, medical and matrimonial points of view, in sessions liberally interspersed with social events. In Melbourne, she was provided with laboratory facilities in the University Department of Agriculture by Prof. Wadham and, during the course of the University year, she worked on the fungi causing foot and root rot diseases of wheat, such as *Ophiobolus (Gaeumannomyces) graminis*. She wrote: "My plot experiments gave interestingly unexpected results, and I felt life was really upside down in Australia when I sowed the grain in June and reaped the golden wheat under a blazing sun in December".

The Victorian Department of Agriculture invited her to tour the wheat growing districts in the Better Farming Train, a brilliant yellow train of seventeen carriages fitted up with agricultural exhibits staffed by men and women who lectured on subjects as diverse as cultivation of the land, breeding and veterinary work, fruit growing, poultry, home nursing, baby welfare, cooking and dressmaking. The train would go to some remote district where its advent had been advertised, and stop at a wayside station for one day, the staff lecturing and giving advice and help to farmers and their wives who flocked to the train from distances of up to 50 or 60 miles.

In the month of November, she worked for a fortnight at the Waite Institute and later, during two months spent in New Zealand, at the Cawthron Institute where she was impressed by the "very interesting work on biological control".

An inveterate mountaineer from an early age, Mary lost no opportunity for engaging in outdoor recreational activities in Australia and New Zealand. From Canberra ("that most interesting young experimental city") she visited Mt Kosciusko ("beloved of skiers for its long, gentle slopes, but disappointing to the mountaineer, who longs for steeper slopes"). With Dr Luise Lammert, a German meteorologist who also held a Sweet Fellowship in that year, "I flew most of the way to Bendigo, (presumably from

Melbourne) eighty miles in fifty minutes, went down a goldmine and returned by train the same day. During a stormy weekend spent a Phillip Island, whose rocky coast reminded me of parts of Anglesey, we saw the little Koala bear, most delightful of Australian animals, which climbs great gum trees with all the puzzled wistfulness of Winnie-the-Pooh".

The Christmas of that year was spent in Tasmania with a friend from Melbourne who had a car: "We reached the less frequented parts of the North-West on the edge of unexplored country where, over billy tea, we yarned with old prospectors seeking gold and osmiridium in the Savage and Whyte Rivers. We got into primeval forests, where black parrots shrieked in the tops of might trees, and we fought our way through the thick undergrowth under graceful fern trees, slaying mosquitoes and keeping a wary eye for snakes. Then we left the fascinating captivity of forests for the freedom of open country, to bathe in the very blue sea, to climb mountains whose rocky tops reminded me of those of North Wales and to bathe in cold mountain lakes and crystal streams. We cooked out food over fragrant gum wood fires and slept in our sleeping bags among aromatic little shrubs and flowers under unfamiliar stars, the Southern Cross and Orion upside down".

In New Zealand: "I climbed in the Southern Alps up the magnificent Franz Josef glacier, from the west, with its

wonderful semi-tropical bush full of ferns, over the Great Divide... I did the Milford Sound walk partly in sunshine and partly in torrential rain, when we parted raging rivers waist deep... In the North Island... saw geysers, hot springs, pools of boiling mud, and I smelt their sulphur fumes, climbed Tongariro, a semi-active volcano, and finally Egmont, a dead one, but lovely, the Fujiyama of New Zealand, in blowing mist and a howling gale".

On her return to Rothamsted in 1929, Mary Glynne began the work for which she is principally remembered: the influence of crop rotation on root and stem base diseases of cereals in which she became the acknowledged expert for the UK. During World War II, she discovered the damage that eyespot was causing in close rotations of wheat and barley and did much to show how it could be lessened. For this work, she was awarded the D.Sc. Degree of the University of Wales in 1948 and, in 1960, her service to agriculture was recognised by the award of the OBE.

When first "retiring" on reaching the age of 65 years, after 43½ years service to Rothamsted, Mary was given a grand farewell party in the Manor House in November 1960. However, she was asked to stay on in order to prepare a comprehensive account of her work on eyespot disease. This was published in the Rothamsted Annual Report for

1968.

In 1963, at the invitation of the Wheat Industry Research Council, Mary toured the Australian wheat research centres to give advice on future research projects. Later in the same year, she was an invited speaker at a Symposium on the Ecology of Soil-borne Pathogens in Berkley, California. She continued writing and publishing, until almost 90 years of age, from data collected at Rothamsted over the previous 50 years: at first from her home in Harpenden, and later from a nursing home there. She died peacefully at Field House, Harpenden, on May 9, 1991.

A fitting tribute to the life of this remarkable woman was published as an obituary by Dr Roger Plumb in *Ann. appl. Biol.* (1991), **119**: 603-605.

*[For most of the above information the writer, Dr Maurice Carter, is indebted to the late Lady Bawden of Harpenden, Herts. U.K. Lady Bawden, who died on May 29 this year at the age of 85, was the widow of Sir Fred Bawden, was successively Head of Plant Pathology and Director of Rothamsted during many of the years Mary Glynne worked at the Station.]*



## NEWS FROM THE APP JOURNAL



Plans for the special issue of APP to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Society are proceeding well at this stage. This issue will be Volume 23 Number 4 and will be released in December - hopefully before the Christmas mail deluge begins. Many papers have already been received and others are well under way. I thank all contributors for their work and patience and also those who are helping me to review these papers.

As indicated in the last Newsletter, it is intended to start a new section in APP and the following guidelines are provided to assist you in the preparation of contributions. The proposed name for this section is Disease Notes or New Records. Please note the following:

- 1 The title should be brief.
- 2 There should be a short abstract.
- 3 No other headings should be used except References.
- 4 The number of references should be limited to no more than five (fewer if possible).
- 5 There should be no tables.
- 6 One photograph (not a line drawing) may be included to illustrate disease symptoms etc. It must fit a single column width (6.9 cm).
- 7 There should be no acknowledgements. If some acknowledgement is essential (e.g. for substantiating an identification), it should be made in the text. "The fungus was

identified as *Fusarium oxysporum* by Dr W Smith, IMI, UK").

8 Contributions will be published in order of acceptance and the date of acceptance will be printed at the end of the paper. Papers in this section will be grouped at the end of each issue.

9 The paper must be limited to one page in the journal. This is the equivalent of approximately 700 words, but space must be allowed for the setting out of the title and abstract. On receipt of the manuscript, it will be formatted to determine if it fits onto one page. If not it will be returned to the author who can decide whether to reduce it or have it processed as a normal research paper.

10 Two copies of the paper (typed double spaced) should be sent to the Editor-in-Chief, clearly marked that they are intended for this section. At the same time, a copy should be supplied on disc (IBM or Macintosh), with the format and file name clearly indicated.

The aim of this new section is to provide a simple and quick way to publish a brief account of interesting and new material that may not warrant a full paper or where the work required to present a full research paper is not possible. To enable more speedy publication, it is proposed that these contributions will receive only one review and I hope to be in a position to oversee this reviewing process myself, thereby saving further time by avoiding double handling and mail delays.

I should stress that these guidelines are not yet fixed and I would welcome any comments on my proposals. I have attempted to develop a style of contribution that is a blend of the Disease Notes section in Plant Disease and the New or Unusual Records section in Plant Pathology. I believe my proposals will provide a suitable forum for publication of new information in APP and invite you to submit material for inclusion in the first issue in 1994 (Volume 24 Number 1).

I thank those few people who have already provided comments on this new development and invite anyone who has any suggestions for improving our journal to contact me or the Executive.

*R.L. Dodman* (Editor-in-Chief, APP)

## THE PESTICIDE CHARTER (ABRIDGED)

### INTRODUCTION

The past 10 years have seen growing public concern about the use of pesticides.

As a result many growers have been trying to reduce their use of pesticides, become more selective in those they use, and develop alternative approaches to pest control.

Those who are concerned about the impacts of pesticides use welcome these developments and want to support and encourage the farming industry in these developments.

A number of organisations engaged in the debate on pesticide reduction have begun to seek common ground in the shape of this Charter.

The Charter sets out the basis for further discussion based on a recognition that no one wins if there is public confrontation over the issue of pesticides.

The aim of the Charter is to explore the possibilities for cooperation between public interest groups and growers around

- ways of achieving clearly defined targets for reducing pesticide use
- ways of overcoming obstacles that stand in the way of achieving such targets

The following six points are offered as a

basis for further discussion:

#### 1. Reducing pesticide use is desirable

All parties agree that reducing the use of pesticides in food production is beneficial.

#### 2. Alternatives are being developed and used

Alternatives include:

- rotation;
- inter-planting of crops;
- biological control using predators and parasites;

lures;

- encouraging natural predation;
- pheromone controls;
- population monitoring by inspection and/or

lures;

- limited use of selected pesticides where no viable alternative has yet been developed;
- improving application techniques to reduce pesticide use;

- replacing storage methods which rely on pesticides with methods such as chilling and carbon dioxide;

- organic and biodynamic approaches (which include some of the above).

(which include some of the above).

These alternatives show potential for maintenance of economic crop yields, reduction of costs to growers and reduced long-term contamination of food, soil and water supplies. They can also help reduce other undesirable impacts of pesticide use such as increased resistance in pest species and effects on non target species.

#### 3. Coordinated action is needed to overcome obstacles for growers

There exist very real obstacles in the short term for some growers to making the transition from current practices.

Coordinated action is needed on four points:

3.1 Dissemination of information on successful ventures and viable alternative methods.

3.2 Further research and demonstration projects using alternative methods.

3.3 Government fiscal measures to encourage use of viable alternatives.

3.4 Education of consumers and the food

marketing, industries about the efforts being made and how they can contribute to these efforts.

4. Targets need to be set for reducing pesticide use by the year 2000

All parties agree that definite and attainable targets for overall reduction of pesticides use should be established and a national program to implement such targets be developed with due allowance for regional and local variations. We recognise that some industries have already made progress in pesticide reduction and further progress for these industries may be slow or more difficult.

As a starting point, all parties agree to explore the possibilities for achieving the following reductions in overall pesticide usage:

- i) A 25% reduction within three years.
- ii) A 50% reduction within five years.
- iii) A 75% reduction within ten years.

The exact target agreed to will vary between grower groups depending on when they become signatories to the Charter, their access to alternative management strategies and any previous reductions achieved.

5. Agreed steps to achieving the targets  
Priorities for achieving the above targets include:

5.1 Identification of pesticides currently unused or unnecessary within a specific industry with a view to de-registration.

5.2 Identification and review of pesticides for which better alternatives exist and a timetable for phasing out use of these in Australia.

5.3 Identification of pesticides whose effect is largely cosmetic and phasing out of these.

5.4 Identification of the various alternative approaches being practised and developed in Australia.

5.5 Discussion among all interested parties about redundant stocks of pesticides to ensure safe disposal.

5.6 Creation of a national working group representing the above interests to develop forward plans.

6. Starting the dialogue

The points above are accepted as a basis for further dialogue by the following individuals and organisations who have initialled this draft:

Australian Consumers' Association, Australian Conservation Foundation, Greenpeace Australia, Australian Apple and Pear Growers Association, Rice Growers Corporative, Total Environment Centre, Systems Pest Management, Action for Work Development, Centre for Human Aspects of Science and Technology, National Association for Sustainable Agriculture of Australia, Australian Vegetarian Society, Biodynamic Agriculture Association and Acres Australia.

These organisations agree to consult on these and future issues of concern over pesticide use in order to avoid, if possible, public confrontation over such issues.



## News from N.T.

A number of plant pathologists from the N.T. attended the 4th International Conference on Plant Protection in the Tropics in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 28-31 March. Barry Conde from the Plant Pathology Branch of the N.T. Dept. of Primary Industry and Fisheries attended and delivered a paper on "Australian tomato leaf curl virus, a whitefly transmitted gemini-virus causing a disease of tomatoes in Northern Australia. Anna Padovan and Karen Gibb from the N.T. Uni also attended this conference and presented a poster on "Detection and genetic relatedness of MLOs in Australia". In other news from the N.T. DPI&F, John Duff is currently spending a year in the Entomology Branch where he is widening his experience in integrated pest management principles. John will apply this expertise in the area of ornamental plant pathology on his return to the Plant Pathology Branch in November 1994. The plant pathology group from DPI&F will be taking part in the Department's Annual Open Day at the Berrimah Agricultural Research Centre April 30. The plant pathology group at the NTU will also be participating in the open day. At the NTU, samples with suspected MLO associated diseases are being sent to us at a fairly consistent rate by colleagues all over Australia. Thanks to everyone who is supporting us by sending these samples. We now have 35 different plant host species recorded as MLO positive and these include some interesting native tree species. MLO DNA

from these samples will be used in our studies on MLO phylogeny.

(Karen Gibb)

## Great Potato Famine museum

Irish President Mary Robinson recently opened the Famine Museum at Strokestown Park, in County Roscommon. It is housed in the stables area of the sprawling mansion of a landlord who was killed during the famine by hungry tenants he was forcing off the land. The exhibits are intended to illustrate how and why the Great Potato Famine of the 1840s started and how English colonial officials failed to prevent its spread.

The museum's exhibits range from photographs, letters, official documents and 19th Century satirical cartoons to farm implements and a huge iron cauldron from which soup was distributed in a famine relief program.

(from the *Melbourne Age* July 2 1994 -  
Contributed by Peter Jenkins)

## Notes from Victoria

A Branch Forum on "The Future Directions of Plant Pathology" held at the Institute of Horticultural Development, Knoxfield on 20 May was attended by 50 people including non-members and by Dr Maurice Carter visiting from South Australia. Dr Peter Merriman gave a presentation on the future of Plant Pathology in the State Departments and issues addressed by the Plant Health Committee. Dr Peter Taylor (ICI) gave a presentation on Plant Pathology and the Agricultural Industry and Dr Terry Price gave a presentation on behalf of Dr Guest on Plant Pathology in Universities. Summaries of these talks have been transmitted to Dr Dodman for possible inclusion in the Anniversary Journal. Members may wish to note that the American Phytopathology Society has gone through the same exercise recently and their reports (APS Newsletter, March 1994) gave much to ponder about the worldwide state of our future directions in Plant Pathology.

A Branch Seminar was also held at Knoxfield on 6 August and was attended by 39 members. Dr Rob Brown gave the audience an interesting account of "R & D Corporations; where they stand". It is clear that the R & D Corporations are moving towards a policy of commissioning research to selected parties, as well as ensuring there is more communication between researchers working on similar projects. Those preparing new grant applications to rural R & D Corporations obtained much advice as to how to ensure their applications were successful. (T. V. Price)

## Notes from New South Wales

The NSW branch held a meeting in the Maiden Lecture theatre of the Sydney Herbarium, located in Sydney Botanical Gardens. The meeting was well attended and the gardens proved to be a superb venue.

The main theme of the meeting was Australian mycology, and the first presentation, "The place of fungal classification in plant pathology and the Flora of Australia project", was given by Mr John Walker, former Head of the NSW Dept Agriculture Herbarium and Identification Services. John initially made the distinction between systems of classification and nomenclature; the former reflect a person's view of the relationship between fungi, and the latter abides by strict rules - ie the name of a fungus expresses the taxonomic conclusion that someone has reached concerning a particular organism. He then presented an overview of the classification system he has devised for the Flora of Australia project, which is based on seven divisions spread across three Kingdoms

viz.

Kingdom: Protoctista

Divisions: Myxomycota

Kingdom: Chromista

Divisions: Oomycota, Hypochytriomycota

Kingdom: Mycota

Divisions: Chytridiomycota, Zygomycota,  
Ascomycota, Basidiomycota

Dr Brett Summerell, Senior Research Scientist, Sydney Botanical Gardens, presented some results of an ongoing project on the "Mycogeography of *Fusarium* in Australia", which

is attempting to determine the distribution of *Fusarium* spp in Australia, their climatic requirements, how they interact with plant communities, and is also providing information on *Fusarium* taxonomy. The results of three surveys were presented - North Queensland, the east coast, and a Heathland survey. The results from these studies have shown clearly that some species are cosmopolitan, some are more common in tropical / subtropical, temperate, or semi - arid regions, and that vegetation affects the composition of species.

The final talk was given by Dr Robert Park, Research Fellow, University of Sydney, on "Common fungal leaf pathogens of Eucalyptus". Eucalypts dominate 90% of the vegetation complexes in Australia, and so it is not surprising that there are many fungi associated with eucalypt leaves. Unfortunately, few of these fungi have been studied to any extent, and so in most cases it is not known whether or not they are pathogenic or saprophytic. Several examples of the more common and better understood pathogenic fungi were given, including the Ascomycetes *Aulographina eucalyptii*, *Mycosphaerella* spp., *Pachysacca* spp., and the Coelomycetes *Sonderhenia* spp. and *Seimatosporium*. It was concluded that we know very little about the taxonomy of this group, and even less about the pathology, that symptoms induced by pathogens often vary greatly between host species making accurate identification difficult, and that destructive epidemics in overseas plantations have provided graphic examples of what we can expect in Australia with the trend towards intensive cultivation of eucalypts.

The meeting concluded with refreshments and a tour of the Tropical Centre and Fernery.

*(Robert F. Park)*



## News from the Executive

### LOGO:

Finally after 25 years APPS has a logo. The final design was based largely on a design submitted by Ian Harvey of the Canterbury organizing committee, and is very similar to the Canterbury Conference logo. Congratulations to Ian who wins a years subscription to APPS. The

final design is being submitted to all branches, and will be formally displayed for the first time in the fourth issue of APPS journal this year.

### IMA REPRESENTATIVE:

The APPS has been asked to nominate a representative who will represent us on the International Mycological Association. Cheryl Grgurinovic has been nominated and has accepted the nomination.

### ENVIRONMENTAL RELEASE MONITORING GROUP:

The APPS working party on "Release and Control of Genetically Engineered, Biological Control, and Other Beneficial Organisms" has been disbanded and we would like to thank the members of this group (G. McLean, C. Green, B. Wild, and E. Bruzzese) for efforts on this. Despite the disbandment of this group the executive feels that there is a continuing need to monitor environmental release experiments both here and abroad so that we can provide a professional and informed viewpoint on this matter in response to issues that arise. Therefore we are forming an Environmental Release Monitoring Group to carry out this function. The terms of reference of the group have not yet been established but if you are interested in serving on the group could you please let us know. We would like to have a mixture of different backgrounds and expertise on this group.

### MERGER:

As you are know APP is not cited by Current Contents and this is a problem for attracting the international exposure that we need. An approach to Current Contents has revealed that we will not be cited unless we are first cited by authors. Therefore we are in a catch 22 situation. We have been approached by the Editor of Plant Pathology, the journal of the British Society of Plant Pathology, with the suggestion that Australasian papers be given some special recognition. This suggestion was in response to the fact that Australasian Plant Pathologists make a major contribution to Plant Pathology (43 papers in the past five years). The Management Committee is seeking more information on what the Editor has in mind. He may be thinking of some type of merger that could threaten our

identity. We shall keep you informed, but any comments on this matter are welcome.

**EMAIL:**

The number of members on email is increasing but still represents only a small fraction of our total membership. Could you please get your email addresses in to me (obrien@cuvax1.murdoch.edu.au) and remind your colleagues to do so as well.

**BIRTHDAY PRESENT FROM APS:**

APS want to send us something for our birthday. One suggestion is that they publish an announcement (in Phytopathology) congratulating us on 25 years of plant pathology and displaying the new logo.

*(Philip O'Brien)*



The researches of many commentators have already thrown much darkness on this subject, and it is probable that, if they continue, we shall soon know nothing at all about it.

*(Mark Twain)*

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**News from the Membership Secretary**

The Management Committee, on behalf of the society, wish to welcome the following new members who have joined since March '94:

- ACT- **Dorothy Schild, Murali Nayudu, Wojciech Gremski;**
- New South Wales- **Jeremy Roake, N. Saverimuttu;**
- Queensland- **Alex Crawford, Merrick Ekins, Barbara Engel, Donald Maclean, Sharon Pearson, Linda Shackel, Sally Stephenson;**
- South Australia- **Prue McMichael, Reiny Scheper, Dara Whisson, Bronwyn Wiseman, Susan Feruglio, Tom May;**
- Western Australia- **Stanley Bellgard;**
- New Zealand- **John Young;**
- USA- **Donald Schmitt.**

Currently the society has 479 members, plus 89 subscribing libraries. Sixty five new members have joined so far this year, this includes 23 from the Hobart conference. Nomination forms and information about the society is available from myself or regional councillors.

*(Jocelyn Bathgate)*

APPS Membership Secretary, Department of Conservation and Land Management, Como Research Centre, PO Box 104, Como, WA 6152.

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APPS NEWS is the official newsletter of the Australasian Plant Pathology Society, published quarterly. Items for inclusion should be sent to Dr M. Dale, CRC for Tropical Plant Pathology, University of Queensland, Q. 4072 (Ph. (07) 365 4647, fax (07) 365 4771, email dale@florey.biosci.uq.oz.au). Next deadline: **October 14 1994**. For other correspondence: APPS Secretary, Dr Philip O'Brien, School of Biological and Environmental Science, Murdoch W.A. 6150 (Ph. (09) 360 2785).

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