

APPS

AUSTRALASIAN PLANT PATHOLOGY SOCIETY



NEWS

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Quarterly Comments

from the APPS President

For the Australasian Plant Pathology Society 2000 has been a year marked by significant changes. This is the last time you will see *Australasian Plant Pathology* in its present format, as our new arrangement with CSIRO Publications takes effect from the next volume. Along with a new format, the journal will be published electronically and will have its own website (have a look at <http://www.publish.csiro.au/journals/app/> if you have not yet done so). We have also formally established and expanded the Editorial Board to include international editors, whose responsibility it is to promote *APP* as the premier English-language in the wider "Australasian" region. We have asked them to remind their colleagues that *APP* has no page charges, offers high editorial standards, a citation ranking that is on an upward trend, rapid turnaround times, and has a readership that is interested because of the relevance of their work to the region. This exciting development also marks the completion of Bob Dodman's role in



producing the journal. On behalf of us all I want to especially thank Bob for his major contribution to the Society over the past decades, and to wish Bob and Jan all the best for the next stage in their lives. However, we are fortunate that Bob will continue to have a role as a consultant technical editor assisting the new managing editor, Peter Robertson of CP, during the transition. This newsletter is also the last to be edited by Vanessa Brake. Vanessa, thanks for all your hard work in maintaining the newsletter, which is a vital component of our activities as a society. And welcome to Barbara Hall, who takes over from Vanessa.

Another major development this year was the inaugural meeting of the Asian Association of Societies of Plant Pathology, coinciding with the First Asian Congress of Plant Pathology in Beijing. I am very proud that our society was invited to become a foundation member of this new regional grouping, and believe that AASPP will have an important role in the development of plant pathology. We also welcome the announcement that a Vietnamese Plant Pathology Society will be formed next year, and offer our support and encouragement.

The environment in which we operate as plant pathologists has also changed during the year. In past issues I have written about what I see as the fundamental shift in the way Australia regulates quarantine policy, and the impact this will have on plant diseases. I think it is significant that these issues potentially put our trans-Tasman membership on opposite sides of the debate, but I firmly believe that we can benefit from this creative tension - after all as scientists we are trained to identify, investigate and resolve problems. Australia has traditionally used our geographic isolation to impose a zero-tolerance policy on exotic pathogens. However the new WTO regime imposes an acceptance of risk to facilitate fairness in international trade. I don't think there has been enough debate about the implications of this new policy within our membership, and I again



encourage you to inform policy development through constructive comment. To add to the danger, the phase-out of methyl bromide increases the risk that wooden shipping palettes may no longer be sterile, and may carry exotic timber pathogens and pests. The potential effects on our natural, agricultural and horticultural environment are too serious and irreversible for us to neglect. My vision of fairness on a level playing field does not include sharing pathogens and pests.

On other fronts there is depressingly little change. It is very disappointing that the Board of the new body overseeing quarantine policy, Plant Health Australia, is dominated by commercial interests and does not include any plant pathologists, or indeed any scientist. I hope this is not further evidence that the Federal Government sees no value in research and education, and I hope that the promised "innovation action plan" delivers at least some of the recommendations in The Chief Scientist's report, *The Chance to Change*. However, the recent announcement that the Australian Broadcasting Commission is to axe our only television show dedicated to science and technology, Quantum, and will disband the Science Unit within the ABC, is not a promising omen.

However, for APPS, next year looks to be exciting. The Second Australasian Soilborne Diseases Conference kicks off in Lorne on Victoria's beautiful Surf Coast in March. From September 30 to October 5 the Second International IUFRO Meeting on *Phytophthora* in Forests and Natural Ecosystems will be held in Perth. The 13th Australasian Plant Pathology Conference is to be held for the first time in the tropics, in Cairns in September. I was fortunate enough to be in Cairns last week and met with some of the organising committee. The scientific program is coming together extremely well -

you should have already received the second circular and the conference website (<http://www.australasianplantpathologysociety.org.au/Cairns2001/Cairns.htm>) is up and running. The exotic location is sure to attract participants from many parts of the world, and the new convention centre in Cairns looks like a great venue. Plans for the next ICPP in Christchurch are also crystallising, and I urge you all to get behind the organising committee headed by Ron Close. Their website is at <http://www.lincoln.ac.nz/pdg/icpp2003/frames/>. I hear that the level of interest they have received is already way above expectations.

Finally, I trust that you all enjoy the festive season, celebrate appropriately, and return refreshed and invigorated for the new millenium. There remains a lot for us all to do.

David Guest



Notes from the Editor

A short newsletter this time and my last edition as editor. In this issue, there is a reminder from Ron Close regarding the ICPP in 2003 and a list of workshops that are going to be held in association with it. See also Ron's note on page 5 about the congress.

Please note that as of next year Barbara Hall will be editing the newsletter. For all future contributions, Barbara's contact details appear on the last page of the newsletter. All the best Barbara. I hope that you enjoy the job as much as I have.

Thanks to everyone who has helped me over the last 4 years, particularly Bob Dodman, Michelle Reidlinger and Julie Mackie. I have enjoyed the chance to help the society and made many new contacts.

All the best.

Vanessa Brake



Regional News

Victoria

There has been little formal activity organised for Victorian members over the past three months but some splinter groups have been active! Here are two of their reports.

Bacterial diseases in fruit, nuts and vegetables – Researchers Forum, 15th August 2000

On the 15th August Brendan Rodoni, Bill Washington and Kerry Thomas (Agriculture Victoria, Knoxfield) attended a forum on bacterial disease research held at Agriculture Victoria, Tatura. The conveners were Sze Flett from Tatura and Peter Stephens from Queensland. Other researchers included Chad Brown (Swan Hill), Bob Emmett and Cathy Taylor (Sunraysia), and Kevin Lacey (WA). Satish Wimalajeewa (formerly a plant bacteriologist with Agriculture Victoria) also attended and made significant contributions from his extensive experience in research on bacterial diseases of stone fruit and vegetables. David Williams (Key Project Manager) and Jessica Purbrick (Industry Development Officer with the AAPGA) also participated. Presentations on current or planned research projects were made:

1. Bacterial spot in stone fruit (P.Stephens)
2. *Xanthomonas* in pistachios (C.Taylor)
3. Biology of *Erwinia* (B.Rodoni)
4. Blister bark in apples (B.Washington)
5. Blossom blast in pears (S.Flett)
6. Potential copper tolerance in *X. campestris* var *campestris* (P.Stephens)

Discussions were held on methodology and timing for detection, identification of strains, epidemiological studies to determine key times for control intervention, and

control measures including chemicals, biologicals and hot-water treatments. At the conclusion of the meeting it was agreed to investigate the possibility of holding such forums as a satellite meeting associated with APPS Conferences, or other regular meetings of researchers involved in bacterial diseases.

Bill Washington



Field crop pathology research in western Victoria

Field crop pathology research is alive and well in Victoria. The plant pathologists at Agriculture Victoria - Horsham (Victorian Institute for Dryland Agriculture) working on field crops have recently begun holding regular meetings as a discipline based group. At present there are 10 scientists within the group (not all members of APPS but we hope to correct that): Grant Hollaway, Trevor Bretag, Angela Freeman, Steve Marcroft, Merrin Spackman, Aftab Mohammad, Hemantha Rohitha, Rachael Parry and Wendy Bedgood.

The group has been having discussions to improve dialogue among the scientists. As a group we visited the plant pathology teams at Agriculture Victoria - Knoxfield and Melbourne University in November.

In August we conducted a "Crop Doctor" day at the Mallee Machinery Field Days where we provided disease diagnostic

services to growers who brought samples into the field days. We inspected about 60 samples over the two days.

Also in August several of the group gave presentations at GRDC farmer updates on their research work. Grant Hollaway presented results on the control of root lesion nematodes in field crops while Trevor Bretag presented results of field experiments to control foliar diseases in pulse crops. Steve Marcroft outlined progress in breeding for resistance to blackleg in canola and updated growers on paddock management to avoid high disease pressure situations.

Grant Hollaway

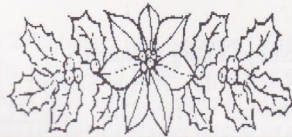
That was an easy news update for me to write!
More next time!

Jacky Edwards

ICPP 2003, New Zealand

Just a note to remind everyone that the congress in 2003 will, in that year, take the place of the APPS conference. There will be a Presidential and MacAlpine address as well as a general meeting. Social events will be held on the Sunday, Wednesday and Friday evenings. For a list of workshops associated with the congress see the following page.

Ron Close



News from the Business Manager

You should have all by now received your invoice for 2001 subscriptions to APPS. Please let me know if this is not the case. This year the management committee has decided to offer a discount to members who pay by the 31st of March. Now that the journal is published by CSIRO Publishing it is very important to have your payment processed before the first mailout in April. In the past late payment has meant a special mailout of back copies, a process which is very time consuming to those involved. From now on it will be even more difficult. This year APPS will make its credit card merchant facilities available to those members who also wish to pay their subscription to the Australasian Nematology Association. Please tick the appropriate box on your invoice if you wish to use this service.

On a lighter note I am seeking suggestions and comments about the APPS web site. If you have any suggestions as to how it could be improved, please let me know by email (williamsonp@dpi.qld.gov.au).

Peter Williamson.



International Congress of Plant Pathology Christchurch, New Zealand 2 – 8 February 2003

Workshops being planned for this congress are listed. The name of the contact person is given and their E-mail address for offers of assistance and/or papers. The workshops will be at Sydney University, Lincoln University and University of Canterbury in Christchurch.

Pre-congress Workshops

- *Fusarium* at Sydney – Brett Summerell brett@rbgsyd.gov.au
- *Colletotrichum* at Canterbury – Peter Johnston johnstonp@landcare.cri.nz
- Plant disease epidemiology – computer modeling at Lincoln with Forrest Nutter – fwn@iastate.edu
- Plant virus epidemiology – Roger Jones – rjones@agric.wa.gov.au – at Lincoln

Workshops being planned –

- *Sclerotinia* – Alison Stewart – stewart@whio.lincoln.ac.nz
- *Botrytis* – Mary Cole – Mary.Cole@BusEco.monash.edu.au
- Biocontrol of weeds – Ian Harvey – harveyi@plantwise.co.nz
 - * Grapevine Trunk diseases – Ian Pascoe – ian.pascoe@nre.vic.gov.au
 - * International Clubroot Working Group – Geoffrey Dixon – 113541.1364@compuserve.com

Post-Congress Workshop

- ISTA Organized Mycology Workshop– John Hampton – hamptonj@lincoln.ac.nz

Guidelines for Workshop Organizers

Workshops are expected to 'break even', to cover all costs involved. Costs will be as follows:

1. Rent on venue
2. Administration costs – badges, collection of fees, etc.
3. Audio-visual costs
4. Preparation of abstracts booklet (if required)
5. Photocopying

Workshops are encouraged to obtain sponsors for expenses of overseas speakers and other costs associated with the workshop.

News from the Editor-in-Chief of Australasian Plant Pathology

December brings to a close a long and productive relationship between Dr Chris Hayward and *Australasian Plant Pathology*. Chris has been a Senior Editor (Bacteriology) since 1991 and he is retiring after a distinguished career at the University of Queensland. I am very grateful to Chris for his contributions and the constructive role he has played in assisting authors to improve their papers. Chris was a referee of my first bacteriology paper in 1974 and I have always remembered the positive comments he made on that paper. His approach was practical and beneficial, and in marked contrast to the sometimes savage remarks many others and I have received from less helpful referees. I welcome the assistance of Dr Marcelle Stirling, also from Queensland, who will be the new Senior Editor (Bacteriology) for the next 3 years.

The new-look journal in March will be 20% bigger and because CSIRO Publishing commence new papers on the right hand page, there is scope for Disease Notes or New Records to be at least twice as long in this new format. This will allow up to 1500 words (about 8000 characters) or extra photographs and Tables, which were previously discouraged. However, Notes do not have to be that long and I encourage you to submit all new disease observations to APP. From 2001, APP will also publish quarantine news and interceptions. Quarantine interceptions are of significant importance and should be published to alert all pathologists of the 'near misses' that occur frequently at points of entry into Australia or other countries. Incursion management issues will involve many pathologists should exotic diseases gain a foothold.

Again I remind you that *Australasian Plant Pathology* will only succeed if we have a steady stream of good papers to publish – please submit papers and encourage your colleagues to publish in the Southern Hemisphere's premier plant pathology journal.

Ric Cother



New Members

On behalf of the Society, the Management Committee would like to welcome the following new members:

Ordinary Members

ACT: Dr Helen McFadden

QLD: Miss Sophie O'Neill
Mr Dale Griffin

NSW: Ms Kathryn Oakes

WA: Dr Kirsty Bayliss

Student Members

QLD: Ms Rebecca Zwart

NSW: Mr Leigh Pilkington

Don't forget to have your say!

This is your newsletter so be sure to let us know what is going on about:

- * Open days and field days
- * Scholarships and employment opportunities
- * Regional news,
- * Special interest groups
- * Requests for information etc.
- * Upcoming events
- * Awards to members
- * Issues of concern and
- * Humorous events



APPS NEWS is the official newsletter of the Australasian Plant Pathology Society, published quarterly. Items for inclusion should be sent to Dr B. Hall, Plant Research Centre, SARDI, GPO Box 397, Adelaide, SA. 5001. Ph. 08 8303 9562, Fax 08 8303 9393. Email: hall.barbara@saugov.sa.gov.au. **Next deadline: 1 February 2001.** For other correspondence: APPS Executive Secretary, Dr Philip Keane, Botany Department, La Trobe University, Bundoora, 3083. Ph. 03 9479 2219, Fax 03 9479 1188, E-mail: P.Keane@latrobe.edu.au. Editor-in-Chief APP: Dr Eric Cother, NSW Agriculture, Orange Agricultural Institute, Forest Road, Orange, 2800. Ph. 02 6391 3886, Fax 02 6391 3899, E-mail: ric.cother@agric.nsw.gov.au

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