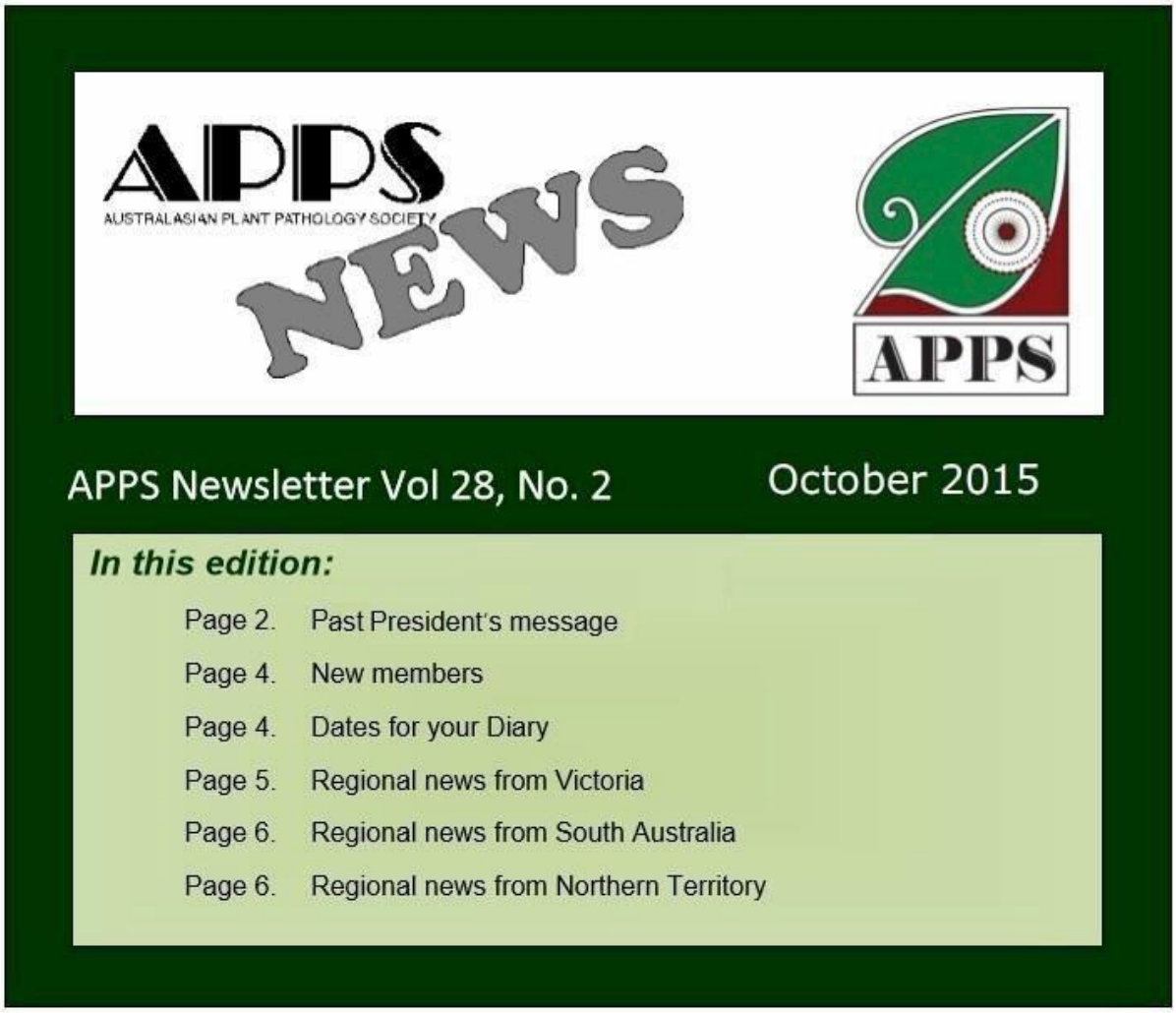


N.B. We are seeking a new editor for the newsletter. If you are interested in taking over as Newsletter Editor please contact Will Cuddy (contact details are provided below).

APPS NEWS is the official newsletter of the Australasian Plant Pathology Society, published electronically 3 times per year. Items for inclusion should be sent to:

Dr Will Cuddy, Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute, NSW Department of Primary Industries, Private Mail Bag 4011, Narellan, NSW, 2567.
Ph. 02 9351 8871, Email: will.cuddy@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Next deadline: November 31 2015

Web Site: http://www.appsnet.org

Past President's Message

News from the outgoing Management Committee

20th APPS Biennial Conference, Fremantle

The conference was very enjoyable, with an excellent program of scientific sessions and social events. It was, as always, a great opportunity to meet colleagues and renew and extend networks. I congratulate the conference organising committee, chaired by Philip O'Brien. The conference also included meetings of the Management Committee, Regional Councillors and other groups that are so important to the smooth operation of our Society.

We were delighted to have the Australasian Plant Virology Workshop follow the Biennial Conference, beginning with a joint plenary session on 16 September for the presentation by Dr Arvind Varsani (University of Canterbury).

At the annual general meeting, Dr Kim Plummer was endorsed as the new President and members of the incoming Management Committee, based in Victoria, were endorsed and introduced (see below).

APPS 2015 closed with the presentation of awards (see below) and the invitation to attend APPS 2017 in Brisbane.

APPS Awards

Four members received the award of Fellow of APPS: Professor Giles Hardy for his contribution to understanding the impact of diseases, particularly those caused by *Phytophthora* spp., on forest and woodland ecosystems; Professor Barbara Howlett for her contribution to fungal genetics and diseases of brassicas, particularly blackleg of canola caused by *Leptosphaeria maculans*; Professor John Thompson for his contribution to research on root lesion nematodes that affect the Australian grain industry; Professor Colin Wellings for his contribution to research on resistance and control of stripe rust in wheat. All four were also recognised for training research students. The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Dr Philip O'Brien, the citation for which included his contributions as Editor-in-Chief of Australasian Plant Pathology since 2011 and membership of the APPS Management Committee and several conference organizing committees. The inaugural Lester Burgess Award for Diagnostics, Extension and Research Communication was presented to Dr Len Tesoriero for his contribution to horticultural pathology in Australasia and South East Asia and research training. The Allen Kerr Postgraduate Prize was awarded to Dr Sharon van Brunschot for her research on virus and viroid diseases of tomato.

On behalf of the outgoing Management Committee, I thank the Honours and Awards Sub-committee, ably chaired by Professor Lester Burgess, for their work in seeking and reviewing nominations.

Advancing Plant Pathology Fund – Australia

The Management Committee has secured funding from the Plant Biosecurity Cooperative Research Centre (PBCRC), through its small initiatives scheme, to support the Advancing Plant Pathology Fund – Australia (APPF-A). This will allow the Fund Executive Committee to make one award of up to $5000 each year from 2014/15 to 2017/18. The recipient of the 2014/15 award is Ms Nina Pratt, who will use the funds to support her honours research at Charles Sturt University and the National Wine and Grape Industry Centre, which concerns new *Trichoderma* products for the control of grapevine Botrytis bunch rot in the hot and humid conditions of the Upper Hunter Valley. We congratulate Nina on her award. A call for applications for the 2015/16 award will be made shortly. We gratefully acknowledge the PBCRC for their contribution to our efforts to support skills development in plant pathology and the APPF-A Executive Committee for managing the application and selection process.

Australasian Plant Pathology

Submission of manuscripts to Australasian Plant Pathology and downloads of articles remain strong and the 5-year impact factor (Thompson Reuters Journal Citation Reports®) increased from 1.05 (2013 value) to 1.157 (2014). However, the impact factor has fallen from 1.041 (2013 value) to 0.953 (2014). Possible reasons for this drop in impact factor, and remedies, are being investigated. Publishing more review articles, which typically attract strong citations and contribute to journal impact factors, is one consideration. We have invited students and their supervisors to consider preparing the thesis literature review as a review article for submission to Australasian Plant Pathology. Editor-in-Chief Philip O'Brien will give a detailed report on the journals at the conference. In the meantime, please consider if you have a literature review that might form the basis of a review article and contact Philip if you need advice.

Phytopathological Society of Japan

The management committees of APPS and the Phytopathological Society of Japan (PSJ) have recently renewed the student exchange agreement for another two years (2015-2017) and we expect to have two Japanese students visit Australia or New Zealand in the year ahead. I wrote about the centenary of the PSJ in the previous edition of APPS News and am pleased to include two photographs of the occasion below.



Greg Johnson presents a gift to PSJ President Dr Kenichi Tsuchiya on behalf of the International Society of Plant Pathology (ISPP). The ISPP gift was a framed set of Australian gum leaves carved from wood veneer showing blotches and shapes resembling leaf diseases.



The plaque presented by Greg Johnson on behalf of APPS. The plaque is made of myrtle wood, inlaid with an engraved APPS medal.

Change of Management Committee

On behalf of the outgoing SA Management Committee, I thank all members who have contributed to our Society over the last 2 years and wish Kim Plummer and the new Victorian Management Committee all the very best. I have been honoured to serve APPS as President.

The Management Committee 2015-2017

President: Dr Kim Plummer, Past President: Prof Eileen Scott, President Elect: Dr Brett Summerell, Vice President: Dr Jacky Edwards, Executive Secretary: Drs Angela Van de Wouw and Helen Hayden, Treasurer: Dr Alex Idnurm. We wish them all the best in their new roles.

Eileen Scott

eileen.scott@adelaide.edu.au; past-president@appsnet.org.au

New Members

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

- Ms Nga Tran
- Mr Jamil Chowdhury
- Mr Mohammed Khdiar
- Mr James Wainaina
- Miss Sarah Sapsford
- Mrs Manisha Kunadiya
- Mr Jamba Gyeltshen
- Mr Ihsan Ul Khaliq
- Mr Robert Mueller
- Miss Brittney Caruana
- Dr Barkat Mustafa
- Mr Yasir Mehmood
- Dr David Jones
- Dr Kawsar Salam
- Dr Anna Hopkins
- Ms Nina Pratt

Dates for your Diary

- **9th Australasian Soilborne Diseases Symposium**, Heritage Hanmer Springs, Canterbury, New Zealand. 14-18 November 2016

The Symposium will include inputs from plant pathologists and other researchers, who study soilborne plant pathogens and the diseases they cause, soil health, microbiology and related ecology, in forestry, pasture, arable, fruit and vegetable crops, and natural environments.

Symposium themes (and Keynote Speakers) will include:
• **Biocontrol** (Prof Gabriele Berg, Austria)
• **Soil Health** (Prof Jos Raaijmakers, the Netherlands)
• **Biosecurity** (Dr Treena Burgess and Dr Nick Waipara)
• **Disease Management** (Dr Steve Johnson, USA)
• **New Technologies/Diagnostics** (Dr Andy Pitman)



The Symposium will also consider research on all aspects of soilborne plant diseases, through *Offered papers*, delivered as poster or oral presentations.

The village of Hanmer Springs is a “magical” place, surrounded by mountains and forests, with crisp alpine air. Beside the lure of plant pathology and soil (!!), attractions include boutique shopping, excellent cafes and restaurants, an 18 hole golf course, farm parks and adventure activities (e.g. fishing, hunting, jet boating, bungy jumping). A key attraction is the award-winning Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools and Spa.

Key dates

4 April 2016 Registrations open

9 Sept 2016 Early registration discount ends

Last day for abstract submission **3 Oct 2016**

Notification of paper acceptance

28 Oct 2016 Registrations close

Note reduced registration expenses for Students



9th ASDS website address

www.lincoln.ac.nz/ASDS





Regional news from Vic



The Victorian branch of the APPS gathered in July with 40 participants that were treated to excellent talks from Oscar Villalta and Piotr Trebicki from the Victorian Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR). Oscar described his recent work to improve prediction of brown rot incidence on stone fruit (*Monilinia* species). Piotr spoke on studies at the Horsham AGFACE site dedicated to the research of climate change effects on plant viruses. He explained that elevated atmospheric CO_2 increases the severity of barley yellow dwarf virus infection by extending aphid feeding times and increasing the virus titre. We also heard talks from three students that won bursaries from the Victorian branch to attend the Biennial conference in Fremantle: Azin Moslemi, Dilani de Silva and Shakira Johnson. The students gave thorough and excellent accounts of their research. We look forward to seeing them present their research with new findings at the APPS conference.

After the presentations, the Victorian branch voted to “sponsor a species” with the Fungimap non-profit initiative. A rust species that infects native plants was chosen, *Uromyces politus*. The sponsorship will support inclusion of this species in their

latest field guide of Australian fungi and is a good exercise for raising the profile of the APPS. If other branches have not yet participated we encourage them to contact Fungimap and help out this great initiative.

Rohan Lowe

Regional news from SA



Following a busy start to the year it's been a quite few months for the SA branch.

APPS members at SARDI's Sustainable Systems section hosted a work experience student from a rural high school who really loved science but was unsure what career path to take. Information on the Primary Industry Centre for Science Education (PICSE) was provided to the student. PICSE organises a range of activities for senior high school science students to help foster science as a career. We wish her all the best in her future career.

We have directly sold 1 book of 'Daniel McAlpine and The Bitter Pit' by Douglas Parbery, which is also available online via the APPS website.

Pauline Glocke and Ismail Isamil

Regional news from NT



Dr Kathryn Everts, from the University of Maryland in the USA, visited the Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries (NT DPIF) at Berrimah Farm. Kate is collaborating with NT DPIF on the Horticulture Innovation Australia (HIA) project 'Characterisation and management of Fusarium wilt of watermelon', led by Dr Lucy Tran-Nguyen. Kate's research focuses on the management of vegetable diseases in the mid-Atlantic region including the soilborne disease Fusarium wilt on watermelon, caused by the pathogen *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *niveum* (Fon). This collaboration has involved comparing Fon isolates provided by Kate from the USA with Fon isolates collected from the NT and around Australia for molecular characterisation. In addition, Kate's methods (Zhou et al. 2010) for Fon race-typing are being used in glasshouse trials in the NT and NSW to determine which Fon race is present in Australia. Kate gave a presentation to NT DPIF staff outlining her research on sustainable soilborne disease management. The presentation outlined

the use of cover cropping and biological soil amendments to make the soil environment less conducive to disease development, and mechanisms of suppression resulting from incorporation of green manures (*Vicia villosa* or *Trifolium incarnatum*) on Fusarium wilt. Information shared from this collaboration may help to provide future directions for research on the management of Fon in watermelons worldwide.



Dr Kathryn Everts, a visiting researcher from the University of Maryland (left), Dr Lucy Tran-Nguyen HIA Fon project leader (centre), and Barry Conde project researcher (right), examining race differential trials in the glasshouse at Berrimah Farm in the NT.

Dr Lucy Tran-Nguyen and her molecular team have continued to provide molecular diagnosis for samples taken as part of the ongoing Cucumber Green Mottle Mosaic Virus (CGMMV) response. The CGMMV eradication response has now moved into the management phase, and all cucurbit growers require testing to be conducted on all their crops for phytosanitary certification. International CGMMV expert Dr Aviv Dombrovsky from the Volcani Institute in Israel visited Berrimah Farm in January and again in June to discuss research and management of CGMMV at grower meetings in Katherine and Darwin. A new project entitled 'Monitoring persistence and viability of CGMMV in soil' led by Dr David Lovelock of NT DPIF has commenced to investigate survival of the virus in cucurbit fields. The first field trial commenced in early August, with cucumber seedlings planted in a CGMMV infested property that is currently under quarantine. The barrier structure was built with the help from Greg Owens, NT Farmers Association to protect the trial from wildlife.



David Lovelock and Pingjie Zhang preparing the field site for CGMMV research.



David Lovelock (NT DPIF) and Greg Owens (NT Farmers Association Inc) constructing a barrier structure for Cucumber Green Mottle Mosaic Virus (CGMMV) research.



First Darwin CGMMV field trial.



Cucumber Green Mottle Mosaic Virus (CGMMV) disease symptoms in a watermelon in the NT.

Principal Plant Pathologist Dr Jose Liberato and Senior Molecular Scientist Dr Lucy Tran-Nguyen attended the first of two training workshops on *Colletotrichum*– run by Dr Bevan Weir (Landcare Research, New Zealand). Jose and Lucy attended this first workshop at the Ecosciences Precinct in Brisbane from 20 – 23 July 2015, which covered isolation, preservation, morphology and taxonomy of *Colletotrichum* species. The second workshop will be held at Murdoch University in Perth from 12 – 13 September 2015, immediately prior to the Australasian Plant Pathology Society Biennial Conference and will cover phylogenetic analysis and identification of the isolates examined at the first workshop.

The NT DPIF Plant Industries group are busily planning for the upcoming XI International Mango Symposium from 28 September – 2 October 2015. Delegates from national and international sectors of the mango industry are expected to attend the Symposium. Delegates will have the opportunity to attend field excursions to the Darwin and Katherine growing regions as well as attend master classes on various topics including entomology, plant pathology, flower manipulation, experimental design and analysis, mango biotechnology and tools for precision mango-culture.

Cassie McMaster