

A detailed botanical illustration featuring a large, vibrant pink rose at the top center. Surrounding it are various green leaves, some showing distinct dark brown or black spots (fungal lesions) and holes. On the right side, there are clusters of green grapes, some with dark spots. At the bottom, there are more green leaves, some with dark spots and a small white insect-like figure. The entire illustration is set against a light cream background.

26-28 MAY 2025

APPS 2025

AUSTRALASIAN PLANT PATHOLOGY
SOCIETY CONFERENCE 2025

ICC SYDNEY AUSTRALIA

DELEGATE HANDBOOK



DELEGATE INFORMATION



VENUE

ICC Sydney - International Convention & Exhibition Centre

14 Darling Drive
Sydney NSW 2000

The conference plenary will be hosted in the Cockle Bay Rooms and the concurrent sessions in Meeting Rooms C3.3, C3.4/C3.5 and C3.6. The Poster Sessions will be hosted in the North and South East Foyers, with Expo and Catering in the Cockle Bay Foyer

REGISTRATION DESK

The registration desk is in Cockle Bay Foyer. Any enquiries regarding your participation in APPS 2025 can be directed to the ASN staff onsite. The registration desk opening hours are as follows:

Monday 26th May: 7:30am - 5:15 pm

Tuesday 27th May: 7:45 am - 5:15 pm

Wednesday 28th May: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS

Presentations are to be loaded via USB or hard drive at Connect Hub (Speaker Preparation Room). Presentations must be uploaded a minimum two hours before your session or for morning sessions, the day prior. Monday morning sessions to be provided to the technician no later than 8am. A dedicated APPS technician will be available during the following hours:

Monday 26th May: 7:00am - 3:30 pm

Tuesday 27th May: 8:00 am - 3:30 pm

Wednesday 28th May: 8:00 am - 1:30 pm

ORAL PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

Information on formatting guidelines can be found [here](#). **Please arrive at your room at least 15 minutes before your session to meet with the chair and other speakers.**

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

There will be three dedicated poster sessions during the conference.

Monday 26th May: Display your posters from 9:30am

Monday 26th May: Lunch and Posters – 1:00pm to 2:00pm

Tuesday 27th May: Lunch and Posters – 1:00pm to 2:00pm

Wednesday 28th May: Final Poster Viewing – 8:30am to 9:00am

Removal of posters at conclusion of lunch on Wednesday (1:30pm). Any posters left on poster boards after this time, will be taken down & can be collected from the registration desk. Posters not collected by 4pm Wednesday will be discarded.

Location

The poster boards will be set up in the South East Foyer.

CONFERENCE WEB-APP

The App is displayed in a simple and easy-to-read format on your phone, iPad, or computer. To get the App, please open the link below in your internet browser.

<https://apps-2025.m.asnevents.com.au/>

You will be prompted to add an icon to your device's home screen. The 'App' will allow you to:

- View the full conference program.
- View all abstracts for the conference.
- Save your favourite sessions and plan your day.

You will be prompted to "log in" to use most of these functions daily. Enter the same email and password that you used to register.

MOBILE PHONES

Please ensure your mobile devices are switched to silent during any session you attend.

ACCESSIBILITY

If you require any special assistance, whether mobility, sensory accommodations, language interpretation, or any other specific needs you have not previously disclosed, please do not hesitate to inform us at the registration desk. Our team is here to support you by making the necessary accommodations to ensure your participation is smooth and fulfilling.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Please ensure a ticket is purchased for all social functions you wish to attend as numbers are limited. Tickets must be presented for the Conference Dinner. Please see ASN staff at the registration desk if you are adding a Welcome Function or Conference Dinner ticket to your registration and they will assist with this. Click [here](#) to view functions and pricing.

WORKSHOPS AND FIELD TRIPS

Tickets must be pre purchased for all pre and post workshops and field trips. If you haven't booked and would like to attend, please contact [ASN Events](#) to check availability. Click [here](#) to view field trips and [here](#) to view workshop details and pricing.

DIETARIES

If you have included your dietary requirements during your registration, you will be catered accordingly throughout the event. Your catering will be served separately during most breaks; however, please let yourself be known to the catering staff at breaks.

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

Your certificate of attendance will be emailed to you at the conclusion of the conference. It can also be downloaded from your registration profile. To log in, enter your email and password, scroll down to the button, and select "Certificate of attendance."

WIFI

Search for ICC Sydney Guest

You will then be directed to a landing page where you can select the complimentary Wi-Fi or select the premium (paid) Wi-Fi



Welcome from the Convener



Thank you for choosing to celebrate the 25th Australasian Plant Pathology Society conference with us in Sydney!

The 2025 theme “From Field to Future, Scientific Collections and Plant Pathology” is close to my heart. I first worked with collections in my 2nd year of undergraduate studies as an intern at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney. I remember sitting there, packeting up lichen specimens thinking “ok, this is it, I want to work with collections”.

Humans have been collecting biological specimens for hundreds, if not thousands, of years. These specimens form the foundation of all biological studies, and these collections are more valuable than ever before as we strive to better understand and protect the world around us.

Plant pathology collections are vital to agriculture, conservation, and biosecurity and ultimately human health and welfare. Preserving specimens and living cultures, from both managed and natural landscapes, provides insights into the past, material for future discoveries and opportunities to predict the impact of future changes.

At the 25th APPS conference we are putting the spotlight on collections, highlighting their role in research and biosecurity and how they can be used, and improved, to ensure they continue to be a vital resource for researchers and decision makers into the future.

I'd like to thank our sponsors for supporting our efforts and plant pathology in Australasia. Their contributions have provided an additional XX delegate bursaries and helps APPS in our goal to foster collaboration, knowledge sharing and growth for students and early career researchers.

Jordan Bailey
Convener



Organising Committee

Dr Jordan Bailey – APPS 2025 Chair

Institute Director and Leader Plant Pathology Curation | Orange Agricultural Institute

Toni Petronaitis – APPS 2025 Secretary

Lecturer | University of New England

Professor Brett Summerell AM – APPS 2025 Advisor

Chief Scientist and Director, Science, Education and Conservation | Botanic Gardens of Sydney

Dr Tracey Steinrucken - APPS 2025 Sponsorship & Exhibition Lead

Plant Pathology Research Scientist | CSIRO

Dr Toni Chapman - APPS 2025 Scientific Program Lead

Senior Research Scientist / Plant Bacteriologist | Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Dr Angus Carnegie - APPS 2025 Scientific Program Lead

Senior Principal Research Scientist | NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Hayley Wilson - APPS 2025 Student Representative

Early Career Researcher | Tamworth Agricultural Institute

Dr Sophia Callaghan - APPS 2025 Excursion Support

Senior Plant Pathologist | Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry

Montana Hickey - APPS 2025 Communications Officer

Diagnostic Plant Pathologist | Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

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Faculty of Science



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry**



University of
Southern
Queensland



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

Grow your career at DAFF

Our entry career pathway programs offer a range of opportunities across Australia – from researchers and scientists working in labs, to policy advisers and IT specialists building a better future.

We're responsible for maintaining the sustainability of our agricultural, fisheries and forestry industries. Our work has a direct impact on the wellbeing and prosperity of our nation.

Whether you've just graduated, are looking for a pathway into the APS or are seeking a change of career, we've got something for you!



OUR ENTRY PROGRAMS

[Graduate Development Program](#)

[Indigenous Apprenticeships Program](#)

[Australian Government Digital Traineeship Program](#)

[University Vacation Employment Program](#)

Our dedicated team are here to support you on your career journey as you grow your experience and skill set, setting you up for your dream career. Our inclusive culture values diversity. We offer flexible working arrangements and development opportunities to help you grow your career at DAFF whilst maintaining a healthy work life balance.

ELIGIBILITY

To work with us, you must:

- be an Australian citizen
- successfully complete a probation period
- complete a pre-employment medical assessment
- pass referee and police checks.

Formal qualifications checks may apply for some positions.

One DAFF, endless opportunities



Find out more about careers at DAFF

President's Welcome to APPS 2025



Kia ora koutou/ Hello everyone

Welcome to the 25th Biennial Conference of the Australasian Plant Pathology Society in the world-class Sydney International Convention Centre at Darling Harbour. It's been 51 years since May 1974 when the first biennial conference of our Society was held in Sydney, and 34 years since we last meet in Sydney for the 8th APPS Biennial Conference in 1991. It's wonderful to be back in this great city and I acknowledge traditional custodians of the land we meet on, the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, and pay my respect to all Elders past and present and to the children of today who are the Elders of the future.

In August this year is the 56th anniversary of the foundation of APPS in 1969, one year after the first International Congress of Plant Pathology in London in 1968, and one year prior to the formal foundation of the International Society of Plant Pathology. In just three years the Gold Coast, Queensland will host the 13th International Congress of Plant Pathology in August 2028, Australasia's third hosting of this premier meeting after the 4th ICPP in Melbourne in 1983 and the 8th ICPP in Christchurch in 2003.

Congratulations and many thanks to Jordan Bailey and the Conference Committee for their vision and endeavour to plan and assemble the diverse program for our meeting with a focus on the economically and environmentally important collections of many diverse specimens. We're now in the second half-century of our society and trust that the new learnings and understandings gained at this meeting will enable and deliver progress in our ever-changing research environments.

Ngā mihi nui/ Kind regards

Dr Grant Smith

President, Australasian Plant Pathology Society

GRDC TRANSFORMING TOMORROW

WITH CUTTING-EDGE SOLUTIONS FOR GRAIN GROWERS

The Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) is a partnership between Australian grain growers and the Australian government and is responsible for planning, investing in and overseeing research, development and extension (RD&E) for 25 leviable grain crops.

GRDC's purpose is to invest in RD&E to create enduring profitability for Australian grain growers.

By partnering with the best researchers and organisations from across Australia and the world, GRDC delivers innovative RD&E to improve the environmental, social and economic position of Australian grain growers, industry and the Australian community.

“ We invest more than \$220 million across a diverse portfolio of over 600 projects that deliver tangible, on-the-ground impact to growers. ”

Nigel Hart
Managing Director

For more information about GRDC's investments and priorities, visit grdc.com.au



Exhibition information

Without the generous support of our sponsors and exhibitors, the APPS Conference would not be possible. Please take time during the conference to visit the exhibitor stands and understand the important part that these organisations and institutions play in our sector.

Exhibitor Hours

Trade displays will be located within the Cockle Bay Foyer and open during all catering breaks.

Exhibitor	Table Number
Promega	2
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)	3&4
The University of Sydney - Faculty of Science	6
GeneWorks	7
United Bioresearch	8
University of Southern Queensland	9
Azenta Life Science Singapore	10



APPS Foundation Members

The list below includes all who joined when the Society was founded in 1969

Aberdeen, JEC	Conroy, RJ	Howles, R	Morschel, JRG
Alcock, K	Cruickshank, IAM	Hughes, CG	Munro, D
Alcorn, J	Da Costa, EW	Hughes, IK	Murray, GM
Allen, RN Arnold,	Darling, DD	Hutchinson, PB	Stubbs, LL
JR Arvier, AC	Dodman, RL	Janes, BS	Summers, LA
Atchison, BA	Doepel, RF	Johnstone, GR	Sutton, J
Ballantyne, BJ	Egan, BT	Jones, LC	Talbot, PHB
Banyer, RJ	Evans, G	Kable, PF	Taylor, RH
Barkley, P	Finlay, JR	Keane, PJ	Teakle, DS
Behncken, GM	Fish, S	Kerr, A	Thistlethwayte, B
Bertus, AL	Fisher, JM	Kile, GA	Titze, JF
Bevege, DI	Flentje, NT	Kochman, JK	Trimboli, D
Bird, AF	Francki, RIB	Kuiper, J	Truman, RA
Bowyer, JW	Fraser, LR	Langdon, RFN	Tugwell, BL
Brown, BN	Freeman, H	Latch, GCM	Van Velsen, RJ
Brown, JF	Garrett, RG	Layton, AW	Wade, GC
Brown, RH	Geard, ID	Lim, W-C	Walker, J
Bumbieris, M	Goss, OM	Lloyd, AB	Wallace, HR
Burgess, LW	Grattidge, R	MacNish, GC	Warcup, JH
Burnett, RM	Greber, RS	McCarthy, GJP	Wauchope, DG
Burnett, WM	Griffin, DM	McGechan, JK	Weste, GM
Carter, MV	Grylls, NE	McKeen, CD	White, NH
Chambers, SC	Harden, J	McLean, GD	Wicks, TJ
Chilvers, GA	Heaton, JB	McLeod, RW	Wildermuth,
Clare, BG	Hedley, J	Malajczuk, NN	GB Willetts, HJ
Close, RC	Helms, K	Meagher, JW	Williams, PG
Colbran, RC	Hicks, PG	Middleton, KJ	Wong, AL
	Hilton, RN	Moffett, ML	

The Daniel McAlpine Memorial Lecture



The invitation to present the Daniel McAlpine lecture to the Biennial Conference of the Australasian Plant Pathology Society is extended to an eminent scientist in recognition of their significant contribution to Australasian Plant Pathology.

The lecture commemorates the life and work of Daniel McAlpine and his contribution to the science of plant pathology. He was born in Scotland, and arrived in Australia in 1884 at the age of 35. He had already received considerable training in biology, and became a lecturer at the University of Melbourne. Six years later he became a vegetable pathologist in the Department of Agriculture. At the time, plant pathology and plant breeding were facing the challenge of coping with stem rust epidemics, so McAlpine, together with William James Farrer became involved to study resistance to rust in wheat. Over the next 26 years McAlpine published 226 papers, a monograph on rusts (1906), and books on the smuts (1910), diseases of citrus (1889), stone fruit (1902), and potatoes (1911) (Ron Close 1996).

Considered as the “Father of Australasian Plant Pathology”, McAlpine’s most notable contributions were to study wheat rust following the 1889 epidemic, to classify and describe Australian smuts, and to recognise *Ophiobolus graminis* (now *Gaeumanomyces graminis*) as the cause of wheat take-all. He did a difficult pioneering job pushing down deeply the roots of plant pathology in his adopted country and preparing the way for Australian plant pathologists of the future (Stanislaus Fish 1976, John Randles 1994).

The 2025 McAlpine Lecture

The McAlpine Lecture will be delivered by: Dr. Nerida Donovan

Diseases of citrus trees in Australia: changing the course of the industry

Dr. Nerida Donovan

Nerida is a Citrus Pathologist based at NSW DPIRD's Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute. She coordinates a Citrus Pathology Program that enables government and industry to combat citrus biosecurity threats and supports industry sustainability. This is achieved by having the capability to detect all described citrus diseases, understanding the diseases within our borders to minimise their impact and preparing for the arrival of new diseases. Nerida also provides scientific expertise to Australian and international teams working on multi-disciplinary citrus projects. Nerida joined the department in 1999 after completion of a BScAgr (Hons 1, Medal) and PhD at the University of Sydney. Nerida previously served as the Secretary of the Australasian Plant Pathology Society and currently sits on the Board of Directors of the International Organization of Citrus Virologists as Past-Chair.

Memorial Lectures



- 1976 **Dr Lilian Fraser (Department of Agriculture, NSW)**
Diseases of citrus trees in Australia – the first hundred years
- 1978 **Dr David Griffin (Australian National University, ACT)**
Looking Ahead
- 1980 **Mr John Walker (Department of Agriculture, NSW)**
Taxonomy, Specimens & Plant Diseases
- 1982 **Professor Richard Matthews (The University of Auckland, NZ)**
Relationships between Plant Pathology and Molecular Biology
- 1984 **Professor Bob McIntosh (University of Sydney, NSW) & Dr Colin Wellings (Department of Agriculture, NSW)** Wheat Rust
Resistance: The continuing Challenge
- 1986 **Dr Allen Kerr (Waite Agriculture Research Institute, SA)**
Agrobacterium: Pathogen, genetic engineer and biological control agent
- 1989 **Dr Albert Rovira (CSIRO Division of Soils, SA)**
Ecology, epidemiology, and control of take-all, Rhizoctonia and cereal cyst nematode in wheat
- 1991 **Mr John Walker (Department of Agriculture, NSW)**
Plants, diseases and pathologists in Australasia – a personal view
- 1993 **Dr John Randles (University of Adelaide, SA)**
Plant viruses, viroids and virologists of Australasia
- 1995 **Dr Ron Close (Lincoln University, NZ)**
The ever changing challenges of plant pathology
- 1997 **Professor John Irwin (CRC Tropical Plant Pathology, QLD)**
Biology and management of Phytophthora spp. attacking field crops in Australia
- 1999 **Dr Dorothy Shaw (Department of Primary Industries, QLD)**
Bees and Fungi with special reference to certain plant pathogens
- 2001 **Dr Alan Dubé (South Australian Research and Development Institute, SA)**
Long term careers in plant pathology
- 2003 **Dr Mike Wingfield (University of Pretoria, South Africa)**
Increasing threat of diseases to exotic plantation forests in the Southern Hemisphere
- 2005 **Dr Gretna Weste (University of Melbourne, VIC)**
A long and varied fungal foray
- 2007 **Dr Graham Stirling (Biological Crop Protection, QLD)**
The impact of farming systems on soil biology and soil-borne diseases
- 2009 **Associate Professor Philip Keane (La Trobe University, VIC)**
'Lessons from the tropics' An ongoing journey of discovery
- 2011 **Honorary Professor Lester Burgess (University of Sydney, NSW)**
A love affair with Fusarium
- 2013 **Dr Shaun Pennycook (Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research)**
Fungal Names in Flux
- 2015 **Professor Giles Hardy (Murdoch University, WA)**
From 'then to now' – Phytophthora science and management in Western Australia
- 2017 **Professor Barbara Howlett (The University of Melbourne)**
A 'genome to paddock' approach to control plant disease
- 2019 **Professor Eileen Scott (University of Adelaide)**
Grapevine Powdery Mildew: From Fundamental Plant Pathology to New and Future Vineyard Technologies
- 2021 **Dr Rob (Robert) Magarey (Sugar Research Australia)**
Dirt-boot pathology in an international setting: experiences to learn from and enjoy
- 2023 **Dr. Jenny Davidson**
Ascochyta blight of temperate pulses; the undefeated pathogens

APPS Awards



Recipients of the 2025 Australasian Plant Pathology Society Awards will be announced at the Conference Dinner.

Fellows of the Australasian Plant Pathology Society

The award of Fellow honours the scientific achievements of members who have made substantial contributions in one or more areas of plant pathology as demonstrated by their peer-reviewed publications.

Allen Kerr Post Graduate Prize

This award is in recognition of the outstanding contribution made by Allen Ker AO to the field of plant pathology. The Allen Kerr Postgraduate Prize is awarded by the Society for the best piece of original research relevant to Australasia by a postgraduate student in the field of plant pathology. The prize is awarded on the basis of publication in refereed journals.

Peter Williams Award for Distinguished Service

The Distinguished Service Award recognises members who have made outstanding contributions to the Society, through service, teaching, extension, office-holding or other activities considered beyond the normal expectations of their employment or duties, while also furthering the science of plant pathology.

Lester Burgess Award for Diagnostics and Extension, or Research Communication

The Lester Burgess award recognises members who have made exceptional contributions in the field of diagnostics and extension, or research communication, over a significant period of their career. An award can be made to an individual or group (team). While a significant publication record is desirable, the primary focus of the award is on contributions to the diagnosis of plant diseases, extension to clients in field crops, horticultural industries, forestry, natural ecosystems, and amenity plants, or research communication to clients and the general community.

Trevor Wicks Student and Early Career Researcher Travel Award

This award has been established by colleagues and friends in memory of Dr Trevor J. Wicks and supports research students and early career researchers to further their training in plant pathology through travel to a conference or a short placement in a laboratory in another state or country.

APPS Awards Sub-committee, 2025

- Professor André Drenth (chair)
- Dr Grant Smith (President APPS)
- Emerita Professor Eileen Scott
- Dr Rebecca Roach
- Dr Nga Tran



Bursary Recipients

APPS-funded bursaries

This year the society is pleased to support many students and early career researchers to attend the APPS 2025 Conference. We had an incredible response this year to the call for student and ECR bursaries ([ECR Bursary Scheme — Australasian Plant Pathology Society](#)), we congratulate and welcome the successful applicants below.

Region	Recipient	Institution
Australian Capital Territory	Lachlan Dow	CSIRO
	Salome Wilson	Plant Health Australia
New South Wales	Manjeet	Western Sydney University
	John Darby Taguam	Charles Sturt University
Northern Territory	Birendra Kunwar	Northern Territory Government Department of Agriculture and Fisheries- Plant Pathology Unit
New Zealand (North)	Ashika Ashnita Prasad	University of Auckland
	Hanareia Ehau-Taumaunu	Plant and Food Research, Auckland
New Zealand (South)	Dan Cu	Lincoln University
	Rui Zhao	Lincoln University
Papua New Guinea & Pacific	Intan Sakinah Mohid Anuar	Universiti Putra Malaysia
	Amelia Limbongan	Universitas Musamus
Queensland	Ayesha Senanayake	University of Southern Queensland
	Qadeer Ahmad	Griffith University
South Australia	Cian Hoban	The University of Adelaide
	Virajinee Bulathsinalage	The University of Adelaide
Tasmania	Akeem Taiwo	University of Tasmania
	Pooja Rajasri Poosarla	University of Tasmania
Victoria	Atika Betty Azzam Morrell	Latrobe University
	Weixia Wang	University of Melbourne
Western Australia	Nuraizat Abidin	The University of Western Australia
	Jade Davis	Curtin University



Invited Speakers

Keynote Speakers

Professor Cathie Aime

Purdue University, USA



Cathie earned her doctorate in Biology from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 2001 under the tutelage of Orson K. Miller and completed her postdoctoral research at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom in the lab of Lorna Casselton.

She worked for four years as a research molecular biologist with the USDA-ARS, Systematic Botany and Mycology Lab in Beltsville, MD, and for four years as an Assistant and Associate Professor at Louisiana State University.

Currently she is Professor of Mycology in the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology and Director of the Arthur and Kriebel Herbaria at Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN. The Aime Lab

researches the systematics and evolution of early diverging basidiomycetes and of tropical fungi. Of particular interest are rust fungi and fungal diseases of tropical tree crops such as coffee and cacao and their socio-economic impacts on rural farmers in developing economies.

Cathie is a Fellow of the Mycological Society of America (MSA), the Explorer's Club, and the Linnaean Society of London, a former officer of the MSA and past Managing Editor of the journal *Mycologia*, and a Purdue University Faculty Scholar.

Erin Roger

CSIRO - Atlas of Living Australia (ALA), AUS



Erin is an experienced Sector Lead, with strong expertise in strategic planning and management working across both the citizen science and biosecurity sectors in her role in CSIRO's Atlas of Living Australia (ALA). In her current role, Erin manages the development of ALA's biosecurity program, a program which includes the Biosecurity Alerts Service, data mobilisation, and biosecurity focused public campaigns. Before working for the ALA, Erin worked in climate change adaptation and knowledge management and has a PhD in Terrestrial Ecology. Erin is a 2022 Churchill Fellow and a graduate from the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Megan Romberg

Mycology USDA-APHIS National Identification Services, USA



Megan has been a National Taxonomist for Mycology for USDA-APHIS National Identification Services since 2012 and provides final identifications of fungi on products arriving at US ports, and from throughout the US. From 2008 to 2011, she was a scientist at the Ministry for Primary Industries in New Zealand where she identified fungi and bacteria associated with imports and general surveillance from throughout the country. Prior to her time in New Zealand, Megan was an AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow at the USDA Economic Research Service and worked with economists studying phytosanitary barriers to trade. Megan earned her PhD from the University of California, Davis with research focused on diseases of potato and tomato.



Dr Susie Collins

Plant Protection and Environmental Biosecurity Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, AUS



Dr Susie Collins is currently an Assistant Secretary in the Plant Protection and Environmental Biosecurity Division in the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. This role supports the national plant biosecurity system and is responsible for activities covering preparedness, surveillance, diagnostics, response and trade. This role sees her bridging the nexus between science and policy.

Susie has scientific qualifications in biological sciences with a PhD in molecular and cellular immunology from ANU where she studied co-evolution of the myxoma virus with the European rabbit. Although starting off in a lab she has been working in government policy areas for over 20 years.

Dr Jean Ristaino

North Carolina State University, USA



Dr. Ristaino is a William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor in the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology at NC State University. She works on the population genetics and biology of the pathogen that caused the Irish famine *Phytophthora infestans*. Her lab studies the impact of migration, recombination and hybridization on the evolution of *Phytophthora*. Her research has tracked historic migrations of *P. infestans* from its ancestral home in the Andes to the US and Europe using historical herbarium collections. She was part of the team that sequenced the first genome of *P. infestans*. She is founding director of the Emerging Plant Disease and Global Food Security cluster at NC State. In 2023, she was awarded a Fulbright Award to study *Phytophthora infestans* and other emerging *Phytophthora* species in Ireland. She is a Fellow of the American Phytopathological Society (APS), the American Association for the Advancement of Science, The Linnean Society and was awarded the International Service Award from APS. She is currently working on a book, *The Potato Plague*, where she draws from archival letters and herbaria from National Botanic Gardens of Ireland,

Kew Gardens, and the Farlow Herbarium. Dr. Ristaino's work has made an impact on the history of plant pathology, epidemiology, population genomics, food security and science policy. <https://ristainolab.cals.ncsu.edu>

Bevan Weir

Landcare Research, NZ



Bevan Weir is a Principal Scientist and the Leader of the Nationally Significant Databases and Collections at New Zealand's environment-focussed research institute Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research. He is also curator of the ICMP, an international culture collection of plant pathogenic fungi and bacteria. He represents Oceania on the Executive committee of the International Mycological Association.

Bevan's research interests are systematics and biology of plant pathogens and has published over 60 research papers. He has had an active role in many of the major incursions of plant pathogens in New Zealand in the past few decades, working closely with central government agencies.



Professor Yong-Hwan Lee
Seoul National University, KOREA



Yong-Hwan Lee's research has focused on using multi-pronged approaches to attain a comprehensive understanding of the molecular and genomic basis of rice blast disease, caused by *Magnaporthe oryzae*. His works are widely acknowledged through the development and scope of a wet lab approaches he has used to dissect the mechanisms of infection as well as the creation of several powerful bioinformatics platforms for comparative and evolutionary fungal genomics.

He was the Presidents of Korean Society of Plant Pathology and Asian Association of Societies for Plant Pathology. He is currently the President of International Society for Plant Pathology.

Dr Toni Chapman
NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, AUS



Dr. Toni Chapman is a Senior Research Scientist at the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, specialising in Plant Biosecurity Research and Diagnostics. As a plant bacteriologist, her work focuses on understanding and identifying bacterial pathogens through both traditional and genomic identification and characterisation. Toni has developed several plant pathogen models to comprehend the disease processes of target pathogens and to create appropriate diagnostics for their identification.

Spotlight Speakers

Dr Mathews Paret
University of Florida, USA



Dr. Mathews Paret's research includes characterization of plant pathogenic bacteria, fungi and viruses, development of field-based molecular and sensing-based diagnostic techniques, plant disease image classification using machine learning and artificial intelligence, and management of diseases using novel methods including natural and engineered nano materials. He is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Florida.



Dr Laura Mugnai
University of Florence, ITALY



Laura Mugnai is a full professor in plant pathology at the University of Florence. Her main research interest is related to epidemiology and sustainable control of diseases, in particular in the vineyard, especially, but not only, on Grapevine Trunk Diseases. She is the Chairperson of the Subject Matter Committee on “Grapevine trunk diseases” within the International Society of Plant Pathology. She is actively engaged in running the activities of the Mediterranean Phytopathological Union (MPU), also being Co-Editor in Chief of the international journal *Phytopathologia Mediterranea*. She is Vice President of the International Society of Plant Pathology and Vice President of the Italian Society of Plant pathology (SIPAV).

Dr Teresa Coutinho
University of Pretoria, SOUTH AFRICA



Teresa Coutinho is a professor and staff member of the Department of Biochemistry, Genetics and Microbiology at the University of Pretoria. She is also the director of the Centre of Microbial Ecology and Genomics, and a founding member of the Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute at this University. Her research interest is in phytobacteriology, primarily on those pathogens that are not typically pathogenic to plants, for example, *Enterobacter* species. Using genomic and metagenomic approaches, she has investigated mechanisms used to infect plants. She has also researched primary pathogens such as *Xanthomonas vasicola*, *X. musacearum*, *Ralstonia solanacearum* and *R. pseudosolanacearum*.

Dr Jan Leach
Colorado State University, USA



Jan Leach is a plant pathologist who studies the molecular basis of plant disease susceptibility and resistance and how these responses are influenced by interactions within the phytobiome. She is a University Distinguished Professor in the Department of Agricultural Biology at Colorado State University. Leach is the Immediate Past President of the International Society of Plant Pathology and is a Fellow and a past President of the American Phytopathological Society (APS). She is also a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology. Leach was elected to the US National Academy of Sciences in 2021. Leach received her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and BS and MS degrees from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, with additional postdoctoral studies completed at East Malling Research, Kent, UK.



Aj Perkins

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, AUS



Aj Perkins is a Gumbaynggirr man with strong connections to Aboriginal communities throughout northern NSW. Mr Perkins is part of the Ecosystems and Threatened Species unit of North-East Branch, DCCEEW. This team has carriage of the recovery program for threatened species in NSW under the Saving our Species program, working on a range of threatened flora and ecological communities including ones affected by myrtle rust and other plant pests and pathogens.

Dr Nicole Thompson

PIRSA-SARDI, AUS



Dr Nicole Thompson is the Program Leader of Plant Health and Diagnostics at PIRSA-SARDI in South Australia. Nicole has over 20 years of research and expertise in plant pathology, disease diagnostics and biosecurity management. She has specialist expertise in plant virology with a background in genetics, diagnostics and management of plant diseases. Nicole has a passion for outreach and education and strives to manage a research portfolio that delivers real results for the South Australian agriculture sector.

Program at a Glance



	SUNDAY 25 MAY		MONDAY 26 MAY		TUESDAY 27 MAY		WEDNESDAY 28 MAY		THURSDAY 29 MAY			
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	<p>Field Trips</p> <p>8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Blue Mountains Fungal Foray</p> <p>OR</p> <p>1:00 PM - 3:30 PM Botanic gardens domain Forestry Pathology Walk With Angus Carnegie</p>	8:30 AM	Opening Address + Welcome to Country	8:30 AM	Daniel McAlpine Lecture	8:30 AM	Final Poster Viewing	9:00 AM - 4:30 PM	<p>Workshops</p> <p>09:00 AM - 2:00 PM "First Line of Defence, and Beyond: the inner workings of Australia's federal biosecurity system"</p> <p>OR</p> <p>8:30 AM - 12:30 PM *How to Name a Species*</p> <p>Field Trip</p> <p>9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Central Coast Farm & Research Institute Excursion</p>			
		8:45 AM	Presidential Address	9:15 AM	<p>Keynote 3</p> <p>Dr Susie Collins <i>Plant pathology for biosecurity</i></p>	9:00 AM	<p>Keynote 6</p> <p>Jean Ristaino <i>Ancient DNA</i></p>					
		9:30 AM	Morning Tea	10:00 AM	Morning Tea	10:00 AM	Morning Tea					
		10:00 AM	<p>Keynote 1</p> <p>Dr Cathie Aime <i>Innovative use of collections: A few case studies in Pucciniales</i></p>	10:30 AM	<p>Keynote 4</p> <p>Dr Megan Romberg <i>Plant pathology and diagnostics</i></p>	10:30 AM	<p>Concurrent sessions: Biosecurity - Response and Surveillance - <i>Spotlight speaker - Nicole Thomson</i></p> <p>Interactions - Pathogenicity 3 Disease management - Integrated Disease Management Disease management - Practices</p>					
		11:00 AM	Poster Speed Pitch	11:30 AM	<p>Concurrent sessions: Big Data - Monitoring and Climate - <i>Spotlight speaker - Prof Jan Leach</i></p> <p>Interactions - Disease Complex Interactions - Microbiome Biosecurity - Global Perspective</p>	12:00 PM	Lunch/Student Networking Lunch					
		11:30 AM	<p>Concurrent Sessions: Biosecurity - Detection - <i>Spotlight speaker - Dr Mathews Paret</i></p> <p>Interactions - Host Interactions - Pathogenicity 1 Disease Management - Fungicide and Fungicide Resistance</p>	1:00 PM	Lunch + Posters	1:30 PM	<p>Keynote 7</p> <p>Dr Yong-Hwan Lee <i>Genomic data portals</i></p>					
		1:00 PM	Lunch + Posters	2:00 PM	<p>Keynote 5</p> <p>Dr Erin Rogers <i>Atlas of Living Australia, Myrtle rust and citizen science</i></p>	2:30 PM	<p>Concurrent sessions: Biosecurity - Systems and Engagement - <i>Spotlight Speaker - AJ Perkins</i></p> <p>Disease management - Plant resistance 2 Emerging Problems 2 Disease management - Novel approaches 2</p>					
		2:00 PM	<p>Keynote 2</p> <p>Dr Toni Chapman Dr Bevan Weir <i>Culture Collections</i></p>	3:00 PM	Afternoon Tea	4:00 PM	Afternoon Tea					
		3:00 PM	Afternoon Tea	3:30 PM	<p>Concurrent sessions: Disease Management- Novel approaches - <i>Spotlight speaker - Dr Laura Mugnai</i></p> <p>Diversity Interactions - Pathogenicity 2 Biosecurity - Collections</p>	4:30 PM	Closing					
		3:30 PM	<p>Concurrent Sessions: Emerging problems 1 - <i>Spotlight speaker - Dr Teresa Coutinho</i></p> <p>Disease Management - Biocontrol & Environment Biosecurity - Diagnostics Disease Management - Plant resistance 1</p>	5:00 PM	Day Concludes	5:00 PM	Day Concludes					
		5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Welcome Reception The Ternary, Darling Harbour	5:00 PM	Day Concludes	7:00 PM	Gala Dinner Doltone House, Jones Bay Wharf.					

Conference Program



ABSTRACTS AND PROFILES CAN BE FOUND ON THE ONLINE PROGRAM

PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Monday 26th May 2025

Registration Open

7:00AM - 5:15PM.....North East Foyer

Opening Address and Welcome to Country

Jordan Bailey

8:30AM - 8:45AMCockle Bay Room

Presidential Address

Grant Smith

8:45AM - 9:30AM Cockle Bay Room

MORNING TEA BREAK 9:30AM – 10:00AM – COCKLE BAY FOYER

Keynote 1 - Innovative use of collections: A few case studies in Pucciniales

Dr Cathy Aime

Chair: Andrew Geering

10:00AM - 11:00AM Cockle Bay Room

Poster Speed Pitch

11:00AM - 11:30AM..... Cockle Bay Room

Concurrent Session - Biosecurity - Detection

Chair: Harsh Garg

11:30AM - 1:00PM..... Cockle Bay Room

Spotlight Speaker – Dr Mathews Paret

Integration of new diagnostic approaches with current approaches: Sensing, field diagnostics, machine learning and artificial intelligence, and beyond

Shanika Harshani

Using detection dogs to sniff out the plant pathogen *Phytophthora cinnamomi*

Matthew Arnet

The potential of remote sensing tools to detect early physiological decline and recovery of kauri (*Agathis australis*) infected with *Phytophthora agathidicida* and treated with phosphite

Regina B. Baaijens

Molecular Approaches for Detecting Crown Gall Pathogens in Soil and Rapid Bioassays to Establish Pathogenicity in Grapevines

Mignon de Jager

Validation of a novel qPCR assay for detection of phytoplasmas in banana and coconut

Sarah M Dunstan

PHYTOGUARD™ a cost effective biosecurity solution for phytophthora detection

Session sponsored by:



Australian Government

**Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry**



Concurrent Session - Interactions - Pathogenicity 1

Chair: Sunil Singh

11:30AM - 1:00PM..... Meeting Room C3.3

Hariharan Ganeshamoorthy

Oxalic acid is associated with the pathogenicity of *Botrytis cinerea* in macadamia

Weixia Wang

Pathogenicity of *Colletotrichum* species associated with citrus disease in Australia using a leaf-based bioassay

Ziyu Shao

Impact of fruit diseases on macadamia on-farm crop loss in Australian orchards

Eric K. Asare

Investigating Myrtle Rust and Other Fungal Diseases on *Agonis flexuosa*

Zali I Mahony

Hide and seek with black core rot in citrus

Aruni Buddhika Udugama Vithanage

Pathogenic diversity of *Pyrenophora teres* f. *maculata* underpins the development of resistant barley varieties to Spot form net blotch (SFNB) in Australia

Concurrent Session - Disease Management - Fungicide and Fungicide Resistance

Chair: Fiona Filardo

11:30AM - 1:00PM..... Meeting Room C3.6

Ismail Ahmed Ismail

Fungicide resistance in the air!

Arundhati Singh

Spatiotemporal dynamics of fluxapyroxad in seed treated barley implications for fungicide resistance development

Ayesha Senanayake

Detection of fungicide resistance in mungbean powdery mildew populations

Cian R Hoban

Fitness of fungicide resistant *Erysiphe necator* and *Plasmopara viticola*

Aastha Ranjan

Characterisation of the genetic basis of fungicide resistance profiles in Gummy Stem Blight culture collections

Kylie Chambers

Fungicide management strategies to reduce saprophytic fungal staining of oaten hay windrows

Phillip S Wharton

Evaluating new fungicides and application timings for in-season management of pink rot in stored potatoes

LUNCH AND POSTERS 1:00PM - 2:00PM – COCKLE BAY AND SOUTH EAST FOYER

Keynote 2 - Culture Collections

Dr Toni Chapman and Dr Bevan Weir

Chair: Brett Summerell

2:00PM - 3:00PM Cockle Bay Room

Toni A Chapman

Bacterial Culture Collections: Advancing Diagnostics and Safeguarding Biosecurity

Bevan S Weir

Culture Collection data

AFTERNOON TEA BREAK 3:00PM - 3:30PM – COCKLE BAY FOYER



Concurrent Session - Emerging Problems 1

Chair: Levente Kiss

3:30PM - 5:00PM..... Meeting Room C3.6

Spotlight Speaker – Prof Teresa Coutinho

Emerging plant pathogenic bacteria: new threats and opportunistic challenges

Xiaoxue Xu

Etiology of rachis tip dieback of macadamia flowers in Australia

John Darby Taguiam

Neopestalotiopsis species as an emerging pathogen causing persimmon dieback in Australia

Ashika A Prasad

Phenotypic and genetic diversity of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* across hosts and regions in New Zealand

Jahangir Khan

Phomopsis graft dieback disease in macadamia nurseries

Concurrent Session - Disease Management - Biocontrol & Environment

Chair: Kylie Chambers

3:30PM - 5:00PM..... Meeting Room C3.3

Yan Ai

How glyphosate and atrazine application affect white leaf spot (*Neopseudocercospora capsellae*) epidemics on herbicide-resistant canola

Khaled A El-Tarabily

Controlling the mango dieback disease *Lasiodiplodia theobromae* in the United Arab Emirates by the use of endophytic actinobacteria

Yuvarani Naidu Raju Naidu

A Biological Intervention for the Rapid Stump Degradation of Basal Stem Rot-Affected Oil Palm -

Minxiao Mr. Ma

Pythium oligandrum promotes tomato development and has biocontrol potential against soil-borne pathogens that cause poor root growth of tomatoes

Gupta Vadakattu

Biotic and abiotic factors regulating *Verticillium dahliae* inoculum levels in cotton soils

Lachlan Dow

Biological control of soilborne fungal pathogens

Marta Gallart

Durability of microbial biological control products – Botrytis pathogens as a proof of concept

Concurrent Session - Biosecurity - Diagnostics

Chair: Merje Toome

3:30PM - 5:00PM..... Cockle Bay Room

Yujuan (jady) Li

Survey of Plant-Parasitic Nematodes in Northern Australia: Implications for Biosecurity and Crop Management

Ruvini V Lelwala

Improving viral diagnostics in clonal grasses in Australian Post Entry Quarantine

Mike Hodda

How to fix nematodes if you want an ID

Hayley J Ridgway

Investigating the presence of microbial endophytes in established asymptomatic tissue culture material

Anjali Zaveri

Streamlining diagnostics for horticulture seeds imported into Australia



Chris Nellessen

Coupling MALDI-ToF mass spectrometry diagnostics with reference collections

Harsh Garg

National Diagnostics and Surveillance Protocols – current and future directions

Concurrent Session - Disease Management - Plant resistance 1

Chair: Merje Toome

3:30PM - 5:00PM.....Meeting Room C3.4 & C3.5

Akeem O Taiwo

An in planta system for establishing latent infections of *Botrytis cinerea* in winegrapes for crop protection studies

Robabeh Hosseini Ghavamabad

Assessment of disease tolerance in wheat to tan spot and *stagonospora nodorum* blotch

Sabrina Morrison

Predicting and characterising disease resistance gene analogues across the *Oryza* genus

Jonathan M Plett

Multi-omic analysis identifies markers of introgression between *Cicer arietinum* (chickpea) and its wild relative *Cicer echinospermum* that contribute to increased Phytophthora root rot resistance

Jade Davis

Optimising the use of Nanopore direct RNA reads to improve gene annotations in a crop plant under disease pressure

Laura Ruiz Espinosa

The CIMMYT Australia ICARDA Evaluation Contribution to Identify Adapted High-Yielding Wheat Lines with Genetic Resistance to Multiple Pathogens of Economic Importance to the Australian Grain Growing Regions

Tuesday 27th May 2025

Registration Open

7:45AM - 5:15PM.....North East Foyer

Daniel McAlpine Lecture - Citrus pathology in Australia – past, present and future

Dr Nerida Donovan

8:30AM - 9:15AM Cockle Bay Room

Keynote 3 - Scientific reference collections – critical in underpinning Australia's biosecurity

Dr Susie Collins

Chair: Sophia Callaghan

9:15AM - 10:00AM Cockle Bay Room

MORNING TEA BREAK 10:00AM - 11:30AM – COCKLE BAY FOYER

Keynote 4 - Fungal collections assist in rapid identification of unusual samples to support biosecurity

Dr Megan Romberg

Chair: Bevan Weir

10:30AM - 11:30AM..... Cockle Bay Room



Concurrent Session - Big Data - Monitoring and Climate

Chair: Julie Nicol

11:30AM - 1:00PM..... Meeting Room C3.3

Spotlight Speaker – Prof Jan Leach

Building resilience: Managing plant disease in a changing climate

Tarita Furlan

Insights on grapevine trunk disease pathogen spore deposits on pruning wounds

Kerry R. Everett

Monitoring spore release by *Phlyctema vagabunda* in apple orchards

Vivian A. Rincon-Florez

Environmental conditions and Fruit Phenology modulate Phomopsis Husk Rot Development in Macadamia

Hasna Luna

Climatic suitability for the establishment of *Ceratocystis* species in Pacific countries

Concurrent Session - Interactions - Disease Complex

Chair: Sue Pederick

11:30AM - 1:00PM..... Meeting Room C3.6

Nuraizat Abidin

Inter- and intra-pathogen interaction deriving from co-infection with different fungal and viral strains in canola cultivars with distinct host resistances

Jacob Jose

Oomycetes and nectriaceous fungi associated with avocado root rot in Australia

Noel L Knight

In-fighting among *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv. *flaccumfaciens* isolates during tan spot infections of mung bean

Dan Cu

Fungal communities associated with myrtle rust infection and the use of mycoparasite(s) as potential biocontrol agents against the disease

Janet M Roberts

Competing for dominance: the subtropical race 4 vs. race 1 Fusarium wilt challenge in banana

Birendra BK Kunwar

Fungi in the Botryosphaerales associated with mango dieback in the Northern Territory

Concurrent Session - Interactions - Microbiome

Chair: Virginia Marroni

11:30AM - 1:00PM..... Meeting Room C3.4 & C3.5

Nicola Haggerty Mayers

The current challenge of understanding functionality in rhizosphere microbial communities: lessons and future directions for plant-soil interactions

Hanareia Eha-Taumaunu

Te whanaungatanga o ngā moroiti whā o Maire Tawake: The phyllosphere relationships of Maire Tawake and neighbouring plants

Dick Andoh

Linking soil microbial communities to tree health in eucalyptus nitens under teratosphaeria leaf disease stress

Onyemaechi O.H. Obiazikwor

Biological products modulate the microbiome and precondition field soil to suppress root-knot nematode infestation in tomato crops



Md Asad Uz Zaman

Phytophthora cinnamomi influences the rhizosphere microbiome in orchard-grown Reed avocado in Western Australia

Levente Kiss

The enemies of our enemies may become our friends: New approaches in understanding mycoparasites of fungal plant pathogens

Concurrent Session - Biosecurity - Global Perspective

Chair: Salome Wilson

11:30AM - 1:00PM.....Cockle Bay Room

Intan Sakinah Mohd Anuar

Disease Etiology of Mealybug Wilt of MD2 Pineapple Cultivar in Malaysia

Zhiqiang Cheng

Efficacies of various systemic and biological fungicides against coffee leaf rust (*Hemileia vastatrix*) in Hawaii

Amelia A Limbongan

Assessing Integrated Pest Management Practices in Semangga District, Merauke Regency, South Papua Province

Sophia E Callaghan

Role of International Culture Collections and Plant Disease Herbaria in Development Assistance Projects. Case Study in Laos supported by the Crawford Fund

Susheela Katukuri

Challenges associated with the risk assessment of mango malformation disease in Australia

Kerry R Everett

Estimating the risk of an incursion by the grape pathogen, *Guignardia bidwellii*, using Bayesian networks

LUNCH AND POSTERS 1:00PM - 2:00PM – COCKLE BAY FOYER

Keynote 5 - How can an open data research infrastructure support data driven biosecurity initiatives

Dr Erin Roger

Chair: Tracey Steinrucken

2:00PM - 3:00PM..... Cockle Bay Room

AFTERNOON TEA BREAK 3:00PM - 3:30PM – COCKLE BAY FOYER

Concurrent Session - Novel approaches 1

Chair: Shreya Patel

3:30PM - 5:00PM.....Meeting Room C3.3

Spotlight Speaker - Dr Laura Mugnai

Challenges in European and Italian viticulture for management of grapevine diseases

Aayushree Kharel

Targeting sterol dependency in *Phytophthora cinnamomi*: a novel approach to disease management

Navya Beera

Silicon-induced resistance to Ascochyta blight in lentil susceptible cultivar ILL6002 and its effect on disease progression

Prabhakaran Sambasivam

RNA interference-mediated sustainable protection against *Botrytis cinerea* in chickpea

Thi Thanh Hien Nguyen

Manipulation of root exudate chemical ecology for powdery scab disease management



Concurrent Session - Diversity

Chair: Toni Chapman

3:30PM - 5:00PM.....Meeting Room C3.4 & C3.5

Maxim Prokchorchik

Understanding Clubroot diversity across Australia by leveraging herbarium collections

Atika Morrell

Genomic diversity and population structure of *Septoria tritici* in Australia: Insights into pathogen evolution

Hanyue Feng

Formae speciales and physiological race structures of *Fusarium oxysporum* associated with yield decline of Australian processing tomatoes

Akhtar Ali

Genetic diversity of Rose Rosette Virus isolates in Oklahoma

Yuzhu Liu

High genetic diversity and aggressiveness of *Fusarium oxysporum* associated with pyrethrum crown and root rot

Aindreeya Alcova

Uncovering the cryptic diversity and pathogenicity of *Colletotrichum* species infecting Australian native plants

Pooja Rajasri Poosarla

Genetic Analysis of Key Pathogens- *Stagonosporopsis tanacetii* and *Didymella tanacetii* in the Australian Pyrethrum Industry

Concurrent Session - Interactions - Pathogenicity 2

Chair: Kerry Everett

3:30PM - 5:00PM..... Meeting Room C3.6

Andrew Chen

Towards understanding the pathogenicity of cotton pathogens in Australia

Mareike Moeller

Genomic and functional insights into *Puccinia striiformis* f.sp. *tritici* virulence and evolution

Akhila Dendi

Development of a robust glasshouse phenotyping methodology to screen common root rot in wheat and barley

Virajinee N.D. Bulathsinghalage

Development of bacterial spot symptoms on almond leaves after inoculation with *Xanthomonas arboricola* pv. *pruni* using five methods

Violeta Carrillo

Investigating infection of pyrethrum by *Didymella tanacetii* using fluorescently labelled strains

Concurrent Session - Biosecurity - Collections

Chair: Mike Hodda

3:30PM - 5:00PM..... Cockle Bay Room

Reannon L Smith

From Archive to Action: Harnessing Plant Pathogen Reference Collections for Research

Merje Toome

New or not new – the importance of fungal and bacterial collections for biosecurity

Angus J Carnegie

Combining surveillance, diagnostics, and collections to demonstrate pest area freedom

Collections Workshop with Mike Hodda

The second part of this session will be a collections workshop hosted by Mike Hodda.

[What do collections do, and what do users want collections to do?](#)

CONFERENCE DINNER 7:00PM - 11:30PM DOLTONE HOUSE, JONES BAY WHARF



Wednesday 28th May 2025

FINAL POSTER VIEWING 8:30AM - 9:00AM – SOUTH EAST FOYER

Keynote 6 - Tracking Ireland's Potato Killer, *Phytophthora infestans*, Using Historical Mycological Herbarium and Archival Collections

Dr Jean Ristaino

Chair: Reannon Smith

9:00AM - 10:00AM..... Cockle Bay Room

MORNING TEA BREAK 10:00AM - 10:30AM – COCKLE BAY FOYER

Concurrent Session - Biosecurity - Response and Surveillance

Chair: Angus Carnegie

10:30AM - 12:00PM..... Cockle Bay Room

Spotlight Speaker

Dr Nicole Thompson

Tomato brown rugose fruit virus detection and emergency response in South Australia

Saidi Achari

Smart surveillance for detecting mutations in fungicide target genes of *Septoria tritici*

Monique Sakalidis

A successful incident response isn't always about eradication: response to the detection of *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *actinidiae* biovar 3 in kiwifruit in Western Australia

Tracey V Steinrucken

Muddy tyres and biosecurity pathways: Working alongside Indigenous rangers to protect forest health on K'gari

Rohan Kimber

New surveillance systems for the detection of airborne *Austropuccinia psidii* in Australia's Botanic Gardens

Concurrent Session - Disease Management - Practices

Chair: Montana Hickey

10:30AM - 12:00PM..... Meeting Room C3.4 & C3.5

Zakeel Mohamed Cassim

Drivers of *Ascochyta rabiei* inoculum persistence and carryover in Australian chickpea production systems

Nigel Crump

Effective Suppression of Potato Virus Y Through Ongoing Surveillance in Seed Potato Certification

Joshua Fanning

Chocolate Spot Management in South-Eastern Australia

Daniel Huberli

Looking over the grain grower's fence: Effective management practices for *Rhizoctonia solani* AG8

Anthony J Young

Improvements in the management of ratoon stunting disease of Australian sugarcane

Blake Gontar

Fusarium avenaceum reduces yield of lentil and faba bean in southern Australia: quantifying the losses, detecting disease inoculum and identifying management options.

Session sponsored by:



Concurrent Session - Disease Management - Novel approaches 2

Chair: Sandra Visnovsky

10:30AM - 12:00PM.....Meeting Room C3.6

Joel L. Vanneste

Ulvans as novel tools for control of *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *actinidiae* (Psa) on kiwifruit and *P. syringae* pv. *tomato* (Pto) on tomato.

Wadia Kandula

Control of stem-rot disease of dwarf bean with a fungal volatile organic compound

Chris Brosnan

Mechanical dissection and functional assessment of exogenous RNAi by active small RNA sequencing

Lizelle Vorster

The effect of composting on the survival of *Neonectria ditissima* and other horticultural pathogens

Ahmed Saad

The Role of Mechanical Soil Amelioration and Amendments in Reducing *Rhizoctonia solani* AG8 Inoculum

Concurrent Session - Interactions - Pathogenicity 3

Chair: Joel Vanneste

10:30AM - 12:00PM..... Meeting Room C3.3

Pao Theen See

Discovery of novel phytotoxins from the wheat tan spot fungal pathogen *Pyrenophora tritici-repentis*

Camilla Langands-Perry

Constructing an *Avr* gene atlas for the wheat stem rust fungus to monitor virulence evolution

Colleen M Higgins

Lettuce necrotic yellows virus subgroup II dispersed more rapidly than subgroup I – Could host molecular response differences explain this?

Lewis J Braithwaite

Ilyonectria liriodendri as a causal agent of black root rot of avocado in New Zealand

Karina Griffin

Wrangling the rust; trials and tribulations of maintaining blueberry rust in planta and germinating urediniospores *in vitro*.



Student Networking Lunch

12:15PM - 1:30PM..... Meeting Room C3.3

Our keynote speakers will give 5-minute spotlight presentations on their career paths and share the unexpected skills that proved essential along the way.

Speakers

Dr Bevan Weir
Dr Mathews Paret
Dr Susie Collins
Dr Cathie Aime

LUNCH BREAK 12:00PM - 1:30PM – COCKLE BAY FOYER

Keynote 7 - Systems biology initiatives for fungal plant pathogens: Comparative genomics and bioinformatics platform of the rice blast fungus, *Magnaporthe oryzae*

Dr Yong-Hwan Lee

Chair: Ben Ovenden

9 1:30PM - 2:30PM..... Cockle Bay Room

Concurrent Session - Support and Engagement

Chair: Ruvini Lelwala

2:30PM - 3:30PM..... Cockle Bay Room

Spotlight Speaker - AJ Perkins

Cultural wisdom protecting forests and country - partnerships to protect country from forest biosecurity threats

Peter Solomon

The ARC Training Centre in Plant Biosecurity

Salome Wilson

Enhancing plant biosecurity surveillance and diagnostics capacity and capability through expertise networks

Anthony J Young

WTF?! Where's the funding for plant pathology research?

Concurrent Session - Emerging problems 2

Chair: Ruvini Lelwala

2:30PM - 3:30PM..... Meeting Room C3.4 & C3.5

Spotlight Speaker - Dr Jean Ristaino

Predicting Future Phytophthora Outbreaks: New tools to identify emerging lineages and track spread

Ben Ovenden

The emergence of rice blast disease (*Magnaporthe oryzae*) in New South Wales

Virginia Marroni

Calosphaeria pulchella detected for the first time in cherry orchards in New Zealand

Toni A Chapman

Multiple Rhizobiaceae Causing Crown-Gall-Like Symptoms in Australian Wine Grapevines

Concurrent Session - Disease Management - Plant resistance 2

Chair: Zakeel Mohamed Cassim

2:30PM - 3:30PM.....Meeting Room C3.3



Luke G Barrett

Phenotypic Stability in Quantitative Resistance to Blackleg Crown Canker: Exploring the Roles of Canola Genetics, Pathotype, and Environment

Julie Nicol

Adapted wheat and barley lines with disease resistance to multiple pathogens the cimmyt australia germplasm evaluation program

Fatima Naim

Multi-omic analysis of Net Blotch disease in barley: insights into pathogen genome expansion and discovery of barley genes using an improved annotation pipeline

Kealan G Hassett

Towards Durable Resistance: Neutralising Oat Sensitivity Loci to Reduce the Impact of *Septoria Avenae* Blotch in Australian Oat Varieties

Van Schepler-Luu

Identification and deployment of resistance genes for leaf and neck blast in rice

Concurrent Session - Disease Management - Integrated Disease Management

Chair: Hasna Luna

2:30PM - 3:30PM..... Meeting Room C3.6

Dharushana Thanabalasingam

Developing integrated management strategies for ascochyta blight in chickpeas in victoria

Shanika Harshani

Exploring the potential to manage *Phytophthora cinnamomi*-infested sites by introducing resistant plant species

Tracey Steinrucken

Pest READI: Co-designing digital tools for integrated pest and disease management in horticulture

Nari Williams

Safeguarding giants: research and innovation in kauri protection and disease management

Nari Williams

Smart surveillance and beyond: digital mapping for fire blight detection and management in modern apple orchards

AFTERNOON TEA BREAK 3:30PM - 4:00PM – COCKLE BAY FOYER

Closing Session

4:00PM - 4:00PM..... Cockle Bay Room

Social Functions



Welcome Reception

Date: Sunday 25 May 2025

Venue: The Ternary

Address: Novotel Sydney on Darling Harbour
100 Murray Street, Pyrmont NSW 2009

Time: 5.00pm - 7:00pm

Dress: Smart Casual

Your ticket includes 2 hours of food and beverages. The event will be cocktail style, overlooking Darling Harbour.



Conference Dinner

Date: Tuesday 27 May 2025

Venue: Doltone House

Address: Jones Bay Wharf
26/32 Pirrama Road, Pyrmont NSW 2009

Time: 7.00pm - 11:30pm

Dress: Cocktail/Smart Casual

The night begins with a stand-up entrée served on the deck, overlooking the iconic Sydney Harbour Bridge, followed by indulgent main course and

dessert platters. Then get ready to dance the night away with DJ Jess on the decks.

There will be no allocated seating, so please ensure you collect your Dietary Requirement card from the ASN Events team on arrival at Doltone House.



Field Trips

Blue Mountains Fungal Foray

Date: Sunday 25th May 2025

Time: Departs 8.00am returning 4.00pm

Location: Pick up ICC Sydney

If you've registered for the field trip, your conference will kick off with a guided fungi foray in the Blue Mountains, led by local experts. You'll explore, collect, and learn about wild fungi and their ecological roles. After lunch, the group will tour the National Herbarium of NSW and the Australian PlantBank at the Australian Botanic Garden, Mount Annan. Participants will be split for the morning walk: one group will take the harder Sassafras Gully trail, the other the easier Birdwood Gully trail.



Forest Pathology Walk



Date: Sunday 25th May 2025

Time: 1:00pm – 3:30pm

Location: Meet at [Woolloomooloo Gate](#)

Urban forests are key entry points for exotic pests and diseases, making early detection crucial.

Your guided walk will be led by Angus Carnegie through the Royal Botanic Garden to see how experts monitor sentinel trees, insect traps, and use in-field (LAMP) diagnostics for threats like myrtle rust. You'll also tour the PlantClinic diagnostic lab—all while enjoying a relaxed stroll and insightful discussions with leading biosecurity specialists.

Central Coast Farm & Research Institute Excursion

Date: Thursday 29th May 2025

Time: Departs 8.00am returning 4.30pm

Location: Pick up ICC Sydney

Our first stop is Family Fresh Farms at Peats Ridge—a 5-hectare, high-tech cucumber production and packing facility. From there, we'll continue to East Coast Wildflowers at Mangrove Mountain to explore a variety of native plants and enjoy lunch. Depending on time and weather, we'll either return to Sydney or visit the DPI facility at Ourimbah to see current greenhouse experiments and meet with researchers.

ICC Sydney Coach Pick Up Details

Iron Wharf Place (located between Convention and the Sofitel) 10 minutes prior to your pickup time.

[Link to map.](#)

Conference Workshops



How to Name a Species – Navigating the Taxonomy of Fungi, Bacteria, and Viruses

Date: Thursday 29th May 2025

Time: 8.30am – 12:30pm

Location: Meet at Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens

In this interactive session, you'll learn:

- The essential rules and guidelines for naming new species under international codes of nomenclature.
- How to ensure your species name is valid, useful, and compliant with the code.
- Case studies from recent discoveries of fungi, bacteria, and viruses.
- Practical considerations for publishing new species names in scientific literature.

Whether you're a researcher, student, or diagnostician, this workshop will equip you with the knowledge and tools to contribute to species discovery.

Workshop leads – Jordan Bailey, Cathie Aime, Fiona Constable, Bevan Weir

First Line of Defence, and Beyond: the inner workings of Australia's federal biosecurity system

Date: Thursday 29th May 2025

Time: 9.00am – 2:00pm

Location: 185 O'Riordan St, Mascot

In this interactive session, you'll learn:

- How Australia's biosecurity system operates to protect against global pathogen threats
- The role of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) as the first line of defence
- Key biosecurity policies, scientific approaches, and surveillance strategies
- Behind-the-scenes processes that underpin federal biosecurity operations
- Current challenges facing Australia's biosecurity system—and the successes so far
- Perspectives from experts through presentations and a discussion panel
- First-hand understanding through an on-site tour

Workshop leads – Sophia Callaghan, Megan Blake, Montana Hickey

Abstract Review Sub-Committee



Dr Jordan Bailey

Institute Director and Leader Plant Pathology Curation | Orange Agricultural Institute

Toni Petronaitis

Lecturer | University of New England

Dr Angus Carnegie

Senior Principal Research Scientist | NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Dr Sophia Callaghan

Senior Plant Pathologist | Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry

Duy P Le

Cotton Pathologist | NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Andrew Daly

Leader Plant Biosecurity Diagnostics | NSW Department of Primary Industries

Conrad Trollip

Forest Health and Biosecurity Research Officer | NSW Department of Primary Industries

Shannon Mulholland

Biosecurity Epidemiologist | NSW Department of Primary Industries

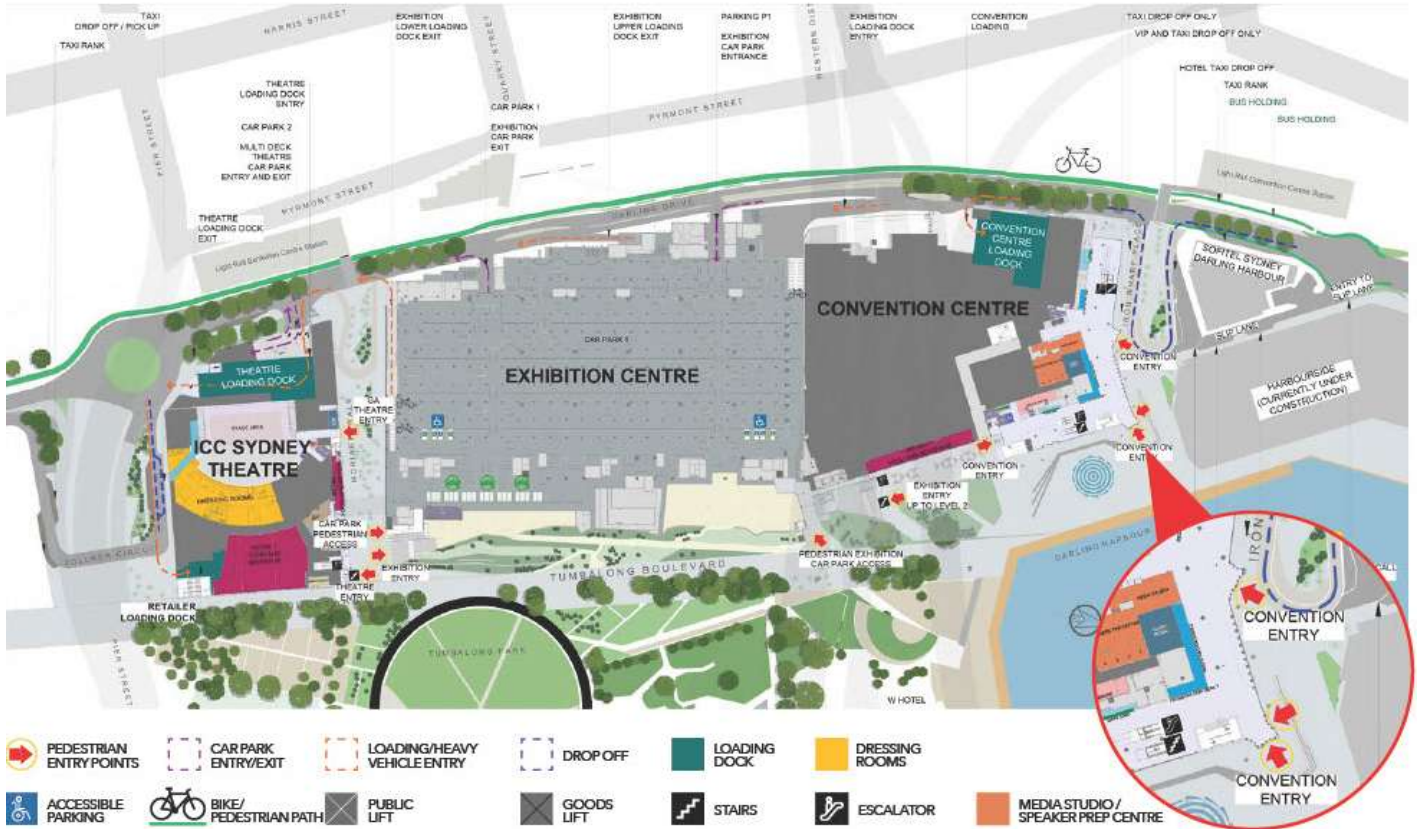
David Guest

Professor of Plant Pathology | Sydney Institute of Agriculture

ICC Sydney



Ground level



Level 3

