



# Australasian Plant Virology Workshop

*Plant virology in the 'omics' era*

**Brisbane**  
**2014**  
13-15 August

## Report for the Australasian Plant Virology Workshop, 13-15 August 2014

The 11<sup>th</sup> Australasian Plant Virology Workshop, attended by 107 delegates, was convened by the Plant Virology Working Group, a Special Interest Group of the Australasian Plant Pathology Society. The workshop was held at the Ecosciences Precinct in Brisbane, Queensland over three full days, preceding the 29<sup>th</sup> International Horticulture Congress. This timing may have contributed to a new record for attendance of national and international participants at APVW. Countries represented included Australia, New Zealand, France, Belgium, Brazil, USA, South Africa, China, India, Pakistan, South Korea, Malaysia, Brunei and Iran.

To give all participants the chance for an oral presentation, the organizing committee opted for a slightly different format to previous workshops without scientific posters, but with two types of presentations: 20 minute talks including questions and 5 minute rapid fire presentations (without questions) as an introduction to the presenter's research. This format appeared to work well and received positive feedback from most participants.



The theme of the 11<sup>th</sup> APVW was “Plant virology in the omics era”, due to genomics, transcriptomics, proteomics and other ‘omics’ creations increasingly becoming important tools in the study of virus and virus-like diseases. The workshop was structured into 11 sessions across three days, which included research themes on virus characterization, host-vector-virus interactions, diagnostics, biosecurity, epidemiology and control, viruses of field crops and other obligate pathogens. In addition, we inaugurated special sessions to honour

two eminent Australasian plant virologists who have contributed substantially over many years to the development of the discipline - John Randles and Adrian Gibbs. In these special sessions, 10-minute talks about the achievements and personalities of John and Adrian were provided by Nicole Thompson/Andrew Geering and Paul Guy, respectively, as well as scientific talks contributed by people that had in some way been associated with these two people over the years (either as students, post-docs or collaborators). We hope this initiative of naming sessions after people nearing the ends of distinguished careers in plant virology will become a tradition at future workshops.

Professor Elliot W. Kitajima from Brazil presented the REF Matthews Memorial lecture with an fascinating overview of *Brevipalpus* mite-transmitted viruses. Other invited keynote speakers included Dr Stéphane Blanc, Prof Peter Palukaitis and Prof Peter Waterhouse. In addition to these feature presentations, 37 full talks and 19 rapid fire talks were presented during the meeting.

The social program included a welcome reception at EcoSciences Precinct on the first evening of the workshop with musical interludes by Zvoncky and followed by an entertaining and spine-tingling night-time Ghost Tour of the adjacent Boggo Road Goal. Our conference dinner was served during a Brisbane River cruise on the Mirrimar on Thursday.

We are indebted to APPS for their ongoing support for our workshop meetings, in particular the loan funds which helped in deposit payments before registrations opened. We thank and acknowledge the financial support from all our sponsors, especially our major sponsors, the Grains Research and Development Corporation and the Plant Biosecurity Co-operative Research Centre, who made this meeting possible. We also thank the Queensland Government for making the meeting venue available without charge, and Sally Brown and her team from Conference Connections for their untiring and always friendly and helpful support during the preparation and smooth running of the meeting.

The workshop insignia were handed over to Brenda Coutts and her team who have started to organize the 12<sup>th</sup> APVW which will be held in Fremantle, Western Australia on September 16-18, 2015 linked to the APPS Biennial Conference. We received a surplus from the 10<sup>th</sup> workshop and expect to pass on a similar surplus to the 12<sup>th</sup> APVW, but the financial figures have not yet been finalised.

The 11<sup>th</sup> APVW 2014 Organizing Team

Ralf Dietzgen (University of Queensland)

Andrew Geering (UQ)

Anthony James (Queensland University of Technology)

Kathy Parmenter (Qld Dept of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry)

Denis Persley (QDAFF)

Nicole Thompson (Sugar Research Australia)