

Lester Burgess Awards for Diagnostics and Extension



Susan Thompson was a dedicated diagnostics and extension summer crops pathologist for nearly 30 years in DAF Queensland where she tirelessly responded to the needs of farmers, agronomist and industry. More recently Sue continued in the role at the University of Southern Queensland when the pathology groups were transitioned to a new collaborative Centre for Crop Health between DAFQ and USQ. During her career, Susan gave the highest level of service to industry, responding quickly and triaging when necessary, often enlisting and urging on her colleagues with specialist skills in specific taxa, and always following up to ensure clients' needs were met. Sue retired last month from her formal position, but not from her continued interaction with industry and extension professionals in Australia and internationally. In just the last week, Sue has been instrumental in planning Australia's involvement in a global race survey of sunflower leaf rust, a re-emerging problem internationally.