



Australasian Plant Pathology Society

Celebrating 50 Years

1969 to 2019



Presidents of APPS

NT Flentje, 1969
RH Taylor, 1971
GS Purss, 1973
LL Stubbs, 1974
G Evans, 1975
RC Close, 1976
CJ Shepherd, 1978
A Kerr, 1980
DM Griffin, 1983
KJ Scott, 1985
BJ Deverall, 1987
RH Brown, 1989
AC Hayward, 1991
GC MacNish, 1993
JF Brown, 1995
JW Randles, 1997
DI Guest, 1999
LW Burgess, 2001
RE Falloon, 2003
RC Magarey, 2005
GI Johnson, 2007
CL Mohammed, 2009
EM Davison, 2011
ES Scott, 2013
K Plummer, 2015
BA Summerell, 2017

Bob Dodman
Foundation Member
Honorary Member

- The Australian Plant Pathology Society was formed on 18 August 1969 at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute in Adelaide. There were 137 Foundation Members.
- In March 1972 the first issue of a quarterly newsletter, Australian Plant Pathology Society Newsletter, was published.
- In June 1978 this newsletter became *Australasian Plant Pathology*, with an Editorial board and publishing peer reviewed papers.
- At the 8th General Meeting of the Society in Perth in 1980 the name was changed to Australasian Plant Pathology Society.
- APPS became incorporated in 1994 and changes to the Constitution provided new categories of membership with Prof Allen Kerr being the first recipient of Fellow APPS. Distinguished Service awards were also introduced as a modification of the previous category of Honorary Member.
- In addition to *APP*, the Society also produces two other publications: APPS News which commenced in 1987 and *Australasian Plant Disease Notes* which commenced in 2006.
- APPS has been very fortunate to have been able to obtain a large team of dedicated pathologists to serve on the Editorial Board. Without their efforts the standard of publications would not have reached their current level, with a very satisfactory Impact Factor and download number that is very gratifying.
- There have been many publishers involved in the production of APPS publications over the last 46 years and also many changes in size and style. CSIRO Publishing introduced a full colour on-line journal and this has been continued by the current publisher Springer in Germany.
- All publications are now available on-line, with access to *APP* being restricted to members and contributing organisations.
- The financial payments of members were recorded on index cards until 1996 when a database was established in Queensland. The database provided the opportunity to store and easily retrieve member information in relation to their research.
- Membership Directories of Australian Plant Pathologists had been produced in 1963 and 1966. The first Directory produced by the Society was released in 1976, and others followed in 1981, 1985, 1996 and 1999. Member information is now available on line to all members at appsnet.org
- In 1996, APPS appointed a Business Manager to look after some aspects of Society affairs. This role was then passed on to Dr Peter Williamson in Toowoomba who used his outstanding skills to slowly get the Society into the 21st Century with a working website that would be envied by a large corporation. APPS can never thank Peter enough for his contributions to the Society.
- APPS has the following specialist groups: Plant [Virology Working Group](#), [Australasian Soilborne Diseases](#) Symposia, [Australasian Association of Nematologists](#), and Pathogen Bioinformatics
- Conferences and General Meetings have been held in major capital cities and regional centres as well as New Zealand. Since 1983 Conferences and General Meetings have been biennial.
- Major events that have raised the profile of APPS have been the hosting of the 4th International Plant Pathology Congress in Melbourne in 1983 under the stewardship of Dr Gretna Weste. In 2003 the 8th International Plant Pathology Congress was held in Christchurch with a team led by Dr Ian Harvey. In 2011 a very successful joint Conference between APPS and the Asian Society of Plant Pathology was held in Darwin and co-ordinated by Dr Lucy Tran-Nguyen.
- The Management Committee of the Society has also moved locations after each General Meeting but the President has not always been in the same location as the MC.
- This year, Melbourne hosts the 22nd Conference and the 26th General meeting.