

History of [Australasian Plant Disease Notes](#)

The principal publication of the [Australasian Plant Pathology Society](#) began as the [APPS Newsletter](#) in 1972. This became [Australasian Plant Pathology](#) in 1978 and has continued with four issues each year until 2005 and then six issues each year until the current Volume **48**: 2019 ([History of Australasian Plant Pathology](#)).

From its inception, APP contained reports of new diseases in Australia, with Volume 1 Numbers 2 and 3 in 1972 being titled New Diseases in Australia. The Newsletter also contained short reports on many aspects of research. Both information on new diseases and also research notes were published in *Australasian Plant Pathology* when it was first issued in 1978 and continued to be included until 1995.

In *APPS News* **7**: No. 2 April 1994, the Editor-in-Chief of APP Bob Dodman sought comment from members on a proposal to include a new section in *APP* called “Disease Notes” with the aim of rapid reporting of new disease findings. Subsequently in September 1994, guidelines for “Disease Notes or New Records” were published and the first manuscript for this new section was accepted in February 1995. The report was published in the first issue of *APP* in that year, thus meeting the aim of quick publication. Material of this nature continued to be included in *APP* until 2006.

During 2006, Keith Harrower (Editor-in-Chief of *APP*) started the process of changing the content of *APP* and the introduction of a new journal [Australasian Plant Disease Notes](#). The process involved the elimination of ‘Disease Notes and New Records’ from *APP* and the establishment of the new journal for such papers. These would be handled exactly as previously but there would be scope for more rapid publication, with a modest increase in size and the use of colour images in the electronic mode. A designated site at CSIRO Publishing was established and *APDN* had one volume per year with pages added as they were generated. The main reason for this was to improve the [Impact Factor](#) (IF) of *APP*. *APDN* was a new electronic-only journal in which ‘Disease Notes’, ‘Quarantine Notes’ and ‘New Records’ were published. Keith Harrower maintained the new journal but the main effort came from James Cunnington from DPI Victoria at Knoxfield as Senior Editor. Volume 1 commenced in December 2006 with subsequent volumes starting on January 1 each year. Submission was by the OSPREY web-based submission system and was available via the CSIRO Publications website or from the APPS website.

In December 2006, Keith Harrower noted that there was a reduction in the number of papers in *APP*. He believed that this was due to the fact that *Australasian Plant Disease Notes* came online at the end of August 2006. Many papers previously included in *APP* under Disease Notes etc were now appearing in *APDN*. He also pointed out that some of the more recently presented papers in *APDN* had a remarkably short gestation period with excellent colour images provided at no extra charge.

James Cunnington did an excellent job with the many small papers submitted to *APDN*. Keith Harrower then appointed Dr. Robin MacDiarmid from HortResearch, Auckland (NZ) as the *APDN* virology editor. Other Editors were added to the editorial board to handle the increasing workload.

In August 2007, Keith also pointed out that in contrast to *APP*, papers in *APDN* could be downloaded in full by anyone – not just APPS members and other subscribers. He added that the monthly totals of downloads from *APDN* are: **2006** August 100, September 188, October 410, November 554, December 512, **2007** January 612, February 881, March 1032, April 1566, May 1681, and June 2165. This was one of the fastest take-offs for a new journal ever recorded. Downloads continued to increase averaging 2800 per month.

When Keith Harrower became seriously ill in August 2009, his place as Editor-in-Chief of *APP* and *APDN* was taken by Dr Philip O’Brien from Murdoch University in Perth. Subsequently, Dr Dagmar Hanold, University of Adelaide, was appointed to the role of Deputy Editor of *APDN* and then to the position of Editor-in-Chief. In 2015 Dr O’Brien was given the role of Executive Editor with overall responsibility for *APP* and *APDN* whilst remaining Editor of *APP*. Both Dr O’Brien and Dr Hanold have

continued in their roles as editors since their initial appointments. Several Editors have retired during the past 13 years and many new Editors have been recruited.

At the transition to Springer in 2011, new front covers, new websites and regular annual reports by Springer on publishing metrics and developments were introduced for both journals. At that time, *APDN* author guidelines were revised to fulfil the requirement by Springer for the transition of the journals from a regional to an international focus. At the suggestion of Springer, it was decided to keep *APDN* as open access on-line only, but make *APP* subscription only with print.

The Springer web page currently provides the following information: *Australasian Plant Disease Notes* is an international journal for publication of short reports from all countries which describe original research that transcends national boundaries. All aspects of plant pathology are covered including new geographical records of diseases or pathogens, new pathogens or pathogen strains, taxonomic papers, quarantine notes, disease management and diagnostic methods.

APDN continues to flourish and has now published 603 articles since inception in 2006. In 2017, downloads totalled 78 407, with an average of 389 downloads per published article (usage factor).