

## History of [Australasian Plant Pathology News](#)

As indicated in the [History of Australasian Plant Pathology](#), the [APPS Newsletter](#) was the first official publication of the Australian Plant Pathology Society, which was founded at a meeting in Adelaide in August 1969.

The details of the early years of APP News can be found in the history publication referred to above. To summarise this initial stage it was decided in 1972 that the Society needed a publication to provide a forum for communication between pathologists in Australia. In March 1972, Volume 1 Number 1 of APPS Newsletter was published. The Newsletter published a wide range of information and included general news items about the Society and its members. As it was classified as a Newsletter, research material could not be cited or abstracted.

Following the change in name of the Society to Australasian Plant Pathology Society in 1978, the title of Newsletter was changed to [Australasian Plant Pathology](#) and an Editorial Panel was appointed with Prof A. Holland from Monash University being the inaugural Editor-in-Chief. New Guidelines for Contributors were established and a policy of peer review initiated. So for the first time it was possible to cite publications in our own journal in the usual way.

The new Journal (*APP*) continued in the same format until 1983, when a change was made to a B5 size with a freshly designed cover. However, for many years items about the Society and its members were also included as a means of keeping members informed of important Society events and activities.

With the introduction of [APPS News](#) in 1987, there was a gradual change in the publishing of Society news in *APP* with just occasional book reviews and important obituaries included. By 1998 the content of *APP* was restricted to plant pathology material and thereafter all other Society information appeared in *APPS News*.

The first issue of [APPS News](#) (Number 1 January 1987) was very “basic” with just four A4 pages reproduced by printing services at the WA Department of Agriculture and distributed to members. The Editor was Dr Robert Loughman in Perth, WA.

It took a little while to attract contributions and thus gain momentum and Number 2 was published in June 1988. Numbers 3 and 4 were published in the same format in 1989, with Numbers 5 and 6 released in 1990 and Numbers 7 and 8 during 1991.

In 1992, it was decided that *APPS News* would be produced quarterly and Dr Michele Dale from Queensland Department of Primary Industries, Indooroopilly, Queensland became the new Editor. The size was changed to A5 (147 x 210 mm) and it generally contained 8 to 12 pages. It was obviously printed and stapled in the centre but there was no information about where printing was done. The first issue was labelled Volume 5 Number 1, January 1992. The Society logo was included on the front page for the first time in Volume 8 No. 4 in December 1995. Michele continued in the role as Editor until June 1996 when her place was taken by Dr Vanessa Brake from the Botany Department at the University of Queensland. Vanessa maintained the excellent quality of *APPS News* until the end of 2000. After she completed this period as Editor, Mrs Barbara Hall from South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) in Adelaide became the new Editor.

In 2002, *APPS News* also went electronic with a copy placed on the web site. In time, issues from earlier years will also be added to the website.

In December 2005, Barbara indicated that there would be some changes in *APPS News* in 2006. With 6 Issues of *APP* to be published 2006, *APPS News* would be produced only 3 times a year and mailed with every 2nd Issue of *APP* (April, August and December).

Barbara Hall was Editor of APPS News for more than 11 years and oversaw a lot of changes, modernising the format and introducing colour to the pages. Her efforts were a great service to the Society and provided members with important and valued information.

In 2013, Dr Will Cuddy, then at the Plant Breeding Institute at the University of Sydney, became the new Editor and continued in this role until the end of 2015. His place was taken by Mrs Sara Blake from SARDI in Adelaide who has since updated the colour scheme and state banners. She is the current Editor carrying on the tradition of collecting and distributing news.

It should be stressed that *APPS News* depends on contributions from members and as is stated very often in *APPS News* it belongs to members and is published for their benefit. It seems that there is little doubt that it is valued by members and will continue to flourish.

*Bob Dodman (Queensland), Robert Loughman (WA) and Sara Blake*