

APPS

AUSTRALASIAN PLANT PATHOLOGY SOCIETY



NEWS

Volume 16, No. 4

December 2003

Quarterly Comments

from the APPS President

Success of ICPP2003/14th BAPP Conference

February 2003 now seems a long time past, but 9 months ago, representatives of the world plant pathology community met in Christchurch for what has been universally acclaimed as a very successful 8th International Congress of Plant Pathology (ICPP2003). The Australasian Plant Pathology Society hosted the Congress, which was also the 14th Biennial Australasian Plant Pathology Conference. The ICPP2003 Organising Committee worked over a period of 6 years prior to the Congress, carrying out the tasks of planning and facilitating the event. This Committee has recently disbanded, after concluding the financial affairs relating to the Congress. Besides the well-recognised scientific and social benefits that arose from ICPP2003, the event also resulted in a positive financial outcome. A monetary grant (equivalent to that received for ICPP2003 from the British Society for Plant Pathology) has been provided to the Organising Committee of the 9th ICPP (the Italian Plant Protection

Season's Greetings

Association and the Italian Phytopathological Society). As well, and in line with the APPS constitution, the ICPP2003 Organising Committee has forwarded to the APPS a proportion of the Congress profit, calculated from the number of Australasians attending and the constitutional requirement for return (90%) of profits of Society Conferences to APPS. Finally, the ICPP2003 Organising Committee has established a trust to assist South Island New Zealand APPS members to attend appropriate overseas conferences and events. The Congress was a showpiece for Australasia, providing an excellent venue for international scientific and social exchange. ICPP2003 will now also provide lasting benefits, for world plant pathology, for the APPS, and for South Island plant pathologists. On behalf of this Society and the International Society for Plant Pathology, I express very sincere appreciation to the ICPP2003

Organising Committee for their extensive, dedicated and long-term commitment to organisation of the event, and for the extremely successful outcomes that have resulted.

Nominations for APPS Executive and Management Committee

I draw attention of all APPS members to the notice later in this issue of *APPS News* (page 5), calling for members to give consideration to the makeup of the next APPS Executive and Management Committee. Please give this issue serious individual thought and discuss it with colleagues. The work of this unit is an essential component of the continued well-being of our Society.

Richard Falloon



News from the Business Manager

Its been a very busy year for the management of APPS with the change of committee from New South Wales to the other side of the Tasman Sea. The Australian banking system has difficulty with accounts being managed from other countries, however all is now running smoothly and I look forward to the challenges of 2004. The total membership for 2003 was 464, slightly less than in 2002. The total membership comprised of, Full members - 371, Retired members - 13, Student members - 45, Emeritus members - 23, Fellows - 5, Honorary members - 5 and Sustaining Associates - 1.

I would like to thank you all for joining and encourage your continued membership next year.

Peter Williamson

REGIONAL NEWS

QUEENSLAND

News

o Christine Horlock, co-councilor for southern Queensland has moved from the Indooroopilly Sciences Centre in Brisbane, to take a up a new role within QDPI at Applethorpe Research Station, just north of Stanthorpe.

Queensland's and DPI's only full-time plant health diagnostic service for all horticultural crops

The *Grow Help* Australia project group is located at Redlands Park (formerly Redlands Research Station) and is part of the DPI Agency for Food and Fibre Sciences.

The group takes a holistic approach to plant health. It provides accurate diagnoses of disease, pest, abiotic and basic nutritional problems on a huge range of plant species, with an emphasis on suppling practical remedial solutions wherever possible. The unit also networks with a number of other specialist providers when detailed bacteriology, virology or nematology services, or nutritional analysis are required on samples. It has an excellent reputation for detecting *Phytophthora* and other root pathogens, and is the service of choice for routine pathogen testing for major nursery accreditation schemes in Queensland.

Grow Help project services a range of clients from the nursery, cut-flower, fruit and vegetable, landscape and turf industries, including hydroponically grown crops, as well as emerging industries such as olives, herbs and medicinal plants.

After the samples arrive, client details are logged into a database for tracking and processing. A preliminary visual and microscope examination is carried out on samples. Decisions on the tests to be

performed are made and charges are established. A preliminary written report is then sent to the client with the costing and an estimate of when the tests will be completed. The tests are performed and all results are documented. When testing is completed, a final written report is sent to the client. This report lists and discusses results, as well as providing recommendations for control wherever possible.

This unit differs from other diagnostic service providers in Queensland in that staff are totally dedicated to providing a rapid and responsive service that is always available to all growers. It provides for both commercial and non-commercial interests, with rapid response and completion times for submitted samples and a strong customer service ethic.

Staff involved in the *Grow Help* Australia project are Leif Forsberg, Jean Howell, Skarlett Walters, Cynthia Carson and Eric Trebilco. The primary contact telephone number is (07) 3824 9526, E-mail: growhelp@dpi.qld.gov.au.

Christine Horlock



SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Most of the South Australian members are based on the Waite Campus in Adelaide and as such we often interact with each other at various seminars not organised by APPS. However, in an attempt to broaden our knowledge of fellow South Australians, the SA branch invited groups from Flinders University to come to a 'Meet Plant Pathology at Flinders University' workshop. Peter Anderson provided an overview of research at Flinders while his PhD student Angus Forgan spoke about *Rhynchosporium secalis* and the basis of asexual genetic exchange. Postdoctoral fellow Simon Schmidt spoke of his PhD research analysing the M

rust resistance gene in flax and what plans he has in his new project which focuses on the proteins produced from the M loci. Not only did we hear three great seminars but we also got to meet a number of other scientists from Flinders informally over wine and cheese. Hopefully these interactions will benefit all involved.

This year we won't be holding a postgraduate symposium as our student members have just participated in their University postgraduate symposium. Instead we plan to finish the year with a field trip to plant pathology hot spots in SA.

Amanda Able

WANTED: VISITING SCIENTIST INFORMATION

The visiting scientist site on the APPS web page needs your input!

Could anyone who has a scientist visiting them please input the information via the member services web page.

ADVANCE NOTICE

4th Australasian Plant Virology Workshop

In South East Queensland
31 August-2 September, 2004

watch this space.....

REMINDER

Australasian Plant Pathology is now accepting electronic submission of manuscripts. Papers can be sent as PDF or Word.doc files to the Editor-in-Chief.

ric.cother@agric.nsw.gov.au

The next Management Committee of APPS

This is an informal reminder/prompt for the APPS membership to give consideration to the make-up of the next APPS Management Committee (President, Vice-President, Management Committee Secretary, Treasurer and Management Committee members). Nominations for the Management Committee can be made for consideration at any Annual General Meeting, but it has been customary for elections for these positions to take place at APPS Biennial General Meetings, held in conjunction with the Biennial Australasian Plant Pathology Conferences. If this custom is followed, the next Management Committee election is likely to take place at the 15th Biennial APP Conference at Geelong in September 2005, with the successful candidates holding the positions for 2 years until 2007. It is desirable that the Executive Committee is located conveniently to allow for the constitutional requirement of holding regular (monthly) meetings. This requirement has been met in the recent past with the Management Committee being located at one place (e.g. Melbourne, Sydney, Lincoln).

People interested in formation of the next APPS Management Committee should first consult the APPS Constitution (www.australasianplantpathologysociety.org.au/, click on "About the Society") for requirements of the Committee. Interested persons or groups should then intimate this interest to the APPS President, Dr Richard Falloon (falloonr@crop.cri.nz), or the Management Committee Secretary, Mark Braithwaite (Braithwaitem@maf.govt.nz).



Notes from the Editor

Another year gone in rapid fashion! Thanks to all the contributors of the newsletter over this year. And please keep those articles coming. I am still looking for pictures as fillers. Either sketches that can be scanned (preferably without copyright!) or electronic versions.

Best wishes for the season.

Barbara Hall

News from the Editor-in-Chief of Australasian Plant Pathology:

The following scientists have accepted invitations to join the Editorial Board of *Australasian Plant Pathology*:

? Professor John Irwin, CRC for Tropical Plant Pathology, University of Queensland

? Dr Martin Barbetti, Dept of Agriculture Western Australia (from January 2004).

Most journals published by learned societies rely on voluntary input from editors and referees. I am most grateful to the Editorial Board and reviewers for their hard work in handling papers for APP. Authors are dependant on editors who in turn depend on reviewers to handle papers as expeditiously as possible. Recent experience with our close rival in the Northern Hemisphere shows that turn-round time for papers submitted to *Australasian Plant Pathology* compare most favourably.

Submission rates are up again this year and the Society's Management Committee has undertaken to support increased page numbers in the journal to decrease the delay between acceptance and publication.

Remember that papers can be submitted to me as email attachments if < 4MB in size.

It has been a condition of acceptance of new disease records that voucher specimens and/or cultures must be deposited in a recognised herbarium/culture collection. I am extending that condition to include papers that describe comparative studies of plant pathogens. It is a fundamental requirement of good science that it be reproducible by other scientists in the future – access to specimens or cultures is vital for this to be achievable. *Australasian Plant Pathology* is one of only two plant disease-associated journals world-wide that have this requirement. As the instructions to authors for *Mycological Research* so eloquently state, "... your work may become little more than waste paper if it is impossible to verify what fungi were actually studied." Reproducibility in mycology and other branches of microbiology is irreversibly and inextricably connected to the unequivocal citation of voucher specimens and cultures.

Ric Cother



3rd Australasian Soilborne Diseases Symposium

Final announcement :

8-11 February 2004
The Barossa Novotel, Rowland Flat, South Australia

Please register now

More information can be found by visiting the web site.

www.plevin.com.au/ASDS2004

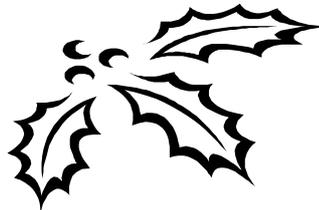
Conference Secretariat, Plevin and Associates Pty Ltd
PO Box 54, Burnside, South Australia 5066



NOTES FROM THE WEB

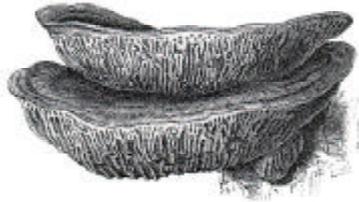
a web site of interest

[http://nt.ars-grin.gov/sbmlweb/
OnlineResources/FungiOnline.cfm](http://nt.ars-grin.gov/sbmlweb/OnlineResources/FungiOnline.cfm)



New Members

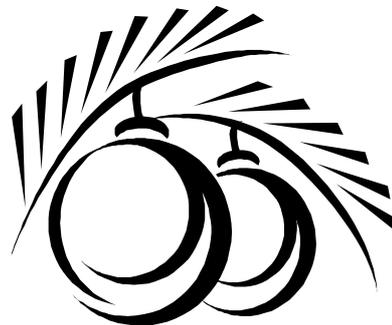
There were no new members this quarter



Don't forget to have your say!

This is your newsletter so be sure to let us know what is going on about:

- * Open days and field days
- * Scholarships and employment opportunities
- * Regional news
- * Special interest groups
- * Requests for information etc.
- * Upcoming events
- * Awards to members
- * Issues of concern
- * Humorous events



WANTED: SNIPPETS OF INTERESTING INFORMATION

It has been suggested that interesting or "off the wall" techniques people have tried in their experiments that may or may not have succeeded, might be shared with others that may find a use for them. Any of these you are willing to share with us can be forwarded to the editor, hall.barbara@saugov.sa.gov.au.

APPS NEWS is the official newsletter of the Australasian Plant Pathology Society, published quarterly. Items for inclusion should be sent to Mrs B. Hall, Plant Research Centre, SARDI, GPO Box 397, Adelaide, SA. 5001. Ph. 08 8303 9562, Fax 08 8303 9393, Email: hall.barbara@saugov.sa.gov.au. **Next deadline: 3 February 2004.** Editor-in-Chief APP: Dr Eric Cother, NSW Agriculture, Orange Agricultural Institute, Forest Road, Orange, 2800. Ph. 02 6391 3886, Fax 02 6391 3899, E-mail: ric.cother@agric.nsw.gov.au

Web Site: (<http://www.australasianplantpathologysociety.org.au/>)