

APPS

AUSTRALASIAN PLANT PATHOLOGY SOCIETY



NEWS

Volume 17 No. 4

December 2004

Quarterly Comments

from the APPS President

I have been on two international trips over the last few months, and some comments relating to these periods out in the wide world are pertinent. My travels account for this piece being more appropriately presented as “Halfly Comments”, as I was unable to meet Barbara Hall’s deadlines for the last *APPS News* in the chaos before departure. She may, for that reason, allow me to be a little more prolix than usual (meaning “lengthy” rather than “tedious”!!).

Some international perspectives.

My first trip was a Northern Hemisphere sojourn of 6 weeks, covering two conferences in the USA, some personal research in Switzerland, and International Society for Plant Pathology (ISPP) business in the UK, Germany and Italy. This gave me exposure to some of the current issues facing different groups in those countries, viewpoints both of plant pathologists and the wider communities.

In early August I attended the Annual Meeting of the American Phytopathological

Season's Greetings

Society (APS) in Anaheim, California, representing APPS and ISPP. I delivered an address (“Networks of plant health societies; regional (Australasian) and global perspectives”) in the Opening Plenary session on Networks for Plant Health. Our Society is a “mini-me” of the APS, as we host regular conferences, we publish a significant international journal, and we attempt to further interactive knowledge exchange on plant pathology in our region. The major difference between the two societies is, of course, in size, with the APS having almost 5000 members (*cf.* APPS with approx. 450). The APS has a very successful (and profitable) publishing operation in APS Press. The extensive resources of the American society enable very active involvement in political lobbying, which is an integral part of the American system.

I attempted to project a global perspective of plant pathology, particularly relating

to the place of our science in providing healthy plants for food and fibre production, and in natural ecosystems. Plant health societies have been, and will continue to be, key vehicles for encouraging local and international knowledge exchange relating to plant diseases and their control. These organisations will continue to make important contributions to plant production and plant protection as the world struggles to cope with increasing population and environmental degradation.

The APS has a very well-developed structure of committees, and I spent some time with the board of the APS Office of International Programmes. This was particularly to further enhance collaboration between APS and the Organising Committee of the 9th International Congress of Plant Pathology (ICPP2008). APS will host their centenary meeting in 2008, and ICPP2008 will be in Turin, Italy in the same year. We are working these two very important plant pathology events strongly complementary and collaborative.

A major issue dominating all aspects of life in the USA is international terrorism, and “biosecurity” in that country is very much focussed on bioterrorism, rather than the quarantine focus the term usually connotes in our part of the world. A co-presenter in the APS plenary session was Colonel Korch of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, US Department of Defense. His presentation was entitled “Integrating plant biosecurity into the US biodefense network”. It is my belief that plant pathogens are capable of causing severe problems resulting from normal (innocent?) human activity without the intervention of international terrorists. Nevertheless, some considerable good is coming from the realisation that plant pathogens could be used as weapons, in that the US plant diagnostic networks are being revitalised to provide early warning of plant disease incursions in that country.

Bioterrorism is also increasingly important in Europe. A new EU initiative on plant pathogens as potential terrorist weapons, initiated by Prof Ludovica Gullino of the University of Turin but involving components throughout

Europe, has recently been funded to begin consideration of the issue.

Two APPS members present well

I have just returned from a trip to the Republic of Korea to attend two conferences in that country. The main focus of this visit was “Brassica 2004”, the joint meeting of the 14th Crucifer Genetics Workshop and the 4th ISHS Symposium on Brassicas, held at Chungnam National University, Daejeon, from 24 – 28 October. This was a very successful meeting from all aspects, but from an Australasian plant pathology perspective it was particularly important. Two members of APPS gave exceptionally competent and scientifically significant keynote presentations at the meeting.

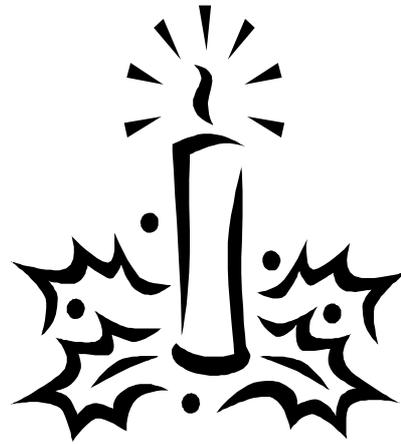
Caroline Donald presented a summary of work on clubroot of vegetable Brassicas, that has been centred at Primary Industries Victoria, Knoxfield, and included collaborative research throughout vegetable Brassica-growing areas of Australia. The progress that has been made in this initiative has been very significant, providing important advances in integrated management of a potentially devastating and previously intractable disease. The methods developed from this programme are being applied throughout Australasia and now in other areas of the world. The research that Caroline very competently summarised is an excellent example of the progress that can result when industry supports a concerted and broadly-based research effort by a competent and motivated team.

The second presentation of particular note was by Dr Barbara Howlett, of the University of Melbourne. She presented a paper summarising the work she has led over a number of years on *Leptosphaeria maculans* and blackleg of oilseed rape. Barbara’s paper outlined the progress her group and students, along with overseas collaborators mainly in France, have made in developing both broad and detailed understanding of the biology of this important dis-

ease. Their research has practical ramifications for control of an economically important disease, but is also providing detailed knowledge on the interaction between *Brassica napus* and *L. maculans* that has implications beyond this host/pathogen interaction. Barbara's paper was an excellent keynote finale to a very worthwhile conference.

These two gave excellent papers on their respective research outcomes, and the kudos for this goes entirely to them and those they represent. Nevertheless, Australia and the Australasian Plant Pathology Society had two very worthy representatives at Brassica 2004.

Richard Falloon



REGIONAL NEWS

NSW

A meeting of the NSW Branch of the Australasian Plant Pathology Society was held at the Orange Agriculture Research Station, Orange on November 9.

The following talks were presented.

Nerida Donovan, Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute, Department of Primary Industries - A health check on the Australian citrus industry.

Edward Liew, University of Sydney - North Sulawesi: the crops, the diseases and the sweltering heat.

Sophie Peterson, University of Sydney/ Botanic Gardens Trust – *Phyllosticta* on *Telopea*.

Chris Howard, University of Sydney/

Botanic Gardens Trust – *Phytophthora* in natural ecosystems in NSW.

Gordon Stovold, Department of Primary Industries - Significance and control of fungal diseases in coastal blueberry production.

Bo Wang, Division of Plant Industries, CSIRO – Source and development of *Fov* in Australia.

Len Tesoriero and Stacey Azzopardi, Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute, Department of Primary Industries – Diagnostic smorgasbord.

Andrew Watson, Department of Primary Industries – *Fusarium* cob rot of corn.

I have resigned as regional councillor for New South Wales and currently we are attempting to find a replacement for the NSW branch.

Brett Summerell

REGIONAL NEWS

QUEENSLAND

Hello all,

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Lisa Gulino and I am the new APPS councillor for the southeastern Queensland region. I look forward to meeting you all in the near future and am quite pleased to be selected as the new councillor. As the year is near ending, there isn't a lot to report, apart from a visiting scientist and the final DPI/APPS seminar day!

*** POSTGRADUATE SEMINAR PRIZE DAY 2004 has now become POSTGRADUATE SEMINAR PRIZE DAY 2005.** Due to the change over in councillors along with the citrus canker outbreak we had to postpone the postgraduate day. Hopefully we will be relocating this day to early next year as part of the DPI&F/APPS seminar day. Keep looking on the website and reading the newsletters for updates!

***FINAL DPI&F/APPS SEMINAR DAY 2004.** Thursday 2nd December 2004 will see the grand finale of the combined DPI&F/APPS seminars for 2004. It will be hosted at DPI&F Indooroopilly. Topics to be covered by speakers include: development of a real-time PCR assay, *Colletotrichum* in citrus, avocado and mango; bacterial spot in stone fruit and *Phytophthora* in Asia. This is the final official southeastern Queensland seminar day for the year! Details of the day can be found on the APPS website or on attached flyer.

VISITING SCIENTIST: On Thursday 18th November, Dr. Lawrence (Larry) G. Brown visited DPI&F Indooroopilly. Larry is a plant pathologist from the USDA plant epidemiology and risk analysis laboratory in Florida. Larry was in Australia to participate in the SURVEILLANCE TOOLBOX WORKSHOP at Australian Centre for International Research (ACIAR) and sponsored by the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation

(RIRDC). Larry graciously accepted our invitation to present an APPS seminar. His seminar was titled "Surveillance methods for plant pathogens in orchards, nurseries and urban plant populations". Larry presented a very informative and extremely appropriate seminar regarding surveillance of pest incursions. Specifically, Larry addressed the need to approach various environments with the appropriate surveillance method. Environments can be divided into: grove (orchard), urban/natural and nursery environments. Larry then proceeded to demonstrate a case study of a citrus canker outbreak in a 'grove' environment. Larry demonstrated the importance of statistics and setting relevant parameters when assessing such an outbreak. This topic was very appropriate considering the recent citrus canker outbreak in Queensland. Larry's methods have now been adopted in surveying citrus canker in Queensland. To finish the presentation, Larry's summary stressed the following things to consider when performing surveillance of pest incursions:

- ❖ Follow international standards
- ❖ Value accuracy, inclusiveness and timeliness
- ❖ Sample the area correctly
- ❖ Used for the prevention of damage increase when pest incidence is low
- ❖ Used when need to make a statement about incidence.

Lisa Gulino



News from the APPS Management meeting:

Need to increase APPS membership subscriptions

The Management Committee of APPS recently requested that Dr Peter Williamson (APPS Business Manager) review the financial prospects for the Society, and Peter has completed a thorough analysis of the Society's revenue and expenditure projections. This has resulted in a recommendation from him that the annual membership subscription should increase substantially to adequately cover projected expenditure.

Unrelated to this financial review, Dr ~~Eric Coker (Editor-in-Chief of~~ *Australasian Plant Pathology (APP)*), after a considerable period of deliberation in close consultation with the APPS Management Committee and with CSIRO Publishing, has put forward a strong recommendation that our journal should increase from four to six numbers per year. This is to accommodate the steadily increasing numbers of papers submitted for publication in *APP*, and to shorten the period between acceptance and publication of papers. The Management Committee fully supports this recommendation, as it embodies further enhancement of the very high standard that *APP* maintains. By far the biggest item of expenditure for APPS is publication of *APP*, and increasing the journal size will result in added cost to the Society.

Membership subscriptions must be set at general meetings of the Society. For the reasons outlined, the APPS Management Committee will propose a subscription increase at the next Annual General Meeting in March 2005. This will be tabled as a notice of motion before the meeting, and all members will be asked to vote on the proposal, using email and the system of proxy voting outlined in the Society's Constitution.

Note that the Management Committee has decided to retain the 2005 subscription at the current level, and that any approved increase would not take effect until 2006.

Richard Falloon, APPS President

Call for nominations for President, Vice President, Executive Secretary, Treasurer and Management Committee Members of APPS

In fulfilment of requirements of the APPS Constitution, the current Management Committee of the Society will "retire from office" at the next Annual General Meeting of the Society (March 2005), but will stand again for election for the interim period from then until the 15th Biennial Conference in Geelong in September 2005. At the Biennial General Meeting associated with the Geelong Conference, a new Management Committee will be elected. Nominations for these positions are required, but these should be lodged with the Society's Executive Secretary (Mark Braithwaite), no later than 14 days prior to the Geelong Conference, and in accordance with the requirements of the Society's Constitution. Functions of the Management Committee are also outlined in the Constitution (www.australasianplantpathologysociety.org.au).

Nominations for the APPS Allen Kerr Postgraduate Prize

The prescription for the Allen Kerr Postgraduate prize, and nomination procedures are outlined in the APPS by-laws (see <http://www.australasianplantpathologysociety.org.au/>). Nominations for this prize must be received by the Executive Secretary (Mark Braithwaite) 16 weeks prior to the 15th Biennial APP Conference (i.e. by 6 June 2005). All postgraduate students studying plant pathology (and their supervisors) are encouraged to read the Allen Kerr Prize prescription, and to submit nominations if appropriate.



15th Biennial Australasian Plant Pathology Society Conference
'Innovations for sustainable plant health'

Deakin University Waterfront Campus
Geelong Victoria
26 - 29 September 2005

Deadlines to remember:

Closing Date for Submission of Abstracts 27 May 2005
Closing Date for Early Conference Registration 27 May 2005

Please email your expression of interest to the conference secretariat (lynne.lucas@deakin.edu.au) so that further information can be forwarded to you.

The organising committee extends a warm invitation to you to attend the 15th Biennial Australasian Plant Pathology Society Conference in Geelong, Victoria in September 2005.

The theme of the conference is 'Innovations for sustainable plant health'. This theme will allow us to focus on the key issues, review past lessons and explore the application of new technologies to ensure we can maintain and improve plant health, now and in the future. In addition to invited plenary and keynote speakers who will give presentations addressing this theme, we invite you to give oral and poster presentations of recent scientific work in the field of plant pathology.

The conference will provide a forum for the sharing of information on plant disease issues, and foster constructive interaction between participants not only from the Australasian region but further afield. Attendance at this conference also provides you with an opportunity to view new products in the trade exhibition in the pleasant surrounds of the Deakin University Waterfront Campus in Geelong, Victoria, Australia.

Geelong is Victoria's largest provincial city with an urban population of 190,000. It is the gateway to some of Australia's greatest tourist destinations, such as the Great Ocean Road. The area provides an opportunity to extend your stay and enjoy a diversity of activities.

We look forward to welcoming you to the conference and to Geelong.

Original papers are now being sought. Suggested session topics for oral papers and posters are:

- Bacteriology
- Biotechnology in plant pathology
- Breeding for disease resistance
- Diagnosis & detection
- Disease surveys & new pathogens
- Education/Extension
- Epidemiology
- Disease management
- Exotic pathogens and quarantine
- Foliar diseases
- Forest & natural system pathology
- Functional genomics of plant pathogen interactions
- Impact of plant pathogens on human/animal health
- Microbial forensics
- Mycology
- Nematology
- Pathogens as biocontrol agents
- Plant pathogen interactions
- Population genetics of pathogens
- Soilborne diseases
- Vascular diseases
- Virology

For regular updates visit the Conference website:

www.deakin.edu.au/event/apps2005/

For information concerning this conference contact:

Deakin Event Management Services
Deakin University
Geelong Waterfront campus
1 Gheringhap Street
Geelong Vic 3217
Australia

Telephone: +61 3 5227 8121
Facsimile: +61 3 5227 8188
Email: lynne.lucas@deakin.edu.au

15th Biennial Australasian Plant Pathology Society Conference
Deakin University Waterfront Campus
Geelong Victoria
26 – 29 September 2005

Workshops

The organising committee of the
15th Biennial Australasian Plant Pathology Society Conference
invites groups to host workshops/tours in conjunction with the
conference. For more information please contact Grant Hollaway
(grant.hollaway@dpi.vic.gov.au).

The list of workshops/tours currently planned follows:

- ❖ Nematology biosecurity – distinguishing and detecting: Lila Nambiar and Australasian Association of Nematologists
- ❖ Biological Control of Plant Pathogens: Dean Metcalf and Oscar Villalta
- ❖ Dealing with the White Blister threat: Liz Minchinton & team – Knoxfield.
- ❖ An introduction to Pythium identification: Elaine Davidson
- ❖ Forestry Pathology workshop and tour: Angus Carnegie and Dave Cahill
- ❖ Plant Biosecurity Research and Policy Priorities: Ryan Wilson
- ❖ Field Crop Pathology Tour: Grant Hollaway
- ❖ Microbial forensics (New diagnostic technologies): Nigel Crump
- ❖ Plant pest risk analysis: Adrian Harris
- ❖ Mycosphaerella leaf disease of eucalypts: Angus Carnegie

Additional workshops are also welcomed and you will be advised as these are arranged.

Workshop co-ordinator

Grant Hollaway - (grant.hollaway@dpi.vic.gov.au)

The organising committee of the
15th Biennial Australasian Plant Pathology Society Conference
invites groups to host special interest meetings in conjunction with the
conference. For more information please contact Brendan Rodoni
(brendan.rodoni@dpi.vic.gov.au)

Special interest meetings are held on a free evening during the conference.

Special interest group co-ordinator

Brendan Rodoni (brendan.rodoni@dpi.vic.gov.au)

Early Announcement
4th Australasian Soilborne Diseases Symposium
(4th ASDS)

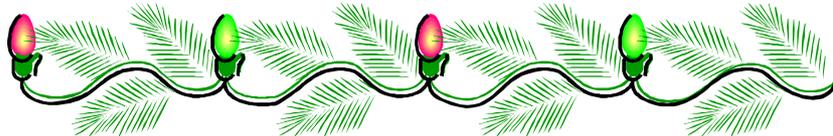
The 4th ASDS will be held in Queenstown, South Island, New Zealand, from the 3-6 September 2006. A core Organising Committee (Dr Richard Falloon, Prof Alison Stewart, Dr Erian Jones and Dr Matthew Cromey, with support from the Lincoln University Professional Development Group) have begun planning for the Symposium. The 4th ASDS will continue the tradition of the first three Symposia, which have been universally commended as excellent, multi-faceted meetings. The spectacular and world-renowned scenery of Queenstown, with early spring ski-ing, jet boating and many other tourist activities, will provide additional attractions for delegates.

4th ASDS, Queenstown, New Zealand. 3-6 September 2006



**Meeting of IUFRO Working Party 7.03.04 (Diseases and
Insects in Forest Nurseries):**

September 10-15, 2005, Uherske Hradiste, Czech Republic. Contact: Dr.
Zdenka Prochazkova, WP Coordinator, FGMRI RS Uherske Hradiste, 686
04 Kunovice, Czech Republic, E-Mail: Prochazkova@vulhmuh.cz



2nd Asian Conference on Plant Pathology 2005
25-28 June 2005, Faculty of Science, National University of Singapore

<http://www.2ndacpp.org>

The 1st Asian Conference on Plant Pathology was held in Beijing, China in the Year 2000. The principal aim of the conference is to create a forum for Asian plant pathologists who are interested in or related to scientific work, information or business in plant pathology. The conference mainly dedicates to review of the current status and advances of plant pathology and sharing of new achievements in Asian countries, although it does not cover all of the important scientific information. This conference presents topics such as host-pathogen interactions, fungal diseases, viruses and viral diseases, prokaryote diseases, nematode diseases, epidemiology and crop loss assessment, biological control, postharvest diseases and mycotoxin, integrated disease management, etc.

Delegates come from Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States, and Vietnam. I would like to invite you to join us in this forthcoming conference to be held in Singapore from the 25th - 28th June 2005.

Abstracts shall be reviewed by a peer committee. Accepted abstracts shall be notified for either an oral presentation or a poster presentation during the conference.

Topics include, but may not be inclusive of:

- Host-Pathogen Interactions
- Fungal Diseases
- Viruses and Viral Diseases
- Prokaryote Diseases
- Nematode Diseases
- Epidemiology and Crop Loss Assessment
- Resistance of Plant and Resistance Breeding
- Biological Control
- Postharvest Diseases and Mycotoxin
- Integrated Pest Management

To submit an abstract, please <http://www.2ndacpp.org>

Important Deadlines

Abstract Submission 15th November 2004

Abstract Acceptance 15th December 2004

Submission of Full Manuscript 15th February 2005

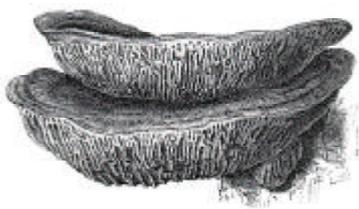
We look forward to seeing you all at the conference.

Wong Sek Man, Chairman

Local Organizing Committee, 2nd ACPP

New Members

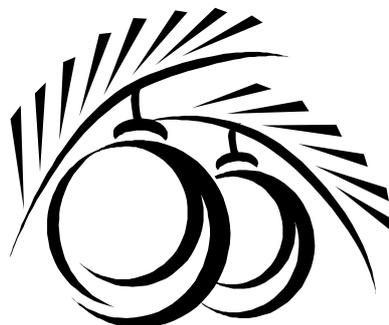
There were no new members this quarter



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: 4 February 2005.** 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/>)



Merry Christmas

and a

