



## Quarterly Comments

### from the APPS President

May I extend the very best to you as Christmas rushes toward us – faster every year it seems (or perhaps my age is showing!). I write this from China at the celebration of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Guangxi Academy of Agricultural Sciences in Nanning – an opportunity to reach out in friendship to our Asian neighbours.

I would like to thank everyone involved in organising the Geelong APPS conference – a splendid job, well done. From all accounts it was a great success and keeps our Society's most important scientific meeting at the forefront within the Australasian region. Gretna Weste's address certainly brought home how things have changed since the early days when females first ventured into the scientific (pathology) field.

I thank Richard Falloon, and the New Zealand Management Committee, for doing a great job over the last two years and maintaining APPS on very sound scientific and economic platforms. I certainly appreciate the legacy you left behind. I would also like to thank Ric Cother for his outstanding work as Editor-in Chief. Ric recently retired from this



position and oversaw some very significant and positive changes to our Journal.

As an introduction, the new Management Committee is based in northern Queensland, around the towns of Tully, South Johnstone, Ayr, Mareeba and Cairns – we're not biased but a very beautiful part of the country! Our Secretary is based in southern Queensland at Stanthorpe. Crops worked with include bananas, peanuts, sugarcane, maize, sorghum, and horticultural crops (to name a few). As always, diseases pose a serious threat; quarantine is a strong focus within our group.

We 'met' for the first time recently and decided our priorities for the next two years. Briefly, our aims are for APPS to become even more significant within the region, and to develop strategic plans for the longer term. Issues to be progressed, and their priority to achieve each of these aims, have been considered. We would like to keep in close

contact with you about these things, and to utilise the very significant expertise within APPS to see the Society prosper. You will hear more on these matters later.

Finally, I hope the Christmas period brings a blessing to you (just a break from a demanding work situation is good), not too many digestion problems, and that you do well in the cricket match in the back yard (after the BBQ)! It's also good to know there's a reason for the season.



*Rob Magarey*  
*President, APPS*



### **A note from the APPS newsletter editor.**

It is that time of year again when we are all so busy! It has been a great year, and congratulations to the organisers of the Geelong APPS conference - I hope we can do as well in Adelaide in 2007. I have included a letter written to Dr Jones in this edition. It is great to see effort recognised, and Dr Jones write-ups on the conferences were worth recognition.

There will be a few changes in the newsletter in the coming year. The journal will be going to 6 editions, so the newsletter will now be produced only 3 times a year with every 2<sup>nd</sup> journal (April, August and December). The Newsletter will also go electronic. A copy will be placed as usual on the web site, with back issues also kept on the website for members to access. A notice will be emailed to everyone when it is published on the web. For those few who do not have email access, a hard copy will be posted directly. This will be a considerable saving to the Society, and the funds can be used to assist with the increased number of journals.

So please keep submitting those reports, conference information and any other snippets of information.

Seasons greetings to all.

*Barbara Hall*



## REGIONAL NEWS

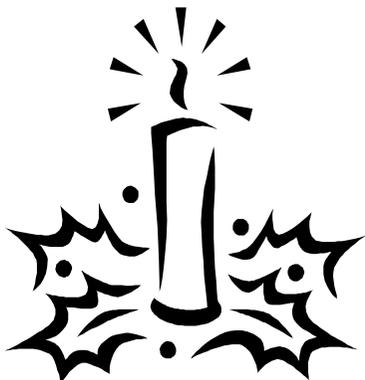
### NSW

Firstly, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Rose Daniel. I am taking over from Brett Summerell as the APPS Counsellor for NSW. I would like to thank Brett for the time and effort he put in during his time as Counsellor.

While there have been no NSW APPS meetings this last quarter, stay tuned for many stimulating functions beginning early next year!

I look forward to meeting you at the next NSW meeting.

*Rose Daniel.*



### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The last quarter of 2005 will be the busiest yet for the SA branch as we celebrate the year that was and the year to be with this theme being the basis for a forum to be held next week (last week of November) for the wider plant science and agricultural community in SA. Kathy Ophel-Keller (SARDI), Eileen Scott (University of Adelaide), and Ian Dry (CSIRO – PI) will talk to us about their views on the achievements of plant pathology in their respective areas in the last year and where things are likely to head in 2006. More recently, we said goodbye to Dani Stienberg (Volcani Centre, Israel) who worked extensively on the epidemiology of *Aschochyta* blight of chickpea and various grapevine diseases with Jenny Davidson (SARDI) and Eileen Scott (Uni of Adelaide). Jenny and Eileen are also currently hosting Sahid Khan who is also working on *Aschochyta* on chickpea. Additionally, one of our student members, Suzanne Colmagro, was recently awarded her PhD for her thesis entitled “Anthracnose on almond: epidemiology and characterisation of *Colletotrichum acutatum*”. With regards to the year ahead, a number of us will be busy as we start to organise APPS 2007.

*Amanda Able.*

### *Letters*

Dr. Jones:

Thanks very much for your excellent write-ups on the Plant Virus Epidemiology Symposium in Peru, and on the conference of the International working groups on legume and vegetable viruses in Florida (published in APPS News Vol. 18, No. 3). The details and analysis provided will be most valuable to persons who were unable to attend the conferences, but will also undoubtedly be useful reminders for persons who did attend.

Sincerely,  
Dan Purcifull



## Jottings from the APP Editor-in-chief

This will, I hope, be the first of many Editor-in-Chief reports that I shall give. Firstly, I am greatly indebted to my predecessor, Dr Ric Cother, for handing over to me a journal in such a great state. Ric has been a constant source of help over the past couple of months as the transitional period between Editors has evolved.

Why would any sane person apply for this position? The first response might be that the applicant is not really so sane after all. I have published over my active research years papers in various journals ranging from APP (and its predecessors) and Mycological Research to journals involved with vertebrate pathology, microbiology and even orthodontics.

I decided that it was time to concentrate my efforts into the subject for which I was trained at both St Andrews University in Scotland (opened in 1431), then to Exeter University (as far from grey Scotland as possible) where I completed a master's course in plant pathology and then a PhD in mycology-plant pathology with a spectacular mentor, John Webster.

I was invited to join ANU (as far from rainy Scotland as possible) as a mycologist/plant pathologist and after 5 years in the somewhat sterile social environment of Canberra in the late 70's accepted a position in Rockhampton at what is now Central Queensland University. Here I have mentored numerous microbiologists, mycologists and several plant pathologists as well as setting up a rather unique mycology-plant pathology consulting company. This has been very rewarding since it has not generated departmental pressures, no pressures to study things I did not want to do and little administrative.

However, living in a part of the world

which is a little isolated I decided some 18 years ago that every week I would read 5 mycology and 5 plant pathology published papers per week. This has generated an enormous, if subconscious, knowledge base which I now want to put to use for the betterment of plant pathology not only in Australia but elsewhere. I still read widely in all fields but now I get to read manuscripts which are not yet published and, unfortunately for some, are not yet publishable.

I should also state that I am very grateful for the cohort of Senior Editors and International Editors for 'staying on board'. It would be stupid to assume that some do not have reservations about a new person at the helm. If anyone thinks I am not 'steering the journal' in the right way then I would appreciate their constructive criticism – it will make the journal even better.

I have added four new Senior Editors to ease the burden on the existing cohort and to fill some gaps. I thank them for agreeing to serve on the Editorial Board.

They are (alphabetically):-

- Mr. Mark Braithwaite (bacteriology) National Plant Pest Reference Laboratory, Lincoln, NZ
- Dr. Rebecca Ford (mycology) School of Agric. & Food Science, Univ. Melbourne.
- Dr. Cheryl McRae (mycology) Biosecurity Australia, Canberra.
- Dr. Mike Pearson (virology) School of Biological Science, Auckland Univ., NZ

There are a few changes likely in the near future and I shall discuss these changes in person with CSIRO Publishing in late November. The changes will include web submission of manuscripts via 'Osprey' and electronic only publication of Disease Notes and New Records. The latter will allow such manuscripts to be larger, contain coloured

images and to appear electronically faster than they could in 'hard copy'. I also have started the process of having review manuscripts submitted by invitation. It is hoped that these changes will enhance the Impact Factor of APP.

Peer review is essential. The journal will be publishing six issues per year rather than four. This demands a better turnaround time. If you are requested to review a manuscript then prompt attention would be appreciated. I note that some reviewers take too long to return comments to a Senior Editor. If we

cannot fill our quota of pages in each issue then stiff financial penalties apply. I urge you to give a high priority to the manuscript review process.

Well, that's all for now. If you wish to make any comment then I am always available at [k.harrower@cqu.edu.au](mailto:k.harrower@cqu.edu.au)

Thank you and best wishes

*Keith Harrower*



### Correct naming of phytoplasmas

There has been some variation in recent issues of *Australasian Plant Pathology* in the details of how phytoplasma names have been written by different authors. Phytoplasmas (previously known as mycoplasma-like organisms or MLOs) together with other unculturable bacterial plant pathogens characterised mostly by molecular techniques, are now dealt with using a taxonomic classification system that uses a 'Candidatus' prefix. Phytoplasmas have been assigned to a 'Candidatus Phytoplasma' taxon, according to the International Research Program for Comparative Mycoplasmology (IRPCM) Phytoplasma/Spiroplasma Working Team (2004). The problem lies within the details, particularly the use of inverted commas and abbreviations of the word *Candidatus*. In the IRPCM Phytoplasma/Spiroplasma Working Team paper, phytoplasma names are written in the following way (using an Australasian example):

'*Candidatus* Phytoplasma australiense' at first mention, abbreviated to 'Ca. P. australiense' at later mentions. It is suggested that authors submitting manuscripts to *Australasian Plant Pathology* follow the same formatting.

The IRPCM Phytoplasma/Spiroplasma Working Team (2004) paper provides a formal description of the genus 'Ca. Phytoplasma' and summarises current species composition.

IRPCM Phytoplasma/Spiroplasma Working Team-Phytoplasma Taxonomy Group (2004) '*Candidatus* Phytoplasma', a taxon for the wall-less, non-helical prokaryotes that colonize plant phloem and insects.

*International Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Microbiology* **54**, 1243-55.

*Richard Davis (Senior Editor, APP)*

## **4th Australasian Soilborne Diseases Symposium (4<sup>th</sup> ASDS)**

Supported by the Australasian Plant Pathology Society

**Millennium Hotel, Queenstown, New Zealand  
3-6 September 2006**

The 4<sup>th</sup> ASDS, continuing the excellent traditions established by the first three Symposia, will consider five main themes;

- Soil health
- Detection of soilborne pathogens
- Biotechnology/genetic resistance and soilborne disease
- Biocontrol of soilborne diseases
- Management of soilborne disease

Offered oral and poster papers will be accepted on all aspects of soilborne plant disease. Offered papers will be each accompanied by a two page paper summary, required by 30 April 2006.

**Contact:**

Symposium Secretariat, Helen Shrewsbury and Jan Latham  
Professional Development Group

PO Box 84, Lincoln University, Canterbury, New Zealand

**Website:** (for Symposium information and registration of interest) [www.asds2006.org.nz](http://www.asds2006.org.nz)



## **8th International Mycological Congress Cairns, Australia ~21-26 August 2006**

On behalf of the Australasian Mycological Society and the organising committee, we cordially invite our colleagues of the world mycology community to actively participate in the 8<sup>th</sup> International Mycological Congress, which will be held in Cairns, tropical north Queensland in 2006. This will be the first time an International Mycological Congress will be held in the Southern Hemisphere. For more information on IMC8 please visit the website and register your interest in attending: [www.sapmea.asn.au/imc8](http://www.sapmea.asn.au/imc8)

### **Call for Abstracts**

Contributions are invited for abstracts addressing one or more of the Congress themes. You may choose to submit your abstract for either an oral presentation in a formal concurrent session or a poster presentation. Posters will be on display at the congress and authors will be allocated a time to discuss their work with delegates. If you wish to submit an abstract for consideration by the Scientific Committee, You must also intend to register for the Congress.

### **Deadlines:**

Call for Abstracts – July 2005

Abstracts Close – March 2006

### **Abstract Submission**

On-line submission is the only method of abstract submission.

Please visit [www.sapmea.asn.au/imc8](http://www.sapmea.asn.au/imc8)

Abstract requirements and instructions for the submission can be viewed on-line.

*IMC8 Organizing Committee,*  
Wieland Meyer and Ceri Pearce

### **Armillaria**

dying quietly on a suburban wide grassy verge  
a large knurled old red flowered gum  
great dead branches octopus to the sky  
a few tips hold aloft umbrellas of tatty leaves

recent shoots, pretending healthy vigour  
crowd the base, faded moral support  
others trek single file along a few branches  
marching out to defeat death, a lost cause

insidious fungal disease, sapping life  
honey coloured mushrooms burst from trunk  
an autumn celebration of coming death

*by Gordon Mac Nish*

## **Don't forget to have your say!**

This is your newsletter so be sure to let us know what is going on in your area.

## **New Members**

On behalf of the Society, the Management Committee would like to welcome the following new members:

- Ms Cassie Scoble VIC
- Mr David Smith VIC
- Ms Janine Conway QLD
- Ms Ting Wei NEW ZEALAND



APPS NEWS is the official newsletter of the Australasian Plant Pathology Society, 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: 31 March 2006.**

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