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### Wanted - photos of disease!!

I need some interesting photos of your pet diseases for the banner on the side of the newsletter. Please send medium sized (<500Kb) good quality images with a short description to [hall.barbara@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:hall.barbara@saugov.sa.gov.au).



# Comments from the APPS President

As I write this, I have just returned from attending the Centenary Meeting of the American Phytopathology Society in Minneapolis, a warm celebration of 100 years of achievement. More on that later, but first of all I would like to briefly update you on recent activities and then focus on three issues:

- The development of a 10 year plan for APPS,
- APPS links with the International Society for Plant Pathology (ISPP) and
- The APS Centenary.

## Activity Updates

- Australia's [National Plant Health Strategy](#) planning continues to progress, and through their various employers, APPS members continue to be involved.
- Thanks to the enthusiasm and efforts of several members, the APPS made a [detailed submission](#) to the review of [Australia's quarantine and biosecurity arrangements](#) and provided follow-up information after a meeting with the review panel. Our submission also received a fair bit of [news coverage](#).
- Members have been invited via the mailing list to
  - o Make submissions to the revision of draft Australia/NZ Standards AS/NZS 2243.3:2002 Safety in laboratories, Part 3: Microbiological aspects and containment facilities - Safety in Laboratories and
  - o Comment on drafts of two International Standards for Phytosanitary Management (ISPM) being proposed under the [International Plant Protection Convention](#)
- Planning continues for
  - o the 2009 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Biennial APP Conference in Newcastle in September 2009,
  - o the 4<sup>th</sup> Asian Conference of Plant Pathology and APPC2011 in Darwin in April 2011,
  - o the Australasian Plant Virology Workshop in November 2008 in New Zealand and
  - o the Soil-borne diseases Workshop at Thredbo in February 2009
- APPS have worked with CSIRO publishing to produce a bookmark that can be used to promote the Society and the Journal,
- An APPS Finance Committee, with membership of Graham Stirling (Chair), Bonnie Vogelzang and Matthew Cromey, has been established, with a remit
  - o To provide advice to the treasurer on financial matters affecting the Society,
  - o Review the overall financial situation of the Society (once during the 2 year term) and provide advice to the Management Committee on that matter,
  - o Investigate new revenue streams, oversee their development into profit making enterprises and manage income and expenditure during the development phase.



- Thanks to the efforts of Graham Stirling and colleagues and our Editor in Chief, Keith Harrower, a special issue of *Australasian Plant Pathology* focusing on nematology in Australasia was distributed to delegates at the 5<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Nematology in Brisbane during July.

## Planning for APPS 2009-2019

To develop a plan for the coming decade, we need to consider:

- What outcomes should we aim for and how can we achieve them,
- What are the background technical issues that will overlay the activities of our society and
- What might be the forward agenda of management committees and conference venues.

Over the next few months, APPS President Elect, Caroline Mohammed, and Immediate Past President, Rob Magarey, will be engaging with interested members to develop the plan. Here, I want to start the ball rolling with some possible outcomes to be considered as the plan is developed. How we will achieve the outcomes, an overview of issues and resources for technical planning and a forward agenda of Management Committees and Meetings will also be developed in consultation with APPS Councilors and any other interested members.

## APPS Suggested Outcomes for 2009-2019

*The APPS is the society of choice for the Australasian plant health community*

1. The Australasian Plant Pathology Society is the professional organisation of choice for active and retired plant pathologists, quarantine professionals, students and others with an interest in Australasian plant pathology for:
  - o Developing and extending professional recognition, expertise and networks,
  - o Accessing and publishing technical information & peer-reviewed research,
  - o Participating in conferences, workshops and special interest groups in Australasia
  - o Keeping informed about job and studentship vacancies and research funding opportunities
  - o Sourcing information on Australasian plant pathology and linking to the international plant pathology community
  - o Becoming involved in charitable activities that enhance the development of plant pathology in Australasia and developing countries.



*Membership and publication with the Society journals has high benefits.*

2. Membership and the honours and awards of the Society enhance professional credibility and status.
3. The APPS is managed efficiently. Membership is cost-effective and competitive compared to similar professional organizations. Fees, subscriptions and donations are tax deductible.
4. The APPS is in a sound financial position, with a diversified income from membership fees, profits from conference and workshop and publications, advertising, merchandise and services and investments, charitable donations and legacies.
5. APPS publications and web-services are professional, widely accessed and much cited. APPS conferences and workshops are attended by increasing numbers of Australasian and international delegates, with world class technical content, social programs and organization.

*The APPS has a high profile in the Australasian plant health and quarantine sectors and in the international plant pathology community.*

6. The APPS is involved in a range of professional training and development assistance activities.
7. Government agencies, rural industries, the crop protection industry, the development assistance community and the media in Australasia seek and value independent contributions from the Society for clarification of technical matters relating to plant pathology, for the development of priorities for R & D and for policy and technical standards formulation.
8. The APPS is actively engaged with and recognised by the international plant pathology community, particularly through the International Society for Plant Pathology, the Asian Association of Societies for Plant Pathology and national and regional plant pathology societies, subject matter committees and interest groups, as a key stakeholder and contributor to the advancement of plant pathology.

## International Society for Plant Pathology (ISPP)

For most APPS members, their key interaction with [ISPP](#) is through participation in International Congresses of Plant Pathology. The ISPP is celebrating it's 40<sup>th</sup> year in 2008, and the Congress in Torino Italy later this month will be the 9<sup>th</sup>, the first being in London in 1968. Several APS members are also active in the [ISPP Subject Matter Committees](#) and the [Task Force on Food Security](#), and during 2008-2013, APPS will continue to be strongly represented within the ISPP Executive and Secretariat – with Richard Falloon as Immediate Past President, Peter Williamson as ISPP Business Manager, Brian Deverall as ISPP Newsletter Editor and Greg Johnson as Secretary General. On ISPP Council, we will also be represented by John Randles and Robin McDiarmid, with Elaine Davison retiring after two terms. The APPS report to ISPP for 2003-2008 is [available on the ISPP website](#)



As Australasians, we have probably been more aware than our European and North American colleagues of the importance of international dialogue and forums for strengthening progress and approaches to plant disease management in our region.

As early as 1831, [James Busby](#) travelled from New South Wales (NSW) to look in to grape production and management in Europe. The editor of the London Edition of Busby's book notes ‘..treatises upon Wines are about the *driest* of all reading. They have neither the grace of fiction or the utility of truth..’ and points out that Busby sets out ‘in a plain, brief, intelligible and interesting manner’ the results of his enquiries during travels in the wine areas of France and Spain and offers practical advice on how the New South Wales industry might establish ([Busby, 1833](#)). This was the beginning of an important tradition. When Dr Jack Simmonds, of the Department of Agriculture and Stock in Queensland, travelled to North America, Europe and Asia a century later (1931), he followed a long line of plant pathologists, with similar aims, to meet eminent scientists of the time and learn how crop diseases could be managed better.

Later this month, more than 100 delegates from Australia and New Zealand will attend the International Congress of Plant Pathology in Torino, Italy, continuing the tradition of building international linkages to improve plant disease management in our region. While this is a commendable outcome, it is regrettable that increasingly many employers fail to recognize the economic importance of participation in such Congresses for their scientists and our rural industries. How would it be if our Governments had a similar view that we only needed to have one person represent our country at the Olympics as they could easily come back and pass on the findings!

The International Congresses provide a good opportunity to meet and learn – but as APPS members, we can capitalize further on the ISPP links, through involvement in the ISPP Subject Matter Committees and the [ISPP Taskforce on Global Food Security](#), and by taking up subscriptions to a new Journal, [Food Security : The Science, Sociology and Economics of Food Production and Access to Food](#), which will be published by Springer in 2009, in partnership with the ISPP.

## [American Phytopathology Society Centennial Meeting](#)

In July, at the invitation of APS, I was privileged to represent APPS at their Centenary Meeting in Minneapolis. The meeting was considered a great success, with an excellent program of speakers and activities and attended by over 1800 delegates, including more than 30 former presidents of APS and several presidents or representatives of sister societies of plant pathology and related disciplines. In recognition of this important milestone, attainment of their first century, the APPS presented the Society with the APPS medallion mounted on a cricket bat with an engraved plaque that reads:



PRESENTED BY  
THE AUSTRALASIAN PLANT PATHOLOGY  
SOCIETY  
TO  
THE AMERICAN PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
  
1908-2008  
  
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR CENTURY!  
A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT  
FOR A NATION OF NON-CRICKETERS

Another highlight of the meeting was the APS Awards ceremony and APPS member, Mike Wingfield, was amongst those honored with the award of Fellow of the American Phytopathology Society. Congratulations, Mike!



**Left.** A winning Century. APPS President, Greg Johnson, presents Ray Martin, President of the APS, with a commemorative cricket bat to mark the occasion

**Right.** Mike awaits the award while APS immediate Past President, Jan Leech reads the citation and President Ray Martin looks on.



More pictures are on-line at:  
<http://www.australasianplantpathologysociety.org.au/aps%20centenary.htm>

*Greg Johnson*



## REGIONAL NEWS FROM QUEENSLAND

The first DPI&F/APPS seminar of the year was held at the Hermitage Research Station near Warwick on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008. Following morning tea on our arrival, we were given an overview of the research station and its history since being established in 1897 by the station manager, Andrew Douglas. Andrew's introduction was followed by four presentations, the first by Matt Skerman who talked about pulses and their uses and breeding objectives. Matt's talk encompassed breeding programmes of mungbeans, chick peas, lentils, peas and fababeans. The second speaker was Murray Sharman who talked about Tobacco Streak Virus in mungbeans and how, in central Queensland, its occurrence is linked to Parthenium weed density.

Lisa Keller then gave a presentation on the bacterial disease Halo blight of mungbeans followed by Mal Ryley talking about reduced fungicide usage in the peanut cultivar, Sutherland. A barbeque lunch was enjoyed by all and was followed by an inspection of the mungbean field trials presently being undertaken on the research station.

The second DPI&F/APPS seminar day was held on 5<sup>th</sup> June at DPI&F, Indooroopilly and was an entertaining and educational one. Dr Andrew Geering started off with an overview of the CRCNPB and then shared his experiences in getting projects up and running with CRC funding. There is still money left for projects and prospective leaders should stay optimistic while trying to get a project through. Andrew's second talk about the Biosecurity DNA Bank revealed a new era for the Plant Disease Herbarium, which will now accommodate DNA extracted from plant pathogenic material as well as the traditional pressed specimens. Potentially Australian herbaria will be able to easily exchange genetic material and track specimens on the database.

Drs Ben Callaghan and Paul Campbell gave an introduction to the prolific science of nanotechnology. Their project involves the use of Optoplex™ nanobeads for application in plant virology and Bovine Respiratory Disease. Perfection of this platform will open a flood of diagnostic potential into plant and animal science.

Citrus Canker will hopefully soon be declared eradicated when the National Citrus Canker Eradication Program moves into its fifth year of operation in 2009. Grant Telford, the program manager, related the accomplishments and the difficulties encountered during the \$18.5 million program. The field team deserves a lot of the kudos for their efforts in hunting down diseased citrus plants and also native citrus plants, which contributed to successful eradication.

Everything that we wanted to know about smut, but were afraid to ask, was answered by Dr Roger Shivas in his enlightening seminar on this important plant pathogen. Recently Roger has been braving Australia's wilderness in search of fungal biodiversity and a total of 299 smuts are now known from Australia. Knowing what fungi are present in Australia is the foremost step in having an effective quarantine strategy.



A large turnout of people then enjoyed drinks and a smorgasbord of nibbles “in the field”.

Brisbane has just played host to the 5<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Nematology with 360 passionate nematologists from all corners of the world descending on Queensland for 5 days of nematode talks. Dr Mike Hodda, president of the Australasia Association of Nematologists, was the convenor of this very successful congress where Dr Graham Stirling of Queensland was honoured by being made a fellow of Society of Nematologists. A highlight of the congress was the chance to partake in one of four mid-congress tours on offer; to the Gold Coast hinterland, the Sunshine Coast hinterland, the Darling Downs and the Border Rangers. On their return to Brisbane that evening, all delegates were delighted with the diversity of landscapes they had seen that day.

It was a great opportunity for the many Queensland and other Australian nematologists to meet and learn from the international flotilla of expertise gathered in Brisbane and also to showcase our own research at this international congress. Many delegates stayed on in Australia for some vacation time or to visit our own nematologists, with Tony Pattison of South Johnstone taking a large contingent to north Queensland to visit banana farms with nematode issues, with some visitors also wanting to see the Great Barrier Reef.

We look forward to hearing where the 6<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Nematology will be held and to prepare ourselves for the opportunity to attend.

***Jenny Cobon (Nematologist) and Alistair McTaggart***

## REGIONAL NEWS FROM NORTHERN TERRITORY

### “Watch this Space”

**The 18<sup>th</sup> Biennial Australasian Plant Pathology and  
4<sup>th</sup> Asian Conference for Plant Pathology Joint  
Conference**

**27-29th April 2011**

**Location: Darwin, Northern Territory  
Venue: Darwin Convention Centre**

**Details available at a later date**

## Plant Health Research Showcase Seminar

The research strengths of two prominent Plant Health Researchers in Western Australia, Dr Treena Burgess and Prof Hans Lambers, was highlighted at an afternoon seminar held at Murdoch University on 29 April. A diverse crowd of about 80 attended from across the main institutions in Perth. It is planned this will be an annual seminar series.

Treena's talk focused on new and emerging pathogens threatening the biodiversity of Australia's endemic eucalypts and the productivity of commercial plantations. A 3 year survey of plantations in Asia and northern Australia yielded several pathogens of which *Kirramyces destructans* (causes a severe leaf blight) and *K. zuluensis* (stem cankers on susceptible hosts) were identified as the most serious and active pathogens in South-east Asia. Molecular phylogenetic studies established that *K. destructans* has been spread around the region on infected germplasm. Currently 25 species in Vietnam and Thailand are being screened for their resistance to *K. destructans* and *K. zuluensis*.

Hans' talk discussed the unique qualities of Western Australia soils and how plant species survive under these harsh conditions, using the Proteaceae as an example. These species are unable to produce a symbiotic association with mycorrhizal fungi, but produce 'cluster' roots, when grown in a low phosphorus soil. The exudate-releasing cluster roots explain why these species are so successful on the most P-impooverished soils where mycorrhizal species are a less prominent component of the flora.

The seminar was followed by a free sundowner. It was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old colleagues and to meet new ones.



*Cluster roots of Proteaceae which allow utilization of soil nutrients in P-impooverished soils (Photo by Dr Michael W. Shane, UWA).*

## APPS *Phytophthora* Workshop

Chris Dunne and the APPS team coordinated a 2 day *Phytophthora* Workshop on 25-26 July 2008. The workshop was split into morphological and molecular techniques for the identification of different *Phytophthora* species in a combination of lecture and practical sessions. Attendees of the workshop ranged



from beginners to those who have experience in specific species of *Phytophthora*, so the workshop was developed to cater for this.

Morphological identification sessions run by Elaine Davison were informative and challenging to say the least. Elaine is a gifted teacher who directed our identification of a range of *Phytophthora* and *Pythium* species through sessions concentrating on specific asexual and sexual characters. Needless to say, Elaine kept us all on our toes by throwing in a few tricky ones.

Nari Williams taught day two of the workshop which concentrated on molecular techniques for *Phytophthora* identification. Nari wooed us with her humour and challenged us with lecture and practical sessions detailing a range of molecular techniques and tests available. Nari made molecular work, often seen as difficult and sometimes scary, into a very fun, informative and challenging experience.



*Workshop in session*

## Dieback Information Group meeting

The annual Dieback Information Group meeting was held on July 4<sup>th</sup> at UWA. DIG is an annual research and management update on *Phytophthora* dieback related projects being conducted in Western Australia (WA). DIG has been running since 2002 and each year it gets bigger and better. This year, over 200 researchers, land managers, NRM officers, industry, contractors and government department staff heard of the latest research, management and communications work being undertaken



*Michael Pez, DEC*



across the south-west. The DIG meetings also allow for important networking between all of the people managing this devastating plant disease in the south-west of WA.

Presentations of note included a research project trying to eradicate *Phytophthora* from infested sites, a large scale *Phytophthora* management plan being implemented in the Fitzgerald River National Park and a communications project trying to change bushland users current behaviour to support *Phytophthora* dieback management activities in metropolitan reserves. Of these, Dr Bill Dunstan from the Centre for *Phytophthora* Science & Management at Murdoch University eradication project created a great deal of interest. Dr Dunstan has been trialing a range of different control techniques to eradicate *Phytophthora cinnamomi* from infested sites on the South Coast of WA and Tasmania. He has demonstrated that by using an integrated management approach that includes vegetation removal, herbicides, fungicides, fumigants and root impervious membranes he can stop disease centre expansion. Further, in small infestations this approach has been shown to eradicate the pathogen from the site. For further details of this and other presentations given at the DIG 2008 meeting please contact the Dieback Working Group (Ph: 08 9374 3333).

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### Profile:

WA State Councillor – Chris Dunne  
Senior Research Scientist  
Department of Environment & Conservation  
Kensington, Western Australia

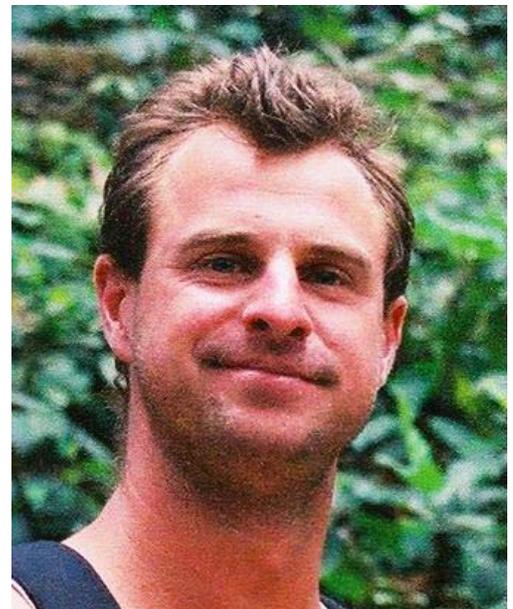
I am currently researching the biology and epidemiology of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* in native plant communities across the south coast of WA.

### Favorite Disease:

*Armillaria luteobubalina* in native plant communities in WA.

### What do you love about Plant Pathology?

Being part of the team that is protecting our state's biodiversity and industry from the impacts of plant diseases.





## REGIONAL NEWS FROM TASMANIA

This year there has been a re-allocation of regional councillor duties for Tasmania. This position will now be fulfilled by three people to encompass the various geographical regions of Tasmania: Dr Robert Tegg (Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research (TIAR), University of Tasmania, New Town Research Laboratories, Hobart), Dr Anthony Francis (CSIRO, CRC – Forestry, Hobart), and Dr Sarah Pethybridge (TIAR, University of Tasmania, Cradle Coast campus, Burnie).

### *North-west Tasmania News*

A recent visitor to Tasmania (8 to 19 March) was Dr Henry K. Ngugi, Assistant Professor in the Pennsylvania State University's Department Plant Pathology at the Fruit Research and Extension Center in Biglerville, USA. Dr Ngugi's research program focuses on biology, ecology and integrated management of tree fruit diseases, quantitative plant disease epidemiology, and management of aflatoxin in eastern Africa. During his stay he conducted two seminars on tree fruit pathology at the University of Tasmania's Cradle Coast campus in Burnie and New Town Research Laboratories in Hobart. His visit was hosted by Drs Sarah Pethybridge and Kathy Evans, and made possible by the Visiting Scientist program of the Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research.

Mr Tom O'Malley has begun studies towards his Doctor of Philosophy program on the 'Epidemiology and Management of Flower Diseases Affecting Pyrethrum', and is supervised by Drs Frank Hay and Sarah Pethybridge.

### *Southern Tasmania News*

In southern Tasmania at New Town, two specific research groups work on disease problems associated with grapevines (viticulture) and potatoes. Viticultural pathology research is led by Dr Kathy Evans and the major diseases targeted are Botrytis and Powdery Mildew. Some outcomes of their work were presented at a recent seminar series of the Australian Society of Viticulture and Oenology Inc., at Mildura (24 July). Dr Evans provided an overview of Botrytis Research and Development in Australia whilst Angela Smith (a PhD student) presented work on the effect of grapevine leaf physiology on the development of pathogens that cause powdery and downy mildew.

Potato research is led by Assoc. Prof. Calum Wilson and the major diseases targeted are Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus and Common scab. A range of postdoctoral researchers and PhD students actively research in this area. Hannah Thompson, an honours graduate, is a recent addition as a PhD student to this group with her work focusing on the 'Development of foliar auxin sprays for the control of common scab disease'. PhD student, Peter Molesworth, won best poster prize for his presentation "Molesworth P Smith JA & Wilson CR (2007). Beating potato scab: The synthesis of the thaxtomin class of phytotoxins" at the RACI Victorian Branch 32nd Annual Organic Chemistry Symposium, Melbourne, in December 2007. In 2008, "The International Year of the Potato", there has been a recent media focus on projects associated with potato. One research project of note, 'Development of extreme resistance to common scab disease' uses somatic



cell selection techniques to provide cultivars with enhanced resistance to this disease. The project is nearing completion and has recently attracted lots of media interest in Tasmania with TV and radio coverage and radio coverage in NSW. The practical outcomes of the work, potatoes with enhanced disease resistance, are also attracting interest from growers and potato companies alike.

## REGIONAL NEWS FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The SA branch of APPS held a successful seminar on 15th July in the Charles Hawker auditorium, in the Adelaide University, attended by approximately 30 people. Following a cosy coffee and bun session, visiting scientist, Professor Wayne Wilcox, from the Department of Plant Pathology, Cornell University, presented an informative seminar- 'Cornell round-up: The pathology research at Cornell'. Wayne gave an overview of the research in the pathology faculty and showed that funds at Cornell were stable, if not increasing, for this area of research. He went on to present details on the biology and integrated management of diseases of grapevine in USA, including research into heat stress on grapevine diseases, which has direct linkages to work conducted at SARDI.

### Profile:

SA State Councillor – Jenny Davidson

I am a research scientist at SARDI in Adelaide, investigating diseases of pulse crops, in particular on field peas, faba beans, lentils and chickpeas. Occasionally our lab also has research projects on pathology of oilseed crops, hence we have tagged ourselves the POP (Pulse and Oilseed Pathology) group. I've been in this position since 2000 but prior to that I was also working on diseases of field peas. I come from a farming family; my parents, brothers, cousins, husband are all broad acre farmers and/or irrigators, and so I have a strong link to the rural community. This often keeps me grounded in how important our research is, but also sometimes reminds me that other parts of farming life may be just as, or more important, despite me trying to convince them otherwise.

### Favourite disease

Most of the foliar diseases on pulses are pretty dramatic!

### What do you love about Plant Pathology

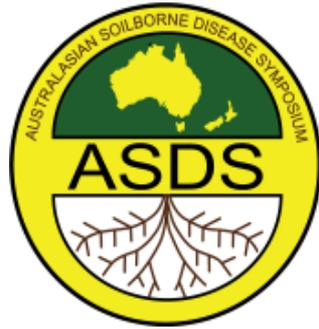
The international linkages lead to exotic travel destinations and wonderful friendships over the world.

### Pet hates in Plant Pathology

The constant struggle for research funds, poor job security for staff and prospective students.



*Queen Jenny and her loyal subjects!!*



# ASDS 2009

5-7 February 2009  
Thredbo Alpine Hotel  
NSW, Australia

## Invitation from the Symposium Organising Committee:

Soilborne diseases often present intractable problems in both natural and managed environments. In these situations they may cause large losses in agricultural, horticultural and forestry situations. These diseases have impacts in an economic sense as well as having impacts on aesthetic, recreational and heritage resources. Due to the complexity of the soil environment, the study of soil borne disease has often lagged behind that of airborne diseases. However, this has also led to the use of more elegant, sophisticated methods of research. This research will be showcased in both oral and poster presentations under seven themes.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Soilborne Diseases Symposium (5<sup>th</sup> ASDS) will continue the tradition of bringing together plant pathologists and other biologists who have an interest in the soil environment. Unique aspects of this symposium are the small size of the meeting and the strong focus which contributes to the camaraderie experienced by the participants.

The organising committee of the 5<sup>th</sup> ASDS invite all scientists interested in plant microbe interactions in the soil to present their research findings and to network with others working in similar areas. We are certain that you will enjoy valuable interactions through the scientific and social program in the Australian Alps. We look forward to seeing you all in Thredbo in 2009.

*Gavin Ash*  
*Convenor, ASDS 2009*



# *Jottings from the APP Editor-in-chief*

Hello Everyone

Greetings again from Rockhampton which is experiencing a really cold spell.

Thankfully I am not doing any field work at the moment but I have just been to one of our temperature controlled glasshouses with one of our research students – a pleasant 28°C but an unpleasant 85% relative humidity.

Since my last set of 'jottings' there has been some good news and some bad news. We are soon to lose the editorial services of Elizabeth Aitken from UQ in Brisbane and Ross Beever from Landcare Research at Auckland in New Zealand. Liz is leaving since she has been allocated an extraordinarily busy administrative workload at her university and Ross has served as a senior editor for a long time. I am grateful to both for their efforts, time and professionalism. There are also a couple of other senior editors who have had to reduce their load due to illness, workload or other matters. However, they are continuing to provide extraordinary service.

Since the last newsletter I have appointed two new senior editors. They are Lynton Vawdrey from Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries at South Johnstone in north Queensland (where it rains a lot) and Robert Barreto from the Federal University of Vicosa in Brazil (where there is also no shortage of rain). Robert will handle mycological papers for both APP and APDN.

I have also requested members of the Editorial Board to assist in locating other members who might be interested in an editorial role. At the moment the overall activity level of the Editorial Board is a little depleted due to illness, overseas travel and others reasons which are a bit personal. I am eager to augment the EB of both journals in the near future and I have some invitations in progress.

One bad news item was the decrease in the impact factor of APP. The IF for the past 4 years:

2004	2005	2006	2007
0.503	0.587	0.766	0.472

Last year much was made of the increase to 0.766. This year some have made much of the decrease to 0.472. If there was an understanding of how the IF was calculated it should be obvious that those smaller journals at the lower end of the range need only have small changes in the frequency (or should it be 'intensity') of citations of papers in a journal over the two preceding years to make a substantial difference. At the other end of the spectrum, a medicine, molecular biology or immunology journal which contain papers of worldwide interest and when some of these papers are cited 1000 times (this can be checked) have IF ratings well above 25. So, if 500 other papers cite a profound piece of, say, medical research, then the impact factor is high. When I look at the 20 most downloaded papers in APP (please check the APP website – left hand side) you



can see the top 20 papers. From time to time they change and some disappear forever. Even those in the top 3 are unlikely to be cited within 2 years with a huge frequency.

I have heard it said on my extensive network that some think that the standard has dropped. I do not think this is the case. One way of increasing the impact factor (and I know 2 journals where this is done) is to publish a pretty bad and/or controversial paper which will be well cited. Such a paper would be 'hammered' and the impact factor would go up but if I did that I would be indictable.

I think that we should wait and see what the next year's impact factor is. Since my last 'jottings' 49 papers have been sent to the editors. Eleven have been culled at my desk. The reasons – very poor English, the formatting suits another journal which may have already rejected it, too verbose and not much new findings and, unbelievably, not on plant pathology. Of those 49 papers 4 have been rejected by a senior editor and the others are still in the peer review process or are on the way to being published. Even after being through the hand of an author (sometimes up to 6), a senior editor and at least 2 reviewers I still find some things amiss in the final accepted version. These are sorted before they go to press and I consult with the publishers on most papers. The quality of reviewing and editing and publishing is very high.

So, I believe that I and the editorial board, with the help of reviewers (all unpaid and overworked) can establish if a paper is publishable. We cannot foresee the citeability as that depends on the number who access the paper and the size of the cohort it has relevance to at the time of writing their own paper. Some journals take a year to publish some papers. Who can tell how many of our top 20 papers and the others, including the Invited Review papers, are cited in papers yet waiting to be published.

It is also worthwhile to look at the potential number of good papers that we lost. In 2007 the journal *Plant Pathology* published 15 papers from Australia, *Plant Disease* published 12, *Phytopathology* had 11 and the *European Journal of Plant Pathology* had 19. That is a total of 57 good papers from Australia. I do not wish to comment on this further.

On the brighter side APDN is doing well. I am led to believe that some government funding has/will be applied for to cover some of the extra publishing costs. Since the last 'jottings' I have sent 36 of those short papers to the editorial board for APDN. Ten were culled here. If you look at the APDN website and think that you could act in an editorial capacity then please let me know. Taxonomists are more than welcome as well as 'younger' members with drive. A couple of fungal plant pathologists and maybe an extra virologist would be great. The EB for this electronic journal must enlarge as one member will leave at the end of the year after doing many papers. To cover the load I act as a senior editor of both journals and find reviewers and get some papers sorted out. Please let me know if you are interested. I would need a few brief details and a publications list.

There are a few other matters and a few manuscripts that I must deal with and so I shall leave you to ponder how you can assist either/both APP and APDN.



Some extra help is required even if you only want 4-5 papers per year. I can guarantee you a warm and fuzzy feeling when you see a paper that you have handled in press. I am about to finish filling issue 37(6) – the December issue. Next week I shall start on the February 2009 issue – time flies.

I hope this finds you all well and enjoying what you do

Regards

*Keith Harrower*

(E-i-C, APP + APDN)

## NEWS FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

This is a relatively quiet time of the year for APPS business as subscriptions for 2008 are about to close. I will upload the new forms for 2009 registration when I return from the International Congress in Turin.

One small point to note is that the APPS web site now has a logo in its web address. This has been added so that members can drag a shortcut to their desktop with the distinguishing APPS logo, making it much easier to recognize amongst the clutter of many other short cuts. If you do not see the logo when you next log on you may need to delete your browser history and refresh the page. An ISPP web short cut can be made in the same way.

Instructions: Point to the logo in the address bar - hold down the left mouse button - drag and drop the logo on the desk top.

*Peter Williamson*

## New Members

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

Ms Jennifer Cobon, QLD  
Mr Alistair McTaggart, QLD  
Dr Pauline Glocke, SA  
Dr Lily Pereg-Gerk, NSW  
Dr Anthony Francis, TAS  
Dr Jole Vanneste, NZ  
Ms Papor Barua, WA



# APPS Honorary Members & Fellows

Over the last few editions of the newsletter, profiles of the Fellows and Honorary Members of APPS have been included in the newsletter and are placed on the web. Written by colleagues, these profiles are intended to introduce to you the luminaries of our society. The definitions of both are outlined in the constitution, and can be viewed on the web page. Fellows are people who have "rendered distinguished service to the science of plant pathology", and Honorary Members are those who have "made an outstanding contribution to the Society".

The first profile is of Ron Close, Honorary member 2003, written by Richard Falloon. The second profile is of John Randles, a Fellow of the Society since 2005, written by Eileen Scott.

## Ron Close - Honorary Member 2003

**Dr Ronald C. Close**, MSc (NZ) 1953, PhD (London) 1962

Ron Close began work in 1953 as a plant pathologist in the Plant Quarantine Section of the New Zealand Department of Agriculture, where he was employed for 4 years. In 1957 he transferred to Crop Research Division of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) to work as part of the New Zealand potato breeding programme, particularly developing cultivars resistant to viruses. His research also included studies of aphid vectors of viruses and control of *Potato leaf roll virus*. From 1960 to 1962 he carried out postgraduate study at



Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, UK. In 1965 he transferred to the Plant Diseases Division, DSIR at Lincoln. His research during this time included studies of diseases of potato, cereals, pea, and lucerne, focusing particularly on methods for controlling crop diseases in the southern regions of New Zealand, where arable cropping is a particularly important component of primary production. During this period he was Officer-in-Charge of the Lincoln, Canterbury, Substation of Plant Diseases Division.



Dr Close was a foundation member of APPS, and became actively involved in Society affairs from the outset. He was President of the Society from 1976 to 1978, and during that time he and others organised a workshop at Lincoln on "Epidemiology and Crop-Loss Assessment" In 1995 he chaired the Organising Committee of the 10<sup>th</sup> APPS conference at Lincoln.

In 1973 Ron transferred to Lincoln College (later Lincoln University) as a Senior Lecturer. In 1978 he was promoted to Reader in Plant Pathology at the University. He was involved in undergraduate teaching of courses in plant protection and plant pathology. He also supervised Honours, Masterate and PhD students, working on projects related to plant pathology and plant protection, and acted as external examiner for numerous PhD studies at New Zealand and Australian universities.

Ron's research contributions have involved a broad spectrum of crops and pathogens, and have been communicated across the full breadth of knowledge transfer activities. He has been heavily involved in industry field days and seminars, and local media (radio and newspaper), to provide growers with information on identification and management of important yield- and quality-limiting crop diseases. He has presented numerous papers at local and international conferences, and has published many papers in New Zealand and international science journals. His most notable research achievements include:

- Initiation of research on aphid flight patterns in the Canterbury region;
- Development of effective control of *Potato leaf roll virus* using granular insecticides applied at crop establishment;
- Development of methods for control of *Barley yellow dwarf virus* in cereals;
- Development of effective control of eyespot of wheat and barley;
- Detection of bacterial wilt of lucerne in Canterbury;
- Studies of bacterial blight of peas and development of effective control strategies;
- With other scientists he contributed to a major paper on the aerial dispersal of biological material from Australia to New Zealand;
- Characterisation of virus pathogens of peas and their transmission by aphid vectors;
- With postgraduate students, added to basic knowledge on *Aphanomyces* root rot of pea, *Septoria* leaf spots of wheat, *Beet western yellows virus* in Brassicas and other plants, and rust diseases of barley and wheat, particularly in studies of disease epidemiology and methods for effective disease management.

Dr Close retired from Lincoln University in 1994. In retirement, he has continued active work in plant pathology as a consultant in PlantWise Services. He was Treasurer of APPS from 2003-2005. He was heavily involved in the organisation of the 8<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Plant Pathology in Christchurch in 2003, which incorporated the 14<sup>th</sup> Biennial Australasian Plant Pathology Conference. The financial success of the Congress (under Ron's guidance) gave very considerable benefit to APPS, and continues to provide assistance to South Island members of the Society, particularly for international travel.

*Richard Falloon*

## John Randles - Fellow, 2005

John was elected a fellow in 2005 in recognition of his contribution to plant virology both in Australia and internationally and to the Australasian Plant Pathology Society and the International Society of Plant Pathology (ISPP).

John completed his BAgSc (Hons) and MAgSc at the University of Adelaide with the late Richard Francki, during which time he also held a cadetship as a research officer with the state Department of Agriculture. He then moved across the Tasman to undertake his PhD at the University of Auckland with Professor R.E.F. Matthews, FRS, before taking up a lectureship in plant virology at the University of Adelaide. He was promoted to professor in 2001.



Much of John's research has focussed on determining the etiology of virus-like diseases, virus and viroid diagnosis, epidemiology, control, virus-plant interactions, transgenic resistance in plants and replication with special reference to the ssDNA geminiviruses. He has studied virus and virus-like diseases of a range of crops, including sugarcane, legumes, grapevines, stonefruit, vegetables, coconut and oil palm, as well as Australian native plants. Career highlights include the identification of the novel viroid and virus agents of the lethal cadang-cadang and coconut foliar decay diseases, respectively, of coconut palm in South East Asia and Oceania. This has involved regular travel to the affected regions, where coconut is important in subsistence farming and as a cash crop. John assisted in setting up research laboratories in the Philippines and Solomon Islands to study cadang-cadang disease and in Vanuatu to study coconut foliar decay disease.

John has been particularly successful in attracting funding from the Australian Research Council and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research. Research abroad has also been supported by numerous travel awards and fellowships, including Alexander von Humboldt Fellowships to work in Germany. John has also undertaken numerous sabbaticals and consultancies, including work for FAO in the Philippines and Sri Lanka. His research has involved collaboration with scientists around the world and has resulted in over 130 scientific papers, 56 reviews and chapters, 2 books, and over 100 conference papers.

John has been a member of APPS since 1976. He is a regular participant and presenter at APPS conferences and International Congresses of Plant Pathology and of Virology, and has contributed to the organisation of several. He presented



the Daniel McAlpine Memorial Lecture at the APPS meeting in Hobart in 1993 and was president of the society in 1997-9. John was elected a Councillor of the ISPP in 2003. He is also an active member of the International Committee on the Taxonomy of Viruses and a regular participant in local and international conferences on plant virology.

At the University of Adelaide, John has supervised 27 PhD students in plant virology, as well as numerous honours and Masters students. He teaches plant virology and plant pathology to undergraduates in various degree programs. Also, as Scientific Director of Waite Diagnostics, he oversees the provision of PCR-based molecular virus diagnosis for clients in viticulture nationally and internationally. John is committed to maintaining expertise in plant virology at the University of Adelaide, in Australia and internationally.

*Eileen Scott, University of Adelaide*



## BOOK REVIEWS

### Compendium of Brassica Diseases

**American Phytopathological Society, St. Paul, Minnesota, USA. 2007  
Edited by S. Roger Rimmer, Vernon I. Shattuck, and Lone Buchwaldt**

The purpose of this compendium is made clear in the Preface – to provide a practical and thorough reference guide for those involved in diagnosing and managing Brassica crop diseases worldwide. The book continues a successful series of compendia from APS Press. The editors claim, and I agree with certain reservations, that the book will be useful to extension plant pathologists, plant breeders, students, teachers, growers and advisors. The book excludes insect pests of Brassica crops.

There is an impressive list of 46 contributors to the book including the editors. These mostly represent north America and western Europe, and there are none from the southern hemisphere. Australian plant pathologists have contributed extensively to the Brassica disease literature and may feel a little excluded from this compendium. The compendium is mostly targeted towards the large market for readership in the northern hemisphere. The book should be taken at face value – as a reference guide. Further research in the literature will be necessary to gain a better understanding of most diseases.





Part 1 includes a section on genetic relationships of Brassica and related species and subspecies, with a handy list of the common names of many vegetable, condiment and oilseed crops. The influence of domestication and modification of the diploid species, and the likely recent agricultural origins of the amphidiploids *B. napus*, *B. juncea* and *B. carinata*, is discussed briefly. Many Brassica species share common diseases, such as black leg caused by *Leptosphaeria maculans*. I did not find a warning about the low genetic diversity in some crop forms – but breeders are generally aware that domestication has caused major genetic bottlenecks in some forms, especially some of the vegetable types, where the demand for a specific quality limits the potential for breeding disease resistance. For example, it is mentioned that resistance to black leg disease has not been found in cabbage.

The book provides a useful overview of diseases across Brassica genera. The same disease can occur in different Brassica species – and disease management guides may be similar for the same disease in related genera. Resistance may be transferred from one species to another, but by default this tends to be based on major gene resistance which has in several cases been short-lived. The interaction of diseases between crops is discussed where relevant – for example, winter oilseed rape crops can serve as a reservoir for Beet Western Yellows Virus infection of vegetable brassicas, where the two crops overlap geographically.

The section on production management provides a useful overview of the diverse range of production styles for various Brassica species, from root vegetables to oilseeds, which sets the scene for Part 2 on infectious diseases. Disease causal agents (fungi, bacteria, viruses and phytoplasmas, nematodes) are described in detail, usually with photographs of pathogens and disease symptoms, and there are useful disease cycle diagrams. Australian researchers could have provided more information and additional photographs (such as seedling damping off) in black leg disease of canola (*B. napus*). The latent period of 7-10 days following leaf infection of *B. napus*, before leaf lesions become visible, is not mentioned. But these are minor issues that do not detract from the overall aim of the compendium.

Part 3 deals with non-infectious diseases such as air pollution, cold injury, hollow stem, genetic disorders and heat tolerance. The cause of some non-infection diseases, such as black speck in cauliflower, is not known. Herbicide injury is noted for some crops, where this may be due to spray drift or unintended carry-over in soil. Nutritional deficiencies are described for many crops. Postharvest disorders of vegetable brassicas are discussed. A valuable 6-page glossary and a detailed index are provided at the end.

In summary, this is a useful “shelf guide” on Brassica diseases for Brassica agronomists, pathologists, advisors, students, breeders – as it was intended. This is not an encyclopaedia of knowledge, but a practical guide – a first-stop shop. It is certainly not the last stop for those who need more information, and Australian pathologists will need to consult the literature for specific information of local relevance.

**Wallace A. Cowling, The University of Western Australia**



## Potato Health Management

**2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (2008). Editor Dennis A Johnson. The American Phytopathological Society, St Paul Minnesota, USA: vii + 261 pp.**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of *Potato health management* has been published 15 years after the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, which was a highly successful book from APS Press, the publishing arm of the American Phytopathological Society. The new edition builds on the tradition of the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, other volumes in the Plant health Management series and the many publications from APS Press that serve as essential references for plant pathology, plant culture and crop production. This edition of *Potato health management* is an essential addition to the libraries of all people involved in plant health, but in particular those associated with each of the sectors of the potato production industries.

The new edition is dedicated not to any particular worthy individual or historic figure, but to the US Land-Grant Mission of the Morrill Land-Grant Act of 1862. This established and nurtured the links between North American agriculture and higher education and research. The system "has been a major factor in the development of America's tremendous agricultural strength." Indeed, the continuing dominance of agriculture in food provision for the world's population can, to a large extent, be attributed to knowledge development and information transfer systems resulting from the Land-Grant Mission. The dedication is a worthy one, both for potatoes, but also much more widely for food and fibre plant production.

*Potato health management* is unashamedly North American in focus, continuing the policy outlined in the Preface to the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, where "it was decided to limit geographic scope ..... to North America, emphasizing Canada and the United States". The book therefore uses North American examples, terms, and units of weight and measurement. Nevertheless, all aspects of potato culture are covered and the descriptions, examples, crop growing methods and pest, disease and weed management principles outlined have universal applicability for potato culture throughout the world. The book predominantly emphasises the large scale crop growing, storage and processing industries that dominate the North American potato production scene, but two chapters in the book ("Organic potato production" and "Managing potatoes in the home garden") ensure that specific sectors of interest are catered for. The book is written in non-technical style, while presenting a wealth of current knowledge on all aspects of potato culture. In this way the book's production team has provided a very comprehensive source of information that can be used by all potato growing enterprises, from the smallest home gardener, through small-scale commercial operations likely to be the norm in developing countries, to the broad acre operations of North America, Europe and Australasia. This book is therefore a universal knowledge source on one of the world's paramount food crops.



*Potato health management* (and others in the APS Press Plant Health Management Series) takes “A holistic approach” (Chapter 1) to crop management, and in so doing, covers all aspects of crop health. The first 12 chapters provide general information on soil health and fertility for potato crops, crop rotation and field choice, aspects of seed potato quality and health, cultivar selection and maintenance of potato tuber health during all stages of the crop growing, harvesting and storage cycle. The next 11 chapters concentrate on pest, disease and weed management. Pesticide application and managing pesticide resistance in weeds, pests and pathogens are covered in adequate detail. Then follow chapters considering management of: insect and mite pests, diseases caused by viruses, viroids, phytoplasmas, bacteria, nematodes, soilborne fungi and “fungus-like” pathogens, and foliar diseases. Management of weeds of potato crops, and physiological disorders is also outlined in specific chapters. These sections contain many illustrations that could be used for quick diagnosis of particular problems and a very large body of current knowledge on all aspects potato crop and product health management. A glossary and list of published and on-line information sources and a comprehensive index conclude the book.

The layout and production standards used for *Potato health management* are very high. The illustrations are of good to excellent quality and colour reproduction is also good. Graphics are generally well-presented and uncomplicated, so that salient points and data are clearly presented. In each chapter text boxes are used to highlight key points, which is a very useful way to lead readers to the information outlined in greater detail in the general text.

The list of authors contributing to the chapters in this volume is a Who's Who of North American potato knowledge, from mainly US universities but also including some experts based in Canada. The authors, editor and critical reviewers of the manuscripts, and the book's steering Committee, have admirably succeeded in producing an easily read book, that nevertheless includes a very broad and comprehensive body of information on potato crop and product management. The APS Press has a very worthy successor to the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of this book, which has been both a resounding publishing success and an important knowledge source. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of *Potato health Management* will continue this success, and now provides an essential new addition to the libraries of those involved in potato production. Particular value will be gained for industry personnel requiring a single source of information covering all aspects of potato crop management.

*Potato health management* (2nd Ed.) is an excellent book.

**Professor Richard E Falloon**

*New Zealand Institute for Crop & Food Research and the National Centre for Advanced Bio-Protection Technologies*



## Compendium of Onion and Garlic diseases and Pests 2nd Edn.

Edited by Howard F. Schwartz and S. Krishna Mohan (2008).

Published by APS Press, Minnesota, USA. ISBN 978-0-89054-357-3

The second edition by the same editors of the 'Compendium of Onion and Garlic Diseases and Pests' now includes pests not previously mentioned in the first edition. This book covers an extensive range of problems associated with onion and garlic crops and is a key diagnostic tool providing useful information for growers and researchers, as do all the compendium series books. This book is the outcome of many contributors from around the world which makes it a well rounded guide to many *Allium* sp. problems.

This compendium is now 127 pages, an addition of 73 more than the previous edition. It begins with an introduction outlining the *Allium*, with general discussion on disease and spread with management strategies also addressed. The main body of the text is then divided into three sections which are expanded from the first edition. The first section on infectious/biotic diseases describes diseases caused by fungi, bacteria, nematodes, viruses, and phytoplasmas. The second is a new section on pests and incorporates both plant pests and vectors, particularly in relation to viruses. The third is on non infectious/abiotic conditions such as those caused by moisture and temperature stress, pesticides, air pollution and mineral deficiencies and toxicities.

The colour plates of photographs, which in the first edition of the compendium were in the middle, have now been interspersed throughout the book and are included at each section where the onion or garlic problem is mentioned. These photographs have also been enlarged, which is clearer to the reader. It would have been good to know the age of specimens in some of the photographs. Some sections lack microscopic images of particular fungi or bacteria but others have been extended. In the previous edition photographs which were black and white are now colour and give a better appearance to the overall presentation of this book with an impressive 250 colour photos and 17 black and white illustrations in this second edition. The addition of scanning electron, compound and dissecting microscope photographs are great contributions.

There are more lifecycles in colour which indicate when overwintering and infection can occur, all thoroughly presented and excellently illustrated. The addition of sketches to describe some field infections is impressive as are the tables indicating the characteristics of *Botrytis* species in particular. There is also an excellent table with herbicide damage. An appendix has been included listing microbes, nematodes and pests associated with the *Allium* spp. and alternate hosts. While not all of these are discussed in this text, it is a valuable reference guide.

There is also a CD of photographs which now accompanies the book called the 'Compendium Image Series'. There are different size choices available for reproduction and many photographic additions which were not available with the first edition. Unfortunately some of the older photographs are unfocussed, which could be due to the age of the photograph and the resolution available at the time.



Hopefully these will be replaced in future editions. Also I could not access some of the photographs on the CD (10 images), getting a red cross in the image browser.

Overall an impressive book for growers, researchers or any person seeking information on onions whether they are experienced with this crop or a novice. Also a handy reference guide for all diagnostic laboratories as this book provides easy to distinguish symptoms and possible cause to a problem associated with *Allium* crops. A great read.

**Sue Pederick, SARDI**

## Pests of Field Crops and Pastures Identification and Control

**Edited by P.T. Bailey (2007).**

**Published by CSIRO Publishing, Australia, ISBN 9780643067585**

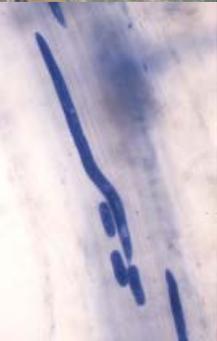
This is a comprehensive volume of pests of field crops and pastures, with 40 contributors from around Australia. Covering both pests and some beneficials, the field crops include cereals, cotton, maize, oilseeds, poppies, pulses, rice, sorghum, sugarcane and tobacco. Pastures are divided by season (summer and winter rainfall) and include weed biocontrol agents. There are separate sections on dung beetles and locusts.

The book is easy to navigate when needing information about a specific pest. Not only is there the usual overall contents page at the front and a full index including both common and scientific names at the back, but each section has a contents page with a listing of the pests of each commodity. This list also indicates the pest status (ie whether considered a major pest) and the stage of the crop affected. This indexing is important, as the contents are not in alphabetical order, so the contents and indexes are necessary to find a particular entry.

For each insect, after the scientific name, there is a comprehensive but necessarily brief record of the attributes of the pest under the following headings: distribution, pest status, identification, may be confused with, host range, life cycle, risk period, damage caused, monitoring, action level, chemical control, cultural control and natural enemies (not all are included for every listing). There are excellent photos throughout, both of the insects at various stages and of damage caused to the plants. Additional useful information is included in coloured sidebars.

While this book may not be the complete guide to full identification of pests and the damage caused you may find in these crops, it is a great tool. For consultants, crop scouts, agronomists and people with limited knowledge of insect identification, it is a good starting point to confirm an initial identification, or to canvas possibilities. For the non entomologists and entomologists alike, it is an invaluable reference.

**Barbara Hall, SARDI**



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Editor-in-Chief APP: Dr Keith Harrower, School of Biological & Environmental Sciences, Central Queensland University, Rockhampton, Qld 4701. Ph 07 4930 6354, Fax 07 4930 9209, E-mail k.harrower@cqu.edu.au

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

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Photos in banner - top to bottom: Root knot of beet, *Rhizoctonia* on cauliflower, grower diagnostic clinic, aerial view of pivot in Mallee, nemtodes in root tissue, onion bulbs affected by Mallee onion stunt (R), *Rhizoctonia* hyphae on onion seedling, white flies and sooty mould on tomato, Onion maggot on leek, *Alternaria porri* spore. Thanks to Catherine Hitch, Liz Oxspring and Sue Pederick.

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