



APPS Newsletter Vol 26, No. 1

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APPS NEWS is the official newsletter of the Australasian Plant Pathology Society, published electronically 3 times per year. 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: [barbara.hall@sa.gov.au](mailto:barbara.hall@sa.gov.au).

**Next deadline: July 31 2013**

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# President's Message

## Survey of plant pathology and entomology capability

The Management Committee has just received, and accepted, the 'Plant Pathology and Entomology Capability Study 2012' Report. I am in discussions with the Australian Entomological Society and CRC Plant Biosecurity on the Report's release, how to publicise its findings and where we go next. Once this has been decided the Report will be on the APPS website.

The number of respondents in the 2012 survey is similar to that conducted in 2006. The results are comparable because most of the questions were the same. One important point of difference is a change in the age profile. In 2006 the age distribution in the 25-35 through to 55+ was relatively even, but in 2012 this has shifted strongly into the 55+ age group. Respondents raised concerns about funding and tenure, which in turn affect the sense of job security and stability. All of this gives rise to concerns about succession planning and loss of expertise. In addition to presenting the present picture of our profession, the Report also looks to the future and makes suggestions of how to address the concerns raised by respondents.

There are many people who guided this study to its conclusion. Rob Magarey, on behalf of APPS chaired the Survey steering committee, David Merritt represented the AES and Peter Merriman represented the CRC Plant Biosecurity. The survey was conducted by Bruce Howie, C-Qual Agritelligence Pty Ltd.

## 19<sup>th</sup> Australasian Plant Pathology Conference, Auckland

I am delighted to see that the Conference website is now live, and look forward to more details as they become available.

## Review of the APPS constitution

The review of the Society's Constitution is now almost complete. The many revisions better reflect how APPS operates and clarifies the position of regional funds. It will be placed on the website following a final check through by the lawyers. It is proposed to hold put this new Constitution to members at a Special General Meeting of the Society on Tuesday, 14 May 2013 at 12 noon EST, for discussion and approval. Members will be formally advised of this meeting.

## Springer APPS books

Is anyone sitting on a manuscript, or editing conference proceedings, or thinking about writing a book relating to plant pathology? Springer is keen to partner with APPS in publishing monographs, so if you do not yet have a publisher, this may be an opportunity. Please contact me if you are interested.

*Elaine Davison*, [e.davison@curtin.edu.au](mailto:e.davison@curtin.edu.au), [president@appsnet.org](mailto:president@appsnet.org)

## New Members

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

### Australia

- Mr Scott Paton
- Ms Nirodha Weeraratne
- Mrs Sara Blake
- Mr Ray Ali
- Mr Ross Mann
- Ms Kate Hamley
- Dr Mark McLean
- Ms Eman Barkat
- Ms Lily Ishaq
- Ms Agnes Simamora

### New Zealand

- Dr Johanna Steyaert
- Dr Artemio Mendoza-Mendoza
- Dr Robert Hill

### International

- Dr Ali Shahid, India
- Mr Macquin Maino, PNG
- Dr Mitsuro Hyakumachi, Japan
- Dr Phillip Wharton, USA
- Dr Latiffah Zakaria, Malaysia
- Dr Lawrence Kawchuk, Canada



## Student and Early-Career Researcher Conference Bursary Scheme

The new APPS conference bursary scheme for students and early-career researchers to attend the biennial APPS meeting in NZ in 2013 is now open. A maximum of 11 bursaries will be awarded across Australia, NZ, PNG, Pacific Islands and Timor-Leste. Current and non-members who have less than 10 years of experience (including any postgraduate training as part of the experience) in the plant pathology profession are encouraged to apply. More details are on the APPS website. Applications close on Wed **14 August 2013** close of business (Perth).

This scheme will re-open next year for attendance at one of the APPS Special Interest Group Meetings including the Australasian Soilborne Diseases Symposium, the Australasian Virology Workshop, the Australasian Nematology Conference and the Molecular and Physiological Plant Pathology COMBIO meeting.

## Regional news from QLD



Both these following stories appeared recently in news updates circulated to QLD DAFF staff and are very worthy of being shared here with all APPS members.

### **Inaugural Wilkinson Award goes to Jay Anderson**

Australian Banana Growers' Council (ABGC) Research & Development Manager Dr Jay Anderson has received the inaugural Kendle Wilkinson Young Outstanding Horticultural Scientist Award.

The award was announced at the recent Horticulture Australia Ltd's HAL Forum. It honours Dr Kendle Wilkinson, an outstanding young scientist working in horticultural science who passed away earlier this year and was a highly-regarded HAL Portfolio Manager, Industry Services Manager and research scientist. The award has particular significance for Dr Anderson, a plant pathologist, who previously conducted research projects for the passionfruit industry where she worked with Dr Wilkinson



Dr Anderson, pictured with Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture Sid Sidebottom (left) and HAL Chairman Selwyn Snell, said she was honoured to be the first recipient of an award commemorating a young scientist whose dedication and enthusiasm for horticulture were inspirational.

## **Congratulations to plant pathologist Dr Mal Ryley**

Congratulations to plant pathologist Dr Mal Ryley who has won the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) 2013 Seed of Light award. The Seed of Light award is the most prestigious award bestowed by GRDC so this is big news! Mal has been awarded this prestigious honour for his outstanding contribution to grain communications in Queensland's northern region.

Mal has dedicated his distinguished career (of more than 30 years) to combating yield-limiting diseases in summer field crops and winter pulse crops. His plant pathology research, particularly in sorghum, is recognised both nationally and internationally. Mal is well respected by growers and the sorghum and pulse industries. He is passionate about his research and a dedicated pathologist. He strives to achieve the very best outcomes for growers, the industry and the department.

Mal's primary aim has been to develop and extend integrated management packages for diseases on a range of field crops, including sorghum, soybeans, mungbeans, peanuts and chickpeas. Queensland's summer field crops and winter pulse crop industries are worth over \$1,000M to the Queensland economy. Each year these industries suffer significant yield losses from diseases. The work of dedicated scientists like Mal ensures the ongoing productivity and profitability of these industries through the development of sustainable integrated disease management strategies.

Mals' active collaboration with industry and years of commitment to research in field crop diseases has resulted in long-term economic benefits for the grains industry. Congratulations Mal on this outstanding achievement.



*Dr Mal Ryley is presented with the 2013 Seed of Light award by James Clark, GRDC northern panel.*

Jenny Cobon

## Regional news from Vic



The Victorian Branch of the APPS has continued its strong start at the end of 2012, with another well attended meeting at the University Melbourne on 25<sup>th</sup> February (35 attendees). We had a series of seminars and an informal BBQ in the School of Botany gardens.

Tom May, from the Melbourne Herbarium, gave the keynote presentation. Tom, who is a member of the Nomenclature Committee for Fungi, gave a very well-informed and instructive talk on the details and practicalities of the introduction of the new “One fungus, one name” system in fungal systematics.

Tom talked about how, in the current era, two distinct revolutions are occurring in this field. Firstly, there have been changes in the rules for the naming system, but secondly, we are experiencing the rapid expansion of genetic knowledge of fungal species, which is already leading to inevitable changes in species boundaries and reorganisation of genera and clades. The basic take home message was, “Don’t panic... these things take time.”

Tom assured us that we need not fear the “nomenclatural terrorism” of those rushing to stake a claim by publishing new fungal names. We can wait for the relevant committees to make their decisions and we don’t need to get into ‘name arguments’ in the meantime. Rather than us trying to summarise the whole talk here, Tom has generously offered to write a summary of the information he presented to the branch.

Thanks especially to Angela Van de Wouw who pulled it all together for this well-run and interesting meeting.

At this meeting, the Victorian Branch also decided that our next meeting would be a field tour in the Wimmera, on the 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> of October, hosted by the Horsham Grains Pathology group. This Spring meeting should provide many opportunities to see real life plant disease in important agricultural crops as well as get a better understanding of the work done out of Grains Innovation Park in Horsham.

Also, an update on the roles agreed by the members of the local branch committee:

Angela Van de Wouw: Regional Councillor; Linda Zheng: Treasurer; Helen Hayden & Matthew Rodda: Communications (incl. newsletter contributions); and Alicia Greenhill: Events Coordination and Social Media.

Feel free to send any contributions for the Victorian newsletter to Angela Van de Wouw (apvdw2@unimelb.edu.au)

**Angela Van de Wouw**

## Regional news from Tas



Below is a snapshot of some events involving Tasmanian contribution to plant pathology. Contributions to [Robert.Tegg@utas.edu.au](mailto:Robert.Tegg@utas.edu.au)

### **New Tasmanian APPS regional councillor:**

Karen Barry took on the role of regional councillor from late 2012 with Robert Tegg to assist in some activities. We thank Frank Hay for his role as Councillor over recent years. Karen has been a member of APPS since 1997 and is a lecturer/research fellow in Plant Pathology at Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture/School of Agricultural Science, UTAS.

### **New Tasmanian Molecular Plant Pathologist**

Alison Dann was appointed in February 2013 as a new Molecular Plant Pathologist within The Department of Primary Industries Water and Environment. She works in the biosecurity branch and brings molecular expertise to her new agency.

### **New Tasmanian Students:**

Over the last 4-5 months a range of plant pathology students have commenced plant pathology based studies within UTAS; these include:

#### ***PhD:***

**Mark Balendres** commenced in November 2012 working on 'Selection of Potato Somaclones with Resistance to Powdery Scab Disease', supervised by Calum Wilson and Robert Tegg.

**Andrew Appiah** commenced in February 2013 working on 'Detection, Distribution and Genetic Diversity of Viruses Causing Rosette Disease of Groundnut in Ghana', supervised by Calum Wilson and Robert Tegg. Andrew will spend half his PhD in Ghana and half with UTAS.

**Wossen Mengesha** commenced in February 2013 working on 'The use of compost tea as a crop protectant'. Wossen is from Ethiopia where he has conducted research in plant extractives related to crop protection, at the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research. Wossen has received an Australian Development Scholarship to research compost tea as a potential low-cost crop protectant for small holders. Wossen is supervised by APPS members Karen Barry and Kathy Evans, as well as Shane Powell.

## Honours:

**Sara Blake** commenced a BSc Honours degree in February supervised by Karen Barry and plant geneticist Eloise Foo. The project investigates the role of strigalactones in plant disease using pea mutants which do not produce strigalactone.

**Ray Ali** commenced a BAgSc Honours degree in February supervised by Calum Wilson and entomologist Geoff Allen. The project looks at vectors of Orchid Fleck virus and molecular characterisation of this disease.

## Workshops:

Alison Dann and Peter Cross attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Plant Health Diagnosticians' Workshop at the Botanical Gardens in Melbourne in February. The 2 day workshop, run by SPHDS, focused on photography and taking better images of disease affected plants – both in the field and in the laboratory. Networking opportunities proved beneficial and have directly assisted work programs. Also the National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostic Network (NPBDN) website was formally launched with attendees encouraged to join and utilise.

Alison Dann also attended a 2 ½ day workshop on Botany – run at the Gardens following on from the Diagnosticians' Workshop.

## PhD completions:

**Hannah Thompson** recently completed her PhD entitled 'Optimisation of 2,4-D Treatments for the Control of Common Scab of Potato (and Related Studies)', supervised by Calum Wilson and Robert Tegg.

## Dates for your diary:

- 10th International Congress of Plant Pathology (ICPP2013) in Beijing, China, 25-30 August 2013. [www.icppbj2013.org/](http://www.icppbj2013.org/)
- 10th International Mycological Congress (IMC10) in Bangkok, Thailand. 3–8 August 2014.
- 29th International Horticultural Congress, "Horticulture - sustaining lives, livelihoods and landscapes", in Brisbane, Australia. 17–24 August 2014. [www.ihc2014.org](http://www.ihc2014.org)

## Regional news from SA



### Australia Day Celebration

In what is becoming an annual event, the SA APPS members met for drinks and nibbles to celebrate Australia day. The door prize of a book voucher was won by Mark Sosnowski.



*(L-R), Barbara Hall, Eileen Scott (President elect), Amanda Able, Dagmar Hanold and John Randles stand by the SA banner.*

### New Regional Councillors needed

As SA will be taking over the management responsibilities of APPS from the NZ conference, most of the current regional Councillors will be serving on the committee. So a new crop of regional councillors is required to fill their positions. If anyone is interested please contact Barbara Hall ([Barbara.hall@sa.gov.au](mailto:Barbara.hall@sa.gov.au)).

## Regional news from NT



### Chilling at Chinchilla Melon Festival 2013

As part of a Horticulture Australia Limited project on Fusarium wilt of watermelon, NT Senior Plant Pathologist, Barry Condé, attended the Chinchilla Melon Festival in February. Barry presented a seminar detailing the discovery of Fusarium wilt of watermelon caused by *Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. *niveum* (Fon) in the NT.

Research in the USA has shown that there are four races of Fon, each differing in their ability to cause wilt in various watermelon varieties. The NT Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney are investigating the races present in Australia and the resistance of different rootstocks. The study involves Masters candidate, Victor Puno, from the University of Sydney based at the Royal Botanic Gardens, who is supervised by Drs Edward Liew, Dr David Guest, Len Tesoriero and Lucy Tran-Nguyen. A small delegate of the HAL project attended the Chinchilla Melon Festival and participated in the Syngenta Australia Party Ltd Watermelon Information Forum and field day.

Following the festival, Victor spent two weeks in the laboratory at Berrimah Research Farm to work with Barry and Lucy learning how to conduct race differential trials and molecular detection of Fon.

This project has been funded by HAL using voluntary contributions from Monsanto Australia, Rijk Zwaan Australia and Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries, NT with matched funds from the Australian Government. Further information can be found at

[http://www.nt.gov.au/d/Primary\\_Industry/index.cfm?header=Characterisation%20and%20management%20of%20Fusarium%20wilt%20of%20watermelon](http://www.nt.gov.au/d/Primary_Industry/index.cfm?header=Characterisation%20and%20management%20of%20Fusarium%20wilt%20of%20watermelon)

# Awards Committee of APPS

## Preparation of Nominations for Awards in 2012-2013

### *General information*

APPS has three awards which recognize special contributions of members. Nominees for each award are nominated by a proposer and seconder who are members of APPS, and submitted to the President of APPS. Nominations close 16 weeks before the next biennial conference so that the presentations can be made at a general meeting of the society normally held at its Biennial Conference. The Management Committee may appoint a sub-committee to assess nominations.

Nominations are to be submitted without the knowledge of the nominee, and all evaluations and decisions will remain confidential. While the number of nominations received is not limited, the Management Committee reserves the right to determine the suitability of any nominee for the selected award.

The three categories of award are listed below. The rules defining them are available either in the constitution of APPS or APPSnet.org.

### *Preparation of Nominations*

Nominations should be prepared as follows and submitted as a PDF document to the President of APPS, Dr Elaine Davison < [president@apps.org](mailto:president@apps.org) > before the closing date of August 2, 2013.

They should include:

1. A cover letter of less than one page with the name of the award for which the nomination is made, and the names of the candidate, proposer and seconder. It can outline contributions not given in the nomination statement.
2. A nomination statement of less than 1,000 words that highlights the contributions of the candidate in relation to the requirements of the selected award. Include the candidate's name, place of birth, degrees, institutions and years granted, as well as current position. This statement should emphasise the relevance and impact of the candidate's contributions to the advancement of science and plant pathology.
3. A ~150-word abstract of the nomination statement for use in an award ceremony
4. A Curriculum Vitae of less than two pages.
5. A complete list of publications. The list should be separated into the following categories, with most recent publications first. Abstracts and manuscripts not yet accepted should NOT be included.
  - Refereed journal articles and reviews
  - Extension publications
  - Books and book chapters
  - Technical publications (e.g., monographs, reports, symposium papers, proceedings, etc.)
  - Popular publications

- Invited presentations
6. Any additional documentation as specified for the particular Award as described below.

## **Descriptions of awards and specific requirements**

### ***Distinguished Service Award***

Recipients of the Distinguished Service Award are selected on the basis of an outstanding contribution to the Society.

This award is the equivalent of the previous Honorary Member Award which has been renamed to more accurately indicate that the recipient has made an outstanding contribution to APPS through service, teaching, extension, office-holding or other activity which can be considered to be beyond the normal expectations of their employment or duties.

### ***Fellows of the Australasian Plant Pathology Society***

This award honours the scientific achievements of members. This can be interpreted to mean that a nominee has made original discoveries in one or more areas of plant pathology and that their work has been peer reviewed as shown by their list of publications. Text books, reviews, grant income and community service can be considered in addition to scientific publication but in themselves are not of sufficient status for an award to be made. To allow comparison and selection of candidates to be simplified, proposers and seconders must describe the nominee's contributions to the science of plant pathology, list 10 of their most significant papers, and provide electronic (.pdf) versions of 5 of these. Where a nominee is not the first author of any paper, it is suggested that their role in completing the study be indicated.

### ***Australasian Plant Pathology Society's Allen Kerr Postgraduate Prize***

This award is known as the Australasian Plant Pathology Society's Allen Kerr Postgraduate Prize in recognition of the outstanding contribution made by Allen Kerr AO to the field of plant pathology. The Allen Kerr Postgraduate Prize is awarded by the Society for the best piece of original research relevant to Australasia by a postgraduate student in the field of plant pathology. The prize is normally awarded on the basis of publication in a refereed journal(s).

### ***Conditions***

1. Only candidates who are financial members of the Society at the time of nomination will be eligible for the award.
2. Candidates must have completed the research not more than five years previous to the closing date for nominations. The same piece of work cannot be considered twice for the award.
3. The prize consists of a medal inscribed with the name of the recipient, a certificate, and \$500 cash. One prize is available for each 2 year period, hence the prize is highly competitive.
4. While attendance at the Conference when the prize will be presented is

- desirable, it is not obligatory for award of the prize.
5. Candidates are normally nominated by a supervisor, but non-supervisors may also nominate candidates. Nominators have to be Members of the Society. Candidates may not nominate themselves.
  6. Nominations are submitted on an official nomination form (<http://www.appsnet.org/public/about/akpnominations.aspx>). An electronic (.pdf) version of the completed form, together with electronic (.pdf) versions of thesis and published material must be submitted.