

APPS Newsletter Vol 26, No 2 SEPTEMBER 2013



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President's Message

19th Australasian Plant Pathology Conference, Auckland

The planning for the forthcoming Conference seems to be well on track with Kerry Everett and her team working hard to ensure a stimulating program of invited and offered papers, and workshops. There are also many opportunities for networking.

In order to encourage students and early career researchers to attend this Conference, the Management Committee has provided financial assistance from both national and regional funds through a Conference Bursary Scheme. This scheme will operate for future Biennial Conferences and special interest group meetings. We would like to thank Daniel Huberli for developing this scheme.

The Biennial Conference is the one occasion when officials of APPS can actually meet face-to-face rather than through teleconferencing. The Management Committee has approved the use of national and regional funds to assist with the cost of attending the conference for Regional Councillors and some Society officials.

Review of the APPS Constitution, By laws and Operating Procedures

The new APPS Constitution was approved at a Special General Meeting of the Society on 14 May 2013, and is on the website. Thank you to those members who attended. One of the many changes that have been made is in the composition of the Management Committee. This now includes a position of Regional Council Coordinator, a position currently occupied by Christine Horlock (QLD). The Management Committee has been keen to improve liaison with the Regional Councillors, and felt that this could best be achieved through this position.

APPS also has By Laws and Operating Procedures. These are being reviewed with the intention of moving the By Laws that were not incorporated into the Constitution into the Operating Procedures. This should be completed by November.

Plant Health Australia

APPS has been an Associate Member of PHA for many years. After considering the costs and benefits of membership, the Management Committee decided several months ago that, although individual members contributed enormously to the operation of PHA, the Society was not being involved in a constructive way. As a result, APPS resigned from PHA at the end of the last financial year.

Change in editor of APPS Newsletter

The APPS Newsletter is one of the many publications on the APPS website, and forms a link between the members, the Management Committee and the Regions. Barb Hall has very ably edited this Newsletter for many years, and has now been succeeded by Will Cuddy from NSW DPI. The Management Committee would like to express their thanks to Barb for doing this job so efficiently, and look forward to working with Will in the future.

e.davison@curtin.edu.au; president@appsnet.org

New members:

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

Australia

- Miss Kelly Scarlett (PhD student)
- Miss Narelle Nancarrow
- Ms Peri Tobias (Student)
- Dr Christopher Mandy
- Miss Elizabeth Czislawski (Student)
- Arslan Qureshi
- Ahsanul Haque
- Mrs Sharon Andrewartha (Student)
- Dr Trudy Paap
- Mr Andrew Taylor
- Mr Joshua Fanning
- Dr Arezou Yazarlou
- Dr Vicki Elliot
- Mrs Lila Nambiar
- Dr Konostas Harapas
- Mrs Hoda Ghazali Biglar (PhD student), *New Zealand*
- Ms Judy Gardner, *New Zealand*
- Dr Faheem Ahmad, *South Africa*
- Mrs Anna Caird, *New Zealand*
- Dr Hossein Alizadeh, *New Zealand*
- Mr Michael Noel, *Philippines*
- Jeonghee Jo, *South Korea*
- Dr Kar Mun Chooi, *New Zealand*
- Miss Christina Straub (PhD Student), *New Zealand*
- Miss Elena Colombi (PhD Student), *New Zealand*
- Dr Ian Horner, *New Zealand*
- Dr Jibrán Tahir, *New Zealand*
- Mr Arnaud Blouin, *New Zealand*

Dates for your diary:

19th Australasian Plant Pathology Conference. 25-28 November 2013, Auckland, NZ.

Regional news from Tas



Below is a snapshot of events involving the Tasmanian contribution to plant pathology. Contributions to Robert.Tegg@utas.edu.au

New Tasmanian PhD Student

Mr Trang Tran Thanh commenced a PhD recently, working on “The Improvement of Sawlog Quality in *Acacia* Plantations by Reducing Stem Defects caused by Fungi”, the project is supervised by Caroline Mohammed (co-supervised by Morag Glen and Chris Beadle).

Conference/student awards

Gareth Hill (PhD student) won a prize for best viticulture presentation at the 15th Australian Wine Industry Technical Conference held in Sydney 13-18 July. Gareth’s prize-winning talk was entitled “Quantification of botrytis bunch rot in white wine grape varieties”. Gareth is based at Plant and Food Research, Auckland, but is completing his PhD project through TIA/UTAS. He has been visiting TIA once a year to sample rotten and healthy grapes for his laboratory-based work and is supervised by Dr Katherine Evans (TIA) and Dr Bob Damberg.

Sara Blake won an APPS student bursary and a HAL bursary, for attendance at the upcoming APPS Conference in Auckland, New Zealand. Sarah is undertaking a BSc Honours degree supervised by Karen Barry and plant geneticist Eloise Foo. The project investigates the role of strigalactones in plant disease using pea mutants that do not produce strigalactone.

Regional news from SA



Changes to the State Committee

The SA committee of the Australasian Plant Pathology Society (APPS), in preparation for taking over the management of APPS, has had a change of councillor committee. Most of the current committee will be taking on roles within the management committee. Waite Quarantine Officer, Dr Pauline Glocke, has joined Dr Hugh Wallwork on the Regional Council and will be the main contact for South Australia. If anyone would like to be part of the Regional Council Committee, please contact Pauline: Pauline.glocke@sa.gov.au.

South Australia hosted a seminar at the SARDI Plant Research Centre, Waite, given by visiting Spanish PhD student Georgina Elena Jimenez who spoke on the topic of “Biology and control of pathogenic fungi associated with declining mature grapevines”. She also explained the collaboration between the Institut de Recerca i Tecnologia Agroalimentàries (IRTA) in Barcelona and SARDI’s trunk disease research program, led by Dr Mark Sosnowski. Georgina has been working in the SARDI laboratory for the last three months as part of a laboratory exchange within the program.



Some who attended the APPS seminar were (L-R) Matt Ayres, Tim Zanker, Prof Eileen Scott, Dr Tijana Petrovic, Dr Pauline Glocke, Dr Mark Sosnowski, Georgina Elena Jimenez, Bruce Henderson, Mohsen Khani and Peter Clingleffer and Professor Alan Kerr.

The next activity will be a training course on poster and paper presentations on Tuesday September 17th at the Waite campus. For enquiries please contact Barbara Hall, Barbara.hall@sa.gov.au

Regional news from Vic



Upcoming field pathology tour at Horsham

The Victorian APPS branch has an upcoming field pathology tour in Horsham. All members are invited to attend the two-day event being held on Thursday 10th and Friday 11th of October. The event will involve visiting a range of field sites including wheat, barley, pulse and canola disease-screening trials, the Free Carbon Dioxide Enrichment (FACE) experiments as well as nematode and crown rot screening trials. For more information please contact Angela at apvdw2@unimelb.edu.au.

Student bursaries

Three students from the Victorian APPS society were successful in their bid for an APPS travel bursary. Congratulations to Alicia Greenhill and Jason Stiller from La Trobe University and Kylie Chambers from the University of Melbourne. These students will be using the bursary to attend the APPS meeting in Auckland in November.

Feel free to send me any contributions for the Victorian newsletter:

Angela Van de Wouw, apvdw2@unimelb.edu.au

Regional news from WA



New Regional Council members

Monica Kehoe and Kith Jayasena are pleased to welcome 3 new regional councillors to the Western Australian regional committee. From Curtin University we welcome Dr Judith Lichtenzveig who specialises in Pulse Pathology and Genetics. From The University of Western Australia (UWA) we welcome Ms Dominie Wright, a PhD student in Science Communication working on a project that combines adult education with plant pathology. Ms Wright is teaching farmers and agronomists about plant diseases whilst maintaining her ties with the Department of Agriculture and Food WA (DAFWA) by working one day a week in the crop protection group. Also from DAFWA we have Ravjit Khangura who is a Plant Pathologist specialising in diseases of canola.

The new team is looking forward to working with the WA members and are currently preparing for the annual Student symposium and looking forward to hearing about what the next generation of plant pathologists has been up to!

Regional news from NSW



APPS NSW Conference Bursary Awardees

In NSW we congratulate Nirodha Weeraratne and Peri Tobias, the recipients of APPS Postgraduate Student and Early Career Researcher Conference Bursaries.

Nirodha is completing her PhD in the School of Agriculture and Wine Sciences at Charles Sturt University investigating *Pseudomonas fuscovaginae*, the cause of bacterial sheath rot complex of rice. She will present her research paper at the upcoming APPS conference in Auckland entitled '*Pseudomonas fuscovaginae* affects the germination and early growth of rice and other cereals grown in Australia'.

Peri Tobias recently completed her Honours degree (H1) in the Faculty of Agriculture and Environment at the University of Sydney and was awarded the University Medal. She will present a research paper on the outcomes of her honours thesis '*Gene expression in Eucalyptus grandis* infected with *Puccinia psidii sensu lato* (Myrtle Rust)'.

NSW Biosecurity Strategy

Following public consultation in late 2012 the Biosecurity Strategy for NSW has been released. It is available online at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/biosecurity-strategy

Conference award winner

Congratulations to Len Tesoriero, NSW DPI, receive the award for 'Most Outstanding Contribution to the Protected Cropping Australia (PCA) conference held in Melbourne in July 2013. This is the highest award presented by PCA and honours an individual or organisation that has made an outstanding contribution to the industry in their lifetime.



Len Tesoriero with his award at the Protected Cropping Australia Conference in Melbourne.

New President of the ISPP

Greg Johnson was appointed as the new President of the International Society for Plant Pathology (ISPP) at the 10th International Congress for Plant Pathology held in Beijing in August.



Greg Johnson being handed the ISPP flag from Lodovica Gullino at the 10th International Congress on Plant Pathology.