



## APPS Newsletter Vol. 27, No. 2 October 2014

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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:

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# ***President's Message***

## ***News from the Management Committee***

### **APPS-Phytopathological Society of Japan (PSJ) Student Exchange**

Congratulations to Ms Shakira Johnson, La Trobe University, and Mr Phu Duy Le, University of Queensland, who have won scholarships to travel to Japan under the auspices of the APPS-PSJ Student Exchange. Shakira plans to visit Professors Motoo Koitabashi and Hideo Ishii at the National Institute for Agro-Environmental Sciences in Tsukuba to work on fire blight of pear. Duy plans to visit Professor Koji Kageyama at Gifu University to study the detection of *Pythium* spp. using loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP). We also congratulate Kim Plummer (President-Elect) for her successful application to the Australia Japan Foundation (AJF) for additional funds that have supported the exchange program in 2014. The combination of support from APPS, PSJ and AJF will allow Shakira and Duy to make the most of the scientific and cultural experience provided by this opportunity.

## ***Management of APPS***

The APPS 2-year plan is now available at [www.appsnet.org/Public/about/twoyrplan.aspx](http://www.appsnet.org/Public/about/twoyrplan.aspx). The Management Committee will use this plan as a template for activities. We welcome comments and suggestions from members at any time.

Peter Williamson, APPS Business Manager, continues to make improvements to the APPS website to streamline operations. Not all of these are visible to members, but we appreciate the work that goes on behind the scenes. One of the more visible changes allows members to print their own membership certificates via the website (contact Peter at [businessmanager@appsnet.org](mailto:businessmanager@appsnet.org) if you have any problems with this feature).

Our Society now has 515 members. Membership for 2014 has closed and anyone joining APPS now becomes a member for 2015.

## ***New impact factor for Australasian Plant Pathology***

The 2013 impact factor for our journal is 1.041, up from 1.021 in 2012 and 0.837 in 2011 (Thomson Reuters Journal Citation Reports® 2013). Congratulations to the Editor in Chief, Philip O'Brien, members of the editorial board and our many reviewers for their hard work and contribution to this achievement.

## ***20<sup>th</sup> Australasian Plant Pathology Society Conference, Fremantle, Western Australia***

Planning for the conference in Western Australia in September 2015 is well underway. Philip O'Brien, Conference Convenor, and his committee are putting together an exciting program and have already obtained significant sponsorship. Please put 14-16 September 2015 in your diary and, for more details, see [www.apps2015.com.au](http://www.apps2015.com.au).

## ***Special Interest Groups***

APPS has several affiliated groups which have been formed to advance and disseminate knowledge of particular scientific practice areas related to plant pathology. Amanda Able (Vice-President) has

recently revised processes for affiliation of Special Interest Groups with APPS and for applying for and reporting on funds. Please see the section on Special Interest Groups below for further information.

### ***Vale Maurice Carter and Brian Deverall***

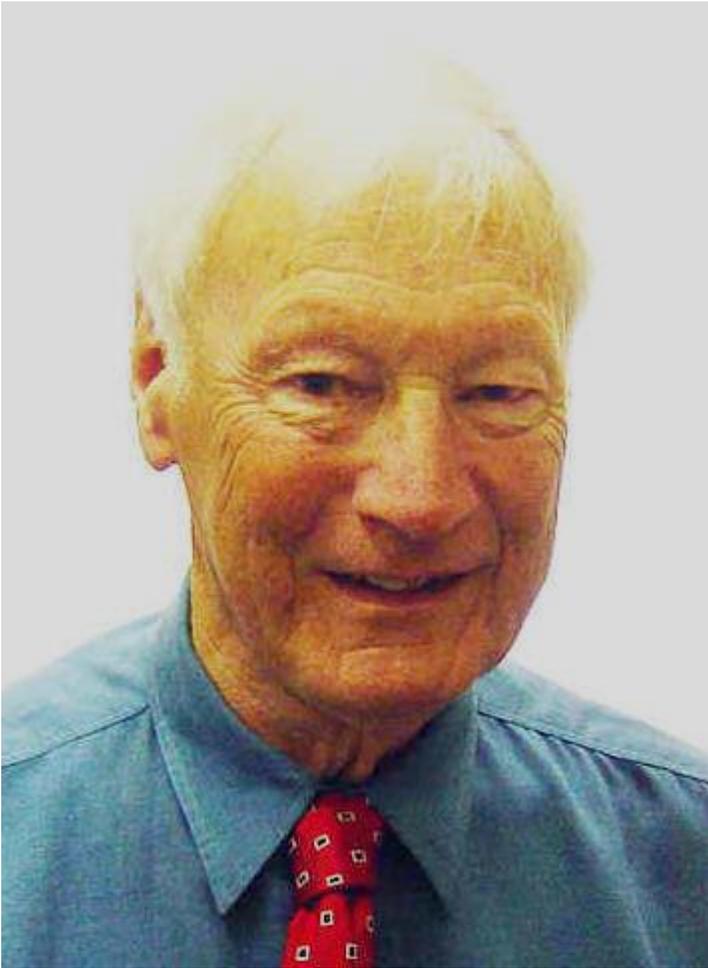
It is with great sadness that we farewell two distinguished, long-standing members of APPS. Dr Maurice Carter, who spent most of his career at the University of Adelaide's Waite Agricultural Research Institute, was recognised nationally and internationally for his research on eutypa dieback of apricots (gummosis) and other woody plants. Maurice continued to be active in the field after his retirement in 1987 and published the definitive monograph on the pathogen *Eutypa lata* in 1991. He was a founding member of APPS in 1969 and remained a member until his death on 20 July 2014.

Brian Deverall was Professor of Plant Pathology at the University of Sydney from 1973 until he retired in 2001. He made significant contributions to research on phytoalexins, host-pathogen interactions in cereal rusts and induced resistance, and was recognised internationally for his work. Brian was President of APPS from 1987 to 1989 and was made a Fellow of the Society in 2009. He also served as Vice-President of the International Society of Plant Pathology and editor of the ISPP Newsletter. Brian passed away on 8 August after a short illness.

Maurice Carter and Brian Deverall will be sadly missed by their former colleagues, students and many friends in the plant pathology community, locally and internationally.



Eutypa dieback research group (2007) from left front: Maurice Carter, Eileen Scott, Trevor Wicks; back, Richard Lardner, Mark Sosnowski, Adrian Loschiavo



Brian Deverall, Fellow of the Society since 2009.

Eileen Scott

[Eileen.scott@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:Eileen.scott@adelaide.edu.au); [president@appsnet.org](mailto:president@appsnet.org)

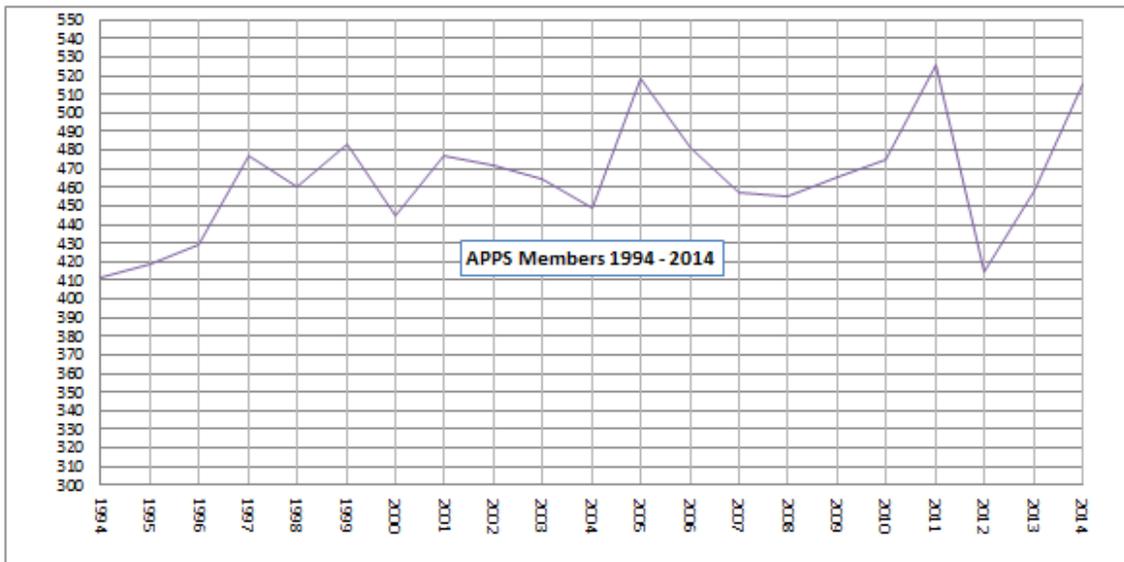
## News from the Business Manager

Subscriptions for 2015 are now open. Payments can be made from within the member area using a new, simplified, secure online form. Members can choose to pay for more than one year by ticking the appropriate box. The form will automatically total the amount. PayPal and electronic funds transfer are also available. Members can check their membership status from the member area. Passwords can be retrieved from the login screen.

Most members would probably agree that credit card payments through the CBA online shop was far too complicated and often generated errors. However, the CBA system had the advantage of automatically transferring payments into the APPS account and sending receipts directly to the payer. The main disadvantage was its slowness and frequent failures and often required manual intervention by me or the bank. The new system is very simple and secure for the payer but requires manual entry by the business manager. Transaction details will now be recorded in the APPS online database and receipts/tax invoices will be generated and sent from the business manager, following acceptance by the bank. Members will also be able to generate a copy of their receipt/tax invoice at any time should it be misplaced. Credit card details are not held by the society.

The 2014 subscription year was very successful with member numbers reaching one of our highest levels ever. A full breakdown of the member statistics can be generated from the member area ([www.appsnet.org/Members/count\\_members.aspx](http://www.appsnet.org/Members/count_members.aspx)).

### Member Numbers for 2014



Year	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Members	412	419	429	477	460	483	445	477	472	465	449	519	481	457	455	466	475	526	415	458	515

Peter Williamson  
Business manager, APPS

## *New members*

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

Professor Christopher Franco

Mrs Cassie McMaster

## *Special Interest Groups*

The Australasian Plant Pathology Society is associated with a number of independent Special Interest Groups. These groups have been formed for the purpose of the advancement and dissemination of the knowledge of a particular scientific practice area related to plant pathology. The current groups are the Australasian Association of Nematologists, Australasian Soilborne Diseases Group and the Plant Virology Working Group. More details of individual special interest groups can be found at [www.appsnet.org/Interest\\_Groups/](http://www.appsnet.org/Interest_Groups/)

APPS offers support to Special Interest Groups by: providing a start-up loan (for workshops, meetings or conferences); promotion of their events to the APPS community and others via the website; representation of their interests on the APPS management committee through the Vice-President of the Society and support of APPS members that are early career researchers to attend events (via bursaries). If you are interested in starting a special interest group or have some business related to an existing special interest group (such as a start-up loan request), please contact Amanda Able at [vice.president@appsnet.org](mailto:vice.president@appsnet.org)

*Amanda Able*  
[vice.president@appsnet.org](mailto:vice.president@appsnet.org)

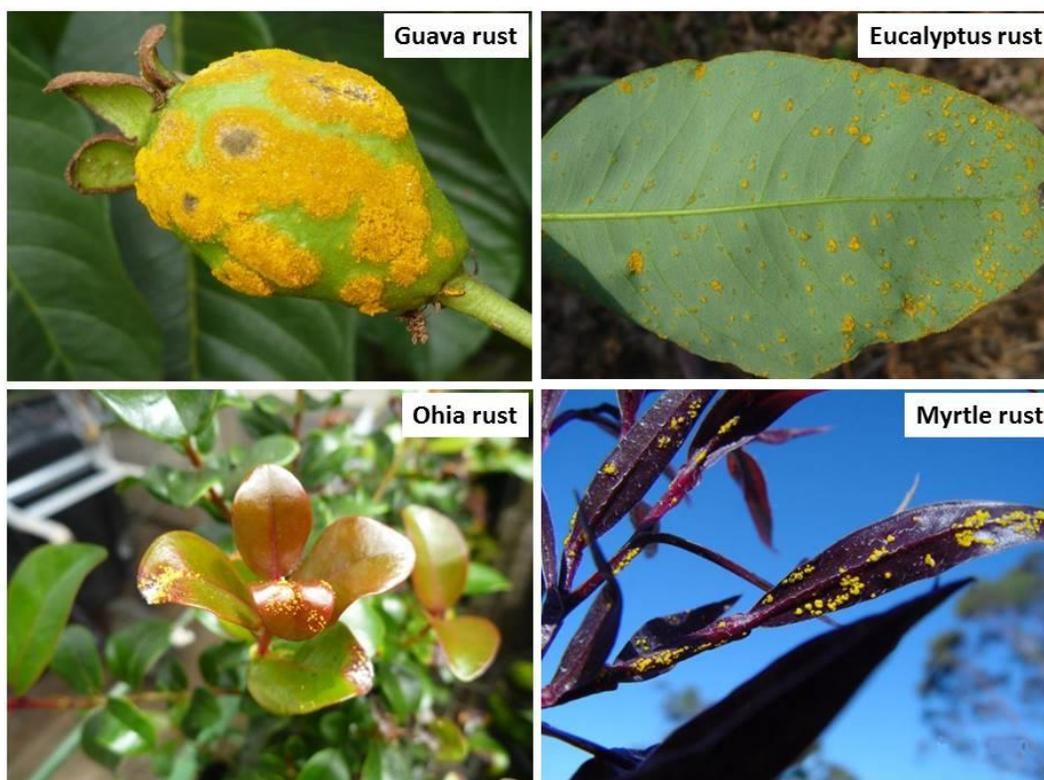
## Regional news from NSW



### **Rust Mini Symposium**

After a dry spell of activity, the NSW APPS organised a Mini Symposium at the National Herbarium of New South Wales, Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney, on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2014. The seminar session focused on rust pathogens including interesting presentations and talks by Angus Carnegie, Will Cuddy and Peri Tobias. Approximately 20 members attended, including plant pathologists, scientists, post graduate researchers and industry professionals were present at the symposium.

Angus Carnegie from NSW Department of Primary Industries delivered a talk entitled 'Is Myrtle Rust a Key Threatening Process?' The presentation provided good insights into the main three invasive pathogens: chestnut blight, Dutch elm disease and ash dieback. He introduced the myrtle rust pathogen by talking about *Puccinia psidii* in Brazil that has a wide host range within the Myrtaceae family. Myrtle rust affects the forest, essential oils, bush foods and cut flower industries in Brazil. The rest of the presentation was about information on *P. psidii*'s spread across the globe, including Hawaii and Australia, its rapidly expanding host range and impact on key Myrtaceae plants in Australia.



Will Cuddy, NSW Department of Primary Industries, spoke about 'Insights into wheat stripe rust epidemiology following the introduction of the 'WA pathotype' in 2002.' Will started the presentation

with a brief introduction to stripe rust. He then elucidated the 'typical' stripe rust epidemic and what has changed since the introduction of the 'WA pathotype' in 2002. The most interesting aspect of his talk was stripe rust management issues of concern to pathologists including a shift in industry attitude towards higher fungicide use.

The last but most fascinating presentation was delivered by Peri Tobias from The University of Sydney on 'Searching for the molecular basis to myrtle rust resistance.' Peri spoke about *P. psidii* and its invasive structures, current locations and predicted range in Australia. Peri also spoke about commercial Australian plants from the genera *Chamelaucium* and *Eucalyptus* and the molecular aspects of the expression of the plant-defence genes against the pathogen. Peri expanded upon the three main approaches of her work with *Eucalyptus*: chitinase and resistance genes and her current research on RNAseq to identify genes associated with resistance to myrtle rust infection in Geraldton waxflower.



Each talk was followed by a series of questions and answer sessions with some intriguing comments and questions. The event was well-organised by Rosalie Daniel from NSW Department of Primary Industries and included a light lunch along with an opportunity for the guests to socialize and exchange ideas and plans.

*Astha Singh*

## Regional news from Vic



Following on from last year's highly successful field tour to Horsham, the Victorian branch is inviting members to come on a field tour in the city at the Royal Botanic Gardens. This year's event is a Biosecurity Symposium featuring four speakers and will include tours of the Herbarium fungi collection and gardens and focusing on pest management and the sentinel plant program.

Our special guest for the Symposium is Dr Andrew Tomkins, Director of the Biosecurity and Product Integrity Group at the Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries. Dr Tomkins is also a jurisdictional representative on national committees including the National Biosecurity Committee (NBC), Agricultural Chemicals Regulatory Committee (ACRC) and the Northern Australian Quarantine Strategy (NAQS) Steering Group.

Dr Tomkins will give members an insight into quarantine threats and tropical diseases through his presentation on Banana Freckle disease. As the leader of the National Banana Freckle Response Dr Tomkins' team is tasked with detecting and eradicating banana freckle in the Northern Territory. As of July 2014, NT surveillance teams had inspected over 16,700 properties since July 2013, including 1447 properties in Darwin. The disease was found on 43 properties resulting in quarantine zones around those properties, and all banana plants being removed from nearby properties. The pest could have a significant negative impact on the Australian banana industry, which is valued at over \$500 million per year.

Local speakers will include Dr Jacky Edwards, Dr Fiona Constable and Dr Angela Freeman presenting on emerging and recent disease outbreaks and plant health regulations. The local organising committee thanks Dr Tom May for his assistance in hosting and organising the symposium.

The event will be held on Tuesday 28th October 2014 at Meuller Hall, National Herbarium Building, Birdwood Ave, Melbourne from 9.30am to 3.30pm, including lunch. For more information, or to RSVP, please email Angela Van De Wouw ([apvdw2@unimelb.edu.au](mailto: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).

### **Student Completions**

Congratulations to Drs Gareth Hill and Katie Dunne – both working on botrytis bunch rot (*Botrytis cinerea*) in winegrapes, who were recently awarded their PhD's. Both have undertaken studies under supervision of staff from the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture and graduated at the University of Tasmania in ceremonies held in August.

**Reminder: 8<sup>th</sup> Australasian Soilborne Diseases Symposium, 10-13 November 2014 in Hobart, Tasmania**



8th Australasian Soilborne Diseases Symposium  
The Hobart Function and Conference Centre, Tasmania  
10 - 14 November 2014



PLENARY SPEAKERS include: Dr Alison Lees, Hutton Institute, UK on potato diagnostics and Dr Krishna Subbarao, UC Davis, USA on vegetable epidemiology.

INVITED SPEAKERS for sustainable cereal session recognising the late David Roget include: Dr Matthew Cromey, Plant and Food, NZ; Prof Karam Singh, CSIRO, WA; Dr John Kirkegaard, CSIRO, Canberra.

STUDENTS: prize of \$200 for best oral presentation or poster, plus informal student dinner.

For more information (including nematode workshop and social activities) go to the website (<http://www.appsnet.org/asds/>).

REGISTRATION is open at <http://www.appsnet.org/asds/registration/>

We look forward to seeing you all in Hobart, Tasmania, 10 - 13 November 2014

*Robert Tegg*

## *Regional news from SA*



The SA branch has handed over to the new committee of Pauline Glocke, Hugh Wallwork, Ismail Ahmed Ismail and Suzanne McKay. We held a meeting in February to discuss the year ahead.

An abstract writing workshop was held in March, presented by the University of Adelaide's communications lecturer Margaret Cargill. Fourteen people attended from SARDI, CSIRO and University of Adelaide and was a very useful and informative morning.

Just before Easter we had a social get-together at the Waite Campus café, the 'Lirra Lirra', on 11<sup>th</sup> April. Fifteen members attended and the door prize, a \$50 voucher for Fishpond, was won by Tijana Petrovic.

Through Ismail we have extended an invitation to liaise with the Agriculture Post Graduate Society at the Waite Campus for future communication and events.

*Pauline Glocke*