

APPS 2009-2019 Plan.

This document describes aspirations, key outcomes and broad goals for the Australasian Plant Pathology Society for 2009-2019, and lists APPS Regions proposed as hosts for future Management Committees and Biennial Conferences through to 2020. An Appendix of references provides a summary of resource documents which together provide the current status and future challenges, problems and prospects for plant pathology and plant pathologists. The Plan is intended as a framework for use by the APPS members and Management Committees in drafting 2 year work plans within a longer time frame. The APPS can seek to achieve these outcomes through a series of goals related to the Society's aims as described in the following pages. The outcomes and goals are aligned with the objectives of the Society (Box 1).

Box 1. APPS Objectives and Key Activity Areas

The objects for which the Society is established are the advancement and dissemination of the knowledge of plant pathology and its practice, particularly, but not exclusively, in relation to Australia and neighbouring countries.

Without limiting in any way the powers of the Management Committee, the objects may be achieved in any or all of the following ways:

Communication, Information Exchange, Professionalism and Operations by fostering communication and exchange of information between members and with affiliated societies and other local and overseas societies having similar aims and objects;

Promoting Research, Training and Service Delivery in Plant Pathology and Management of Plant Diseases through Seminars, Conferences, Workshops, Field Visits by organising scientific meetings of the Society;

by participating in, and acting as host of international scientific meetings;

Disseminating Plant Pathology Research Findings and Information through Publications by publishing a journal;

Enhancing Public Awareness of Plant Pathology and the importance of Plant Diseases by increasing public awareness of the functions and achievements of plant pathologists;

Other activities and Honours related to achievement of the Society's objects by such other activities as may be conducive to the attainment of the objects.

APPS 2009-2019 – Outcomes

The APPS is the Society that is best-placed for engaging with 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:

- Promoting excellence and integrity in plant pathology research and service delivery.
- Developing and extending professional recognition, expertise and networks.
- Accessing and publishing technical information & peer-reviewed research,
- Fostering education and training for plant pathology sciences and services
- Participating in conferences, workshops and special interest groups in Australasia
- Keeping informed about job and studentship vacancies, and research funding opportunities
- Sourcing information on Australasian plant pathology and linking to the international plant pathology community
- Becoming involved in charitable activities that enhance the development of plant pathology in Australasia and developing countries.

Membership and publication with the Society journals have 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 and profitable, 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. 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 and its role in food security.

Goals and Benchmarks for the APPS 2009-2019

1. Promoting the Advancement of Plant Pathology and Plant Disease Management

Goal 1.1. To maintain and expand the APPS program of conferences and workshops

Benchmark 1.1. Conferences and Workshops:

- Present the latest advances in plant pathology.
- Enhance education, training and service delivery in plant pathology and disease management
- Provide key fora for Australasian plant pathology.
- Receive greater international recognition, and enhanced attendance.
- Contribute to APPS finances and special interest group initiatives.

Goal 1.2. To foster APPS member involvement in the organisation of, and participation in, international plant pathology meetings and workshops.

Benchmark 1.2. APPS members:

- Contribute as session organisers, speakers or delegates at ICPP 2013 and 2018, and in the organisation of ISPP.
- Organise and contribute to international specialist conferences, congresses and workshops in plant pathology, both within Australasia and in the rest of the world.
- Help strengthen the profile of plant pathology at crop science conferences, including the ISHS International Horticultural Congress in Brisbane in 2014 <http://www.ihc2014.org/>

Goal 1.3. To foster the advancement of plant pathology and plant disease management through APPS supported workshops, training activities and scholarships.

Benchmark 1.3. APPS

- Develops a broader funding and resource base.
- Enables charitable contributions, professionalism and skills development that benefit Australasian plant pathology.

2. Dissemination of Plant Pathology

Goal 2.1. To enhance the circulation, international recognition and profitability of *Australasian Plant Pathology (APP)* and other APPS publications.

Benchmark 2.1. The APPS

- Maintains rigorous and proactive publication policies,
- Strengthens the quality and international recognition of its publications
- Negotiates and maintains sound business relationships with the publisher(s) of its publications during 2009-2020.
- Benefits from increases in the number, quality, circulation, citation index and profitability of its publications, and the improvements also deliver increased benefits to the publisher(s).

Goal 2.2. To enhance opportunities for web-based publication of plant disease notes, conference material and plant pathology technical publications

Benchmark 2.2. The APPS

- Maintains or expands web-based publications.
- Broadens the relevance of its publication range to include publications of interest to the general community
- Ensures cost effective, diverse, relevant, and technically sound publications are produced.

3. Public Awareness of Plant Pathology and Plant Diseases

Goal 3.1. To maintain and broaden the scope and use of the APPS website (s) for public awareness of plant pathology.

Benchmark 3.1.

- The scope, versatility and content of APPS website are broadened.
- Active links to relevant websites are maintained and enhanced.
- Website usage and downloads increase.

Goal 3.2. To contribute to enhancing public awareness of plant pathology through engagement with the media, submissions to plant-pathology related public enquiries in Australasia, and publicity linked to the APPS biennial conference.

Benchmark 3.2. The APPS

- Maintains a 'public voice' committee that publicises the importance of plant pathology to the community.
- Strengthens recognition of the roles of plant pathologists in society.
- Facilitates members' involvement and contributions to relevant public enquiries.
- Facilitates the increase of public awareness of topical plant pathology issues through media releases and activities linked to Society meetings.

Goal 3.3. To recognise and reward member and community contributions in the field of plant pathology

Benchmark 3.3. The APPS

- Maintains active Honours and Alan Kerr Postgraduate Prize Committees
- Publicises awards and awardees through APPS website and the general media.

4. APPS Communication, Information Exchange and Operations

Administration, Communication and Planning (MC)

Goal 4.1. To maintain sound management of APPS in compliance with the requirements of incorporation and the Society's constitution.

Benchmark 4.1.

The APPS Constitution and by-laws

- Clearly reflect member priorities for promoting plant pathology in Australasia, and
- Adequately articulate procedural requirements for society operations.

Clear guidance for the day-to-day operations of the APPS by the Management Committee and Business Manager are provided by

- Biennial (Two) and 10-year work plans, the society website (www.appsnet.org), and an APPS manual of operating procedures, with annual calendar for APPS.
- Regular reviews of operations and annual financial audits.

Goal 4.2. To increase membership of APPS and improve benefits to members.

Benchmark 4.2.

The APPS

- Listens and responds to member interests in promoting plant pathology and plant disease awareness in Australasia.

The business manager and the APPS website content facilitate

- Society subscriptions, operations and services,
- Access to APPS publications, plant pathology related information and links and conference information and,
- Involvement in special interest groups, committees and *ad hoc* discussions.
- Support mechanisms for APPS regional activities increase and diversify.

Goal 4.3. To expand APPS finances and enable tax-deductible donations to support APPS activities, while maintaining prudent fiscal management.

Benchmark 4.3.

- Financial management of APPS remains sound and cost-effective and are independently audited annually.
- Approved tax-deductible funds are established under the auspices of APPS in Australia and New Zealand.
- The APPS Finance Committee regularly provides sound advice to the APPS MC and contributes ideas and actions to the development of APPS finances.
- The APPS income increases and becomes more diversified, allowing broader support for the Society's aims (Goals 1.1 to 1.3).
- Access to funding for APPS regional activities is enhanced.

Goal 4.4. To expand and foster growth of APPS special interest groups.

Benchmark 1.4.

- APPS Special Interest Groups are established and increase activity through APPS web pages, mailing lists, specialist meetings and workshops, and contributions to biennial conference planning.

5. Other activities related to achievement of the Society objectives

Goal 5.1. To contribute to international awareness of plant pathology and international development through engagement with activities and initiatives of the International Society for Plant Pathology and Australasian development assistance

programs.

Benchmarks 5.1.

- APPS members continue to contribute to the ISPP Taskforce for Global Food Security initiatives, including the public forums at the International Congress for Plant Pathology, and contributions to the ISPP Journal, Food Security, and the ISPP Congress Challenge program. (http://www.isppweb.org/foodsecurity_background.asp).
- The APPS develops opportunities for member involvement in training and volunteer service for the development of plant pathology skills in Asia-Pacific.

Goal 5.2. To foster recognition and sound professionalism amongst members of the Australasian Plant Pathology Society.

Benchmarks 5.2.

- The APPS fosters and promotes recognition and awards that celebrate and honour achievements, and promote improvements in plant pathology and plant disease research, education, training and service delivery.

Benchmark 5.3.

- The APPS assesses the need for professional accreditation and/or a Code of Conduct for plant pathologists in Australasia, similar to those of the American Phytopathology Society, the Phytopathology Society of Japan and other Professional organisations. <http://www.apsnet.org/members/gov/conduct.asp>

Appendix 1. Record of past management and meetings and proposed locations up to 2020.