ISPP

International Society for Plant Pathology

(Dr Greg Johnson, President 2013-2018)

Report to ISPP from the Australasian Plant Pathology Society for 2013-2018.

Name of Society: Australasian Plant Pathology Society

Year Established: 1969

Web address for Society: www.appsnet.org

Name of personnel preparing report: Dr Brett Summerell, President (brett.summerell@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au)

Nominated Officers. Is the list for your society on the ISPP website correct? (http://www.isppweb.org/societies.asp) Yes/~~No*~~

Will a Society member be making corrections to the ISPP entry for your society on-line?

Yes/~~No~~*.

Society Contact: Dr Peter Williamson

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Society membership : 431 members in 2015; 472 members in 2016; 471 members in 2017

Report for 2013-2018.

Society Activities and publications.
The Australasian Plant Pathology Society (APPS) is dedicated to the advancement and dissemination of knowledge of plant pathology and its practice in Australasia. Australasia is interpreted in the broadest sense to include not only Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, but also the Indian, Pacific and Asian regions. Although the Society's activities are mainly focused on the Australasian region, many of the activities of our members are of international importance and significance. The Society has a regional structure, with each region organising local events such as meetings and workshops.

The Society owns two journals that are published by Springer: Australasian Plant Pathology and Australasian Plant Disease Notes. It also publishes Pathogen of the Month, featuring a pathogen of local importance.

- *Society Conferences and Workshops. 2013-2018*

APPS organises a biennial conference (held in 2013, 2015 and 2017) and satellite workshops. It also has a number of special interest groups that hold biennial

meetings. These special interest groups meetings are the Australasian Soilborne Diseases Symposium, Virology Workshop, Australian Association of Nematologists meeting, and Molecular and Physiological Plant Pathology meeting.

- *Funding opportunities*

There are a number of funding opportunities that support plant pathology in Australia. Australian agricultural industries pay a levy that is used to fund research and development, marketing, promotion, plant (and animal) health programs and residue testing. The money raised through levies and charges is matched by the Australian Government.
There are also funding opportunities to support plant pathology in neighbouring countries through the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), the Crawford Fund and AusAid.

Plant pathology in the Region Served by the Society 2008-2013
Biosecurity Australia and New Zealand, like other island nations, has to juggle issues of biosecurity and trade, which are particularly important because both export large volumes of high quality produce.

The Australian Government has responsibility for pre-border and border biosecurity, including quarantine and export certification. Australian states and territories and plant industries have a direct role in post-border biosecurity. The plant industries contribute through Plant Health Australia (PHA), a not-for-profit public company, formed by government and the major plant production industries. More information about these changes can be viewed at http://www.daff.gov.au and http://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/. The New Zealand Government oversees biosecurity through Biosecurity New Zealand (https://www.mpi.govt.nz/biosecuritynz/) while Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTSs) co-ordinate biosecurity matters though the Secretariat of the Pacific Community Land Resources Division and the Pacific Plant Protection Organisation

Research in plant biosecurity in Australia has been coordinated through the Plant Biosecurity Cooperative Research Centre for the period of this report but will finalise on June 30 2018. Its mission included undertaking research, education and training, enhancing awareness of biosecurity issues, and community and enterprise development. More information about the PBCRC can be viewed at http://www.crcplantbiosecurity.com.au. A final Science Exchange conference was held in Melbourne in May 2018 with a range of presentations summarising the research completed.

In New Zealand B3 (Better Border Biosecurity) was established as the premier science vehicle underpinning New Zealand's current biosecurity practice, and for anticipating and informing future challenges and opportunities, for plant-based border biosecurity. It delivers science-based solutions for supporting and protecting the international competitiveness of our export industries and protecting our unique terrestrial ecosystems. The B3 unincorporated joint venture integrates investment and expertise from five science agencies – Plant & Food Research , AgResearch, Scion, Landcare Research, the Bio-Protection Research Centre at Lincoln University - and three end-user partners - the Ministry for Primary Industries, the Department of Conservation and the New Zealand Forest Owners Association. Details on its programs can be accessed at https://www.b3nz.org/.

A serious new incursion of the Panama Disease caused by *Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. *cubense* Tropical Race 4 occurred in north Queensland in 2015, subsequent outbreaks occurred following that. A substantial biosecurity response occurred upon detection and is currently underway. Funding for research into detection, management and the development of resistant varieties followed funded by the Australian, Queensland, Northern Territory governments and from the banana industry through Horticulture Innovation.

The impact of a serious incursion of the Myrtle Rust pathogen (also known as Eucalyptus Rust and Guava Rust), *Austropuccinia psidii,* has been felt since first detection in April 2010. The pathogen has had a dramatic effect on some native plant species in the family Myrtaceae with some relatively common species now listed as critically endangered and on an extinction trajectory. In 2017 Myrtle Rust was detected in the North Island of New Zealand impacting on some native species as well as horticultural species. Efforts to eradicate the pathogen from New Zealand were not successful although it was able to be eradicated from Lord Howe Island. Another pathogen of New Zealand native plants, *Phytophthora agathidicida*, which causes Kauri Dieback, affected forests in the North Island of New Zealand with a high profile and resulted in the closure of access to some regions.

Grains industry in Australia. The most important agricultural industry in Australia is the grain industry (coarse cereals, pulses and oilseeds) producing about 35 million tonnes annually which is grown on about 20 million ha. Financial support for this industry is through a levy and matched funding from the Australian Government, and is administered through the Grains Research & Development Corporation (GRDC). GRDC is responsible for the planning and investing in this industry. It oversees the research, development and extension, with the aim of improving production, sustainability and profitability in this industry. It coordinates research undertaken at universities, in CSIRO, and in state departments of agriculture. A recent review has developed a National Grains RD&E Strategy that emphasises the importance of developing national centres for basic and strategic research, such as those in plant pathology. An example is the Australian Cereal Rust Control program which has a national centre at the University of Sydney, whilst development and extension are delivered locally. The report can be viewed at http://www.grdc.com.au/About-Us/Primary-Industries-Steering-Committee