Australasian Plant Virology Workshop

APVW 2026

Rendezvous, Scarborough, Perth WA

27 - 29 October 2026

APPS

Plant Health is Earth's Wealth

Program

Tuesday 27th October	
0800 – 1700	Registration Open — Pre-Function Foyer
0900 – 1000	**Session 1** – **Opening** — **Preston BC** **Chair:** Monica Kehoe
0900 – 0915	**Welcome and acknowledgement to country**
0915 - 1000	KEYNOTE: Living in a biodiversity hotspot – **Kingsley Dixon**
1000 – 1030	Morning Tea
1030 - 1115	**Session 2 – Diagnostics methods** — **Sponsored by:** DPIRD WA **Chair:** Ben Congdon
1030 – 1045	Unearthing elusive viruses in Australian cereals using high-throughput sequencing - **Narelle Nancarrow**
1045 – 1100	Pivoting to manage a potato certification scheme – the DDLS experience - **Craig Webster**
1100 - 1115	Update on the transition of banana germplasm diagnostics to the Post Entry Quarantine Facility (PEQ) at Mickleham - **Candace Elliott**
1115 - 1230	**Session 3 - Plant, virus and vector interactions** — **Sponsored by:** DPIRD WA **Chair:** Ben Congdon
1115 - 1130	Impact of drought and barley yellow dwarf virus infection on wheat physiology and morphology - **Brendan Vouadec**
1130 - 1145	Dual RNAi protection against barley yellow dwarf virus in wheat and barley - **Nora Derbal**
1145 - 1200	Improving narrow leafed lupin (*Lupinus angustifolius*) resistance to cucumber mosaic virus - **Elaine Gough**
1200 - 1215	Virus diversity in wild Agaricus species in Australia - **Madhav Jatin Chandarana**
1215 - 1230	Modifying plant sterols for resistance to insect pests and insect-transmitted viruses - **Jing Li**
1230– 1330	Lunch
1330 – 1500	**Session 4 - New tools and technologies** **Chair:** Asad Prodhan
1330 – 1400	One Biosecurity BHAG: Understanding plant virus vertical-transmission biology - **Robin MacDiarmid (Sponsored by Wine Australia)**
1400 – 1415	Spray-induced gene silencing as a strategy for virus and vector management in horticultural crops - **Karl Robinson**

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1415 – 1430	Discovery of novel plant antiviral agents against potato virus Y using an integrated screening strategy – **Mina Park**
1430 – 1445	Exploring the influence of colour cues on aphid behaviour and barley yellow dwarf virus-PAV movement in wheat - **Piotr Trebicki**
1445 – 1500	Improved vector and pathogen monitoring strategies for insect-borne diseases in horticultural production systems - **Brendan Rodoni**
1500 – 1530	Afternoon Tea
1530 – 1700	**Session 5 - Epidemiology, Ecology and Management** **Chair:** Nazanin Nazeri
1530 – 1545	Investigating novel strategies for grapevine virus management in Australia - **Chongxi Yang**
1545 - 1600	Turnip yellows virus resistance in Brassica napus – will it be durable? - **Benjamin Congdon**
1600 – 1615	Turnip mosaic virus canola resistance-breaking strain: Symptoms, seed and contact transmission, yield losses and seed germination **Roger Jones**
1615 – 1630	Challenges in virus management for canola and carinata in Queensland's subtropical climate – **Fiona Filardo**
1630 – 1700	**Panel discussion –** What does a next gen plant pathologist look like? **Chair:** Monica Kehoe – **Panellists:** Fiona Constable, Robin MacDiarmid, Santiago Elena
1800 – 2100	**Welcome Reception** **Sponsored by: Business Events Perth** Mentelle Balcony, Rendezvous
Wednesday 28th October	
0800 – 1630	Registration Open
0830 – 1000	**Session 6 – Biosecurity** **Preston BC Room** **Chair:** Margaret Uloth **Sponsored by:** Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
0830 – 0845	Whole genome informed diagnostics distinguish mild and orange stem pitting RB2 variants of citrus tristeza virus in Australia – **Mark Jackson**
0845 – 0900	TAS-AP: A portable Targeted Amplicon Sequencing Analysis pipeline for rapid plant pathogen detection – **Tonny Kinene**
0900 -0915	MECAR: An accessible metagenomic diagnostic platform - **Asad Prodhan**
0915 – 0920	A new recombinant begomovirus in Indonesian chillies – **Kathleen Crew**
0920 - 0925	Linking viruses found by environmental metagenomics with physical specimens – tobamoviruses in Queensland – **John Thomas**
0925 - 0930	An update from Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries – **Candace Elliot**
0930 - 1000	**Meeting Part 1**: Outlining options for APVW-APPS alignment
1000– 1030	Morning Tea
1030 - 1115	KEYNOTE: A four-decade journey of monitoring and surveillance of viruses that cause yellowing and stunting of legume crops in the West Asia and North Africa (WANA) region - **Safaa Kumari**
1115 – 1230	**Session 7 - Plant, virus and vector interactions 2** **Sponsored by:** Qiagen **Chair:** Alistair Hall
1115 – 1130	Turnip yellows virus infection increases cucumber mosaic virus disease sensitivity in narrow-leafed lupin - **Nazanin Nazeri**
1130 – 1145	Turnip yellows virus-associated RNAs in crop hosts: prevalence, transmission and development of molecular tools - **Mianmian Wang**
1145 – 1200	Lineage-resolved surveillance of the wheat curl mite-transmitted virus complex in New South Wales - **Tobiasz Druciarek**
1200 – 1230	**Panel discussion –** Effective communications to stakeholders **Chair:** Ben Congdon **- Panellists:** Nicole Thompson, Brendan Rodoni; Alan Little
1230 – 1330	Lunch

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1330 - 1400	Navigating virus challenges and technological opportunities at foundation plant services - **Maher Al Rwanih (Sponsored by Wine Australia)**
1400 – 1500	**Session 8 - Diagnostic methods 2** **Sponsored by:** Grains Research Development Corporation **Chair:** Tonny Kinene
1400 – 1415	From blot to base pairs: Sequencing viral genomes from tissue blot immunoassay membranes - **Tahnee Saunders**
1415 – 1430	Best practice sampling and virus detection in Australian grapevine propagation assets - **Roshni Rohra**
1430 – 1445	Incorporating High Throughput Sequencing into everyday plant virology diagnostics - **Monica Kehoe**
1445 – 1450	Producing synthetic monoclonal antibodies for banana bunchy top virus diagnostics – **Nga Tran**
1450 - 1455	Sampling irrigation water to detect and monitor vegetable plant pathogens – **Addam Corallo**
1455 – 1530	Afternoon Tea
1530 – 1630	**Session 9 - Epidemiology, Ecology and Management 2** **Sponsored by:** Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries **Chair:** Craig Webster
1530 – 1545	Long-term surveillance of viruses in pulses in western Victoria - **Mohammad Aftab**
1545 – 1600	The epidemiology of canola viruses in Victoria, Australia - **Narelle Nancarrow**
1600 – 1615	Replicative fitness and virulence differences among turnip yellows virus isolates in susceptible and resistant canola - **Sharmin Rahman**
1615 - 1630	Distribution and host range of turnip yellows virus in South Australian weeds: Novel detections in Poaceae and other potential hosts – **Nicole Thompson**
1800 – 2130	APVW Dinner The Sandbar Scarborough Beach
Thursday 29th October	
0800 – 1500	Registration Open
0845 – 1000	**Session 10 – New tools and technologies 2** **Sponsored by:** Grains Research Development Corporation **Chair:** Chi Cao
0845 – 0900	Pathogenic characteristics and molecular mechanisms of tomato spotted wilt virus resistance of *Capsicum annuum* - **Jooeun Kim**
0900 – 0915	Streamlining diagnostics for horticultural seeds imported into Australia - **Anjali Zaveri**
0915 - 0930	What makes a great bioinformatics workflow? - **Bradley Pease**
0930 - 0935	The C4 protein of Papaya leaf curl Guandong virus is essential for symptom induction and RNA silencing suppression - **Ju-Yeon Yoon**
0935 - 0940	Evaluating coloured sticky traps for aphids vector surveillance under semi-field conditions - **Piotr Trebicki**
0940 - 1000	**Meeting Part 2** - Discussion recap and vote on options presented previously
1000 – 1030	Morning Tea
1030 - 1115	KEYNOTE: Host aging, immunosenescence and the evolution of RNA virus' virulence - **Santiago Elena**
1115 – 1230	**Session 11 – Diagnostic methods/Diversity and Evolution** **Chair:** Elaine Gough
1115 – 1130	A probe-based multiplex qRT-PCR assay for viruses infecting Australian and exotic honeybees – **Sadia Iqbal**
1130 – 1145	Genetic analysis of bean yellow mosaic virus from Australia: New genomic and biological insights, and evolutionary dynamics - **Solomon Maina**
1145 – 1200	Enhancing diagnostic efficiency and scope in virus surveillance using high throughput sequencing – **Chi Cao**
1200 – 1230	**Panel discussion –** Importance of collections **Chair:** Craig Webster **- Panellists:** Safaa Kumari, Maher Al Rwahnih, Candace Elliott

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1230 - 1330	Lunch
1330 - 1400	Landscape ecology shapes treehopper-borne disease dynamics – **Marc Fuchs (Sponsored by Wine Australia)**
1400 – 1500	**Session 12 – Diagnostic methods/Diversity and Evolution –** **Sponsored by:** DPIRD WA **Chair:** Sharmin Rahman
1400 - 1415	An assessment of diagnostic molecular assays for detection of grapevine berry inner necrosis virus detection in Australia - **Sumit Chahal**
1415 – 1430	Rapid, field-deployable diagnostic for plant viruses using microneedle technology - **Nawar Shamaya**
1430 – 1445	Improving plant virus detection from trapped insect vectors - **Flavia Sarti Bonora**
1445 – 1500	**Closing remarks**
1500 - 1530	Afternoon Tea