



From the Director

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to another edition of the monthly RSB newsletter, by which we share recent events and achievements in the school.

Over recent weeks I've been signing off on lots of travel requests to attend national and international conferences. I've just been at the annual meeting of the Genetics Society of Australasia and I know many RSB researchers were at the International Congress of Plant Molecular Biology in Cairns last week. RSB was strongly represented among both invited and contributed papers at both meetings and at many other recent and forthcoming conferences as well. This is great to see as it affirms the ongoing strength of our research and our commitment to maintaining the global connectedness of what we do. Attendance at major national and international meetings is especially important for our Early-Career Researchers so that they can build their networks, independent of current mentors. Many have received support from the DVCRI and I encourage Group Leaders to do all that they can to enable this, despite budget constraints.

So, on that... Since I returned in mid-July, there has been a series of meetings with RSB Executive and Faculty to find the least damaging response to the requirement that we reduce our 2024 spending. This is a tough gig and I'm grateful to all concerned for their collegial approach. Our priorities in meeting the immediate challenge are to pay salaries and minimise the impact on our research students and postdocs. We have made steep cuts to research allocations for Group Leaders while maintaining most of our support for students and postdocs. At the same time, we aim to reduce costs for undergraduate teaching, without diminishing quality, and also to spend less on school operations. More detail can be found on the RSB Intranet via [Reports](#) from RSB Executive and the [Agenda](#) of the Q2 Faculty meeting. I am trying to be as open as possible about all of this. We are all in this together and I would welcome suggestions from any and all.

In the meantime, enjoy the mid-year teaching break!

Craig

Grants awarded

Ute Roessner (PS) is one of the Chief Investigators for the successful [ARC Training Centre for Smart and Sustainable Horticulture](#) Grant awarded by the Australian Research Council and valued at \$5,000,000.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Aude Fahrer** (BSB) who was presented with the Radiation Oncology Private Practice Fund Award for the best pre-clinical oral presentation at the [Canberra Health Annual Research Meeting](#)

([CHARM](#)) annual dinner. The award was presented by the ACT Minister for Health, Rachel Stephen-Smith.

Congratulations to **Benjamin Silke** (Williams Group, PS) who was awarded a Pathway Scholarship valued at \$5000 by the Australian Institute of Nuclear Science and Engineering (AINSE).

Congratulations to **Jochen Zeil** (E&E) who was awarded the Editor's Choice Award 2024 by the Journal of Comparative Physiology A, Springer Verlag for the category of Original Paper for their publication:

Zeil J (2023). Views from 'crabworld': the spatial distribution of light in a tropical mudflat. *J Comp Physiol A*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00359-023-01653-7>

Jochen also came runners up for the category of Review Article for their publication:

Zeil J (2023). Visual navigation: properties, acquisition and use of views. *J Comp Physiol A*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00359-022-01599-2>

PhDs awarded

Daniel Yu (Williams Group, PS), *Structural investigation of the interaction between SIX effectors and resistance proteins*.

Imelda Forteza (Mathesius Group, BSB).

News



Penelope Olsen's (Cockburn Group, E&E) new research on how Norfolk Island green parrots use pungent plants to "anoint" themselves continues to be widely published by various media outlets, read the full article: [High fliers: pleasure-seeking parrots are using aromatic plants, stinky ants and alcohol](#).

The Canberra Daily has published an article on **Julia Penndorf's** (Aplin Group, E&E) research in [The Clever Cockie Project](#), read [Who's a Clever Cockie](#) for more information.

John Rathjen (PS) spoke to ABC's "What The Duck" podcast about how plants fight off infections and viruses, listen to the episode [Can plants get cancer?](#) to hear more.

Paul Cooper (E&E) presented at the Adelaide Hills Shiraz Symposium, held at Longview Vineyard in the Adelaide hills, on the feeding and ecology of grape vine scales and scale insects in shiraz.

From the 18th-20th of June, the Training Centre for Future Crops Development held its 2nd annual meeting at the University of Adelaide's (UoA) North Terrace campus. The meeting involved EMCR's and Chief Investigators from ANU and UoA as well as industry partners and a delegation from Indonesia as part of the KONEKSI grant connecting the Training Centre with Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), the National Research and Innovation Agency, Indonesia (BRIN) and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).



The meeting was a huge success, continuing to build relationships across the board, showcasing some stellar achievements and providing space for a thought provoking professional intensive course looking at experimental

design in the context of responsible research and inclusive innovation. It was great to see how the Training Centres sense of community has grown over that last 18 months and how this has translated into research and collaborative momentum. Anecdotally, this was the “Best meeting yet!”thanks largely to a team effort and thoughtful leadership.

Outreach



On the 17th of June, **Eric Pereira** (Schwessinger Group, PS) delivered a practical investigation focusing on gel electrophoresis and a talk on biotechnology in the biology teaching lab for seventeen HSC students and their teacher from Trinity Catholic College, Goulburn. This session was conducted together with **Tammy Armour** (Laboratory Services Team, BTLC), **Melanie Trinick** (Laboratory Services Team, BTLC) and the BTLC Team.

From the IDEA Committee

NAIDOC Week

The 7th-14th of July is NAIDOC Week. NAIDOC week is a celebration of First Nations people and an opportunity for all to learn more about the world's oldest, continuous living cultures. Look out for local events and to find out more see the NAIDOC week website.

Acknowledgement of Country

Chairs/hosts of events and seminars are encouraged to include an Acknowledgement of Country, prior to introducing any speakers. If there are multiple events in a series (e.g. lectures), it is appropriate to only include an Acknowledgement at the first gathering.

We need your IDEAs!

The IDEA committee is looking for more members,

particularly PhD students, Early Mid-Career Researchers (EMCRs) and professional staff. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact **Alison Bentley** (PS) Alison.Bentley@anu.edu.au with an expression of interest.

Research Strategy Corner

If you are planning on applying for an ARC grant in the next year, be sure to check out the revised ARC scheme calendar released in June, ARC Scheme Calendar 24-25. Be sure to complete the Research Office's (RO) permanent Notice of Intent (NoI) for grant schemes so you can stay informed about updates, deadlines, and resources. Be sure to bookmark the CoS RO webpage for all things research grants.

Highlights from revised ARC scheme calendar:

Industry Fellowships (all career stages will open and close in parallel, open 24th September and CRO final deadline, 5th November).

Discovery Projects – 2 stages again, Eols are due in December (CRO final deadline, 9th December).

Linkage Project deadline has been moved forward to mid September! (CRO final deadline, 10th September).

DECRA's are anticipated to be due in early March 2025.

Budgets are tight, with little extra cash to pay for publishing. Familiarise yourself with the current Read Access Publish (RAP) agreements signed with ANU to facilitate your research publications.

RSB Group Leaders: Friendly reminder that the deadline to review and complete your Research Profile+ (RP+) is June 28th (RP+ [sharepoint and resources](#)). I will run a couple drop in sessions to help RSB academics troubleshoot and polish profile pages during the 1st and 3rd week of July, with details to follow via email. RP+ profile pages available to HDR and professional staff by request after July 1st.

Your Research Strategist,

Charlie

Papers

Braby MF. A new species of *Paralucia* Waterhouse & Turner, 1905 (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae) from the highlands of south-eastern Australia. *Austral Entomology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/aen.12688>.

Chung M-HJ, Mahmud-Al-Hasan M, Jennions MD, Head ML. Effects of inbreeding and elevated rearing temperatures on strategic sperm investment. *Behavioral Ecology*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/beheco/arae044>.

Denno BD, Gullan PJ, Hodgson CJ et al. Douglas J. Williams at 100 – an appreciation. *Zootaxa*. <https://doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.5468.3.1>.

Ewart KM, Ho SYW, Chowdhury A-A, Jaya FR et al. Pervasive relaxed selection in termite genomes. *Proc. R. Soc. B*. <http://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2023.2439>.

Fan Y, Tcherkez G, Scafaro AP, Furbank RT, von Caemmerer S, Atkin OK et al. Variation in leaf dark respiration among C3 and C4 grasses is associated with use of different substrates. *Plant Physiology*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/plphys/kiac064>.

Maier AG, Schulreich DC & Rug M. Curiosities take the stage - role-play in parasitology teaching. *Trends in Parasitology*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pt.2024.05.010>.

Moosavi-Nezhad M, Homayoonzadeh M, Tsaniklidis G, Roessner U et al. Enhancing the shelf life of bell peppers through preharvest fertigation with calcium and potassium thiosulfate: A focus on antioxidant and cell wall degradation enzymes. *Journal of Agriculture and Food Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jafr.2024.101262>.

Niu S, Chen W, Liang LL, Atkin OK et al. Emergent unimodality in the temperature response of ecosystem respiration. *Nature Earth Environment Reviews*.

Outram MA, Chen J, Broderick S, Li Z, Aditya S, Tasneem N, Ericsson DJ & Williams SJ et al. AvrSr27 is a zinc-bound effector with a modular structure important for immune recognition. *New Phytologist*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/nph.19801>.

Rottet S, Rourke LM, Phua SY, Yee S, Nguyen ND, Long B, Price GD et al. Engineering the cyanobacterial ATP-driven BCT1 bicarbonate transporter for functional targeting to C3 plant chloroplasts. *Journal of Experimental Botany*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jxb/erae234>.

Yao L, von Caemmerer S & Danila FR. Automated and high throughput measurement of leaf stomatal traits in canola. *bioRxiv*. <https://doi.org/10.1101/2024.06.12.598768>.