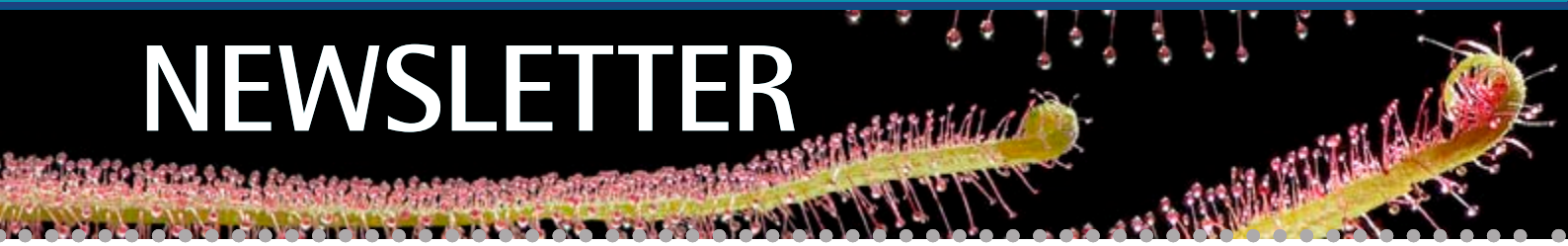
RESEARCH SCHOOL OF BIOLOGY

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

NEWSLETTER



ISSUE 17 | 07 MAY 2010

NEWS

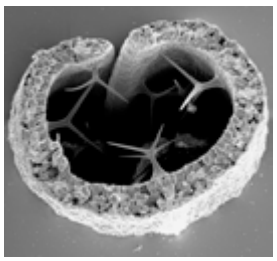
RSB PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

The inaugural RSB photo exhibition, organised by Pat Blackwell, EEG, was held on Wednesday 28 April. The 'people's choice' winners were:

Best Plant photo: **Brian Gunning** for his '*Drosera binata.*'

Best animal photo: **Rob Lanfear** 'This is a snail, in France'

Best microscopic structure photo: **Maria Alonso**, for her mutant *Arabidipsis* leaf SEM.



Best environmental photo: **Jessica Bolton**, '*Green Bag??? The dilemna of caring for the environment.*

Entries were to fit the topic 'Nature and Science Photography'. The event was very well attended, and staff and students voted for their favourite pictures.

Thanks are extended to Pat and her helpers for all their work in putting the exhibition together.

EEG MASQUERADE BALL

RSB Postgraduates held a masquerade ball on 17 April with the theme 'Biological Extravagance'. The masks made by everyone were fantastic, with the following special awards given:

'**Red king award** - least likely to win a mate choice competition' went to Zac Sequoia, for his deep sea algae-of-some-form paper plate mask.
'**Nisshon maru award** - most likely to be harpooned and eaten in the name of science' went to Andrew Kahn for his angler fish mask.
'**Try hard award** - best non-mammalian/non-avian mask' went to Suzie Sequoia for her jelly-fish mask.
'**Manakin award** - best courtship dance' went to Brian Mautz for both his flash dance and hammer dance (priceless Brian!!).
'**Peacock award** - most beautiful but most likely to cause death' went to Rosiev Sheba for her bird of paradise mask.
'**Best Mask**', which apparently took more than 14 hours to make, had to go to Renee Catullo, for her similian nudibranch mask.

Thanks again to everyone, for those who helped and for all those who came along to make it a very memorable night.

Photos: Mike Whitehead.

CONGRATULATIONS

Christina Spry, Saliba Lab, BSB, and Natalie Spillman, Kirk Lab, BSB, have won National Young Scientist Forum Fellowships to attend the OzBio2010 conference in Melbourne later this year. The Fellowships are sponsored by ASBMB and there were only eight places available nationally - congratulations to both.

WELCOME

Diana Garnica was awarded an ANU HDR Merit Scholarship to pursue PhD studies, and recently joined John Rathjen's lab, PS, to develop her project on stripe rust molecular biology. Diana has a B.Sc. in Microbiology from Universidad de Los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia, and was awarded a Graduate Teaching Assistantship at the same university, receiving Cum Laude M.Sc. Degree in Biological Science. She joined the M.Sc. degree program at the National Centre of Biotechnology (Madrid-Spain) to pursue graduate studies in the Department of Plant Molecular Genetics.

LAB LEADERS LUNCH

Over 50 Lab Leaders from across RSB attended a lunch, organised and catered (brilliantly) by Pat Blackwell, Michael Jennions, and members of their labs in EEG. The three-course lunch was held in the autumn sunshine on the lawns at the back of the Robertson building and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

NOTICES

PLANT BIOLOGY SEMINAR SERIES
Plant Industry Lecture Theatre, CSIRO

12 May, 1pm
'Increase of resistant starch in barley'
Dr Zhongyi Li, CSIRO, PI

19 May, 1pm
'Molecular studies of lignin metabolism in *Leucaena leuccocephala*'
Dr Aran Yadav, National Chemical Laboratory, Pune.

These and other PBSS seminars can be viewed on RSB's Events page at: http://biology.anu.edu.au/News/Events.php

HAPPY HOUR
Friday 14 May, 5pm
Birt-Weidemann Building.
Free snacks and cheap beer.
All Welcome.

This newsletter is distributed fortnightly by email and hard-copy, and is archived at http://biology.anu.edu.au/Newsletter.

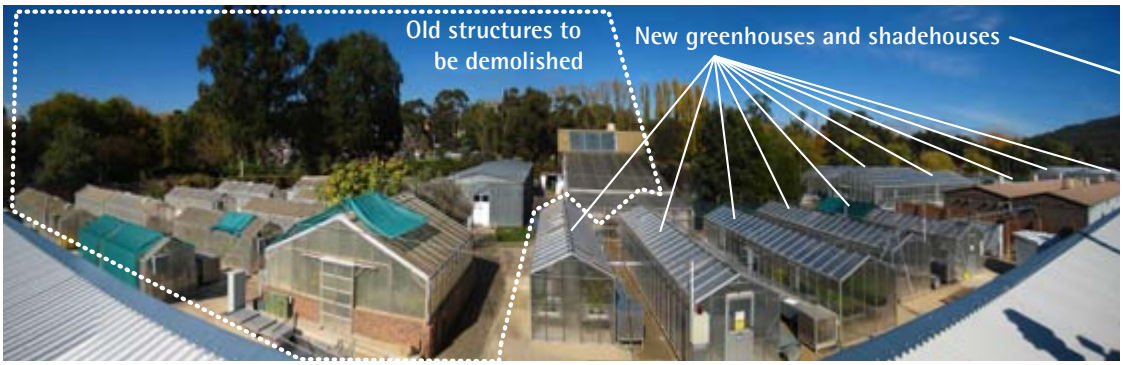
Contact Diane Whitehead to be added to the mailing list, and to submit material for future issues.

NEW GREENHOUSE FACILITIES FOR RSB

The new Stage B greenhouse built to comply to OGTR PC 2 standards is now in the commissioning phase with the Plants Services staff working hard to set up the greenhouses with equipment and check all automated systems. Apart from the 18 standard size compartments it also has 4 larger rooms with 2 of the larger rooms having roller benching. All compartments have gas heating and evaporative cooling, automated pneumatic roof vents and thermal screens and are connected to an environmental monitoring system and a small weather system. Once these have been commissioned we will begin to move from the Dickson Street Plant Culture site into the new greenhouses and shade areas.

Planning for Stage C is well underway with a master plan for the rear compound plant growth facilities and supporting infrastructure posted on Intranet RSB Noticeboard (view plans here). The current small old hail damaged greenhouses along with the beehouse, the MAG hut and some sheds will be demolished to clear the site for new in-ground hydraulic services, new sheds, an AQIS compliant waste handling facility, soil bins, shadehouses, gravel and field plots. The project will deliver an additional 8 OGTR PC 2 compliant greenhouses, relocation of the 4 compartment greenhouse from the Plant Culture site (compliant to PC2 and AQIS QC 2), 6 reverse cycle air conditioned and plexiglass covered high quality PC 2 compliant greenhouses with attached PC 2 compliant laboratory and potting and planting areas, 4 x further AQIS QC 2 greenhouses, and additional shadehousing and soil bins. Costing and drawings have amost been completed and we will be able to determine how much of this masterplan we can undertake with the funding available.

On the "green side" we are harvesting all water run off from the greenhouses and storing it in a large underground concrete tank. This project was an initiative of Plant Services and negotiated and funded by ANU Green through F & S at no cost to us. The water is to be used by us for cleaning purposes externally and ANU gardening will use it for watering gardens, grounds and plants outside our compound. A master plan for construction of plant growth facilities and supporting infrastructure has been posted on the Intranet RSB Noticeboard.



PAPERS ACCEPTED

Cheng X., O'Neill H.C. Oncogenesis and cancer stem cells: current opinions and future directions. *Journal of Cellular and Molecular Medicine.*

Downie, M.J., El Bissati, K., Bobenchik, A.M., Lochlainn, L.N., Amerik, A., Zufferey, R., Kirk, K. and Ben Mamoun, C. PfNT2: a permease of the equilibrative nucleoside transporter family in the endoplasmic reticulum of *Plasmodium falciparum. Journal of Biological Chemistry.*

Goldie, X., Gillman, L., Crisp, M., Wright, S. Evolutionary speed limited by water in arid Australia. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B.*

Greenup, A.G., Sasani, S., Oliver, S.N., Talbot, M.J., Dennis, E.S., Hemming, M.N., Trevaskis, B. ODDSOC2 is a MADS box floral repressor that is down-regulated by vernalization in temperate cereals. *Plant Physiology.*

Harrison, M.T., Kelman, W.M., Moore, A.D. and Evans, J.R. Grazing winter wheat relieves plant water stress and transiently enhances photosynthesis. *Functional Plant Biology.*

Hemmi, J.M. and Pfeil, A. A multi-stage anti-predator response increases information on predation risk. *Journal of Experimental Biology.*

Narayan, R., Blackman, L.M., Shan, W., Hardham, A.R. *Phytophthora nicotianae* transformants lacking dynein light chain 1 produce non-flagellate zoospores. *Fungal Genetics and Biology.*

Oliver, R.P. and Solomon, P.S. New developments in pathogenicity and virulence of necrotrophs. *Current Opinion in Plant Biology.*

Tan, J.K.H., Quah, B.J.C., Griffiths, K.L., Periasamy, P., Hey, Y-Y. , O'Neill, H.C. Identification of a novel antigen cross-presenting cell in spleen: a counterpart to cells produced in long-term culture. *Journal of Cellular and Molecular Medicine.*

Editing: Kiaran Kirk, Diane Whitehead & Sharyn Wragg. Design & layout: Sharyn Wragg. Banner image: Brian Gunning. *Drosera binata* (manipulated for banner).