

NEWSLETTER

NEWS

EUREKA PRIZE AND L'OREAL AWARD

Rowena Martin, BSB, has been awarded the [Eureka Prize for](#)



[Early Career Research](#) for her work on the mechanism by which mutations in a particular protein gives rise to the phenomenon of chloroquine resistance in the human malaria parasite, *Plasmodium falciparum*. The \$10,000 prize is awarded for outstanding scientific research conducted by an individual or groups of early career researchers who are 35 or younger.

In the same week Rowena was also awarded one of three [L'Oreal Australia Fellowships for women in science](#). The three L'Oreal Fellowship winners were selected from over 160 nominees. The Fellowships "are awarded to women who have shown scientific excellence in their career to date" and provide \$20,000 "for early-career women scientists to consolidate their career and rise to leadership positions in science".

Brendan Choat, Marilyn Ball lab, PS, has been awarded a grant from the Australian Synchrotron to work at the Advanced Light Source in Berkeley California. The grant was awarded through the International Synchrotron Access Program and is entitled 'Visualising xylem functional repair and elucidating its mechanisms in a range of woody and herbaceous plants.' The project is part of an ongoing collaborative study with colleagues at the University of California and the Advanced Light Source aimed at visualizing the mysterious process of embolism refilling in xylem vessels. The use of synchrotron radiation for micro computed tomography (microCT) will allow for real time imaging of embolism repair in unprecedented detail in living plants.

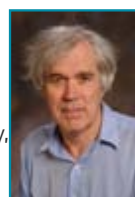
Brendan also had a cover article with collaborator Jarmila Pittermann (UC Santa Cruz) for *Plant Physiology* this month. The [journal cover image](#) (also the banner image for this newsletter) was collected at the Centre for Advanced Microscopy.



Peter Solomon has been awarded \$500,000 over the next 5 years from the Grains Research and Development Corporation to study the mode-of-action of effector proteins from the wheat pathogens *Stagonospora nodorum* and *Pyrenophora tritici-repentis*.



Research by Ian Clark, BSB, on the roles of TNF in brain dysfunction and disease will feature on the "60 Minutes" program this Sunday, 29 August (Channel 9, 7:30-8:30pm).



FAREWELL TO 'THE GREEN SHED'

For the last year and a half several groups from the BSB division have been using a temporary facility for rodent work on the far side of the South Oval. At last, the long walk across campus in all weather is over and all groups are now settled into the Wes Whitten. Thanks go to Kelly and her team (and Kathy Smith before the school merger) for their support during this period and for the smooth move into the new facility.

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CONGRATULATIONS

Amy Davidson, PhD student in the Nicotra lab, EEG, was awarded the prize for the best student talk at the Botanical Society of America meeting in Providence Rhode Island in early August for her presentation entitled: "Do invasive species show higher phenotypic plasticity than native species, and is it adaptive? A meta-analysis."

Tegan Dolstra, from Rowena Martin's lab, BSB, won a student poster prize at last week's International Congress of Parasitology for her poster entitled "Introduction of just three mutations into the '*Plasmodium falciparum*' chloroquine resistance transporter' is sufficient to induce chloroquine transport".

Anne Cochrane recently joined RSB (July 2010) as a PhD student in the Nicotra lab, EEG, and has been awarded a National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility:Terrestrial Biodiversity Network Application for Funding for a PhD Short Collaborative Visit to travel to the South African National Botanical Institute (SANBI).

Jianbin Wang, Samuel Inverso and Matthew Harrison have all submitted their PhD theses.

WELCOME

Craig Moritz - Visiting Fellow with Scott Keogh, EEG, until December 2010

Alexis Billings - Technical Officer with Rob Magrath, EEG, for 3 months

Shawn Laffan - Visiting Fellow with Mike Crisp, EEG

Adam Sheridan - Visiting Student with Paul Cooper, EEG, until the end of the year

Angelingifta Robinson - Visiting Scholar with David Gordon, EEG, for 6 months.

NOTICES

VALE

Malcolm Whitecross died on 7 August, as a result of heart problems. Malcolm was a member of ANU staff for some thirty years, and was Head of the Botany Department for some time before the Botany/Zoology/Biochemistry merger. Following the merger Malcolm continued to teach Botany in BoZo. Malcolm interacted with many people in RSBS, BaMBi and CSIRO until his retirement, about ten years ago.

DIRECTOR'S SEMINAR SERIES

School seminar:

Evolutionary biogeography & conservation on a rapidly changing planet.

Tuesday 31 August at 1pm in the Robertson Lecture Theatre. Professor Craig Moritz. [\[View flyer\]](#). All staff and students are encouraged to attend.

TOURS OF THE NEW BIOLOGY BUILDING

There will be tours of the new building next Tuesday and/or Thursday at 3:30pm (August 31- September 2), in groups of 15 people or less. Could those interested in joining a tour and looking around the new facilities please email [Helen Muirhead](#).

NEW PROFILE CMS AND PROJECTS DATABASE FOR RSB

A new CMS (content managed system) allowing staff members to create and manage their own web pages on the RSB external website will be available from next week. The initial roll-out will be for the 76 lab leaders in the School. The system will allow the creation of profile pages from a template. The template downloads data from the RSB Workbooks and the ISI researcher database, and links to a projects database which enables each lab to enter and maintain a series of project descriptions, with the option of 'tagging' projects as being suitable for different student levels (eg, Honours, PhD, etc.). This approach will allow research projects to be filtered and displayed on a range of web-pages, such as student pages, research pages, Graduate Study Field pages etc.

An example of the new CMS profile pages can be seen here, and at: http://biology.anu.edu.au/david_tscharke/

All profile pages will have the format http://biology.anu.edu.au/firstname_surname. Editing the page is very straightforward and involves simply logging in from the page with U-number and HORUS password or, alternatively, through the URL <http://biology.anu.edu.au/CMS>.

Profile page templates will soon be made available for other members of the School.

The CMS profile page has been developed by Sharyn Wragg in conjunction with the RSB Web Committee. The CMS script, the Projects Database and repairs to the RSB workbooks and database were coded by Matt Doulgeris (RSB IT). It has been achieved in a short time-frame in order to be available for the current student recruiting round, and Matt and Sharyn are continuing to refine the template and remove bugs. At this stage Firefox or Safari are the preferred web browsers for using this system. Sharyn is preparing support documentation which should be available from next week. If you have any questions regarding the profile CMS or Projects database, please contact [Sharyn](#).

Right: Example profile page.



PAPERS ACCEPTED

Anthes, N., David, P., Auld, J.R., Hoffer, J.N.A., Jarne, P., Koene, J.M., Kokko, H., Lorenzi, M.C., Pelissié, B., Sprenger, D., Staikou, A. & Schärer, L. Bateman gradients in hermaphrodites: An extended approach to quantify sexual selection. *American Naturalist*.

Cloherly, S.L., Mustari, M.J., Rosa, M.G.P. and Ibbotson, M. R. Effects of saccades on visual processing in primate MSTd. *Vis. Res.*

Crous, K., Zaragoza-Castells, J., Ellsworth, D., Tissue, D.T., Tjoelker, M.G., Barton, C.V.M., Gimeno, T.E., and Atkin, O.K. Seasonal acclimation of leaf respiration in *Eucalyptus saligna* trees: impacts of elevated atmospheric CO₂ and summer drought. *Global Change Biology*.

Gan, P.H.P., Rafiqi, M., Ellis, J.G., Jones, D.A., Hardham, A.R., and Dodds, P.N. Lipid binding activities of flax rust AvrM and AvrL567 effectors. *Plant Signaling and Behavior*.

Reaney, L., Drayton, J.M., Jennions, M.D. The role of body size and fighting experience in predicting contest behaviour in the black field cricket, *Teleogryllus commodus*. *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology*.

Tan, K.-C., Oliver, R.P., Solomon, P.S. and Moffat, C.S. *Proteinaceous necrotrophic* effectors in fungal virulence. *Functional Plant Biology*.

van Kleef, J.P., Cloherly, S.L. and Ibbotson, M.R. Complex cell receptive fields: evidence for a hierarchical mechanism. *J. Physiol.*