

NEWSLETTER



NEWS

NEW APPOINTMENTS

The following people are to be appointed as the Senior Technical Officers in the three RSB Divisions:

BSB: **Hector Rodriguez**
 EEG: **Riccardo Natoli**
 PS: **Stephanie McCaffery**

Garry Mayo is to be appointed to a School-wide role, overseeing all compliance and OHS issues in the School, coordinating and facilitating all aspects of OHS relating to laboratories and fieldwork.

Scott Keogh (EEG) is to take on the role of Assoc. Director HDR and will, in this role, have oversight of all HDR (i.e. postgraduate research student) issues in the School.

KANGO WORKSHOP AT RSB THIS WEEK

Thirty people from ANU, Melbourne and Sydney nodes of the ARC Centre of Excellence in Kangaroo Genomics gathered, with four US and Japanese collaborators, to discuss milestones and progress. We finalised plans to consolidate and assemble the kangaroo genome sequence data, and to publish the kangaroo sequence, accompanied by 28 companion papers describing the use of

sequence data to explore aspects of mammalian biology.

We also discussed plans to bid for a new centre that would build on the success of KanGO, and extend its aims into mammal genome biology.

Below: KanGo Director and Deputy Director, Professors Marilyn Renfree (University of Melbourne) and Jenny Graves (ANU).



CONGRATULATIONS

Dr Gwen Allison and colleagues in the Medical School have won an ALTC award for "Programs that Enhance Learning" for the Medical School Research Projects Initiative.

Professor **Aidan Byrne** has chosen **Wee-Ho Lim** as one of two PhD students from the ANU College of Science to present his poster on ANU Day at Fudan University in Shanghai on 3 November. Wee-Ho is a PhD student in the Roderick Lab (PS) and has been researching water in the environment. Wee-Ho

has also been judged runner-up in the Australian Water Association Postgraduate Student Awards for 2009 for his research in producing the Global Water Atlas.

RSB STUDENT CONFERENCE

The first RSB Student Conference was a great success, with all participants impressed with the quality of the presentations and the excellent organisation of the event. Special thanks to **Shafagh Al Nadaf, Sarojini Balkrishna, Renee Catullo, Gabriel James, Natalie Spillman and Anton Wasson** forming the local organising committee, who put together the program and organised the conference. See overleaf.

EVOLUTION '09

Australasian Evolution Society Meeting Best student talk: **Michael Whitehead**, Peakall lab (EEG) *Novel methods provide insights into the mating system of sexually deceptive orchids.*

GRANT AWARDED

Erick Strauss (Stellenbosch University) and **Kevin J Saliba** (BSB) *Exploiting the utilization of coenzyme A and pantothenate by the malaria parasite P. falciparum as an antimalarial drug target.* South African Malaria Initiative. R897,986 (~AUD130,000) 2010-2012.

ISSUE 9 | 23 OCTOBER 2009

WELCOME

Plant Sciences is pleased to welcome Lab Leaders [Iain Searle](#) and [John Rathjen](#).

Iain will take up a QEII ARC research fellowship to study epigenetic mechanisms in plants. His most recent appointment was at the University of Cambridge, Plant Sciences Department, where he studied cell-to-cell movement of an RNA silencing signal in *Arabidopsis*. Prior to that, Iain was a postdoctoral fellow in the Max Planck Institute in Koeln, Germany where he worked on the regulation of flowering-time.

John will take up an ARC Future Fellowship to study plant-bacterial and plant-fungal interactions. John comes to us from the Sainsbury Laboratory in Norwich, UK.

The Tscharke lab (BSB) welcomes **Natasha Noel** from Newfoundland, which is the most easterly province in Canada. Natasha completed her Master of Science in Medicine Degree at Memorial University of Newfoundland studying autoimmune thyroiditis in a mouse model and then moved to work with HCV and HIV as a research assistant. She started in the lab this month as a research assistant and will be helping with projects related to immune responses to vaccinia virus.

The Behm (BSB) and Mathesius (PS) labs welcome **Martijn van der Linde**, who has recently arrived from Utrecht, The Netherlands. Martijn is a final-year student from the Institute for Life Sciences & Chemistry, Utrecht University of Applied Sciences. He will work as an undergraduate intern until May 2010, undertaking a research project on molecular biology of plant-parasitic nematodes.

Regan Ashby is rejoining Ian Morgan's lab (BSB) as a PDF, after two years in the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Tuebingen, where he was supported by a European Union Marie Curie Fellowship. He will investigate molecular pathways controlling eye growth in the chicken, particularly the ability of light to prevent the development of myopia.

NOTICES

PLANT BIOLOGY SEMINAR SERIES

28 October, 1pm
 Robertson Lecture Theatre
Engineering of long-chain polyunsaturated fatty acids in plant oils.

James Petrie, CSIRO PI
 View more RSB events here:
<http://biology.anu.edu.au/Events>

HAPPY HOUR

The next Happy Hour will be Friday 30 October, 4:30pm, Building 46.

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 submit material for future issues.

RSB STUDENT CONFERENCE

The inaugural Research School of Biology Student Conference was held over two days in the Manning Clark Lecture Theatres. Some 81 PhD students presented their research in three theme-based sessions. (Biomedicine and Molecular Biochemistry, Evolution, Ecology and Genetics, and Plant Science.)



The Conference provided an overview of the research activities for the newly integrated Research School of Biology. Those assessing the student talks were impressed by the high quality of presentations. Attendees commented on how informative and well coordinated the presentations were from individual laboratories.

Prizes for best presentation from each theme were awarded to:

- Aaron Greenup 1HvOS2: *A repressor of flowering that is down-regulated by vernalization.*
- Samuel Reid *Life in the dark: vision and navigation in the crepuscular bull dog ant Myrmecia pyriformis.*



Aaron Greenup

- Sarojini Balkrishna *Regulation of the rat glutamine transporter SNAT3.*

The prize for best poster was awarded to;

- Stephen Fairweather *The Physiological Role of Aminopeptidase N in the transport of Amino Acids.*



Sam Reid

The organising committee would like to build upon this year's success and welcomes any comments or suggestions for next year to:

Gabriel.James@anu.edu.au.



Sarojini and Stephen

PAPERS ACCEPTED

Hernández G., Valdés-López O., Ramírez M., Goffard N., Weiller G., Aparicio-Fabre R., Fuentes S. I., Erban A., Kopka J., Udvardi M. K., Vance C. P. Global changes in the transcript and metabolic profiles during symbiotic nitrogen fixation in phosphorus-stressed common bean, *Plant Physiology*.

Hingorani, K., Conlan, B., Hillier, W., Wydrzynski, T. Elucidating photochemical pathways of tyrosine oxidation in an engineered bacterioferritin 'reaction centre'. *Aust. J. Chem.*

Milner, R.N.C., Jennions, M.D., Backwell, P.R.Y. Safe sex: male-female coalitions and pre-copulatory mate guarding in a fiddler crab. *Biology Letters*.

Robinson, A.L., Ebeler S.E., Heymann H., Boss, P.K., Solomon, P.S., Trengove, R.D. Interactions between wine volatile compounds and grape and wine matrix components influence aroma compound headspace partitioning. *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*.

Seneca, F.O, Foret, S., Ball, E.E., Smith-Keune C, Miller, D.J, van Oppen, M.J.H. Patterns of gene expression in a scleractinian coral undergoing natural bleaching. *Marine Biotechnology*.

Yamori, W., Evans, J.R, von Caemmerer, S. Effects of growth and measurement light intensities on temperature dependence of CO₂ assimilation rate in tobacco leaves. *Plant Cell & Environment*.

Yamori W., von Caemmerer, S. Effect of Rubisco activase deficiency on the temperature response of CO₂ assimilation rate and Rubisco activation state: Insights from transgenic tobacco with reduced amounts of Rubisco activase. *Plant Physiology*.

Zeng, X-Q, Chow, W.S., Su, L-J, Peng, X-X, Peng, C-L. Protective effect of supplemental anthocyanins on *Arabidopsis* leaves under high light. *Physiologia Plantarum*.