

No images? [Click here](#)




## Virtual ADSW 2024 presentations and recording now available

Presentations and a recording of the Virtual ADSW 2024 held on Wednesday, 5 June 2024 are now available to Plant Surveillance Network Australasia-Pacific (PSNAP) members (please log into the Member Portal for access).

More than 320 National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostic Network (NPBDN) and PSNAP members from across the Australasia-Pacific region registered to attend the two-and-a-half-hour online event in what was a great opportunity for engaged surveillance and diagnostic professionals to present and discuss topical issues in the plant biosecurity space.

Log into the Member Portal to view presentations below.

View  
presentations 

## NAQS – since 1989...

- Early detection in northern Australia
- Risk - proximity to SE Asia, Pacific
- 'Unregulated' pathways: wind, sea, illegal movements
- Early warning surveillance in near neighbour countries



Jane Royer (DAFF) spoke about NAQS initiatives and prioritisation.

## Operational Science and Surveillance (OSS)

Entomology	Plant Pathology & Botany	Surveillance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ~48,000 IDs p.a.</li><li>• Largest cohort of entomologists in Aust</li><li>• Morphological and molecular diagnostics</li><li>• Invertebrate collections and imaging</li></ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ~10,000 border IDs (~19,000 tests) p.a.</li><li>• Microbial culturing and morphological, serological, indicator-plant and molecular diagnostics</li><li>• PEQ – screening high-risk plants - ~7,500 tests p.a.</li></ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pest, disease and weed surveillance around biosecurity entry points</li><li>• Detection and response</li><li>• National Border Surveillance - Invertebrate IDs ~ 25,000 p.a.</li><li>• Vector monitoring ~ 300,000 specimens p.a.</li></ul> 

Bill Crowe (DAFF) spoke about significant plant health border biosecurity detections.

## Webinar - Large scale diagnostics supporting Varroa mite detection in Australian beehives

The National Varroa Mite Management Program is hosting a webinar to share the experiences and learnings from managing the diagnostics processes during the Varroa mite emergency response.

Varroa mite was first detected in New South Wales (NSW) in June 2022, activating the largest Australian multi-agency plant biosecurity emergency response, running until February 2024 when a decision was made to move from eradication to transition to management. Throughout this response, tens of

thousands of sticky mats were processed for analysis with a need for fast and accurate results to support critical response actions including hive euthanasia and compliance.

In this free webinar NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (NSW DPIRD) Diagnostic Technician, David Britton will talk about what worked well and the lessons learnt to continue to improve critical diagnostics processes in the future.

- **Date:** Thursday, 1 August 2024
- **Time:** 11.00am AEST

Register  
now



## 2024 CitrusWatch Annual Update Webinar recording now available

If you missed the CitrusWatch Annual Update Webinar that was held on Friday, 21 June 2024, you can now watch the recording.

Watch  
recording



## Subscribe to *Robigalia* for weekly roundups of the latest plant pathology research

Initiated in April 2024 by Alyssa Martino (PhD student and new PBRI Ritman Scholar), *Robigalia* aims to bring you the latest insights and research in the field of plant pathology on a weekly basis. Subscribers will receive these roundups directly in their inbox.

If you've missed the previous roundups, you can visit the [Robigalia website](#) to read more on a range of plant pests and pathogens, including Phytophthora dieback and polyphagous shothole borer.

Subscribe



---

## Student conference grants now open for 2024 Australian Entomological Society Conference

Grant applications to attend the upcoming 2024 Australian Entomological Society Conference in Hobart, Tasmania are open until Friday, 2 August 2024, for student members of the society.

For more information regarding the grant and eligibility criteria, visit the [website](#).

Become a member



---

## PHA welcomes David Lovelock as Manager, Diagnostics

Plant Health Australia (PHA) is delighted to welcome David Lovelock as Manager, Diagnostics.

David brings 10 years of diagnostic and research experience in virology, bacteriology, and biosecurity to the role. He began his career in the Northern Territory in 2015, where he was a part of the initial diagnostic team responding to the outbreak of Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus (CGMMV), eventually becoming a leading member of a national Hort Innovation project on the management of CGMMV.

David joined Agriculture Victoria Research (AVR) in late 2018, where he led virology diagnostics and research, and managed bacterial diagnostics. He was project lead for a seed project funded by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), validating assays for several exotic seed-borne pathogens. David has also contributed to National Diagnostic Protocols (NDPs), having reviewed 10 during his time at AVR.



## Upcoming biosecurity events

- [3rd Australian Biosecurity Symposium](#), Gold Coast, QLD | **27 – 29 August 2024**
- [Australasian Soilborne Diseases Symposium 2024](#), Kingscliff, NSW | **26 - 30 August 2024**
- [Australasian Plant Virology Workshop 2024](#), Gold Coast, QLD | **29 – 31 October 2024**
- [2024 Australian Entomological Society 55<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference](#), Hobart, TAS | **17 – 21 November 2024**
- [International Advances in Plant Virology 2025](#), Murica, Spain | **8 – 11 April 2025**

## Careers in surveillance

A PhD scholarship opportunity to address the application of near-field sequencing technology as a triage and surveillance tool to detect pests and pathogens is being advertised at La Trobe University, Melbourne, Victoria.

Visit the careers page on the PSNAP website to keep up to date with current opportunities.

Visit  
Careers



---

## Career spotlight

This month we are profiling Mariana Hopper who is Acting Group Leader and Senior Research Scientist, CSIRO Health

and Biosecurity (WA).



Read more



---

## About the Network

The Plant Surveillance Network Australasia-Pacific (PSNAP) enables members to communicate and share skills in plant pest surveillance. It acts as a coordination point for surveillance professionals and practitioners to strengthen surveillance capacity and capability across Australia, New Zealand and the nearby region.

The National Plant Biosecurity Surveillance Professional Development and Protocols Projects are coordinated and delivered by Plant Health Australia and are funded by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

## BECOME A PSNAP MEMBER

You must be an active plant surveillance professional employed in Australasia-Pacific to join.  
Membership provides you with the opportunity to:

- Improve **skills**
- Facilitate **connections**
- Share **knowledge**

Join



  
**Plant  
Surveillance  
Network**  
Australasia-Pacific

Share

Tweet

Share

Forward

You are receiving this email as a member of PSNAP.

[Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)