

## The year 2009, and plans for 2010

The past year has shown an increase in the number of high quality papers submitted, particularly in areas related to environmental stress. We welcome the newest Associate Editor, WJ (Bill) Davies from Lancaster University, and the new members of the Advisory Editorial Board, all eminent and highly respected scientists in their field of expertise. We thank the outgoing members of the Board for their sound advice and support.

A special double issue on Plant Phenomics was published in November 2009, resulting from the First International Plant Phenomics Symposium, held in Canberra, in April 2009. The issue is titled *Plant Phenomics: from genes to form and function* and includes papers on root methodologies, C<sub>4</sub> rice, chlorophyll fluorescence, infrared thermography, LIDAR imaging, X-ray CT scanning and spectral reflectance methods for analysis at the leaf level. These are available at <http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/103/issue/5005.htm>, and are free online until the end of January 2010.

The series of Evolutionary Reviews is well established, with the latest paper on 'Seasonal flowering and evolution: the heritage from Charles Darwin' by RW King and OM Heide (*Functional Plant Biology* 2009; 36: 1027–1036). These are all available free online. This is a virtual special issue that can be accessed at <http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/103/aid/13408.htm>. Forthcoming articles include the evolution of peptide signalling molecules, halophytes, aluminium tolerance, plant–pathogen defence systems and C<sub>4</sub> and CAM metabolism.

The Best Paper award for an early-career scientist was won by Joanne Tilbrook for her paper 'Cell death in grape berries: varietal

differences linked to xylem pressure and berry weight loss'; co-authored with SD Tyerman (*Functional Plant Biology* 2008; 35: 173–184). Joanne was invited to present this work at a symposium at ComBio2009 in Christchurch, New Zealand.

At the meeting in Christchurch, Ben Trevaskis was presented with the **Goldacre Award** for young scientists. This is awarded by the Australian Society of Plant Scientists, and sponsored by *Functional Plant Biology*. Ben described his award-winning work in a plenary lecture on 'The molecular basis of vernalisation-induced flowering in cereals'.

Plans for 2010 include special issues presenting Research Fronts on rapidly moving areas of significance. The first will be a Research Front on 'Drought and water use efficiency: improving adaptation to dry environments' to be published in the February Issue. Other Research Fronts are in progress, designed to provide the latest information on important topics in the field of:

- Salinity
- Acid soils
- Effector biology

Ideas for other topics are welcome.

My best wishes to all for a productive and enjoyable year.

Dr Rana Munns  
Editor-in-Chief  
*Functional Plant Biology*