

Functional Plant Biology Editorial Report

I am very happy to be back from maternity leave, and must give a great big Thank You to Dr Amanda Ellery, who most capably steered the *FPB* ship as acting Managing Editor in my absence. One of our freelance copyeditors, Dr Judi Walters, came on board full-time as Production Editor, and also did a stunning job. This has been an era of great change with electronic delivery of content (more later), and I am amazed at how technical the behind-the-scenes aspects of journal production are in 2005. The aim is to deliver more (faster) to you, as reader, author and reviewer, via our website.

Thanks to our Editor-in-Chief, Barry Osmond

Over the past year, we have benefited greatly from the expertise and prestige of Professor C. Barry Osmond, who was appointed as Editor-in-Chief for a fixed term of 12 months. This position was established to bring additional expertise to the journal, to provide support to Amanda, and to help raise the profile of the journal internationally. We thank Barry for his excellent work, and wish him well wearing his ever-increasing range of international hats!

Winner of the *FPB* Best Paper award for 2004

It gives us great pleasure to announce that Dr Megan Lindsay has been awarded the *Functional Plant Biology* Best Paper award for 2004, for her paper with Evans Lagudah, Ray Hare and Rana Munns entitled *A locus for sodium exclusion (NAX1), a trait for salt tolerance, mapped in durum wheat (FPB 31; 1105–1114)*. The reviewers of the manuscript recommended nomination for the prize, and the accepted paper was further scrutinised by members of the ASPS council and the Editorial Advisory Committee of *FPB*. As the recipient

of the award, Megan will present an oral paper at the ComBio 2005 meeting in September. The award also carries a prize of a one-year print+online subscription to *FPB* and a certificate presented by the president of the ASPS. Congratulations, Megan!

Going forward

The coming year is a challenging one for *FPB*. We are close to introducing our online submission and peer review facility, OSPREY (a co-production with NRC Press in Canada), which will streamline many phases of manuscript submission, peer-review and production. It will allow authors to submit manuscripts online, and, most importantly, to then track their progress through the review process using their *FPB* username and password (a feature I have been requesting on our authors' behalf for years!). Our online Referees' Report Form (in place since 2002) has been a great success, and is a major contributor to our fast turnaround time. This will also be enhanced with the introduction of OSPREY.

Thank you for your ongoing support, as readers, authors and reviewers.



Dr Jennifer Henry
Managing Editor