



SABC NEWS

October 16, 2003 No. 6

Congratulations

The WA Barley Breeding Team (**Reg Lance**, **Chengdao Li**, Allen Tarr, **Rob Loughman**, **Sanjiv Gupta**, Sue Broughton, Blakely Paynter, Jennifer Garlinge, Neil Venn, Ros Jettner and Tresslyn Walmsley) has been **nominated for Premiers Excellence Awards**. In November 2002, the Department of Agriculture released Baudin and Hamelin, two new provisional malting barley varieties. Both have malting qualities which represent significant improvement over the industry standard Stirling. Reg, Chengdao, Rob and Sanjiv have strong interaction with the AgBiotech/SABC labs which are used in screening and development of different markers for the development of barley varieties.

Welcome to.....

James Ponds who is starting a PhD jointly with Murdoch and UWA and to **Julie Lawrence** who has taken over from Frances Brigg to do DNA sequencing at the SABC

Public Lecture by visiting scientist Professor Ingo Potrykus

Professor Potrykus has developed 'Golden Rice' – rice that makes additional vitamin A. There are about 1 billion people in the world who eat rice as their staple diet, and suffer from vitamin A deficiency – about 200 million go blind. Golden rice could help solve this problem – 200-300gm per day could provide enough Vitamin A to prevent blindness.

Professor Potrykus is giving a public lecture at Murdoch University from 2pm – 3.30pm on Thursday, 4th December 2003.

It is planned that a showcase of SABC research will be presented on the morning of 4th December, before Ingo Potrykus' lecture, to celebrate 10 years of the SABC. More details to come but put it in your diary.

Lord Lucan - the SABC connection.

On the run since murdering his children's nanny in 1974, it was recently claimed that Lord Lucan had taken the identity of an itinerant Irish musician named Barry Halpin and had died in Goa in 1996. Conveniently for the theory was the fact that Barry had been cremated and there was no DNA evidence to

refute the claim. Inconveniently for the theory Barry had been teaching tin whistle to a (very) young Ormonde Waters (now of the ACNFP) in 1975 - not really long enough for a snooty Lord to become a whistle guru! Worse, Ormonde also has a copy of a feature article from 1971 detailing Barry's musical exploits in Turkey, Singapore and Mount Isa, complete with picture. So if you notice anyone in the building with a penchant for gambling and backgammon you may be able to sell the story to a tabloid. It may also explain why Ormonde always has a jig in his gel.

New lab space

The new lab space (lab 2.47) acquired by the SABC will be up and running in the next few weeks.

Christmas celebrations...

To get everyone together for a pre-Christmas celebration, Dave and Andrea are investigating a golf day at Point Walter Golf Course, with BBQ lunch and drinks. A tentative date has been scheduled for Friday 14th November. Watch this space for further details.

Fundraising Abseil

Barry Cayford is looking to raise at least \$750 in order to abseil down Allendale Square, one of Perth's tallest buildings – an abseil of over 135 metres! This fundraiser is looking to raise over \$150,000 for the **Princess Margaret Hospital for Children**. The funds raised will purchase an INOvent for the neonatal ward at PMH. This equipment is a lifesaving piece that delivers Nitric Oxide to infants.

Barry will be coming round looking for sponsors, or you can leave your sponsorship money with Andrea Tongue in room 2.23. Contributions are tax deductible.



QUIZ CORNER

GUESS WHO??



Someone you see around the SABC on a regular basis

ANSWER TO LAST MONTHS QUESTION

The bullet will strike the target.

Be careful snakes on the move

Snakes are starting to wake up at this time of year, as Jill Muhling found out, when she nearly stepped on a dugite in Car Park 1. So please be careful when walking near bushes. For reference this is what they look like.



Recent visitors to the SABC

There has been a spate of visitors to the SABC, including the Plant Industries Committee, GBA Scientific Advisory Committee and Syngenta.

The **National Plant Industries Committee** is an advisory body (with representatives from each state) to the Federal Government Primary Industries Standing Committee on matters of national importance in plant industries.

GBA's Scientific Advisory Committee includes **Dr John Snape**, Head of the Cereal Breeding Department at the John Innes Centre, Norwich UK, and **Dr Steve Baenziger**, a wheat breeder from Nebraska State University, USA. John Snape also gave an AusBiotech lecture on the current status of GM crops in Europe.



National Plant Industries Committee pictured

Back row (L-R) Mike Jones, Hayden Hodges

Table (L-R) John Hannay, Lyndsay Cook, Keith Alcock, Rob Sward, Rod Gobbey, Rob Rees

Dr Simon Bright, Head of Technology Interactions for Syngenta, also visited the SABC and gave a seminar. Simon outlined Syngenta's biotech strategy and the application of genomics and bioinformatics to crop improvement. The power of technology was well demonstrated. Syngenta was formed from the merger of the agricultural biotechnology parts of Zeneca and Novartis, and is now the number one Crop Protection company in the world and the number three crop seed producer worldwide.

Articles Required PLEASE.....

Please send any articles of interest, fun things, names and details of visitors to the SABC, to Andrea Tongue.

Frances' baby has arrived!!!!

Frances Brigg had a baby girl this morning weighing 3.7kgs. She is in King Edward Memorial Hospital if anyone would like to visit her. The baby has been named Tessa.