Phytogen June 2017

Combio2017 – Reminder that the early registration and abstract deadline is Friday, 30 June

26 June 2017

ComBio2017: 2 – 5 October 2017

Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide, South Australia

Abstract and Early Registration Deadline, Friday, 30 June 2017

ComBio2017 incorporates the annual meetings of the Australian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, the Australian Society of Plant Scientists and the Australia and New Zealand Society for Cell and Developmental Biology.

This is a reminder that the early registration and abstract deadline is next Friday, 30 June.

The program timetable and symposium schedule can be downloaded from:http://www.combio.org.au/combio2017/program.html

and the plenary speakers, together with their photographs and biosketches, can be downloaded from:http://www.combio.org.au/combio2017/plenary.html

As recently advised, as a first, ComBio has been **reduced to a three day meeting** running from 3 – 5 October, with the popular Career Development Forum being held on 2 October and registration also opening for those who want to beat the morning rush when the conference opens early on 3 October. Due to the shorter meeting, the early member registration fees have been reduced substantially, **with the student member early registration fee being $250 and the full member early registration fee being $680**. The conference secretariat has also held blocks of very reasonably priced accommodation that are very close to the venue. One bedroom apartments start at $169/night where two people can share and have their own space with a sofa bed in the living room. Two bedroom apartments are only $239/night and this costing is for up to four persons (so would cost $60/night per person with 4 sharing an apartment. There are also limited three bedroom apartments available. The other two hotel blocks held range from $114/night (for up to 2 persons sharing) to 5 star InterContinental accommodation at a modest $205/night (for up to 2 persons sharing). Both of the hotels are a one minute walk to the Adelaide Convention Centre (so next door or directly across the road) and the apartments are only a 7 minute walk. Photographs of hotels and rooms can be seen at: http://www.combio.org.au/combio2017/accommodation.html

All bookings must be made through the conference secretariat when registering or you can phone bookings through to Sally Jay on 08 8362 0009.

The ComBio2017 online registration and abstract submission pages can be accessed at:

http://www.combio.org.au/combio2017/registration.html

and

http://www.combio.org.au/combio2017/abstracts.html

The ASBMB, ASPS and ANZSCDB offer either student bursaries or travel grants, and details are available from:http://www.combio.org.au/combio2017/student.html

Further information: Sally Jay: combio@asbmb.org.au

Nominations now open for the ASPS committee.

19 June 2017

Dear ASPS members,

We are seeking nominations for a considerable number of posts this year for the ASPS committee. Its an exciting time to be a member as we will be running our own meetings again so this require some liaising with the annual meeting sub-committee/local organisers. If you are keen to be involved we are wanting to hear from you. Please see nomination form attached.

The positions currently vacant from October this year include:

President-elect

Discipline reps (x6) for:

Genetics and Molecular Biology

Cell Biology

Plant Development

Education

Whole Plant

Global Change

3 student members

Please get in contact with matthew.gilliham@adelaide.edu.au or current committee members for more information. See the current committee here www.asps.org.au

Thanks,

Matt

_____

Professor Matthew Gilliham

ARC Centre of Excellence in Plant Energy Biology

Deputy Head of School (Research)

School of Agriculture, Food and Wine

University of Adelaide

Ph: +61 8 8313 8145 | Twitter: @IonPlants

Lab website: Plant Transport and Signalling Lab

Honorary Secretary, Aust Soc Plant Scientists

Call for 2019 ASPS meeting expressions of interest

19 June 2017

Dear ASPS members,

As you will likely be aware, the Sydney 2018 COMBIO will be last annual COMBIO meeting. It will now run as a combined meeting every 2-3 years instead.
ASPS therefore is seeking expressions of interest to hold a 2019 ASPS meeting. This could either be in a city that has traditionally held COMBIO or one that has not. The only criteria is that it is well organised and has costs that are far reduced from COMBIO meetings.

We would like to decide the venue at the next AGM to be held on Thursday 5th October at 2pm at the COMBIO meeting in Adelaide.

We are seeking a venue for approximately 150 people and hoping that costs can be kept to a minimum by using University facilities or similar.

We will leave the timing up to those wishing to host the meeting but out of term time would be good to maximise academic involvement. We envisage that it would be a two day meeting, and we would aim that ASPS and the meeting receipts would subsidize costs for two plenaries from overseas.

As we have a broad membership, in terms of subject content, it would be wise to have at least 2 concurrent streams.

If you are wanting to host the meeting please contact myself (matthew.gilliham@adelaide.edu.au) or our President, Sergey (sergey.shabala@utas.edu.au) to discuss further.

Thanks,

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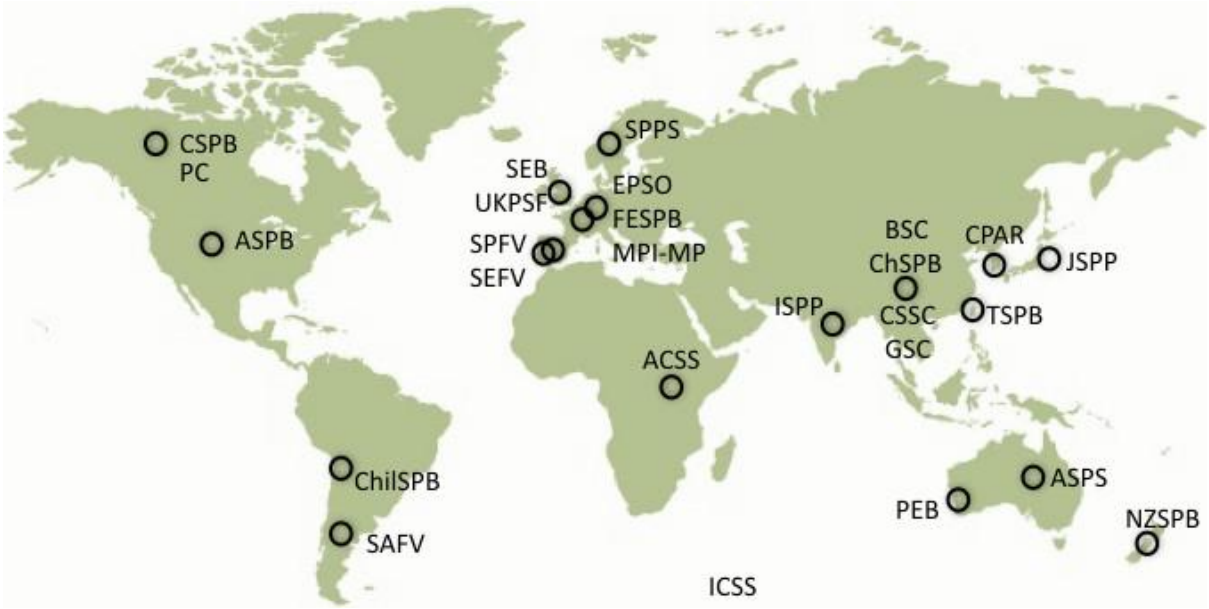
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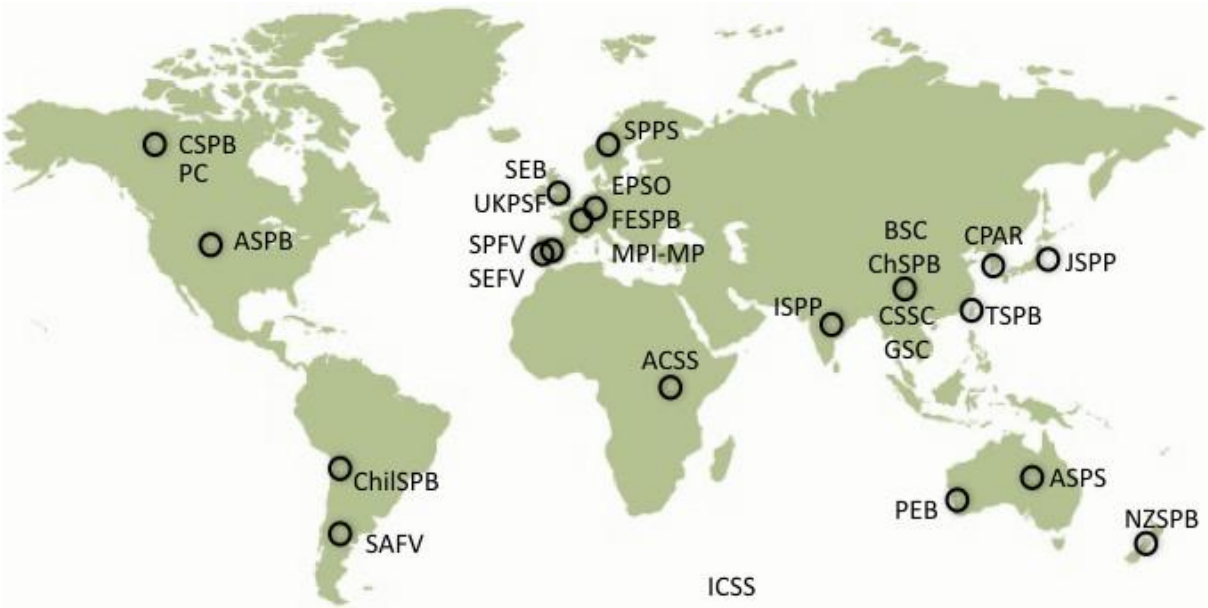
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Just add water: could resurrection plants help feed the world?
Professor Henk Hilhorst from Wageningen University and Research in the Netherlands spoke to the GPC about his research on desiccation tolerance in seeds and plants.

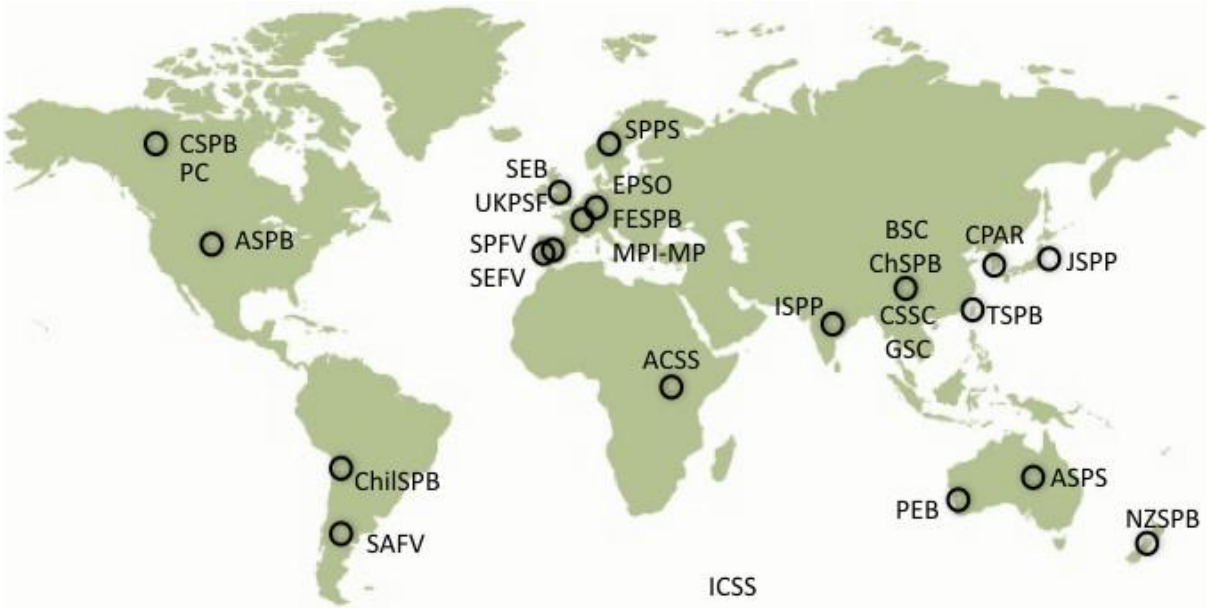
Student-driven plant breeding symposium addresses global challenges in the 21st century
Francisco Gomez and Ammani Kyanam, graduate students in the Soil and Crop Science Department at Texas A&M University, USA, tells us about the recent Plant Breeding Symposium, a successful meeting run entirely by students at the University.

Water is key to ending Africa's chronic hunger cycle
In this SciDev.net repost, Esther Ngumbi discusses how governments must invest in sustainable water supplies for Africa to end chronic hunger.

Striga hermonthica – a beautiful but devastating plant
University of Sheffield (UK) student Caroline Wood tells us all about *Striga*, and her PhD quest to to identify the key defense pathways that determine host resistance to this pretty, but parasitic plant.

The Global Plant Council visits the Australian Plant Phenomics Facility
This month, the GPC's Executive Director Ruth Bastow visited the Australian Plant Phenomics Facility (APPF) in Adelaide. This blog post was reproduced with the kind permission of the APPF.

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