

# IRG News in brief

19 September 2003



**Successful Annual Meeting in Brisbane.**



**Dr David Dickinson, United Kingdom (left), and Dr Harry Greaves, Australia (right), were honoured with Life-Long Membership at the Annual Meeting in Brisbane. Here they pose with the IRG President, Dr Alex Valcke in the middle.**



Ron Cockcroft Award Committee chairman Prof Kurt Messner (middle) and Secretary-General Mr Jöran Jermer (middle left) with some of the 2003 RCA recipients, from left: Ms Jenna Jambeck, USA, Mrs Diana Okwara, Kenya, Mr Sung-Mo Kang, USA, Ms Silvija Stefanovic, Canada, Mr Charles Antwi-Boasiako, UK, Ms Ulrike Augusta, Germany and Ms Sepideh Massoumi Alamouti, Canada.

After exactly 20 years IRG was back “down under” for its 34th Annual Meeting. Our Group’s last gathering in Australia took place in 1983 in Surfers Paradise, not far from this year’s venue in Brisbane, Queensland. Despite SARS, the war situation in Iraq and other troubles, that make international travel more difficult these days, the meeting attracted more than 280 participants from 28 countries.

Nearly 100 scientific papers were presented in well-attended sessions. Biology papers dominated with roughly 50 % of the papers submitted. Very few papers on new wood protecting chemicals were presented, perhaps reflecting the re-structuring of the wood preservative manufacturing industry that has taken place the last couple of years.

A special session on termites, dedicated to the late Dr Dieter Rudolph, attracted termite experts from around the world. The session covered most aspects on termite research: laboratory and field testing, bait systems, distribution, systems for detection and anti-termite formulations.

Environmental issues are still very important for the wood preserving industry and a number of interesting papers from, among others, New Zealand and the US were presented, focussing in particular on the future of CCA preservatives and the disposal of waste treated wood.

The topical issue of Section 2 this year was predicting performance. Two presentations by Dr Bob Leicester of CSIRO should be mentioned in particular. One paper dealt with a model for the decay of timber in ground contact (IRG/WP 03-20260) and the other (IRG/WP 03-10468) with a model for termite attack in Australia. Papers on this topic were promised for next year's meeting.

**From the Meeting should also be mentioned:**

-Dr David Dickinson, United Kingdom , and Dr Harry Greaves, Australia, were honoured with Life-Long Membership.

-Dr Yuji Imamura and Dr Mark Manning replaced Dr Richard Murphy and Mr Aldo Gandolfi Jr on the Executive Council, effective immediately after the meeting. Mrs Jeanette Drysdale stays for another 3-year term.

-A number of guidelines has been reviewed and revised and will be re-issued before the end of 2003.

-The Statutes will be revised. A draft will be circulated to the membership by the end of February of next year. In that connection a change of the name to The International Research Group on Wood Protection will be considered as it may better reflect the present and future activities of the Group.

-Future venues: The Group is proceeding with the 2005 meeting in Bangalore, India. No dates have been confirmed yet. An invitation from Norway to hold the 2006 meeting in Tromsø on 18-22 June was accepted. The meeting 2007 will be held in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, USA on 20-24 May. An invitation to hold the 2008 meeting in Turkey will be further considered next year.

-The Scientific Programme Committee decided that no abstracts are required by the end of January next year as the abstracts seem to serve no purpose in the programme planning any more. Thus, **full papers are requested by 1 March 2004.**

-The IRG website will be upgraded and members' input is important. Please contact Prof John Ruddick [ruddick@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:ruddick@interchange.ubc.ca) if you have any ideas for improvement.

-The Executive Council endorsed a proposal to provide an e-IRG Newsletter with scientific, business and regulatory information on wood protection issues worldwide. This project is now proceeding.

-The Presidents opening speech is available on [www.irg-wp.com](http://www.irg-wp.com).

Before the meeting was closed all delegates were welcomed to IRG 35 in Ljubljana, Slovenia on 6-10 June 2004.

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- **Sad news**

It is with great sadness we have to announce the sudden death of **Mrs Daniela Messner**, wife of Past President Prof Kurt Messner, on 20 July.

Just a few weeks ago more sad news reached the Secretariat. **Mr John Savory**, one of our Group's Honorary Life-Long Members, had died on 25 August.

Please see obituaries at the end of this Newsletter.

- **RCA Recipients 2003**

The following persons were granted the Ron Cockcroft Award to attend the Annual Meeting in Brisbane:

Mr Charles Antwi-Boasiako	United Kingdom
Ms Ulrike Augusta	Germany
Ms Jo Dymond	United Kingdom
Ms Jenna Jambeck	USA
Mr Sung-Mo Kang	USA
Ms Sepideh Massoumi Alamouti	Canada
Ms Tania Nobre	Portugal
Mrs Diana Okwara	Kenya
Ms Silvija Stefanovic	Canada
Dr Ilker Usta	Turkey
Mr Damiano Vesentini	United Kingdom

At the Meeting the recipients were congratulated and given a certificate of their Award from Prof Kurt Messner, chairman of the RCA Committee.

- **IRG welcomes new members**

Regular

Mr Marcelino Alba Valle	Argentina
Mr Morten Eikenes	Norway
Mr Robert Godo	Guatemala
Dr Harzemsah Hafizoglu	Turkey
Dr Peter Jünger	Germany
Dr Hiroshi Kurisaki	Japan
Dr Bartłomiej Mazela	Poland
Dr Ole Munck (re-instated)	Denmark
Dr Asghar Omidvar	Iran
Dr Wayne Richardson	USA
Mr John Schert	USA
Dr Francis Schwarze	Switzerland

Student

Mr Brajesh Dubey	USA
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Mr Pascal Nzokou

USA

Corresponding

Mr Talents Goto

Zimbabwe

Mr Emmanuel Okolo

Nigeria

- **IRG Directory 2003-2004**

All members and Sponsors have recently received information on their entries in the IRG Directory. This is a reminder to those who have not yet replied to the Secretariat: Please check your entry as soon as possible and report any changes to the Secretariat! It is also important that you notify the Secretariat if you do not intend to retain your membership after 2003.

- **The 2003 Documents CD-ROM** has been dispatched to Members, Sponsors and Conference delegates. It contains 35 late and corrected documents from 2002 and 119 documents prepared for IRG 34. Please contact the Secretariat if you still have not received the CD, if it was broken when you received it (we have had a few complaints) or if it was any problem to open any documents.

- **2003 late and updated documents**

The following documents have been received after the CD-ROM was produced:

**IRG/WP 03-10501**

Soft Rot Decay of Cengal (*Neobalanocarpus heimii*) Heartwood in Ground Contact in Relation to Extractive Microdistribution

A P Singh, A H H Wong, Y S Kim, S G Wi, K H Lee

**IRG/WP 03-20281**

Chemical, physical and biological factors affecting wood decomposition in forest soils

M Jurgensen, P Laks, D Reed, A Collins, D Page-Dumroese, D Crawford

**IRG/WP 03-20282 (keynote paper)**

Regulatory and Consumer Challenges Facing Timber Preservation and Durability Interests in New Zealand and Australia

C MacKenzie

**IRG/WP 03-30326 (keynote paper)**

Issues Facing Wood Preservation in New Zealand Today

M Hedley

**IRG/WP 03-30327 (keynote paper)**

Issues Facing Wood Preservation in Australia Today

J Norton

**IRG/WP 03-40268**

Modified Wood – Methods, testing and applications: Outcomes of the EU-Thematic Network

D Jones, W Homan, J Van Acker

**IRG/WP 03-50206**

EPA's Current Views on Heavy-Duty Wood Preservative Regulation

F T Sanders

The following documents have been updated after the Annual Meeting:

**IRG/WP 03-20259**

Gas chromatographic determination of 1,8-naphthalimide, N-Hydroxy-1,8-naphthalimide (N,N-naphthaloylhydroxylamine) and the sodium salt of N-Hydroxy-1,8-naphthalimide  
E Melcher, F Green III

**IRG/WP 03-60171**

The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of IRG. Technical Programme and Abstracts of Papers  
IRG Secretariat

These documents will appear on next year's CD-ROM. If you are interested in receiving any document now, please contact the Secretariat. The updated abstracts document IRG/WP 03-60171 can be downloaded from the IRG website [www.irg-wp.com](http://www.irg-wp.com).

The reports from the meetings (Plenary and Sections) as well as the budgets for 2003 (updated) and 2004 will be distributed to all members and sponsors by separate e-mail.

- **The Compendium**, the collection of approximately 3 800 IRG documents in electronic format (pdf-files) issued 1969-2002, is now also available for the BIBLIO software. All IRG documents and a BIBLIO search engine have been copied on one single DVD. You can start the search engine from the DVD which is linked to the papers on the DVD (recommended) or you can download the search engine and the papers to your hard drive. A search engine linked to the papers on 4 CDs is also available. If you are interested in the BIBLIO version it is necessary to upgrade to WINBIB 32bit, the latest release is #6 which among other features also offers an intranet server/client version. That means that a number of clients can use BIBLIO and share the database on an XP- or 2K server. For upgrading, please contact

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Technical support will be provided by Rolf Peek, [rpeek@holz.uni-hamburg.de](mailto:rpeek@holz.uni-hamburg.de).

The price for the BIBLIO based version is the same as for the MS Access version, i.e. Swedish Kroner 2 000 (approximately US\$ 245 or € 220).

Please contact the IRG Secretariat [irg@sp.se](mailto:irg@sp.se) if you are interested in purchasing the BIBLIO version of the Compendium. It can then be delivered within few weeks.

- **The Compendium (MS ACCESS version)** is still available for those who have not yet made up their minds. Please contact the Secretariat [irg@sp.se](mailto:irg@sp.se). Non-members at the Annual Meeting in Brisbane are welcome to purchase the Compendium at a special discount price of SEK 4 000 (regular price SEK 10 000).

The DVD version of the Compendium will hopefully be issued towards the end of 2003. It will contain an upgraded search engine and all documents issued in 2003. For those who have ordered it, please have patience!

- **IRG Travel Awards** (Short-Term Scientific Missions): We will remind you that funds are still available for STSMs. Information + application form available on <http://www.irg-wp.com/> and Members are advised to encourage students to apply for a grant. An example of a mission report is posted on the web site as well. Recently, the following graduate students have received Travel Awards:
  - Mr Ali Temiz, Karadeniz Technical University, Trabzon, Turkey to visit The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Prof Thomas Nilsson
  - Dr Bollineni Tarakanadha, Inst of Wood Science and Technology, Bangalore, India to visit Oregon State University, Dr Jeff Morrell.
  
- **Difficulties to e-mail the IRG Secretariat?**

The e-mail server used by the IRG Secretariat has been provided with a spam-filter. E-mails from addresses .aol.com and .yahoo.com are presently stopped. Please report immediately to the Secretariat if you have problems. You may use the Secretariat's fax +46 8 10 80 81 if you cannot e-mail.
  
- **New books**
  - Lignovisionen Band 3: Modifiziertes Holz – Eigenschaften und Märkte (Modified wood – properties and markets), in German with English summary. Price € 28. Order from: Institut für Holzforschung an der Universität für Bodenkultur Wien, Gregor Mendel Strasse 33, A-1180 Vienna, Austria, fax +43-1 476 544 295
  
  - The Green Earth and her Forestry Practices and Laws by A K Lahiry. Order from publisher Magnum Opus, e-mail [magnumopusbd@yahoo.com](mailto:magnumopusbd@yahoo.com).
  
- **International Meetings**
  - COST E22** Environmental Optimisation of Wood Protection, Zagreb, Croatia, 21-23 September 2003. See <http://www.bfafh.de/cost22.htm> for more information and programme.
  
  - XII World Forestry Congress**, Québec City, Canada, 21-28 September 2003. More info at <http://www.idrc.ca/>.
  
  - Registration of Agrochemicals in an enlarged Europe**, Brussels, 22-25 September 2003. Info: [www.iir-lifesciences.com/agchem](http://www.iir-lifesciences.com/agchem)
  
  - Natural Resources Environment and Development (NARED) 2003**, Kuching, Malaysia 25-27 September 2003. More info at <http://www.unimas.my/NARED2003>
  
  - CEN Annual Meeting 2003**, Berlin, 9 October 2003. More info at

[www.cenorm.be/news/agm2003/agm.htm](http://www.cenorm.be/news/agm2003/agm.htm)

-**Canadian Wood Preservers Association Annual Meeting**, Halifax, 28-29 October 2003. Information: [www.cwpa.ca](http://www.cwpa.ca).

-**FICCESS: Environmental Impacts of Preservative-treated wood**, Orlando, Florida, 8-10 February 2004; More info at <http://www.ficess.org/>

-**World Congress "ISWA 2004"**, Rome, 17-21 October 2004. Info: [www.iswa2004.org](http://www.iswa2004.org)  
(ISWA = International Solid Waste Association)

-**"SMALLWOOD 2004: Creating Solutions for Using Small Trees"** Conference, Sacramento, California, USA, May 18-21, 2004.  
Information: E-mail [conferences@forestprod.org](mailto:conferences@forestprod.org).

-**"Wood Protection 2004"** Conference, New Orleans, USA, November 3-5, 2004  
Information: E-mail [conferences@forestprod.org](mailto:conferences@forestprod.org).

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## Obituary

### JOHN GEORGE SAVORY (1917 - 2003)

John Savory, the internationally renowned wood mycologist and wood preservation expert, and one of our Honorary Life Long Members, died on Monday 25 August 2003.

At the time of his retirement in 1977, John was Principal Scientific Officer and Head of the Biodeterioration Section at the Princes Risborough Laboratory of the Building Research Establishment, formerly the Forest Products Research Laboratory. John was held in great affection and was highly respected by a large national and international community in the field of wood mycology and wood protection.

John was born at Sacriston, County Durham on 8 November 1917 and attended school in Cambridge before studying at the University of Nottingham where he read Botany and gained a First Class Honours Degree in 1939. His subsequent research studies for a PhD were interrupted by the outbreak of the Second World War during which he saw extensive active service in the Royal Navy. After the war he returned to Nottingham to resume his PhD studies but in 1947 decided to seize the opportunity to join the then Forest Products Research Laboratory at Princes Risborough as a Senior Scientific Officer under the supervision of K St G Cartwright and W P K Findlay.

John worked extensively on decay in cooling towers and boats and on the special peculiarities of dry rot. He also made substantial contributions to testing technologies and the derivation of national and European standards. Undoubtedly though, his single most important scientific achievement was the recognition and description in the mid-1950s, of the completely new type of wood decay which he termed 'soft rot'. Indeed, when a completely new genus of fungi was discovered by researchers at the then Portsmouth Polytechnic to cause soft rot in the marine environment, its identifier, Gareth Jones, gave it the name of 'Savoryella' in tribute to John.

John was promoted to Principal Scientific Officer in 1954 and when W P K Findlay left FPRL in 1958 to become Deputy Director of the Brewing Institute, John was appointed Head of the Mycology Section. In the early 1970s, FPRL was the subject of particularly tumultuous changes as Government revolutionised its policy for Science. Among various changes, Mycology Section was combined with Entomology Section to become the Biodeterioration Section, and eventually FPRL became merged with other Government Research Stations to become the Princes Risborough Laboratory of the Building Research Establishment. John guided his staff through all the uncertainties of the time with typical perception and gentleness. Quietly and inconspicuously he maintained a dignified and professional loyalty, ensuring the continued effectiveness of his Section, despite his own misgivings about the future for the internationally acclaimed, fundamental science, upon which the high reputation of FPRL had been based (and to which he and his predecessors had contributed so much).

John was always more interested in his science and his younger proteges than his own status or position. He was always willing to share his ideas and experience and was totally unselfish in the time he would devote to helping fellow-workers at home and overseas. He was formally or

informally tutor and mentor at some stage to practically all the current leading senior scientists in his fields.

Over all the years his wisdom and advice was regularly sought not just amongst scientists, researchers and students in the field but also in the industry, and John was a regular invited contributor at Annual Conventions of the British Wood Preserving and Damp-proofing Association

During a presentation on the occasion of his retirement, John remarked that he considered he had been privileged to have been able to pursue his hobby as a career and be paid for it. He also remarked that he doubted others present on that day would be able to say the same thing when they retired! Throughout his career John was passionate about co-operation and continued this into retirement. He maintained his interest in and support for the future of his science by acting as a peer reviewer and mentor to others, particularly in the Timber Technology Section at Imperial College, London, and by continuing his participation in the Annual Conferences of the IRG.

John was a highly perceptive and practical scientist, a wise, meticulous, firm but always fair boss, and a gentle, thoroughly honest and immensely kind man. John left his mark on many of us for which we are all grateful.

John leaves a wife, Cynthia, two daughters, Susan and Margaret, and three Grandchildren, Edward, Scarlett and Alexandra.

Anthony F Bravery  
5 September 2003

## **Obituary Daniela Messner**

The Secretariat was saddened to learn of the untimely passing of Daniela Messner, wife of past president Kurt Messner, on July 20. Daniela first attended the 1982 IRG meeting in Cesme, Turkey and became a fixture at subsequent meetings. Daniela's warm smile and friendly manner welcomed many new IRG members to what we have long termed the IRG family. Kurt would like to thank the IRG for the great hospitality and friendship Daniela received over the past 20 years. The IRG meeting was one of Daniela's yearly highlights, which was often followed by a wonderful journey through the host country following the meeting. We would like to thank Kurt for sharing Daniela with us and express our condolences on his loss.