



Pathoblitz Workshop

*Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
Atherton Tablelands, 12-17 May 2019*

The Pathoblitz workshop is based on the bushblitz concept – Australia's largest nature discovery project. This workshop will provide participants with the opportunity to observe, collect and identify diseased plant samples from the various agriculture, horticulture, forest and natural ecosystems of the Atherton Tablelands.

The Tablelands region covers approximately 65 000 km² with the majority of agriculture spread between Julatten in the north and southward to Ravenshoe and from Kuranda (east) to Dimbulah in the west. There is a diverse range of plant industries which include both tropical and sub-tropical production. In 2015, thirty five large plant based industries were identified in the region worth approximately \$440,000,000 to the local economy.

The workshop is aimed at early to mid-career plant pathologists, allowing them to interact and network with experts in field recognition of plant pathogens (eg. bacteria, fungi, viruses and phytoplasmas). The proposed location is on the shores of Lake Tinaroo, the source of water to the Mareeba-Dimbulah Irrigation area. The proximity to agricultural industries, natural and forest ecosystems will make it an ideal location.

The blitz will be convened over 4 days by:

*Kathy Grice - Horticultural Systems
Roger Shivas - Natural Ecosystems
Peter Trevorrow - Agriculture and pasture systems
Geoff Pegg - Forestry Systems*

A typical day will consist of:

- ❖ Morning field visits to collect diseased plant material*
- ❖ Identification using conventional techniques and isolations in our makeshift laboratory in the afternoons*
- ❖ Specialised information sessions (eg., LAMP based technologies)*

Funds have been reserved for sequencing new discoveries, these will be deposited in the Queensland Plant Pathology Herbarium and DNA sequences registered in NCBI GenBank.

If you are interested in attending this workshop please send an expression of interest to the sphd@agriculture.gov.au mailbox by 1st February 2019. SPHD will review the expressions of interest with the aim of achieving the most suitable representation across jurisdictions and organisations. Accommodation and all meals during the workshop will be covered by the organisers, however participants will need to fund their own travel to and from the workshop. Attendees must be NPBDN members so if you are interested but are not a current member, join the network for free now!

We will inform you of the outcomes of the expressions of interest process by 8th February 2019.

Contacts:

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