

Congratulations to **Benjamin Schwessinger** who was awarded a **College of Science Commendation for Outstanding Contribution to Education Experience**



Congratulations to **Caitlin Byrt** and her team! Research supported by ANU, ARC and the Australian Academy of Science (FT180100476 and Thomas Davies Research Grant for Marine, Soil and Plant Biology).



Thomas Davies 2024 grants from the Australian Academy of Science

Congratulations to **Florence Danila**



Targeted approach to map the genetic switches of plasmodesmata formation in C4 leaves to improve crops

"This should benefit improved crop yield and plant performance in the face of climate change, contributing towards global food security and plant biosecurity."

Congratulations to **Julian Greenwood**
Establishing a transient assay to rapidly assess resistance responses in canola

"I'm very excited to be a recipient of the Thomas Davies research grant and I look forward to putting it towards the improvement of canola disease resistance. Canola is the third most important crop in Australia, but its production is under constant threat of disease. The fungal disease, Blackleg, is the most devastating disease of canola in Australia with estimated yield losses of 10 to 15 percent each year. The interaction between Blackleg disease and canola disease resistance is poorly understood and there is no method to quickly assess the function of new and existing canola immune receptors. This grant will support the establishment of a method to rapidly assess resistance responses in single canola cells called protoplasts."



Professor Joan Leach has been appointed the new Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)

We congratulate **Professor Joan Leach** on her new role of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic). Professor Leach brings a wealth of experience and a bold, future-oriented vision to the role. She believes that ANU and the higher education sector has a "once-in-a-generation" opportunity to come together and reassert our value to society in what is a challenging period for universities amid heightened global political tensions. The Centre for Public Awareness of Science will appoint a new Director but Joan will remain engaged with our Centre!

Congratulations
Joan!



Mid-career research fellowship

Congratulations to **Julian Greenwood!!**
Establishing transient assays to rapidly assess resistance responses in canola and test engineered resistance receptors for improved blackleg resistance

This project aims to develop transient gene expression systems for assessing canola resistance responses. It will provide high throughput methods to test the large number of resistance receptor variants generated by AI and classical methods which must be screened to confirm new functional variants. Newly identified resistance receptor variants can then be integrated into elite cultivars to provide resistance to blackleg in the field.