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Preface

These proceedings are from the third Australian Postharvest Technical Conference (APTC 2003), which was held in Canberra from 25–27 June 2003, following successful conferences in Canberra in 1998 and Adelaide in 2000.

The Australian Postharvest Technical Conferences provide a regular forum where storers and handlers, marketers, food processors, researchers, research sponsors and suppliers of goods and services to the sector can exchange information and ideas, and build relationships.

APTC 2003 was held at a time of unprecedented change in the Australian grains industry, with issues such as competition, acquisitions, mergers, further deregulation, reduced government services, increased environmental and worker safety requirements, and increased competition for research funding challenging us all.

The conference was also held at a time of unprecedented technical challenge to the industry. Factors such as the impending loss of methyl bromide, increased insect resistance to phosphine and contact pesticides, the receipt of higher moisture grain, the impending release of genetically modified crops and many other issues again challenge us all.

The theme of APTC 2003 was “Modern grain storage technology in Australia”. We hope that these proceedings provide a clear picture of the current state of grain storage technology in Australia, and how it is being used to respond to the changes and the challenges being faced by the grain storage industry.

E. Jane Wright and Phillip Clamp
Co-chairs of the Conference Committee