

IPPS

Sharing Plant Production Knowledge Globally

the Propagator



International Plant Propagators
Society (IPPS) Australia

International Plant Propagators' Society www.ipps.org.au
Australian Region - Newsletter Autumn 2013 - No: 37

HORTICULTURE: MY BUSINESS, MY PASSION



Nursery & Garden Industry
Victoria

*Gardens are not made by singing
'Oh, how beautiful,' and sitting in
the shade. - Rudyard Kipling*

This year marks a groundbreaking event when IPPS and NGIV come together to stage this significant joint conference. This has not only meant close cooperation between the two bodies in the planning, but gaining the support of HAL and the Victorian Government as well as numerous other organisations. It is hard for us as conference attendees to appreciate the work and dedication many have contributed to the success of the event.

So philosophically is this a good match? Founded in 1903 the Nursery and Garden Industry Victoria's mission is to be the peak body fostering excellence in the garden industry. Their vision is for "a united and sustainable industry providing

plants, gardens and landscapes that are highly valued by Victorian households and communities."

The Plant Propagators Society was formed in 1951 in the USA, but took another ten years before it became an "International Society". In 1973 the Australian Region held its first conference at Leura. It was there that John Teulon from Swaney Nursery in Sydney told everyone of the benefits of his 18 years of membership.

IPPS with the motto of "Seek and Share", is an international organisation for plant production professionals. The primary mission is to advance the art and science of growing plants, and to share this knowledge throughout the global community "from and to those engaged in plant production. Membership includes those with an interest in ornamental horticulture, vegetable and fruit plant production, floriculture, silviculture, plantation crop production, amenity horticulture, and all other fields

related to the production of plants for public use."

NGIV and IPPS then are complementary bodies with a different focus but a shared goal of horticultural excellence. That's why the title "Horticulture: My business, my Passion" is so apt for this first shared milestone conference.

Most organisations in the industry recognise that to stay ahead means they need to have the staff with access to the latest knowledge. IPPS members not only have access to industry experts in Australia but across the world, and also the opportunity to travel and gain international experience. Put simply membership is a great career choice that should be encouraged.

This edition has some great stories from some of our younger members who have embraced the IPPS opportunities and developed into great assets for the industry. I hope you can join us at the Pullman Melbourne (Sebel) at 65 Queens Rd. Albert Park, Melbourne in May.

THIS EDITION

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President's Comment

I am certainly looking forward to returning to Australia for some downtime in mid-March. Living & working in a developing nation really does emphasise just how technologically advanced & modern Australia really is. We recently used this technology to conduct an IPPS executive board meeting via telephone with directors in Macau, New Zealand & scattered far & wide throughout Australia as though everyone was having a get together at a local club. However, on the flip side, you soon learn, Australia as an exporting economy is not competitive in a global market.

Congratulations to Nathan Wells (employed by the Tallis family, Overland Nurseries) on being selected for our South African exchange award this year. I do look forward to his report at this year's conference. Nominations for our Rod Tallis & Six Pack awards will be closing March '31st so please spread the word amongst the younger generation.

I really do have to thank my board members keeping the society running along smoothly during my absence. Clive Larkman & David Parlby for keeping the organising of the upcoming 2013 IPPS joint conference on track. Michael Gleeson for doing the legwork on the South Africa IPPS exchange

award & Pam for keeping the administration of the society efficiently & professionally up to date.

In my travels, you really do meet some wonderful, inspiring plant people in horticulture. I had the pleasure of meeting one of the largest tree producers in Hong Kong & China. Push aside , the enormity of his operation, his passion is the collection, saving & rejuvenation of ancient trees. The attached photos are just a couple of examples:

The *Olea europaea* (Olive- top) was collected from a olive farm under threat from development in Spain & shipped to China. The age of this specimen is dated to be over 2000 years old from historical records, while the *Murraya exotica* (below) is dated provisionally at being over 100 years old. His plant collection is breathtaking & the budding & grafting propagation techniques used to rejuvenate these ancient specimens is very interesting. Hope I can get further access to his collection & report back.



Look forward to catching up with my IPPS family in Melbourne, Bye for now.

Regards

Peter Lewis

Australian Region President & International Director

Executive Officer's Report



Hard to believe we are already a quarter of the way into Twenty Thirteen.

IPPS Office

This time of year is always a busy time. I have been kept quite busy with 'day-to-day' running of the IPPS Office as well as membership subscription renewals.

Membership Renewal

Yes, it is that time of the year again. A big thank-you to those members who have forwarded payments. A friendly reminder to everyone else, could you please tend to this matter at your earliest convenience. If you are having difficulty in paying your subscription (for whatever reason), please feel free to contact me so that we can discuss alternative payment options.

Subscription

BANK DETAILS:	Bendigo Bank
BSB: 633-000	Account No: 140185737

If paying by EFT PLEASE PUT INVOICE NO. OR NAME IN THE PAYMENT BOX SO I CAN IDENTIFY WHO PAYMENT IS FROM. THANK YOU
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Contact Detail Changes

To ensure Office records are kept 'up to date' I would appreciate it if Members could please notify me of any changed contact details. In particular, if you have changed telephone provider recently, please advise me of your new email address at pjberry@iprimus.com.au or pam@ipps.org.au

It is important that the Australian & International database records are kept 'up to date', otherwise you could be missing out on receiving information.

Joint NGIV & IPPS Conference – 'My Business My Passion' - 16th to 19th May 2013 – Sebel at Albert Park, Melbourne

Conference Registration Form along with information can be accessed and downloaded from the website: www.ipps.org.au



**DON'T
DELAY.....**

BOOK TODAY....

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Email: pjberry@iprimus.com.au or pam@ipps.org.au

Phone:W: 07 3829 1444

Fax: 07 3829 9767).

I look forward to meeting up with Members who will be attending the conference in Melbourne.

Pam Berryman

2013 South African Exchange

Just before Nathan Wells left for South Africa I had the chance to talk to him about this great opportunity he was about to embark upon.

"I'm an apprentice at Overland Nurseries at Arcadia. Before this I studied Environmental Science at the University of Tasmania. My studies at university were related to horticulture (for example, to conclude my degree I wrote an honours thesis on sustainability in Australian suburbs, with particular emphasis on gardens).

Rather than sit in front of a computer and write about something, I would prefer to be outside using my hands and actually doing it.

As to what my friends and family have thought about my upcoming trip to South Africa, I get a range of responses. The first is usually a bit of shock, and they ask: "Why are you going over there?" I usually rattle off something like: "They have plants over there too, you know...".

Of course the IPPS aren't an organisation commonly known, so I tell them a little bit about that. And, after a moment the more cluey ones make reference to the close botanical relationship between South African and Australian species.

Everyone I have spoken to has been really supportive, particularly Scott and Brent Tallis at work who encouraged my application. The teaching staff and classmates at Richmond TAFE have also been very supportive,



taking their own time to support my application."

In support of his application Scott Tallis (IPPS member) wrote that "Nathan demonstrates a passion for plants and learning that we as a business have not seen for a very long time."

Pictured above is a shot of Nathan at Windsor NSW, with one of his home-grown watermelons. He hopes that with any luck this one will double in size before he returns from South Africa. This typifies his passion for horticulture, not only a job but a way of life.

Nathan enjoys growing his own food at home, "it's something I've always done and derive great pleasure from it. This summer I've grown multiple heirloom watermelon, rockmelon and pumpkin cultivars. It's been my first summer in NSW for many years, and so it's fantastic to be able to grow the types of fruit and veg that struggle in Hobart ...though my hops aren't quite as happy with the higher humidity up here (not to worry, they'll still make good beer)."

I am looking forward to Nathan's presentation at the conference where we hear about his experiences of culture, practice and plants in South Africa.

2013 NGIV-IPPS CONFERENCE PROGRAM

"HORTICULTURE: MY BUSINESS, MY PASSION"

This year is a watershed with the IPPS and the Nursery and Garden Industry holding its first joint conference. We have been planning and working on the program and venue for over two years and feel we have something special.

It is also the 40th birthday of IPPS and 110th birthday of NGIV. So we are celebrating 150 years of advice, learning and sharing of horticultural knowledge to Australian growers.

Being a joint conference means we need a much broader program than either body would normally have. To fit this in we have made it a four day conference at a three day price. Can't get better value than that.

Friday will be the tour day with a selection of different tours on offer. All will visit the \$250 million Agribio centre at Latrobe University. The centre is pictured below (photo by Peter Glenane from the Agribio Facebook photo album).

The other days are packed with exciting and informative speakers. Day's one and three have general sessions in the morning including a inspirational presentation by Stephen Bradbury - Australia's only gold

medalist in speed skating, and an entertaining panel discussion on 'Putting plants on the front Page' with well known personalities: Jane Edmanson, Jim Fogarty and Debra Templar .

Each afternoon is split into a technical and business stream. In the latter we will be looking at a range of current issues that are critical to being a successful small business in current times. Items like; being an 'Employer of Choice', 'Motivating Staff', 'Social Media' and 'How to make your business lean?' In the technical stream we will be looking at 'Industry Biosecurity', New Directions in Nutrient Management', 'Greenhouse Management' and 'Ornamental Eucalypts'

The final day is full of short, sharp targeted papers including a look at the National Plant Labeling Guidelines, Daffodil Breeding and an interesting presentation on Setting up a Botanic Garden from scratch - in Oman. We have two Omani horticulturists coming to talk about what they have done and their unique environment.

Then there is the social stuff. The usual welcome cocktail function on Wednesday evening, a Bollywood night on Thursday and the traditional dinner on Saturday night. We all know how much fun these events are when it is just IPPS but with our friends from NGIV these evenings will be great.

We have a short simple pre-conference tour of green rooves, walls and special gardens in the CBD. This will start mid morning Wednesday and return in time for the Cocktail party. On the Monday we will have a short 1.5 day tour



my business **passion**

2013 JOINT NGIV & IPPS CONFERENCE

The first joint conference between the Nursery & Garden Industry Victoria and the International Plant Propagators Society will be staged at Melbourne's best conference venue, the Sebel at Albert Park, May 16th - 19th 2013.

This joint Conference will bring together the two most vibrant nursery groups in Australia, along with a sizable international contingent of visitors and speakers.



Stephen Bradbury is our opening keynote speaker. Stephen won lasting fame and the nation's admiration with his 'Come from behind' Ice Skating Olympic gold medal. He's a gifted and remarkably entertaining public speaker.

The NGV & IPPS Conference will include the best Australian retail and production nurseries along with visits to a number of fascinating enterprises allied to the nursery industry in some way.

The line-up of speakers covers the spectrum of the best Australia has to offer and a selection of international guest presenters.

All of this will be lightened by a terrific social program designed to make the whole Conference one to remember.

Speaker highlights include:

Ross Monaghan: A business communication specialist and former Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association.

David Griffin - Carbon Price - Friend or Foe: David Griffin is the Policy Manager in the Victorian Department of Primary Industries.

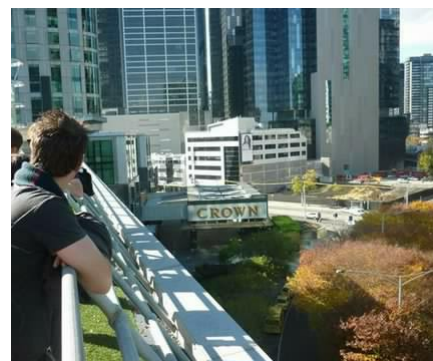
Marc Soccio: Rabobank Senior Analyst Food & Agribusiness Research and Advisory team

'Passion in the Workplace': Two concurrent streams; business focused stream and a technical stream.

Includes: Pest Management in the nursery, Water management in non-drought periods, and a host of others to choose from with speakers as diverse as Kevin Handreck and John MacDonald

Nursery Tours Program: Choose from three completely different tours taking in the full spectrum of Victorian nursery and related businesses including Latrobe University's new AgriBio Centre - a world leading research and technical facility.





of some leading nurseries in southern and western Melbourne.

Go to the website, download the forms and book NOW.

Clive Larkman

Some of the highlighted technical program speakers include: Kevin Handreck, who has said that he intends to say all sorts of controversial things in his talk on media. James Gardner from OCP will be focussing on soft management options of organic gardening with some research results for new products. David Reid (NIDO Vic.) with a background in plant pathology and environmental management will give an update on pest management.

IPPS the Passionate Career Choice

by David Parlbay Vice President & IPPS 2013 Conference Coordinator
(Photos from NextGen functions)

As a propagator, I would say that the stock plants are the most important part of the process. Without good quality stock, the rest of process will struggle. This is the same with this great industry, without the next generation being mentored and given

opportunities to grow, we might struggle to have quality engaged workers for the future.

Our industry has always been low paying, and unfortunately until we can get the public to see the value in plants, it's likely to stay that way for a while. Because of this it does become hard to retain good workers in this industry, therefore we as an industry need to give a reason for people to want to be in horticulture.

I believe the wrong questions are being asked about the next generation. Most people want to know where we can find these passionate people for the industry. I would ask a different question, how do we retain the staff once we find them? How do we keep them interested and passionate?

Some staff are just happy to work for their 8 hours a day and go home, however have you ever asked if they wanted more out of their job? Have you ever asked if they are happy to have more responsibility? Sometimes just talking to a staff member you can get a great idea what they want out of a career.

Our industry works hard to deliver great programs to the next generation of horticulturists.

IPPS understands the importance of giving the next generation the opportunities and exposure they need to develop personally and professionally.

IPPS has, for many years worked hard to give young propagators a taste of our great industry. The Yates 6 Pack, South African Exchange and Rod Tallis award have given many young horticulturists a kick start into the industry.

Once I was part of the Yates Six Pack, I went on to successfully apply for the South African Exchange and Rod Tallis programs. All of which, gave me various opportunities. These programs whet my appetite for what this industry has to offer.

The Yates 6 Pack is a great way for a young propagator to get a leg up in the industry. I had been in the industry for only a few years when the opportunity to apply for the Yates 6 Pack came my way. I hadn't had much exposure to the industry at this point. I enjoyed my job, however I always wondered what else the industry had to offer.

When I attended the conference as a six packer, I didn't know anyone and was quite reserved.



Those who know me, know that it's a different story now.

Having this exposure to the industry has helped me personally and professionally. Personally it gave me more confidence to interact with people, which has helped professionally by gaining some great contacts in the industry.

I believe if it wasn't for the opportunities I received through being a six packer, my career path might be very different.

The Rod Tallis Award in 2008 gave me a great opportunity to undergo a formal trial, something I had always wanted to do. Learning in depth about the subject (moss control) was a great process to go through, which has given me the tools to undertake many more trials over the years.

The presenting side of the Rod Tallis award was something outside of my comfort zone. I was fine talking to people one on one, however getting up in front of a group of peers appeared a daunting task. Having the exposure to public speaking so early in my career has helped me in more ways than I could imagine.

Since presenting to the IPPS delegates at the conference, I now have more confidence to talk to large or small groups. I'm not saying that I'm the best public speaker, however I will give it a go, where I might not have before.

This exposure to public speaking early in my career has helped me as a supervisor/ Manager. Where I might have struggled before, I can now comfortably talk to the staff as a group.

The South African trip for me is something I still reflect on regularly. I had never been out of the country and didn't think it's something I would want to do.

Since at the time of applying for this great opportunity I was working for Proteaflora, and thought I would be a great opportunity to see the plants in their native country. I did see this, and so much more.

The South African industry was very inviting and willing to show me anything I wanted to see. During my time in South Africa I witnessed almost 20 different nurseries. By the half way mark of my trip, I wondered what else the industry back home could offer me and what I could offer it in return.

This is something I explored (and still exploring) upon returning home.

My trip to South Africa was a great experience personally. I still can't pin point when it happened over there, however something clicked over there and I became more driven about my career and the industry.

I sometimes reflect on what I have done in this industry and wonder if I would still be in it if I didn't take the opportunities that IPPS gave me. I have had many opportunities through the NGIV, however that is a story of another day.

The important part to take away from what I have shared is if we don't support the initiatives that IPPS and industry bodies work hard to provide, then they might not be available in the future.

David Parlby

Cyclones, Tsunamis, Earthquakes and Plants

Instead of a profile in this edition, Dan Austin kindly agreed to tell us a bit of what he is doing in the Solomon Islands. Dan is a younger member of the IPPS Australian Region board.

A brief on life from S.E.B Nursery, Honiara, Solomon Islands.

We are well into the year already and as another conference draws near, I 'm again reminded of the opportunities I have had through I.P.P.S. From the youth initiatives, including the "Six Pack" and "South African exchange Program" to the invaluable information of our conferences and mentorship of members.

It is no exaggeration now to say that the society has formed my career and taken me around the world. In no small way, I.P.P.S helped me to progress from an apprentice groundsman, to a nursery manager, lecturer for TAFESA and now as a Horticultural advisor and trainer in the Solomon Islands. So it will be strange to be out of Australia for this year's conference, but it's as good an excuse as any, I guess.



Aside from the natural disasters and impending Malaria, it is not a bad life over here and my students are among some of the best I have taught. To paint a picture, there are similarities to South Africa in the lack of OH&S and mechanisation, not to mention the general craziness, but the islands have uniqueness and pace found nowhere else.

My nursery too is unique, in that it is the country's only ornamental production nursery. We sell plants, flower arrangements and landscape supplies, as well as supply garden designs, installation and maintenance. We also sell media, which is usually a mix of hand sieved coconut coir (husks raided from nearby plantations), pig manure, chipped *Delonix*, organic waste from the local brewery and river sand, all processed by hand. I guess we are kind of the one stop horticultural shop for the Solomon's.

The nursery staff double as the city's parks and gardens staff, usually working at night to avoid the heat. Then there are my students, who come from all walks of Solomon's life, from rural villages with little to no literacy, to college graduates struggling in the regions high unemployment, their ages

ranging from thirteen to late fifties.

Ten or twenty jump in the tray of my truck each morning and we head to class to meet the ten or twenty arriving in our second truck, so there is no shortage of challenges in getting everything to align but somehow the chaos just works.

From a research point of view and botanically speaking, the region is a goldmine. Inhabited areas are full of various *Heliconia*, *Hibiscus* and *Codiaeum* as you might expect, and things get botanically pristine quickly outside of Honiara.

Leaving the city on the main drag, it isn't long before the beaches become lined with *Cocos* and the coastal *Ipomea* species. On foot you are dwarfed by towering Sago Palms (*Metroxylon sagu*) and 6 foot high grasses.

But it is when looking beyond these outlandish dominant species, that the regions true treasures become apparent. Among the blades of grass, terrestrial orchids of brown, pink and white are common but their numbers pale in comparison to the orchid species in the forest canopy above. Up there, in company, epiphytic *Ficus*, unusual bromeliads and mosses

can be seen among trailing *Epipremnum*, all vying for a place in the sun.

It was scenes like this that sparked my latest and probably one of SEB's more ambitious schemes that might hit the spot for some of you back home. Over the next year or so we are planning a range of plant collection expeditions to some of the Solomon's 992 islands in the hope of commercialising and exhibiting some of the regions local offerings among the introduced ornamentals currently used in the countries capital.

We started in rural Guadalcanal and have since journeyed to the remote and tiny island of Bellona with fantastic results, but the project is still in its infancy. Identification of such plants is laborious, so if there are any specialists among you, open to taking a look at some of our troublesome species, please feel free to forward your contact details. But then there is always something new to be found...

Well that was a quick update on antics over here that turned out longer than planned, so hopefully it has been of interest.

Anyone keen on a visit or hearing about our collected species and their potential please feel free to



Left: students at Solomon Islands National Herbarium

Right: What is this?

Photos - Dan Austin



contact me at eaturgreens@live.com.au or check out the Facebook page by searching Solo Enviro Beautification.

Cheers until next time,

Dan Austin

News

RIRDC has released a new guide that could be useful for the industry entitled: **Bee Friendly: A planting guide for European honeybees and Australian native pollinators**. This can be found at:

<https://rirdc.infoservices.com.au/items/12-014>

In "Rural Diversity" Issue 10 Summer 2013, there are a number of interesting publications highlighted from RIRDC. These include the above article, and "Herbicide resistant weeds spreading on public land", "Resources for wildflower growers", and "Centapida - an Australian medicinal plant".

Challenge

"I am again reminded of the opportunities I have had through IPPS. From the youth initiatives, including the "Six Pack" and "South African exchange Program" to the invaluable

information of our conferences and mentorship of members, it is no exaggeration now, to say that the society has formed my career and taken me around the world. In no small way, I.P.P.S helped me to progress from an apprentice groundsman, to a nursery manager, lecturer for TAFESA and now as a Horticultural advisor and trainer in the Solomon Islands" ... (see the rest of this letter from Dan from page 6).

What a wonderful testament this statement is to what membership of our wonderful Society can do.

So here is my Challenge. If you have any contacts with your local TAFE or have a TAFE nearby go and see the head teacher and ask if you could come along one day to do a presentation about IPPS to their final year students. Tell them about the youth initiatives we have here in our region, Tell them to have a look at our website. Tell the students how welcome we will make them if they attend a field day or conference.

I will set myself a challenge here as well and offer my services in helping you put together a presentation.

If you are willing to take up this challenge please also get in touch with Pam and ask for some IPPS information handouts.

Michael Gleeson

Newsletter Comment

Editors

I must admit that I am very impressed by the passion for plants and IPPS shown by our younger contributors to this edition. If nothing else, they have lifted the bar for my expectations for our conference in Melbourne, for horticulture and the future of IPPS.

Join up to the Australian facebook site - search for "**International Plant Propagators Society (IPPS) Australia**" and start contributing by "liking" it. I will be posting photos from conferences and field days there as well. We now have a large and growing number of people watching this site, particularly with our joint conference in May.

Don't forget that this newsletter and some past copies are also available on the IPPS website at www.ipps.org.au, and pass your extra copy of the newsletter around at work.

Bruce Higgs - editor
"the Propagator"

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IPPS CALENDAR

Region	Dates	Site
2013		
New Zealand Region "Erupting into the Future"	April 25-28	Taupo, North Island
Australian Region	May 15 - 19	Melbourne, Victoria
Region of Great Britain & Ireland	September 24 - 27	Nottingham, England
International Tour, hosted by the Western Region (USA and Canada)		
International Tour	September 21 - 26	Seattle area, Washington State
International Tour	September 27 - 29	Portland, Oregon
Western Region Conference	October 1 - 4	Portland, Oregon