

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 Summer 2014 - No: 44

Why IPPS ?

At the recent Sydney field day many expressed their hopes for the future involved with what they can learn and contribute through IPPS membership. It was great to catch up with people I had not seen for a while as well.

All peak horticultural industry bodies such as NGIA are endeavouring to raise the professionalism of their part of the industry. This is necessary with continuing technological improvements and accompanying potential improvements in productivity. Horticulture is changing, with fewer larger growers operating efficiently on lower margins becoming the norm. This structural change means we need to do things differently and adapt quickly to remain competitive into the future.

Training is now a real concern for the horticultural industry, particularly with the loss of many courses at Universities and TAFE. In fact the businesses will need to take on more of a direct role to train their staff. This poses some real issues with managers as they and their staff now need to keep up with industry trends not just locally but internationally. The opportunity

offered by IPPS membership to visit businesses in other areas and learn is invaluable. We need to be thinking of a bigger picture, not just a domestic market.

You could think that by now all knowledge would be available on the Internet. Over 60 years ago a number of young horticulturists met and formed the society as they were concerned with the potential loss of knowledge held by the elders of the industry. There is so much that can be learnt through a simple discussion with someone who has real experience.

"From its inception in 1951 when a group of about 70 plant propagators met in Cleveland, Ohio, to share their knowledge and form the Society, IPPS has broadened into an international forum for sharing knowledge, information, skills, and resources that improve the productivity and professionalism of its members in the global plant production community." Much of that knowledge is available to members through direct contact or from past issues of the worldwide "Proceedings" available in book and CD as

well as from the international website.

IPPS has a worldwide membership organized into eight geographic regions around the world, and has also initiated an "at-large" membership for those individuals located outside the geographic boundaries of the regions, but who still want to be part of this "Seek and Share" organization.

"The mission of IPPS – with a focus on the global community of those involved in horticultural plant production is:

- to share knowledge, information and skills;
- to provide guidance and support for lifelong career achievements;
- to increase recognition of the profession; and
- to maximize the integration of research, education, and horticultural knowledge."

Join or help organise a field day and come to the conference next year. Most are amazed at what they come away with. Bruce Higgs

THIS EDITION

Why IPPS?

IPPS National Conference May 7-10

Field Days

Overseas Grower Visits

Reports

◆ President's Comment

◆ Executive Officer's Comment

News

Challenge

Calendar 2015

Newsletter Editors Comment



President's Comment

We have had a great spring here in the West this year. Spring usually lasts about two or three weeks as we go from cold to too hot in a very short time frame but we have had a great run of mild weather and spring sales have been sustained for much longer than usual. Reports from around the country suggest most nurseries are doing well with shortages of stock all over the place. Retailers and wholesalers both seem happy with sales.

Part of the reason for this may be related to stories in a recent Hort Journal magazine. I was struck by the announcements of no less than 3 nurseries closing in the one edition of the magazine. This is probably just the tip of the iceberg in this matter. They are not closing because of poor business conditions but because of people reaching retirement age and seemingly unable to sell as a going concern. The value of the land is where the money comes from but it is sad to see and one can only wonder where the plants are going to come from in a decade or two.

It makes IPPS' focus on young people, with the six pack initiative and the South African exchange program, all the more important and relevant as we need to keep people growing plants – not just to keep our businesses going but for the long term benefit of the environment. So many more plants are going to be needed in future and already the range of plants available is much

diminished. We owe it to our industry and to the environment to keep as many young people interested as possible.

Driving around Perth delivering plants, as we do, there are major road works going on everywhere with huge swathes of original, native vegetation wiped out on mass to make way for more efficient transport. More tracts of bush are continually wiped out for new subdivisions as well, as the city continues to sprawl in all directions. A limited range of plants go back eventually as a token effort but we need to be in a position to supply a good range of plants and advice on what should be being put back.

From all reports the Sydney regional meeting went very well with a range of attendees. Thanks to Michael Gleeson and his team for making it happen. We already have a few applications for the South African program next year, which is great.

We had a gathering here in the West at Natural Area Management nursery with a good attendance as well. Hopefully new members will result from both meetings and other areas can get on board and organise field days as well.

Next year's conference in Newcastle is fast approaching and the organisation of it is well under control with the whole thing pretty much bedded down. We're looking forward to seeing what the region has to offer and, as usual, hearing the latest presentations and networking and socialising with a great mob of people (that's you, the members).

I trust your summer goes well and get enough stock grown to meet demand!

Steve Vallance

Executive Officer's Report

IPPS OFFICE

Even though the IPPS Office slows down at this time of the year, I am still kept busy tending to general office and in-house duties. Preparations for next years conference are also progressing well.



NEWCASTLE 2015

8th to 10th May 2015



'The Times They Are A Changing'

For further information go to www.ipps.org.au

Make a note of this date in your diary.

MEMBERSHIP

The Australian Region of IPPS has 183 Members.

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

Early in the New Year membership subscription renewals will be forwarded out to all Members. Your speedy remittance in this regard would be very much appreciated.

CONTACT DETAILS

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 your telephone provider recently, *please* remember to forward your new email address onto me at pjberry@iprimus.com.au or pam@ipps.org.au

Pam Berryman

IPPS National Conference

7-10 May 2014

Be assured of a warm Novocastrian welcome to the 2015 IPPS Annual Conference, in Newcastle, NSW. The conference venue is the iconic Newcastle City Hall (photo right) right in the heart of Newcastle very close to the stylish revamped Honeysuckle Precinct.



The Conference theme is *'Times are a Changing'* which will be reflected in much of the content of the program.

Topnotch speakers will dazzle you with their wisdom and a one day field trip to inspiring nurseries will provide lots of conversation points. Additionally, because we are part of the Hunter, a nontraditional field trip will be offered if there is enough interest.

Noah's on the Beach (a short bus ride or approximately a 15 minute walk to Newcastle City Hall) is the nominated accommodation setting, however there are many types of accommodation available to suit all requirements and budgets. Best advice is to book early, as the saying goes, to avoid disappointment.

A list of accommodation options will be provided with the Conference flyer which will be available early in 2015.

Fees have been kept to a reasonable \$450.00 for early bird registration and \$540.00 for later registrations. For the students amongst us we have arranged a subsidised price of \$250.00 for the conference days only (8th May to 10th May). We are hoping this will encourage students to get involved with IPPS.

We are particularly keen to get past Yates Six-packers still involved in the industry to return to this conference. They will also be eligible for the student rate with the added benefit of attending the welcoming evening on Thursday night at the museum.

A Pre-Conference Tour is being organised with details available at a later date.

Doug Twentyman

Rod Tallis Award

It is that time of year again when our young propagators need to be nudged and encouraged to apply for this prestigious award

A worthy propagator at the start of their career can gain an award that they can be proud of and mark the start of a successful career in horticulture. All you need to do is report on some propagation work you have undertaken.

Yates Youth Six Pack

Applications are open for the chance to be a 6 pack member in Newcastle. You could have the privilege to meet some of the industry leaders while being sponsored by Yates.

All that needs to be done for either of these is **submit an application**. Contact details are on the IPPS website (see www.ipps.org.au). .

Date	Day	Time	Event	Venue
7 May	Thur	9 - 4 6 - 8	Board meeting Welcome Drinks & Finger Food Registration	City Hall Newcastle Museum http://www.newcastlemuseum.com.au/
8 May	Fri	8 - 5	Registration & Speakers Casual Dinner & Auction	Newcastle City Hall Newcastle City Hall http://www.newcastlecityhall.com.au/
9 May	Sat	8 - 4.30 6.30	Field Trip Conference Dinner	Noah's on the Beach http://www.noahsonthebeach.com.au/page3102/Home-.aspx
10 May	Sun	9 - 2	Speakers Conference Close	Newcastle City Hall

Field Days

Mildura - John Messina

You Can Take the Propagator Out Of the Mist House, But You Can't Take The Mist House Out Of The Propagator...

If ever there was proof that plants get in your blood, I think I found it on the weekend. I had the pleasure of joining some of the IPPS's most long serving members for a meeting; not just of like minded colleagues, but of life long friends.

It was a sunny Sunday afternoon, and the venue was on the banks of the Murray River at a little town called Gol Gol just over the border from Mildura in NSW.

In attendance were Rodger & Natalie Peate, John & Judy Teulon, Ian & Noelle Tolley, and Peter and Lois Smith. Rodger and Natalie had travelled up from Melbourne, and are well known as the founders of PGA nursery. They are responsible for the introduction of many plants, especially natives, to the Australian Nursery Industry. Natalie is the author of numerous publications, including "Grow What Where". Natalie served as IPPS Australian president in 1984 - 1985.

John Teulon is officially Australia's longest serving member, having joined the IPPS Western region before the Australian region was even formed. He has a long career in propagation with Swanes Nursery, where he introduced among many varieties, the 'Swanes Golden Pencil

Pine'. John served as president in 1975 - 1976. He and wife Judy travelled from Sydney to attend the meeting.

Ian Tolley is a passionate citrus propagator. He and wife Noelle are from Renmark, South Australia. He was a forerunner in what are now considered standard citrus nursery techniques, like growing in containers, and micro-budding. He has travelled the world as a consultant. If you attended an IPPS conference up until a few years ago, you would no doubt have seen one of Ian's presentations or practical demonstrations, such as his prolific contribution to sharing propagation knowledge. He served as Australian president in 1977 - 1978 and International president in 1985. He received the IPPS International Award of Honour in 1998 and the Australian Award of Honour in 1992.

Peter and Lois Smith established Sunraysia Nurseries over 60 years ago, and were hosts for the get together. Peter was president in 1980-81, and both he and Lois received a joint award of Honour in 2009.

The group met back in the earliest days on the Australian Regions existence, brought together by the common need for new information, and the common willingness to share what they knew. That philosophy has seen them prosper in their individual business pursuits. But has also formed long lasting friendships which, for the rest of us present, were clear to see.

And the plants are still in the blood. I was fortunate enough to receive some seeds from Natalie, and had an in depth discussion on humidity controllers in misting with John.

For the less experienced among us, it was great to see the value of being involved in the process of

'seeking & sharing'. I want to extend enormous thanks to John and Judy, Natalie and Rodger, and Ian and Noelle, for travelling so far to make this meeting possible. And to Peter for hosting us all.

Western Australia

- David Hancock

W.A. IPPS Meet & Greet Event a Big Success.

Steve Vallance our National President and the Natural Area Nursery at Whiteman hosted this well attended event in late September.

A total of 22 propagators turned out, some travelling over 250 km to meet with Angus Stewart who was touring WA on another of his botanical soirees. Angus offered some encouraging words in his usually engaging style, reflecting the shared appreciation of plants and the attributes of propagation and knowledge exchange.

Young Natural Area propagator Andrew Nguyen gave a brief presentation on his semi selective weed control trials and useful discussions were covered on Phytophthora testing and contract growing terms.

A tour of the nursery was undertaken, incorporating an auto seeding demonstration and a new mechanised tray recycling system.

The group enjoyed refreshments on arrival and a quality BBQ lunch compliments of the Society. A strong pitch for new members was successful and new connections were



established. The meeting was a fine example of the Seek & Share ethos.

A wildflower field tour has been proposed for the next State event. Thanks to all who attended, Nursery Manager Claire Franklin Jones and her staff for their hosting efforts.

Sydney

This successful Field Day organised by Michael Gleeson was held at the 8 acre tubestock division of Andreasens Green at Lansvale on the 12th November. Just over 40 attended. We had folk from WA, Qld. the ACT and SA as well. It was also good to see three past IPPS South African exchangees as well as 6 pack members.

We were welcomed to the nursery by Brett Sargeant the Andreasens Green CEO, who saw a great future through staff membership of IPPS. This was followed by a guided tour conducted by nursery manager, Andrew O'Neil.

The propagation area at the nursery includes their new 600 square metre propagation poly-house constructed in April 2013. The house has double skin 4 metre walls and was built by

Coast Guard Netting. The moving benches, screens, and control systems were supplied by Power-Plants. Earthworks, concrete, gravel and other electrical by their own subcontractors. The irrigation system including Dan inverted misters and high pressure foggers, was designed and supplied by Aquadec. Hot water mats are heated from a storage tank heated by a LPG boiler.

As well as seed grown lines they produce about 800,000 tubes from cuttings of 20 varieties and a further 350,000 from about 80 tissue culture varieties.

Later on Tony Ferraro spoke about work undertaken at Botanica Nurseries with various propagation media based on ash and bark based potting mix. He especially spoke about their use of Jiffy preforma plugs and modification of their use to minimise drying out on transplanting into pots.

This really was a great day, special thanks

must go to Andreasens for being the hosts and providing lunch with the support of Garden City Plastics.

- Bruce Higgs



Overseas Grower Visits

While planning to go to the joint Australian and New Zealand conference in May we found that a pre-conference tour was to be held the week prior followed by the pre-conference tour (which by all accounts was terrific). We decided to take a few days in-between holidaying on the Corrimandel Peninsula and driving to Napier and then down to Wellington. We needed a bit of a break and this was a part of NZ we had not explored much before.

As well as sightseeing we thought that it would be good if we could visit some nurseries and gardens along the way. It was then that I asked around and contacted Hayden Foulds a fellow IPPS member to see if he could offer some suggested contacts. He was very helpful with suggestions. We arranged our itinerary after contacting the nurseries and arranging visits on the Way to Gisborne and Napier, as well as on the way to Wellington.

After a relaxing fine weekend on the peninsula with terrific scenery and sights we set off on a dull overcast day heading across the North Island. On the way to Taranaki we called in to **Palmers** at Bethlehem an award winning retail nursery. There were many things similar to the best of nurseries in Australia, but as an Australian you saw our plants being



marketed for their virtue not as “native plants” which of course they are not in NZ.

The other thing you realise is that most of the species grown must handle copious amounts of rain as well as cooler weather in winter which makes European and American cultivars popular. There are very few flowering plants in New Zealand apart from the Manuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*) and *Metrosideros* sp. Flax are also often used in landscaping.

We were late getting into Gisborne so missed getting to the Eastwoodhill arboretum. This is famous and one to mark down for a visit sometime in the future.

The spot commemorating where Captain Cook’s voyage first sighted the white cliffs of the area and discovered New Zealand is at Gisborne.

We also visited a fellow IPPS members nursery: **Native Garden Nursery**
<http://www.nativegarden.co.nz/>.

The nursery owner **Lana Hope** took us for a guided tour of the nursery that specialises in collecting and propagating indigenous plants from seed and cutting. The stock was of good quality and the nursery very tidy. Plant varieties which I had mostly never seen before were mostly growing in plastic bags without individual labels and were retailing for below what we would have regarded as a reasonable wholesale price in Australia.



Below Lana Hope at Native Garden Nursery at Gisborne



We then headed down the east coast to Napier along a fairly windy road. There were some interesting land forms along the way due to erosion .

At Napier we visited **Plant Production Nursery** tubestock nursery site. **Paul Chadderton** and **Richard Ware** (IPPS members) took us around the site and showed us the many different tunnels with different features for different cutting stock.

<http://www.plantproduction.co.nz>

This is a good sized tubestock (liner) propagation nursery producing around 3,000,000 plants per annum mostly from cuttings. Although an older style of nursery with low poly tunnels and in ground electric heating, the strike rate appeared to be very good. Tunnels were mostly full with little room. Specially adapted barrows are used transporting trays manually placed or picked up from the ground.

Plant Production have developed their own tray transport system from modified wooden pallets (pictured below). They also are renown for developing their own

forms of various plants including many PVR varieties. Richard showed us a promising variant of Callistemon Little John during the tour. Through many early visits to Australia (IPPS conferences included) Richard introduced many Australian species to New Zealand.

Then off to see the city of Napier which is recognised for the art deco style of architecture of most of the building due to rebuilding after a tragic earthquake in 1931.

Unfortunately the delay from a tyre puncture and repair the next day meant that we missed visiting Kilmarnock Nursery at Ashurst where Hayden works. On the way to Wellington we were dismayed (for the local nurseries) to see many back yard retailers selling 150 mm sized plants from roadside stalls at around \$2.

In Wellington we called in to a Bunnings store and thought members might like to see how seedlings are still sold in newspaper wrapping with stuck on labels.

We appreciate the time spent by our hosts in sharing with us. They were really generous of their time. It is



times like this that make you think about your own process and wonder if you could be doing it simpler, differently or at a lower cost, or maybe that you should be growing something else instead. Of course it is through the membership of IPPS that opportunities like this exist.

I would encourage you to think about contacting a local IPPS member if you are travelling through one of the Regional areas, and take the time to arrange to meet with some growers facing similar challenges to you but most likely tackling them in a very different way.

Bruce Higgs



Left; Richard Ware in one of the propagation tunnels; right; Paul Chadderton in front of tubes ready for despatch. Bottom left; modified pallet for tube tray despatch. Right a typical art deco building in Napier.



Youth Auction

No we are not selling an elixir of youth or young bodies.

What we do need to sell are your contributions to the auction held to support youth initiatives such as the 6 pack and exchange program.

If you have some quality plants, a painting or work of art or craft, a book, some useful tools or implements or some nice wine that you could contribute, please bring them along to the conference next year.

Don't forget to bring some cash to pay for that item you are going to buy that supports a good cause.



Challenge

I write this challenge having recently attended the IPPS Field Day I organised at Andreasens Nursery.

I am happy to report that this was a very successful day with participants travelling from near and far to attend. We had them coming from as far away as Perth, Adelaide, Brisbane and the ACT.

I am guessing that these people travelled so far as we have not had too many field days in recent times.

My challenge may now seem obvious. My challenge is to have members out there to organise a field day in your area. Why not have one in Perth, Adelaide, Brisbane and the ACT. How about the Central Coast or Hunter leading up to the Conference?

These days are not that difficult to stage and I will be happy to help if you need it.

clynservices@hotmail.com

Michael Gleeson

Newsletter Editors Comment

After those great field days and the interest shown in the conference and IPPS I am really looking forward to the conference in Newcastle next year.

We are still working on organising regional meetings, and for those in NSW hopefully one on the central coast early next year.

We should also hear soon some exciting news from the recent IPPS International Tour of Shanghai. I expect an interesting article from Peter Lewis for the next edition.

If you are not already a member join up to the region's facebook site - search for "**International Plant Propagators Society (IPPS) Australia**" and start contributing by "liking" it and posting. We now have over a hundred likes.

On the Facebook page we try to cover recent trends in horticulture both locally and overseas. There are a number of photo albums of events as well as video footage from Australian and other regions.

Don't forget that this newsletter and some past copies are 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" (02) 4736 5004
bruce.higgs@bigpond.com

News

Brian Smith of Greenlight Nursery at Moorland NSW, suffered a heart attack and stroke in late November.

As we wish him a speedy recovery, our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Margaret and family.

New Plant Varieties

The current Plant Varieties Journal has been published:

http://www.ipaustralia.gov.au/pdfs/pbr/PVJ_27_3.pdf

You can visit the plant breeders rights site to download the current or past issues:

<http://www.ipaustralia.gov.au/get-the-right-ip/plant-breeders-rights/>

2015 Diary

Southern Africa Region	March 3, 4 & 5	St. Ives, Kwa-Zulu Natal Province
New Zealand Region	April 9-12	Nelson Conference 2015: Horticultural Hotspot
Australian Region	May 8 - 10	Newcastle 'The Times They Are A Changing'
Western Region	September 23 - 26	Modesto, California
European Region	TBA	
Eastern Region	September 25 - 28	Cincinnati, Ohio
Southern Region	October 10 - 14	International Tour and meeting Tampa, Florida
Japan Region	TBA	