



# the Propagator

Australian Region - Newsletter Autumn 2006 - No: 9

## Novel Greenhouse at Centre for Native Floriculture

The [Centre for Native Floriculture](#) has again significantly added to its horticultural research capability. The Centre focusses on the emerging industry based on the supply of commercially grown native cut flowers to high-value global markets.

*“Queensland is home to 75 percent of Australia's major vegetation types and 8,000 native flowering species, few of which are being commercially utilised and some of which are rare and endangered.” “The Centre for Native Floriculture is all about increasing Queensland's share of a global trade in Australian native cut-flowers that's valued at \$400 million and growing,” Ian Gordon said.*

Working with various grower groups, the Centre aims to help grow the Queensland industry from \$9 million currently to over \$60 million over ten years.

It aims to achieve this through a value chain model, where research extends from variety selection and improvement through to post-harvest handling. The Capacity Building Program is aimed at translating research and development information into a user friendly form. Training programs have been run for small groups covering propagation from native seed, stem cuttings and grafting.

The Centre uses the UQ Gatton Campus **tissue culture laboratory**, **plant nursery**, and **upgraded propagation house** (recently outfitted with microelectronic monitoring and wireless communication systems). Working in collaboration with the CSIRO, the Centre for Native Floriculture uses this low cost monitoring technology to study and provide solutions to obstacles hindering commercial plant production.

As reported in the last edition, the **new research greenhouse** in the Plant Nursery Unit at UQ Gatton Campus should create considerable interest. The greenhouse is designed and constructed to the University PC2 standard. It consists of a four bay structure with a laboratory area for staff and postgraduate student use



located on the southern side of the greenhouse with the entrances.

This novel designed and oriented greenhouse aims to maximise winter light transmission and to reduce summer light transmission so that day time temperatures will be easier to control. For Gatton at 27.5°S latitude, midday sun is 39° from horizontal in mid Winter and 86° in mid summer. So for maximum light and heat in winter, the roof is pitched close to 50°. This results in a low incidence angle in summer, and reflection of a large amount of incident light and heat.

The greenhouse covering material is clear twin-wall polycarbonate sheeting with a 10 mm internal air gap. The structure is also fully airconditioned to achieve effective temperature control for research tasks.

Each bay is fitted with open-topped weldmesh benches, and aluminised thermal screens for summer shade and winter energy conservation. Full black-out screens were incorporated in each bay enabling photoperiod research into the floral biology of local native species.

It is anticipated that an official opening of the greenhouse facility will be held in late March this year. For further information about the Centre see:

<http://www.aghort.uq.edu.au/>

## President's Comment

The year is rapidly moving ahead. Remember when it seemed like two years between Christmases and the school days would drag on? Now it seems like two weeks from one Christmas to the next and every day goes by in a flash. I think Einstein got his theory of relativity wrong. Time is not a constant. It is slower when your young and when an unpleasant job is at hand, and goes by quicker as you get older or when you're enjoying yourself.



It is autumn already. February has gone, the Commonwealth Games are coming and then it is footy season again. This brings on winter when we struggle to sell plants, and our poor little plants don't look too happy. It is a crucial time now for plant propagators. Stock is in prime condition for taking cuttings and the demands for time are stressing everyone. It is also critical when it comes to the technical side of managing the prop houses. The task of balancing the watering and the weather is a dicey one, and too much or too little water can be a disaster.

We are coming up to our annual conference. This is a highlight in my calendar, and I don't think I have missed a conference in 16 years. The programs (along with your new badges) have accompanied the newsletter. Please be prompt in filling out and sending off your registrations as it makes it much easier for the organisers. People often say that the program determines attendance, however I find that it is the networking that draws me every year. Some of the most informative sessions I have had are the discussions over lunch or in the bar. It is the opportunity to sit and talk with industry experts and leaders that is the real benefit of our conference.

As usual we will be having our AGM at the conference. This year it is an important one, as we will have some major changes to our constitution up for consideration. Last year when I took on the president's role I promised to review this important but out of date document and clear up the many glaring inconsistencies and contradictions. Myself and a small team of Sandra Hetherington, Andrew Matthews and Greg McPhee have worked through it, line by line. There are many alterations to be decided upon, most of which are simply a matter of ensuring consistency. These will be sent out shortly, so please take the time to review them and if you have any comments or questions don't hesitate to contact me.

Finally, congratulations go to young Cath Donlon from Sunvalley Plants in Victoria on being selected as our young propagator to visit South Africa. We are not sure who is the most excited, Cath, her mum or her

boss. I am sure that Cath will have a great trip, will learn heaps and will probably give the South Africans some new skills. I look forward to seeing her report at the conference, (another reason to come along).

Happy Propagating, see you in Brisbane.

- Clive Larkman

## Secretary / Treasurer's Comment



**SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL.....**It is that time of the year when Members are asked to forward payments to renew their membership. A big **thank-you** to those of you who have already done so. 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.

**INTERNATIONAL WEBSITE....** [www.ipps.org](http://www.ipps.org)

The International website recently underwent a 'make over' to make it more *user friendly*. It should be ready by the end of March, so check out the new website then ....All Members are encouraged to use this facility.

**BRISBANE CONFERENCE ....Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2006**

Watch out for the Conference Brochure in the March edition of Australian Horticulture. Conference brochures were posted to all Members. If you haven't received one as yet please contact me:

(Work Ph: 07 3823 1881 Mobile 0412 99 33 86).

The theme this year is *Technical Trends of Propagation*. Conference venue is the Carlton Crest Hotel in the heart of Brisbane. Conference delegates are encouraged to bring the family along. Numerous on-site activities will be available for children, and there will be the opportunity to arrange off-site visits to points of interest in the Brisbane area.

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

**AUDITOR ...**IPPS Auditor is in the process of preparing 'end of year' financial accounts and this report will be presented at the AGM.

It has been a very hot and humid summer. We have seen very good rainfall in some areas but not enough has fallen in catchment areas. Water is going to be the key issue during 2006. Rain...rain...and more rain is the only solution. Over 75% of Queensland's population is being affected by water restrictions.

## International Directors Report

The president of IPPS International for 2006 is Jorgen Selchau, from Norway. Jorgen has wasted little time setting his agenda and is keen to see the IPPS Australia sponsored proposed region of Southern Africa become a full region in its own right. To achieve this there needs to be a consensus from other regions.

2006 also heralds a change in the International secretariat from long standing John Wott to the firm of Calabrese and Heuser. Our key contact will be Pat Heuser. Pat has been busy transferring the office from Seattle to Pennsylvania and re-establishing the finances. Expect changes also with the IPPS website and database.

The board is reviewing its finances and has selected Greg McPhee to head the finance committee. Expected discussion points include the investment reserve funds and a look at international contributions from each region

IPPS, Australia representatives for 2006 are Director, Greg McPhee and alternate Clive Larkman. Greg will attend the 2006 international board meeting to be held in Norway in September. This coincides with a tour and local region conference. If you are interested in attending as well please contact Greg for details;

([greg.mcphee@hort.com.au](mailto:greg.mcphee@hort.com.au))

### International Conference Diary

- 2006     *South Africa Potential region 15-17 March*  
          *NZ            Dunedin 27 - 30 April*  
          *GB & I        Belgium 29 Aug- 1 Sep*  
          *International Denmark 14-15 September*  
          *Eastern N America 4-7 October*  
          *Southern N America 8-11 October*  
          *Western Region (USA Can) 11-14 October*
- 2007     *International Tennessee Oct 10 - 23 2007*

The 2006 International Tour is hosted by the Scandinavian Region of IPPS. It begins Wednesday, September 6 in Malmo City, Sweden. The tour ends in Odense, Denmark with the International Board Meeting on Wednesday, September 13. There are also some post-conference tour adventures planned.

In addition, the Great Britain & Ireland Region regional conference is followed by a joint regional tour in Holland and Germany on September 4 and 5.

Please note all pre-conference international tours are open to all members of IPPS

## IPPS Exchange Program

The exchange program set up in 2005 is continuing, with some minor changes. Last year the Australian region hosted two South Africans, Kuphumla and Lucy. This year we will host only one, with an Australian traveling to Johannesburg.

After a small committee reviewed the Australian applications, Clive Larkman (President) announced that Catherine Donlon from Victoria was successful. She is now preparing for the trip of a lifetime, three weeks visiting the top production nurseries around Pretoria with a trip to Tzaneen in the lowveld. Cath is hoping to glimpse the odd giraffe to two.

It will be her first time overseas and she is already organizing her passport, getting extra memory for the camera and starting a journey log. Rodd Pitt, her employer is almost as excited as Cath, saying that the exchange will be a positive influence on young people starting their career in horticulture.



Cath left for South Africa in early March and returns on her birthday, the 19th. Hopefully we will hear more about Cath's visit at the conference and in the newsletter.

*2006 Exchange propagator  
from Australia -  
Catherine Donlon*

Rod and Kay Pitt, the owners of Sunvalley Plant Nursery at Cranbourne South, are delighted that their employee Catherine Donlon had the opportunity to be part of the exchange program to South Africa. They see it as a "fantastic, and terrific opportunity" for her.

Sunvalley Plant Nursery are a production nursery specialising in native plant tubestock and a range of grafted Grevilleas. As well as Cath they have a few casual staff, so they have really missed her at what is a busy time for a tubestock nursery (she knows where the plants are).

Rod described Catherine as a young woman who really enjoys her work. Her application letter really bought a "tear to his eye". She is full of suggestions and enthusiasm.

Of her five brothers and sisters, two had already visited South Africa on working trips. So she had lots of good advice. Her parents bought a digital camera for her birthday, and gave it to her before she left. Rod expects to see a "heck of a lot of photos".

We look forward to seeing Catherine and Rod at the Brisbane conference.



## Brisbane 2006 - "Technical trends of Plant Propagation"

**MAY 18-21, 2006**

For some people, the main event in 2006 is the Melbourne Commonwealth Games. Well be assured we are aiming for the 34th IPPS conference in Brisbane to be not far behind. Set in subtropical Queensland, I invite you all to come and attend this event and enjoy the many local attractions.

### Location, Location!

The venue for the conference is the well equipped Carlton Crest Hotel, that is located in the centre of Brisbane within walking distance of the shops, restaurants, night life and the beautiful inspirational gardens of Roma Street Parkland (at which we will get a very informative guided tour by the curator on the Saturday).

### What are the benefits?

Heaps! The conference programme includes some of the most knowledgeable people in our industry that will be talking about the most up to date techniques used in seed and vegetative propagation.

Conference highlights will include latest leading edge technology in propagation combined with many handy hints as well as a new organic remedies for disease management workshop.

An example of the new technology being discussed are the Papertec plugs from Highsun Express, that have seen faster rooting reducing production times on certain crops by as much as two weeks. Another interesting topic from a research and development angle will be the design of the new propagation greenhouse of the Centre for Native Floriculture - is this a look into the future?

Sessions are short and sweet with 20 minutes allocated for each speaker. Session topics include root system development, water management, the propagation



## Calling for Auction Items for the Brisbane Conference

An auction of donated new items is held each conference to support the activities of the IPPS. Members and Businesses who would like to donate items should contact the secretary:

Pam Berryman

Ph: (07) 3829 9454 Fx: (07) 3829 9767

Mobile: 0412 993 386

[pjberry@primus.com.au](mailto:pjberry@primus.com.au)

environment and propagation miscellany.

Networking with other IPPS members and the top class speakers will allow you to benefit from vast experience and expertise. There should be someone in attendance who can answer nearly all of your propagation questions. As usual the well facilitated bar is often a relaxing environment to discuss such issues.

What else are you going to see?

In-between talks or during the odd session that is not of interest you can view

the trade show of informative exhibitors showing their latest wares.

Three first-rate nurseries will be viewed on the nursery tour covering a wide range of crops. Redlands Nursery has a long established reputation in the nursery industry in producing quality plants under the motto "plants that perform for you." It is a leader in environmentally sustainable practices, growing a wide range of woody ornamentals, flowering plants, groundcovers and grasses.

Highsun Express Plugs will give you an insight into intensive greenhouse plug production, focussing on both seed and vegetative propagation. A wide range of species are propagated at this nursery with state of the art facilities.

Finally, at Birkdale Nursery you will get the opportunity to view more propagation techniques, from deflasked tissue culture to conventional cutting propagation under mist.

The nursery tours will be complemented by the informal dinner and drinks at the beautiful surrounds of the Mount Cotton Rainforest Gardens. That will help capture the essence of the Sunshine state "Beautiful one day... perfect the next".

The Yates 6 pack team will be on hand to make sure your conference needs are met and to guide you on a day to day basis. Special social events and great company should make the conference a roaring success.

The Conference planning committee of Lionel Sach, John Bunker, Annette Bunker, Ian Gordon, Peter Lewis and Pam Berryman are dedicated to ensure that conference participation is interesting, informative and value for money.

### **WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!**

Look out for more details of the 2006 conference in this issue of the Propagator, and on the IPPS website [www.ipps.org.au](http://www.ipps.org.au).

- Lionel Sach - Program Chairman 2006

*(photos courtesy of the Carlton Crest Hotel and Works Division of Brisbane City)*

## **A Walk in the Park or a Real Horticultural Experience?**

The last time I visited Brisbane was nearly 9 years ago. Prior to that I visited Brisbane regularly for business. I thought I knew what there was to find in Brisbane, but after doing some research I am really looking forward to getting acquainted with our sunny city again.

Roma Street Parklands promise to be a real experience. Roma Street railway station, a block from Brisbane city centre, was a thriving hub of the Queensland rail network up to 1992. Roma Street Parkland claims to be the world's largest subtropical garden in a city centre. It represents a \$72 million redevelopment of a former goods railyard.

In 1999, taking advantage of its natural reservoir and central location, it was developed into 16 hectares of exciting public garden. Landscape architect Lawrie Smith achieved this through a design which included imaginative planting and specially commissioned sculptures and artwork. 'We set out to achieve a place of wonder and spectacle. The theme that we developed was the world of the subtropics.'

Roma Street Parkland has since received a string of accolades including the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects



(Qld) Project Award for Open Space and Recreational Design.

The scope of the project is inspiring, with planting of 100,000 shrubs, 1200 mature trees, 1800 unique specimens and 350 palms. The parkland comprises sweeping lawns, a tropical rainforest fern gully, a pebbly coastal pandanus headland, waterfalls, a one-hectare lake, playgrounds, walkways, bridges and the horticultural centrepiece, Spectacle Garden.

A water feature cascading through the Spectacle Garden links the upper levels of Albert Park (previously an arboretum in the late 19th century) with the valley floor. The waterfall symbolises the spring from which the local area of Spring Hill took its name and helps to disguise the cliff which previously separated the two levels. The water flowing through the parklands is part of the inner city drainage system.

It will be an experience to see this large garden of subtropical plants. Quite different to what I am used to. Visit the website for more information: [www.romastreetparkland.com](http://www.romastreetparkland.com)

- Bruce Higgs

## **30th Conference Reunion**

How many members attended the last conference in Brisbane 30 years ago? What was the IPPS like then? Well I can find at least three who really will participate in a reunion: Ian Gordon, Edward Bunker, and John Teulon (President in 1976). I guess Ian Tolley may also have been there. I hope we find a few more outstanding propagators to join in this distinguished club. Perhaps we will find a few more names in personal notes (your name should be there if you can), or in the Proceedings.

*1976 was the last occasion when an IPPS conference was held within the city of Brisbane. It was the conference at which I joined the Society and there is no doubt that my ongoing membership of IPPS has been of terrific benefit to my career. Edward Bunker was the Program Chairman for the conference, and it was a very successful conference.*

- Ian Gordon

## NEWS

Sadly Anita Boucher passed away on Friday morning (3/3/06) at about 11am. She had been in a hospice in Kew since Feb 14th as her condition had deteriorated and she could no longer be cared for at home, but Denzil and her parents, Beryl & Howard, were by her bedside when she died.

*We hope to have a tribute to Anita in the next issue from members close to Anita. She was very supportive of the IPPS, having served on the executive committee.*

On a happier note, news has reached the editor that Leisa has had a baby. Best wishes to her and family at this time.

News just received from Glenys Evans (IPPS NZ) is that our member, Carole Scholes will be talking on "A whistleblow tour of Chelsea" as part of the NZ Region host scheme to the Dunedin conference in April. They aim to do the same for the next one, so young propagators need to be encouraged to prepare something to talk about.

### Challenge (Another challenge)

In recent issues of the "Propagator" (Issue 6 and Issue 8) I have been putting up some research challenges for our younger member to work on and present their results at conference. Well here is another one.

I was recently asked by fellow IPPS member John Lawrence, if I have ever used a sugar solution dip as a method of improving strike rate. I remembered that some years ago I was told about using a dip of honey water to improve strike. I think I tried but never recorded the results.

The general idea is that a solution of sugar water is prepared and cutting material is then soaked/dipped in the solution before dibbling. A rate of 1 cup sugar to 20 liters water has been suggested. How much honey to water??

So here is a challenge for younger staff member, does this work? Set up a trial, record the results and present them at conference. If you need advice about setting up a trial just get in touch with me.

[clynservices@bigpond.com.au](mailto:clynservices@bigpond.com.au)

- Michael Gleeson

*Some other things to consider: what concentration; which sugars (sucrose, fructose, glucose or others) or honey (82% sugars); and for how long. An old time propagator of native plants I knew used to leave cuttings overnight in raw honey (not heat treated).*

I would appreciate it if someone could respond to this. Our practice at present is to leave healthy looking cuttings on the propagation bench for about 3 to 6 weeks depending on species. Then difficult to root ones e.g. Grevilleas with callus may be redipped in IBA based hormone. I was

interested in the paper entitled "The Role of the Phytohormone Auxin in Adventitious Rhizogenesis in Grevillea" by Santi Krisantini, Margaret Johnston, Christine Beveridge and Prof Richard Williams (May 2005) UQ Gatton (internet).

This shows that apical application of hormone may be beneficial, as reported at the Coffs Harbour conference. But the really interesting thing was that stem auxin concentration declined markedly within 7 days from basal application. Also hormone distribution (stems/leaves) was different between species. Should we topically spray apply dilute hormone to difficult to root cuttings after a few weeks? I tried this some years ago, but it was inconclusive. Do you have any ideas or experience you could share?

- Bruce Higgs ([bruce.higgs@bigpond.com](mailto:bruce.higgs@bigpond.com))

### Bruce Higgs - Profile

Just to get the ball rolling, I intend doing profiles on a number of members. Like a number of others, I run a production nursery with Heather, my wife. Unlike a most, we are relatively new to the industry (Darvill Nursery started in 2000). We have however had an interest in growing and propagating Australian native plants for over 20 years. In the early 1990's we decided that we were going to establish a nursery, so Heather completed a Horticultural Certificate (with me looking over her shoulder).

So what am I doing running a nursery? Well it was time for a career change brought on by the decline of manufacturing industry, and I guess we are "native plants people" at heart. It is hard to put aside being a collector. Not surprisingly there are other members of IPPS with similar stories.

I have B.Sc. (Hons), M.Sc. and Master of Business and Technology degrees. In my previous career I was involved in Australasian Marketing, Technical Management and Strategic Planning. In addition to various papers at conferences, and patents, I chaired several Standards Australia committees. Experience gained in publishing and editing a small community magazine, and coordinating company literature gave me confidence in taking on 'the Propagator' editors task.

By now I have propagated a number of native plants (tens if not hundreds of thousands). I still have inconsistencies in success, but try to bridge my knowledge gap with the experience of others. Like all things, what works for one may not work for another.

We have struggled with building projects, regulations and adverse market conditions. Developing my own demand irrigation system after deriving equations to model effects of evaporation on container crops was a challenge. We have been using this in the nursery for the last 3 years with good results. The TC lab, and jobs list remain to be finished though.

## NSW Local Field Day

Nearly 40 members and guests attended a very successful field day on the 24th of February at the NSW DPI Horticultural Institute at Narara, about 65 kilometres north of Sydney. The Institute director explained plans to relocate and consolidate into a greatly enhanced world class facility at Somersby over the next few years.

Jonathan Lidbetter is mainly involved with research into ornamentals, and includes:

- New ornamentals
- Grafting native trees and aftercare
- Kentia
- Flannel flowers
- Tissue Culture - the Joey series of Anigozanthos from Gosford
- *Eriostemon australasius*- especially deflasking from IVS
- Eriostemon disease resistance & vigour

Our first talk and discussion was on **grafting to convert potential crops into a commercial reality**. Some of the grafts undertaken in the work involved stock only a few millimetres in diameter. Parafilm "M" is used to prevent constriction on some thicker grafts, while pegs are used on others. There was some discussion about the need to prevent water ingress. Jonathan's grafted plants are kept in a high humidity environment to prevent desiccation.

Boronia of ½ to 1 mm diameter and other small plants are top wedge grafted with very low pressure on the union. Pressure was thought to be important though to have the union happen and stop excess cell growth.

Grafting is attempted on species for different reasons such as root disease resistance, vigour, precocity, difficult to propagate, suitability to soil type. For *Chamelaucium*, *Boronia*, *Pimelia physodes*, *Geleznovia verrucosa* (Yellow Bells), *Eremophila*, *Verticordia* and *Regelia* it may be to improve root disease resistance; and *Corymbia* for the potential to alter flower time or dwarfing.

Recent work has been grafting *C. ficifolia* onto various seedlings. There have been problems with the pressure of the graft due to genetic variation of seedlings even with *C. ficifolia* seedlings. Twenty percent of such grafted plants had problems.



The Sunset grafted plants have *E. Gumniferrum* and *angofera* rootstocks. Jonathan has also successfully tried *ficifolia/ficifolia* and *ficifolia/maculata*. This has led to the thought that "If you can breed two species, it appears likely that grafting will be successful".

### The argument for in-ground Stock Plants

At the Institute, regular data-logging and monitoring of soil conditions are undertaken. Jonathan showed his data for in-ground grown plants, and highlighted results from a particularly hot day at Somersby on New Years day when the air temperature peaked at 44°C. Ten centimetres down in the soil it was 38°C, and under 100 mm of mulch and weed-mat it was 28°C. Plants had been heavily watered in the morning in anticipation of a hot day. For comparison, 10 cm down in the middle of a 20" pot it was 41°C, so root damage was likely. In their poly-house the air temperature was 46°C, and showed only a minor effect from cooling water sprays.

It was suggested that stock plants really should in our climate be grown in-ground with a layer of mulch. For stone fruit it is known that root zone temperature controls flowering, what does this mean for others?

Ross Worrell and Len Tsoriero are studying **root disease of flannel flowers**. Field grown plants suffer the problem much more than those produced in greenhouses on benches.

The main diseases found are:

- Fusarium Wilt - major cause
- Pythium Root Rot - major cause
- Phytophthora Root Rot
- Rhizoctonia Root Rot
- Cylandrocladium
- Chalara Black Root Rot
- Tomato wilt viruses

Good aeration appears to be the key. Good hygiene and treatment of the water supply, as well as using well aerated medium are necessary. Etridiazole and Thiophanate-methyl did not control disease, but instead led to a 10% drop in growth rate. IBDU toxicity appears at very high dosage, and appears like iron chlorosis. Phosphorous levels exceeding 5 kg/m<sup>3</sup> are too high.

*Eriostemon australasius* grows with deep root systems, so good drainage and attention to soil temperature appear critical.



Dr Wei Liang explained the **latest work of Dr Stephen Goodwin and Dr Marilyn Steiner in IPM**, and showed samples of common pests. This was followed by tours of their greenhouses and growth facilities, where different biological controls are bred commercially, and tested. They have developed a *Baevellia* fungus for contact mode control of greenhouse white fly (it also appears to control Western flower thrips). This is soon to be released pending successful trials.

The Institute already produce *Thphlodromips montdorensis* mite for control of western flower thrip. A 2 litre can contains over 10,000 mites (5 per plant) suitable for a 1000m<sup>2</sup> greenhouse. Dr Liang also advocated sticky traps for monitoring purposes (refer to [www.bugsforbugs.com.au](http://www.bugsforbugs.com.au)).

Over lunch many of us had the opportunity to meet others and discuss aspects of propagation, and whatever else we were interested in. Discussion times are often considered good value.

In the afternoon session Michael Gleeson spoke about **the Benefits of being a member of the IPPS**. Klaus Eckhardt then demonstrated the preparation and **budding of roses**. He applied budding tape to seal the union, leaving both ends of the tape at the top so they could be easily tied (as taught by his father). Jonathan gave a demonstration of grafting *Eriostemon australasius* select scion to seed raised stock using a peg (no tape).

Later on a few went to the Somersby “green field” site to inspect the grafted plant trial area. They were able gain an insight into the benefits of using dataloggers to monitor their production areas.

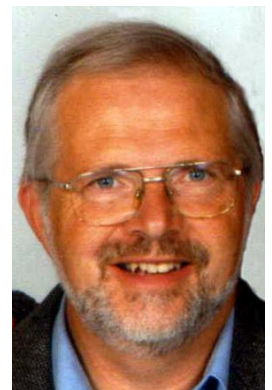


It was interesting to see the effect of grafting dwarf varieties of *C. ficifolia* onto seedlings. Problems of poor unions arising from genetic differences in seedlings were evident. Some of the group took some interest in the crop of tea varieties under trial for the Japanese green tea market.

It was great to see so many faces who are not able to go to conferences regularly. I am sure that everyone came away saying it was a worthwhile day. Our thanks go especially to David Ponman and Michael Gleeson for organising the day, and Jonathan Lidbetter and the centre staff for presentations on current research and endeavours of the Institute, as well as organising tours. We look forward to another special event, if you have any ideas for venues please contact David Ponman; (02) 4954 5922 or [selplant@bigpond.net.au](mailto:selplant@bigpond.net.au)

## From the Editor

This is my fourth edition of the Propagator. I have been pleased so far with feedback received. If you have some news item or requests for information please send them in.



Future issues for this year will cover; Brisbane conference wrap-up and discussion time; irrigation; propagation training and education. The newsletter will try to cover the broad area of propagation and not just that of ornamentals.

A suggestion that I will take up is to run a series on various people of the IPPS. I attended my first conference in 2001, and really hardly knew my membership sponsor let alone others until those chats over lunch and dinner. These profiles will attempt to help new members get to know a few more faces. Profiles in the future should allow readers to appreciate the depth of knowledge, experience and diverse background of the membership.

If you have any ideas to improve the newsletter, please contact me or see me at the conference. Don't forget to ask a friend along to the conference.

- Bruce Higgs

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