



the Propagator

International Plant Propagators' Society
Australian Region - Newsletter Winter 2006 - No: 10

SHARING THE VISION

Come and see Queensland - 'Beautiful one day - Perfect the next!'

That's what the tour posters tell us why we should visit Queensland.

But for propagators the desire to learn I believe was the main driving force this year to make the 2006 Brisbane IPPS conference a great success. The Carlton Crest was a great venue. The staff were attentive, with good food and a well appointed meeting place

I must admit that the sun and gardens in Brisbane were great as well. There were plenty of signs of the drought Brisbane is suffering at Roma Street Parklands.

Members come from many businesses suffering a decline in sales through water restrictions. They recognise that to succeed or even survive, sharing of experience and knowledge is essential. Many discussions even centred on different approaches to minimise the effect of drought so that businesses survive.

Conferences are practically based on technical aspects of horticulture. IPPS members gather to hear some of their colleagues talk about their successes and failures, as well as the latest innovations in the industry.



Informal dinner at Mt Cotton Rainforest Gardens after a busy day of conference talks and tours.

To Seek and Share

Tours also provide the opportunity to see what others are doing to solve the problems growers have. Some would say that to come away with one worthwhile idea from a conference would be great. But not from an IPPS conference, as most I am sure would have pages of great ideas and phone numbers. The challenge then is choosing what to try and adapt first.

Then there are the deep discussions with others at the end of a session, or end of the day over dinner. Here you get to meet an interesting group of people who are not shy in discussing whatever.

It is the one time of year for many to catch up with old friends from another state, or strike up a new friendship. This network of contacts may ultimately be the most valuable thing for us.

You experience the passion and pride in what they are doing. These people really are passionate about their plants. This was particularly evident when all groups took much longer than planned to walk through the Roma Street Parkland gardens with their horticulturist guides on the Saturday afternoon.

Thank you to the organising committee for a great conference, and all your hard work making it so enjoyable.

Bruce Higgs

President's Report

It hardly seems a year since we were all together in Mildura. I remember as a kid it took two years to get from one Christmas to the next, now it seems to take two weeks. Is it because we are getting busier or older?



When I returned to Australia in 1989 to work in the nursery, one of the first things my father did was to sign me up as a member of the Australian region of The International Plant Propagators Society. I felt quite proud to become a member of this body of passionate and committed propagators.

My father was a strong advocate of the Society. He had a thirst for knowledge and a matching desire to share that knowledge. I have a similar love of learning and a commitment to pass that learning on. To me, this is the essence of our Society and the shame is that not enough people get to participate in the continual flowing of ideas, thoughts and understanding that come from our conferences, area meetings and publications.

I set out this time last year with a desire to increase our membership by at least fifty. Unfortunately this hasn't happened but we have set some new ideas in place to hopefully make that possible in the future. We have also worked hard to finalise the work started in 2001.

By now you should have received your own name badge. Our pin is good for general purposes but we felt there should be a good quality name badge. This is important for our newer members. One of the great benefits of IPPS in general and of our conferences in particular is the mixing of new and experienced propagators. For a new member this can be a bit intimidating and for some of us older members it can be a bit hard to remember all the names. Hence the badge is important in the exchange of knowledge.

Another initiative is the production of membership certificates. I believe that the IPPS is one of the high points of our industry. We should all be proud to be members and we should tell our customers, suppliers and staff that we belong to it. Hopefully by displaying

your membership certificate you will increase the awareness of who we are. Perhaps you may even be able to bring along some new members.

At last year's pre-conference meeting the Executive realised that some serious work was needed on our rules and by-laws. A committee of four (Sandra Hetherington, Andrew Matthews, Greg McPhee and myself) was set up to review the whole of both documents. The first part was completed early this year. This was the examination and correction of the Constitution. Over the years there had been some minor alterations but it had not kept up with the movements within the Society. As such there were numerous changes needed just to make it workable. These were approved at the AGM.

Next was to review the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and ensure that it was in line with the Constitution and our current practices. There were nearly as many changes required in this document. However this is more specific and does not need to be voted on at the AGM. The Executive have examined the recommended changes which was presented at the AGM. Through the two documents there are some structural changes that we believe will make the Society more robust and democratic. Once the respective State authority has ratified these changes I will make a report to the society on their effects.

Through the work of Greg McPhee and the generosity of members, Rob Reynolds from Yates and David Cliffe from Narromine Transplants, we again have our Six Pack and youth from Africa programs. The Six Pack is now an established part of our annual program. Some of the early members are now becoming young leaders in the industry. This is great to see as too often leadership rests with too few and new ideas can be hard to find.

This year we also sent a young propagator across to South Africa. I feel this is a tremendous initiative that benefits all concerned. The person gets to see another part of the world with its own unique issues, the Australian Region benefits with another member exposed to wider issues than just their local business and South Africa benefits with input of ideas from a person with a different set of eyes.

Lionel and his team have put together an excellent conference. As usual the speakers informed us, the food and entertainment relaxed us and the networking was stimulating. To me, the casual discussions on the buses, over lunch or in the bar are what really makes an IPPS conference. Having been to many conferences over my career I know what makes a good one. It is not the hype and pizzazz of \$2000 a day speakers, nor is it the opulence of a \$250 per night hotel. It is the chance to talk to intelligent, experienced growers who will challenge your thought processes. It is the chance to impart some of your experiences to other growers



*Some of our new members at the Brisbane Conference Dinner
Photo - Bruce Higgs*

struggling to solve similar problems to yours. Finally it is the time to catch up with old friends sharing a vision for the future.

In summary I feel our Society is in a strong position. We have a good membership base, and although we didn't achieve the targeted number of new members we still had 36 people join the Society. This, in tough financial times, is a good sign for the future. We have committed members who give freely of their time during the year to make your Society and your propagation the best it can be. So every day try and live up to the motto of, 'To Seek and Share'.

- Clive Larkman

Secretary / Treasurer's Comment

Subscription Renewal - I am still chasing a few members regarding their membership renewal. A friendly reminder to those of you who haven't done so already, please forward your payment promptly.

Where have they Gone!!!! - I am trying to locate the following Members who have let their membership subscription lapse. Perhaps you know why..... could be they have relocated or left their present employer.

Ms. Nola Washer – Avocado Avowest Orchard – Carabooda WA

Mr. Stuart Guy – Rankins Nursery – Officer VIC

Mr. Peter Harris – Monbulk VIC

Mr. George Jonker – Faver Glasshouses Aust, Lilydale VIC

I would appreciate it if you know where these people are now, please contact me:

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

Name Badges – Quite a few Members reported a fault with their badge at the conference. The main complaint was the name plaque coming away from the main frame of the badge. Could you please check your badge and if the name plaque comes away please contact me so that I can approach the manufacturer with an accurate number of faulty badges. *PS: A couple of dabs of 'super glue' will adhere the badge to the main frame.*

Membership Certificates – Membership Certificates will be forwarded to all Members shortly for you to proudly display as you see fit.

Brisbane Conference – Well what a fantastic, informative conference it was. From feedback received the majority of attendees expressed the same views. It was good to catch up with Members I have only spoken

to on the phone... it is good to put a face to the voice and visa versa.....

A big 'thank-you' to the Conference Committee for organizing such a successful event.

Make a note of next years conference in your diary now – DUBBO 'Doing it Differently' from 27th to 29th April 2007

Financials – Bank balance as at 31st May 2006 is \$60,494.62. I am still in the process of finalizing the Brisbane Conference Accounts and will report on this in the next edition of 'The Propagator'.

Pam Berryman



International Directors report

IPPS proceedings on the web

The international board has been discussing possibilities of having IPPS papers available via the internet. If IPPS were to fund this process there would be significant costs involved, including on going expenses each year.

Approaches have been made to the society from major scientific based publications wishing to expand their offerings through web based systems. The result for IPPS if this is accepted would be that others would manage the web sourcing of IPPS papers and pay a royalty. Whereas no definite partner or process has been decided upon, discussions are taking place. A formal proposal is expected to be placed before the board at the next International meeting.

Database

IPPS International has been revamping its database and ensuring that all regions are able to receive and send up to date information. The information will then be available for internet listing and to ensure the master file is current. You should have received an email with the passwords to the society membership list. The international board suggests that all society members look at their listing to ensure it is correct.

Finances

IPPS international has instigated a new computer based accounting system. This is now able to produce reports on a regular basis and more accurately keep track of expenditure against newly established budget items.

The International society finances are well managed and a full statement of last year's accounts will be published in the proceedings.

Change of office

From January 1st 2006, the society has engaged the services of Heuser and Calabrese to undertake secretariat duties. John Wott, the former secretariat has been retained for a year to assist with the transition. All files and inventory are being transferred to the new office.

Development of a Southern Africa region

IPPS Australia continues to support the establishment of a new region in Southern Africa. This year we have five guests from the potential region visiting. Jac Duif, their past president and new regional secretariat has sat in on our regions board meeting.

We also have continued with the propagator exchange that was instigated last year. This program is aimed at building personal relationships between the region and this year Cath Donlan from Victoria visited South Africa. Sean Guildenhuys was in Australia as our guest.

Next year will see the South African potential region celebrate ten years of activity. This strengthens their claim to receive independent regional status.

Meetings

The Australian regions delegates to the International Board for 2006 are Director Greg McPhee and alternate Clive Larkman. Clive is unable to attend the next international board meeting and David Cliffe will attend the meeting as an observer. The next meeting of the international board will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark in September.

There will be a pre-conference tour through Scandinavia. If you are interested then the details can be found on the IPPS website. Also there will be two promotional workshops held around the same time. The intent is to expand the society membership in Europe.

The 2007 International board meeting will be held in Southern USA, more details as they come to hand.

Greg McPhee

Youth from Africa and Six Pack

The 'Youth from Africa' program continued this year with Sean Guildenhuys. I am sure he thought this was a great experience. The Yates Six Pack experience was similar to those of recent years, where they felt included in the group. The society really does want to encourage young people in the industry to take part in it's activities and benefit from the contacts that are made. Yates support of the six pack program was once again greatly appreciated.



Awards

Award of Honour

Each year at the Conference Dinner people hear a list of achievements in the career of a highly respected member of the society and try to guess who might be about to receive this award. This year there was no doubt in my mind who it was

before I heard that David Cliffe had been awarded the prestigious Award of Honour. David really has made a great contribution to horticulture generally, with his wisdom and business acumen, and this also applies to his involvement in the IPPS Australian Region.

Rod Tallis Award



The International Plant Propagator's Society recognizes outstanding achievement by the younger part of our industry through the Rod Tallis Youth Award. This is presented annually to the most commendable achievement by a person under 25 working in or studying horticulture.

The 2006 Winner of the **Rod Tallis Award** was Bradley Pearce, with his study of grafting of Geraldton Wax. Bradley had an extra load this year, as he was a guide for delegates on the pre-conference tour of UQ Gatton propagation facilities, and generally helping as a member of the 6 pack team. We look forward to seeing Bradley's career develop in the future.



Bob Reynolds (Yates) proudly presented the Six Pack members for 2006- Sean Guildenhuys (S Africa), Bradley Pearce (UQ), Daniel Patience, Michael Draper, Cathy Donlan, and David Parlby



And the Winner is !!

For those colleagues who did not attend the 2006 IPPS Conference in Brisbane, which in my opinion, was the best exposure of technical advancement within our craft the Australian Region has ever displayed; there was another great thrill in store for us. In particular, that core of elite athletes who not only share their unique plant propagation skills, but also belong to the world army of little white ball hitters. The missing **IPPS Golfing Giggle Classic** trophy was returned. The **ICONOCLAST** has been tracked down and the trophy is again in circulation. The flower pot of old bruised and battered balls was awarded to Wayne de Fraga, who will retain it and display it in pride of place until it will again be fought for in Dubbo in the year 2006.

There are some treasured traditions within societies which, in my opinion, should never die. Let me therefore say “may the **ELITE ATHLETES** of IPPS continue in friendship to pursue the little white pill forever and ever”.

Peter Smith

Peter Smith was overjoyed to have located the trophy, and may have outdone himself with his speech for the winner of the IPPS Golf Classic Trophy, but the story does not end there. Wayne de Fraga of Whitehorse City Council is reported to have had difficulty with security at Melbourne Airport following his flight home from Brisbane. They saw the image of this trophy in his suitcase and wanted to know what it was as they suspected it was something else (a bomb). Wayne was a little embarrassed to have to pull things out of his suitcase to confirm with them that it was a golf trophy (they didn't believe him). This would have been very funny to witness. Wayne is reported to have found this quite amusing.

Pam Berryman

Brisbane 2006 Conference Propagators Sharing

Sharing with others who may be your competitors does not usually come easily. Many recognise that we all have something to learn and improve what we are doing. IPPS conferences and meetings create an environment of sharing. I guess it must have something to do with our passion for plants.

Ian Gordon led the **pre-conference tour** this year, and drove the bus as well.

With visits to Pohlman's Nursery complex, the University of Queensland Gatton, High Sun Express Tubes just outside Toowoomba and the UQ Boyce gardens it really was a full day.

Tours are a vital learning part of a conference as well as being a bit of fun.



Trade displays are an important part of the conference - here are a few of the exhibitors at Brisbane 2006.



Conference Recap

Our keynote address “**Integrated Crop Management for the Nursery Industry**” was given by John Hall of Crop Tech (www.croptech.com.au). John provided a timely reminder for each of us to get back to the basics of plant management including IPM. Regular sampling and analysis have given significant yield improvements for numerous crops around the world.



John MacDonald (NIDO) gave a paper on Quality Improvements for Irrigation Water. Here he pointed out how ineffective some chlorine treatments can be against some microorganisms (especially if the pH is not neutral), and how slow-sand filters provide cost water treatment.

Debbie Deckys spoke on the practical aspects of what they have selected and improved upon in her paper “**Options in Water Recycling**”. She encouraged everyone to measure their water use daily.

Root System Development

Anne Radke gave an interesting talk on “**The use of Copper Compounds as Root Pruning Agents**” with *Melaleuca alternifolia* clone 88. All levels for root pruning resulted in poor tube root structures that ruled out their use with customer planting systems.



The Propagation Environment

Starting this session off, Prof. Richard Williams gave an interesting paper (“**The Effect of Environment on Tissue Culture**”). This explored the various factors affecting plant growth in tissue culture, and in particular incident light wavelength and future work with Blue and Red LED lights to control growth.

David Cliffe’s paper on the interaction of cutting size & stock plant treatment on root systems of *Eucalyptus* spp. It gave insights into the successful cloning of trees by the millions. At Narromine Transplants mini-cuttings have been shown to give stronger plants more closely resembling seed grown stock.



Cath Donlan spoke about her recent IPPS sponsored visit to South Africa. She obviously had a great time. Pity about bulb division - “too finicky for me, I just wanted to rip it apart” she said.

Lionel Sach then tackled the subject of **Seedling Root System Development**. Some simple things can really assist productivity. Some of the key factors addressed were planning, staff and equipment.



Marcus Van Heyst from Powerplants presented a paper on “**Fog Propagation Systems and their Control**”.

Ian Gordon spoke on **Air Pruning Techniques** and the importance of the appropriately sized and shape container (preferably with internal ribbing and / or vertical slits). The system used at UQ establishes cuttings in 50 mm square ribbed tubes, on an open mesh bench with bottom heat.



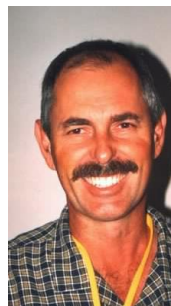
Ian Gordon spoke again, this time on “**The Effect of Light Quality on Plant Growth**”. Particular reference to their experience with trials of various species under red shadecloth was given. NG Impatiens have been observed to be influenced by this red light.

Jayson Kent from High Sun Express Plugs presented their **Papertec Plugs for Propagation**.

Paul Carmen showed us the improvements made at the Australian National Botanic Gardens with “**In-Slab Bench Heating Improves Propagation Hygiene and Cuts Maintenance Costs**”. They used to use heated sand beds in their old greenhouse, and have now changed to electrically heated 100 mm thick concrete slabs with a durable coating on benches. Cuttings are hand watered as necessary.

Water Management

Steve Hart from NGIQ spoke on **Irrigation Options for the Nursery from an Environmental Perspective**.



John Bunker explained some of the options that they have implemented at Redlands Nursery in his paper entitled **Irrigation Sensing Systems**.



Propagation Miscellany

Bright and early for some (the morning after the dinner), Peter Radke started the session off with his paper on “**Tapping our Biodiversity: The future of Native Plants in Horticulture in Queensland**”. A great number of plants in far North Queensland have been propagated and commercialised by Yuruga Nursery. Peter pointed out there is a deeper reason for growing Australian plants, and that is that they are part of a local ecosystem that is often disappearing. Surprisingly we learnt that technically you cannot grow any Australian species in Queensland without a permit. So many people have stopped growing them.

Ian Tolley then presented a talk “**The Effect of Mulches on Soil Temperature**”. I believe this presents one of the greatest opportunities for the horticultural community, and could be conveyed to the general public in simple terms. Put simply, interpreting some old data Ian showed that summer temperatures under as little as 50 mm of mulch can be 15 °C lower than air temperature. That means that roots survive extremes and evaporation from the soil is greatly reduced. Readers may recall similar findings reported by Jonathan Lidbetter at a NSW area meeting in the last edition of “the propagator”.

Bradley Pearce gave the annual Rod Tallis Award presentation “**Propagation of Chamelaucium cv’s by Grafting**”. He explained the process for plants taken from field harvesting to grafted plants.



Professor Daryl Joyce presented “**The Greenhouse Facilities of the Centre for Native Floraculture**” at Gatton. The capability of their new centre to study various factors determining plant growth and flower production were outlined as well as work at the Boyce Estate Native Plant Gardens.

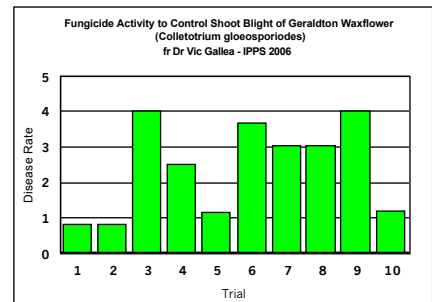


Organic Remedies for Disease Management

This was a new type of panel session led by Ian Tolley. Four speakers gave a brief introductory talk followed by a fairly full hour of questions from the floor. There are many organic fungicides, but one challenge at the end was to find an organic herbicide.

The Panelists were: Dr Victor Galea (UQ Gatton), David Haviland (Galeru), James Gardner (OCP) and John Hall (Crop Tech).

Dr Galea defined organic fungicides as not being synthetic but arising from plant, animal or mineral products. People prefer to use biocontrols because they are thought of as being safer, or offering commercial



advantage. He then compared the effectiveness of treatments followed 3 days later by inoculation of shoot blight on waxflower. The biofungicides (trials 4 & 5) were compared with synthetics (1 & 2), the control was trial 9. One of the biocontrols was essentially as effective as synthetics. The Golden Rule is to practise Good Hygiene! Then understand the pathogen, as fungicides are the last resort.

James Gardner reviewed the range of products used with IPM. This included the OCP range and others such as nematodes for fungus gnat control. New materials are coming: stable highly concentrated extracts such as Aza-Max (12000ppm Azadirachtin -Neem oil) may be here soon.

David Haviland explained the practical use of biocontrols at his Native foods farm. As part of this they apply soil-conditioners, and foliant sprays. The sprays supply nutrients, trace elements, and Trichoderma (mycorrhizal fungi). A fundamental part of this approach is to manage and sustain the soil based on its Cation Exchange Capacity - as developed by Dr William Albrecht at the University of Missouri.

David’s partner, Martha Shepherd, has developed the products they market under our trading name “Galeru Taste of the Rainforest”. Martha won the Inaugural Australian RIRDC Rural Women’s Award, for her project to develop and implement a value chain model for their industry.

John Hall advised us to fix the basics first and bite the bullet! Let the beneficials develop. He reviewed factors affecting microbial activity and what we could do to improve plant health by good microbial activity. This included aeration, moisture availability, fertilizers and recycling nutrients, and breaking down pesticide use and having the right microbes. Monitoring pH and EC were stressed, as well as improving irrigation and drainage.



Many of the papers presented will be available in proceedings, for further information on others you will need to contact the author.

David Haviland with a crop of *Syzygium fibrosum* (Rain Cherry) -at Galeru - courtesy D. Haviland photo M. Shepherd

Conference Tours

At **Redlands Nursery** we experienced the Bunker family hospitality with a garden lunch served from an historic wood and iron shed.

Ed Bunker, proudly explained their current work with Bougainvillea in Papertec™ plugs. They have generally found that these give good root structure and are easier to extract than pots. Redlands encourage staff to innovate, and they use a number of different control measures as part of their IPM system. On show were tools and chemicals that work.

At **High Sun Express** we saw the machine that dispenses their Papertec™ plugs like sausages, extensive greenhouse facilities and millions of plants in tubes. The nearby **Queensland Department of Primary Industries** site had many things to see but the highlight was research work being undertaken with varieties of turf for amenity (i.e. golf, football), landscape and even drought tolerant applications.

‘Challenge’ (Another challenge)

Well members, and in particular our younger members, here is my next “Research Challenge”.

It has been put to me that there may be a difference in strike rate of some **difficult to strike plants** if hormone is not applied quickly after a cutting is made. The question I ask is:

Is it important to get hormone onto a cutting within a certain time frame? If it is left too long after cutting is made does the callusing process inhibit the hormone uptake?

If so, how long before hormone application is too long, 10 sec, 1 min, half hour??

So here is the challenge I need someone out there to run a trial to find out. Do the work, write it up and let us know at a conference. Submit your paper in the “Rod Tallis Award”.

If you need advice about setting up a trial just get in touch with me. clynservices@bigpond.com.au

Michael Gleeson



TRIBUTE to Anita Boucher

In every industry and part of modern life there are people who give freely of their time and skills. It is these people that make our society what it is. Then there are those that give even more. When it came to horticulture Anita Boucher was one of those people. She had a passion for our industry, for plants and for the IPPS.

I first met Anita when she was the horticulturist for Macbird, and I fondly remember her decision to take on the role of editor at Australian Horticulture. At the time she was a strong contributor to the Australian Institute of Horticulture and soon became closely involved with many of our industry associations - often in an executive capacity.

Anita was a regular attendee of our conferences and joined the executive in 2001. She was the epitome of what our society is about. The idea of seeking knowledge and then sharing it with others was a key part of Anita.

Anita was a great member of our Society and she will be sadly missed.

Clive Larkman

Anita Boucher Milton was a beautiful person. I first knew of Anita as the Editor of Australian Horticulture, her support of the IPPS through her position - writing articles on upcoming conferences, sponsorship, etc. was well known. At the Canberra Conference in 2001 we were enjoying a drink at one of the local pubs with several other members and we got to talking. I had only recently moved to Melbourne, and while chatting Anita and I discovered that we actually only lived a few blocks from each other. From here we became close friends. This is what we both loved about the IPPS, the friendships we made. It doesn't matter if you are an industry high flier or a first year apprentice, all members are equal and valued for their contribution. There is a special bond between us all.

Anita served on the Executive Committee until the diagnosis of her first cancer in 2003. After surgery and chemotherapy, we thought she had beaten it. In remission, Anita resumed her job at Australian Horticulture and wanted to pursue the design of therapy gardens to aid the recovery of others. In early 2004 a sore neck didn't stop her going to the Nursery Industry Association Conference. Anita received an award of honour from this group at the conference in Qld for her service to the Nursery Industry. We were looking forward to going on the IPPS preconference tour in NZ together a few weeks later. In the meantime Anita married the love of her life Denzil Milton in a very private ceremony on the beach in the early morning. Not long after some test results from Anita's sore neck came back, it was more cancer. She didn't make it to NZ, Anita had to stay in Melbourne and have more surgery and treatment. At the NZ conference Jen Ollerenshaw brought a beautiful poster of a NZ rainforest

scene and all Anita's IPPS friends signed the back of it with messages of love and support. This poster meant a great deal to Anita. She was stunned by the affection and esteem with which she was held by so many in the horticulture industry.

This time the cancer didn't go away it kept spreading. Between various surgeries, chemo and radiotherapies, Anita stayed strong and positive. She and Denzil traveled to WA as a belated honeymoon. Anita's family had spent many years on a farm at Pingelly in the wheatbelt of WA when she was growing up. She revisited childhood memories and made new ones with her darling Denzil. She loved the WA wildflowers and came home with hundreds of photos that we sat down to identify together. We had a shared love of plants and the Industry that grows them. When Anita got too sick to go outside, Denzil would take digital photos of her garden so that she could see how her plants were growing.

There are so many memories I want to share with you all about my friend Anita. She died surrounded by her family on the 3rd of March, early the next morning I went into labour. Anita was so looking forward to meeting my son. He may not get to meet his Auntie Anita, but Zeb will know of her and the beautiful person that she was.

Leisa Armstrong

PROFILES

Here are a couple of the better known members of the society. So enjoy their stories, I wonder who is next!

David Cliffe

David has been involved in horticulture for 35 years within the seed and nursery industry. He is the owner of Narromine Transplants a large container seedling growing operation based in the central west of New South Wales and specialising in the supply of tree seedlings and clones to the forestry industry.



Narromine Transplants is recognised as a leader and innovator in its field with markets in all the Eastern States and South Australia, the nursery has a full time staff of 14 and up to a further 30 part time workers.

David has a background with the Nursery and Garden Industry of Australia having been a director of the Association in 1988 then again from 1993 to 1997 and as President in 1998/99. Other positions and committees he has served on include chairman Greening Australia Council, the Horticultural Alliance Steering committee, Horticultural Industry Consultative Group, Australian delegate to the Association of International Horticultural Producers, a current director of Horticulture Australia and senior vice president of the Australian region of IPPS.

David is particularly keen to ensure that he gives back to IPPS and its members as much or more than he has

received over his period of membership. In particular he is dedicated to the Society's motto "Seek and Share" and commends that philosophy to all IPPS members.

Ian Tolley



Ian Tolley always wanted to grow "something" and he started seriously in this field by the mid 1950's.

By 1965, with an Engineering and Surveying background he was establishing a new Orchard and Nursery, and won one of the first Churchill Fellowships to study Citriculture overseas for 5 months. He says with gratitude, he was never the same again. What followed, was the world's first completely containerized citrus nursery in South Australia, and numerous horticultural inventions along the way.

October 1973 was a seminal milestone with the formation of the Australian Chapter-at-large of the IPPS as a foundation member, then past Australian and International President, and Award of Honour in 1992, followed in 1999 by an International Award of Merit

Ian has written more than 90 horticultural articles to date. In 1995 Ian was awarded an OAM for services to the Community, Horticulture and the citrus industry. He is a foundation member a past President of the International Society of Citrus Nurserymen and its current co-Patron and active member. Horticultural Consultancies continue to keep him busy. The growing passion is still rampant.

Ian considers that his areas of expertise have broadened considerably over the last 25 years to horticulture in general, but his passion is citrus. Tree crops and vines are the core, whether they are tropical, subtropical or temperate. He told the story of when he worked in Egypt for the UN. He found himself in a valley that had been irrigated for 2300 years. The old fig trees produced about 1.5 tonnes each annually. To get water to new figs, it had to be carried from a hole 7 metres deep. The problem involved finding a new solution (finding ways to grow figs in the silt of wadis), for propagation, pruning and training of local growers.

Through his work and expertise Ian is recognised around the world, and so has a variety of contacts. He particularly sees the IPPS as body of passionate people, who seek knowledge where language is not a problem.

When he has been asked to be involved in something new, he often recalls something that has come up at a conference that eventually solved a problem. So ideas and inspiration have come to Ian as a member, but he says you need to be switched on to use this knowledge.

From the newsletter editor

I hope you like the conference recap, reports and our new feature of member profiles. **Two copies of the newsletter are being sent now so that you place one copy in a prominent place for others to read.**

The profiles will hopefully help new members get to know a few more faces, and improve your own network

of what is known by members. It is often great to know someone who can say "I remember ... spoke on that at the conference".

If you have any news that you would like passed on, please contact me or Pam Berryman with the details.

- Bruce Higgs

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CONFERENCE 2007, Doing it Differently

'And now for something completely different.....' that's the approach taken by David Cliffe and his IPPS 2007 conference team when asked what they were going to do for next year.

We as an industry need to evolve, to look at propagation from a different perspective and to see innovation as a tool for improvement', said Cliffe. He should know, having worked at the leading edge of developments for some years. His nursery is now leading the way in cutting propagation of hybrid Eucalypts, an exciting new development for the forestry industry.

David hails from Narromine, a small town in western NSW that does not easily match with the forefront of propagation. However on closer examination that myth appears to be busted, Narromine is the home of Swanee rose farms and of Enza Zardin best known as the breeder of those fancy lettuce plants now adorning every upmarket salad.

Next years conference will be based at Dubbo, the biggest city in the central western region of NSW, and a stones throw from Narromine. It has all the usual facilities for holding a significant conference, good venue, accommodation to suit all delegates, some great restaurants, and the zoo plus the gaol will entertain the kids if they come as well. Site visits will be to the Narromine nurseries and a riverside lunch is planned.

However the real reason for coming will be the papers. The theme 'Doing it differently' will be explored with some exciting speakers already on the program. David promises that you will not go home without being challenged, gently prodded with new ideas, entertained with western NSW hospitality, and amazed at how advanced sleepy little Narromine is in the world of propagation.

Just to make the decision easier, a super early bird registration is on offer. Until October 1, 2006 the cost of a member full registration is just \$315, partners are \$295. Prices for the conference will go up, so do not delay. David also suggests that you book your conference and accommodation now, find out how to do that on the IPPS website www.ipp.org.au. See you there.

Greg McPhee



Conference 2007, Dubbo NSW

Super early bird registration

NOW OPEN

Get in early and reserve your place at Dubbo. Super early registration gives you the cheapest entry to conference. Don't forget to also book your accommodation!

Full conference registration \$315, Partners \$295.

For more information contact David Cliffe, 02 6889 2111 email dcliffe@bigpond.net.au

Offer valid until October 1, 2006 for IPPS members only.

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