



the Propagator

International Plant Propagators' Society
Australian Region - Newsletter Winter 2007 - No: 14

We did it our way

For a regional conference many commented that Dubbo was the best they had been to. What made it so special? It was said that at the time of a long Australian drought, it was the long waited rain along the east coast that had changed peoples mood for the conference. It was especially good to get wet during the conference tours at Narromine.

Many said that they were so busy talking with people that there just was not enough time to take in all the other things presented. As always there was a lot of catching up with colleagues at morning tea, lunch, dinner and the tours.

Sharing tips featured this year. Complementing the excellent trade exhibits this year were some members innovative ideas or adaptations. Ken Tilt and many other speakers at the conference gave us many more practical concepts that have worked.

It was a great idea to invite Ken Tilt to come to Australia and share some great ideas. Sometimes we forget that people in other parts of the world have similar problems. Ken said that "we need to show how important economically the industry is". I really was impressed with the way that horticulturalists in Alabama commissioned a study to show the value the industry has to the economy. Ken mentioned that in their drought this study had saved them from crippling water restrictions.

Perhaps it was the amount of useful information. There were so many good things to help us back in the workplace that we all needed to find out more.

But it was more than that, much more. David Cliffe shared in the final session how for both Friday and Saturday night dinners the ovens had failed. I wondered why we were being fed so many rounds of nibblies at the Zoo on Friday night. The organisers dealt with things to make the event a success. So many people chipped in to make the annual dinner a great success. Robert Reynolds was MC, and he handled the kitchen

problems easily by bringing the program forward. Of course a highlight was the auction where over \$6,600 was raised toward Youth Development initiatives. Many thanks to the contributors, and Peter Waugh our auctioneer.

It was great to see so many horticulture students participating from Canberra CIT. The youth have really taken a place in the IPPS. We heard that Wayne Stephens had called a youth meeting, and that there are some great things being planned. Funding and support from the Southern region could see a number of our youth in the USA later this year for the international conference. The 6 pack, South African youth exchange program and Rod Tallis award all support the regions youth initiative. One of the younger ex-six packers said "these guys have it easy, not like our day".

The sum of the parts makes up the whole for a special event. *We ... did it our way.*

Bruce Higgs

2007 Six Pack: Albert Gouwes (South Africa), Jessica Chapman (Vic), Sianee Guy (WA), Daniel White (SA), Luke Dent (Qld), Dean Olney (NSW)



President's Comment

It is a great pleasure for me to be able to write my first president's note following the conference at Dubbo and my election as president. I can't express enough my gratitude to all that attended the conference and the trust that members have placed in me to take the Society forward into the future.



I am spoiled a bit by coming into the position and benefiting from the excellent work that previous presidents and committees have carried out, particularly some of the more tedious tasks such as rewriting the Constitution and the Standard Operating Procedures.

I am very keen to carry on some of the initiatives that have already been put in place such as the focus on attracting young people to our Society, the youth exchange program, with a possible extension of that to the USA and in particular creating opportunities for the coming together of members in forums, other than just at the annual conference.

From an administrative viewpoint, I am committed to building up the Society's financial reserves so that we can feel comfortable that we have the funds to meet our obligations when they fall due. In addition, this discipline will allow us to make some funds available in the longer term for initiatives that will strengthen our membership base and keep people interested in remaining members of the society.

A number of members have expressed their thanks for the Dubbo conference and as one person I spoke to said, "It really was a seek and share conference". After the time and effort that the committee put towards trying to make the conference a success, compliments like this make the effort well worthwhile. It is not an easy task to keep everyone interested for three days so the programme needs to be varied. I am sure that you will agree that our overseas speakers helped in this regard with Ken Tilt's presentations delivered in such an easy to understand manner.

The continuing drought and the effect that it is having on production and plant sales will challenge us all as propagators and plants people over the next few years. It will be essential that we seek and share as much information as we can regarding, better water usage, drought tolerant species and propagating techniques that can cope with these conditions.

- David Cliffe

Executive Officer's Comment

Dubbo Conference

Well once again what a fabulous conference. Thank-you to everyone involved in ensuring this years conference was a huge success. By the feedback received to date other attendees also agreed that this years conference in Dubbo was very entertaining and informative.

Membership

The International Board have closed their books off for the year. It is imperative that ALL Members please notify me of any changed contact details, so that I can ensure Office records are kept 'up-to-date'. Some Members change their telephone providers on a regular basis, so it is therefore imperative that e-mail addresses are also kept 'up-to-date'.

IPPS Merchandise

Orders for IPPS Polo Shirts (Members \$25 and Non-Members \$30) and Caps (Members \$12 and Non-Members \$15) can be placed with John Messina of Sunraysia Nurseries – Contact Details:

John Messina

Sunraysia Nurseries,
P.O. Box 45, Gol Gol NSW 2738
Ph: 02.5024 8502, Fax: 02.5024 8557,
Mobile 0417 389 075
Email: john@sunraysianurseries.com.au



Propagation DVD's for Sale

Propagation DVD's (Members \$15 each and Non-Members \$30 each) are now available on the following topics:

- *Grafting Techniques*
- *Propagation of Rainforest Plants*
- *Roses*

Orders can be placed with Pam Berryman,

Contact Details: **Secretariat**

Pam Berryman

27 Petunia Crescent, Mt. Cotton QLD 4165
Ph: 07. 3829 9454, Fax: 07. 3829 9767,
Mobile: 0412 993 386
Email: pjberry@iprimus.com.au

Melbourne Conference – York On Lilydale – 1st to 4th May 2008



Next years conference will be held in Melbourne from Thursday 1st May to Sunday 4th May 2008.....so pencil this date onto your calendar. This event is shaping up to be '**One not to be missed**'.

Financial

IPPS is financially sound and we are on target with the budget.

'Let the word of IPPS spread amongst us'.

Pam Berryman

Annual General Meeting -

Some of the reports are reproduced for members with some editing.

Presidents Report – Clive Larkman



It is end of April 2007 and my two year term is coming to an end. It has been one of the more rewarding positions I have held. IPPS is one of the best industry associations in horticulture if not the whole country. It captures what is good about horticulture and blends it with what is good about a service club.

Over the past two years I believe our Society has made some real progress. We have taken what has been a stable and reliable organization and built on its positives. We have accepted the need to understand and abide by the principles of good governance and accountability.

In 2006 we reviewed the structure of the Society and put some organization into our management systems. I feel that the new committee system will allow us to step forward and take advantage of the vacuum in horticultural industry associations. It will enable a greater number of members to contribute to the running of their Society. It will ensure that those who do not accept executive roles understand what is expected of them. They will be able to take on portfolios that are critical to the long term vigor of IPPS. Finally they will build on the great work done by previous directors.

I am proud to be part of the Australian region. We are seen by other regions as one that is strong, vibrant and moving forward. Where they have falling membership we are growing. We have, twice in the past six years had the courage to examine who we are and what we are doing to make fundamental changes in our structure to keep pace with contemporary Australia. Over the last two years our membership has grown from 222 members at the 2005 AGM to 237 this year. We had a peak of 255 in 2006 but have lost a few due to changing workplaces, retirements and tough times in our sector.

IPPS Australia is no longer seen as clique of professional horticulturalists. It is now seen by many in the industry as the best vehicle for technical information to get from academia to the industry. It is seen as a body that understands the needs to work with new entrants, young and old. There are still some areas that need more work. We are still not out there in the forefront of industry and are a well kept secret from many horticulturalists. We still need to develop closer ties with other avenues of horticulture. Finally we rely heavily on our conference as our reason for being.

Over the past twelve months we have finalized the changes we made to our constitution and now have our Treasurer taking responsibility for the finances. Lionel Sach has taken on this role and will be presenting his first report as the Society's Treasurer. We have seen the finalization of ten years work in getting the Southern African region accepted as a full region. This was started in 1997 by some keen members of the Australian Region and was completed this year with a presentation of a set of Proceedings by Michael Gleeson at their 2007 conference.

We have set a forward direction and the executive met over a full weekend in February to discuss and plan for our future.

We have in process many plans to further improve your Society. These include researching the establishment of an IPPS Foundation. The hope is to develop a tax deductible foundation to fund special projects to further develop the people and knowledge in our industry. I hope to present a proposal next year.

We decided that it is important to get input from our younger members into the running of the Society. We feel that their passion, energy and questioning nature can blend well with the knowledge and experience of older members to keep our Society dynamic and relevant. Wayne Stephens has taken on this challenge with a passion and energy I can only envy.

We have developed a relationship with Australian Horticulture and you can expect to see an article written by one of our members every month. Funds generated from this will be used in youth development. This will be managed by our new Editor, Ian Gordon. There has also been established the Anita Boucher Memorial Paper which will be selected from the papers presented at each conference. This is in recognition of the important role Anita Boucher played in Australian Horticulture, our Society and our industry at large.'

International Director's Report – Greg McPhee

'The IPPS International meeting for 2006 was held in Malmo, Denmark in October. Australia was represented by two delegates, Greg McPhee and David Cliffe, substituting for Clive Larkman.

The meeting was the first not attended by John Wott who retired after more than twenty years of service. His efforts were acknowledged. The meeting also saw the Scandinavian region decide to disband and all members are now under the GB&I region.

Of note for the Australian region is that our sponsored potential region of Southern Africa was given official regional status (starting from Jan 1 2007). The first meeting of the Southern Africa region has been held in March 2007.

International finances

There have been changes to way in which the finances of the International IPPS operates. Accounting is now undertaken using a computer based package, allowing directors to have access to up to date financial statements.

The Society is operating to a budget and accounts to date indicate that we are working well within this budget. Reports are given monthly.

International Database

There is an ongoing development of the Societies website and database. Please look at your website as it gives plenty of useful information; like where meetings are being held around the world.

International Study tour

A study tour has been organized for young propagators to attend the International tour, the Southern USA conference and California. A generous offer from the USA Southern Region and HAL funding support has delivered a tour cost that is an excellent deal. Wayne Stephens is the contact person for young people wishing to attend from the Australian region.

Editors Report- Ross Hall

'At this time the galley proofs from the Brisbane conference have been returned to the international editor for publishing. A few papers required some minor changes at this final point in the process and I thank those authors for carefully proof reading their papers and returning them in a timely fashion.

Only nine papers were submitted from the Australian Region to the international editor for publication following the Brisbane conference. This was very disappointing outcome with more than half of the speakers declining to prepare a written paper for publication. Perhaps we need to remind ourselves of the motto of the IPPS – its 'seek and share' – and while presenting at a conference is sharing information its to a very small component of the IPPS membership. The only way to 'share' information with the entire membership is by making the effort to prepare a written paper. The issue of declining numbers of papers for publication is not confined to the Australian Region and the international editor has sought the assistance of regional editors to reverse this trend. I would urge all future program organizers to encourage speakers to prepare a paper for publication. In the advice I forward to speakers prior to a conference I offer to assist speakers in the preparation of their papers if they require help. I am sure that future editors would also offer that assistance.

One of the reasons suggested for the decline in papers prepared for publication is that the papers are not 'peer reviewed' and that this limits the number of academics submitting papers. In my experience, however, academics who present at our conferences also inevitably contribute a paper for publishing. Despite this observation there is likely to be further consideration at the international level of ways to satisfy the pressure on academics to publish in peer reviewed journals. We certainly need to encourage this debate. The IPPS proceedings represent a major means of technical information transfer to the nursery industry both here, in Australia, and elsewhere around the world. It is in both the IPPS, and industry, interest that academics are given every encouragement to publish.

This year advice to speakers/authors was forwarded entirely by email. This occurred as the names and email addresses were sent to me by the program organizer. Included in this advice are instructions from the international editor, a copyright release form and a letter from me outlining the requirements for the written paper, timelines etc. I also asked that authors acknowledge receipt of the attachments (and I thank those who responded!).

In conclusion I have advised the Board that I do not wish to continue as editor beyond this year. I will certainly assist the new editor whenever required while he/she becomes familiar with the processes.'

Area Meetings Committee – John Messina

Area Meetings are being planned for the following regions:

Sunraysia Region – *John Messina and Kathy Mullins*

Sydney Region (June/July) – *Michael Gleeson*

Victoria – NGIV Propagation Bus Tour – Rhodo Glen Nursery, Great Pine Nursery, PGA, Coolwyn Conifers - June
- *Robert Chin*



Southern Africa Region - Anne Marie VanderWesthuizen

Southern Africa Region is celebrating 10 years and has received recognition from the International Board in becoming a full region. Elsa du Toit is the current Vice President for the Southern Africa region. They held a very successful conference this year. Various workshops and seminars were held throughout 2006.

Anne Marie Westhuizen, Michael and Jacque Oosthuizen represented the Southern Africa region at this years conference in Dubbo.

2007 Officers

President	David Cliffe
1 st Vice President	Andrew Mathews
2 nd Vice President	Rose VanderStaay
Treasurer	Lionel Sach
Immediate Past President	Clive Larkman
Editor	Ian Gordon
Executive	Peter Lewis
Executive	David Ponman
Executive	John Messina
Executive	Tony Thake
Executive	Dr Margaret Clema
Executive	Wayne Stephens
International Director	Greg McPhee term expires 31.12.07
	Clive Larkman from 1.01.08
Executive Officer	Pam Berryman

Young Propagators Meeting

Wayne Stephens addressed the meeting and advised that the first Young Propagators Meeting was held on Friday morning. Young people find it difficult to pay the membership subscription fees in one lump sum and it was suggested that a quarterly payment system could be implemented to assist young people. It was also suggested that a web page for young propagators be set up.

A study tour has been organised for young propagators to attend the International tour, the Southern USA conference and California. Total tour cost is about \$7,000 and with a subsidy of \$4,000, the cost to young people will be around \$3,000. **Wayne advised attendees if they knew of any young person who would be interested to contact him as soon as possible.** Email me at stephens_wayne@yahoo.com.au or phone me on 0406 794065.

Wayne was very impressed with the enthusiasm and overwhelming support from the young people who attended the meeting. The first *Nextgen* meeting will be held in Victoria and will progress to other States.

AWARDS

Rod Tallis Award

Wayne Stephens received the Rod Tallis Award this year for his practical research undertaken in the nursery, growing plants under different colours of shade cloth.



Yates 6 Pack

Our team of enthusiastic helpers at the conference were again greatly appreciated. Many thanks go to the organisers and sponsors of this youth initiative. Members of the six pack are sponsored to the conference, and are selected from a number of applicants.



Award of Honour

Greg McPhee was the worthy recipient of the Award of Honour this year. I was not aware of the many things that Greg had contributed to. His contribution to horticulture and the IPPS have certainly been great. The society is a much better organisation due to the many things Greg has initiated or contributed. He well exhibits the seek and share motto of the society.



Giggle Golf Trophy

Once again Wayne DeFraga won the Giggle Golf trophy. The trouble is that he needed someone to transport this great trophy to Victoria to avoid the problems of last year with airport security.

Wayne has encouraged all golfers to practice to beat him next year. He just looks forward to a good contest, and really would like to pass the trophy on to someone else.



MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS

As another conference is over we start a new year of I.P.P.S. The Dubbo Conference was great and I think all who attended enjoyed themselves, so members who didn't attend this year organize yourself for Melbourne next year.

I would like to thank our Sponsors and Exhibitors for their efforts at Dubbo, they certainly help make our conferences more interesting.

A big welcome to our new Members, some could make it to Dubbo for their official welcome but to those who could not attend, remember next year and take advantage of the benefits of I.P.P.S. throughout the year. Don't forget if you need help or advice re I.P.P.S. contact myself or Pam, our Secretary, who can help or give you a contact of one of our Directors or Membership Committee near to you.

If any Member is involved in a Horticultural event where you can promote I.P.P.S., remember to contact us re Banner Board and Member folders, so we can organize to send them to you.

The Directors would like to remind all Members that, if for any reason you leave your place of employment and you are still involved or have an interest in the Industry, you are entitled to be a Member. So for that small fee you can still be part of I.P.P.S.

Finally, I would like to thank Brian Smith and Ray Parker for their past term and to welcome our two new Membership Committee Members ROBERT PERCY from Sunshine Coast Queensland and

WAYNE STEVENS from Lismore, Northern N.S.W. They join our existing committee of:-

KATHY MULLINS - Mildura, western Victoria

MICHAEL GLEESON - Sydney N.S.W.

HENRY BOOGAARD - Perth W.A.

DANIEL MANSFIELD - Melbourne Vic.

I look forward to working with these Members this year. If any members need help give any of us a call and don't forget to promote I.P.P.S. to friends in the trade.

David Ponman
Membership Chairman.

Welcome our newest members

New members after May 2006 were given their certificates at this year's conference. They were Judy Bates, Robert Chin, Brett Darovich, David Haviland, Henry Stanley, Bevan Hokianga, Kate Malfroy, Sue Nolan, David Parlby, Grant Rankin and Carl van Loon.

At the Dubbo conference we also recognised these new members: Scott Featherston, Dean Olney, Roger Starling and Joane Volkens. Others have also joined since the conference.



Southern African Region Says Thanks

Thanks to the generous support of a number of our Australian members and the Southern African region I recently had the privilege of representing our region at the 10th Annual conference in Pretoria South Africa.

It was my great pleasure to present to the now fully recognised IPPS Southern African Region a gift from our region. I presented a significant portion of a set of Combined Proceedings (33 books) thanks to the generous donation from Southern Region member Allan Storm.

These books were presented in a set of four handmade Tasmanian Oak presentation Boxes that will be displayed at all future conferences in Southern Africa. I would like to thank all of those members who contributed to my trip and assure you all that your generous support has helped in the future success of the newest IPPS region.

Michael Gleeson

Interview with Dean Olney- South Africa

1. How did you end up being selected to go?

I was advised by Neville Payne (who had seen it in the Propagator) that IPPS were looking for an exchange student so I applied. I was selected after an interview with Greg McPhee and was advised by Clive Larkman that I had been selected.

2. Who did you stay with/work for while there?

I spent the first 3 or 4 days with Mandie and Artie Odendaal at Valley View Nursery. This Johannesburg nursery grows general garden lines. The nursery was just being set up.

I then spent time with Allan and Lulu Touche at Kazi Mingi Nursery. This nursery also grew general lines.

I then spent time at Flora RSA with Michael and Jackie. This nursery specialised in African indigenous plants.

The last few days were spent with Colleen

3. Did you learn anything new in South Africa?

"I learnt a phenomenal amount"



Plaque given by IPPS to recognise the new Region of South Africa.

Above, Tony and Rose Vander Staay enjoyed the South African conference too.

I learnt about a lot of new plants I had not seen before.

I saw a very interesting new staking method that did not have a stake driven into the pot.

I saw some interesting water conservation techniques. Most water seems to be obtained from bores. Nursery beds were set up to slope into pathways for quick removal from beds to the drainage system.

I found the social and cultural differences in SA of particular interest.

4. Did you find any major differences in the propagation houses you saw?

The basic Propagation houses were much the same in SA as here, normal bottom heating and misting systems were used. However the standards of hygiene were very poor.

5. Tell me about the staff and staffing levels in the South African nurseries.

The staffing levels were high in comparison to Australia, however the price of labour is very cheap and the productivity levels were very low. A cutting rate per person of 600-800 cuttings per day seemed to be normal. This rate could be raised if the nurseries offered a bonus payment system, but numbers were still low by comparison.

I found the hospitality of the people I worked with and stayed with to be "Brilliant".

IPPS Australia paid all my expenses. I spent a total of two weeks in South Africa



Interview with Dean Olney by Michael Gleeson

Photo shows Dean at the IPPS South African Conference with Michael Gleeson and Peter Waugh

Conference Recap

Innovation

Our opening paper “Innovation as a way to Success” was given by Ken Tilt (Alabama USA). Ken followed this on Sunday morning with another paper “innovations from the USA” which really had many of us thinking.



Annemarie van der Westhuizen spoke about the innovations required in establishing a Tissue culture laboratory and greenhouse on a budget in South Africa. This involved converting an 8 x 12 m shed into a laboratory. The memorable phrase that we took away related to occasions when an expensive piece of equipment was contemplated, that was when the team “went and had three cups of coffee and come back” later.

Different Out West

David Cliffe gave a review of some of the innovations at Narromine transplants. Cloning Eucalypts from hydroponic grown cutting stock in peat filled bags on a large scale was an eye opener. Some of the innovations enabling single plant seeding of eucalypts in plugs was another thing to see.



Dan Trimboli gave an overview of “Vegetative propagation in the Vegetable Seed Industry” which also covered aspects of plant breeding as practiced at Enza Zaden.

Down to It

Sandy Pate (NIDO, WA) presented a paper on examples of best practice. Very interesting, I hope the powerpoint presentation will be made available.

The paper on “Innovative Products and Services” by Robert Chin (NIDO, Vic) gave us all some tools to save money in operations.

Paul Carmen then gave an interesting paper “Developing Low Risk Recyclable Propagation Mixes” where the properties of mixes with low cost rice hulls was explored.

Dyllon McPhee took us through the research programme undertaken to improve take rates of macadamia grafts at Advantage Plant Production.

Ian Gordon provided an update on progress to get the University of Queensland Gatton research greenhouse performing to specification.



Techniques

Wayne Stephens presented a study of the effects of coloured shade cloth on plant growth, as this years Rod Tallis awardee. He concluded that the colour of 30% shade cloth does affect plant growth. He observed that for chillis red gave better growth and root development but leaves

did not colour well.

“Grafting Natives Adopting New Technology” by Jonathan Lidbetter was an interesting exploration of some of the possibilities available with a variety of native Australian plants.

Michael Danelon (NIDO, NSW) gave a paper “Nursery Water Use and Best Management Practice in the Nursery and Garden Industry”. The Waterworks program was revisited in light of the recent NGIA national water use survey.

Dr Leigh Pilkington spoke on IPM, and the 5 tips to a good system of control:

- Hygiene
- Pest and Disease Monitoring
- Cultural Control Options
- Chemical Control of Pests
- Biological Control- Let the good bugs do the work for

you.

Propagation

Greg Neighbour gave a welcome talk on “Production Input Investment for Profit” dispelling some myths of cost cutting that actually reduce profitability. Typically 8% of the cost of a plant is the pot, soil, fertilizer and pesticides but that is what is focussed on. Greg encouraged us all to look into and invest in better methods of production to improve profitability.

Annabelle Greenup reviewed some of the plants of the Dubbo region for dry area gardens: *Kennedia procurrens*, *Dianella Wurrumbungle Rain*, *Zieria ingramii*, *Philotheca ericifolia*, *Rulingia procumbens*, *Spiranthes sinensis ssp australis*, *Eremophila goodwinii*, *Hibbertia kaputarensis*, *Phebalium notii*, *Grevillea arenarea dwarf*, *Phebalum squamulosum*, *Cymbopogon obtectus*, *Dampiera adpressa*, and *Asterolasia hexapetala*.

David Ponman spoke about his “Journey in Hibiscus Growing”. He took us on a journey of Glendale Select Plants, and it’s ongoing development.

Cameron Baldock (NIDO, SA) presented the ECOHORT guidelines for environmental management.

Dean Olney told us about his South African exchange organised by the IPPS Australian region. He visited over 20 nurseries and Pretoria gardens (and game parks). One striking observation of his was that plants were commonly grown in bags.



Fundamentals for Propagation Success

Following Ken Tilt's paper Barbara Corsini from the ANBG presented a paper on "Top Wedge Grafting of Australian Plants". Here the benefits of "long John" grafting technique presented by Allen Gilbert at the Mildura conference were shown to work for natives especially *Eremophila*.



Carl van Loon (Powerplants) and Scott Fetherston (AIS Greenworks) followed with a presentation of their concept of ideal propagation facilities. The benefits of control, screens and a combination of mist and fog systems to control the propagation environment was explained. A CD of the powerpoint presentation is available from the authors.

Getting it right

Bruce Higgs discussed some of the things that had helped him make the transition from work in another occupation, and propagation as an amateur to a professional with the establishment of Darvill Nursery in 2000.

Robert Chin then presented "Invasive Plants and the Nursery Industry", covering that ever present weed and escapee risk that needs to be kept under control.

Finally Michael Gleeson gave a brief talk on his reflections of the South African conference, and the challenge to us all to access the IPPS website and chat room.

Andrew Matthews then presented us some things to look forward to at the 2008 conference at Lilydale with the theme: **OPPORTUNITY THROUGH TO DIVERSITY**.

Questions

1. *To the 6 Pack, is there something we can do better?*

They found the auction and dinner gave a good chance to get around and meet people. You get to know people at a different level, not just horticultural, and this is quite nice. All staying in the same house enabled them to get together as a team.

2. *Ian Tolley asked "what or where do we find water use figures for mature trees, having in mind the drought and Murray Darling basin zero water allocation from July 1st? The nurseries will be a repository for plants,*

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33	1983	1
34	1984	1
35	1985	2
36	1986	1
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39	1989	2
40	1990	2
41	1991	1
42	1992	1
43	1993	1
Index Vol 31-40	1980-1990	1

Orders to be placed direct with:

Mr. Adrian Bowden
New World Flora Pty Ltd
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MANJIMUP WA 6258

Ph/Fax: 08 9771 8313
Email: nwflora@wn.com.au

but we have in cases 60 to 80 year old trees that can not be replaced.

Robert Chin said that NGIV are doing work on the environment and role of trees and how much water they use. This could be distributed via the newsletter.

David Cliffe commented that some of the trees being planted are gross water users in environments where they are not endemic. For example *Eucalyptus globulus* planted in W.A. With an anticipated rotation of 9 to 10 years, but depleted subsoil moisture may mean a second rotation is not possible. Part of the answer will be clones. Big paper pulp manufacturers are using 3 & 4 way crosses for wood pulp quality and other purposes. Malcolm Turnbull has indicated that plantations should be paying for the water.

Clive Larkman thought that a figure of 10MI/ha/year net use was about the number being suggested. Sandra Hetherington said she could provide more information from Mt Gambier colleagues.

I look forward to receiving this for the next newsletter (Bruce Higgs).

3. *To Carl Van Loon, What is the minimum water quality required for fogging systems?*

Water is filter cleaned to 5 microns for a 10 micron fogger system. CalcClear computerised water conditioning systems have been used to reduce deposits.

4. *David Cliffe asked if any work has been done on water crystals on nursery production.*

David said he knew of a planting operator in North Queensland who won't plant in a dry season without

crystals, as he feels it is the only way to get plants to survive. He was not sure that in a container nursery with regular watering if there is a benefit.

Robert Chin said that there was an effect, especially with coir in using other things to retain moisture.

John Daly said he wanted to give a talk next year on wetting agents.

Ian Tolley commented that initially trials showed that wetting agents ripped out phosphorous. A new era of materials are now available, and felt that it was worth trialling again.

5. *What is the "pot in pot" system?*

Ken Tilt explained that by placing a pot in a buried pot achieves a number of things:

- It moderates temperature
- Keeps trees up
- Provides a cooler root system

It has been the standard way in the USA for 10 to 15 years for field container plants.

The system needs good drainage. Exposing the side of a container to full sun when it is pulled out can lead to destroying roots.

Robert Apsley said that they use wind clips on 300 mm and other sizes. This could be used with a pot in pot system.

David Daley commented that they had looked at the system with 50 litre pots and upwards. The problem is getting a stable pot base. If you do not use the appropriate auger and ensure good drainage the system does not work as the plants blow over.

Ken Tilt explained further that you did need level ground, with the container 2 to 3 inches above the ground, and on a flat base.

6. *Comment was sought on mulch in pot systems.*

Clive Larkman commented that dry pine bark mulch is hydrophobic, and does not rewet even with overhead irrigation.

Fifty millimetres of sawdust has also been used for bagged plant weed control, but you can not tell if the plants are too wet.

7. *Top dress, mix or dibble fertilizer?*

Robert Apsley said that they put soil in the hopper without fertilizer, and fertilizer is dialled up for the second cycle of soil with the top third of the pot run out without fertilizer. You get a lot less weed growth.

Ken Tilt agreed that if fertiliser is applied in the lower strata or dabbled below the surface then you will not get as many weeds.

8. *Greg McPhee commented that there had been an increase in Euphorbia maculata (spotted spurge) and it was an increasing problem. Did anyone have any control experience?*

Ken Tilt was not sure if any of the pre-emergent herbicides worked on this.

There is a link with work in Georgia that indicates Roundup could be worthwhile trying:

<http://www.canr.org/02004.pdf>

Profile

Greg McPhee

Greg's list of accomplishments is large, as we heard at the conference dinner. That is why so many felt he was a very worthy recipient of the Award of Honour this year.

Greg felt that a few standouts in his horticultural career included:

- Representing the regions nursery operators who produce most of the macadamia industry shelterbelt trees.
- Being a contract grafter and budder for 30 years.
- Establishing an industry owned training organisation, and being a writer and developer of industry specific courses like 'costing for profit', 'waterwork' (with Chris Rolfe), 'safe handling of pot media', 'towards accreditation' and more.
- Bringing the nursery industry to the table in the development of the current qualifications system.

What does he have to share with others? A career in horticulture that has been personally rewarding and great fun. A family that has good values and has an interest in horticulture. Some special skills (grafting and budding, business skills, and nursery layout design) that he is willing to share.

IPPS membership allowed his personal interest to grow and flourish. It has shown that there are others in the society that are prepared to mentor and offer assistance to anyone who asks. It has given him an opportunity to grow skills and to advance the pool of knowledge about plant culture. The society he felt had shown incredible support in times of need, and offered pathways for international friendships.

What would he say to a new member? Welcome to a group of people who not only love propagation but will assist you in learning what you need to know.





Nursery Tours

Despite the lengthy drought we experienced rain on the nursery tour afternoon. We were driven by coach firstly to Swanes rose nursery at Narromine.

We were allowed to walk around the nursery and ask questions of staff.

Friday lunch was held in a large shed at Narromine transplants. Everyone enjoyed their meal prepared by ladies in Narromine. The local wines were good too.

Then we went exploring Narromine transplants under the guide of staff. They produce many varieties of Eucalyptus both from seed and from cuttings.

Then on to Enza Zaaden to see aspects of vegetable plant breeding.

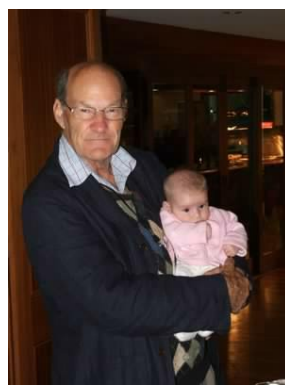


Top L - R Swanes rose beds, Lunch at Narromine, Gary Teseder (Swanes) welcomes us, Eucalyptus stock beds for cutting clones at Narromine Transplants



L to R Swanes bare rooted plants, Dan Trimboli introduces the tour to Enza Zaaden, Seedling punnets at Narromine Transplants, Michael Gleeson closing the door (he did not have the necessary lab coat), Developmental varieties at Enza Zaaden





Conference Snaps

One of the features of a conference programme is the times we spend together eating, whether it is drinks and finger food when registering on Thursday; morning or afternoon tea or lunch at the main venue; or a meal during the nursery tours, the Friday night dinner or the Conference Dinner.

Friday night saw coaches arriving at Dubbo Zoo where we dined and talked to people we were meeting for the first time and to people we had known for ages. Some were older and some very young (see photos above).

For most people that was as much of the zoo they saw, but some braved the elements and enjoyed an early morning breakfast tour of the zoo on Saturday morning.

The Conference dinner is the culinary highlight of the weekend and was held at the RSL Auditorium. There is an air of anticipation as people gather around tables wondering who will receive the award of honour, and the other awards and the auction.

We didn't have long to wait as the MC for the night

Bob Reynolds soon started proceedings before the main course. David Cliffe was inaugurated as the new president taking over from Clive Larkman. The new members were introduced and the six pack were presented. As the citation was read out people started thinking who is to be the recipient of the award of honour, and Greg McPhee was the winner. Photographers were busy once more taking photos of Greg with the president and others and dinner was served.

The last plates were being taken away when Peter Waugh started the auction. He has a well deserved reputation as an auctioneer and was able to extract significant sums of money for the IPPS youth program from willing bidders. The framed silver Felco secateurs are a popular highlight that the successful bidder gets to hang in their office until next time.

After dessert the music was started and dancing was on the agenda for the remainder of the night. A good time was had by all.

Heather Higgs (an "accompanying persons" view)



L to R Conference Dinner, David Cliffe welcomed as the new President, below 6 pack with Dyllon and Greg McPhee, Local entertainment.





Member's Ideas on Display

Paul Walker (Binalong Nursery) gave us the idea of placing bench legs into a can of water to keep ants off the bench.

Alstonville Palms showed their quick-hitch for a forklift that can double as a soil loader.



Ben Stock's "Bug Trap" comes in two versions based upon a description of a device that Michael Gleeson mentioned at Gosford for fungus gnats.

Version one was PVC pipe with fittings, slotted to allow insects to enter, a compact UV fluorescent light to attract them, and a fan to force them into a lower collection trap. The larger improved version was also offered for sale at the conference. For further information contact Stocks Native Nursery.

Challenge

Having just arrived home from visiting the South African region I have another easy "Challenge" for you. I was given the opportunity to present to the South African region a tour of the International Website. I was surprised to find that many of the SA members were unaware of the site and its many benefits. The particular area that is of interest to me is the "Discussion Board" where members can really practice our motto of "Seek and Share".

So here is the challenge:

Find the time to have a look at the discussion board and when I next open up I want to find lots of Australian names either submitting a question or better still answering a question.

All you paid up members out there should now have received the new password from our executive officer, Pam but if you haven't give Pam a bell.

Michael Gleeson

Your Say

Members who may have known KEN BARGALLIE, I would like to advise of his tragic passing away by drowning, on Monday 21st May, 2007.

Ken was involved in the Nursery Industry for 33 years since he bought Wallsend Nurseries, and became my Business Partner in our Wholesale Nursery soon after. He was active in the Nursery Association in the 1980's and will be sadly missed.

David Ponman.

Thank You

As many of our members are aware I spent a week in South Africa at the end of March attending the 10th Annual Southern African Region Conference. I was present to present to this new full region a gift from the Australian Region.

This trip would not have been possible without the sponsorship of a number of our members. I would therefore like to acknowledge and personally thank those members for their generosity. I would also like to thank Clive Larkman, David Ponman and Bruce Higgs for their efforts in ringing around and canvassing these wonderful sponsors.

I wish to advise that this trip has presented many new and interesting contacts between the Australian Region and the Southern African Region and I hope to be reporting on some interesting developments in the future.

Michael Gleeson

The Australian Hydroponic and Greenhouse Industry National Conference is on from June 24 -27 2007. Refer www.cdesign.com.au/ahga2007 for information.

The current Plant Varieties Journal has been published and posted on the website at: http://www.ipaustralia.gov.au/pbr/journal_download.shtml

Newsletter Editors Comment

I apologise for the small font on the reports, but felt they were worth including. Remember that copies of the Propagator are available on the society website in colour. If you would prefer to just receive it that way please contact Pam Berryman.

Please pass one copy of the newsletter around at the workplace or leave it in a public place at work.

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