



## International Plant Propagators' Society Australian Region - Newsletter Autumn 2010 - No: 25

# Cradle of Creation

Excitement is building, as more and more people are now asking me about the IPPS May conference in Fremantle. The media advertising of the event and venue, or perhaps the title has really created interest. The more I have read and talked to people about what we are about to experience the more my imagination is inspired. Cradle of Creation perhaps is the start of some new ideas, or perhaps it is referring to antecedents of current flora.

This conference has something for everyone and the organisers really are looking forward to showing off Western Australian propagator's skills with some of the most diverse flora in the world.

It all starts with a pre-conference tour with noted author and W.A. Garden Guru Deryn Thorpe as guide. It looks like this will provide the opportunity to literally taste what the South west part of W.A. has to offer including wines from Margaret River. For some this provides the time to take a short holiday. If that isn't enough, there is a one day post conference tour, and the Perth CBD is an easy train ride away – the perfect location for an extended stay.

Of course the conference and tours will take us to some very impressive horticultural operations, and I am sure that no one will leave without good ideas that they could try. That and catching up with people we have not seen for a while. After all that is what these events are about - seeking and sharing.

Fremantle has the largest collection of heritage listed buildings in Western Australia providing a 19th century port streetscape backdrop to the

venue. Hundreds of these beautiful old heritage buildings are now flourishing as restaurants, museums, boutiques, markets, nightclubs and coffee shops.

### The Venue: The Esplanade Hotel

The Esplanade Hotel Fremantle established in 1897 and extensively renovated in 1985 for the Americas Cup, defense - it overlooks parklands, fishing wharfs and restaurants. But we will probably be too busy listening to some impressive presentations. That and "networking" over meals with fellow horticulturists from various parts of Australia and the world.

Unique local plants and horticulture, history, heritage, culture, art and tourism will come together in Fremantle to making it one of Australia's most exciting destinations for horticulturist's to visit in May 2010 and a great place to hold a conference.

Impressive .. looking forward to seeing you in Freo.

*Bruce Higgs*



### THIS EDITION

**Cradle of creation Looking forward to the May conference.**  
**Profile - Dr Margy Clema**

### Reports

- President's Comment
- Executive Officer's Comment
- International Directors Report
- South African Exchange 2010

### Conference Program

**Challenge**  
**Coming Events, News, letters**  
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## President's Comment

As President of the society it is always good to catch up with members from other states and see how they are going. Recently, I attended an organising committee meeting in Perth and can confirm that Margy Clema, Steve Vallance and the team are in good shape for the Fremantle conference.



The program is full of interesting topics complimented by some trips to some good production nurseries and places of interest. The "Cradle of Creation" program has a fair flavour of Australian flora both from guest speakers and through visits to places like Kings Park Nursery. This combined with a variety of specialist sessions, as propagators it is must to listen to topics such as the latest research on phytophthora and rooting hormones. This means there is a lot of good information available to seek and share.

The Saturday nursery and the post conference tour will give you a chance to see how some of the best WA nurseries put things into practice. Add the networking with other members and you will have a strong argument for attending - I will be surprised if members will not come away from the conference with at least 3 or 4 pertinent take home points that will potentially aid their business.

To add to the great trade displays that will be on show at Fremantle the IPPS display will be enhanced by an upgrade of the existing Skyline display unit. Look out for this new eye catching look at conference.

### Call to action – do your bit for the society

At a board level we are constantly planning for the future. Planning is well underway for the International conference in Sydney 2011 and is just commencing for the Gold Coast 2012 conference.

Whilst thinking ahead we are always looking for good ideas or members with potential to contribute on committees or at a board level in the future. We aim to continue to have a good mix of skill sets on committees and the workload on most of the committees are not very demanding as we are conscious all members involved are volunteers.

The society as a whole benefits from member participation so if you are asked to do your bit on a

committee just remember it can be a rewarding experience working with like minded industry colleagues. If you are interested in participating more in the society contact myself or any other Executive member.

### Membership renewals – new bank account

You will all have received your membership renewals and for those who have not yet paid I would just remind you on paying to note our new Bendigo Bank account details. The change of bank for IPPS was a big decision that the Executive believe in the long run will enable us to benefit from making our Society banking run more efficiently whilst ensuring members funds continue to be well managed. Treasurer Clive Larkman and Pam Berryman have been instrumental in looking after this change for the better.

I look forward to catching up with many of you at Fremantle in May and continuing in the great tradition of discussing informative, interesting, relevant topics with some of the most knowledgeable people in the industry – IPPS members!

Yours in propagation,

- Lionel Sach

### Executive Comment

### Officer's

It is hard to believe that we are already a quarter of the way into Twenty Ten.

What a unique summer we have had. Growers throughout Australia, have had to contend with flood, storms, hail, wild winds and to top it off ...the heatwave ...the temperatures and humidity have certainly been extreme. I normally like the summer, but am so looking forward to winter this year.

Some growers have suffered more than others, and to those of you who have experienced major destruction, just remember you are not alone, and an IPPS Member is only a phone call away.

### IPPS Office

This time of year is always a busy time. I have been kept quite busy with 'day-to-day' running of the IPPS Office as well as subscription renewals, membership enquiries and registrations for the Perth conference in May' 10.

### Membership

The Australian Region of IPPS has 262 members compared to 258 this time last year.



A '**BIG**' welcome to new Members who have joined since our last meeting.

### **Membership Subscription Renewal**

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

### **Contact Detail Changes**

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

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

### **Perth Conference – 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

Watch out for the conference brochure in the March edition of Australian Horticulture. A conference brochure was emailed out to all Members. If you haven't received one as yet please contact me (Email: [pjberry@iprimus.com.au](mailto:pjberry@iprimus.com.au) Phone:W: 07 3829 1444 Fax: 07 3829 9767).

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

- Pam Berryman

### **International Directors Report**

This is the start of my two years as the International Director for the Australian Region of IPPS, after two years as alternate. The system of alternates means that we do not come to the board without prior knowledge of the procedures and the priorities that the board is currently deliberating.



Jim Johnson from the North American Eastern region has become the International President and Greg McPhee from the Australian region is now first Vice President. This year's international board meeting will be held on Rhode Island in September preceded by a pre conference tour in the US states of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, New York and Massachusetts.

The following year the board meeting will be held in Sydney in conjunction with the Australian Region conference and the pre conference tour will commence in Melbourne and wind it's way through Victoria to the

### **Rod Tallis Award**

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

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

### **Yates Youth Six Pack**

Applications still have not closed for the chance to be a 6 pack member in Fremantle. You could have the privilege to meet some of the industry leaders while being sponsored by Yates.

All that needs to be done for either of these is submit an application. Contact details are on the IPPS website (see [www.ipps.org.au](http://www.ipps.org.au)). Don't delay, or you will miss this great opportunity.

Australian Alps then to Canberra and onto the coast, finishing in Sydney immediately prior to the conference.

At an international board level, there is continuing concern in regard to the dwindling membership of the society. This has been an ongoing problem, particularly in the northern hemisphere and many of the regions are now adopting some of the initiatives that Australia and New Zealand, both with stable or growing memberships, initiated a few years ago. Great Britain and Ireland and at least two regions in North America have or are implementing versions of the Australian Six Pack concept in an endeavour to attract younger members.

The drop in membership has, along with the Global Financial Crisis had an impact on the society's finances and there is now spirited debate among board members on how we might increase our reserves and ensure the continuing financial health of the organisation.

An initiative that was taken by the board two years ago in regard to the funding of exchanges of propagators between the regions has been revived and re branded as the IPPS Scholarship Program. This initiative gives an opportunity to individual members of IPPS to access matching funding for the purposes of travel and work experience in another region.

Criteria and application forms are now available from the IPPS international web site, [www.ipps.org](http://www.ipps.org), I urge those of you that are interested in furthering your career and your knowledge, to have a close look at what is available.

- David Cliffe



Carl Barry, Growth Technology, WA  
 Colin Groom, Domus Nursery, WA  
 Brian Noone, Caperplants, SA  
 Paul Bampton, The Diggers Club, VIC

Once again, welcome to the IPPS. I hope to catch up with you all in Fremantle. It is shaping as a great conference of 'sharing plant production knowledge'. Be sure to seek out those new members and say "G'day".

- John Messina

## YOUNG MEMBERS - GET INVOLVED AND BENEFIT FROM SOME GREAT INITIATIVES!

### SEE THE WORLD

IPPS opens up a world of experience and knowledge for young propagators. It really is one of the most valuable tools you can have.

Aside from the annual conference and the "black book", there are numerous schemes and programs intended especially for the benefit of younger propagators and nursery workers.

The South African exchange continues to be a 'once in a lifetime' experience for young Aussies and South Africans alike. This allows them to travel through a foreign country, work in nurseries, and be exposed to new ideas and new experiences.

The 'exchange' concept continues to gain support within the wider society. More regions are looking at developing their own, including an international exchange scholarship.

This years exchangee, David Parlby, will be traveling through South Africa until 21<sup>st</sup> March. We all look forward to hearing about David's travels at the conference in Fremantle in May.

If you are a young person looking to broaden your experiences the South African exchange is for you! Likewise, if you have young people working for you, you should encourage them to apply. Don't let the chance pass you by!

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The IPPS Australian region continues to grow, even in these tough economic times. The fact that the Australian membership is maintaining its strength, while so many other regions struggle to maintain their members, is testament to the work of your committee, and previous committees in being proactive with recruitment. The various youth incentives implemented over the past years are an example of looking to the future leadership of the society and giving them support and encouragement.

Membership is currently at 265 members, compared to 258 at this time last year. A very warm welcome to our new members. I look forward to meeting you soon.

Promoting the society at trade days, expos, and with area meetings continues to be a major source of new members. And existing members are doing a great job of encouraging their fellow propagators to "share plant production knowledge". Word of mouth is a powerful way to spread the benefits of the society to potential new members, and I encourage all members to 'spread the word' to their staff and their colleagues in the industry.

Be sure to encourage any younger staff you have working for you to apply for the Rod Tallis Award, or the 2011 South African Exchange. These are great schemes and will have ongoing benefits to both your staff, and to you.

A special thanks to all those who have sponsored new memberships. 'Mentoring' is an important part of the societies mission, and by encouraging the inclusion of new propagators, and maintaining ongoing contact, we are achieving that.

Our recent new members are:

Zoe Dale, Nambour, QLD  
 Phillip Dowling, Native Plant Wholesalers, SA  
 Graham Blair, Swanview Plant Farm, WA  
 Jason Dawe, Native Plant Wholesalers, SA  
 Ben Croxford, Nuts About Natives, WA



Young Aussie propagators toured the USA in 2008

## APPLICATIONS FOR AWARD OPEN

Applications for this years 'Rod Tallis Youth Award, supported by Scotts Australia' are open. It is another great initiative in support of youth in our industry. The prize of expenses paid to attend conference, commemorative plaque, and cash prize (kindly donated by Scotts Australia) is too good to miss. See the details in this newsletter for what's involved and how to apply, or contact Peter Lewis: 0417 643120 or email:

[pj\\_lewis@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pj_lewis@optusnet.com.au)

Both the Rod Tallis award and the South African Exchange are long running programs, with all the support you need to make it a positive experience. It can be daunting for a young person considering these ideas. But the benefits, both personally and professionally are amazing. Just ask those who have already benefited from these initiatives. So don't be scared! You have to be in it to win it!

## MELBOURNE MEETING

There was a meeting of young propagators and nursery workers at Mansfield's Propagation Nursery on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> February. This was a chance to meet your fellow industry colleagues, make some new friends, new contacts, and have a fun evening. Thanks to David Parlby and 'NextGen' for organizing the meeting.

- John Messina

## Melbourne Meeting Report

For the first time IPPS and Nextgen Victoria joined together to host a meeting at Mansfields Propagation Nursery (Victoria). Mansfields is a large propagation nursery producing well over 2 million plants a year.

The group was given a tour of the large site covering all areas from the propagation through to dispatch and the impressive environmental/ igloo control system.

The group of over 60 listen to an inspiring talk from Bill Molyneux & Sue Forrester (Austraflora). Bill and Sue gave a brief history on how they came to start plant collecting and Austraflora.

It wasn't all talking at the meeting, there was a plant ID game to keep the brain thinking. 20 tubes were laid out



Potting up tubes at the Mansfield's Nursery meeting

on tables and the groups had to name each one, with the wining team going on to the tube race.

The night was a great success and won't be the last. Contact your states Nursery & Garden Industry to find out about joining your states Nextgen group.

## South African Exchange 2010

I have now completed my apprenticeship and Diploma in Horticulture. My current position at Proteaflora is Propagation Supervisor, which I have been doing for the past 3 years.

Everyone I tell about the South African trip is excited and really happy I'm going. They all think it will be a great opportunity to see another culture first hand.

I leave on the 1st of March and return on the 21st. I will be spending 2 weeks in Johannesburg and one week in Cape Town. To date I have been in touch with Clive Mullet and Hans Hettasch (Arnelia Nursery).

What I would like to get out of this opportunity on a personal level is to experience the difference in cultures (or possibly the similarities) between the two countries. Professionally I would like to continue to improve and expand my horticultural knowledge by interacting with horticulturists from another country.

See you in Freo.

- David Parlby

## IPPS Travel Scholarship

The Board approved the procedures and conditions under which a member of one region could visit another region to add to his/her educational experience.

The form is posted on the international website [www.ipps.org](http://www.ipps.org) in the membership section in .pdf format. So applicants can fill in the information on their computers, print the form, sign it, and fax or mail it to Pam Berryman.

Each region is encouraged to have a member serve as a coordinator for this program, working with an applicant to assist in the coordination of the applicant's visit. Once an application is approved at the regional level, it can be scanned to a .pdf file and forwarded to the International Office for the International Scholarship Committee's review.

Please let us know if you have any questions ...the Board feels this will help stimulate the IPPS "seek and share" experience around the world.

Patricia E. Heuser  
International Secretary/Treasurer  
International Plant Propagators' Society  
(comments could also be forwarded to Pam Berryman or David Cliffe).

## Pre-Conference Tour

### Albany, Margaret River & The South West (photos courtesy of Tourism WA)

The organising committee have put together five days exploring the South of Western Australia with well known garden guru and local writer Deryn Thorpe as your tour guide. Beside the published program the tour will endeavour to stop at as many nurseries as practical.

There are many attractions to this program beside the horticultural visits. The area has a dramatic coastline, and the Margaret River area is famous for wine - as well as many local attractions.

**Day 1 - Saturday 8th May.** The group will travel to Albany via the Stirling and Porongurup Ranges visiting the Williams Wool Shed and Kodja Place, Kojonup. Then they will visit to Mount Barker Banksia Farm prior to arrival in Albany.

The 5 hectare Banksia Farm boasts the “Worlds Only Full Collection of all Banksia Species” growing on the property. Most of these are well established specimens planted in the late 1980’s. It provides a unique one-stop-shop for wildflower enthusiasts and something just a bit different for the tourist. The owners published the 376 page book “Banksias” in 2008 with the help of one of our conference key speakers - Alex George.

**Day 2 - Sunday 9th May.** The tour then follows the dramatic coastline at the Gap and Natural Bridge. Then on to Albany Whaleworld, Wind Farm, Mount Clarence, Albany Forts and Albany Residence Museum. At night you will be able to walk around Albany.

**Day 3 - Monday 10th May.** Then the tour heads toward Margaret River, visiting the Tree Top Walk on the way. The Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk is one of the most popular W.A. tourist destinations, rising 40 metres above the forest floor. I hope the tour guide is prepared for

Tree Top Walk and Old Strawberry Farm Albany



Photo courtesy of the Banksia Farm Mt Barker of *Banksia menziesii*



Top: Voyager Estate, below: Wonnerup House photo courtesy of <http://www.ntwa.com.au/places/southwestproperties/wonnerup.shtml>

those tricky horticultural questions regarding the various species present.

After taking in a winery and cruising on Nornalup Inlet, the group will enjoy the pleasures of Margaret River.

**Day 4 - Tuesday 11th May.** Then on to Surfers Point, Boranup Gallery and the tearooms in the heart of the Karri Valley. There will of course be stops at Voyager Estate, Gunyulgup Gallery and Lamont Restaurant - wine tasting is a feature of this days’ activity. Then back for some free time in Margaret River with time to browse the local precinct.

**Day 5 - Wednesday 12th May.** On the last day the group will visit Happs Winery/Pottery, Busselton, and take the tourist drive via historic Wonnerup House. Wonnerup was built by the Layman family in 1838, and is set in farmlands close to a tuart tree (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) forest near the Vasse Estuary wetlands. The tour then returns to Fremantle and the Esplanade Hotel, via the seaside cities of Bunbury and Mandurah.

## Post Conference Tour

### ‘Benara & Back Again’ Monday 17th May

This tour will depart from the Esplanade Hotel at 9.00 am and head north to look at a variety of businesses including G and S Seedling Nursery.

G & S Seedlings Pty Ltd was started in 1990, at Wattleup. The founding partners could see that market gardeners would increasingly rely on seedlings rather than growing from seeds to achieve efficiency and cost savings. They recognised the need for a professional supplier with strict quality control.

They now employ a seasonal workforce of over 30, producing 1,000,000 seedlings a week from





Benara Nursery - with plants that "go on forever"

their own purpose built premises on seven hectares (16 acres) in Nowergup.

Next on to Steve and Natalie Vallance's Muchea Tree Farm famous for their 50 mm tubes of farm trees of a extensive range of species.

Then the group will visit Lachlan Chilman's Manchil IPM facility. They have been working with growers just north of Perth, and is at the cutting edge of the integrated pest management (IPM) program to help growers achieve high yielding crops with the least amount of chemical insecticides.

The tour then heads to Benara's massive facility at Carabooda (Australia's largest production nursery) for lunch and a tour of the nursery.

On our way back to Perth we will stop at the property of Dr Leo Laden for what has been described as a sundowner, and the opportunity to see his extraordinary collection of antique arms and armoury. Some of these weapons have been shown on the ABC program "The Collectors" this year.

*As an easterner I have learn that Sundowner means a relaxed position at sunset, perhaps sipping some fluid.*

## IPPS Conference May 2010

Over the three days of conference we will have more than 20 speakers presenting their papers.

Our first session focuses on biodiversity and the collection and storage of rare seeds. Here is a small selection of speakers and themes from other sessions.

### Alex George and Kevin Thiele

Alex George and Kevin Thiele will be presenting their differing perspectives on the taxonomy of some of the Australian flora.

Kevin Thiele has been the Curator of the Western Australian Herbarium since 2006. His research interests lie in the families *Proteaceae* (especially *Banksia* and

*Dryandra*), *Rhamnaceae* and *Violaceae*, and plant systematics with a particular emphasis on interactive identification tools. He is a well known Australian systematic botanist. Perhaps we will hear why the *Dryandra* species have now been transferred to *Banksia*.

Dr. Thiele, is also the well-known developer of the Lucid suite of identification tools with the University of Queensland from which you can develop a key or assist you in plant identification. A major application of this software has been the Euclid program for identification of Eucalypts.

Current research topics include:

- Development of an interactive key to the Australian genera of macrofungi
- Studies in the comparative evolutionary history of south-western and south-eastern Australia, with an emphasis on testing hypotheses of species richness and endemism patterns
- Taxonomic studies on various genera of Western Australia flora, with an emphasis on rapid methods of species delimitation and description of new taxa.

Dr Thiele has been reported to say that WA. has an enormous backlog of new species of plants awaiting proper naming and classification. The problem that we have heard before is that we are just not training enough taxonomists.

Alex George is a Fremantle boy who worked for 22 years with the WA Herbarium to 1981 and then 12 years as Executive Editor of the Flora of Australia Project. His research activities span *Caesalpiniaceae*, *Myrtaceae*, *Orchidaceae* and *Proteaceae*, and he is perhaps best known for work on *Banksia*, *Dryandra*, *Synaphea* and *Verticordia*.



He wrote the text for the three volume set of "The Banksias" illustrated by Celia Rosser. In 1993 he returned to Perth where he now has his own consultancy as a botanist, editor and indexer.

### John Stanley



Well known as the horticultural guru of present and future retailing strategies, few are also aware that John Stanley began his career in the production sector and has been a key note speaker at several International IPPS

conferences. He was IPPS organiser in the UK as well as managing the National Proficiency Tests in Propagation and Nursery Management in the UK in the mid 80's before emigrating to Australia.

John is the author of "The Modern Nurserymen" published by Faber and Faber which was one of the main nursery production books of the 70's. A prolific presenter, trainer and publisher, John was voted Western Australian Entrepreneur of the Year in 2009.

Based in Perth, John is keen to give his perspective on future trends to an Australian IPPS audience. **Kings Park Perspectives**

Kings Park is famous not only for its preservation of natural bushland in the centre of Perth but also for research into the propagation of WA's native flora, and the collection and storage of seed material.

Development of grafting techniques for Western Australian species has involved selecting suitable rootstocks and scion combinations allowing a wider range of plants to be displayed in the gardens.

Currently breeding research is focussed on the development of new hybrid forms of *Scaevola* and *Grevillea*. Tissue culture techniques are used to assist this development.

### Joseph Sweeney

Joseph Sweeney has a long history in the fields of online services, supply chain management and bar-codes.



During the 90's he was a pioneer, working with the international article numbering association EAN Edifact to educate and promote barcodes throughout Hong Kong and China's manufacturing and grocery sectors.

He also has a 30 year history in the nursery industry, and has developed a number of innovative agricultural labelling and management solutions.

In this presentation, we examine how innovative nurseries both here and abroad are leveraging their barcoding investments to cut costs. We look at not only the technology involved, but also the questions that you need to ask in order to ensure that barcodes do what you want, not the other way around.

### Rod Randall

Known to many as the expert contact for moving greenlife into WA, Rod Randall is a weed scientist with the Department of Agriculture and Food in WA.



His book *The introduced Flora of Australia and its Weed Status* launched in 2008 is now the definitive

work on both existing and potential weeds in Australia. The book includes over 29,000 introduced species, as well as Australian natives that are of concern. You can look up a searchable database to determine the weed status of specific plants at: <http://weeds.cbit.uq.edu.au/>

Rod will be talking about the fascinating topic of sleeper weeds, exotic plants that have apparent weedy potential but have not yet become really invasive.

## Program

**Thursday May 13th** provides an ideal opportunity to explore Fremantle. The IPPS Golf Tournament at the Burswood Golf Course tees off at 1.00 p.m.. (open to all takers) .

At 6.00 p.m. we will take a short walk to the historic Fremantle Prison to be greeted by Officer Tops and Madam Lash (watch out gentlemen, you may need to be punished). Then on into the main cell block for dinner in a unique and rather eerie setting.

### Friday May 14th

The day begins with the Fellows Breakfast (for past presidents), and the Official Conference Opening.

**Session 1** begins with Don Williams who will start the day with a discussion of biodiversity in WA, followed by a focus on collecting in WA's diverse cradle with particular emphasis on the collection and storage of rare seeds. Some of WA's best known seed collectors will share some secrets with you.

**Session 2** After a break for refreshments, Paul Carmen (ANBG) will enlighten us on the Cultivar Data Base, followed by presentations from Kevin Theile and Alex George on their differing views on the classification of Proteaceae and other Australian flora. Cali Salzmann will conclude with a presentation on the extensions to the Australian Gardens at Cranbourne.

**Session 3** After lunch we will have a Kings Park perspective with presentations from Amanda Shade on grafting natives, and Digby Growns on breeding new plant varieties. Pat Courtney will then tell us about the logistical issues of shifting a 36 tonne Boab tree 3200 kms to its new home in Kings Park.

**Session 4** Murdoch University houses the Centre for Phytophthora Science & Management (CPSM), a centre for research into Phytophthora will give us their latest findings. They have published a National Best Practice Guideline. Rod Randall will then explain the nature and threat of sleeper weeds. Our final speaker for the day is one of the founders of a local Fremantle business - Growth Technology, they are now famous to many for their Clonex range. Carl Barry will discuss the action of rooting hormones.

After a break Delegates and guests can then chose to ride on the free bus service or walk to Victoria Quay



where we will depart on a dinner river cruise on the Swan River.

### Saturday May 15th

**Session 5** Our AGM will be held at **8.00 am** (IPPS members only), then at **10.00 am** buses will leave for a tour of contrasting southern nurseries: the high tech Floraplant with over 13000 m<sup>2</sup> of glasshouse, the small but dedicated Nuts about Natives nursery and then on to Hope Valley Nursery for lunch.

We will then spend most of the afternoon at Kings Park Nursery where we will divide into three groups to look at different aspects of their facilities.

**At 6.30 p.m.** come along for Pre dinner drinks before our Gala dinner in the Sirius Room. This is when the awards and speeches as well as the silent auction to support youth initiatives happen. This will be followed by Big Men Working until late.

### Sunday May 16th

**Session 6** Will begin early with a presentation from Joseph Sweeny on technology in your nursery, in particular the cost savings now possible with bar-coding.

John Stanley will then show his production nursery side with a presentation titled 'If Walt Disney had been a propagator'.

Our winner of the Rod Tallis Award and our South African and Australian exchange awardees will then give short presentations before morning tea.

**Session 7** Will include a talk by Nickalás Malajczuk from Treetec Consulting on growing truffles. The following website provides links to various past papers presented internationally to the industry:

<http://www.treetec.com.au/>

Wayne Brock will speak on Biodynamics. Wayne and Margaret Brock run one of WA's oldest and biggest biodynamic fruit and vegetable growing operations at Mucnea.

Then Lachlan Chilman will speak about recent developments in IPM research (new WA bugs in use).

**Session 8** After lunch the Nursery Industry IDOs will present their best Nuggets of information, two or three great ideas that they have each seen in their travels around nurseries in their States.

We will conclude the conference with the traditional Question and Answer session, and the invitation to the 2011 Conference. I am sure that the organisers also have some challenges in store for all those attending. You must admit that the program looks well balanced and has something for everyone.

## PROFILE - Dr Margy Clema



*Following on from last year I have asked this years conference chairperson for a profile. It has been my privilege to know Margy for a few years now. We talk about national treasures, well in IPPS we have many of these. Margy is probably better known in W.A. As one of the "Garden Gals". In true IPPS fashion Margy was willing to "go the extra mile" at a hectic*

*time by answering these profile questions.*

*What are the things that you feel have created your standing in the industry?*

My background in plant systematic botany has enabled me to frequently contribute to the nursery and garden industry in areas needing taxonomic clarity. Furthermore, my position as a collector of rare and unusual plants has kept me in close contact with quarantine matters and the weed status of less common plants.

I have been President of the Nursery and Garden Industry of Western Australia for three years, and am now convinced that gardens and gardening are more important to our society than ever before, both from a health perspective and an environmental perspective. I constantly strive to get this message across to all sectors of our industry as well as to corporate and government bodies.

*What do I have to share with others (particularly new members) of the IPPS regarding the world of propagation.*

My focus is in maintaining diverse collections of plants while at the same time displaying them in inspirational ways. Perhaps the greatest thing I can share is my knowledge of different plant varieties and their uses in various landscapes. I believe diversity is the answer to healthy and interesting gardens. Too often nowadays I see a limited range of plants in garden centres and landscapes. I do not focus on native or exotic, instead I look at climatic requirements, colour and form.

*What are the significant things you have personally gained through IPPS membership.*

Most importantly the opportunity to network and develop friendships with propagators and nurserymen around Australia and overseas. Also the opportunity to ask very specific questions about propagation that ultimately save so much time in my business. The

'Black Book' publication has also provided me with a number of unexpected revelations while scanning titles or flipping through pages - invaluable.

- Margy Clema

## NURSERY WORK AVAILABLE?

Dear IPPS member

I am a fellow IPPS member I run a wholesale herbaceous, alpine and bulb nursery in England. The reason for contacting you is that our daughter Lucy who is 21 years old is travelling to Australia on April 28<sup>th</sup> and would like to find some nursery work, she has a work visa for a year and if any of your IPPS members have any work available it would be appreciated. She is a busy girl and has experience in propagation, potting and despatch.

Many thanks

Philip Congreve

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[www.gedneybulb.co.uk](http://www.gedneybulb.co.uk) <mailto:phil@gedneybulb.co.uk>

## EXCHANGE REQUEST: SCOTLAND

Hi,

I am Peter MacDonald, a member of IPPS in Ayr, West of Scotland. I would like to contact other teachers of Production Horticulture in Australia in the hope of finding someone who might like to do a six month teacher exchange with me from February to August 2011. I work for the Scottish Agriculture College ([www.sac.ac.uk](http://www.sac.ac.uk)) at our Ayr campus. Anyone interested in exploring this idea further please contact me direct: [peter.macdonald@sac.ac.uk](mailto:peter.macdonald@sac.ac.uk).

### Coming Events and News

**NSW Field Day March 19 from 9:00 a.m. at Swanes Nursery** Galston Rd. Dural. Contact Michael Gleeson 96274430 [clynservices@bigpond.com.au](mailto:clynservices@bigpond.com.au) or David Ponman 49545922 [glendale@selectplants.com.au](mailto:glendale@selectplants.com.au)

**IPPS Regional Meetings** (*in case you are travelling*)

- **New Zealand** May 27 - 29 Blenheim
- **Eastern Region, North America - 2010 International Tour**, Sept. 20–28 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to, Rhode Island
- **Eastern Region** Sept. 29 - Oct. 2, Rhode Island

## Challenge

For a different challenge, do you have some results from your propagation trials that really had you wondering. I know from talking to others that this is not unusual.

For example I conducted a cutting trial recently propagating *Murraya* using standard hormone and wounding

tissue from: soft, semi-hardwood and hardwood cuttings leaving two leaves on each. As a control I just prepared the cuttings as I would normally for that type of plant material.

Trays went next to each other on a 23 °C heated bench and humidity controlled with mist. The trial samples gave me 5 to 20% success whereas for the control I had roots on about 60% of the cuttings (similar to what I normally get). What happened? Not much of a control, but it really makes you think about what was different.

Do you have a story like this where you went to the next step and found the secret to propagating that elusive plant?

Write it up and tell us about your experience at one of the IPPS meetings?

- Bruce Higgs

## Newsletter Editors Comment

I hope that you were able to see the ABC Australian Story "Watch Over Me" on March 1, 2010. This heart-warming story was about the Scott family and how Greg and Candice have been able to support through the nursery their brother Glenn with his professional bike racing career.

The impressive thing is their energy and drive, particularly when you remember that they are still in their early twenties, and Glenn is still in his late teens. It was pointed out that they actually have managed to grow the business in these tough times. I know many friends and nurserymen have assisted them also over the years.

Glenn after being supported for a few years in Spain will now take part in his first superbike race with BMW in New South Wales later this month.

Greg is a member of IPPS, as was his father who was very supportive of the society. They all have a passion for bikes. In memory of Denis and Denise Scott a junior dirt bike race is held each year. This can be viewed at:

[www.abc.net.au/austory/specials/watchoverme/default.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/austory/specials/watchoverme/default.htm)

If you have a hot topic that needs to be addressed by the expert knowledge in IPPS please let me know or bring it to the conference for discussion perhaps at the Q&A session so it can be shared with everyone.

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

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