

IPPS

Sharing Plant Production Knowledge Globally

the Propagator

www.ipps.org.au



IPPS- Young Propagators

International Plant Propagators' Society
Australian Region - Newsletter Summer 2011 - No: 32

International Scene

This time the newsletter editor for IPPS New Zealand, Hayden Foulds, brings us some insights into what is happening there. This is part of a series exploring what is going on in the world plant scene - and more, as he could not resist mentioning politics and Rugby.

Things are still very tough in the New Zealand nursery and garden industry but we are ever hopeful of a brighter future. Spring trading generally was solid, but not spectacular across the country with the big box stores increasing their presence and the smaller independents slowly disappearing from the industry. The landscape trade is still tied to the fortunes of the housing market which is still in a slump due to the ongoing effects of the world wide economic crisis.

The Nursery and Garden Industry are looking to promote gardening in a more proactive manner and this spring has seen the launch of a TV campaign with sponsorship from businesses within the industry. First up was vegetable growing featuring products from a seedling grower,

growing media and liquid fertiliser companies.

Mother Nature continues to throw her worst at us for which we are ever battling away. The effects Christchurch earthquakes continue to disrupt lives in that part of New Zealand with ongoing efforts to get the city back on its feet. The Ellerslie International Flower is to be held next March in the city and is a good sign our industry is returning to normality in the city.

Something like 10,000 homes are due for demolition and entire suburbs will be wiped out due to the damage to the land underneath. Areas of commercial building will also be written off and there is a lot of talk about the city having more green space when it is rebuilt, particularly along the Avon River. There is a great opportunity ahead but it will be another year or two before we see much effect in the trade.

Much of New Zealand experienced heavy snowfalls in mid August including many places that usually don't see it including Auckland (last lot there was 1939). Several



Hayden Foulds- *Leucadendrons and Griselinia at Kilmarnock Nurseries*

nurseries including Kilmarnock Nurseries where I work (just out of Palmerston North) suffered damage to structures by the snow and it also impacted on attendance at trade days in Auckland and Christchurch.

As I write this, the country has just gone to the polls for a general election with the incumbent National government retaining power with the support of other
(continued page 6)

THIS EDITION

International Scene - New Zealand
2012 Toowoomba Conference
NGIA Weeds Assessment Project
The Plant Accelerator®

Reports

- President's Comment
- Executive Officer's Comment
- Youth Development Report

Profile Antonio Ferraro Challenge

News & Events
Newsletter Editors Comment

President's Comment



The managing of the Society has been solid and steady, work has progressed on a number of matters over the past months.

There will be an update within this newsletter on how things are progressing for the Toowoomba conference next year. Pam is currently working on putting together a promotion flyer to create interest/awareness for the Toowoomba conference. So watch out for the promotion flyer on the website, www.ipps.org.au. The promotion flyer will also be mailed out to Members in January next year.

Unfortunately we were unable to secure HAL funding this year due to limited monies being available, and as such the Conference Committee are working extra hard at keeping the registration fees at a reasonable rate. This will be the first time in many a year that a conference has been run without HAL funding. Conference organisers are now investigating and exploring other avenues for future conference funding.

The South Africa conference is now being held from 6th to 8th March 2012 in Pretoria, South Africa. The closing date for South Africa exchange nominations will now be Friday 9th December 2011. We are still seeking nominations so if anyone knows of someone who would be interested, please let me know as soon as possible. We are also in the process of contacting past winners and nominees to see if they are interested.

Whilst on the Awards if anyone knows of someone who would be suitable for the Rod Tallis Award or perhaps interested in applying for 'Six Pack' at next years Toowoomba

conference, then let me know as soon as possible. Nomination forms and further information is available on the website.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all members, their families & loved ones a safe & merry Christmas & to look forward to happy, prosperous & exciting 2012.

Peter Lewis

Executive Officer's Report

IPPS OFFICE

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



TOOWOOMBA CONFERENCE 2011 – 17th to 20th May 2012

'Sustainability for Food and Business'

Next year's conference is being held in Toowoomba (The Garden City of Queensland) at the Toowoomba Motel and Events Centre ... make a note of this date in your diary.

WEBSITE

Thank-you to Members & Executive Committee who keep a regular check on the website for me and advise of changes required. Changes to the Australian website are now being done 'in house'.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Australian Region of IPPS has 237 Members. That is a total of 8 new members who have joined since the Sydney conference.

A warm welcome to the following New Members;

Mr	Shane	Woodroffe	Ellenby Tree Farm	WA
Mr	Nathan	Carter	Trufficulture P/L	VIC
Ms	Jill	Hildebrandt	Edendale Indigenous Nursery	VIC
Mr	Robin	Hosking	The Plant Accelerator	SA
Mrs	Vera	Lubicic	Diversity Plant Propagation	NSW
Mr	Louis	Raper	Exfoliators (Aust) Pty Ltd	VIC
Mr	Nicholas	Rivett	Rivett Advanced Tree Nursery	VIC
Mr	Martin	Swanson	Wildtech Nursery Pty Ltd	VIC

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

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

All Members should have received their combined proceedings for the year. If you haven't received your copy please contact me.

CONTACT DETAILS

To ensure Office records are kept 'up to date' I would appreciate it if Members could please notify me of any changed contact details. In particular, if you have changed your telephone provider recently, *please* remember to forward your new email address onto me at pjberry@iprimus.com.au or pam@ipps.org.au

Pam Berryman

Youth Development Report

With another great IPPS year behind us and my first year as an IPPS board member under my belt, I'm excited to be able to deliver my first report.

During my time as an IPPS board member, I have been given the task of leading the Youth Development Committee.

This committee is a great opportunity to help build the profile of IPPS to the younger generation. The youth of this great industry can learn so much from many of the more knowledgeable members in the

society. They can also bring a fresh enthusiasm and new and exciting ideas.

At the conference in Sydney, it was great to see so many fresh faces enthusiastically seeking and sharing. This is what, as a society we need to for the future.

IPPS has some great initiatives which we all need to support to give the next generation of IPPS members the platform to build on.

I'm always happy to talk to members regarding these issues. Feel free to contact me if you would like to raise anything to do with the youth of the society.

david@warrenparknursery.com.au

David Parlby Warren Park Nursery

Nursery Industry Weed Risk Assessment Project

By Dr Anthony Kachenko
NGIA Environmental and Technical Policy Manager

Earlier this year, Nursery & Garden Industry Australia (NGIA) secured funding through Rural Industry Research and Development

Corporation's (RIRDC) National Weeds and Productivity Research Program to develop a Weed Risk Assessment Procedure (WRAP) for the Australian nursery & garden industry (NGI). This collaborative project, managed by NGIA, is valued at \$212,059 and will run until May 2012.

There are a number of parties involved in this project including Dr Roger Spencer (Royal Botanic Gardens, South Yarra, Victoria), Dr Stephen Johnson (Weed Ecologist, Department of Primary Industries, NSW) and Mr Scott Charlton, (A/Manager Invasive Species Strategy & Planning, Department of Primary Industries, NSW).

This project was designed to utilise an existing ten question WRAP developed for Australia's Botanic Gardens. This approach was decided upon for two reasons. Firstly, the existing Botanic Garden WRAP was a credible resource and had been extensively used with great success.

Secondly, industry did not intend to reinvent the wheel in developing a new WRAP and decided to renovate



rather than recreate. This project kicked off in April this year following a workshop with key weed scientists and industry identities. During the workshop, several changes were proposed and incorporated into the Botanic Gardens WRAP to ensure it met the requirements for the intended use by the Australian NGI.

The next step of this project was to develop a short list of 1,000 common ornamental taxa that could be tested using the updated WRAP. A mix of native and exotic taxa that were currently cultivated in Australian nurseries for sale to the wider public were chosen. Several growers participated in this process to

Toowoomba Conference 2012

17th – 20th May

Organisation for the 2012 IPPS conference to be held at the Toowoomba Motel and Events Centre is progressing with most efforts now on securing trade sponsors and speakers. In keeping with the theme of "**Sustainability – For Food and For Business**" we are aiming to attract trade sponsors and displays, as well as speakers who particularly relate to the theme so as to expose delegates to the many ideas and latest thinking out there.

For those of you who are beginning to look at budgets for next year, below are some preliminary costs for the conference and accommodation.

Full - Member Registration	Early – paid by 13/4/2012	\$475
	Standard	\$550
Day - Member Registration	Friday – incl. evening event	\$140
	Sat & Sun	\$90
Accompanying Person	Early	\$375
	Standard	\$450

Bus transfers by The Airport Flyer from Brisbane to Toowoomba – One Way - \$72
- Return - \$128

Motel Rates (per night)

Distance	Motel	Rating	Rate
Venue	Toowoomba Motel & Events Centre	3 star	From \$120
Next Door	Eastgate Motel	4 star	From \$130
5 Mins walk	Great Divide Motor Inn	3.5 star	From \$110

An initiative for this conference is to expand the Question and Answer program at the end of proceedings to include questions from members submitted prior to the conference. Questions rising out of conference proceedings will also be taken in writing over the days. This will give potential respondents time to consider a more concise answer to your question.

So to kick things off your invited to begin sending your questions to Pam's email at pam@ipps.org.au

ensure the final list was balanced and equitable.

Michael Gleeson, who you would all be familiar with, is championing this aspect of the project. He will input each of these plants into the WRAP using desktop software. Each plant will be entered 6 times into the software based on climatic boundaries following the Köppen classification scheme. These include: equatorial, tropical, subtropical, desert, grassland and temperate regions.

The reason for this, is to factor in climatic differences that can impact on the growth and 'invasiveness' of these plants. Currently Michael has entered 560 plants into the system and will complete the remaining 440 during the next 3 months.

After each plant is run through the system, a rating of low, medium or high in terms of its 'invasiveness' is allocated to each plant.

It is intended that this information will be incorporated into the NGI National Plant Labelling Guidelines. This information will also be housed on a website to provide industry with a vehicle to correctly and justifiably, label 'safe plants' or those that are low risk, in terms of their invasiveness. End users will also benefit from this added information assisting them to make smart plant choices.

Once this project is completed, industry will have its own WRAP that can be used to verify the invasiveness of any ornamental plant currently grown in Australia. Furthermore, industry will be the custodians of this very important resource.

For more information on this project, contact Dr Anthony Kachenko at NGIA at anthony.kachenko@ngia.com.au or 02 8922 7006.

The Plant Accelerator® – Feeding the World

Robin Hosking - (new IPPS member)

The Plant Accelerator®

University of Adelaide | Australian Plant Phenomics Facility | Bldg 32 Hartley Grove | Urrbrae SA 5064

Mob : 0429 900 880 Fax: (08) 8313 0828

<http://www.plantaccelerator.org.au/robin.hosking@adelaide.edu.au>

As the human population expands, the question about world food production is becoming more important than ever. It is estimated that food production needs to increase by 70% by 2050 in order to meet worldwide demand.

With most land suitable for growing crops already being farmed and climate change threatening existing agriculture, the challenge for plant biology is massive.

The global issues are even more pertinent to Australia which faces long periods of drought and increasing salinity undermining farm productivity.

Why Plant Phenomics?

Plant phenomics enables researchers to understand and relate the performance of particular plants, such as food crops, with their genetic make-up, resulting in the ability to accelerate progress in improving crops – generating crops that are more productive, disease tolerant and viable on marginal soils.

Phenomics improves our understanding of the genetic basis of yield, and increases a breeder's confidence in selecting new and improved breeding lines to meet the food production challenges outlined above.

The Plant Accelerator®

The Plant Accelerator®, headquarters of the Australian Plant Phenomics Facility, is a state-of-the-art plant research facility established to support research into plant and



agricultural science to help meet these challenges in food production.

Located at the Waite Campus of the University of Adelaide, the facility has been purpose-built to generate automated, high-throughput, non-destructive measurements of living plants (e.g. wheat, barley, rice, maize and more). This is achieved through automated imaging using RGB, near infrared, far infrared and fluorescence devices.

Objective computational analysis of these images allows researchers to follow the plants' size, shape, colour, orientation, temperature, water use, chlorophyll content and more through the life of the plant. The research undertaken at The Plant Accelerator® helps improve the genetic understanding of yield and increases a breeder's confidence in selecting new and improved crop breeding lines.

The Plant Accelerator® includes four fully climate-controlled greenhouses (Smarthouse™) equipped with computer-controlled conveyor belts carrying up to 600 plants per room. Plants are carried on the conveyor system in individual carts, each labelled with an electronic tag (an RFID chip) for full traceability of that plant and the data associated with it throughout the course of an experiment.

RFID identification also allows single-plant level control of watering and nutrient supplementation. As well as managing plant movement and tracking, the conveyor system allows for plant locations to be rotated throughout an experiment, thus reducing possible positional effects.

Each Smart-house is linked to one of two imaging halls, within which are five imaging chambers. Cameras in these chambers record images of plants in a range of different wavelengths, from far infrared through to UV-fluorescence, providing a diversity of phenotype information. Visible light cameras quantify overall plant morphology, size, colour, shoot mass and other physical characteristics, near infrared cameras detect water content of the leaves and soil, far infrared provides information about leaf temperature and transpiration rate, and UV lighting detects chlorophyll and GFP fluorescence. The throughput of each of these imaging halls is sufficient to record data from all the plants in one Smart-house in a single day, providing a total capacity in the Accelerator for up to 2,400 plants to be phenotyped three times each week.

Additional facilities at The Plant Accelerator® include high-specification greenhouses, growth rooms and chambers, and laboratory space, all of which are publicly available for hire. Over half of the plant growth area of the Accelerator operates as PC2 research space, and several of the greenhouses and two Smarthouses™ are quarantine approved areas, allowing us to carry out projects with both transgenic and imported material. Included in our quarantine permit is the capacity to grow plants to seed set for subsequent release of those seeds from quarantine.

The building is clad with “Plexiglass”, a twin walled acrylic sheet that transmits the entire spectrum of ultra violet light. The insulating properties of this twin wall material

are very good. All greenhouses are fitted with shades made from *Living-Shade* fabric, which are computer controlled by the facility’s building management system (BMS). In addition, the greenhouses are fitted with sensors that measure temperature and humidity with the data being logged and graphed. Environmental conditions in the rooms can be monitored and modified remotely, and the BMS is programmed to send SMS alerts to nominated staff should the temperature in a greenhouse rise above or drop below its set point.

The growth rooms and reach-in cabinets in the facility are fully environmentally controlled with temperature control +/- 0.5C, additive humidity to 80%, light to 1100 micro-mol, ($\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$) and some rooms have CO₂ control to 4000ppm. These rooms and cabinets can also be used as incubators for tissue work.

The research undertaken at The Plant Accelerator® has a strong focus on “food” plants. Wheat, barley and rice make up a significant percentage of the plants grown in the facility and recent projects have also involved the growth of chickpeas, cassava, pongamia, sugar cane and sorghum. Propagation is primarily from seed whilst some propagation by cuttings and tissue culture is also undertaken. The laboratories in the facility are fully equipped.

We use a variety of potting media supplied to us from the SARDI Plant Research Centre, also located at Waite Campus, e.g. a coco-peat mix very suitable for short duration plantings (3-6months); a UC mix, very sandy and requiring very

regular watering; and a special mix with added clay, which gives a more natural drying profile when undertaking drought experiments.

My role as Horticultural Manager at The Plant Accelerator® is to keep the living plant aspects running smoothly, including disease and insect control, purchasing of consumables and materials, ensuring room hygiene, and meeting AQIS and OGTR (Office of the Gene Technology Regulator) regulations and protocols.

PROFILE Antonio Ferraro

Tony emigrated from Italy in 1965 with his family. They came from a rural background (olive plantations, wheat



and apples etc.) He grew up in western Sydney on the family farm when it was still in a market garden area supplying vegetables to the Sydney market. He says his Nursery career began in 1972 aged 14 while weeding in a nursery.

Tony completed a double degree in Microbiology/Biotechnology at UNSW. Although he never worked in that area he says it was useful for his future career. He completed an advanced certificate in Horticulture in 1984 and Post Graduate diploma in Education 1994.

After university he started working in the nursery industry in a range of nurseries from retail, general wholesale production, indoor plants and conifer nurseries. During this time he found a passion for propagation.

In 1994 he gave up industry for TAFE teaching until 2009 when he resigned to concentrate on his own propagation nursery, began as a hobby in 1993 and gradually built up to employing 5 staff.



Tony is currently director of Middle Creek Propagation Nursery Pty Ltd at Silverdale NSW - supplying tubestock to the local production nurseries.

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

I have always enjoyed teaching others (at the same time learning from them) and coupled with a passion for plants it was logical to become a teacher.

Wanting to produce plants of a high standard is a driving force behind why I decided to come back into the industry. From an early age the growing of plants has been part of what I am and I love propagation.

What do I share with others (particularly new members) of the IPPS regarding the world of propagation?

Looking back at my life I have always wanted to gain and share knowledge, IPPS is a wonderful place for this to happen. I regret that I did not join when I was much younger

and I feel as if I have missed out on so much.

The world of propagation is not static, it is continually throwing up challenges and it is rewarding to get it right and it is easier to do so being a member of this society.

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

I feel that the lasting friendships that develop is so important. Over the years that I have been a member there is a warm and cosy feeling coming up to May conference knowing that I will be meeting the friends that I have made all over Australia. In fact IPPS conferences are a highlight of my year.

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(International Scene - contd)

parties. Much has been made about the economy, jobs, government asset sales, controlling government spending and raising the retirement age (currently 65 in NZ). There also is somewhat of an obsession with

catching up economically with Australia, particularly wages. An increase to the minimum wage from \$NZ13 to \$NZ15 an hour would further put the squeeze on many nurseries and retail outlets.

As for the top 6 sellers in New Zealand, I sought out the thoughts of our committee (spread around New Zealand, and involved in a wide variety of nursery operations) to see what their thoughts were.

One comment made was 'anything with a flower!' So true as there is a move away from the structural type plants, grasses and so on back to colour. But the list below still has foliage and form plants ahead :

1. **Phormium** (NZ flax) - mention was made of the cultivars **Dark Delight** and **Green Dwarf**, both popular with landscapers and gardeners. Generally the dark leafed forms are the most popular with the variegated forms trailing behind.
2. **Pittosporum** - mention was made of large grade **Mountain Green** and the dwarf varieties were

Rod Tallis Award and Yates 6 Pack

It is that time of year again when our young propagators (18 to 30) need to be nudged and encouraged to apply for this prestigious award.

It is not too late to undertake some short duration project or research that could see some worthy propagator at the start of their career gain an award that they can be proud of and mark the start of a successful career in horticulture.

Many of the previous winners have gone onto establish very successful careers in horticulture around Australia. One of these winners will assist the successful applicant in preparing and delivering their paper at the IPPS Toowoomba conference.

Applications should be lodged with **Peter Lewis:**

2 Walton Way Wellington Point Q 4160

Contact Peter at: 0417 643 120

or by email: pj_lewis@optusnet.com.au

Don't Delay! - If you're not in it, you can't win it.

If you are a young horticulturist and would like to be a 6 pack member at next years conference, then Peter Lewis would also like you to contact him.

15th IPPS Southern African Region Conference

Theme: 'Basics and Beyond'

6th - 8th March 2012

Villa Paradiso

Hartbeespoort

Opening speaker is Hans Sittig (Sittigs Nursery) - on 'the basics and beyond'.

Other speakers will talk about irrigation, nutrition, growing media, mechanisation, Calcium and biological control of pests.

Proposed Pre-Conference Tour including visits to 3 nurseries 6th March 2012

Program and registration form from the website:

<http://www.ippssa.org>

made. There is a multitude of these dwarf varieties on the market – **Golf Ball, Midget, Fankies Folly, Elfin, Humpty Dumpty** and I wonder how much of a real difference their is! All grow up to 1 metre high and form a tight ball of foliage which makes them ideal for small hedges.

3. **Chionochloa flavicans** and **rubra** (red tussock) are both grasses popular with landscapers. **Flavicans** is like a mini toe toe and very effective in large groups. A nursery I used to work at could never grow enough of these and once ready, did not last long.
4. **Griselinia** - a popular hedging and landscaping plant with a few new forms making their way onto the market. Probably one of the most widely used plants in landscaping in NZ.
5. **Corokia** - like the above with a bit more variation in leaf colours and forms now appearing with newer cultivars. Forms such as **Geenty's Green, Geenty's Ghost** and **Frosted Chocolate** are popular with landscapers and retailers.
6. **Leucadendrons** - a line that has been popular at Kilmarnock this year. The ever popular **Safari Sunset** just about sold out and other varieties such as **Julie, Inca Gold** and **Fireglow** were also popular. Grown in a 3.5 litre pot, they were very bushy and had good coloured bracts - something retailers like.

Last but not least, I have to mention the Rugby World Cup. A fantastic atmosphere throughout New Zealand for the tournament. It well and truly put the country on the map and made us feel good after what had been a tough year or so. Oh and the final result was great too. Four more years!

News

It is with great sadness that I bring the following notices to members

based mostly on text supplied by NGIV and NGISA and family.

VALE – DAVID DALY

David Henry Daly passed away suddenly while delivering plants on Thursday September 29th, 2011, aged 70 years.

David was well known in the industry as both a grower and retailer having started operations at Ferny Creek in 1976 with his wife Ursela, a business which later included other members of the family.

David was a staunch supporter of the Nursery & Garden Industry Victoria and became a Life Member of the organisation. David also served on the Garden Week Committee from 1981 – 1994. [precursor to MIFGS]

In 1989 he joined IPPS for about six years, during which he shared a wealth of propagation knowledge with members.

He was also a very strong supporter of the NGIV Trade Day markets and was a member of the Trade Day Committee since 1994.

In commemoration of David's outstanding service attendees of the October Trade Day observed a minutes silence at 10.00 AM on The Conifer Gardens stand followed by a short dedication delivered by NGIV President, Mr Glenn Fenton.

IPPS extends its condolences to David's widow Ursela and his extended family.

VALE - LEN WILSON

Born in 1934 Len's very early years were spent on the family's poultry and vegetable farm located where Moorabbin Airport is now. The Quiet Achiever of the Nursery Industry and long time supporter of IPPS and Australian horticultural conferences.

Len was known to us as the founder of Garden City Plastics, the largest manufacturer of plastic pots for the nursery industry in Australia. What is less well known has been Len's

almost lifelong involvement in a number of businesses spanning everything from milk bars to property development, from a hugely successful Daphne nursery to running the tuck-shop at East Bentleigh Swimming Pool. All this was done with the same passion, the same quiet good grace and the love of a challenge.

They bought Ford's Daphne nursery and started their long association with our industry, first as a very well respected grower, then of course as a supplier of plastic pots. As LC & AJ Wilson Wholesale Nursery, they commenced growing indoor plants and soon after also began the large scale importing of plants from Queensland. This rapidly grew to become one of the most significant indoor and exotic plant nurseries in Victoria: so big in fact that Len could see the need to transition from Jam tins and the like to a plastic pot.

Shortages in the market meant that it made more sense to purchase his own tooling and commence the manufacture of pots himself. Initially this was simply to guarantee supply for his own business, but Len and Austral soon saw the possibilities and expanding the sales team began selling to other growers.

From the outset Len committed to only using recycled polypropylene in the manufacture of his black pots and all of this was procured from post manufacturing waste. It is a proud boast of GCP that ALL their black polypropylene pots are manufactured from 100% recycled material – and this has always been the case. More recently been able to add over three thousand kilograms of used pots per year collected from the nursery industry. This represents more than one third of the total polypropylene used to produce black plastic pots.

Other long-term initiatives in sustainable business practices at the Garden City Plastics factory include:

- the capture of all rain water falling on roofs and its subsequent treatment and reuse,
- the collection of all waste oil which is reused where possible or on-sold as bunker oil for steamships,
- a program of machine modernization which has greatly reduced the electricity inputs required to manufacture plastic pots.

This last point is important too because it has insulated GCP from the possibility that their market can be sabotaged with cheap imports. They make pots, and sell them, at prices so low that foreign imports literally can't compete.

A tough and shrewd businessman, Len was always well regarded by his competitors because he remained fair and scrupulously honest. "Always leave something on the table for the other guy" was a motto that he lived by, not simply empty words for Len.

The legacy he left the industry is one that may never be matched. Len Wilson was a visionary who glimpsed a different future for the nursery industry and had the skill and foresight to grasp it. Simply put, we won't see his like again.

VALE - RAY WADEWITZ

Raymond John Wadewitz was born on the 11th of July, 1949 and was the son of Maureen and Douglas Wadewitz.

Ray leaves behind his loving children Matthew, Adam, Philip, Mark and Carla, brothers Frank and Peter and sister Joanne and five grandchildren, Elliott, Harry, Eve, Matilda and Hunter.

With a long family history in Horticulture he also became absorbed in learning about plants, insects and soil. With this in mind he made the decision to further his studies and follow his passion by moving to Sydney to attend the famed Ryde

School of horticulture at 19 years of age.

After his stay in Sydney, Ray moved back to Adelaide and started working in the family business, Wadewitz Nurseries. A couple of personal highlights were Ray being awarded the Nursery and Garden Industry SA's Award of Merit for services to the Industry and his commitment and membership of the International Plant Propagators Society. He also served a term as IPPS Australian President in 1987 after chairing the organising committee for the 1986 Adelaide conference at the Hotel Adelaide.

Ray's passing was ill timed and too soon for us and it is very sad for our community to have lost his knowledge of plant propagation and horticulture.

There was one thing that Ray valued above everything even above the environment, and it was people. A special thing about Ray is that he always made an effort to learn about people, who they were, and what they were like. Very slow to judge people Ray had a natural ability to get along with people.

In summary we think that we can learn from Ray that you should be kind, patient and generous to all people from all walks of life, you should feel blessed and proud about your friends and family, and you should care for and where possible, regenerate the environment.

CAROL WAUGH

It was also with sadness that we learnt recently of the passing of Peter Waugh's wife Carol. Our thoughts and prayers are with Peter, his family and their friends.

Challenge

Well as in the last edition I found myself being reminded again of my deadline by Editor Bruce. This time it was while our board were in tele-conference in the middle of November.

Again I am challenged to come up with a "Challenge" for you the great members of our society.

I will go back to our board meeting where we heard about the loss of three of our past members and as the chairman of the membership committee I had to report the retirement of a number of members.

Now we in the Australian Region have been showing the rest of the world that we are pretty good at keeping an upward trend in our recruiting.

I don't expect that we on the membership committee will be able on our own to make a big difference to our membership numbers, we will be needing some help.

So here is my challenge to all of you out there in the plant propagation world.

Keep your eye out for potential new members, tell those you meet about our great International organisation and convince them that they will never look back if they come on board to do some "Seeking and Sharing"

Michael Gleeson

Newsletter Editors Comment

I wish all members a merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Please look up the facebook site and start contributing, it is for everyone.

Recently this has been a sad time with the passing of so many experienced plants people. Our prayers go out to their families and others unwell at this time.

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

Bruce Higgs - editor
"the Propagator" (02) 4736 5004
bruce.higgs@bigpond.com