

# IPPS

Sharing Plant Production Knowledge Globally

# the Propagator



International Plant Propagators  
Society (IPPS) Australia

International Plant Propagators' Society [www.ipps.org](http://www.ipps.org)  
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## 'Food for Thought'

**What are the first things to come into your mind when someone mentions Adelaide?** Is it the neat tidy place with great gardens and old stone buildings, the cafes, great wine or the high technology displayed with Universities and manufacturing. Oddly I recall great walks in gardens alongside the Torrens River, the University, Waite and the ASubC submarine building facility.

**What is so special about this place?** Lonely Planet ranked it as one of the top 10 cities in 2014, and the New York Times listed it as one of the top ten places to go in 2015. While Melbourne and Sydney have competed for attention, Adelaide has transformed itself into the perfect host city these days.

Some of this it is said comes from the early planning of this city of free settlers without the 'penal colony' taint. Edward Wakefield, who originally proposed the colony of 1836 wanted it to be called Wellington (presumably after the Duke who was a supporter of the colonisation Bill), but King William IV preferred it to be named after his wife, Adelaide.

The last IPPS conference here was in 1986 and there have been a lot of changes. Adelaide has become a sophisticated, cultured, neat-casual place, known for its festivals, food (and beverages) and fun. Congratulations to our board for choosing Adelaide, as this is the third top 10 city chosen in a row.

Now "multicultural flavours infuse Adelaide's restaurants; there's a pumping arts and live-music scene; and the city's festival calendar has vanquished dull Saturday nights". There are still plenty of church spires there, and the gardens and sports facilities are to be admired.

It is this attention to detail and planning that enable transformation and a shift of the paradigm we operate in ... that is captured in this years IPPS conference theme "**Food for Thought**".

The 4-star Mercure Grosvenor Hotel on North Terrace in the heart of the city is this years venue. The hotel is nearly 100 years old

with the latest revamp in the early 2000's;

<http://www.mercure.com/gb/hotel-5620-mercure-grosvenor-hotel-adelaide/index.shtml>

As always conferences give us a bit of "time out" to catch up with friends we have not seen for a while, and do some touring. Of course IPPS conferences are valued for spreading horticultural knowledge.

I look forward to seeing you there, so be prepared to "Seek and Share".  
Bruce Higgs

*Photo courtesy of Mercure - Grosvenor Hotel*



### THIS EDITION

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## President's Comment

It's been a tough summer. We had 4 days in a row over 40° a couple of weeks ago and one of those days was 45. Any sprinkler not performing exactly as it ought is soon obvious – and costing you money! Still, days are getting shorter, nights are already a little cooler and hopefully the worst is behind us.

My turn as president of the society is drawing to a close with the Adelaide conference rapidly approaching with its AGM and a new president to be selected. It has been a privilege to have been asked to do the job and, though it is not at all onerous, there are responsibilities and a desire to do the best you can by the society. In some respects it is a bit "steady as she goes" because it's a well setup operation and a lot of good people have done a lot of good work over the many years. Fortunately we have a good group on the current board and we are in safe hands for the foreseeable future. Everyone takes their roles very seriously and we are grateful to all who make a contribution. Certainly no one could do it all on their own and we wouldn't want anyone to have to try.

This is certainly not to say we don't have plenty of challenges ahead of us – we do - chief of which has to be membership numbers. We all know there ain't as many nurseries as there used to be but the competitive state of the industry means you need to give yourself every advantage and membership of IPSS is a

step in that direction. David Hancock organised a field day for us here in the west at the City of Stirling nursery that will gain us a new member or two. There is a report on this day elsewhere in the Propagator.

People attending conferences get to see the benefits of the society and often tend to join, so if you know of someone who might be interested make sure you get them along.

The international conference is in New Zealand this year and it's very soon, before ours, being in mid April. It's obviously very easy to get to NZ, especially from the east coast and if you haven't been to an international conference before it would be a good introduction to the rest of the world. The Kiwis know how to party and always do a top job of their conferences so if at all possible you should make it over.

The committee for the Adelaide conference have put together a very interesting program with some top speakers and I'm really looking forward to seeing what they have for us. I hope to see as many of you as possible over there, catch up with old friends, make new ones, seek a bit, share a bit and have the usual well worthwhile experience.

Steve Vallance

## Executive Officer's Report

Hard to believe we are already a quarter of the way into Twenty Sixteen.

### IPSS Office

I have been kept quite busy with 'day-to-day' running of the IPSS Office as well as membership subscription renewals and assisting the Conference Organisers.



## Membership Subscription Renewal



All Members should have received several notification emails from the International Board advising that your IPSS Membership expired on 01.01.2016. All IPSS Regions are now managed by the International Board, hence the new website.

**It appears there are a few 'teething' problems with some Members experiencing issues whilst trying to renew their membership via the new International website.**

**I am encouraging all Members to contact me, in the meantime, whilst these issues are resolved. Please contact me to renew your 2016 IPSS Membership. Credit Card or EFT facility are the preferred options. *If you are having difficulty in paying your subscription please contact me so that we can look at the various options available for split payments.***

**BANK DETAILS:** Bendigo Bank  
BSB: 633-000 Account No:  
140185737

**If paying by EFT PLEASE PUT INVOICE NO. OR NAME IN THE PAYMENT BOX SO I CAN IDENTIFY WHO PAYMENT IS FROM. THANK YOU**

### 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 [pam@ipps.org.au](mailto:pam@ipps.org.au)

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

IPPS Conference –'Food for Thought' - 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2016 – Mercure Grosvenor Hotel, Adelaide

Pre Conference Tour - Spend three days with the Conference Organisers for a real look into South Australia. We will set off from Adelaide and travel to the Barossa Valley to sample a few of our famous wineries and lunch at Maggie Beers Pheasant Farm. Then onto Renmark into the Riverland to visit Nurseries, including Tolley's Nurseries, with many places of interest on the way.

Places are strictly limited so get your expression of interest in early. Pre Conference & Conference Registration Forms along with information can be accessed and downloaded from the website: [www.ipps.org.au](http://www.ipps.org.au)

**DON'T DELAY.....  
BOOK TODAY....**



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

Pam Berryman

### **2016 Southern African Exchange**

I first became interested in horticulture at a young age. I grew up around farms, and always had a vegetable and flower garden. I did not work in this field, as I pursued other fields of interest and obtained a degree in Exercise Science. Recently, after living overseas in Asia for a few years, I



decided to pursue a career change as I had moved to South Australia and horticulture always interested me. I enjoyed working outdoors in the sunshine (and sometimes rain), so I enrolled at TAFE to study horticulture and was intrigued by the new things I learned and discovered about plants.

I heard about the program offered by IPPS during my TAFE studies, and upon my lecturer's recommendation, I decided to apply as I have never travelled to South Africa, however one of my lecturers had, and said South Australia had many similarities in climate and plant types. I read some of the information and material on the website, and past student's experiences who had travelled to South Africa, though I did not expect I would be selected for the program.

I started work at an organic farm in the Adelaide hills, and was able to apply some of my knowledge and learn many new things regarding seed propagation, cultivation, and planting. I am happy to work there at the organic farm, as it broadens my horizons and teaches me many new things regarding horticulture and practices especially without the use of harmful chemicals.

Unexpectedly one day, I answered the phone and it was John Messina, from IPPS. I was rather stunned indeed, that I would be called about the program, and it was the last thing I expected to hear on that Friday afternoon, but at the same time very joyful and grateful that I would have this opportunity to visit South Africa and learn further in all-things-plants! John informed me that I would speak

at a conference in Cape Town, and in South Australia, and gave me some useful tips and information on what I might expect.

Since my beginning in horticulture a few months ago, I am amazed at how far I have come in knowledge and opportunity in a short time due to what horticulture has to offer people, especially as I had no industry practice in the field prior to this. It has also been good to work with such nice, down-to-earth people that I regularly come across in horticulture. So many of

## **2016 Youth Auction**

*Supporting youth in horticulture, the future of our industry*

### **BRING SOMETHING TO THE CONFERENCE TO AUCTION OFF TO SUPPORT OUR YOUTH**

What we do need to sell are your contributions to the auction held to support youth initiatives such as the 6 pack and exchange program.

If you have some quality plants, a painting or work of art or craft, a book, some useful tools or implements, fertiliser or chemicals, football souvenirs or some nice wine / beer etc. that you could contribute, please bring them along to the conference in May.

If you would like to have something special to display for a year to your customers then we have our annual Silver Felco secateurs as well (this is much sought after and usually goes for over \$1000).

**Don't forget to bring some cash to pay for that item you are going to buy that supports a good cause.**

these people have years of experience and amazing knowledge which makes me think that if I had even the smallest slice of their knowledge, I would be very grateful indeed!

Having this opportunity to learn from such people in South Africa, is very valuable, of which I am very grateful.

I told my work colleagues, and my boss at the Organic Farm, and they were very pleased that I can speak about the things we are doing on our organic farm, at the conference in Capetown. They want to see photos of South Africa when I return, so I will be sure to pack extra gigabytes for my camera if needed. My wife was very happy I could have this opportunity also, and was as excited as I was!

The photo is of me in our Organic Farm fruit orchard, with some lovely 20th Century Pears ready for picking.

**Robert Lyte**

## IPPS Adelaide Conference 19-22 May 2016

Immerse yourself in all things Adelaide! 'Food for thought' the theme of the conference offers an opportunity to reflect on our businesses at a different angle.

The conference will be held at the Mercure Grosvenor Hotel on historical North Terrace. It is in the heart of Adelaide and 15 minutes from the airport. Surrounded by restaurants, bars and beautiful parklands. There is plenty of alternative accommodation within walking distance to suit all budgets.

There will be technical sessions delivered by local and international speakers, both academic and practical, delivering information that will



Photo courtesy of Mercure - Grosvenor Hotel

provide answers to questions in your own business, and provoke new and novel thoughts to take home. There will be **interesting workshops**. A day of **field trips** will provide a look at theory in practice, and of course there will be ample time to network and socialise with your fellow industry members.

Past Yates Six-Packers are invited to attend. Their return to the conference will be warmly welcomed. They will also be eligible for the special student rate.

### Jump on board and Experience Adelaide! A city rich in horticultural diversity.

The conference is set to be jammed packed. Here are more reasons to attend:

- ◆ Superb Pre-conference tour, winding out of Adelaide and into the Barossa Valley, then touring through the Riverland to sensational Renmark.
- ◆ Great line up of inspiring presentations, including Dr Kate Delaporte, Dr Christine Coker, Dan Austin and Rob Reynolds.



Photo courtesy Ian Tolley

- ◆ Interesting workshops by Ian Tolley, Kevin Handreck and David Daly.
- ◆ Our Gala night tradition, prepare to be wined and dined. Support youth initiatives for the society by placing bids in the auction. Then it's time for the dance floor.
- ◆ North Adelaide Golf Club is the place to be on the Thursday morning if you are a keen golfer,
- ◆ Friday will see us out and about on the tours including;

*Jongs Nursery, the Waite arboretum and The Plant Accelerator® and if time permits The Botanical Gardens (and Seed Bank).*



Photo; The Plant Accelerator® conveyor - LemnaTec GmbH

## Golf

Teeing off at the North Adelaide Golf Club bright and early Thursday morning. Nestled in the Northern Park Lands and just minutes away from the City Centre, the North Adelaide Golf Course boasts spectacular views of the City of Adelaide. Golfers can enjoy the championship style South course, whilst those new to the game or short on time will enjoy either the North Course or Par 3 layouts. Register your interest with Tony Van der Staay.

## Welcoming night

Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup> of May at the Mercure Grosvenor (North Terrace). Register and stay for some nibbles and drinks. A nice casual evening to become reacquainted with old friends and opportunities to make like minded new ones.

## Friday Night

After a big day of field day tours it is time to explore Adelaide by night. Indulge in Adelaide's fabulous food and wine scene on the 'Friday free night'. You will be spoilt for choice in the wine capital!

## Saturday Gala Night

### To be held conveniently at the Mercure Grosvenor Hotel

A great night to chat over pre drinks and a three course dinner. Awards presented to worthy recipients, the auctions are always a fun feature of the night. Finishing up the night with a fantastic local band.

Don't forget to bring along items for the auction.

## Speakers include:

### Dr Christine Coker

Associate Professor Christine Coker has been with the Mississippi State University's Coastal Research and Urban Horticulture and Research Leader of the Beaumont Horticultural Unit in Perry County.

Her research interests include commercial vegetable production, high tunnel production, home gardening, green roofs, and community food systems. She currently serves as Board President of Loaves and Fishes, a soup kitchen and local food ministry. She lives with her husband, Randy, in Vanleave, MS.

### Dr Kate Delaporte

Kate's main interest is improving Australian native plants for horticulture by research into propagation, cultivation, and breeding and selecting new varieties and species.

Kate has lectured in various horticultural and plant breeding subjects: Production Horticulture, Horticultural Science, Postharvest Horticulture and Marketing, and Principles of Plant Breeding.

Kate will present us with A brief history of the world of ornamental eucalypts.

### Matt Coulter



Matt is the Horticultural Curator of Plant Propagation for the Adelaide Botanic Gardens, propagating and growing plants for the three botanic gardens in Adelaide. He recently

made news for successfully propagating the *Amorphophallus Titum* (Corpse Flower) by leaf cuttings. An enthusiastic plants person, Matt will no doubt inspire and motivate us all.

### Terril Marais – Biological Services

Biological Services, the first commercial insectary established in Australia, servicing growers nationwide. Through a combination of experience, passion, innovation and ongoing research and development,

Biological Services has developed rearing techniques for a range of biological control agents which target many of the key pests in horticulture today.

### Mark Massey



Mark's role with AIS Greenworks is to be an expert in solutions sales and technical adaptation of products and systems through concept design and custom

integration.

Mark lives and breathes horticultural production systems and is an avid horticulturist, plant collector and plant breeder in his spare time.

### Daniel Austin –

Dan, a lecturer at TAFE South Australia, has returned to Adelaide after spending four years abroad studying and working in various horticulture ventures, including Jerusalem Botanic Gardens, Jordan and Egypt, Solomon Islands, Tanzania and South East Asia. He will be giving us an interesting insight on the tricks of the horticulture trade learned in these diverse countries.

Dan is a regular contributor for Hort Journal

### David Hancock

– Founder and consultant for Natural Area Management Services. David along with Dermott Molloy from the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria will be



presenting their visit to the Oman Botanical Gardens.

**Adam Hall** - Australian Grain Technologies. An agricultural scientist, Adam is Greenhouse production manager for AGT, and he will give us an insight on the work and latest developments in new cereal breeding.

Adam has worked in the horticulture industry most of his life and has experience in the wine industry and mushroom production.

**Rob Reynolds** - Cazna Australia., Agriculture and Horticulture innovation and technology developers. Will present a paper on a something new; "Advances for Testing of Soil, Water & Media".

**Bruce Higgs - Darvill Nursery** - "Growing African Violets; learning from IPPS experience". Exploring alternate markets with plants grown using experience, facilities and research based on things learnt at IPPS conferences.

#### **Karen Smith – Hort Journal Editor**

Bridging the green gap: - Getting to know the what is happening in other sectors of the horticultural industry.

Some may call it a communication breakdown, others say that they are just too busy to think about their own business to think about anything else but growing plants. Just imagine if all sectors of the industry communicated - it could give your business a boost in sales. Karen Smith has worked in many aspects of the green industry and keeps her ear to the ground when networking with many horticultural

*Photo courtesy Karen Smith*



businesses - some who are positive some who are not. In her presentation she will share what she has learnt and heard from those businesses.

**Falco Faber** – Apex Glasshouses, Latest advances in greenhouses

**John Batchelor** - Valley Horticulture on **Grafting conifers and others.**

**Selwyn Snell** - HIA chairman will give an overview of HIA

**Alastair Mclean** - Powerplants - talking on their latest products and developments.

Also workshops will be held by David Daly and Ian Tolley.

## **Adelaide Pre conference Tour 16th-18th May 2016**

Spend three jam packed days with the organisers.

We set off from the Mercure Grosvenor Hotel Adelaide 8.30 am Monday morning and into the Adelaide Hills with our first visit to Greenstead Nursery, then to the uniquely world famous **Whispering Wall** at the start of the Barossa Valley. We will visit some beautiful wineries to sample and shop including **Seppeltsfield Winery** with it's beautiful gardens.

We will have lunch at **Maggie Beers Farm**. Later, you can try your hand at the **Kegel Club** (if you want to know what that is you'll have to be there!). Accommodation on Monday night is at the Vine Inn Nuriootpa.

Tuesday morning; after we visit the award winning **Barossa Nursery and Garden Centre** we depart for the Riverland with our first stop at **Ken Morley's tissue culture potato operation at Waikerie**, then to **Almondco in Renmark** for a tour of this world class facility. After an interesting display and tour of the **McCormick Centre**, an Australian Landscape Trust organisation, we will have a pleasant afternoon tea at



Photo courtesy Ian Tolley

**Tolley's Nursery. Ian will be giving a mini workshop, a definite must.**

Dinner will be at the Renmark Club and your accommodation on Tuesday night will be at the iconic Renmark Hotel overlooking the beautiful Murray River.

Dusk and dawn on the Murray river is a sight no one should miss.

Wednesday morning after a walk along the river we will visit **Plummers Nursery**. Lunch will be at **Banrock Station and Wetlands**.

If time permits we will visit **Virginia Nursery**. We will then *head back for Adelaide where everyone is expected to have booked their accommodation for the conference from Wednesday night.*

Places are strictly limited so get your expressions of interest in early so we can arrange pick ups from another location, please contact the organisers; Simon and Samantha Hall.

## **WA Propagators catch up to discuss IPPS happenings.**

On February 10 the City of Stirling nursery hosted a gathering of IPPS members and potential new members which was well attended. Representatives from nine nurseries joined with City of Stirling staff and some special visitors for some formal presentation talks, an informal BBQ lunch and nursery tour. Stirling is an affluent City situated in



Young IPPS globetrotter Rebecca Chow happened to be staying with Jan and I on her return travel to China after her 14 months working trip to New Zealand. She spoke of her work in 4 different nurseries in NZ, her involvement in the IPPS tour to the USA and how much she has learned and benefited from IPPS members in both Australia & N.Z.

The forthcoming Adelaide and Perth conferences were mentioned and importantly, there was a lot of informal

formal dinner, awards presentation, auction and entertainment.

Saturday will follow a similar format to the previous day. The morning presentations will include Dr Donna Fare (USA) on 'An evaluation of yellow flowering magnolias and magnolia rootstocks' and Dr Alexis Guerin (NZ) on 'Truffle and mushroom cultivation'. A short New Zealand Region AGM will be held before buses head off for the afternoon visiting Broadfield Garden, K & L Nurseries, Southern Woods and Intelligro. Dinner is at a mystery venue with the dress up theme being Red and Black with prizes for the best male and female outfit.

Sunday morning will see more presentations including Dr Robert Geneve (USA) on Flower shapes and David Hancock (Aus) on the Oman Botanic Garden before conference closes with lunch at 12.30pm.

Further details and registration forms are available at [www.ipps.org.nz](http://www.ipps.org.nz) Part registrations are available for those unable to attend the whole conference and non-members who haven't attended an IPPS conference before can register at the prospective member rate.

### **IPPS - Taking "seek and share" to a new level. Oman Botanic Garden.**

In November last, David Hancock (Natural Area Perth) and Dermot Molloy (Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria) of IPPS undertook a reciprocal visit to Oman Botanic Garden (OBG) following an earlier visit to Australia by two OBG staff to Melbourne and Perth. This is the shared record of the visit by David & Dermot.

#### **Background.**

The Oman Botanic Garden (OBG) project will comprise some 400 hectares of environmental restoration, and constructed botanical features to preserve and showcase the flora of Oman and the

the inner north western within Perth.

Our host was Michael Gorman, Manager of the Stirling Nursery and a member of the Yates six pack for the Newcastle conference. Michael explained the workings of the nursery, supplying advanced street trees, landscape stock and rehabilitation stock for the City's natural areas team. The production is about 40,000 units per annum. He later escorted the visitors on a viewing of the nursery facilities and stock. Interesting to note that the nursery is sited within the Hamersley Public Golf Course and with fairways on 2 sides, ball strikes are common place, hard hats are mandatory for nursery staff whilst out of the covered work areas and the nursery golf ball stocks are substantial !

Steve Vallance picked up 3 near new balls on the nursery tour that are now in my golf bag and I will be pleased to show Daniel, Tony and all comers my golfing prowess at forthcoming conference golf challenges. Steve provided an account of the Tampa USA tour and demonstrated an interesting fertiliser dispenser that he came across and made mention of the book written by long time US nurseryman and larger than life character Charlie Parkerson, well known in IPPS International circles.

seek and share chats about growing, which is what it was all about.

David Hancock

### **IPPS Christchurch Conference Registrations**

Registrations are now open for the 2016 IPPS New Zealand region conference to be held at the Rydges Latimer Hotel from April 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>. "The conference is also an International one as New Zealand hosts the IPPS International Board meeting so there will be a number of overseas delegates in attendance" says Jill Reader, convenor of the conference.

The conference kicks off on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> with a light dinner and hypnotist Reg Blackwood providing entertainment. On Friday morning, former Mayor of Christchurch Garry Moore will officially open the conference followed by a morning of presentations. This will include Prof. Paul Fisher (USA) on 'Blueberries as a potted ornamental plant', Jeff Elliott (NZ) on 'The advantages of sprinklers over mist nozzles' and Dr Scott Langlois (USA) on 'Lean production and your plant factory'.

The afternoon field trips will take in the Christchurch Botanic Gardens, Zealandia Horticulture and Elliotts Wholesale Nursery before the

surrounding landscapes of the Arabian Peninsula.

The intention is to create the largest Botanic Garden in the region and establish a world class centre for plant appreciation, learning, research and conservation and to celebrate the cultural connections between the plants of Oman and its people. There are many Omani plants that have horticultural potential.

The OBG nursery is tasked with propagating all the stock necessary to fill the two large biome housing structures (refer conceptual photo) and the open dry land and wetland areas as well as providing stock for visitor sales.

The OBG propagators face significant challenges working in difficult conditions (over 40 °C for 7 months and up to 50 °C) and with plants that have limited or no recorded propagation history, including a substantial list of recalcitrant species. There is also a shortage of trained and experienced horticultural staff available to meet the demands of this large and unique project. Over 80 staff are currently engaged on the project.

### **Our Visit.**

On arrival we were warmly welcomed and given a briefing by Annette Patzelt, notable botanist of the region and Senior Manager for OBG. Introductions continued with Ian Oliver the nursery manager and Darach Lupton, senior horticultural technician. We had access to all aspects of their work and the issues that have presented to management with such a large and new venture in unchartered propagation territory.

We were provided with briefings on the conceptual and strategic plan for the OBG which covered the four biome habitats of Oman that are to be recreated on the site.

It would be easy to underestimate the difficulties involved in this

project and there have been many major issues to confront over the ten years it has been running.

The **main items** being;

- ❖ Finalising design issues for something unique and never before developed.
- ❖ Water supply, (all trucked in as nearby desalination supply storage not yet available.)
- ❖ The extreme climate.
- ❖ Initial nursery set up not suitable for local conditions to combat heat (inadequate fans and water walls)
- ❖ Limited local plant propagation history/ knowledge
- ❖ No established horticultural industry / training facilities
- ❖ Logistics accessing plant material in difficult terrain.

Despite these challenges, significant progress has been achieved in preparing nursery stock for incorporation in the OBG facilities and local plant knowledge is developing. The OBG nursery facility is of a high standard with sound buildings, houses and propagation areas, most on hard stand areas. The plants of Oman herbarium has been established and a seed store and processing area established.

Of particular merit is the very substantial advanced stock inventory, mainly being salvaged plants from development sites. Many of these are in large containers and with more to follow, should provide excellent OBG start up presentation.

We soon recognised that the isolation and lack of staff with propagation experience was an issue; often simple things; cuttings tools, soil blends, seed

treatments etc. We were happy to offer our experience and knowledge and this was very well appreciated.

We were fortunate to be able to visit their satellite nursery in the nearby mountains some 2,400 metres above sea level and quite a climb. At this altitude, the climate was much cooler and with lower humidity. Whilst in the mountains, we assisted with seed and cuttings collection, as well as salvaging of germinants after recent rains.

### **Oman itself.**

It is generally known as the jewel of the Arabian Peninsular given its ocean outlook, its mountains and diversity of natural habitats. Oman has a long and interesting history with Portuguese and British colonial involvement.

We found the local people to be very friendly and welcoming to visitors. It was a most enjoyable and engaging experience. The facilities and infrastructure are of a high standard. There has been an obvious high level of urban development in recent times. It was a real experience to visit the local markets (“Souks”) and to understand the different cultures and appreciate the unique background and history of the country.

### **IPPS Involvement.**

Given the connections developed, it can be expected that staff at OBG

Biome concept plan







Top: Ian and advanced stock.  
Bottom: D Hancock and prop staff.

will be involved with IPPS on an ongoing basis. Since returning, plans have been shared to involve OBG in future conferences.

The writers intend to maintain involvement over the times ahead.

DJHancock, D.Malloy

## PROFILES



### Simon Hall

Simon is 4th generation nurseryman, owner of **Greenstead Nursery**. He has been a IPPS member since 1983.

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

I studied mechanical engineering before working in earthmoving, then

farming, and professional diving before I returned to the family nursery in 1983.

In 1985 Ingrid and I bought and developed Greenstead Nursery and never looked back. We are always striving to produce the best quality and range of plants within our resources of our nursery.

So having grown up and spending my life around plants has given me the experience and passion.

And now we are working towards the next generation in the name of Sam Hall.

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

IPPS is a great organisation and I encourage everyone in the industry to become a member, to get out there, meet people in your industry and ask questions and 'Seek and Share'. our motto is one that is actually practised.

If you if you have a problem or question there will be someone willing to help.

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

Every conference that I attend gives me that inspiration and excitement that we all sometimes need in our businesses at times.

But the whole environment of meeting like-minded people and hearing the speakers and field trips once again cements my enthusiasm for the industry.

Whenever I return from an IPPS conference my staff are excited and sometimes a little scared of my

**Invite as many people as you can join and/or come to the Adelaide conference in May.**

renewed drive to improve the nursery.



### Sam Hall

Samantha is a 5<sup>th</sup> generation "nurseryman", and production manager of Greenstead Nursery.

She is a board member of the IPPS and the Nursery & Garden Industry Association of SA.

Samantha was awarded the NGISA 2016 Young Leader.

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

My family, I am fifth generation. Some might say I have the horticulture in my blood. I am passionate about plants and the industry so that fuels my standing in the industry I guess.

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

Energy! I love joining in discussions, throwing ideas around, sharing triumphs, challenges and failures. Our members are so eager to help and give advice; it is such a great society to be a part of.

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

For me, a young grower, the importance of belonging to the IPPS grows each year. My learning and development is enriched by members passing information and sharing ideas not only at the annual conference but through newsletters, the website and meets, means constant involvement in the society. After all more involvement means longevity for the society's future!

I have gained knowledge, some of which is awareness that traditional methods (while are still imperative) can be challenged, manipulated and altered to find success. What I gain most is applying at least one new idea to the nursery; this encourages more learning and improvements, not only for the nursery and production but my personal development too for my future career.

## News

**RIRDC Plant Industries | Pesticide use.** This fact sheet provides a step-by-step guide as a decision tree to guide you through the process of figuring out the pest management options available. It can be downloaded from:

<https://rirdc.infoservices.com.au/items/16-006>

## VALE

**Frances Biggs 1940 - 2016**

Frances came to Australia from England in 1980 with her husband Tony, and two children. She was also a horticultural scientist and in her



early years in Australia worked in a number of areas including Micro-propagation, Hydroponics and Secretarial activities.

She was appointed Secretary/Treasurer of the Australian region of IPPS at the Manly conference in 1988 and took over from the Society's first Secretary/ Treasurer - Lorna Naylor - at the 1989 conference in Hobart. She continued in the role until 2003 when she retired, to be replaced by today's Executive Officer - Pam Berryman.

Over the following years she worked alongside Tony as a vital link of the family consulting company - Cardinal Horticultural Services. They both retired from full-time work about 4 years ago and spent many happy hours in cultivating and maintaining

their half hectare garden at North Richmond.

Frances died on February 24th 2016 after a long battle with cancer.

Kind regards

Tony Biggs

On behalf of all members I wish Tony and family our condolences at this time.

## Newsletter Editors Comment

I am really looking forward to the conference in Adelaide in a few months time. If you have not already registered then do so soon. The city has a variety of great gardens, cosmopolitan atmosphere and experiences. There is plenty of accommodation nearby to the venue of all grades.

If you are not already a member join up to the region's **facebook site** - search for "**International Plant Propagators Society (IPPS) Australia**" and start contributing by "liking" it and posting. We now have over two hundred and fifty likes.

Don't forget that this newsletter and many past copies are available on the IPPS website at [www.ipps.org.au](http://www.ipps.org.au)

**Please pass your extra printed copy of the newsletter around at work.**

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## 2016 IPPS Diary (see <http://www.ipps.org/events-regional> for details)

<b>New Zealand Region</b>	<b>April 21 - 24</b>	International Tour and meeting, <b>Christchurch</b>
	<b>April 10 - 16, &amp; 17-21</b>	Pre Conference Tours, South Island
<b>Australian Region</b>	<b>May 19 - 22</b>	<b>Adelaide</b> , Pre conf tour 16-18 May
<b>Japan Region</b>	<b>September 24-25</b>	<b>Kochi</b>
<b>Eastern Region</b>	<b>September 21-24</b>	Hartford, Connecticut
<b>European Region</b>	<b>September 28-30</b>	<b>West Midlands</b>
<b>Western Region</b>	<b>October 19-22</b>	<b>Phoenix, Arizona</b>
<b>Southern Region</b>	<b>October 23-26</b>	<b>Virginia Beach, Virginia</b>
<b>European Region 2017</b>	<b>July 2-11 2017</b>	<b>International Tour</b> , London to Ghent (Belgium); including S.E. England, the Netherlands and Belgium