



International Plant Propagators' Society Australian Region - Newsletter Winter 2011 - No: 30

IPPS Celebrates 60 Years

Wow .. what a celebration we had in Sydney this year for the 39th Australian Region conference. The conference dinner really went off with a bang as proceedings were interrupted with a magnificent fireworks display (thanks to our organisers!!) the room soon emptied as attendees found a spot to watch.

It was very fortunate that Sydney had a light show and festival at the same time, providing some great sights topped off with the fireworks display during our dinner. The Grace Hotel was a great venue with loads of history, interesting speakers and tours and great food helped contribute to a party atmosphere to the event. The organising committee can be proud of this conference.

This International conference also marked 60 years since the first meeting of interested plant propagators, nurserymen and horticultural scientists that took place in Cleveland, Ohio. It was easy to see "back to the future."

In 1960 there was an inaugural "Western Plant Propagators Conference". In 1961 the membership of both regions approved the establishment of "The International Plant Propagators' Society". In 2000 the late Ralph Shugert (Historian Emeritus of IPPS) prepared a history of the society.

This year Ian Gordon our historian prepared and published a "history of the Australian Region of The International Plant Propagator's Society for the Sydney conference. This makes for an interesting read, so if you did not get a copy please contact Pam Berryman.

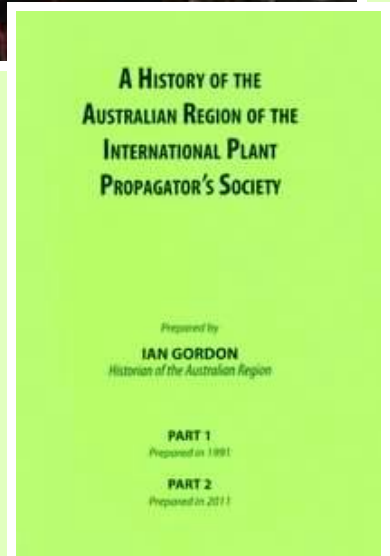
2011 also marked 50 years of continuous membership for an Australian region member. John Teulon received



a presentation marking this from Charles Heuser.

Read on to find what made this a conference that was special.

Bruce Higgs



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President's Comment

As your new president doing my first report, I am just a little nervous but feel very privileged to be in this position in such a fabulous 'professional but friendly' group of people. Firstly a big thanks to the outgoing president, Lionel Sach & retiring board members; Dyllon McPhee, Liz Smith, Mim Downes. Despite the tough economic times, the momentum of this society continues to build. This has been achieved by the dedication of these people over the past many years.



A big welcome to the new board members; Michael Gleeson, Doug Twentyman & Dan Austin & to David Cliffe for seeking another three term as an Australian region board member following on from his term as International Director this year. We still have one board member position vacant so if you would like to be part of the professional management team running this society please get in touch with me.

Wow, the International Conference in Sydney, well done to organizing team; Dyllon, Michael & Tony. Hats off for a job well done. The fireworks were the icing on the cake.

I would also like to extend a big thank you to all the members & non members who supported the conference. This was the best attended conference in the Sydney region since the 1988 conference at Manly. Yes, you can read about that conference in the history of the Aust region IPPS book (2nd Edition) launched at this conference. Well written by our Historian Ian Gordon, it highlights the events & memorable snippets about past & current members from the beginning of this society. Available to all members, contact Pam if you did not collect your copy at the conference.

Toowoomba, (The Garden City of Qld) 17 - 20th May, our 2012 conference; mark these dates in your dairy for our next conference. Expect a totally different experience with the same friendly atmosphere.

Also as current Chairman of the Awards Committee for the past five years, it is very satisfying to report that for the first time in many years, we attracted a record number of nominations from throughout Australia for each of our youth award categories. The revamped youth awards program instigated in 2003 is now starting to show real dividends for our society with two previous winners in prominent positions on our board. The continuing encouragement & career enticement to the youth of our Australia industry is vital in maintaining our leading international recognition. I encourage members to read the nomination information on our website.

It will be business as usual as the new president, continuing on the work done by previous presidents. I

have an open door policy to anyone with any issues/ideas that they believe can be of benefit to Members. I can be contacted at (07) 3207 5455 or pj_lewis@optusnet.com.au

Peter Lewis

Executive Officer's Comment

Sydney Conference – Well what a fantastic, informative conference it was. From feedback received the majority of attendees expressed the same views. A big 'thank-you' to Dyllon McPhee, Michael Danelon and Tony Ferraro for organising such a fabulous conference.



Make a note of next years conference in your diary now –



BRISBANE 'Sustainability for Plants and for Business' 17th to 20th May 2012

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

Office Procedures

It has been another busy start to the year for the Society as we progress and implement new procedures for the overall benefit of IPPS.

Membership

Membership stands at 241 Members (257 this time last year). There were 18 new members who joined throughout the year (and they are included in the total of 241). Also included in this total are four Honorary Members (Ronald de Fossard, Peter and Lois Smith, and Tony Biggs) and one Privileged Member – Marcus Petersen.

A competition was run by the Tree Growers & Shrubs Group in NSW and the lucky winners were Mary Teuma of Traden Tubes in NSW and Kim Wells of Camberons Nursery in NSW. They won conference registration to Sydney as well as one years membership subscription to IPPS. This is the first time either of these ladies had attended an IPPS conference and both thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



Some of our new members at the Sydney Conference

Eight of these new members attended the Sydney conference and I hope you all enjoyed yourselves.

New Members are listed below:

Mr Shayne Alexander	Glenleigh Nursery NSW
Mr Mark Bilotto	Azalea Wholesale Nursery VIC
Dr Kate Delaporte	University of Adelaide SA
Mr Ray Doherty	Azalea Grove Nursery QLD
Ms Heidi Dougherty	Natural Area Management & Services WA
Mrs Beverley Drayton-Witty	Natural Area Management & Services WA
Ms Susan Forrest	Forrest Nursery WA
Mr Steve Fredericks	Yates Australia VIC
Mr Ben Frost Plant	Growers Aust VIC
Mr Phillip Gilbert	Excelsior Park Wholesale Nsy QLD
Mr Adam Hall	Greenstead Nursery SA
Ms Emma Halloway	National Arboretum ACT
Mr David Hancock	Natural Area Holdings Pty Ltd WA
Mr John McKenzie	Mt Murray Nursery NSW
Mr Hans Orth	Orths Nursery VIC
Mr John Simpson	Provincial Plants & Landscapes NSW
Mrs Mary Teuma	Traden Tubes Pty Ltd NSW
Ms Kim Wells	Camerons Nursery NSW

I also received a letter from Liz Macdonald (husband Bruce Macdonald passed away earlier this year). Liz wrote:

‘Dear Pam, Thank-you very much for sending me a copy of the IPPS Australian Region recent newsletter, with a notification of Bruce’s death. I had supplied Michael Gleeson with some of the details, together with information from Rick & Jean Sorenson. I will email him separately, but please convey my appreciation for writing this to the Australian members. Bruce and I had two wonderful IPPS visits to Australia, and managed to see much of the Eastern area from Cairns to Melbourne – a beautiful country. I am currently looking forward to a visit from Tony n Frances Biggs from Sydney. Tony and Bruce were lecturers together at Hadleys College in Kent, UK before we both journeyed to our new countries. IPPS has been an important and wonderful part of our lives for many years, and Bruce and I have been blessed by many lasting friendships of members around the world. I wish you continuing success. Best wishes, Liz Macdonald’

IPPS BANKING INFORMATION:

IMPORTANT MESSAGE: PLEASE ENSURE THAT THESE BANKING DETAILS ARE PASSED ONTO YOUR ACCOUNTS PERSONNEL. IT IS CRITICAL THAT DETAILS OF THE INVOICE NO. OR PERSONS NAME IS ENTERED OTHERWISE I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE THE MONEY HAS COME FROM.

**Bank Account details are as follows;
Bendigo Banking Institution
BSB: 633-000 Account #: 140 185 737**

International Website:

The International website is uploaded with new membership details, from all Regions, on a quarterly basis.

The International IPPS website suffered a malware attack this month that forced the shutdown of the site in order to clean and reload all files. The International site (www.ipps.org) is back on line but the log-in information for the “members-only” area of the website had to be reset and this information was forwarded onto all Members.

Change of Address:

To ensure Office records are kept ‘*up to date*’ it is very important for Members to notify me of any changed contact details. In particular, if you have changed your telephone or email provider recently, *please* remember to forward your new email address onto me at pjberry@iprimus.com.au

- Pam Berryman

South African Exchange

Michael Hermanus was a very nice young man and it was a pleasure to be able to give him the opportunity of this experience. He has won some hearts, as he was very appreciative of what everyone did for him. I am sure Micheal has brought many stories home and plenty of information and knowledge he has gained from Australia.

It is a pleasure and very rewarding experience hosting young horticulturists, and I ask our members to keep this in mind for next year when we will have another South African exchangee attending our conference. We will be needing a hand to host him/her and show them around the East Coast again.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the hosts as well as all others involved in helping make Michael’s visit a success.

We wish Michael all the best for the future and best wishes to the S.A. I.P.P.S.

Spread the word that we are looking for another young person in our industry to send to the South African Conference next March, 2012. Particulars will be advertised in our next issue of “The Propagator” and the website. A candidate must be chosen by December, so if you have anyone in mind start thinking about it and talk to them. We need another person to live up to the qualities of our previous exchangees who have all been great ambassadors for our Country and Industry.
David Ponman



2011 Back to the Future Conference Recap

Prof Jim Johnson (Rutgers University, New Jersey, USA) engaged with us by taking the delegates through diagnosing various common problems with plants in his presentation of “What’s wrong with my plant”. The focus was on insects, diseases, animal including deer attack and physiological problems of plants.



Charlie Parkerson brought us an energetic talk about his ideas about running a successful nursery business. Some of the thoughts and highlights included making sure his plants did not have a birthday, growing plants in mulch from older stock, manning up and fixing that problem, and some great ideas of using You tube on your website.



Kevin Handreck in “Growing Media, What You Need to Know” took us through the musts when choosing and using media to suit what you are growing. He stressed the critical factors of knowing your media **AFP, WHC, pH, P** level and **NDI**.

Geoff Connellan (G & M Connellan Consultants) brought us up to date with the latest in international greenhouse design.



Carl Van Loon (Powerplants) continued this session on growing environments with his talk on “Making the Most With What You Have”.

Mark Scott (NSW Dept. Of Primary Industries) presented a paper on “Getting the Best out of Pesticides in Your Environment”. This focused on use of pesticides in protected environments such as greenhouses versus in the open.

After lunch **Dr. Anthony Kachenko** (NGIA) spoke about systems available from the NGIA website to help

growers. These included the Nursery Footprint - a carbon calculator for nurseries available at ngia.com.au; Renewable Energy Calculator available at ngia.ncea.biz; and renewables fact sheets for growers from ngia.com.au. He also explained the NGIA policy position on climate change and variability.



Peter Lawton (Trentcom) in his talk “New Pots & Procedures for Propagating Trees” described best practice for propagating landscape trees to avoid costly tree failures in parks and streets. Opinions from growers are that 20% of advanced trees fail and a further 20% are compromised costing the community \$100m annually. Peter’s paper summarized eight years of trials performed to test various three dimensional air root-pruning (3D ARP) container designs, all created to minimize landscape tree failures. Direct sowing into the pot size to be sold gave the best results.



John Rayner (Senior Lecturer in Urban Horticulture, University of Melbourne, Burnley Campus,) outlined green roofs research and development works undertaken at the University of Melbourne. He discussed projects and results over the past three years in plant evaluation and substrate development and opportunities for greater involvement from the landscape, horticultural and nursery industries.



Pete Melville (HAL) **Horticulture Australia Limited** spoke about their role and the work they conduct to raise the professionalism of the Nursery and Garden Industry and other levied industries in Australia. He explained that horticulture is one of the most rapidly growing industries and that soon it could be the largest in the agricultural sector.

This is why R&D is vital.

Michael Hermanus is from Themba Trees in South Africa and they grow indigenous and exotic plants in containers from 1 litre up to 100 litres for use by municipal councils and in landscape projects. They propagate from seed and cuttings, and make their own compost from sawmill sawdust and chicken manure. Michael said that he loves to propagate plants and see them grow into a BIG tree.



Kegan Reed talked about his experience as our Southern African exchange. He found potting up working from the ground very tiring and back breaking. On the other hand he was amazed to find that teams of people produced what he does back at Larkman Nurseries with different facilities. He had some time to visit gardens, pet a cheetah and be a tourist as well. Kegan said the South African IPPS conference was very interesting. He concluded by saying that this was the most amazing and eye opening experience he ever had, thanks to all involved.



Clive Mullet (Nonke Plants, RSA) talked mainly about three subjects:

Coco peat/coir in the rooting medium; he talked about work replacing bark with coir in propagation media and adding coir to potting media. **Germination of *Watsonia* seed**; After a series of water soaks and washing, seed germinates after 10 weeks. It is allowed to go dormant over summer and bulbs are planted out in march. **An experimental wet wall**; to replace expensive pads with a steel frame with cloth coverings sandwiching Netafim mist sprays.



Nathan Carter presented his Rod Tallis Award talk on Truffles. In particular not all oaks yield truffles, so Nathan has developed a technique for gathering cutting material that develops roots and can be inoculated. With further work this could be of great value to the industry.



Kevin Handreck started the Sunday sessions off with “Don’t Forget About What You Don’t See” . This was a practical talk getting propagators to think about aspects of what they are doing to improve their success with cuttings. He talked about the need for hygiene, water (misting or fog), low pH (5 to 5.5) and a low dose of CRF prills for nutrition when roots form.

Ian Duncalf (Plantstruck, NZ) spoke on “Conventional Propagation of Cordylines” and his endeavours to propagate promising red foliage forms of *Cordyline australis* by a variety of means only to find them reverting to less interesting forms. Larger cuttings taken in spring were the most successful.



Bill Yiasoumi (Industry & Investment NSW) offered his experience on practical water management including drainage and recycling for improved efficiency. He did

this by explaining the different facets of conducting a water audit.

Scott Featherstone (AIS Greenworks) presented his experience gained in delivering water as a propagator and what your best options are. He emphasized the careful design of a system.



Robert Chin (NGIV IDO) spoke about “Water Treatment Options, Whats on Offer” with the view of the most practical and sustainable options to adopt. He covered wetlands, treatment options, and control of algae and other things in dams.



Len Tesoriero(NSW Dept. of Primary Industries) spoke about Improving your Investment through Plant Biosecurity Risk Management. He discussed disease interactions with lots of examples, why they happen, what you can do and what you need to be aware of to prevent these from impacting you.



Jo Slattery (National Biosecurity Extension Coordinator- Plant Health Australia, ACT) in her paper entitled “Partnerships to Protect the Environment” outlined biosecurity and the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed, compensation and manuals that are available. Examples were given of serious plant threats, and the need for vigilance to detect them.



Michael Danelon (NIDO, NSW) in his paper ‘Plants on the Move’ described the plant biosecurity systems in Australia, nursery best practice, key resources and future opportunities.



Des Boorman updated us on his work on *Brachycton* Breeding by sharing his journey over many years. He did this through a series of slides showing his progress with various hybrids.



Dr Ian Chivers(Native Seeds Pty Ltd) in Australian Native Grass Breeding told us how unique an opportunity we have with Australian grasses which comprise 10% of the worlds genera with around 1200 species. He explained the different breeding selection criteria for different applications. Seed



selection and collection and results of breeding trials were discussed.

Peter Abell (QP for PBR sprocz@internode.on.net) impressed us with his enthusiasm and energy with the final talk of the conference on Plant Breeders Rights. He discussed the various reasons for and against these and what you need to know and where you can get help.

Sponsors and Trade Display

The conference would not have been such a success without the support of our sponsors. Of course many thanks must go to our major sponsor HAL. Their support enables horticulturists from across Australia to gather and experience best practice from this country and across the world.

Garden City Plastics were again an important sponsor of the event, as was Yates through support of the six pack youth program.

Many thanks also to our trade exhibitors who contributed by their presence (shown below). I am sure that they were rewarded by this exposure and the amount of interest in the items displayed.

Also thanks to others for advertising: Australian Horticulture and Hort Journal and displays. A special thanks also goes to Grange Growing Solutions for providing lunch for us on the Saturday tours.



War Time Memories of the Grace

The Grace Hotel building has some special memories for a few of our members. At the opening of the conference Greg McPhee explained it was there that his parents met during the second world war. The Grace building was requisitioned by the Australian government in 1942, and was Pacific area headquarters throughout the war.

Apparently more than once his parents were questioned about the “secret messages” they were passing and their “clandestine” rendezvous. Greg’s father was primarily located at the Collaroy radar emplacement. His mother worked under the Grace in the war room.

John Teulon’s father also worked at the Grace, after transferring to the US army for three years. Both families were keen to see what was left of the underground bunker, which was designed to survive even if the building had been levelled. Apparently the Grace building was so secret that it did not reappear on maps until the mid 1950’s.



Trade displays:

- Garden City Plastics,
- C-Mac,
- Yates,
- Florilegium garden bookstall,
- Tytags,
- Hort Journal,
- OCP Organic Crop Protectants



Nursery Tours

Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney

This was a unique opportunity to see heritage listed and restored glass-houses which assisted in establishing the needs of colonial Sydney. Hygiene is a priority in the nursery and maintaining the heritage value of the adjoining Botanic Gardens. Staff from the gardens assisted showing their plant collections and facilities used to preserve threatened plants and educate the public of the value of plants.



Avondale Nurseries

Val Bombardiere welcomed our tour groups to their NIASA accredited propagation nursery which operates with an emphasis on contract orders. They have a separate in-ground mother stock facility off-site. The nursery is a former winner of environmental awards, demonstrating their commitment to sustainability.



Swanes Nurseries

Noel Deakin showed groups around Swanes Dural nursery. They were previously a specialist rose nursery with a sister operation in Narromine (NSW). In addition to maintaining their foundation rose production they now focus on retail trees and shrubs.



Alpine Treemovals

After another sumptuous morning tea break with fresh scones, Arthur and Maroun Maait took us through their specialist advanced tree nursery producing inground and containerised trees. They have a feeder nursery in a cool climate region of the NSW tablelands to offer a broad cross section of trees for the landscape sector of NSW. Points of interest included their trolley, bobcat tree lift and improved bagging systems for larger trees, all of which have improved operations and reduced handling injuries.



Grange Growing Solutions

Grange at Ebenezer are NSW largest growing media manufacturer and supplier to the commercial and retail market. It is a family owned and operated business proudly utilising NIASA and EcoHort to raise industry standards and invest in the future of gardening.

After a great lunch we all headed off to see the facilities and return to have Peter Albery speak about constituents of potting mixes, and ensuring that you have the correct mix for the type of plant you grow (of course he stressed that we all should have a copy of Kevin Handreck's book on Growing Media).



2011 Pre conference tour

THE OUTBACK AND BEYOND

A very successful pre conference tour was recently completed in the lead up to the 2011 International Board meeting in Sydney followed also by the Australian region conference. The long tour started in Melbourne with a group of 22, of which only four were from Australia - a further nine joined us for the short tour in Canberra a week later.

After a welcome dinner at Melbourne's premier dumpling restaurant on the Saturday night, Sunday was set aside for nursery visits. Robert Chin the Industry Development Officer from NGIV accompanied us for the next two days and we visited Humphris Nursery a large wholesale grower, Specialty Trees and Kuranga Native Nursery. Visitors were impressed with the scale and practices of all these businesses and showed great interest in both NIASA and Ecohort accreditation programmes.

We left Melbourne on the Monday and visited Western Plains Nursery at Sunbury who specialise in the propagation and contract planting of native local provenance material. Then to Bendigo and Purtills Nursery a bedding plant and flowering pot grower followed by a visit to MacDonalds retail nursery also at Bendigo. A long drive then took us to Echuca and a paddle steamer trip with dinner along the Murray river.

The following day involved a visit to Howlong Nursery where we were welcomed by the founder Geert Mensinger. The nursery specialises in bedding plants and bloomers and has an interesting new production facility designed especially for pot culture. A visit to a winery for lunch and then on to the historic town of Beechworth for a Ned Kelly tour, we stayed the night in Albury.

The next day saw us visit one of Australia's oldest botanic gardens at Albury, a fascinating visit conducted by the curator a passionate advocate for the garden with some beautiful rare plants. Peards retail nursery with all

of their peripheral garden supplies and the way they do business took everyone's imagination.

We then spent two nights at Jindabyne, where fortunately there was some snow, and we also had time to conduct a preliminary board meeting. It also gave us the chance to recharge our batteries and do some laundry before the next leg of our journey.

From Jindabyne we crossed the Great Dividing Range, down Brown Mountain to Bega and a great visit to TarraWood Nursery run by Michael Wood an IPPS member with a great native nursery. Michael specialises in a range of unusual native plants and in particular grafted Eucalypts. In the afternoon we spent a couple of rewarding hours at Eurobadalla regional botanic gardens with the visit conducted by a young propagator who actually carried out his apprenticeship there and was currently on loan from the Melbourne Botanic Gardens.

We spent a great night at Batemans Bay, and then on to Canberra where we met up with the short tour participants so we now had visitors from the regions of; Great Britain and Ireland, Southern Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and Western, Eastern, Southern USA and the potential new region of China. Visits in Canberra involved the National Arboretum, the National Bonsai and Penjing collection and the Australian National Botanic Garden. Paul Carmen a past IPPS president and International Director organised most of the Canberra visit but most importantly the visit to the ANBG. Our guests were really impressed by the garden and the wonderful volunteer guides we had were outstanding in their knowledge of the plant material exhibited there.

The following day started with a visit to Peter and Jennifer Ollerenshaw's nursery at Bywong and a really interesting look at Peter's passion for collecting and breeding a range of Australian plants. Then to Bowral for a visit to the Australian Cricket museum and a cricket lesson for those people on the tour who did not understand the way the game was played; including an improvised game on the Bradman Oval. The final drive of the day was then to Kiama where we stopped for two nights.

We held our first full board meeting the next morning to try and deal with the administrative business that was necessary so that we had a free run on the main policy decisions that needed to be debated when we finally reached Sydney. A visit that afternoon took us to Jamberoo Native Nursery, a multiple award winning operation which really was a delight to visit. Jeff Bailey, Kate Malfroy and their production manager Nathan Sparkes (past IPPS African exchange) were terrific hosts.

On the following day we drove to the outskirts of Sydney to Tim Pickle's retail nursery at Campbelltown and as usual Tim gave us an interesting and entertaining



time. His perception of how a retail nursery should be conducted is without doubt controversial but at the same time the results he obtains are outstanding, our visitors were all impressed. We then went on to Mount Annan Botanic Garden which is entirely devoted to native plants and had an informative tour conducted by a very knowledgeable education officer.

We spent that night at Katoomba and the next morning took in the sights of the Blue Mountains before visiting Mount Tomah Botanic Gardens which really surprised our visitors with the magnificent displays of temperate plants and trees, and then to the private garden of Roger and Wai Davidson at Mount Wilson.

The final dinner was held at the Summit revolving restaurant giving our guests the opportunity to look out over the city of Sydney and the harbour, a great ending to a fabulous trip. The final International board was held the following day followed by the start of the Australian Region conference.

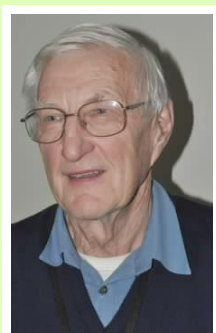
My special thanks to all of the nurseries and people who helped make this a special trip and to everyone involved that was prepared to seek and share, often the dinners and the socialising produce some really interesting propagating ideas.

David Cliffe

PROFILE

Kevin Handreck

Kevin really should not need much introduction with his extensive involvement in the world of horticulture, especially with potting mixes. His books are still a must for all horticulturists. This Year at the Sydney conference Kevin was recognised for his many contributions with the IPPS International Award of Honor. So it was a privilege to have him contribute to the newsletter.



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

An ability and willingness to provide relevant, factual information in an easily-understood way.

Much of the information propagators get is from commercial sources. Inevitably, this information is biased towards the products being sold by these sources. But if a statement is backed by hard data that has been generated in a scientifically replicable manner, then this statement can be seen as unbiased and factual. None of us like being hoodwinked or told half truths, or worse. I don't. I like to be provided with facts so that I can make up my own mind.

I try to provide facts in my talks and writings. That Growing Media for Ornamental Plants and Turf is still



Some of our IPPS international visitors relaxing during the harbour cruise

being bought after first appearing nearly 30 years ago, suggests that it is a trusted reference.

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

I am a scientist, not a practicing propagator, so I am not able to share practical experiences about techniques. But what I can provide is background information and answers to 'why' and 'how-come' questions.

I always insist that to solve a problem it is essential to have hard data. What is the pH, salinity, of the medium? What temperature conditions were experienced by the plants/cuttings/seeds leading up to the problem? What was the exact irrigation regime? Exactly how much of each of the major nutrients have been applied, and when? What symptoms have been seen, and particularly the sequence of their appearance? First in old or young leaves, colours, parts of the leaves affected, etc.? Only with hard data can one start to narrow down the potential cause(s) of the problem and arrive at a diagnosis and solution.

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

I have made many friends over my years in IPPS. Many are once-a-year friends, but that does not diminish the importance of these friendships. This 'network' is an integral part of me. I have learnt much from talking with fellow members and while listening to talks at conferences. Much of this information has been incorporated into new editions of Growing Media.

To be frank, I get an ego-boosting buzz when someone comes up to me and says that their career was kick-started by their applying information they read in Growing Media, or that they use the book all the time in their teaching, or that it solved problems they were having in their nursery, or that I am able to provide a useful answer to a question posed to me during morning tea time. The long hours of chasing and reading the literature and distilling the reading into accurate, succinct statements is then all worth while.

IPPS Conference Dinner and Awards

As an International conference dinner overlooking Darling Harbour and Cockle Bay was very special. The food and drinks were great, as we were entertained by a musicians and later by a couple demonstrating Salsa dancing. Not long afterwards the fireworks display emptied the room as people flocked to the balcony to get a view.

The formal part of the evening kicked off with Lionel Sach handing over the regions gavel to Peter Lewis. Then Greg McPhee as International President received a set of wooden holders and flags with a carrying box for use at International board meetings. These were hand crafted by Peter Waugh.

Our newest members present at the dinner were welcomed by Greg McPhee on behalf of the IPPS.



Peter Smith Perpetual Golf Trophy

Tony Ferraro presented this new trophy and shield to Jason Dawe from Native Plant Wholesalers SA. This has replaced that controversial Giggle Golf trophy that Wayne DeFraga seemingly could not lose. Well done Jason, but I

suspect that you may have a lot of competition now that the word is out that such a prestigious trophy could be in their office also next year. Enjoy it while you can.

Yates 6 Pack

With great pride David Jakobs from Yates Aust. Pty Ltd presented the "Six Pack" of Michael Hermanus (Themba Trees Pty Ltd), Kiri Borgas (TAFE SA), Matthew Dolly (Southern Qld Institute of TAFE), Heidi Dougherty (Natural Area Management & Services), Joel Groenen (Southern Advanced Plants), and David Jenkinson (The Green Gallery). Our team of enthusiastic helpers at the conference were again greatly appreciated. Many thanks go to the organisers and Yates our sponsors of this youth initiative. Members of the six



pack are sponsored to the conference, and are selected from a number of applicants.



Rod Tallis Award

Nathan Carter from Trufficulture, Gembrook Vic. received the Rod Tallis Award this year from Peter Lewis for his practical research undertaken at in developing a technique for propagating *Quercus robur* cuttings.

IPPS Pewter Tankard

This year David Ponman received the IPPS Pewter Tankard in recognition of his great contributions to the society in a number of roles. I know our International visitors were impressed when they heard the history of the Tankard, awarded last year to Steve Vallance.



The Pewter Tankard was given by the Region of Great Britain & Ireland to the Australian Region during their visit to Europe in 1977. It was the wish of GB&I that this trophy be presented annually to a member of the Australian Region for outstanding work in the field of propagation or for distinguished service to the Society. After being missing for 10 years it found last year.

John Teulon recognised for 50 years continuous membership



Charles Heuser addressed the audience asking firstly for members to continue standing, then those who were members for more than 10 years to remain etc. until one remained standing at 50 years. John and Judy were very surprised and pleased with this recognition.

Award of Honour

Peter Waugh was the worthy recipient of the Australian Region's Award of Honour this year for his ongoing outstanding contribution to the region. Peter was unusually stuck for words, and was beaming to be recognised by his family of friends of the IPPS especially at a dinner with so many international members. He was very grateful, and thanked Lionel and us all for such recognition.



International Award of Honor

Greg McPhee on behalf of the International Board of IPPS then had the honour of presenting this award to a fellow Australian Kevin Handreck for his contribution to horticulture and his exceptional and distinguished service to the society. I am not sure who enjoyed this moment more, but I do know that Kevin values this award greatly.



Youth Auction

Each year an auction of items is held to raise funds to support youth initiatives in the region. We were once again impressed by the ability of our capable auctioneer Peter Waugh, supported by Dyllon McPhee and our Six pack members assisting displaying sales items. This year Ian Gordon was successful in having the IPPS silver plated Felco secateurs for display in Toowoomba this year. Later on we all sang happy birthday to Pam.



Conference Snaps

You go to a conference and register and then try and find something to do that night... wrong, not Sydney on Thursday Night. Everyone just wanted to stay and chat and catch up with old friends and meet a few new ones. After a while some took some time out to enjoy the classical music played by the string quartet.

On Friday night after a busy day listening to others talking and networking in-between, over lunch and other breaks, we stretched our legs and walked down to King St Wharf to board the John Cadman II for a harbour cruise. As a bonus, this year our conference coincided with the Sydney Vivid light display and festival. This was a relaxed evening with much discussion. Some took the opportunity to walk from Circular Quay back to their accommodation and take in the festival sights after the cruise.



Challenge

I was recently commissioned to write an article for Hort Journal on the subject of Australia's most popular native plant. The most prominent outcome of my research for this article was that a lot of new PBR'd natives are proving very popular, and the work of some prominent plant breeders is paying off.

IPPS members Peter Ollerenshaw presented some of his breeding work on Correa at the Hobart conference in 2009 and Des Borman updated us on his work with Brachychiton at our recent conference in Sydney.

So here is my challenge, and it is aimed at our younger members as this process does take a long time. I would like to challenge you all to have a go at some plant breeding. So find a group of plants that may have some potential and take the Challenge. We all hope then to hear about your results over the next ten years or so.

Michael Gleeson

Messages

I am very pleased to have Michael (Hermanus) back with us, and have enjoyed his stories, photos and experiences that he had brought back. Thank you to all who made it such a memorable trip for him. He has his list of "10 things that I learned in Australia" which he is now implementing back home at Themba Trees. Once again, many thanks for all the trouble and effort that everyone went to. Michael says that he felt like he was part of a big family over there!

Warm regards, Caroline de Villiers

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News & Events

Ben Swane has been awarded a member in the general division of the Order of Australia for his service in horticulture. His love for horticulture started when he helped his father in Swane's Nursery at seven years of age. He is a member of Australian Citrus Propagation Association, the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW and a founding member of the International Plant Propagator's Society Australian Region.

Vale - Adrian Bowden 1943 - 2010.

It was only at the Sydney Conference that we learnt that Adrian Bowden had lost his battle with cancer and had passed away in October last year. Adrian was a true plantsman with a passion for horticulture. Adrian married Irene in 1966, first settling in Jandakot W.A., where they built up a flourishing plant nursery business. They also had 3 children and 2 grandchildren. Adrian and Irene "retired" to Manjimup establishing a Green Tea growing project. Adrian was program chairman for the first conference in Perth in 1978. Both Adrian and Irene were past Presidents of IPPS. I am sure that all members wish Irene and family our deepest sympathy and support during this sad time of loss.

The current IP Australia Plant Varieties Journal (Vol. 24 No.1) has been published and posted to the website: http://www.ipaustralia.gov.au/pbr/journal_download.shtml

Newsletter Editors Comment

There has been so much happeninmg this year it is hard to keep up. The conference this year gave us all some time out to talk with people we new and others we did not know so well, and have a good time. It certainly was a time of learning as well. Dyllon McPhee, Michael Danelon and Tony Ferraro really did a great job as organisers for the conference. I know it was an eye opener for many attending for their first time.

As always I would like to also thank the many members who contributed to the newsletter. Future editions will include some of the answers from question time at the end of each session. This year I hope to have feature articles on weeds and plant breeding, so if you can help with something please contact me. As a continuing theme this year I will also use our contacts to assist with articles on international trends in horticulture.

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.

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IPPS CALENDAR 2011

Great Britain & Ireland Region	September 13 - 16	Edinburgh
Eastern Region, North America	Oct. 19 - 22	Louisville, Kentucky
Southern Region of North America	October 23 - 26	Valdosta, Georgia