

PASSION ESSENTIAL

"It used to be thought that our love of plants was an impractical but pure passion. But now, in the age of environmental crisis, we're discovering that gardening is essential to human life." - Jacqueline Heriteau

I recently had a conversation with one of our members who talked about four key components for a successful career in horticulture. Unfortunately I did not write them down at the time, but from memory and not in any particular order they were;

- **Passion**, a pre-requisite for many that grows with your awe of plants, and their diversity and beauty. Without this you may not last long with the many challenges presented along the way.
- **Education**, including a willingness to seek and gain knowledge of how to be better at whatever field of horticulture that you are involved with.
- **Experience and ability**, some people are great at propagating from cuttings or grafting, others caring for plants as they grow managing the effects of the environment around them. Some of this may be due to possession of fine motor skills and dexterity, and for others an almost innate ability from experience of assessing situations or planning strategies, or just being able to communicate well with others.

- **Networking**, having and developing a network of people that you can call on for assistance along the way. That may be in ways to better grow varieties of plants or possibly in marketing them.

Membership of the International Plant Propagators Society covers all of these. As a group of passionate plants-people willing to share, it even can help you regain your passion when it is waning. Our conferences, tours and regional gatherings and access to members both local and around the world provide a great learning resource, and network.

That is why so many members are looking forward to being able to meet together at Leura in May, it is an opportunity that should not to be missed out on.

Bruce Higgs



THIS EDITION

PASSION ESSENTIAL
2022 Conference, Leura NSW
Conference Speaker Programme
Canberra Area Gathering

Reports
President's Report
Executive Officer's Report
Newsletter Editors Comment

President's Report

Hello members

Count down by the time you receive this message it will be only 10 days or so before we meet face to face again, at the Fairmont Resort Leura, in the beautiful Blue Mountains.

Over the past few months some of our members have endured severe wet weather, I am not sure which is worst bushfires or severe flooding, but our country is seemingly have either extremes depending where you are. There are lots of theories around suggesting that climate change is the main cause, but climate is constantly changing and has done for thousands of years.

As an industry we can do our little bit, by encouraging the planting of more plants, being conscious in using hard chemicals, controlling our run off in the nursery growing areas, try and recycle our used pots, use where possible renewable resources (coir, pine bark).

The cost of doing business these days is quite a challenge, let alone finding staff and keeping them, our input costs are invariably increasing, a small rise here and there doesn't appear to be a lot, but when everything you touch increase a little each time, the pressure does build to move our prices up. It's probably the hardest part of running a small business is being able to increase our wholesale price.

In the retail scene it is generally easier just to mark up from cost, but wholesalers always fear that to increase prices is detrimental to business. The hard fact is that if you don't cover your cost and make a profit, then you won't be around in the future.

Remember our sponsors because they are giving us the ability to keep our meeting costs down, a big thank to each of them, and we look forward to talking with them in 10 days or so.

Cheers to all and look forward to Leura

Tony Vander Staay



Executive Officer's Report

IPPS Office

I have still been kept busy with 'day-to-day' running of the IPPS Office as well as following up on membership subscription renewals.



Membership Subscription Renewal 2022

Membership Renewals for 2022 are now OVERDUE.

The Australian region is required to report to the International Board the number of membership subscriptions for 2022 by JUNE each year and send payments to cover the costs of International administration.

If you have not received your Membership Renewal Notice, please contact me...pam@ipps.org.au

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

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



IPPS 50th Annual Conference 2022 – 'Looking Back, Looking Forward'

4th to 6th May 2022 - Fairmont Resort & Spa Blue Mountains NSW

Pre-conference Tour – 2nd to 3rd May commencing in Penrith and concluding at Fairmont Resort & Spa

DON'T DELAY BOOK TODAY!!

Pam Berryman

IPPS Australian Region Board for 2021 - 2022

Tony Vander Staay tvanders@westlandnurseries.com.au *President*

Bruce Higgs bruce.higgs@bigpond.com *1st Vice President*

Clive Larkman larkman@larkmannurseries.com.au *2nd Vice Pres.*

John Messina johnmessina30@gmail.com *International Director*

James Burnett jab342000@gmail.com *Treasurer*

Ray Doherty ray@azaleagrove.com.au *Awards Committee*

Puthiyarambil Josekutty josekutty964@gmail.com *Area Meetings*

Jason Dawe j.dawe@nativeplantwholesalers.com.au

David Hancock david@naturalarea.com.au *Membership Committee*

Dermot Molloy Dermot.molloy@rbg.vic.gov.au

Peter Waugh peterwaugh1841@gmail.com

Clive Larkman larkman@larkmannurseries.com.au *Editor /Historian*

Pam Berryman (07) 38299767 pam@ipps.org.au *CEO*

2022 50th Meeting and Conference

Wednesday May 4 to Friday May 6

'Looking Back, Looking Forward' - the theme for our 50th meeting and conference. It is being held close to where the first conference was held. We have a great line-up of speakers, and as always there will be passionate plants-people to meet and catch up with, and inspirational places to see. We have however had to make some adjustments to our plans due to flooding in the area in early April.

• **Enjoy a field trip day in coaches to inspiring nurseries that will provide you with some very stimulating conversation points, as well as the highest Cool Climate Botanical Gardens in Australia.**

• **Participate in the fun pre-conference tour from Penrith to the Fairmont Resort, Leura, via some iconic Blue Mountains sites, nurseries and gardens from 2nd and 3rd May 2022**

• **This will be a not to be missed opportunity to network with like-minded businesses and suppliers**

The Fairmont Resort at Leura offers an excellent venue with all the facilities that we have come to expect these days, and a great place to celebrate our 50th meeting. The resort is located on the edge of the awe inspiring Jamison Valley in the heart of the Blue Mountains.



Our intent is that participants will have an enjoyable time, while learning about leading current and future trends in growing plants. We will also experience the fantastic views and history offered by this Blue Mountains UNESCO recognised World Heritage region.

Accessibility

The Conference venue at Leura is approximately 100 km West of Sydney Airport. It is readily accessible by car, taxi or shared [shuttle](#) services (around 90 minutes' drive), and by train from the airport to Lawson, Leura or Katoomba stations followed by taxi. The following link will assist you planning your arrival time and connections with Transport NSW Trains; <https://transportnsw.info/trip#/trip>

The Fairmont Resort & Spa Blue Mountains is 5-minutes drive from Leura Village and within 10-minutes drive from both Wentworth Falls and the Three Sisters at Katoomba. The Leura Golf Club is adjacent to the Fairmont Resort. As well as there being many places within walking distance to see.

Early May is start of autumn in Leura and is typically the 4th coldest month of the year. Daytime maximum temperatures average around a cool 17°C (62°F), whilst at night 5°C (42°F) is normal.

The Edwardian village of Leura (elevation 985m) is a popular local tourist destination, and features gardens, cafes and a cherry tree lined centre island main road.

Accommodation

We recommend accommodation for the conference at the [Fairmont Resort & Spa, Blue Mountains](#), 1 Sublime Point Rd, Leura, New South Wales. When you call please mention that you are booking for the IPPS Conference and ask for the special conference code for your stay on the registration form.

GOLF:

Leura golf course (est. 1902) is the oldest course in the Blue Mountains and delegates will have some spectacular views of the Jamison Valley while enjoying 18 holes of challenging golf. Delegates are welcome to attend and participate in this 18-hole event. This IPPS event will be organised by long time golf enthusiast Tony Ferraro from midday on Wednesday 4th May. Register your interest



on the [Registration Form](#).

WELCOME FUNCTION:

Registrations will open prior to our evening function. The evening of Wednesday 4th May at FAIRMONT RESORT will provide a great venue to relax and socialise. A casual event starting off with a few nibbles and drinks from 7 p.m. will provide the opportunity for networking and re-acquainting with old friends and the opportunity to meet new ones.

THURSDAY– Will be **conference sessions**, **Poster paper displays**, and **trade exhibits** displaying some of the latest in growing innovations.

THURSDAY NIGHT GALA DINNER:

Our formal dinner is one to enjoy some exquisite food and wine, test your plant knowledge and come prepared to bid on some items supporting IPPS Youth Initiatives at our auction. We will also recognise worthy recipients of various awards for services to the Horticulture Industry. We are fortunate to have a local acclaimed musician Phil Davidson to provide entertainment as well through the night.

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

FRIDAY:

Friday morning starts with the **Fellows breakfast** and **AGM** from 8:30, then we join the coaches at **10 a.m. for Nursery/business tours (Oasis Horticulture and The Secret Garden Nursery)** and a visit to the highest cool climate **Blue Mountains Botanic Garden** at Mount Tomah. We will be finishing up on Friday evening from 6 p.m. with an informal 'farewell dinner function' at **Leura Golf Club**.

The coaches that we will be travelling on should allow sufficient space for those wanting to maintain social distancing, and while not currently required delegates may want to wear appropriate face masks.

Delegates attending the tours must wear hard covered boots to comply with site WHS requirements.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION PLEASE GO TO <https://aus.ipps.org/event-detail/event-134/IPPS-Australia-Annual-Conference-2022-Leura-Blue-Mountains-NSW-4th-to-6th-May-2022.html>

WEEKEND:

You can extend your stay a few days and explore this picturesque region popular with tourists and walkers by tour operator or hire car.

2022 PRE CONFERENCE TOUR May 2nd- 3rd

We have also planned a short pre-conference tour to give members a flavour of this scenic region on 2nd May to 3rd of May. The intention of the tour is to explore



the natural wonders of the World Heritage listed Blue Mountains area as well as enjoying some great local food as well as some iconic cool climate gardens. We will explore Blue Mountains icons like the Three Sisters, Scenic World, Mayfield Gardens and much more.

Pam Berryman (pam@ipps.org.au) can still be contacted for booking information up to the 21st April.

Sponsors



norwood®



Conference Speaker Programme

Thursday 5th May

John Bunker – “Looking Back, Looking Forward”

John Bunker our keynote speaker, is the owner of Greenlife Solutions Pty Ltd Queensland and General Manager of Proven Winners a marketing cooperative for new flowering ornamentals and shrubs. John is a long term member of IPPS and attended the first meeting in 1973.



He attended the first conference with his father and our first president Edward Bunker. So as well as looking back on changes in the industry John is well placed to give us a glimpse of the future.

Karen Smith - “New and Trusted, What’s old is new in Autumn 2022”

Karen Smith is a passionate and award-winning horticulturist who has worked in the broader horticultural industry for almost 30 years. She is the Editor of Hort Journal Australia and has run her own consulting business for over 20 years which includes training, presenting radio and podcasting. In “What’s old is new” Karen explores buyer preferences for what many would consider traditional plants, but on closer inspection many are new varieties.



Jaqueline Jenkins - “The future of horticultural education”

Jaqueline teaches at Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) as well as working at Greengold Nursery ACT.



She will briefly outline the nature of current horticultural education in Australia, and observe how it has changed over the past several decades. Then she will aim to identify the possible shape that it will take in the future. The information will be synthesized from interviews with leaders in horticultural education and in the horticulture industry. While no one can know the future for certain, Jaqueline will attempt to convey observable trends, as well as mentioning some of the limitations of the current situation.

Doug Twentyman - “What is Therapeutic Horticulture, how is it used in Australia today and where are we heading”

Therapeutic Horticulture (TH) has been around for a long time and finally allied health clinicians, carers, nurses, social workers, mental health practitioners and teachers can put a name (TH) to the practice of using nature, gardens and gardening as a tool for improving health and wellbeing. This presentation provides answers as to what therapeutic horticulture is, some of the settings in which it is being applied and where to from here.

Jennifer Nuejahr – “Raw Materials and how to make the ones you have go further”

Jennifer Broersma-Neujahr is the senior director of business development for horticulture at Profile Products, USA. She is “active within the horticulture industry as a member of AmericanHort. She is also a published author, contributing to numerous articles in industry magazines. Through her work, she’s educated the industry on sustainable horticulture practices and innovating within the greenhouse.”

Graham Brown – “Verbena and Succulent breeding”

Well known in Plant Breeding circles Graham will have just returned from the USA after gaining recognition for the recently introduced Nuflora verbena range. <https://nuflora.com.au/news.htm>

Peter Ollerenshaw – “New Australian Plant Varieties from Bywong Nursery”

Peter will talk about some recent plant developments he has been working on and some new releases developed in collaboration with The Australian National Botanic Gardens.



Greg Bourke – “The future of the most wonderful plants in the world”

Greg’s career in horticulture started late despite his fascination for plants and the natural world as a child. He made the transition to a career focussed on plant conservation, particularly carnivorous plants and threatened species in 2011. He has held positions such as Curator Manager of the Blue Mountains Botanic Mount Tomah, Vice President of Bo-



tanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand, President of the Australasian Carnivorous Plant Society and Director of Conservation and Research for the International Carnivorous Plant Society. Greg consults on projects for plant conservation and specialist plant propagation and is often called upon for his knowledge of carnivorous plants. He is an author of *Australian Carnivorous Plants*, *Drosera of the World* and has discovered and described species of carnivorous plants in Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. Despite the number of Australian plant species in cultivation, Australia and its flora remains poorly explored. This presentation looks at some of Australia's overlooked flora and the potential for climate ready, disease resistant plants for both local and international markets

Dr Puthiyaparambil Josekutty – “Accelerated In Vitro Breeding Creates Improved, Designer Papaya”

“Jose” as well as being one of our IPPS board members is recognised for his contributions to horticulture. Skybury farms is located in Tropical Queensland and is a major, diversified farm producing Papaya, Coffee, Avocados, Citrus, Banana and Passion fruit. The unique Skybury Red Papaya is a market leader with over 50% of the Australian market share. The Papaya crop has very limited genetic variability that hampers conventional breeding. In vitro breeding and successful clonal propagation results will be described.



James Burnett – “Commercialisation of berries”

James is also one of our IPPS board members who is passionate about berries. Trials and tribulations of growing and commercialising berries in a changing marketplace are what James will explore for us.

Clive Larkman – “A new Propagation Facility in Lockdown!”

Clive is a long term member of IPPS and has presented papers in Australia, UK, China, NZ and USA. He is a passionate supporter of IPPS and believes it is the best professional organisation worldwide in the primary industries. He and Di have been the driving force behind Larkman Nurseries and Romantic Nursery for decades. Not one to fear a challenge he set out to completely rebuild their main propagation house over two months in



the middle of Melbourne's third Covid lockdown. This is his story of some unexpected issues!

Angus Stewart – “Trial work with new capillary watering systems”

Angus is a horticultural scientist by training, with a First Class Honours Degree in Agricultural Science, and has worked extensively in the nursery and cut flower industries ever since. Angus is



also well known for his career in horticultural media that began on ABC Radio Sydney in the early 1990's. Angus was the NSW presenter on ABC TV's *Gardening Australia* for 11 years. Angus is a prolific writer having published six highly successful gardening books. He also runs his own horticultural business, New World Plants. Apart from horticultural consulting he is an avid plant breeder and has, for 20 years bred with various flowers and is currently the breeder of the popular Bush Gems kangaroo paws.

The use of capillary watering for horticultural pursuits offers not only great savings in total water use, but also provides constant optimal moisture levels for plant growth and production. Several new capillary watering (wicking) systems have been trialled with very promising results for a variety of horticultural situations, particularly for stock plant production and plant breeding projects.

William Yiasoumi – “Irrigation Practice”

Bill is well known in the horticultural industry for his work and training in irrigation practice.

Scott Tucker – “Natural ways to control algae and aquatic weed in your dam”

Scott started Water Quality Solutions over ten years ago and has helped improve thousands of ponds and dams in a variety of industries. Algae and weed are usually symptoms not problems. In most dams the real problem is too many nutrients that are feeding them. This presentation introduces the principles of Biological Nutrient Reduction (the same methodology used in wastewater treatment)



and some of the tools and products that will help control algae and aquatic weed in your dam.

Michael Pritchard – “Horticultural Biosecurity Tips – HACCP Points often overlooked in Horticultural Biosecurity Programs”

Michael is the Biosecurity Business Manager for Alltech Lienert in Australia. Michael has provided biosecurity plans, training, chemical handling, safety and application training to the animal, aquatic and horticultural industry. Propagators have quite detailed plans for their site biosecurity. Off the shelf plans often overlook site specific problems that can result in depressed seedling performance or even worse a pathogen infection that's killing seedlings and your reputation. The presentation provides a few tips from experience of where to look and what to do to remedy these biosecurity failures.



Professor David Ellsworth - “Should nursery tree propagation involve growing with stress?”

Professor Ellsworth from Western Sydney University at Richmond is recognised as an acclaimed "researcher in the fields of ecology and environmental science, with a particular focus on the response of forests to climate change.”

Dr. Anthony Kachenko - . HIA Ltd Projects”

Dr Kachenko is the General Manager, Stakeholder Experience for Horticulture Innovation Australia Ltd.

“As the grower-owned, not-for-profit research and development corporation for Australia's horticulture industry, Hort Innovation's primary function is creating value for horticulture growers and those across the horticulture supply chain. Each year, we invest more than \$120 million in R&D, marketing and trade programs on behalf of industry. Through these investments, we are working to improve the productivity, farm gate profitability and global competitiveness of specific industries, and Australian horticulture as a whole.”

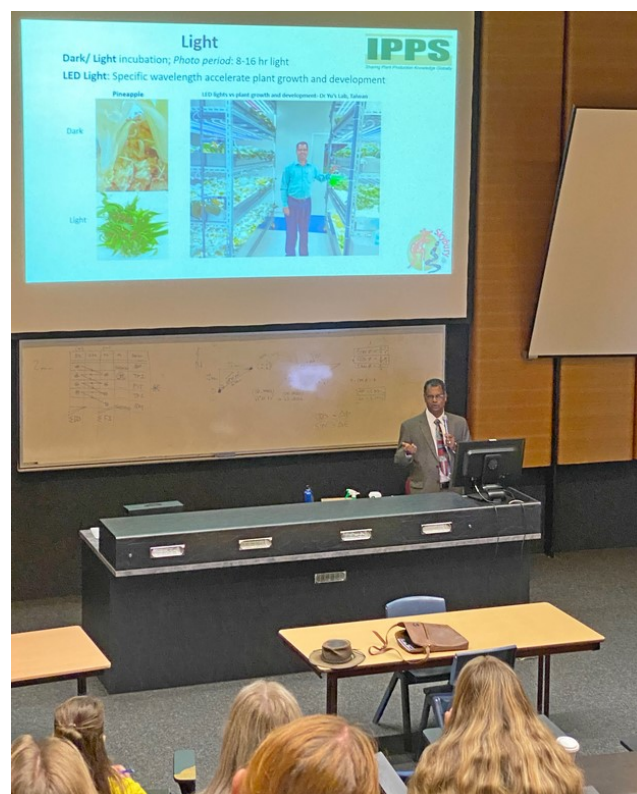
Rod Tallis Award Paper – We look forward to hearing from this year's awardee on their research.

We will have a **poster paper** display also along with the **trade displays**.

At the end of the program we will have an “Ask the Expert Session” for those questions you have been seeking an answer for. Clive Larkman will then brief us on the IPPS 2023 Conference in Geelong, before we close the presentation session.

Canberra Area Gathering

On Thursday 7th April an IPPS Area Gathering was held at Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT). It was organised by IPPS board member, Dr. P. Josekutty and IPPS member, Jacqueline Jenkins. We were fortunate to have IPPS President Tony Vander Staay present, all the way from Hobart, and local member, Peter Ollerenshaw, who did not have as far to travel but his presence was appreciated nonetheless. A sizeable contingent of CIT Horticulture students was in attendance, as well as three people from HVP Plantations in Gippsland, Victoria.



In the first half of the morning Dr. Josekutty gave an interesting talk outlining his experience with micropropagation of temperate ornamentals, including work with *Cercis*, *Acer* and *Betula* among others. He presented an easy-to-follow outline of the basics of tissue culture





which was an eye-opener for the CIT students. Tony Vander Staay then spoke about the history of his family-run Westland Nurseries in Hobart, and shared videos of assorted nursery operations, including a time-saving, labour-saving approach to irrigation of newly-potted plants.

The second half of the Gathering was an excellent tour of Yarralumla Nursery which is a production nursery run by the ACT Government. The nursery is over one hundred years old and has been at the leading edge of creating the garden city of Canberra that we Canberrans know and love. The group was given a tour of the nursery, which included viewing the heritage propagation houses and seed store as well as various growing-on areas and the newly-renovated propagation facility. Despite the rain it was a worthwhile visit because there was so much to take in. Numerous students expressed how much they enjoyed the morning and several were interested in the IPPS membership packs which Pam Berryman had provided.

Jacqueline Jenkins

News

Plant Varieties Journal (Vol.34 No.4) was published by IP Australia and can be found at <https://www.ipaustralia.gov.au/tools-resources/journals/plant-varieties-journal-vol34-no4>

Newsletter Editors Comment

Despite disruptions of Covid and floods through much of the Eastern Coast our conference at Leura is tracking to plan. The organising committee and Pam have worked very hard to keep this affordable at a quality destination so that we can truly celebrate 50 years of meetings.

As indicated in last year's newsletter this will be my last edition as newsletter editor. Our board have had various discussions concerning a future format. The black and white printed edition may work for our older members but it seems it does not for our younger ones. A recent proposal is that we move to a mailchimp or pdf version that is emailed to members for several editions each year. A possible option is that this would have a brief synopsis with links to full articles for those who want to read more. It is clear that one or two copies each year should be shorter glossy full colour editions of 4 or 8 pages that could also be left at the nursery to engage with future new members.

We would like to hear what your thoughts are regarding this as the newsletter needs to be relevant to members while keeping them informed of events nationally, and regionally as well as having input from our international board.

I want to still encourage members to share a video and perhaps gain some new skills along the way. If you have a mobile phone or camera then you could be well on the way. If you feel that you could assist with something like this for Australia then please contact your local board member or Pam Berryman.

While talking to various businesses to promote the conference, I have had some discussions with AIH and others about finding possible ways forward to work in closer cooperation in the future to promote horticultural events. I feel IPPS have much to offer in regard to potential domestic and international exchange opportunities.

If you are not already a member join up soon. The region also has a [Facebook site](#) with horticultural news items, international events and photos as well from past conference tours and activities - search for "International Plant Propagators Society (IPPS) Australia".

A copy of this newsletter and a selection of previous ones are available in colour at <http://aus.ipps.org/news>

It is not too late to encourage someone you know to come along to our conference.

Bruce Higgs - editor "the Propagator"
bruce.higgs@bigpond.com