

# IPPS

Sharing Plant Production Knowledge Globally

## the Propagator



International Plant Propagators  
Society (IPPS) Australia

International Plant Propagators' Society [www.ipps.org.au](http://www.ipps.org.au)  
Australian Region - Newsletter Summer 2015 - No: 48

## International Exchange Experience

### **Who would not like the opportunity to go to another country for a horticultural experience?**

Most regions of IPPS offer exchange programs with other regions. Australia has had a long standing program where a young horticulturist from Australia is selected to be hosted by families in Southern Africa in March. They get to experience work in nurseries or gardens as well as sightseeing (sometimes well off the tourist track). All spent in the safe hands of their hosts. They then attend the Southern African IPPS conference and returning to Australia to tell members of their experiences at our conference "all expenses paid".

Everyone who has been on this exchange has found it a life changing experience. The newly gained knowledge and skills greatly enhancing their outlook on horticulture. Just read Megan Blatchford's experience this year as the exchange from Southern Africa to gain some appreciation of this.

If you would like to find out how a particular plant is grown somewhere else in the world then it is fairly easy

to contact someone using the International LinkedIn web-site. But if you want first hand experience or to round off your horticultural qualification then perhaps a good way is to work at a specialist garden or nursery in different parts of the world. The process for this is not as straightforward but can be arranged either directly or through contacting the secretary of the region you want to visit for suggestions or through contacts of Australian members.

Rebecca Zhou from China has just had that type of experience by working at nurseries in New Zealand and Australia and attending their conferences as well as the International 2015 conference in Florida. She has written a report on her experience for this newsletter.

If time is an issue or you are not a young member then perhaps you could join in on one of the pre-conference tours at any of the conferences around the world. Greg McPhee has contributed a report on the Florida pre-conference tour.

If you are travelling overseas for whatever reason you may just like to visit some horticulturally related

places. Who better to contact than a local member. We did that last year in New Zealand and were overwhelmed by the hospitality of the folk there who were willing to spend time showing us their operations. But you can read more about that in last summer's newsletter.

I encourage you to volunteer to be a host for one of these exchanges. This allows you to show some of the best your area has to offer in terms of horticultural experience as well as assisting and learning from a keen young horticulturist from another country. - Bruce Higgs



Irradiated Lavendula at Lyndale plants New Zealand

### **THIS EDITION**

- International Exchange Experience
- IPPS Australian Region Conference
- 6 Pack 2015 Comments
- International 6 Pack members

- International Conference Tour - Southern Region 2015
- Horticultural Apps
- Reports**
- ◆ **President's Comment**

- ◆ **Executive Officer's Comment**
- ◆ **International Directors Report**
- Calendar 2016
- Newsletter Editors Comment

## President's Comment



I think we are moving into "interesting" times over the next year or so as economic activity seems to be slowing. The rampant growth in new subdivisions is easing right off and many of our plants were going into all this new housing and its associated infrastructure.

There's always a silver lining though and if things do get tighter you should be able to get work done much more cheaply. I was talking to a state MP recently and he told me that they are getting contracted work done 20% cheaper than a couple of years ago. Work is drying up and there are literally acres of mining machinery that have been brought back from the Pilbara and is parked up in semi rural areas, like ours, just outside the metropolitan area.

You have to wonder what the demand for our plants will be like in the times ahead, though in the past we've really been unable to see a difference and the struggle has always been to grow enough – of the right things of course.

We're recently back from the international tour of southern USA and an interesting trip it was. There was quite a good contingent of Aussies on the tour and it was great to catch up with them and other friends from around the world that we have met on previous tours.

I know there'll be a full report on the tour elsewhere in the newsletter but some of the highlights for me are

## Youth Auction

Each year we need contributions for 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 or some nice wine that you could contribute, please bring them along to the conference next year.

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

probably different from what another person will pick up.

The things that I thought that stood out were, firstly, the sheer size of the operations. Many nurseries are 100s of acres in size. At one nursery near Mobile Alabama they boasted that they used more water than the entire city of Mobile! The next highlight (or was that low light?) is the lack of variety. They might have 300 varieties listed but 150 of them will be azaleas and another 50 will be crepe myrtles. Another contrast is the size of the containers. What for us would be a large finished plant, they would consider to be a mere liner. They sit on plants for years sometimes before being sold.

The hospitality was faultless, such friendly people and the accent is great. Although in the south they use deep fryers like we use barbecues. All the time. The diet can be a bit hard to take. The side tours were fascinating and we ended up seeing quite a few alligators. We got to eat some of them deep fried too!

The Adelaide conference draws near very quickly. I hope everyone is planning to be there in a city that hasn't hosted it for far too long. The ideas that are being discussed for presentations and tours sound like there will be a lot to be learned and, of course, the company is always great.

**Steve Vallance**

## Executive Officer's Report

### IPPS OFFICE

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



### **ADELAIDE 2016**

**19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2016**

**'Food for Thought'**



For further information go to [www.ipps.org.au](http://www.ipps.org.au)

*Make a note of this date in your diary.*

### MEMBERSHIP

The Australian Region of IPPS has 190 Members.

### SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

Early in the New Year membership subscription renewals will be forwarded out to all Members. These will be sent out to you direct from the new International website. Your speedy remittance in this regard would be very much appreciated.

### CONTACT DETAILS

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

**Pam Berryman**



## **NEW INTERNATIONAL WEBSITE –**

**[www.ipps.org](http://www.ipps.org)**

### **Great online features!**

#### **Mobile friendly**

Looks great on mobile devices too. Web content adapts beautifully to any screen size.

#### **Proceedings library**

Access to all past and current Proceedings, conveniently in the members' only online section. Download individual papers or a complete volume with a click of a button.

#### **Searchable database**

Find information you're looking for on the site quickly

#### **Media Centre**

IPPS news articles, photo galleries and video galleries keeping you informed of IPPS activities world wide.

#### **Register for events online**

Access event information and do bookings online

#### **Pay online**

PayPal online payment for events & membership fees

#### **Apply for membership online**

Apply for or renew annual membership online.

#### **Ten websites, one system**

A professional look throughout all IPPS websites. The layout is clear and easy to navigate.

#### **Japanese & Chinese characters**

On the Japan and China sites text can be entered in Japanese and Chinese

#### **Dedicated IPPS hosting server**

Hosting service by GoDaddy in the USA, ensuring uninterrupted service.

## **IPPS Australian Region Conference**

**Adelaide, South Australia**

**19th - 22nd May 2016**

The city of churches, Adelaide SA, is playing host to the 2016 IPPS Australian Region annual conference, from 19th to 22nd May.

The conference venue is the Crown Plaza in Hindemarsch Square, right in the Adelaide CBD.

Accommodation is available at the venue, and there is also a range of other accommodation options to suit all budgets within walking distance.

Having a theme of "Food for Thought" the conference will showcase concepts and ideas within horticulture that will challenge delegates to evaluate their own businesses and processes, and adapt or adopt to ensure they remain competitive and relevant.

There will be technical sessions delivered by local and international speakers, both academic and practical, delivering information that will provide answers to questions in your own business, and provoke new and novel thoughts to take home. 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. Adelaide is after all, a world renowned food and wine region.

A pre-conference tour from the Monday the 16<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday (18<sup>th</sup>) of May is being organised and details will be available shortly.

The Yates- Six Pack is an integral part of the conference. Now is the time to apply to be a six-packer. Do you have a young person working with you who would benefit from attending the conference? If so encourage them to apply. There are six opportunities available. They will have



Photo courtesy Crown Plaza Hotel

their travel, accommodation and registrations sponsored by Yates. It is a great opportunity to be exposed to the IPPS motto of sharing plant production knowledge globally.

Also supported by Yates is the South African Exchange, where one young person will get to travel to South Africa and get a first hand look at the South African Industry, as well as attend the South African Region conference.

Tanunda from Presser Rd ©Dragan Radocaj courtesy South Australian Media Gallery



The other youth initiative being offered is the Rod Tallis Youth Award. If you have a young person that has been working on a project and has interesting information to share they should apply for this award now. The winner will be invited to the Annual Conference in Adelaide to present their findings. They will have their airfare accommodation and conference registration paid for. They will also receive one year's membership to the IPPS and a commemorative plaque.

For more information and to download application forms for the six-pack, the South African Exchange, and the Rod Tallis Award, go to [www.ipps.org.au](http://www.ipps.org.au)

**Be sure to lock in the dates in your diary now - 19th to 22nd May 2016.**  
See you there!

John Messina

## IPPS International Director's report

It is December already and we are all winding down after a very busy spring and looking forward to Christmas and great times with family and friends. It has been a busy year for myself with a range of business and other commitments.

In October a large contingent of Aussies visited southern USA with the IPPS International Tour. We had Di and myself, Steve and Natalie Valance, David and Di Cliffe, Tony Vander Stay, Greg and Lindy McPhee, Todd and Marina Layt plus our three Chinese members, Rebecca, Lilly and Julienne. It was a full tour with a similar number of Kiwis, 9 other Chinese and delegates from all the other regions.

It was a hectic tour with no free social time but an amazing parade of nurseries, passionate nursery men and women and tons of food. We started in Louisiana in the party town of New Orleans and moved



through southern Mississippi and Alabama and into the Florida panhandle before going south to Tampa for the southern region annual conference.

The hospitality of the locals was just amazing – both IPPS members and non members. They opened their nurseries and gave so much of their time and knowledge it was most humbling. It is now a matter of trying to absorb what we saw and learned. I would like to cover more of this but need to discuss some of the issues reviewed at the board meetings.

David Cliffe retired from the international board in October after four years as chairman (pictured above). Originally it was a three year term but he agreed to stay on for an additional year to allow for a smoother transition. He started on the International Board as Alternate Director in 2008 and has given eight years service. In that time he has been a key driver behind many structural changes that have helped secure the future of IPPS.

Alan Jones has stepped up to take on the role of International Chairman. This year also saw the election of Ian Duncalf (NZ) as the 2016 president and the retirement of Dr Patricia Knight from the Presidency.

As usual membership was a major topic of discussion. The drastic free fall of the last ten years has slowed to a stop with membership stable in the mid 1500s. There has been a

review of the membership categories with the main change being the structure of what used to be called 'members at large'. This group are now called 'IPPS International', they will be administered by the International Secretariat and will have regional status. There is some discussion still to be had on which region members can join. Will a person have to be a member of the region in which they live? Will those not living in a region be members of international or will they be able to join the region of their choice? Finally there is a need to define some of the regional boundaries, particularly the new European Region.

Another major topic was the complete rebuild of the websites. As of early November all the regional websites have been absorbed into the international web site. Each region will sit under the international and be accessed through a direct link. Each region will have the same 'corporate' image so that members can seamlessly transit from one web site to another.

The membership invoices will be issued from the International Board but will still be paid to the local region. The CD will be dropped as an option for the proceedings due to the ability to download easily through the website. The book will continue for the foreseeable future



and will be invoiced as a separate line on the membership invoice.

The base website will be run through the International Secretariat at a reasonable cost to the Society. It was decided that we need to get this sponsored so as not to apply a large increase in dues. A sponsorship committee has been set up to review the benefits for a sponsor, the prices to charge and to ensure any International Sponsors are not detracting from nor in conflict with regional sponsors or the basic philosophies of IPPS. This is a big step for the Society and needs to be handled carefully.

The board agreed to continue the work in China. A presentation was delivered from the Chinese delegation about how they see their role in building IPPS presence in China. Discussion was had on the core philosophy of IPPS and how it relates to the Chinese industry. The concept of Seeking and Sharing was strongly encouraged as a way of building plant knowledge.

Of course there was a lot more discussion on other issues facing the Society. Items like student exchange, new regions, investment strategies and future directions were well debated and will be the basis of upcoming Agendas.

The 2016 International Tour and Board meeting is in April in the southern part of New Zealand's South Island. If you can find time to attend you will meet some great people, see some innovative nurseries, learn heaps and have a great time.

I would like to wish all our members a happy and safe Christmas. Take time out to enjoy the festive season and recharge the batteries for a busy 2016.

Clive Larkman

## 6 Pack 2015 Comments

I found the conference to be very worthwhile, it was great networking with other young people in our industry and seeing people who are very passionate about horticulture sharing their knowledge. I would recommend anyone who enjoys their work and wants a greater understanding of the industry to attend the next conference in Adelaide

Cheers **Blake Connal**

My experience as a 6 pack member at the 2015 IPPS Newcastle Conference- When I decided to join the International Propagation society in 2015, it was then that I heard about The Yates 'Six Pack' program, an opportunity for young propagators to attend an all-expenses paid trip to the annual IPPS conference in Newcastle, New South Wales. Working in the industry for almost ten years now as a Supervisor of a local government nursery at the City of Stirling in Perth, Western Australia, I jumped at the opportunity to attend the Newcastle Conference as a Six pack team Member.

As a six pack member at the 3 day Newcastle Conference, I had the chance to meet with propagators from all over the world, some as far as China and South Africa. Every day of the conference was jam packed full of high profile speakers in the industry talking on a range of topics,



## Rod Tallis Award

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

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

## Yates Youth Six Pack

Applications are open for the chance to be a 6 pack member in Adelaide. You could have the privilege to meet some of the industry leaders while being sponsored by Yates.

All that needs to be done for either of these is **submit an application**. Contact details are on the IPPS website (see [www.ipps.org.au](http://www.ipps.org.au)).

and the chance to have an inside look at some real state of the art propagation nurseries throughout the Hunter valley, some of which I had only known previously via their names.

As a propagator, the whole experience of not only attending the Newcastle Conference but also as a Yates 'Six Pack' member has further fuelled my passion for everything to do with propagating/growing and producing plants!. There are no words to express my appreciation and gratitude to IPPS and its members for allowing me to

## **SOUTH AFRICA 2016 YOUNG PROPAGATORS APPLICATION PERIOD EXTENDED**

**For the opportunity of a lifetime, it is now time to apply for the South African Exchange Program.**

This IPPS project aims to give young propagators at the start of their career the opportunity to gain experience of the industry elsewhere and to build a better understanding of each country.

In March 2016 the young propagator chosen will spend approximately 3 weeks in South Africa, hosted by local Nurserymen, where they will work and visit other nurseries and places of interest in South Africa, including tourist venues, plus attend the IPPS International Conference.

The program as usual is sponsored by Australia and South Africa IPPS. After the trip the chosen propagator will be expected to attend the Australian IPPS Adelaide Conference in May 2016 to talk about their experience.

Now that you are thinking about this or you know someone who may be suitable, check the following to make sure of eligibility:-

- You must be over the age of 18 and in the early years of your career of growing plants.
- You must be able to travel to South Africa in early March 2016 and attend the Adelaide May Conference.
- Your employer must support this application and your time off work.
- You must be prepared to make notes and take photographs of your great experience and report back to the Australian IPPS Conference.

**If all of the above suits you and you would like to be hosted in South Africa (at no cost to you, except spending money) and gain from the experience. Then send in the application form which is available on the IPPS [website www.ipps.org.au](http://www.ipps.org.au) by the 31st December 2015.**

experience such a great opportunity, and I would encourage any other young and passionate propagators out there to consider becoming a Six Pack Member at the Next IPPS conference!

Cheers, **Michael Gorman**

"My experience at the Australian IPPS Conference as a 'six packer' was a wonderful opportunity to further my understanding of the Nursery industry. The IPPS Conference is an event where renowned guest speakers, researchers and IPPS members come together to share their expertise and information in regards to the Plant propagation industry.

All guest speakers were very passionate and admirable with their work and I was astounded with their efforts. Networking with the fellow delegates was one of the best parts of the conference. I found myself asking a lot of questions and was surprised at how comfortable the atmosphere was. Each delegate did not hesitate to share their wealth of knowledge and the addition of great food and drinks made the nights fly by.

The Nursery tours that were organized were one of the main highlights of the Conference. We visited three nurseries; each with their own distinct specialty. I remember uttering the words "Wow..." to "Woooah" and back to "Wow...." many times during the tour and took photos whenever I had the chance. Overall it was an unforgettable experience. I would strongly recommend anyone in this industry to attend these conferences and see just what it's all about!"

**Andrew Nguyen**

## **International 6 Pack members**

This year we were privileged to host Megan Blatchford from Cape Town, and this is her report on her Aussie adventure.;

What a fantastic experience for which I am truly grateful to have been afforded by IPPS. On my visit to Australia I had a taste of the international horticulture industry. I saw many interesting things and met so many wonderful, warm and welcoming people.

It was fascinating to see the various nurseries, their different setups, advanced mechanization involved in production, and the excellent level



Top; At Blue Mountains Botanic Garden. Middle; at Andreasens Green Lansvale Below; Australian Plantbank at The Australian Botanic Garden Mt Annan





of plant quality and nursery cleanliness. It was of course also fascinating for me to see Gum Trees (which are planted in abundance in the Western Cape) in their natural habitat!

It was thrilling to see the Blue Mountains, visit the Botanical Gardens which host many beautiful and unusual species, as well as to see the amazing seed bank at Mount Annan Botanical Garden- really inspiring! I will be giving a feedback presentation on my Aus trip at the next South African IPPS conference in March 2016, and look forward to sharing my experiences. Thank you!

Megan Blatchford South Africa



It has been a full year since I left China on 2 Dec. 2014 and I can still remember the excitement when I hopped on the plane in Shanghai as a green hand hoping to gain a green thumb in Australia & New Zealand. The disorientated feeling of being a foreigner when I was waiting to be picked up in Melbourne airport.

After working in 4 nurseries and having visited a couple of dozen through the IPPS conferences in Australia, New Zealand and America, it is very interesting to realise that no nurseries are the same as each nursery has its own history and character as well as practices due to restrictions and innovation. Understanding the constraints of the nursery has helped me understand why they are using a different approach and this makes it easier to decide if the same approach is applicable in another nursery or not.

The four nurseries that I worked with have different approaches to setting cuttings and I found what Taupo Native Plant Nursery does as shown in the above photo is the most convenient and efficient way. It would be fantastic to know how many different ways of setting are out there amongst all nurseries.

It is not unusual for a nursery worker to work in different nurseries during his/her entire career. When this happens, it would be tricky for them to adapt to different practices without explaining why it is different. I discussed this with a

worker Lucy, who used to work for a nursery with an environmentally controlled greenhouse, and when setting cuttings she used to leave more leaves on the cuttings. Then she worked for another nursery which put the cuttings in a greenhouse with less environmental control, and there she had to leave a lot less leaves on the cuttings. Lucy was constantly questioning herself while working, as what she was doing was completely opposite to what she was accustomed to in her previous employment.

Well, both practices are the best practice under the specific conditions. When you have a better controlled environment, it is better to leave enough leaves on so the leaves generate more energy to help promote new roots. More Leaves equals faster New Roots. When the environment is less controllable, you might need to compromise the volume of leaves in the cuttings so it is less prone to dry out, and be aware that it takes longer to root.

Carol - My employer at Growing Spectrum taught horticulture to staff on a weekly basis during working hours. Staff are paid to learn more. With observation, I found that the staff generally enjoy work more and there is less confusion about what to do in specific situations. Experienced staff with enough knowledge are also more willing to take the

Peter and Carol, Philip and Janine, Grant and Robynne, Rebecca, Dave and Shirley, Photo taken during U.S. IPPS International Tour



Rebecca Zhou from China very kindly provided the following report on her very special "exchange" experience. The photo above was taken at Scotts Tubes in NSW

It is such a privilege to be involved with IPPS and learn from the best horticulturists, the best business nurserymen, the people who are so knowledgeable and dedicated to spread their knowledge through IPPS. And of course, I am inspired by the young and ambitious who are so talented and yet keen to learn more.

responsibility in making decisions to throw away bad quality material in the process of propagation, tubing and potting.

I learnt the importance of weed control while weeding and cleaning the weed mat for days - the more proactive you are in weed control the better the chance of saving money and labour, and it is easier to grow a better quality plant. Collecting cuttings from various plants at different times taught the importance of mother stock maintenance - the better quality the stock material, the better resulting production, with less time spent in collecting...

In most Chinese nurseries, investing in staff education is not a priority, it is considered an unnecessary cost, and weed control is not seen as having great value.

What I learnt might sound cliché to most of the experienced nurserymen, but it was my eureka moment.

2015 has been a great year for me and I not only gained work experience and horticulture knowledge but also a thrilling life experience. I appreciate this opportunity to share my life with you and a small portion of what I have learnt, and I would like to thank IPPS for opening up the doors for me.

Special thanks to my Kiwi Bosses Dave and Shirley Ogilvy from Bruntwood Nursery, Philip and Janine Smith from Taupo Native Plant Nursery, Peter and Carol Fraser from Growing Spectrum, Grant and Robynne Hayman from Headford Propagators. Many thanks to Peter Waugh who sponsored my U.S. IPPS International Tour and Conference.

Thank you Clive and Di Larkman from Renaissance Herbs in Melbourne, Tony and Rose Van der Staay from Westland Nurseries in Hobart, and David and Jan Hancock from Natural Area in Perth for your generosity hosting me in your home

and touring the local places of interest.

Rebecca (Zhou Xiaoyan)

## International Conference Tour- Southern Region 2015

When you are a grower in an isolated area, visiting other nurseries is a real treat. You can talk over some of the technical issues of importance, like weed control and irrigation efficiency. Then after a while you want to explore more opportunities. This is a major reason why the IPPS conferences in Australia are such a draw card. You get to talk to fellow propagators who (not surprisingly) are seeking answers to similar things. You get to hear papers by experts and your peers on all manner of interesting (maybe only to us) things.

However when you travel on International tours you get to see much, much more and meet so many people that are on a similar journey to you. You get to form friendships, get to see how innovations are being developed and get to benchmark your operation against some of the best in the world. It can be an awe inspiring and humbling experience.

I travelled with a group of Australian propagators to experience the 2015 International tour of Southern USA. We all had a great time.

So what did we see? Plenty really, from a tiny scale plant breeder of Azaleas to some of the largest nurseries you can imagine. We were treated to 'Southern Hospitality', talked over some of the challenges they face in growing and selling plants. Funny, but I think their issues are not too different from ones here in Aus, such as the domination of box stores, new opportunities in online selling, branding of plant





collections, cooperative marketing..... sound familiar? I guess the value we can distil from their experience is to emulate the successes and to try and avoid the disappointments.

A great new innovation was the use of robotics in plant spacing. This is a NASA developed machine that is starting to make inroads. Whereas what we saw was fairly early prototypes, most on the tour were excited by the prospects of labour reduction and improvements in quality. This is an area we in Australia should be keeping a close eye on.

For me it was great to catch up with friends, like Charlie, Shirley, Dick, Fred, Judy and many more. It was a time to chat, to look at another part of the world and to enjoy. The next International tour is to New Zealand in April and they have an experience waiting that will certainly excite, educate and entertain.

Greg McPhee

## Horticultural Apps

In the last newsletter I wrote about daily light integral and the use of special light meters, however I also gave examples of conversion factors for more conventional units such as lux.

I was wondering about what you could use instead and realised that my phone has a good quality light sensor coupled with computing power, so I started looking for an app. It did not take too long to find "Galactica Light Meter" from iTunes (iPhones) and "Light Meter" or "Light-O-meter" from Google Play (Androids phones). Since then I have explored the internet for what is available, and it turns out that it is a "mixed bag". There are many of these available but not many will be very useful. If you have an iPhone or iPad you will have access to many more than for android users.

The NSW DPI have put out a useful guide to agricultural apps covering a



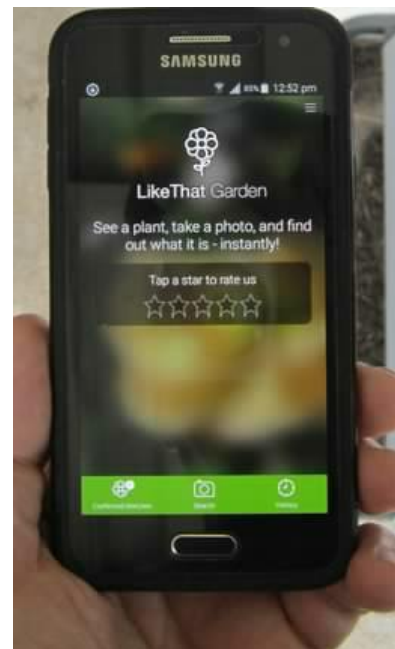
**Light-O-meter** App for measuring light levels under shade cloth or determining need for supplemental lighting

wide scope of applications from crops, weeds, irrigation to business related ones for iPhone and iPad users ([www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)). Many are free but for some you pay a purchase or licence fee. That is the case also for Android versions and many of the free ones come with advertising (the light meter one above was advertising rugs at the time). Ausveg also have a useful list of farm based apps at:

<http://www.ausveg.com.au/Default.aspx?PageID=5992453&A=SearchResult&SearchID=8878533&ObjectID=5992453&ObjectType=1>

There are quite a few apps especially designed for grain growers, but few for ornamental horticulture. Of those currently available many appear to have been developed for home growers of indoor lit crops.

At times someone asks me to identify a plant, and surprisingly I usually can answer the enquiry, but sometimes my memory fails and I resort to looking through our book collection. The **LikeThat Garden** App pictured above works by you taking a photo of a flower and it scans a database for matches. For example I



**LikeThat Garden** App for plant identification

tested it out on a Grevillea Pink Surprise flower and it identified it as a Grevillea as one option, or an orchid variety (not a bad start).

NGIQ some years ago published a very useful "**Pest Identification Tool**". The tool is available to assist nursery producers in identifying and treating Australian pest insects, diseases, disorders and weeds, so it could be very useful. Included in the treatments are beneficial insects for biocontrol. Subscription options are available depending on NGIA membership or not and are for use on a PC or tablet and may work on a windows based phone. **Weed ID: the Ute Guide** from the Grains Research & Development Corporation is also be useful for your pests.

**Farm Pad** may prove useful as it allows you to enter farm records, equipment service logs, spray records, take notes and store pictures. You can even map out your acreage with your GPS location and store and manage your farm reports.

If you find some useful apps please share it with your fellow members by writing to the editor or sharing on the Australian Region facebook page.

Bruce Higgs



**WELCOME TO IPPS**

The International Plant Propagators' Society (IPPS) is an international association of plant production professionals. The Society provides a forum for sharing plant production knowledge with the aim to improve the professional knowledge and skills of its members.

IPPS has since its inception in 1951 developed into the leading global plant production knowledge network. It has a worldwide membership of over 1000 members who have the opportunity to meet regularly on a regional and international level by attending educational conferences, tours, field days and workshops. The Society offers various scholarships, research grants and exchange programs.

A unique benefit IPPS members enjoy is access to the vast library of horticultural knowledge, the Combined Proceedings of annual IPPS conferences. There are now 63 volumes of professionally edited papers and presentations available online. The Combined Proceedings are also available as a hardcover book.

IPPS membership is organized and administered on a regional level. These regions are currently limited over eight geographically defined areas: Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Europe, Southern Africa, and in the USA: the Eastern Region, Western Region & Southern Region.

Are you a professional involved in ornamental plant production, horticultural research and education or any other allied field? Do you wish to learn more and are you willing to share your knowledge? Then join now, you would certainly benefit from IPPS and its members Network!

I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and Happy New Year wherever you are.

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 230 likes.

On the Facebook page we try to cover recent trends in horticulture both locally and overseas. There are a number of photo albums of events as well as video footage from Australian and other regions.

Don't forget that if you have a problem that you would like help with from some of our very knowledgeable members then try the IPPS International LinkedIn site : <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/>

If not already a member you will need to join. Sign in and go to Interests / Groups and select My Groups - International Plant Propagators Society.

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

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

*Bruce Higgs* - editor  
 "the Propagator" (02) 4736 5004  
[bruce.higgs@bigpond.com](mailto:bruce.higgs@bigpond.com)

**News**

The NSW Tubestock Growers Group of NGINA intend to once again sponsor a young (under 30 years) NSW propagator to the IPPS Adelaide conference next May.

Of course this will require the support of their employer as well. If you know of any suitable applicants please encourage them to contact the NGINA office or the Group's secretary Jennifer Ollerenshaw at [bywongnursery@gmail.com](mailto:bywongnursery@gmail.com) now.

*Don't forget to have a look at the new International website at [www.ipps.org](http://www.ipps.org) . Bear in mind though that it is a work in progress. If you spot something that needs*

*amending please let Pam know [pam@ipps.org.au](mailto:pam@ipps.org.au) .*

**Newsletter Editors Comment**

It is always good to read how our conferences and tour have such a positive effect on the lives of those attending. This certainly has been evident from the feedback from this years 6 pack members. The next edition of the newsletter will focus on the upcoming Adelaide conference.

We should also have a couple of interesting stories from members who have taken the opportunity and visited horticultural businesses overseas recently.

**2016 IPPS Diary**

<b>Southern African Region</b>	<b>March 1-3</b>	Lamberts Bay, Post conf. tour 4th March
<b>New Zealand Region</b>	<b>April 21 - 24</b>	International Tour and meeting, Christchurch
	<b>April 10 - 16, &amp; 17-21</b>	Pre Conference Tours
<b>Australian Region</b>	<b>May 19 - 22</b>	Adelaide, Pre conf tour 16-18 May
<b>Japan Region</b>	<b>September</b>	tba
<b>Western Region</b>	<b>September</b>	tba
<b>Eastern Region</b>	<b>September 21-24</b>	Hartford, Connecticut
<b>European Region</b>	<b>October</b>	tba
<b>Southern Region</b>	<b>October</b>	tba