

IPPS

Sharing Plant Production Knowledge Globally

the Propagator



International Plant Propagators
Society (IPPS) Australia

International Plant Propagators' Society <http://aus.ipps.org/>
Australian Region - Newsletter Summer 2017 - No: 56

IPPS Conferences

The conference next May in Tasmania looks like it is going to be great.

There are a number of good reasons why IPPS Conferences and gatherings are important events for plants people. Perhaps the most important lies behind the reason for the very existence of the society ... **Seek and Share**. The reason behind the motto stems from the foundation of the society where it was recognised that there needed to be a way to pass on the practical knowledge and experience of those in the industry.

This exchange happens in many ways, especially one on one discussions often at conferences or regional meetings to solve a particular problem. Sometimes that critical issue that you have arises and you need someone who can answer it; as we saw at the Adelaide conference workshop demonstrations, or during nursery tours in Perth where there was a problem with bore water with high iron content and members there able to provide practical proven solutions.

IPPS membership and conferences, and overseas exchanges offer opportunities for businesses to round off the training experience organised for their staff. IPPS member John Mason has provided his thoughts on this topic in this newsletter regarding the future of horticulture and the challenges we face. Automation has some limitations and for difficult to propagate species often it is the knack of the propagator that counts.

The journal "Proceedings" is available to all members online with a wealth of knowledge from

papers at conferences held each year around the world. I have often made use of this information.

Other than just enjoying coffee why do people go to coffee shops, or indeed big box hardware stores for a sausage sizzle? It is to do with relating with people and community. A very important aspect of IPPS conferences is the building of friendships in the industry and catching up with people you have not seen for a while. At some time or other someone else or even you may need some advice or assistance.

I encourage all members to actively seek and share and ask questions at the next conference, especially at informal times. Invite someone to the next conference who you feel could be a future member.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our readers.

Bruce Higgs



THIS EDITION

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President's Comment

Are you a "quiet" IPPS member?

Perhaps you are working in propagation, or a related area of horticulture, and you are wondering what the industry holds for the future. Maybe you have a particular challenge that

you really want to get on top of.

Well, if you are an industry member that has never attended an IPPS conference, you are missing out on one of the best benefits that membership to this society brings. The face-to-face contact that you get at a conference is where the sharing of knowledge happens most readily.

The presentations in the technical sessions are great at highlighting new techniques and practices, and addressing specific topics within the realm of plant propagation. But they also act as a kind of "fire starter".

In the Q & A sessions, the lunch and tea breaks, the nursery tours and the bus trips, you will find discussion happening on wider topics and other issues that participants are facing. Talking with other propagators about "what I do" and "how I do it" is at the core of the IPPS's motto "To seek and share".

So if you have been holding back from diving in and getting along to a conference, then you need to make 2018 the year you take the plunge. Your involvement in horticulture is all you need to get talking. That involvement is the common thread that will link you to some of the most experienced nursery people in the country, and indeed the world. And if you think you don't have anything to share, then by all means take in as much as you can. The long history of this society, across eight regions world-wide, has proven that if you jump in with an enthusiasm to learn, you will find answers to the questions and challenges you face. And as you address those challenges with what you learn, you will find you have more to than share in return. It's a unique benefit that comes from this society, and is ultimately of great value.

Consider bringing your staff along as well. It will highlight the breadth of the industry that they work in, and give them the opportunity for "out of the box" learning. Support is available for young staff to be paid to attend the conference through the "Seasol 6-Pack", and the "Rod Tallis Award". Be sure to check out the

information on these initiatives at the web site: www.ipps.org.au/

The 2018 conference is being organised by Tony Vander Staay in Hobart, and the format is a break from the traditional weekend scheduling. It starts on the evening of Wednesday 23rd of May, and concludes on Friday night, 25th May.

The new schedule allows for an extended pre-conference tour, which will take in Launceston to Hobart, via some of Tasmania's best sights. The information is available at:

www.ipps.org.au/content/documents/IPPS%20Flyer%20for%20website.pdf

and now is the time to register your interest and secure your place on the tour.

Lock in the dates now and experience just how much you can get out of an IPPS conference.

John Messina



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.

HOBART, TASMANIA 2018

"Explore the Possibilities"

PC tour commences 19th May 2018

Conference 24th & 25th May 2018

For further information go to www.ipps.org.au

Make a note of this date in your diary.

Membership Subscription Renewal

Members will shortly receive an automated renewal notice generated from the International Board advising that your IPPS Membership will expire on 01.01.2018.

The Australian Region Office will still manage membership subscriptions and I will be sending out Tax Invoice for Membership Renewals to all Members in January 2018.

If you experience difficulties please do not hesitate to contact me. Credit Card or EFT facility are the preferred options.



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

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

CONTACT DETAILS

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

Pam Berryman

International Director's Report

It has been a busy year with the International Board. Starting with the completion of the Strategic Plan and ending with the appointment of a new editor. At the same time we are working to open two new regions, China and India. Australia is proposing the China region and we are moving along well there. Dealing with a new country with language and cultural issues has meant that it is taking longer than we had hoped. We have a number of members with a few active ones. Currently planning a conference in April 2018 at the Chang'an Garden Show. We are hoping to be able to subsidize a number of Australian members who may wish to attend. Western Region has agreed to sponsor India as a new region. I suspect they will become a member before China as they are a democratic country with minimal Government Involvement in business. They also use English as a second language.

The major shift has been with staffing of the International Office. With the shift in publication of the Proceedings and the need for a more market based

approach to membership the intention is to go from an administration based person to a executive officer. We have appointed Bob Geneve as the new editor. Bob has been lecturing in Plant Production for many years and has been a long time member of Eastern Region.

The major decision taken was to discontinue publishing the Black Book from 2018 (i.e. 2017 proceedings) for central distribution. The CD ceases this year as part of decisions made three years ago to streamline the costs of the organization. They will still be produced and uploaded to the website. Each region will be able to print them in the format they choose. The regions will decide on how to do the printing.

The International tour was held in Europe this year for the first time since changing from Great Britain and Ireland. A long tour starting in Southern UK and ending with the annual conference in Alphen on the Rhine (just south of Amsterdam). The trip covered nurseries in three countries with some outstanding operations.

The tour started in Hampshire with a visit to Fairweather's Nursery, young plant production for wholesale growers, mail order companies and retailers. Next was a stop at New Forest Plants who specialise in herbaceous perennials, garden herbs and alpine plants. Over the next few days the tour went to the RHS gardens at Wisley. The plants were excellent as were the behind the scenes visit to the library, laboratories and herbarium. This was followed by a visit to Hampton Garden Show. It was large and impressive but not as good as Melbourne Flower and Garden Show. Next day was a visit to Hillier's Nursery and Arboretum with a

focus on their history dating back to 1864 and production of their famous reference book; Hillier Manual of Trees and Shrubs. These gardens epitomised the calibre and passion of English Horticulturists.

A visit to Roundstone Nursery was a taste of what was to come in Europe. This and the Dutch/Belgium nurseries really are plant factories producing huge numbers of plants at low costs. They generally have small ranges and high levels of mechanisation. These guys have a machine to put shelves on trolleys. Later in the week we visited a Chrysanthemum Factory producing 4 million plugs a day which sell at minimal cost. They have several machines that take cuttings (from Central America) that are tipped onto a belt, turn them around stick them and push the trays of plugs into the growing area. As an Australian all I could look at was the capital investment and the population needed to absorb this many plants (they have two facilities this size). The conference was an interesting blend of papers from speakers all over Europe and the US. Some with new ideas for us to look at picking up and other papers covering similar issue that we all have to deal with.

It is always a pleasure and an honour to represent our Region on the International Board. It is important that we manage the Society's affairs in a secure and safe way. With a 40% reduction in Membership over the past ten years we have had a large drop in income. This has resulted in reviews of costs (ceasing Black Book) and a much closer management of investments. When the tour comes to Australia in 2019 I would recommend

joining it and networking with some of the world's top growers. Keep an eye on the website for details.

Clive Larkman

Rod Tallis Award

Sponsored by Overland Nurseries

Like most professional bodies, the International Plant Propagator's Society recognizes outstanding achievement by the younger section of our industry. The IPPS does this through the Rod Tallis Youth Award which is presented annually to the most commendable achievement by a person 18 years and over who is working or studying in horticulture.

The award is named after one of the Society's most respected members, Rod Tallis. Rod was an avid nurseryman with a passion for plant propagating, for the IPPS and for the youth of our industry. He was a mainstay in many of the early conferences and made significant contributions to Plant propagation in Australia before his sudden death in 1981.

The winner will have completed a research project, written an article or series of articles or developed a new process or product. They will then write up their work in a paper to be presented at the next IPPS conference.

The paper will be assessed on issues of clarity, originality and relevance to the industry. The achievements of the applicant to date will also be reviewed.

The winner will be sponsored to attend the Annual conference in HOBART, TASMANIA from 24th to 25th May 2018.

They will also receive one year's membership to the IPPS and a commemorative plaque.

They will also be sponsored to attend the Annual conference in BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND from 29th May to 1st June 2019.

They will have their airfare accommodation and conference registration paid for at both conferences.

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

If you are 18 to 30 and are involved in anything that may fit the above criteria then you should apply. If you know of anyone; friend, family member, employee or student that fits the above criteria then encourage them to apply.

Simply applying will help the applicant focus on their work and their careers.

IPPS Membership

Do you know of anyone who would be interested in joining IPPS?

The best method of recruiting new members is by word of mouth. Who in your organisation or local area might be interested in joining?

Download the membership form from <http://www.ipps.org.au> or tell them they can join online at <http://www.ipps.org/register>

Don't forget to mention some of the benefits of joining IPPS including:

- **Great local and international conferences, and area meetings**
- **Exchange opportunities with other regions around the world.**
- **Free, unlimited access to all IPPS papers online - a great bank of plant knowledge.**
- **Access to other professional growers who are keen to help you with your growing issues**

Seasol Six Pack

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

All that needs to be done for either of these is **submit an application by Feb. 2018**. Contact details are on the IPPS website (see www.ipps.org.au).

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. Then go to the IPPS website and apply soon.

Applications should be lodged with:

Mr. Ray Doherty
13 Mecoli Court, BIRKDALE QLD 4159

For further details Ray can be contacted on:
Ph: (07) 38293550 or by email: ray@azaleagrove.com.au

What's the Future for Plant Propagation?

If you think the nursery industry has problems you're not wrong - but 48 years in this industry has taught me that having problems is normal. Everything is constantly changing: new discoveries, new ways of approaching problems, changes to the environment, even economics - all drive that change and impact on what we propagate and the methods we use.

Advances in science i.e. tissue and cell culture driven by the advances in molecular genetic techniques (gene sequencing), new hormonal discoveries, new technology and equipment, a better approach to how we use natural resources (such as water) and alternative ways to power our production facilities, have already changed our approach and will continue to do so - as even newer technologies and discoveries emerge. How we develop our businesses, how we find our way into our industry, how we educate new entrants will also continue to change and impact on the industry.

The most important aspect though is how we keep up with these changes. The one thing that is different today, compared to 48 years ago, is that change is much, much faster; and for many the speed of change is very unsettling, and even disruptive. The internet and other technologies, along with better access to information, have not only changed how we work, but are continuing to change how we work. Realistically you only have two

options into the future: either embrace change and adapt and use it to your advantage or reject change and be overwhelmed and fail.

The nursery industry, and horticulture more widely, will continue to prosper and will be more significant than ever. Mankind will never stop needing to propagate and grow plants. Plants are essential to supply us with food, shelter, medicines and most of our daily needs. They are the most important tool we have for managing environmental issues such as land degradation and climate change. The laws of economics are very clear: that whenever there is demand, supply will rise to fill that demand.

The thing which is uncertain is how many of the existing industry players (individuals and organisations), will adapt and fulfil future needs and how many will be replaced by new players. Currently, too many are trying to hold onto redundant ways of operating, rather than inventing new, more relevant solutions.

I hear colleagues express concern that young people are not entering horticulture because it doesn't pay well. Then I encounter entrepreneurial, enthusiastic young people who have found sometimes obscure pathways into very well paid horticultural careers. I hear complaints that TAFE enrolments are dropping, but I'm also aware of several private colleges, outside of the mainstream, who have double figure annual growth in horticultural enrolments.

Many are worried that garden centres are in decline because of chains like Bunnings, that the advent of Amazon will destroy retailing in Australia and that the internet has all but destroyed horticultural publishing. All of these things no doubt impact the industry, but there are more plants and garden products selling today than ever before and there are certainly more gardening publications on our newsstands than when my career began.

I hear colleagues complain about the lack of government funding. Many have an expectation that the solution to the issues plaguing the industry is more funding from government. In an age where social welfare, security, health and defence costs are constantly expanding, it's unrealistic to expect government handouts to solve problems. There are other solutions. Some people are finding them and making a lot of money doing so. Others continue to pine for a return to the past. Horticulture is big business - the only question is whether you are going to lead the changes to come, or be destroyed by them.

If we want our industry to function better, we need to work together. Our industry and professional bodies need to be more harmonious - rather than competing among themselves. There is no single peak body. Above

all though, future success depends upon the individuals who embrace change and find ways to use change to their benefit.

In conclusion, a very good point was made in a recent lecture I attended by the head of the New York City Parks Department. He suggested that the way to convince the public and the politicians to support parks is simple. You appeal to the things that are important to them, instead of the things that are important to the parks department.

If we want to grow our industry and sell it to the public and the politicians, we need to show them why plants and nurseries are important to them and stop focusing on issues that are important to us.

By John Mason FAIH, FCIH, FPLA, Member IPPS; Board Member Australian Garden Council and IARC, Principal ACS Distance Education.

Explore the opportunities

IPPS conference Hobart - May 2018

Calling for expressions of interest in a proposed 'Pre conference tour of Tasmania' in May 2018

We certainly are doing things differently with a great pre-conference tour and conference package seeing the sights as well as many growers along the way (too many to mention individually here).

As a package of the tour and conference we intend offering for limited numbers and for an Estimated Cost of \$1900 per person (twin share) :

Conference registration, accommodation (Sat to Sat inclusive - 7 nights), **entry fees, most meals including breakfast.** Single only supplement for the tour and conference add an extra \$500.

Book your conference package now by depositing \$100 per person with full payment by 1st April 2018.

Act Now: contact Tony Vander Staay on tvanders@westlandnurseries.com.au

or Pam pam@ipps.org.au

It is important to remember for your flight bookings to fly into Launceston (by 19th May) and out of Hobart .

The itinerary is proposed as follows:

Arrive Launceston (our northern Capital) on **Saturday May 19th** www.coloniallaunceston.com.au

Welcome dinner and drinks

Sunday 20th : aboard our coach for Habitat Plants at Liffey www.habitatplants.com.au ; then onto Marakoopa Caves, www.parks.tas.gov.au › **Mole Creek Karst National Park** .

After Devonport, we will travel to Exeter and Tamar Valley where we stay overnight at the Tamar Valley Resort (Swiss Village) www.tamarvalleyresort.com.au/

Monday 21st : We travel to Beaconsfield and Seahorse World, <https://seahorseworld.com.au>

From there to Scottsdale and a famous Bridestowe Lavender Farm, <https://bridestowelavender.com.au> then onto to Derby and St Helens on the East Coast, staying overnight at Bicheno. www.beachfrontbicheno.com.au

Tuesday 22nd : The tour leaves Bicheno and goes to Eaglehawk neck, via Swansea Bark Mill, and Tasman Unzoo Devil Park, <https://tasmaniandevilunzoo.com.au> and Devils Kitchen over-nighting at **Lufra Hotel**. www.lufrahotel.com

Wednesday 23rd. Port Arthur conservation site portarthur.org.au/

for the morning then onto Hobart for the beginning of conference; Welcome reception at Government house, to start the ball rolling.

<https://www.govhouse.tas.gov.au>

The conference venue has great apartment style four star accommodation at the Old Woolstore Hotel in the heart of Hobart, www.oldwoolstore.com.au

Thursday 24th: conference with conference dinner that night.

Friday 25th: in house till 12 midday then on the buses to see local growers and gardens, ending up at Seven Mile Beach for an extravaganza wind up and end of conference proceedings.

Saturday 26th; Free day: (not included in costings) you could choose from:

• **Salamanca market** www.salamanca.com.au

• **Mona** <https://mona.net.au>

• **Tahune forest walk in the trees Geeveston** <http://tahuneairwalk.com.au/>

• **Bruny Island Cruises**,

www.pennicottjourneys.com.au/book?journey=bruny

• **Richmond village** www.richmondvillage.com.au

Looking forward to seeing you there.



Photo: Discover Tasmania - Facebook

Bridestowe Lavender

https://www.facebook.com/pg/Tasmania/photos/?ref=page_internal

IPPS in Germany

At the completion of the 2017 IPPS international conference in The Netherlands, a small group of members from Australia, Europe, Eastern, Southern, Western, and New Zealand regions boarded a coach to head East into Germany. Led by David Hutchinson and Dr Heinrich Lösing, we were to spend the next five days exploring nurseries of north-west Germany.

Germany is a horticultural hub, especially in the nursery industry. Ornamentals, cut flowers, fruit and vegetable crops are all important economically. And while there are only a handful of IPPS members from within Germany itself, we would see how the 'Seek & Share' motto is strong amongst them.



The impressive Bruns sales and admin office, with an in-ground Ficus taking pride of place.

The first visit was to the famous Bruns - Pflanzen Export company. One of the worlds leading tree nurseries, it was founded in 1876, and has been run by the same family since then. The company is now in the hands of the 6th generation of Bruns'. A wide range of species and varieties are produced, including deciduous and coniferous trees, avenue trees, up to

50-year-old solitary specimen plants, and topiaries. They are produced over a massive combined area of about 500 hectares. Much of the land is privately owned and operated by independent owners, who produce trees on it to Bruns specifications. The scale of production, and the operations needed to ensure the incredibly high standard of quality is truly something special to see.

The next visit was no less impressive. Jeddeloh zu Pflanzenhandels is widely regarded as one of Europe's leading container nurseries. They grow conifers, rhododendrons, roses and perennials. They are unique in having their own in-house marketing department that markets such brands as 'BrazelBerry' blueberries and 'Endless Summer' hydrangeas.

Established over 80 years ago, the nursery is still in the same family. We were hosted by Jan-Dieter Jeddeloh. He showed us around the nursery, the 15,000 square meter

Top to bottom;
The expansive Bruns dock area from where trees are despatched all over Europe;



Just some of the huge number of advanced in ground trees being produced at Bruns;



Conifers of exceptional quality in production



logistics & despatch centre, and the spectacular display garden.

Afternoon tea hosted by Jan-Dieter Jeddeloh and his mother at the Jeddeloh family home.

This garden, built around the Jeddeloh family home, was designed in collaboration with English landscaper and author Adrian Bloom, and showcases the range of plants produced and





IPPS member Charlie Parkerson getting 'hands on' at Jeddelloh Nursery.

marketed by the nursery through a series of five themed gardens.

W. Kordes Sohne is one of the worlds most renowned rose breeders and growers. Their rose varieties are produced under licence in over 30 countries. Kordes is another exceptionally old business, having been founded in 1887. Like the other long established businesses we visited, it is still in the same family.

We toured the main breeding facility. Here, every year, as part of Kordes' extensive and well planned breeding program, millions of rose seedlings are germinated, grown on and pre-evaluated, before being sent off for further evaluation in the major rose production regions around the world.

The Kordes name is prominent in the German nursery industry. In 1950, Hinrich Kordes, from another branch of the family, established Kordes Jungpflanzen. A tubestock nursery producing ornamentals for the European nursery market. We were shown around the huge 37 hectare site by a tractor trailer tour, hosted by long time IPPS member Gunter Kordes, and his son Christian.

One of the worlds leading Rhododendron breeders and growers over the last 65 years has been Hachmann Baumschulen. Almost 600 varieties are grown, including 200 Hybrids, 80 Japanese types, 75 Japanese Azalea



Aerial view of the huge 37 Ha Kordes Jungpflanzen site.

Top to bottom: Kordes Roses memorial garden, which pays tribute to family members that have led the company since 1887.; Large scale evaluation of rose seedlings produced from last seasons breeding program takes place in purpose built green-houses; One of the many propagation houses at Kordes



Jungpflanzen

Tubestock is topped with volcanic gravel to prevent weed growth



varieties and 60 evergreen Azalea varieties. There is also 270 deciduous tree varieties produced, including many in-house bred Japanese Maples. And a large range of dwarf conifers. Mr Holger Hachmann showed us around his nursery, and gave us an overview of the extensive marketing that takes place to get so many unique varieties to the world.

In 1995 Ralph Ludemann started Ralph Ludemann Baumschulen. A nursery supplying forestry plants to the European forestry market. The field grown seedlings are grown from seed of assured origin on about 100 hectares of land. A major part of the business is contract growing of around 30 conifer varieties, and 40 different hardwood tree species. Ralph showed us the in ground field production areas, as well as the preparation and despatch centre. The nursery tour was concluded with a barbecue lunch hosted by the Ludemann family, cooking the most delicious : home made sausage of boar and deer, hunted by Ralph himself.

The tour wrapped up with a visit to Silber Gartenbau. The Silber family have been growing near the village of Ottersberg since 1969. 25 hectares across two sites produce a staggering 29 million young plants each year. Crops they specialise in are Ericas, Hypericum, and Calluna. With such heavy production the use of technology is high, and the innovative production areas are testament to how far production levels can be pushed. rails over the crops support floating trimming machines, and a complex network of rolling benches allow movement of plants en-mass. What was just as stunning was the level of quality in the crops. Clearly highlighting the pride the owners and staff have in what they do.

The names Bruns, Kordes, Jeddelloh, Hachmann, Silber and Ludemann are famous for being long serving, wide reaching and innovative in world horticulture. To be welcomed by all these nurseries in the one tour was an exceptional experience. And to be hosted by the families behind them was a real honour. Not only did we get to see some brilliant technical information, we witnessed a level of passion that drives great success over generations of leadership.

Our thanks go to the passionate propagators who welcomed us. And also to the organisers David Hutchinson and especially Heinrich Lösing, who's local knowledge and close contact with all these great nurseries was the basis of this wonderful experience.

John Messina



How is this for innovative marketing? 'Bloombux' Azalea, with promotional cans of prosecco wine!

Top to bottom;

Mr Holger Hachmann addresses the group



Viewing some of the unique Japanese maples



Workers lifting field grown plants for sale



Purpose built planting machine



A clever coolroom design at Ludemann nursery. The fans are located above a ceiling, and the cold air is ducted down to the room without creating a breeze.



t The lack of air movement stops the bare root plants from drying out.



Rails over the growing beds support traveling equipment such as automatic trimmers



Immaculately kept growing areas at Silber



Just some of the propagation tables that produce 29 million cuttings a year.

News

At the recent NGINA Awards Peter and Jennifer Ollerenshaw of Bywong Nursery were recognised with the Award of Merit for their contribution to horticulture, and Karen Smith with the Allan Seale Award for her contribution to horticulture through media.



Newsletter Editors Comment

The bureau of meteorology predict wetter than average conditions for much of Australia over the coming months and I look forward to this after our dry spell. It was great this time to have contributions on the International post conference tour to Germany and timely thoughts on the future of horticulture.

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 400 Facebook members. As well as current horticultural news items there are many photos there as well from past conference tours and activities.

Don't forget that this newsletter and many past copies are available on the IPPS website at www.ipps.org.au

Pass your extra printed copy of the newsletter around at work.

Bruce Higgs - editor "the Propagator"

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2018 IPPS Calendar

6-9 March 2018	Southern African Region Conference, Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa
26 - 29 April 2018	New Zealand Conference, "Mind Blowing" Palmerston North
24 - 25 May 2018	Australian Region Conference, Hobart, Tasmania
28 July - 4 August 2018	Pacific Rim Conference, Western Region, Honolulu, Hawaii
11 - 22 September 2018	International Tour, Eastern Region, New York to Wilmington, USA
23 - 26 September 2018	Eastern Region Conference, Newark, Delaware
17 May - 2 June 2019	International Tour, Australian Region, Port Douglas to Maroochydore, Qld.