

# IPPS

Sharing Plant Production Knowledge Globally

# the Propagator



International Plant  
Propagators' Society

<http://aus.ipps.org/>

Australian Region - Newsletter Summer 2018 - No: 60

## International Conferences

IPPS International tours and conferences only occur once every eight years in a region, so next years conference is very special to our members. Although we have an Australian conference each year, next year is also the year we share the organisation with the New Zealand region so we are expecting a large contingent from there especially. The WOW factor that makes these special is the opportunity to discuss aspects of growing plants with experts from across the world.

As they are larger conferences extra effort seems also to be put into really organising something special, and I am sure we will not be disappointed with our organisers efforts in choosing a really scenic resort, and the awesome Pre-conference tour from Port Douglas to Maroochydore. Those on the tour will also have the opportunity to spend some extra time with IPPS directors from around the world.

I am sure that younger members especially who attend will experience something like Vincent Galatolo from Morris Arboretum did when he wrote recently;

“I had a great time at the IPPS Eastern Region Conference. I felt that the conference was very inclusive and gave me the opportunity to meet the leading experts in the field of plant propagation. One of my favorite aspects of the conference was traveling to different plant production facilities. A firsthand look at these facilities gave me better appreciation for all of the working parts and work that go into plant propagation and mass production. Furthermore, I really enjoyed the different speakers and the topics they discussed. I learned a great deal from the IPM presentations and the

plant trial presentations. Thank you again for taking the time to help the students of IPPS and show us a great time.”

The Australian and New Zealand regions will be sponsoring a number of young people to our conference with the help of companies such as Seazol. I hope they all have a similar experience as many have from each of our conferences.

So mark the dates in your diary and don't forget to register soon for an unforgettable worthwhile time.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our readers.

Bruce Higgs



From the IPPS Eastern region newsletter article by Shelby French of some delegates who attended the 2018 Eastern Region conference

### THIS EDITION

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WA Regional Meeting  
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## President's Comment



Hello fellow members,

It seems every year the industry goes through this period of having no well grown stock available in the late spring, the demand as usual outstrips supply, whether it is ground covers garden shrubs or house plants, in fact its gets quite embarrassing supplying some of our customers with plants that really shouldn't leave home quite yet. I guess it's a great problem, however question remains how can we solve it?

Well there are some things that we can fix, and Ray Doherty has been busy working out our next year's conference. We have a pre-conference tour organised thanks mainly to Clive Larkman's hard work, we also have been encouraging suppliers to become sponsors of the Society, and to that degree we will be seeing more of them in our journals.



Left; Plants of Tasmania in John Gibson's possum proof cage. Below; Royal Botanical Gardens IPPS tours in Nov.



## IPPS Australian Region Board for 2018 - 2019

Tony Vander Staay [tvanders@westlandnurseries.com.au](mailto:tvanders@westlandnurseries.com.au) *President*

Ray Doherty [ray@azaleagrove.com.au](mailto:ray@azaleagrove.com.au) *Awards Committee 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*

David Daly [david@conifer.com.au](mailto:david@conifer.com.au) *2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*

John Messina [johnmessina30@gmail.com](mailto:johnmessina30@gmail.com) *International Director (2019 -)*

James Burnett [jab342000@gmail.com](mailto:jab342000@gmail.com) *Treasurer*

*Membership Committee*

Puthiyarambil Josekutty [josekutty964@gmail.com](mailto:josekutty964@gmail.com) *Area Meetings Committee*

Neroli Forster [neroli@seedshed.com.au](mailto:neroli@seedshed.com.au)

David Hancock [david@naturalarea.com.au](mailto:david@naturalarea.com.au)

Dermot Molloy [Dermot.molloy@rbg.vic.gov.au](mailto:Dermot.molloy@rbg.vic.gov.au)

Peter Waugh [peterwaugh1841@gmail.com](mailto:peterwaugh1841@gmail.com)

Clive Larkman [larkman@larkmannurseries.com.au](mailto:larkman@larkmannurseries.com.au) *Editor /Historian*

Pam Berryman (07) 3829 9767 [pam@ipps.org.au](mailto:pam@ipps.org.au) *CEO*

On another positive note David Hancock organised an area meeting in Perth; the Donnybrook / Ferguson Valley Social event and Seed Shed Tour was enthusiastically supported.

Meanwhile down under in Tasmania we had an end of year get together. Primarily around the local TAFE College horticultural (24) students supported by our local IPPS members and our staff (13), we simply visited three nursery's the Royal Botanical Gardens, John Gibson's Plants of Tasmania, and Westland's. I was very pleasantly surprised on how enthusiastically the events have gone.

It is hoped that this momentum can keep going we some more local functions being organised for the new year. Which by the way is not very far away. I wish one and all a happy Christmas and a successful new year.

Cheers

Tony Vander Staay

## 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.



**TWIN WATERS, SUNSHINE COAST, MAROOCHYDORE 2019**

PC tour commences Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2019 – Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Conference – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019



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

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 01.01.2019.



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 2019.

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

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

*Pam Berryman*

## International Director's Report

On one hand it hardly seems a year since I did the 2017 report on the other hand it seems a decade. It has been a busy year for me personally, professionally and with IPPS. It is my final year as the Australian Region Director although I still have 2019 as International President. I have been on the International Board since 2014 and have seen some major changes due to lower membership and consequential financial restraints plus changes in key staff. We have also been working on two new regions over that time. I am chairing the new regions committee and we are having some progress in India and China – frustratingly slow, but worth it.



Across the whole Society we have stopped the decline in membership and are seeing a lot of interest from the next generation. The US regions had a massive reduction in membership due to an aging population with the resultant retirements and changes in the industry. New Zealand has continued to have a positive and strong membership while South Africa and Japan have stayed steady with low numbers reflective of specific issues to each region. South Africa is a western country with a developing economy and most industry workers are not financially well off. The Japan region struggles with

### 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

##### **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

language and cultural issues but are still positive about the future.

The big shift has been in Europe with the move from an English based region to the broader European base. The last conference was again in the Netherlands with speakers and attendees from all over Europe. For the first time in many years there has been an increase in non English speaking members, especially from Belgium and the Netherlands. For decades the Europeans have been reluctant to join IPPS due to the philosophy of 'seek and share'. However many are seeing the benefits of the exchange of knowledge and meeting of like minds.

As I said above our work in China has been frustratingly slow. We have had meetings and discussions with key Chinese horticulturists over several years. The interest is strong but the issues are complex. These include language, cultural behavior and government regulations. For example they cannot just set up a not for profit body and then send funds to the US based IPPS International. Then there are the protocols of office bearers and how they relate. We have been making progress in many of these areas and in April/May this year we were one of the main promoters of the inaugural Chang'an World Garden Show. We had a group of thirteen from Australia, NZ and USA attend with many of us presenting papers at the full conference (1000 delegates) or IPPS specific workshop (100 delegates). We also met up with several Belgian and French growers and at least one has become a member. One will be joining us on the International Tour in May 2019.

We are also working hard on the Indian potential region with the Western US Region being the sponsor. The movers in India are organizing a Tissue Culture conference in the north east of the country in February 2019. They have invited IPPS to be cosponsors and they are looking for Australian, NZ and American members to attend. Although India is a more recent potential region it may happen quicker than China. The main reasons are English is a dominant language on the subcontinent and the Government rules are less complex.

As reported last year we will no longer be offering the CD option of the proceedings as they will be available on-line. We will be ceasing production of the Black Book this year from the central office although Australia and New Zealand have elected to take the final product and get it printed locally. One of the problems the Society is facing is that a large percentage of speakers are no longer writing up their papers and are instead using Powerpoint only. Some still have concise notes but many others are just using a series of images. This

## Seasol Six Pack

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

## Rod Tallis Award

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

The worthy recipient will 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 horticultural work you have undertaken. Then go to the website and apply soon.

*All that needs to be done for either of these is **submit an application by Feb. 2019**. Contact details are on the IPPS website (see under members at <http://aus.ipps.org/> )*

has meant a change in the formatting of the printed proceedings from the formal style to a more relaxed but still informative layout.

This year the International Tour was in Eastern USA starting in New York City and finishing in Delaware. Lots of horticultural diversity but not a lot of distance. The focus was to show the delegates horticulture in and around the Big Apple. We learnt that New York City has five boroughs – Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island which is mostly high density suburbs. As to be expected there weren't many nurseries but there was some incredible horticulture; highlights included Central Park and the Highline Gardens. We still managed to see an amazing range of nurseries in other parts of New York State, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. The plant diversity was surprising but the ability to produce plants in the very tough climate was inspiring. Their temperatures range from minus 20 Celsius to plus 35 with regular storms and even tail ends of hurricanes.

To conclude it has been a great honour and pleasure to represent our region on the International Board. Having been on the board for nine of the past fourteen years I have seen some major changes. Some have been due to changing pressures in Society and the horticultural community and some due to major shifts in world technology. The key message is the passion of members across the world in their chosen plant field linked with their desire to share the knowledge for the benefit of all growers – world wide. Sometimes I wish the rest of the community could take a lead from how our Society functions.

I finish as Australian Region delegate but still have one year as International President. Another honour and privilege as I am so proud of what IPPS stands for and only hope I can help broaden our message. Being President doesn't come with much to do except organize the 2019 International Tour in Australia. The tour starts in Port Douglas and concludes in Maroochydore at the Australian/New Zealand joint conference. Pam and I have been working on this for two years now and are convinced it will be the best tour ever. The theme is Tropical Horticulture – its all in the Latitude. We will be visiting all sorts of growers from small to large and specialized to broad range. We will also be seeing all that this unique part of the world has to offer. I would love to encourage as many Australians to come on the tour as possible. It will be a fun trip with lots of good food, good entertainment, great horticulture and the chance to travel with some of the world's most passionate plants people. At under \$4000 per person (all inclusive – i.e. everything) it is one of the cheapest ways to see the tropical Queensland coast.

So, thank you for allowing me to be your delegate to IPPS international and I can only encourage to get involved at the highest level. Merry Christmas to all!

Clive Larkman



## WA Regional Meeting

*Big Turnout for IPPS WA in the Ferguson Valley.*

On Friday afternoon, October 12<sup>th</sup>, a group of IPPS members, nursery owners, their staff and industry suppliers turned out to hold the 2018 Western Australian local event at the premises of Seed Shed in the picturesque Ferguson Valley, some 2.5 hours south of Perth

A group of over 25 undertook a tour of the business and received a very professional demonstration of seed buying, processing and storage by IPPS Board member and Seed Shed owner, Neroli Foster and her staff.

The Seed Shed crew turned on a quality spread of home style food and award winning local boutique wine producer Bakkheia supplied Shiraz, Tempranillo & Sauvignon Blanc for tasting.

Some members bought their young children had a wonderful time on the farm, and it was a delightful atmosphere in which the group exchanged much information on their respective propagation activities.

Your reporter provided a summary of recent and future IPPS activities, including the Tasmania 2018 conference, the Meet in The Middle Hawaii event and outlined details of the 2019 Queensland International Tour & Conference & Geelong for 2020.

Pleasing to report that this event added 2 new members long active in propagation and there was a good turn out of younger nursery managers and staff which we are hoping will convert into additional members.

Examples of the benefits of membership were discussed and our new brochures made available. Particular mention was made of the IPPS Awards and South African exchange.

The group was unanimous in agreeing that more such get-togethers should be held to continue development and interaction of the WA members.

David Hancock

**IPPS Australian Region  
Major Sponsors**

Garden City Plastics	
Seasol International	
Transplant Systems Pty Ltd	
Hort Journal Australia	
Norwood Industries	

These sponsors help to support the activities of the society. We are also currently negotiating and looking for others to help support the activities of IPPS as we seek and share. With sponsorship comes naming and other promotional opportunities.



**IPPS CONFERENCE 2019 –**

**29<sup>th</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> June  
'Shaping up for the Future'**

**SUNSHINE COAST – A VERY SPECIAL NATURAL PLACE**

Following in the great tradition of past IPPS conferences, the 2019 conference at TWIN WATERS, Sunshine Coast, Queensland is set to be an exciting event. A great line up of speakers, people to meet or catch up with and inspirational places to see.

- A not to be missed opportunity to network with like minded businesses and suppliers
- Enjoy a field trip day to inspiring nurseries that will provide you with some very stimulating conversation points
- Participate in the fun pre-conference tour from Port Douglas to Twin Waters from 17<sup>th</sup> May to 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019

**Accessibility**

The Sunshine Coast is easily accessible. Flying direct from Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide or Auckland to the Sunshine Coast is a fast trip that will grant your guests a spectacular birds eye view over the southern Queensland coastline before landing at our beach side airport.

The Sunshine Coast Airport (MCY) is located only a five-minute transfer

to Novotel Twin Waters Resort. QANTAS, Virgin Australia and Jetstar offer numerous daily flights, linking the Sunshine



Coast to more than 55 Australian and 125 International destinations.

Brisbane Airport is an easy hour drive away. Travelling by road from the Airport guests will pass the gateway to the Sunshine Coast – the majestic Glass House Mountains. After a few more kilometres of forest-lined highway they will reach the turnoff to Twin Waters.

**Accommodation**

Accommodation for the conference will be at the Novotel Twin Waters Resort, 270 Ocean Drive, Twin Waters, Queensland. When you call please mention that you are booking for the IPPS Conference. The contact number for the Novotel Twin Waters Resort is: (07) 5448 8000.

OPTION	FULL REGISTRATION		SINGLE DAY – Includes day and night activities		
	EARLY (Until 31 <sup>st</sup> March) STANDARD		Thursday	Friday	Saturday (Tour)
IPPS Member	\$530	\$575	\$200	\$200	\$175
Non-member		\$595	\$225	\$275	\$200
Student/Youth (price includes day and night activities)		\$495	\$200	\$200	\$175
<b>All costs in \$AUD inclusive of GST</b>					
<b>Total \$AUD .....</b>	<b>\$ .....</b>	<b>\$ .....</b>	<b>\$ .....</b>	<b>\$ .....</b>	<b>\$ .....</b>

**Speakers** – we will have a great international technical speaker programme. Just a few of the line up so far include:

**Laura M. Miller** is the Texas A&M AgriLife Commercial Horticulture Extension Agent for Tarrant County. She provides informal educational programs and problem-solving services to all aspects of the commercial horticulture industry from green industry professionals to fruit, vegetable, and ornamental plant growers.

**Dr. Puthiyaparambil C. Josekutty** is Research Manager, Skybury Coffee Pty Ltd, ([www.skybury.com.au](http://www.skybury.com.au)), is an Agriculture- biotechnologist with 30 years of experience in research and research management. In Australia, Jose managed commercial plant tissue culture laboratories at Yuruga Nursery in Walkamin, Atherton tablelands and the tissue culture facility of the Fleming's group of nurseries located at Birdwood nursery. Jose has micro-propagated over 100 plant species and crop varieties from Australia, USA, New Zealand, Micronesia and India.

**Dr. Unnikrishnan (Unni)**, is a world renowned expert in the field of Aquatic plants business with 25 years of experience in the field. He started the career as a Scientist in the Oriental Aquariums Pte Ltd, Singapore, where he has proven his potential in the area of mass propagation and international marketing of a large variety of aquatic plants over 13 years.

**Dr. Mengmeng Gu** is an Associate Professor/Ornamental Extension Specialist in the Department of Horticultural Sciences at Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in College Station, TX. She is the liaison between Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Texas Nursery and Landscape Association, and serves on TNLA Education Committee and Park & Patio Task Force. Dr.. Gu is the Project Director of the multi-disciplinary multi-state Specialty Crop Research Initiative project 'Systematic Strategies to Manage Grape myrtle Bark Scale, An Emerging Exotic Pest'.

#### **WELCOME FUNCTION:**

The evening of Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May at TWIN WATERS RESORT will provide a great venue to relax and socialise. A casual evening starting off with a few nibbles and drinks will provide the opportunity for networking and re-acquainting with old friends and the opportunity to meet new ones.

#### **GOLF:**

Twin Waters Golf Club boasts a course that is internationally recognised as one of the top six resort courses in Australia – naturally it's the best on the Sunshine Coast. The 18 hole, par 72 championship course was designed by five times British Open champion Peter Thomson and partner Mike Wolveridge. The stunning



setting and challenging layout combine to produce an enjoyable game of golf for all players. Delegates are welcome to attend and participate in this 18-hole event. This event will be organised by long time golf enthusiast Tony VanderStaay on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May. Register your interest on the Registration Form.

**THURSDAY & FRIDAY** – Will be conference sessions, workshops, trade exhibits.

**FRIDAY NIGHT GALA DINNER:** What a venue - LILY'S ON THE LAGOON

Enjoy the exquisite food and wine surrounded by sweeping timber decks and 240 degree views of the private lagoon from this unique structure. Relax as worthy recipients receive their due recognition for services to the Horticulture Industry.

#### **SATURDAY & EVENING:**

Saturday will be Nursery/business tours and visits to some local attractions; finishing up on Saturday evening with a 'farewell function' on the beach or other outdoor setting at Novotel Twin Waters.

### **2019 PRE CONFERENCE TOUR**

– Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May to Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019 - Experience TROPICAL HORTICULTURE – It's all in the Latitude..... come and join the 2019 International Tour hosted by the Australian Region.

**Spend 12 fun-filled days en route from Port Douglas to Twin Waters.**

In 2019 the tour starts in Cairns and concludes at the annual conference in Maroochydore. The tour comprises 12 days with stops in Port Douglas, Mission Beach, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton and Bundaberg. We will be visiting nurseries, Botanic Gardens, farms, research centres and a range of Australian tourist attractions.

The usual participation is 50 to 60 delegates from all over the world. However Australia is a 'new' exotic area to many from the northern hemisphere and many

people want to come but may never have had a good reason before now.

2019 is also a joint Australia/New Zealand conference which always adds to numbers. With all these influences the 2019 International Tour numbers could be as high as 100 so book in early to avoid disappointment.

The intention of the tour is to provide twelve days of great travel – food, accommodation and experience of our tropical Queensland coastal environment. During the trip delegates will experience five star food and accommodation, as well as simple local meals and entertainment and classic Australian cuisine. Delegates will also see the foundations of what makes Australians the people we are. It is a big land and in twelve days the group will cover over 2500 kilometres, visit more than 30 towns eat many classic Australian dishes and see aspects of the culture that defines northern Australia.

We encourage you to attend and see tropical Australia in a personal and natural way. The horticulture will be wide and varied, the food fantastic and the people great.

Pam Berryman ([pam@ipps.org.au](mailto:pam@ipps.org.au)) and myself ([clive@larkmannurseries.com.au](mailto:clive@larkmannurseries.com.au)) can be contacted for booking information.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE GO TO** <http://aus.ipps.org/event/Regional-Events/2019-International-Tour-Australia/VkRBRV13JTNEJTNE> to view the promotional youtube video and download an Itinerary and Registration Form.

For the tour we are more interested in registration than immediate payment. You can register now and part pay by the end of January (\$1500-\$2000) with the balance payable by the end of March.

## Quick Fixes and Horticultural Change

Five years ago Dr. Graeme Smith at the Melbourne conference spoke about the dramatic changes in horticultural production and yields driven by technology. These included changes in bought about through improved structural designs, plant forms, knowledge of plant nutritional, water and light requirements and our ability to measure and control these for the plants being grown.

Attending IPPS conferences has enabled members to see many of these innovations in structures and automation available, as well as understanding the differences our relatively small market imposes to that of the USA or Europe with our large mix of plant varieties many with differing growing requirements.



This year at our Hobart conference Paul Boland from Ball Australia, further outlined many of the recent innovations and their implications for ornamental horticulture. That said many of the chemicals we have relied on are gradually disappearing as we try to adopt IPM and safe means to control pests and diseases, and greenhouse structures offer some benefits here.

You cannot ignore the move to protected cropping and the potential benefits this can provide into the future, but at what cost? I wonder how many could contemplate spending over \$205 million on a 20 hectare greenhouse tomato farm using protected cropping and solar heating and water desalination as Sundrop Farms near Port Augusta have.

But perhaps that is not looking at things correctly as the Federal Government sees the value of the horticultural sector reaching \$100 billion in about 10 years. What needs to change, as many growers have small capital resources? Perhaps a better question is who will drive the change, is it the new young generation of entrepreneurial growers that are not afraid to gamble on the future or large organisations?





Photo: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sundrop\\_Farms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sundrop_Farms)

Then again we can all review what we are currently doing and potentially make some small incremental improvements in what we are doing.

In Spring 2014 I wrote about what we could do to review greenhouse heating in winter. Cooling requirements in Summer very much depend upon where you are situated and how you manage your crop. Greenhouse design, light intensity, elevation and proximity to wet humid coastal regions all affect this and need to be considered. I do not know of any growers aside from tissue culture laboratories who use reverse cycle air-conditioning in growing spaces. So how do your structures measure up and what quick fix could you adopt to fix them?

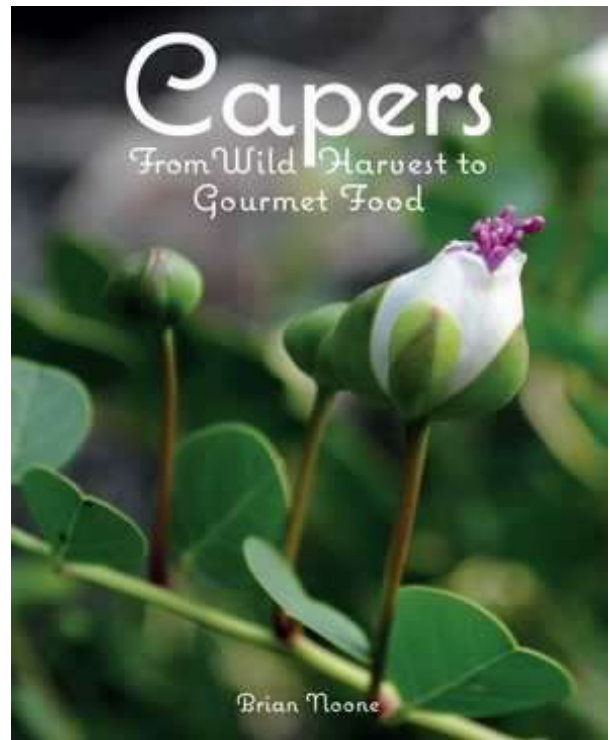
High sided double insulated walls and gables with good venting, internal screens and possibly external coatings and or shade are some structural things to consider. A greenhouse full of plants in summer could also be over 10 °C cooler than an empty one just through the effect of evapotranspiration.

Most cooling strategies rely on the fact that as water evaporates it absorbs heat and cools the immediate air. Comparison between wet and dry bulb thermometers can give an idea how much this could help. Evaporative cooling is however more effective in less humid environments. Using misters, foggers and pad cooling systems all have their advantages, and are well outlined along with maintenance issues in the NSW Department of Primary Industries paper on "Evaporative Cooling in Greenhouses"

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/horticulture/greenhouse/structures-and-technology/evap-cooling>

To be effective fan and pad cooling systems should be properly designed to obtain maximum evaporative efficiency during periods of intense hot weather. This means a design with non-turbulent air flow through the greenhouse to avoid mixing the cooled air at plant level with warmer air at the top of the greenhouse. A disadvantage also is that these systems can create a temperature gradient from one side of the greenhouse to the other (coolest end near pads). If you want to

explore this option further you could contact a supplier of such equipment for them to review your greenhouse and advise if a suitable modification is possible.



## **Capers. From Wild Harvest to Gourmet Food**

**By Brian Noone**

### **Foreword by Costa Georgiadis**

This book describes the wild caper plant; how it is harvested; how to grow capers in a farming or home garden situation; how to process capers, caperberries and caper leaves.

The history of capers and their medicinal and culinary qualities, are explored. Well-known chefs from Australia have contributed recipes for cooking with capers.

The wonderful world of the Mediterranean region where capers grow is revealed through captivating photographs. A great read...

"This book is a pleasure and a treasure for everyone from the hard core hortie, down to the beginner gardener or even the foodie with no growing background but an interest in learning about their ingredients."

"The humble caper is a plant that punches well above its weight, a resilient species from which we can all absorb some valuable lessons in survival."

**To purchase a hard copy or an Ebook version of this exciting new book, please go to**

[www.caperplants.com](http://www.caperplants.com)

## SOUTH AFRICA 2019

### YOUNG HORTICULTURISTS APPLY NOW

For the opportunity of a lifetime, it is now time to apply for the **Southern 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 2019 the person chosen will spend approximately 3 weeks in South Africa hosted by local members**, where they will work and visit other nurseries and places of interest in South Africa, including tourist venues, plus attend the IPPS Southern African Region Conference in Stellenbosch.

The exchange program is sponsored by Australia and Southern Africa IPPS. After the trip the chosen propagator will be expected to attend the Australian IPPS International Conference at the Novotel Twin Waters Resort on the Sunshine Coast in May 2019 to June 2 as well as talking 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 2019 and attend our Australian 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 at 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 <http://aus.ipps.org/members/exchange/south-africa-exchange> by the end of December 2018.**

I hope this short article helps you consider alternatives to fix / improve your growing conditions this summer.

Bruce Higgs

#### News and Letters

*In the last newsletter Tony Vander Staay supplied the formula for Synerol and after some correspondence would like to correct a few things.*

My calculations were out and my active rate was around 5,000 ppm and not the 8,000 ppm that I wrote. Kendon from Victoria have been making Synerol for decades, probably since 1950.

#### Newsletter Editors Comment

IPPS International conferences only happen every eight years or so in a region and are special as you have plants-folk from around the globe to share your thoughts with and seek some alternate wisdom. Speaking for all of our members I trust that we all look forward to the International conference next year at the Sunshine Coast, Qld. Hmmm ... Maroochydore beach

water temperatures should be around 22 to 24 °C, so pack some casual gear as well.

If you are not already a member of IPPS join up soon. The region also has a **facebook site** with horticultural news items and photos as well from past conference tours and activities - search for "**International Plant Propagators Society (IPPS) Australia**". We have just tipped a milestone with over 500 people following our Australian Region page.

**Please pass your extra printed copy of the newsletter around at work.** Many of our members have joined through this, as have past 6 pack and South African exchangees grasped the opportunity to apply. A copy of this newsletter and a selection of previous ones is available in colour at <http://aus.ipps.org/news>

Bruce Higgs - editor "the Propagator"

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year*

#### IPPS Conference Calendar

11 - 13 February	NGPPBUT 2019, Guwahati, Assam India
5 - 7 March 2019	Southern African Region conference, Protea Hotel Techno Stellenbosch
17 May - 1 June 2019	International Tour and conference, Australian and New Zealand Regions, Port Douglas to Maroochydore, Qld.
24 - 28 September 2019	Western Region conference, Hilton Santa Cruz/Scotts Valley
16 - 19 October 2019	Eastern Region Annual Conference: Madison, Wisconsin