

IPPS

Sharing Plant Production Knowledge Globally

the Propagator



International Plant Propagators' Society

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

Australian Region - Newsletter Winter 2018 - No: 58

What is New?

Amazing possibilities, warm hospitality and great networking opportunities sum up the experience from the Hobart conference in May.

Changing things takes us into new territory and often challenges us. That's how I feel when I remember the talk by **Nico van Rooijen** from Majestic YoungPlants about the **Nic-In Systems®** that potentially can make a huge step change in ornamental horticulture (see p7).

Just as steam trains would have been useless without the technology to produce steel tracks, there was no opportunity or possibility for change in the way plants were deflasked without the knowledge that automated transplanters were available. The main innovation was a square multi-celled autoclavable plastic box that works with a transplanter, as well as other parts of the system.

The potential cost and labour saving opportunities in labour intensive tissue culture are great, especially when you recall that deflasking often occurs close to the major growing markets. This could well lead to increased demand for tissue cultured stock.

As well as a great presentation and the potential affect on international horticulture that Nico received the **2018 IPPS Australian Region Anita Boucher Award**.

Aside from what the technology may mean directly perhaps the more important lesson is for us to not just accept the way we do things now as the only option. We need to develop the ability to look outside the sphere we know and always ask **why**.

Why are we doing it this way? **How** could it be improved? **What** is available that perhaps could be modified to improve our product or process? The weakness can be that you just do not know the answers to the question. Remember the lesson here that innovation often builds on others. **What is new** out there? That is where membership of IPPS can help with exposure to the world of horticulture.

Bruce Higgs



Photo left courtesy of Nic-In Systems.



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President's Comment



Welcome to my first report as your new President. Firstly all those members who attended the Hobart conference to *Explore the Opportunities* which was what we did, everything from growing gigantic pumpkins to a reality check on the changing climate conditions. Thanks for making it a great success.

I wish to thank my local organising committee for their great input and support, because no man is an Island, not forgetting our hard working behind scene secretary Pam, thank you all.

I would also like to thank John Messina past president and now international director, for past two years as custodian of the society. John's quiet determination in increasing our membership is gaining momentum and hopefully we can continue this theme over the next few years. We are aiming to encourage another generation of propagators to join our ranks. Another stalwart of the society and international director Clive Larkman term finishes this year with John taking over the reins. Thank you Clive, I am sure you will be around for a while longer.

Change is inevitable, the format of this years conference was different, with a Wednesday to Friday event, and a free day to explore Hobart on the Saturday, I have had numerous thank you's and comments from members, but the most heartening one was from some of our first time attendee members who said "what an interesting group of People we are". Yes **that's you** our members, we are all plant people, but yet no two of us has identical operations or growing conditions, yet all of us have a common thread; Plants.

Our Society encourages young people to come on board, each year we give the opportunity to two lucky younger persons; one to travel to the Southern Africa conference, and in exchange they send one to attend the Australian conference. Normally it is around 10 days on either continent. This year Lara Osborne from Perth, and Siya Yenzala from Cape Town. Both these young people where outstanding, and not only did they gain but those who met them also gained. I am a great believer in getting our staff and fellow propagators to travel and see what's around the corner. We tend to forget that we are not just a member of the Australian Region but we are a member of world wide group of propagators. But if all that's too hard, then lets think locally, who is in a 50 kilometre radius of you, have you touched base with them, got together and have a

drink/meal or even just a visit. I know we are all too busy, but maybe we could all aim to meet a couple of members for a late spring drink/meal to get the ball rolling.

We are heading in the southern part of Aussie into winter, and I guess the guys up north are getting set up for Spring next week, It doesn't take long before we start thinking about what are we doing for Christmas holidays, let alone Mother's day next year. We are all planning our future crops months out, so plan for a positive outcome, I look forward to meeting more of you over the next 12 months.

Cheers

Tony Vander Staay



Executive Officer's Report

Hobart Conference – WOW what a conference. A big **'Thank-you'** to all the organisers and a **'Special Thank-You'** to Tony & Rose Vander Staay for all their efforts in ensuring this years conference was a success ...going by the feedback received majority of attendees found the conference informative and enjoyable.

Plans are well underway for next years **International Joint New Zealand/Australia IPPS conference** on the **Sunshine Coast at Twin Waters Resort, QLD**. Make a note of these dates for next years conference in your diary now – **BRISBANE, SUNSHINE COAST, QLD** – **Pre-Conference Tour 17th May to 28th May 2019** – **Conference 29th to 1st June 2019**



Membership Subscriptions for 2018 are NOW OVERDUE....

A big thank-you to those members who have forwarded payments. A friendly reminder to everyone else, could you please tend to this matter at your earliest convenience. If you are having difficulty in paying your subscription (for whatever reason), please feel free to contact me so that we can discuss alternative payment options.

BANK DETAILS: Bendigo Bank BSB: 633-000 Account No: 140185737

If paying by EFT PLEASE PUT INVOICE NO. OR NAME IN THE PAYMENT BOX SO I CAN IDENTIFY WHO PAYMENT IS FROM. THANK YOU

Change of Address:

To ensure Office records are kept 'up to date' it is very important for Members to notify me of any changed contact details. In particular, if you have changed your telephone provider recently, please remember to forward your new email address onto me at pam@ipps.org.au

Pam Berryman

2018 Hobart Conference Feedback

The Hobart Conference this year departed from the norm and ran from Wednesday through to the Friday night, leaving a Saturday free for members to see the sights and enjoy Hobart and environs.

Future options

Board meetings held on the morning on the Wednesday I think are fairly normal. Possibly an informal evening meal on the night before for directors could help communications?

I think there is a possibility that we could have a mid week conference in the future (Tuesday to Thursday); there are quite a few savings to be had in terms of accommodation, venue hire, meals, travel times, etc.

Pre conference tours are a lot of work, but I feel they are beneficial. They not only give you more opportunity to see things but also meet and share and get to know some others in the industry.

Speakers selection and approaching potential speakers

We were fortunate to have Angus Stewart on board assisting organising speakers for this years conference. Fortunately he had several contacts in the university which helped.

While looking for speakers, I sort of kept an eye on local interesting topics over the previous 12 months. Another good source of subjects was from articles in Hort Journal, and Karen Smith also helped.

We were fortunate also to have Government house on side with the reception, with an interesting horticultural welcome to Tasmania by the Governor.

The program ran well, Paul Boland was a great keynote speaker. We did have a couple of extra guests for the dinner on Thursday, but most speakers either came in on the day, or were members attending anyway.

I think everyone enjoyed the raw enthusiasm of our speakers. All

IPPS Australian Region Board for 2018 - 2019

Tony Vander Staay tvanders@westlandnurseries.com.au President

Ray Doherty ray@azaleagroove.com.au Awards Committee 1st Vice President

David Daly 2nd Vice President

John Messina johnmessina30@gmail.com International Director (2019 -)

James Burnett jab342000@gmail.com Treasurer

Sam Davey sam@greensteadnursery.com.au Membership Committee

Puthiyarambil Josekutty josekutty964@gmail.com Area Meetings Committee

Neroli Forster neroli@seedshed.com.au

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Peter Waugh peterwaugh1841@gmail.com

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

Pam Berryman (07) 3829 9454 pam@ipps.org.au CEO

speakers held their time, the hotel staff was right on the money, and very efficient. Probably the only session that went longer than planned was the AGM, but an extra 10 minutes at the end of the day wasn't disastrous.

Deciding what you give speakers is a tricky business, because if you give too many free bees and the attendees don't turn up, your budget is well and truly out the door.

The Thursday night dinner was deliberately no band, just back ground music from the hotel sound system. This helped members chat at the tables and us keep to a tight budget. A few bottles of wine were supplied to the tables.

I guess the biggest challenge was the local nursery tours as I had originally hoped to go via three nurseries, but daylight is an issue this far south in late Autumn. The windup on the Friday night at the nursery I felt went very well, I was a little out on the costing of this event though. Many thanks to the generous support of TyTags for assisting to supply the oysters.

Tony Vander Staay



Reception at Government house; members being by the Governor, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC,

IPPS Dinner and Awards

As always this is a great time to chat and meet new friends and seek and share.

Peter Smith Perpetual Golf Trophy This year the golfers contested for this prize on the scenic **Llanherne Golf Links**. This prestigious sporting trophy was presented to Jake Jackson by Tony Vander Staay. Who will meet the challenge next year in the Sunshine Coast?

Award of Honour This year Rose Vander Staay received our highest regional award from John Messina for her ongoing contributions to the society over many years.

IPPS Steve Vallance Award Ray Doherty received the award from John Messina and Natalie Vallance in recognition of distinguished service to the society over many years.

Anita Boucher Award Is selected each year by the Editorial team for the best paper at the conference, and this year Nico Van Rooijen was selected for his paper.

Youth Auction Peter Waugh, supported by our Six pack members assisting displaying sales items and encouraged us to spend a bit more in support of our youth program. Tony Vander Staay was successful in securing

the IPPS silver plated Felco secateurs at the auction. Who will be successful in securing them next year?

Seasol 6 Pack Our awards chairperson Ray Doherty presented the **Seasol "Six Pack"** of; Lara Osborne, David Russell, Siyasanga Yensela, Anthea O'Brien, Minerva Younes, Lucy Hardener. Many thanks go to the new sponsor of the youth initiative. Members of the six pack are sponsored to the conference, and are selected from a number of applicants. Please encourage some young members of your staff to apply for next year in Queensland.

Conference Snaps We all had some fun at the conference dinner, and auction afterwards. Congratulations to Tony and those who helped organise the conference and especially for their attention to detail making this an enjoyable conference.



Explore the opportunities

IPPS conference Hobart - May 2018

Our keynote speaker **Paul Boland** in his paper **The changing face of propagation in Australia** reviewed worldwide trends in growing plants and discussed their impact on the Australian scene. Labour saving techniques and automation as well as breeding innovations (especially for seed replacing vegetative produced varieties) are significant drivers as well as the dominance by one retailer. The horticultural industry is rationalising, and the pace of change is increasing. Along with this customers are becoming more sophisticated and employees will need ongoing development as different skill sets will be needed in the future.



Chris O'Connor from NGIA spoke on **Farm management systems**. He outlined Biosecure HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points). With between 30 and 40 external pest incursions annually a system for continual monitoring and recording is required to minimise business risks. Examples of production flowsheets, HACCP table, inspection procedure and various records were given. NGIA are currently working on an automated format for crop monitoring records.



Peter Lewis in his paper **Production of novel citrus plants in China** gave a very informative description of this unique market driven by Chinese New Year celebrations. The four major species used are: *Citrus reticulata* (Red Tangerine), *C. mitis* (Golden Orange / Round Calamandin), *C. japonica* (oval Kumquat) and *C. Medica var sacrodactylis* (Budda's Hand Citron). 80% of China's citrus are grown in the tropical Shunde district. Growing protocols were given, and we were surprised that the end products are purely decorative and are not edible.



Neroli Foster from the seed shed in WA spoke on **How to Thrive and Prosper in the Seed Industry**. Neroli outlined how her business operates including the processes used. At present their major markets are supplying growers for mine-site rehabilitation, revegetation and nurseries. Like so many other parts of the industry there are no long-term demand forecasts while they try to keep pickers employed and stocking to deal with seasonal supply fluctuations. Future opportunities in the food, nutraceutical and health and beauty sectors related to the properties of Western Australia's plants requiring research were highlighted.



David Parlby from Greenhills propagation spoke about **“trialing New Products and Techniques”**. David started off by encouraging people to apply for the Rod Tallis Award as it has been significant in his career.

Continuous improvement strategies make you look for new products and techniques as part of the process. Systematic planned trials are necessary and recording the results in an accessible database essential. David outlined the various variables they record in trials and how the results are assessed in terms of benefits and possible modifications to improve the result.



Rose VanderStaay recounted work undertaken at Westlands Nurseries in **Propagating Wollemi Pine**.

In 2012 seed was collected and sown on a 20°C heated bed. After ten weeks the first seedlings appeared and the remainder germinated over the next 6 weeks. Six months later they were still small with little root growth and were progressively potted on into 5cm, then 8cm tubes and later on into 14 and 20 cm pots at which time the root system improved.



In February 2017 vegetative cuttings were taken from twenty of these plants. From experience with Araucarias being difficult to maintain apical dominance from cuttings, it was thought that young seedling plants

would be better to get material from. Cutting top growth was removed and cut back to a single node. The 46 cuttings were wounded and dipped for 30 seconds in 400ppm Synerol hormone and placed in cutting mix. Some roots were evident after 16 weeks at which time they were removed from the bench and kept for another 16 weeks. After fifteen months 42 plants 15cm tall with strong apical growth were achieved.

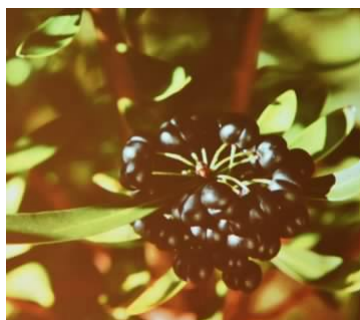


Chris Read from Diemen Pepper spoke on **Tasmanian Pepper - a spice from the Australian flora.** *Tasmannia lanceolata* grows in wet country in Tasmania and SE Australia and is a rainforest understory / early succession species growing on disturbed soils. It is an attractive plant in ornamental horticulture and a market has been developed for dried leaf and berry products. The industry still relies on wild harvest with seasonal fluctuations in yield, but as demand grows improved forms will be required to be grown in orchards. They are dioecious, and seedlings currently are the product of open pollination, so genetic diversity is huge. The challenge is to select the best and come up with forms best suited to growing and machine harvesting with good polygodial content for flavour.

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James Wood from the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens spoke on **“Going to seed, and proud of it”.** James discussed seed collection, viability testing and dormancy. The Tasmanian Seedbank over 13 years has 1814 collections of over 43 million viable seeds from over the state.



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In autumn 2015 there was a major conifer masting event. They made 20 collections from 14 locations and increased the pre 2015 seed collection from 12,829 to 50,127 for Pencil Pine, King Billy Pine, Chestnut Pine and Drooping Pine.

Of the top 20 Tasmanian plant families the ones giving the most germination problems are the Ericaceae, Rutaceae, Rhamnaceae, Haloragaceae, Thymelaceae and Cyperaceae. Ericaceae comprise the most important understorey plants in Tasmania. Species dispersing loose seed are less problematic, whereas stone-fruited taxa are typically deeply dormant.

Epacris (heaths) are very diverse with 27 species and they show an incredible variation in germination behaviour. Most are dormant but respond to smoke and/or warm stratification, but many do not. Recent results with stone-fruits Ericaceae such as *Styphelia adscendens* and *Astroloma humifusum* indicate they need a period of warm stratification with massive variations in temperature before cold stratification followed by warming. Germination results are available on a database at www.rbtg.gov.au/tasgerm.

Paul Roberts-Thomson from Van Diemen Quality Bulbs spoke on **Bulb Basics and Propagation.** Paul discussed the various facets of the bulb growing industry in Australia. He reviewed the plant anatomy of bulbs for many of us who may have forgotten. They grow Tulips, Dutch Iris, Lillium, Hyacinth, Daffodils and Alliums on 20 ha and farm other crops over 100ha.



He also discussed the various methods for bulb multiplication through natural and intervention (e.g. Scaling lilies, chipping Daffodils) means. Then we each tried these at our tables with some bulbs he provided.

Tony Ferraro (Middle Creek Propagation Nursery) - **Observations on the use of PreForma Plugs in Cutting Propagation.** Tony’s nursery grows to order, and they have changed from tubestock growing to growing in plugs. Rooted plugs are put into 144 cell trays with a small amount of 50/50 v/v perlite / potting mix with CRF at the base to reduce the effect of drying out when hardening off.



They mostly use the 20mm Jiffy PreForma plugs, but also use the 30mm diameter ones for thicker

cuttings. He described the benefits of using this system as:

- Clean sterile medium - cuttings are well spaced reducing disease
- Easy to use with minimal training.
- Minimal root damage in transplanting.
- Good for hard to strike cuttings.
- Faster strike times.
- Quicker in the potting process - easily adapted to automation.

Nico van Rooijen from Majestic YoungPlants - **Nic-In Systems®**, the future of Tissue Culture

Worldwide there are about 5 billion plants produced annually by tissue culture. Some 80% of these are produced in Asia with low labour costs, but deflasking of these 5 billion plants occurs at the local nursery with your own labour. Currently they are supplied planted randomly in agar filled round food containers, from which they are manually pricked out and planted into plugs much as they have been for over 100 years.



Four years ago Majestic Young Plants decided to try and automate the process. After several trips to the Netherlands talking to other users and a transplant equipment manufacturer it was evident that a number of issues needed to be addressed.

- The need for a protective inoculum of beneficial bacteria and fungi and nutrients and stimulants - “Jungle Juice”.
- Square containers with cells suitable for automated and manual handling - containing 49 plants cf. about 34 in round TC containers, holding 35% more plants in same space on growing shelves - the **Nic-In Systems®** allow more secure shipping with less damage to cultures.
- Modification of the agar to stay on the plant as a cube after mechanical gripper handling - **Autogel**.



Nic-In Systems® container

- Suitable modification of TTA transplant systems.

With this system up to 15,000 plants can be planted per hour. The TTA transplanters used are standard 7, 14 or 21 head machines with a few modifications, and these can also be used for other transplanting jobs. With the full “cube” of agar attached transplant shock is minimised. When transplanted with this agar plug with nutrients the plants continue growing with proper roots into the soil. This has resulted in a one to two week reduction in growing time which mostly alone pays for the system.

For more information see: <http://nicinsystems.com/>

Mark Viler from The Australian Botanic Garden Mt Annan - **Persona Propagation**.

Mark gave an overview of this 416ha. Gardens located 35km from Sydney CBD. He then described three projects related to conservation of threatened species:



- **ACARP** (Australian Coal Association Research Project) dealing initially with the difficult to propagate *Persoonia hindii*, and extended to include *P. Hirsuta*, *P. glabrescens*, *P. acerosa*, *P. oxycoccoides*, *P. bargoensis*, *P. nutans*, *P. marginata*, and *P. isophylla*.
- **Western Sydney Airport**: conservation of *Pimelia spicata*, *Marsdenia viridiflora*, *Pultenaea parviflora*.
- **Bankstown Airport**: *Hibbertia puberula* sp *glabrescens*.

Persoonia are mostly self pollinated and their ability to set viable seed is poor. Cuttings were the best propagation method for *P. hindii*.

Jill Pierce of the Cancer Council Tasmania - **Looking after your skin**. Australia and New Zealand have the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world. Two out of three will be diagnosed with skin cancer by 75 and more than 2,000 die from it each year. Prevention by wearing protective clothing and hats outside are most important. Try rotating outdoor tasks.

The **Sun Smart** App is a useful daily mobile guide for outdoors workers to look at for the UV index. Protection for the skin is recommended if it is over 3. More information;

www.cancer.org.au

and

www.sunsmart.com.au



Siyasanga Yenzela (Samgro Wholesale Nursery - Capetown) the Southern African Exchange, he took us through his daily duties at a propagation nursery. Some of the species that Samgro offer are: *Combretum*, *Grewia*, *Rhaphiolepis*, *Sideroxylon*, *Syzygium* and *Dovyalis*. They also produce herbs for Woolworth's: *Mint*, *Alternanthera*, *Sweet Basil*, *Gypsophilia*, *Thyme* and *Dill*. Also for Christmas they grow *Juniperus chinensis* and *Cupressus Wilma Goldcrest*.



Lara Osborne (Natural Area Holdings) described her experiences in South Africa. Her first visit was to Andy Titterton wholesale nursery in Johannesburg. She said "It was a shock that revegetation does not really exist in South Africa" and that Andy Titterton do not work with tubestock but with 11 litre bags and pots. "They do cuttings and seed stock from a manual seeder and a transplanter".



Lara went on a Safari and said she saw just about every African animal you could name. She then flew to Port Elizabeth and visited Elands Nursery - "a huge nursery with fields of plants from vegetables to flowering varieties and succulents". Spring time is busy as frosts kill the plants in everyone's gardens. Plants are grown with minimal water use with over 500,000 drippers, and water recycled back into dams. They had specially constructed trailers with soil used to pot plants in the field.

Once the conference themed "Climate Resistance Horticulture" started they had speakers talking about: Greenhouse Energy Management; Soil surveys for forestry and agricultural planning; Working with irrigation water; Ellepot systems, New developments and technologies;



Real IPM SA, Biological Pest Control; and Dermot Molloy from Australia "**where can a career in propagating take you**". The first stop for nursery visits was the Grass roof restaurant, supplied with vegetables from a grower who they visited just opposite them. They then went to a packing facility (watermelons) and then on to two citrus nurseries where she experienced grafting for the first time.

Post conference a group went on a Sunday River cruise and then on to Addo Elephant Park and later had a presentation by the parks senior ranger Anban Padayachee featuring floral rehabilitation and challenges the park faces in conservation. This was followed by a traditional barbecue.

Next day they went on another safari. Then on to Capetown, eventually arriving at Arnelia Farms - a specialist wholesale nursery operated by Hans Hettasch. They grow a large range of Proteaceae, Agathosma, Chamelaucium and Bougainvilleas. From there they went to Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens "that were absolutely amazing".

The final visit was to Aboretia Nurseries who produce young plants and shrubs in 10 litre and 20 litre bags. As Capetown was in drought they have reduced their range and changed to drip lines from overhead irrigation.

That's the conference tour, "it was really an amazing experience".



Robert Ravens (Bridestowe Lavender Estate) **Selection of Lavender varieties for essential oil production.** Robert started off by talking about how they transformed a farming business growing Lavender and oil from distillation to a major tourist attraction seeing 85,000 visitors a year from around the world.



Located in North East Tasmania the farm is the largest commercial plantation of *Lavandula angustifolia* in the world. The farm operates without irrigation and grows about 660,000 plants over 300km of rows comprising five main varieties. Although chosen for colour by 1979, none of the varieties were named before the Ravens purchased the property in 2006. Bridestowe Myra has a high 3% oil yield from flowers. Bridestowe Phillip is used as a culinary lavender in their ice creams and pancakes. The next ones developed were Bridestowe Anne and Elizabeth. Bridestowe Jennifer turned out to be the great modifier with Myra, and the blend of these is now the new International standard (with some others added as fragrance modifiers). We were told that all other fragrances smell better with a trace of lavender. They propagate plants by planting dry cuttings in July into the ground, and by September they have sprouted and in 18 months they can harvest flowers.

Professor Bob Menary - Aspects of *Boronia megastigma* oil production. Clonal varieties were developed having high yielding petals with high value oil of mainly β -ionone. The plants were also selected for disease resistance, uniform canopy, good rooting characteristics and longevity (10 to 15 year cycle).



Propagation techniques from Tissue Cultured plants were developed. From these mother plants thousands of soft tip cuttings were produced. The resultant plants were transplanted into rows in fields.

Growing and harvesting was discussed and extraction to a concrete containing flavour compounds and waxes described. The absolute that is sold on world markets is obtained after dissolving the concrete in an alcohol, waxes taken out. The University and Essential Oils of Tasmania hold the license to the clones.

Michael Garret - 'Hybridisation of Ferns from Spore and its potential in Horticulture and Conservation, with special reference to *Cyathea X marcescens*'. After reviewing the life cycle of ferns Michael proceeded to

discuss *Cyathea X marcescens* which is a naturally occurring sterile hybrid with a trunk to 30cm diameter. *C. cunninghamii* is a tall rare fern that is very difficult to grow from spores. The other parent *C. australis* is common in SE Australia, and whenever the two grow together you get the hybrid. So Michael sows the two types of spores together and separates out the true species from the hybrids.



Dr Puthiyaparambil Josekutty - Skybury Coffee Pty Ltd - **"Designer Plants for the Changing Environment"** Natural adaptations do occur in the plant kingdom and the fittest individuals and species survive the adversities caused by the changing environment. Climate change was discussed and our ability to accelerate the ability of plants to adapt with genetic engineering.



Techniques with examples discussed were:

- Agrobacterium - mediated transformation (allowing precise genetic modification).
- Biolitic transformation - where gold particles coated with a gene construct are shot into plant tissue.
- Gene Stacking / pyramiding - used to add multiple genes to a single plant
- Genome Editing in Plants - including Homologous recombination (HR), transcription activator-like effector nucleases (TALENs), pentatricopeptide repeat proteins (PPRs), the CRISPR/Cas9 system.

Shane Newitt - Precision growing of giant pumpkins. Shanes talk was very interesting, and although not looking forward to competing it was interesting to hear what research and methods it takes to produce a 455.5 kg giant pumpkin.



David Hancock and Dermot Molloy - report on the South African conference and current works in Oman

David and Dermot briefly spoke about the Southern African IPPS conference and works in Oman to construct 130ha of wetlands treating wastewater from a remote oil field. **There is a short term position available for a Plant Nursery Supervisor at the Nimr Phase 3 Project. Contact David Hancock if you need further information.**



Welcome to Plants of Tasmania Nursery at Ridgeway by John Gibson



Bus tours

Two bus tours left the Old Woolstore”, one went to Granton plants, then on to Westland Nurseries at Seven mile beach. The other went to Plants of Tasmania Nursery, and then also on to Westland Nurseries .

Plants of Tasmania Nursery specialise in native plants and stock over 500 different species and varieties, from small groundcovers to tall trees. Many of their plants are rare or threatened species.

Granton Plants grow and supply a range of plants to the landscape and nursery industry as well as retailing to the general public. Damien Kerin welcomed us and

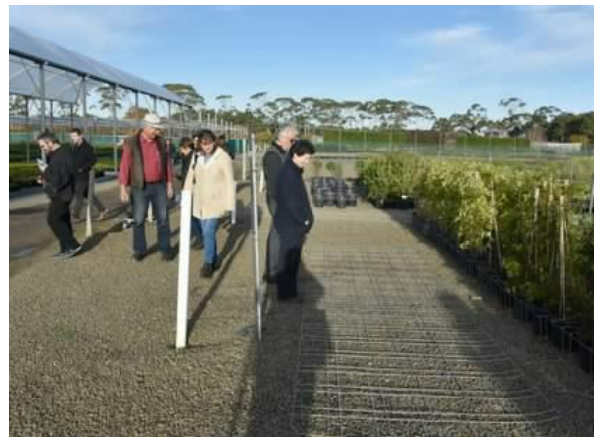
explained that he was a member of IPPS. Of interest he also has a mail order business supplying succulents that he propagates.

Westland Nurseries have a huge range of plants available in various container sizes on their 30 ha. site .

Following our tour of **Westland Nurseries** we all adjourned to the heated glasshouse that had space set aside for a friendly chat and entrees including freshly shucked local oysters. This memorable first followed by an extravaganza wind-up dinner at the “long table”. We finished off the evening with a talk from Jake Jackson on the recent IPPS China conference and tour.



Right: Westland Nurseries mesh for holding pots, below: a large olive cutting, and the long table for dinner held in a heated glasshouse



Granton Plants welcome with displayed copies of “Proceedings” and below system for holding trees upright



Explore the opportunities

IPPS Pre-conference tour

IPPS Conference 2018-Launceston to Hobart

Tasmania; it may be little, but it is full of beauty and diversity, and dare I say quietly, *I can see how people would want to live in this slice of heaven.*

After arriving in Launceston on Saturday, we were welcomed to the chill that is Tassie, and the hospitality that warms you up. Thank you Tony and Rose.

Sunday morning saw us squeeze into our little bus for our first stop, **Habitat Plants**, at the base of the Great Western Tiers surrounded by indigenous vegetation. Specialising in Native Tasmanian plants, Sally and Herbert Staubmann have created a compact yet stunning example to us all about how a passion becomes a hobby, which becomes an obsession and then a business, and it's hard to differentiate between. Initially for revegetation and to supply of local farmer's needs, Habitat Plants has become synonymous with broad scale revegetation and education for Home gardens to mine sites and degraded wetlands, roadsides and farmland. The neat, weed free presentation of their retail nursery is unique as you wander through pathways, first to the groundcover, around the bend to the Bush Tucker and 'beyond' ...



Herbert's innovations are intriguing, especially his modified Datsun 180B and ability to make the most of every available space. True geniuses of their art and industry.

Our visit to the Mole Creek Karst National Park caves followed and we



were intrigued by the magnificent tunnels that open into spectacular chambers displaying their limestone sediments creating stalactites, stalagmites, shawls and the *Great Cathedral*, home to glow worms and other micro-organisms. A special experience for all.

We stopped at Sheffield for lunch and experienced the amazing murals that have made this little town a 'must see' in Tassie. Their annual Mural festival attracts visitors far and wide with many of the buildings having murals instated on them or affixing new ones 'regularly'. There is a great sense of pride amongst locals as well as it being a clever tourist attraction (with an exceptional Bakery).

Unfortunately our stay at the Tamar Valley Resort was short- a Swiss styled village with its own Golf Course, Bakery, Post Office (we'll have to get back there!)

We arrived early at Seahorse World at the aptly named Beauty Point on the Monday morning. A working farm, the array of Seahorses and their use in various industries from pet market to medicinal ensures the wild populations are maintained. *Seahorse World* have a fascinating breeding program and family group structure of seahorses themselves ensures the survival of only the fittest and fastest!!

From there to Scottsdale to visit the famous Tasmanian 'Bobbie the Bear', the marketing genius of Bridestowe Lavender Farm, " the home of true French Lavender, *Lavandula angustifolia*." Bridestowe started in 1924, producing lavender for oil. The ups and downs of the market, of the ownership and management of the farm



has seen a risky business venture become a Tasmanian icon. Although the manufacture of Lavender oil is still the principal activity on this vast farm (the processing of which appears to have changed little over the years), the merchandising of 'other related products' and the production of lavender foodstuffs has ensured the longevity of this horticultural venture. The replanting of the lavender by division, to avoid rummaging of new plants by local vermin, was a major revelation for Bridestowe, which has paid off. Passionate Persistence - sometimes the rewards take a while to come, but come they will. Let's be encouraged!

The Pyengana Dairy Co., mid-country Tassie, is yet



another fascinating story of creativity in innovation, wherein a dairy became a cheese producer, which became a café, which became a tourist attraction for those far and wide for its quality products. An excellent cafe and service in a farm setting. You can even watch the cows being milked.

The overnight stay at Bicheno revealed the great coastline of the east of Tasmania.

Tuesday morning saw us rising early to visit Michael Garret's Fern Nursery, where he reproduces fern by spore, many of which we see all around Australia. He is also involved in ensuring that rare and endangered species are continued, via commercial propagation for specialist customers. Michael's meticulous attention to detail is admirable. A combination of old and new



technologies working as one - heating glass igloos with an antique wood oven ...

A long drive to Eaglehawk Neck was intercepted with a visit to the convict built Spiky Bridge and a stop-over at a local sheep farm-cum-vineyard where the tasty Pinot Noir was sampled in the oldest shearing shed in Tassie (we think), and those experienced in wool classing checked out the top grade fleeces from the same farm. The farm is owned and operated by inspirational 5th generation Farmer/Entrepreneur, Jack Cotton from Kelvedon Vineyard Swansea. In Tasmania AND on the mainland continent, multi-skilling & diversification is often a must in rural areas.

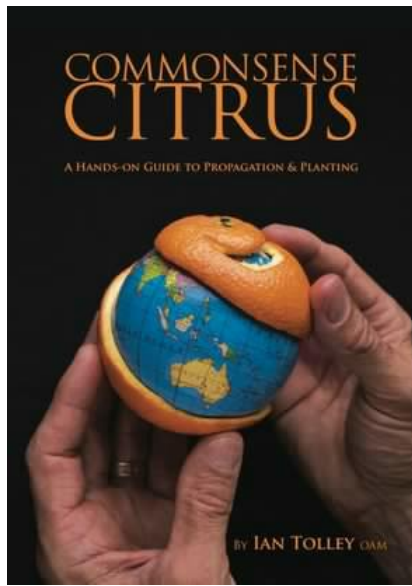
The local history of Tassie is somewhat gruesome as we discovered with the *Doglines at EagleNeck* that prevented convicts from escaping, and then a haunted tour of Port Arthur by night which South African exchangee, Siya, assisting our guide with his dramatic skills. A fun, not-so-scary tour with a bunch of cynical Aussie horticulturists.

The final day of our tour saw the group split between those keen to go on the rough water and others who visited Port Arthur in daylight to experience the beauty, but having a history so etched in horror. Those that braved the seas around the Pennicott Wilderness were not disappointed with the grandeur and majesty of the rugged southern coastline and the tenacity of lighthouse keepers of old and their families.

We all arrived back basically in one piece. Heading off to the Hobart conference via a luncheon drop-in at the Port Arthur Lavender Farm. We had been invigorated by the beauty that is Tasmania (almost everywhere you look!), and the ingenuity of our Tasmanian cousins to create so many niche's in such a comparatively small place.

Natalie Vallance





Commonsense Citrus

A hands-on guide to Propagation & Planting

Product Description: 210x297mm 232pp Hardback
1241g + packaging

Author : Ian Tolley O.A.M.

Edited by : Annett Börner

Illustrated by: Mark Thomson

ISBN: 978-0-646-52065-0

Ian Tolley is a specialist and global expert in citrus seed production, seedling production, and orchard planning, establishment and management. He was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for his lifelong services to the development of the Australian citrus industry.

This book is a compendium of observations and practices accumulated over his lifetime in horticulture, particularly concentrating on his passion in citrus experiences. He has written this book with home garden enthusiasts, students of citri-culture and commercial growers in mind, as a factual, interesting and useful guide to the world of citrus.

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- Notes on sustainable management of orchards and soils
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Seasol Six Pack

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

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 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/>)*



2018 Conference Sponsors

Many thanks to all our sponsors for their support, and for the informative trade displays. We have a few new things to try now back at our businesses.



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.

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.

News

Vale: Elizabeth Smith

It is with great sadness that I advise that Elizabeth Smith of Horticultural Training, QLD, passed away on Monday 16th April 2018. Elizabeth was "a tough cookie and continued to work from home and her hospital bed even up until" the end.

Elizabeth was passionate about and nurtured many young people studying horticulture. Liz was active in IPPS also as a regional board member and chairperson of the membership committee in 2010. She was also an Australian Institute of Horticulture (AIH) Fellow.

"It was Elizabeth's intention for her much loved business Horticultural Training Pty Ltd to continue after she was gone, and with the support of her family and staff, her legacy will continue."

.....

The Western Region Pacific Meeting: Pacific Rim Conference from July 31st – August 4th in Hawaii. This will include a pre-conference tour of O'ahu followed by the main event in

Kona on the "Big Island" where the active Kilauea volcano has been erupting since May.

Newsletter Editors Comment

The Tassie conference was great with many highlights, and the Hawaiian Pacific Rim conference commences at the end of July, not to mention the International conference this year and our one next year at the Sunshine Coast, Qld. Wow ... so much to look forward to.

If you are not already a member 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**".

Pass your extra printed copy of the newsletter around at work. Many of our members have joined through this. 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"

2018 IPPS Calendar

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
11 - 12 October 2018	European Region, Breda, Netherlands
20 - 24 October 2018	Southern Region, Chattanooga, TN
17 May - 2 June 2019	International Tour and conference, Australian Region, Port Douglas to Maroochydore, Qld.