

# the Propagator



International Plant Propagators' Society <http://aus.ipps.org/>

Australian Region - Newsletter Summer 2022 - No: 73



## THE WINDS OF CHANGE ARE BLOWING

*"When you are finished changing, you are finished".*

**Benjamin Franklin**

The International Plant Propagators' Society has long been able to adapt and adjust to suit our membership, attract new contributors, and offer a valuable resource that has, and continues to, shape Australia's propagation and affiliated industries. From branding changes to innovative initiatives, the IPPS has evolved over the years, allowing the society to remain current as times have changed.

The Six-pack Program is a great example. It is hard to imagine an IPPS conference without the bright-eyed young faces of the participants in the program each year. However, the Six-pack Program is relatively new in the society's long and varied history. The same can be said for the South African Exchange Program, which is thankfully making a return in 2023, as the constraints caused by the Covid-19 pandemic begin to ease. These initiatives, now considered standard activities for the society, were clever and timely changes to our organisation's practices. Not only do they provide life-changing introductions for young propagators, to the IPPS, and foster growth in membership, but they also significantly enhance the strength of national and international networks presented by the IPPS – a key benefit of membership within the society.

As we enter 2023, the IPPS Australian Region will again see change. As Bruce Higgs continues to lead the society as President, his role as the editor of the Propagator and IPPS communications required a new set of eyes to assist.

In a twist of fortune, I find myself in this role.

By way of introduction, I have been a member of the IPPS Australia Region for a little over a decade and began my affiliation with the organisation through participating in both the Six Pack and South African Exchange Programs, so speak with personal insight when highlighting their benefits. I've also written the IPPS article contributions for Hort Journal Australia for many years and look forward to assisting in connecting you all with the latest in propagation and our membership's activities through 'the Propagator'. I'd love to hear feedback on this maiden edition and hear from you all in general, so feel free to get in touch anytime through email at [Daniel.austin@outlook.com.au](mailto:Daniel.austin@outlook.com.au)

Dan Austin



*Flashback to 2005 and some of the earliest six packers*  
Image: Pam Berryman

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## President's Report

Well, that was a cool and wet winter season for many of us that continued into spring, with more floods on the East Coast causing lots of growing challenges there. Also, as for many industries over this period, it has been difficult finding labour across much of the horticultural industry.



In July this year, your board held a strategic planning meeting at Coolangatta with a focus on growth and reviewing the way we do things so that they keep up with our changing world. It is my intent that for each of our future meetings your board will be going through the action plans agreed upon at Coolangatta keeping these front of mind as we move forward. We feel that this will be foundational in laying the building blocks for the future growth of the Australian region of IPPS.

I am pleased to announce that Dan Austin has taken on the role of newsletter editor for our region. For those of you who do not know Dan, he lives in South Australia and has in the past been a South African exchangee and that has apparently springboarded his career in horticulture. Dan has been a consistent contributor to Hort Journal and published a book this year, which won the Horticultural Media Association of Australia's Book Laurel. HIA also recently acknowledged his achievements with the Australian Horticulturist of the Year award.

It was pleasing and encouraging to see how David Hancock embraced getting a November regional meeting organised in Perth. From all reports, it was a great success. I encourage Jose and the area meetings committee to work together in support and encouragement of each other, to make our planned regional meetings across the country happen. They will be a keystone of our future growth through local seeking and sharing. So, do not be

surprised in the new year when you get an invitation to one of these. In fact, if you have a passion for the society and would like to be involved with one of these or our committees, please let Pam Berryman know.

I would also like to sow the seed for a concept I've floated regarding special interest groups such as 'plant breeding', 'micropropagation', 'education and training', and 'revegetation' for a start, who could meet and share nationally or even internationally through online meetings, or through a special interest Facebook group; with the groups having the opportunity of catching up at our annual conference. If you are interested in facilitating or joining such a group, please contact Jose or Pam Berryman

On the awards committee side of things, we have had correspondence from the South African region confirming their participation in the South African exchange programme. We have had several excellent applications already for this award and anticipate advising our winner of this in December so travel arrangements can be made. We still need applicants for our GCP IPPS Six-pack Program for Geelong next May and for our prestigious Rod Tallis Award for some work you have undertaken or even fundamental research in an area of horticulture.

Clive Larkman and his team have pulled together an interesting pre-conference tour from May 23 starting at Tullamarine and the Dandenongs. Details will be out soon for next year's conference at Geelong Novotel. It is great that many of our sponsors from this year have continued their support next year as well as some new ones.

Wishing all of our members and readers a very Happy Christmas and a restful time over the season to renew your passion for plants, ready for the opportunities that 2023 will present to us.

Best Wishes,  
Bruce Higgs

*Board members at Coolangatta's strategic planning meeting.*  
Image: Bruce Higgs



## Spreading the IPPS Message in the Pacific

Board members Dermot Molloy & David Hancock reconnected with New Caledonia in August after their previous visits in 2014. The focus of the visit was to better appreciate the flora, meet with like-minded practitioners, and of course, soak up the local French Pacific cultures.

Dermot had arranged to meet long-time New Cal Botanist Bernard Suprin who, over the course of 50 years, compiled the definitive record of the island flora in 2 large volumes. The books were purchased for the library of the Royal Botanic Gardens of Victoria. An hour-long helicopter trip over the area's islands, reefs, mountains, and waterfalls was a highlight including a whale sighting, as was a boat trip to a floating restaurant bordered by reef.

Past connections made with Siras, an environmental services business, were renewed during a visit to their substantial restoration nursery. A full-day tour of their facilities enabled sharing of propagation information and the two D's provided smoke products and hormones not readily available in the country. The owners of Siras subsequently indicated a willingness to join IPPS and attend the Geelong conference.

A full day was spent with Stephane McCoy, responsible for mine rehabilitation for Prony Resources. Nursery and site visits followed, again allowing for propagation information and products to be shared. Dermot was also able to update *Araucaria* species information and photo files.

There is good potential for further interaction and IPPS membership, so follow-up visits are proposed. This will also allow us to improve our French and left-hand driving skills.

Images (David Hancock) from top to bottom: *Dermot Molloy with Danielle from Siras, Prony Resources staff displaying seed collections, spectacular scenery and unique flora of New Caledonia.*



## Success Breeds Success for Zoe Williams

Many of you will recognise the face of one of our newest members, Zoe Williams (pictured below), from our 2022 conference in Leura. The young horticulturist produced a successful application for the six-pack program and her enthusiasm for the industry was evident at the event. So much so, she was asked to contribute to the strategic planning meeting in Coolangatta where her input was well received.

The career launchpad that is the Six-pack Program has since paid dividends for Zoe as she was able to highlight what she had gained through participating in the conference in a subsequent application for a 'Global Footprints Scholarship', as well as gain advice on her application from IPPS members she met at the event.

Congratulations are now in order for the Queensland-based propagator, employed by Waterworth's Nursery, as she was successful at being awarded a scholarship. The nationally competitive program provides participants funding to travel and study horticulture abroad under the guidance of international hosts and mentors and is a huge accomplishment.

Zoe will be setting off for Europe next year and you can be sure her horticultural discoveries will make for an engaging conference presentation someday in the future.

*Zoe accepts her Global Footprints Scholarship*  
Image: Zoe Williams

**APPLICATIONS OPEN!**

### Six-pack Program

Applications are open for the chance to be a Six-pack Program participant in Geelong. Send your forms in by the closing date of Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> of March 2023. Meet industry leaders with your flights, accommodation and conference fees taken care of thanks to Garden City Plastics

### Rod Tallis Award

It is that time of year again when our young propagators need to be nudged and encouraged to put forward their recent propagation work and research for a chance to win this prestigious award.

Application and contact details can be found on the IPPS website <https://aus.ipps.org/about-content/awards/awards.html>



## Big Turnout for W.A Regional Celebration



The Natural Area Nursery hosted an event for WA propagators on Friday, November 4th at their new nursery in Whiteman Park.

55 attendees representing a diverse suite of businesses and government were welcomed on behalf of the IPPS President and board and spent 2.5 hours taking in IPPS updates covering the forthcoming 2023 Geelong conference, the benefits of membership, and the nursery's new facilities.



13 existing members were in attendance or represented and all have been acknowledged for their continued support given the long Covid hiatus. Both these and new members signing up at the event received a 50<sup>th</sup>-anniversary stainless steel water bottle.

An acknowledgement of the attendees' support was spread far and wide and the success of the event relayed to Greenlife Australia. In addition, NGIAWA, past WA event sponsors, current major sponsor Garden City



Images (David Hancock) from top left to bottom clockwise: *David presenting at the W.A Regional Celebration, nursery staff put in a team effort and delivered great catering, attendees touring the new nursery facilities.*

## International Director's Report

Plastics, seed collection industry identities, and suppliers who assisted with the new nursery construction have also been notified.

It was great to have support from Board Member Dermot Molloy from RVBG who made the trip to assist with preparation and discussions with growers. 12 nursery staff members also contributed their own time to assist.

Natural Area Nursery founder and consultant, David Hancock provided a background of the business and its relocation to the new site, complimenting the staff on their efforts to manage the transition. A strong case for continued and new membership was made and 3 new members chose to join IPPS on the day with more expected to follow.

Examples of propagation were showcased, together with full species lists and photographs of project work including the nursery construction.

The Natural Area Nursery team provided excellent venue preparation and service of food, with a range of beverages igniting plenty of interaction. Staff members, Lara Amorim, Bree Howard, and Sabine Suess presented their respective experiences of past South African tours and participation in the Sip-pack Program.

Nursery Manager Andrew Nguyen, Sabine, and Lara split the group into 2 and conducted tours of the new facilities.

All attendees will be followed up via email regarding upcoming IPPS opportunities including the Geelong conference, Six-pack Program, and Rod Tallis Award.

Some excellent complimentary feedback has since been received and a commitment was made to arrange future events/visits and keep all informed of the activities of the Society.



*An excellent crowd led to great knowledge sharing.*  
Image: David Hancock

2022 has seen a return to normal for many of the IPPS regions. After a period of Covid19 induced separation, we are back to doing what we do best, “Seeking and Sharing” between passionate plant people. Here is an ‘around the grounds’ of what’s been happening around the IPPS world.



IPPS Europe have just concluded a fantastic conference based in Bad Zwischenan, Germany. Those of us who visited that area on the last international tour hosted by the European Region know what an incredible region for nursery production it is. They are now planning for next year’s meeting in Scandinavia, October 11th to 13th.

The Southern American Region held a sold-out annual conference in Athens, Georgia. Next year, the Southern Region host the international tour through the South/Mid-Atlantic Region, covering the states of Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina. The tour dates are 18th - 28th October 2023, starting in Washington DC. The conference will follow from the 29th of October to the 1st of November in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The Eastern USA Region had their conference and tours in Long Island, New York. Next year they are headed to Ontario, Canada 26th to 29th September 2023. They have also had numerous micro-meetings in webinar format, which some of us were able to attend online.

The Western USA Region usually hold their annual gathering in October but have deferred it until early next year. It will be held in Portland, Oregon 24th to 27th January.

New Zealand cancelled their 2022 conference early in the year. Next year’s conference will be in Auckland 20th – 23rd April 2023. They also have a field trip coming up in Whanganui, in early December. In a first for IPPS, the Kiwis have produced podcasts, available on Spotify and worth a listen. Search: “International Plant Propagators’ Society New Zealand Region Podcast” by Dharini Marinkovich”.

The South Africa Region held their 2022 conference in Gauteng. Next year they will meet 28th February – 2nd March 2023 in Port Edward on the Hibiscus Coast. Applications are open for young Australians to attend this conference as the 2023 South African Exchangee. Go to <https://aus.ippis.org/about-content/exchange/exchange-programme.html> for details.



# Propagation - Essential to Life!

## Geelong 2023



### Pre-conference Tour: 22 & 23 May, 2 days/1 night

Visits to Rivers GC, Alowyn Gardens, Norwood Industries, Garden City Plastics, Ball, Diggers and Van Loons GC. Touring across Melbourne, Yarra Valley and Mornington Peninsula. Includes all food, drinks and accommodation.

Hear presentations from Andrew Laidlaw, Jane Edmanson, Clare Hart, Matt Mills, David Hancock, Matt Mansfield, and many others on the importance of plants and plant propagation in our lives. Subjects include mass propagation for commercial use to the importance of propagation for the community. Topics will also include propagation in breeding, how we can prepare our plant collections for changes in the environment, and future sustainability issues & solutions.

Saturday tour includes hands-on workshops at Gordon TAFE, a visit to Vassili's private gardens, and a tour of Roriama Succulent Nursery. Dinner at the Geelong Botanic Gardens will be a highlight along with the annual dinner dance. Of course, there will be the opportunity to meet with young and old, new and experienced passionate and professional propagators. Learn from the best and share in the amazing world of plant propagation.



Register now and we will invoice you in February. Contact: Pam Berryman(pam@ipps.org.au) or Clive Larkman (clive@larkmannurseries.com.au) **for more information or to register!**

## Novotel Geelong



Located right on the waterfront, a stay at Novotel Geelong places you in the heart of Geelong. Stay in one of 109 guestrooms featuring LCD televisions and private balconies. Enjoy a range of recreational amenities, including an indoor pool, a steam room, and a fitness centre. Book direct.





## Propagator or Grower - News You'll Love

While the Covid19 pandemic unfolded over the last few years and many of us were plagued by lockdowns and isolation, the world of research and development in horticulture and affiliated industries continued with great success. So, in case you missed any of them here are some of the biggest breakthroughs in the news in recent times.

### ***Slow-Release IPM Biological Control Agents***

In an Australian-first, sachet technology for the slow-release of predatory mites to improve commercial Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices is being trialled in South Australia. James Altmann Director of Biological Services says the trial results are very promising. *Cucumeris (Neoseiulus cucumeris)* is the predatory mite in the spotlight and is useful in controlling thrips in greenhouse crops from cucumbers, capsicums and egg-plants to berry fruits, ornamentals and even cannabis.

More can be found here: <https://www.biologicservices.com.au/news/biocontrol-advance-sachet-technology-now-in-australia-for-slow-release-of-predatory-mites-169.html>

### ***Monocot Grafting***

The rulebook for propagation will have to be rewritten after recent research on the successful grafting of monocotyledonous plant species has emerged. Dicotyledonous plants have been grafted for centuries. In fact, genetic testing on ancient olives in the Sinai region of the Middle East, over one thousand years old, has found the roots to be genetically different from the above-ground parts of the trees, illustrating the practice of grafting could be thousands of years old. However, there has never been any record of successful monocot grafting and it was widely regarded as impossible. Dicots are grafted by matching the vascular cambium layer of one plant with that of another however the vascular system of monocots is spread throughout stems and not arranged in a neat layer, easily matched. The breakthrough has been made possible by grafting monocots early – really early...

Monocot grafts have only been found to be successful under laboratory conditions when uniting the root and shoot interface in plants' embryonic stages. It is technically grafting but far from anything many of us would recognise traditionally.

So, what are the real-world applications for the extraordinary achievement? Many plant species have

traditionally been grafted because they are used as food sources and grafting has allowed the plants to achieve disease resistance and/or the opportunity to be grown in a wider range of conditions. Monocots could be much the same. The first monocotyledonous food crops that jump to mind for many would be the grains, crops that would seem unviable for grafting to be worthwhile. However, the grafting of grains to be used for research into breeding and disease resistance has the potential to be very useful. There are also monocotyledonous crops where grafting may produce immediate benefits similar to those traditionally seen when grafting dicots. The most important being bananas. Taro is another plant to gain potential benefits. An important staple crop in many parts of the Pacific, some species now struggle to grow in increasingly saline conditions amidst rising sea levels, while other less palatable varieties can be grown without problems – perfect rootstocks.

It is fascinating research and well worth a look. More can be found here: <https://www.newscientist.com/article/2302939-near-impossible-plant-growing-technique-could-revolutionise-farming/>

### ***Bio Stimulants for Pathogen Resistance***

There are various biological additives that have been used in our industry for years to suppress soil-borne pathogens. Trichoderma and various mycorrhizal fungi probably spring to mind but recent releases to the market supply a far greater spectrum of biology than ever before which are proving to produce great results.

A good webinar on one such product can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q35d75I2kA>



*A before and after comparison of bio stimulant applied to a patch of turf affected by rhizoctonia on Urrbrae football oval in South Australia, after two months.*

Image: Kim Zidarich



## Executive Officer's Report

Well, Christmas is nearly upon us once again. I wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas & Fabulous New Year. Stay safe and well over the Christmas Season.

### **Membership Subscription Renewal 2023**

Membership Renewal Notices will be sent out throughout the month of January 2023. Credit Card or EFT are the preferred payment 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 to me at [pam@ipps.org.au](mailto:pam@ipps.org.au)

Pam Berryman  
December 2022



## IPPS Australian Region Board for 2022/2023

<b>President:</b>	Bruce Higgs	<a href="mailto:bruce.higgs@bigpond.com">bruce.higgs@bigpond.com</a>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:</b>	Clive Larkman	<a href="mailto:larkman@larkmannurseries.com.au">larkman@larkmannurseries.com.au</a>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:</b>	Ray Parker	<a href="mailto:ray@parkersplace.com.au">ray@parkersplace.com.au</a>
<b>International Director</b>	John Messina	<a href="mailto:johnmessina30@gmail.com">johnmessina30@gmail.com</a>
<b>Alt. International Director:</b>	Tony Vander Staay	<a href="mailto:tvanders@westlandnurseries.com.au">tvanders@westlandnurseries.com.au</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	James Burnett	<a href="mailto:jab342000@gmail.com">jab342000@gmail.com</a>
<b>Awards Committee</b>	Ray Doherty	<a href="mailto:ray@azaleagrove.com.au">ray@azaleagrove.com.au</a>
<b>Area Meetings</b>	Puthiyambil Josekutty	<a href="mailto:josekutty964@gmail.com">josekutty964@gmail.com</a>
<b>Membership Committee</b>	David Hancock	<a href="mailto:david@naturalarea.com.au">david@naturalarea.com.au</a>
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