

## International Award of Honor

*Keep your dreams alive. Understand to achieve anything requires faith and belief in yourself, vision, hard work, determination, and dedication. Remember all things are possible for those who believe. - Gail Devers*

From what I know of Peter this seemed to be an appropriate quotation.

Congratulations Peter Waugh on being recognised by the International Board with the society's highest award. We were fortunate to have Peter with us at Leura and for our International Director John Messina and Tony Vander Staay to present the award to Peter.

The IPPS Japan Region were not able to hold the international conference this year, and Peter has represented them on the International Board for many years now. That said Peter also is a member of the New Zealand (where he lives) and Australian regions, and

has actively contributed to all of them. For many years he has also created many of the wooden awards presented by the society, but unfortunately is now no longer able to continue this. He really has a passion for what IPPS stands for.

Congratulations Peter

Bruce Higgs

Photo courtesy Karen Smith



### THIS EDITION

<p><b>International Award of Honor, Peter Waugh</b>  <b>2022 Conference, Leura NSW</b>  <b>Anita Boucher Award</b></p>	<p>Reports  <b>President's Report</b>  <b>Executive Officer's Report</b>                  News</p>
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## President's Report

Greetings fellow members,

It is now a couple of months since our conference, and on the East coast we have had more rain and floods, making things difficult for many to get on top of an expected good sales period over Spring.



At our last board meeting we welcomed Ray Parker onto the team as second VP, and he will be organizing our 2024 conference in Ballina NSW. I am also pleased to welcome Karen Weger onto the team, and look forward to another conference in Tasmania in years to come.

As mentioned at our dinner, I hope that as we come to live with Covid we can get on with being the society that seeks and shares. That means that we intend trying to be more local in regional meetings and change the way that we communicate with our membership (zoom is a poor alternative to face to face). I would like to hear if you have a passion or think you could organize a local area meeting over the next year with some assistance.

We agreed at our board meeting that we need to review our organization and how best to meet current and future member's needs. In a few weeks' time we will have a weekend together focused on strategic planning to meet our future needs. I will report on that in a future newsletter.

Since stepping down as newsletter editor we have been trying to find a replacement. However we soon realised that circumstances have changed and member's needs and the way we communicate now on the whole are different. With this in mind the Editorial Committee will likely become a communications media group primarily supporting our area meetings and conferences.

Many other organisations are also trying to regrow membership. I have started making contact with a number of them to see how we could work collaboratively, while recognising each other's strengths. In fact our pre-conference tour of Mayfield Gardens at Oberon was a great success with the assistance of AIH members. That led also to a new member joining IPPS.

I am now looking forward to attending our Geelong conference in May 2023. As more information becomes available I hope that we all will have the opportunity to invite others to a regional meeting and conference soon.

Bruce Higgs

## Executive Officer's Report

### IPPS Office

What an awesome conference and 50yr celebration in the Blue Mountains, Leura. 'Thank you' to our supporting sponsors this year. A big 'Thank You' to those Members who were able to attend. I hope you enjoyed the conference venue and the 'face to face networking' with fellow Members.



I have still been kept busy with 'day-to-day' running of the IPPS Office as well as following up on membership subscription renewals.



## Membership Subscription Renewal 2022

**Membership Renewals for 2022 are now OVERDUE.** The Australian region is required to report to the International Board the number of membership subscriptions for 2022 by JUNE each year and send payments to cover the costs of International administration.

If you have not received your Membership Renewal Notice, please contact me ... [pam@ipps.org.au](mailto:pam@ipps.org.au)

*If you are having difficulty in paying your subscription please contact me so that we can look at the various options available for split payments.*

**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**

### Contact Detail Changes

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 telephone provider recently, please advise me of your new email address at [pam@ipps.org.au](mailto:pam@ipps.org.au)

It is important that the Australian & International database records are kept **'up to date'**, otherwise you could be missing out on receiving information.



**IPPS 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference 2023 – Geelong VIC – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2023 –**

**'Propagation – Essential to life on Earth'**

**Pre-Conference Tour Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023'**

**More details will be available on the International website later in the year.**

Pam Berryman

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#### **IPPS Australian Region Board for 2022 - 2023**

Bruce Higgs <mailto:bruce.higgs@bigpond.com> *President*

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John Messina <mailto:johnmessina30@gmail.com> *Int. I Director*

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

Ray Doherty [ray@azaleagroove.com.au](mailto:ray@azaleagroove.com.au) *Awards Committee*

Puthiyarambil Josekutty <mailto:josekutty964@gmail.com> *Area Meetings*

Karen Weger [karenw1979@bigpond.com](mailto:karenw1979@bigpond.com)

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

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

Clive Larkman <mailto:larkman@larkmannurseries.com.au> *Editor /Historian*

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Pam Berryman (07) 38299767 <mailto:pam@ipps.org.au> *CEO*

## **IPPS Australian Region 50<sup>th</sup> Meeting Celebration,**

**Leura NSW 2nd to 6th May**

After the recent years of disruption through Covid 19 with closure of borders and rolling lockdowns, as well as fires and floods, members of the Australian region of IPPS were finally able to meet and celebrate in May at the top ranked Fairmont Leura Resort in the Blue Mountains near Sydney. Leura was the site of the region's first meeting in 1973, so the theme of **"Looking Back, Looking Forward"** was very meaningful.



We tried to reinforce this theme with our pre-conference tour of local attractions including gardens designed by the Blue Mountains nurseryman Paul Sorensen, Scenic World and more. On Tuesday May3 we visited Mayfield Gardens at Oberon, a modern 65 ha high altitude garden where we were shown around by the nursery team. This was unanimously a highlight of our tour. On the way back to our conference venue we enjoyed visiting some more Blue Mountains historic and scenic sites.

During the previous two years since the last International conference at Twin Waters in 2019 most of the society's meetings were either held limited local site face to face or Zoom meetings, so like many societies around the globe we been embracing technology and adapting our online presence through social media and our website as well as YouTube videos. We have learnt through this and intend keeping those positive innovations. All this through what has been a very busy time for nurseries supplying Australians spending more time gardening.

Planning for a full scale conference in 2021 during lockdown and state border closures (while the population was being vaccinated) in hindsight was brave. The Fairmont Resort at Leura was chosen not only for its excellent facilities and location but also the ability to cater for nearly any possible requirements of social distancing.



Many thanks must go to our sponsors also who made this event possible; especially Garden City Plastics who have taken up sponsorship of our 6 Pack Youth award, Norwood, Hort Journal, Hort Innovation, Transplant Systems, Skybury Farms, Proptec, Croft Structures and others.

The speaker programme also was dramatically changed in format to allow for 19 talks on the day, and poster papers (as well as Q&A and ask the expert sessions). Because of the brevity of the talks speakers were asked to get to the main point of their presentation and avoid lengthy introductions. This would appear to be a trend now among many conferences and has resulted unexpectedly in many presenters also wanting to contribute a fuller article for the society's "Proceedings" online journal. Many delegates later said that this was the best conference they had ever attended.

The speaker programme explored the foundation of not only the society's history but trends and fashions for plants, health benefits of growing plants, the potential for breeding as well as for endemic plant species, and of course a solid section on irrigation, media, greenhouse construction experience during a pandemic and water management and biosecurity. It has been a long time also since we had a poster paper display. The editorial committee had a hard time late that afternoon choosing the best paper for the Anita Boucher Hort Journal Award with such a high standard of talks.

The Awards dinner on the Thursday night was very special. Not only was the food and entertainment great, but we shared in acknowledging the contribution of many members and others to horticulture, as well as recognising our 2022 GCP 6 Pack and new members. Of special note was the awarding to Peter Waugh by the International Board of the International Award of Honor, pre-

sented by John Messina. Peter has been a long term member of IPPS regions, serving the Japan region on the International Board for many years.

We also thanked Tony Vander Staay for his leadership as President over the past four years, and recognised honorary life membership in their absence for; Edward Bunker, Ian Tolley and John Teulon (who each attended the inaugural meeting 50 years ago). Reflections from Ian Tolley and Edward Bunker on the history of the society were read by Clive Larkman and John Bunker respectively.

Cameron Blakemore from GCP won our annual golf trophy this year. Daniel Austin received the Steve Vallance award from David Hancock on behalf of Natallie for his





contribution to horticulture, especially recognising regular contributions of articles on behalf of IPPS to the Hort Journal.



Then our Rod Tallis awardee for the best research paper submitted was presented to Bongani Ndawana for “Acclimatisation and grow on requirements for Papaya, Avocado, Passionfruit and Pineapple”. As well as his dance moves shown to us on the night, he has since become a local hero in far north Queensland since receiving this award.



Gabe Mostafa the Publisher of Hort Journal received the Edward and Mary Bunker Award for his contribution to Horticulture across Australia.

It was the excellent paper “Horticultural Biosecurity Tips – HACCP Points often overlooked in Horticultural Biosecurity Programs” delivered by Michael Pritchard from Alltech Lienert Aust that led to him receiving the Anita Boucher Hort Journal Award for 2022.



Clive conducted our auction, and the range of items was impressive. Thank you everyone for supporting this with items and for funds raised to support future youth programmes. We were indeed fortunate to have Phil Davidson (a top musician and songwriter) provide back-

ground music for our conference dinner - <https://phildavidson.org/>.



Our Friday site visits started with **Oasis Horticulture** at Yellow Rock, whose staff took us around the site of this large potted colour producer. Points to note were the way they manage their despatch area and conversion of site vehicles to electric. David Jacobs, their CEO gave us a brief talk on the organisational structure of Oasis Horticulture, their sites and history of ownership and range of products. Dr Andrew Berneutz also gave a brief introduction to some of the products **Bonza Botanicals** have bred at their section of this site.



For lunch we travelled to **The Secret Garden and Nursery** in the grounds of Western Sydney University Richmond campus. The Secret Garden is a not-for-profit 'Community Hub' garden and retail nursery focussed on horticultural therapy, and occupies 6 ha.

We then travelled to Australia's highest cool climate **Blue Mountains Botanic Garden** occupying 28 ha (with an additional 128 ha for conservation, at 1000 metres above sea level) at Mount Tomah. This garden is located in a UNESCO world heritage area and was previously a nursery that has been developed into one of the botanic gardens of the Sydney Royal Botanic Garden and Domain Trust. Tour groups were shown around the site that has many rare collections.



Finally we ended with a relaxed farewell dinner at the Leura Golf Club adjacent to the resort. As well as being a welcome break, the 2022 conference gave us all the opportunity to network with other passionate plants people and catch up in person finally.

I would also at this time like to thank and acknowledge the contribution other members of the organising committee for 2022; Heather Higgs, John Messina and Tony Ferraro. Of course Pam Berryman provided invaluable on-going organisational assistance and our board members also provided immense assistance, especially with gaining sponsorship support.

We did have some feedback that some would have preferred more visits to production nurseries. As most will appreciate we have had several floods this year with resultant road closures and significant impact on a number of sites. The region had been declared a natural disaster zone. Then there is the impact of Covid and travelling times to other potential sites that meant we needed to resort to plan B rather than split to separate coaches and destinations.

So now hopefully we can all look forward to more regional meetings and our conference in Geelong at the end of May next year, and opportunities for international travel and exchange.

Bruce Higgs

## Anita Boucher Award

At each of our conferences for some time papers that have been presented have been assessed and ranked by the Editorial team and Hort Journal for the quality of the presentation, the material presented and potential impact to horticulture. The IPPS Anita Boucher Award has been sponsored by Hort Journal each year in memory of Anita.

Perhaps not so surprising this year with biosecurity threats and having endured the impacts of a Covid 19

Pandemic the group selected the paper presented by **Michael Pritchard** – “Horticultural Biosecurity Tips – HACCP Points often overlooked in Horticultural Biosecurity Programs”. Well that makes it look straightforward, but there were many papers within a point so this was a very close decision.

Michael is the Biosecurity Business Manager for Alltech Lienert in Australia. Michael has provided biosecurity plans, training, chemical handling, safety and application training to the animal, aquatic and horticultural industry.

Plant growers these days have quite detailed plans for their site biosecurity. “Off the shelf plans” often overlook site specific problems that can result in poor seedling performance or even worse a pathogen infection that’s killing tubestock and plants, and your reputation. The presentation provided a few tips from experience of where to look and what to do to remedy these biosecurity system failures.

**So it is time now to contemplate being one of our presenters next year in Geelong. Don’t wait for someone to tap you on the shoulder, please contact Clive Larkman soon.**

## News

Plant Varieties Journal (Vol.35 No.1) was published by IP Australia and can be found at [https://www.ipaustralia.gov.au/sites/default/files/journals/pvj\\_35\\_1.pdf](https://www.ipaustralia.gov.au/sites/default/files/journals/pvj_35_1.pdf)

## Newsletter Comment

Despite disruptions of Covid and floods through much of the Eastern Coast our 50<sup>th</sup> meeting and conference at Leura was great.

We would like to hear what your thoughts are regarding what our members want from a newsletter as it needs to be accessible to members while keeping them informed of events nationally, and regionally as well as having input from our international board.

I want to still encourage members to share a video and perhaps gain some new skills along the way. If you have a mobile phone or camera then you could be well on the way. If you feel that you could assist with something like this for Australia then please contact your local board member or Pam Berryman.

If you are not already a member join up soon. The region also has a [Facebook site](#) with horticultural news items, international events and photos as well from past conference tours and activities - search for “International Plant Propagators Society (IPPS) Australia”.

A copy of this newsletter and a selection of previous ones are available in colour at <http://aus.ipps.org/news>

Bruce Higgs [bruce.higgs@bigpond.com](mailto:bruce.higgs@bigpond.com)

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## 2022 Sponsors

