



INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROPAGATORS' SOCIETY Australian Region

2019 International Board visit and tour *"Tropical Horticulture: It is a question of Latitude!"*

The International Plant Propagators' Society (IPPS) is an international association of plant production professionals. The Society provides a forum for sharing plant production knowledge with the aim to improve the professionalism, knowledge and skills of its members. There are seven regions and each year, each region holds a local conference where its core aim is 'To Seek and Share'. These conferences are usually held in the autumn of each region. The parent body is governed by an International Board consisting of two directors from each region and this board meets in person once a year in rotation around the regions. The board meets over a 10-14 day period in conjunction with a pre-conference tour that concludes at the local regional conference. The board last met in Australia in 2011 in NSW and Victoria concluding at the Sydney conference.

In 2019 the International Board returns to Australia with the tour starting in Cairns and concluding at the annual conference in Maroochydore. The tour is 12 days with stops in Port Douglas, Mission Beach, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton and Bundaberg. It 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' area to those from the northern hemisphere and many people want to come but have never had a good reason.

2019 is also a joint Australia/New Zealand conference which adds to numbers. The Kiwis are great IPPS members and always help to make any tour a fun tour. IPPS is expanding into the developing countries with work being done in India and China. Australia is the sponsoring region for China and it is expected that China will become a probationary region in 2019. With all these influences the 2019 International Tour numbers could be as high as 130. For practical purposes the target and budget numbers are set at 100.

Australia is a unique country with its own lifestyle culture where things must be simple, efficient and workable. The intention of the tour is to reflect this in twelve days of travel – food, accommodation and environment. During the trip delegates will experience five star food and accommodation, simple working class meals and entertainment and classic Australian cuisine. Delegates will also see the foundations of what makes Australians the people they 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 will travel along the coast of three main regions, Far North, North and Central Queensland. The total population of the regions is 650,000 people covering around 200,000 km² which is about the same size as UK and 60% size of Japan or Germany. These three countries have populations of 65, 85 and 120 million people respectively. Hence we will be seeing lots of bush with small towns (one lunch is in a town with a population of 65). This has an effect on the size and style of the nurseries such that they are usually small, low tech and quite specialised to deal with tropical plants. As we move south they get bigger but never reach the size and automation of their European and US counterparts.

The organizers have visited all but four or five of the venues (accommodation venues, food and tourist centres) to ensure that they can cope with 100 people, that they can deliver a positive experience that is Australian and reflects local industry standards. We can only encourage you to attend if you want to see tropical Australia in a personal and natural way. The horticulture will be wide and varied, the food fantastic and the people great. We would love you to be there. *If you are intending to come then please complete the attached form and return asap. Payment is not needed until February.* On the form we ask for Badge: this is preferred name that you (and your partner) would like on your badges. The tour ends on the Wednesday morning and the conference starts on Thursday afternoon. The tour cost covers accommodation until Wednesday. We can organize the extra days but this will need to be paid direct to venue at check in/out. There is a tour dinner on the Tuesday night at the conference venue.

Pam Berryman (pam@ipps.org.au) and myself (clive@larkmannurseries.com.au) can be contacted for booking information. Attached is a registration form, base program and link to the promotional video: <https://youtu.be/ZaQrIkNofeU>.

Additional notes:

- Fly into Cairns and out of Brisbane – Please check flight details for direct flights into Cairns as it may be more convenient to fly in via an Asian City that flies direct to Cairns. Airlines flying into Cairns are listed below.
- Conference registration form is also attached. Tour starts on Friday 17th May but if flights don't work well arrival on morning of the 18th will be okay. Once you have booked your flights let us know so we can organize transfers to Port Douglas.
- We have planned a post conference tour with two or three options. The tours will visit nurseries and gardens in South Eastern Queensland, last three days and finish in Brisbane. If this interests you please let us know.
- Some towns are quite small and we may have to use two bedroom apartments so let us know if you are willing to share.
- **SHORT TOUR – Commences in Townsville.** Need to be in Townsville on Tuesday 21st May. For board members the meeting is 8.00am on Wednesday 22nd May.
- Registration covers all travel, venues, drinks with meals – There will be two breakfasts, two lunches and one dinner that are not included.
- The PDF from attached can be edited, saved and sent back. Other option is to 'Forward' the email, open the attachment, enter your details and then save and send.

There are numerous adventure tours available prior to the tour, such as:

- Scuba/snorkeling in the Barrier Reef
- 4WD tours
- Deep Sea Fishing
- Ballooning plus heaps more.

If you are interested in any of these, we suggest you visit www.tourismportdouglas.com.au for more information. We can then facilitate your bookings through our accommodation resort in Port Douglas.

The weather is warm during the day and cooler in the evenings with highs of 25 to 30°C and lows of 10 to 15°C. As with anywhere in Eastern Australia there is possibility of rain or maybe drought.

All events are relaxed and casual and smart casual dress code will be all that is required – ie: no collar and tie events. Like most regions we run fundraising auctions that are used to provide money for our student/young member events. If you can bring something from home for our Auction this would be very much appreciated.

Finally we want you to have a great time so please do not hesitate to ask any questions as there is no such thing as a dumb question.

The following airlines fly into Cairns:

Check their timetables and connections as they maybe cheaper/easier than internal connections within Australia.

China Southern Airlines:

Flies all year round from Guangzhou Bai Yun Airport. Connect to destinations all over the world on the SkyTeam network of carriers.

Cathay Pacific Airways:

Flies all year round from Hong Kong International Airport. Connect to destinations all over the world on the Oneworld Alliance.

SilkAir:

Regional Wing of Singapore Airlines flies 5 times weekly direct from Singapore Changi Airport. Connect to over 100 destinations on Singapore Airlines Group in Europe, North Asia, South East Asia and India.

Air New Zealand:

Flies all year round from Auckland Airport. Connect to destinations in New Zealand, North and South America and South Pacific

Jetstar:

Low cost carrier that flies all year round from Bali, Osaka and Toyko. Connect to destinations in Europe, Asia and USA.

Hainan Airlines:

Flies all year round from Shenzhen, China.

Air Niugini:

Flies all year round from Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. Connect to cities within Papua New Guinea, South Pacific and Asia.