

IPPS

Sharing Plant Production Knowledge Globally

the Propagator



International Plant Propagators' Society

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

Australian Region - Newsletter Spring 2018 - No: 59

Breakthroughs!

Over the last few months there have been a few reported breakthroughs in horticulture that have particularly captured the attention of the followers of our Facebook page. Both of these resonated with topics we heard at our conference in Hobart this year.

The first was that of Dümme Orange, in collaboration with IribovSBW from the Netherlands, who have developed a new micropropagation method to significantly speed up the propagation of tulip bulbs. Until now this has not been possible for tulips, and they claim that their method opens up new potential for breeding with a multiplication rate from a single tulip bulb from three to several thousand per year. This could have a significant effect over the coming years on the varieties of tulips we see and where they are coming from.

The second involved an article in July 19 edition of the Guardian that had a catchy heading: "Supermarkets stocked with peach-flavoured strawberries and seedless tomatoes on horizon, scientists say". This was reporting the use of technologies such as the gene-editing tool Crispr-Cas9 to bring a host of benefits to foods - "There is a large opportunity to improve the nutritional profile of fruits and vegetables in the future using gene-editing technology, as well as other techniques." With techniques such as these they claimed that the same sort of DNA changes as plant breeders have introduced by artificially selecting traits can be sped up. This gives specialist growers the potential to rapidly develop or "breed" new varieties that may be required to address issues like climate change and population growth needs.

Genetically modified foods are still a hot issue, but many who initially opposed these new technologies have now become advocates.

So if you want to keep up with what is breaking in the world of horticulture and what impacts this could have on Australian growers, then membership of IPPS is one of the essential societies to be members of. I am sure that the IPPS International conference to be held in Maroochydore in May next year will present us similarly with many challenges and opportunities. You need to be there and involved though to take hold of them and benefit from the experience.

Bruce Higgs



From a media release photo from Dümme Orange, July 26, 2018 - Tulips in tissue culture

THIS EDITION

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President's Comment



Hello there again, it's amazing how quick a few weeks go, here in Tassie things are a bit chilly, (especially since I just got back from Hawaii), but the seasons keep rolling on, and as I write this we are starting to get busy in the nursery despatch area, and hopefully we have a good spring.

I attended the Pacific Rim conference with 10 of our members attending, and its interesting see the organisation required to achieve a great result. It was good to mix with 120 delegates from all over the pacific area from Peru to Singapore, and everyone had a story to tell.

It was interesting to note that there were quite a good representation of younger faces at the conference, though there was still plenty of grey hair around.

Meanwhile in the real world Ray Dougherty has been very busy working on next years combined Australian and New Zealand International conference, for which we expect to have at least 150 starters. We should have costings out for the conference by the end of September, but don't forget to think about the pre-conference tour from Cairns to Maroochydore, which I can guarantee will be a lot of fun and educational.

There is a feeling of positiveness at the board meeting the other night regarding local get togethers. These will be a one day wonder where it is intended to visit an area and visit possibly two or three growers in the district finishing off with lunch or an evening barbecue. Keep your eyes open and jump at the opportunity when they are presented. These functions are not only for members but also fellow workers, so spread the word.

Over the next few weeks expect to see an email in your in box regarding a member's survey, please take the time to complete it and reply, we are trying to make your society more relevant to you.

Cheers and have a great Spring

Tony Vander Staay

Executive Officer's Report

IPPS Office

The IPPS Office slows down at this time of the year so not much to report on from the administration side of things, apart from the running of the Office is going smoothly.

Subscriptions

Maintaining membership is still a challenge as membership continues to decline. If your dues are still outstanding I would appreciate it if you could contact me to finalise this as soon as possible.

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

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

2019 Conference – 'Shaping Up For the Future' - Joint International, Australia and New Zealand Conference, Twin Waters Resort, Maroochydore in southern Queensland – Wednesday 29th May to Saturday 1st June 2019

PRE CONFERENCE TOUR – CAIRNS to MAROOCHYDORE in Southern Queensland - 'Tropical Horticulture: It is a question of Latitude' – Friday 17th May to Tuesday 28th May 2019

Every year IPPS Australia holds a conference, an essential event for anyone in the plant propagation industry. Next years conference is a Joint International, Australia & New Zealand and is shaping up to be an event '**Not to be Missed**'...

Information on Pre-Conference tour will be available on the website shortly www.ipps.org

Registration and program details will be available shortly on the website www.ipps.org

Make a note of these dates in your diary.

Pam Berryman



IPPS Australian Region Board for 2018 - 2019

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Mandy Thomson

I am currently in my dream job as Team Leader Nursery at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Cranbourne.

Myself and a dedicated team of staff and volunteers grow over 8,000 Australian native plants a year to service the needs of the Australian Garden, a premier Australian Native Botanic Gardens that opened in Victoria in 2006.

New Members

At the last conference we welcomed many new members, and at a recent board meeting it was agreed that we needed to acknowledge them with their profile details in the newsletter. Here are a few of our new members, please welcome them to IPPS when you next meet them. Who will you be able to add to the "New Members" profile section in the next edition?



Jacqueline Jenkins

I have a degree in Horticulture from Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. I have been teaching in the Horticulture program at Canberra Institute of Technology for over ten years. Propagation is one of the subject areas that I teach. I also continue to work part-time at a retail nursery.

I love plants and people. I love talking to people about plants, as well as continually learning about them myself. I relish the opportunity to learn more about propagation through being a member of the IPPS.

We grow a range of mostly rare and sometimes endangered flora from all over Australia. As you can imagine some of these plants have very tricky seed dormancy to overcome and there is often little or no information on how to grow them.

Our propagation is largely experimental, always going on our instincts and a sound knowledge of propagation principles and practises.



Michelle Haby

I was born, raised and still reside on Kangaroo Island (KI), which is a wonderful spot for plant enthusiasts as there are upwards of 1,000 plant species to enjoy.

My interest in botany was sparked by island botanist, Bev Overton, when I was in my mid teens. I started my consultancy business, Botanical Enigmerase, with my partner in 2011. In the beginning we just did vegetation surveys for clearance applications, but have now also branched out into growing KI native plants for developments on the island.

My love of growing all things KI native began when I got a job in 2008 as a nursery assistant with the then Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, working for the Kangaroo Island Nationally

Threatened Plant Project. The aim of the project was to restore habitat through revegetation for 5 of KI's threatened flora within the Eastern Plains area of the island. A year into this job I was put in charge of propagation and by the time the project folded in 2015, due to a lack of funds, we were propagating 150+ species ranging from grasses, herbs, climbers, understorey shrubs and trees.

I'm absolutely passionate about growing KI's native flora, with a particular interest in understorey species, which are often put into the "too hard basket". I'm convinced that the future of many of Australia's threatened flora is in the hands of nurserymen. If we can find ways of propagating these species in nursery situations, then the general public can actually have access to these species for their gardens and gain an appreciation and connection with them, thereby helping to ensure their survival in the long term.



Daniela Gaggl

My name is Daniela Gaggl and I am the Technical Officer at Yalumba Nursery in the Barossa Valley, South Australia, which specialises in grafted grapevine propagation. I am a 22 year old Austrian/Australian dual citizen and speak German fluently, with my family coming from an agricultural background in Carinthia, Austria. I completed the Bachelor of Viticulture and Oenology at the University of Adelaide in 2017 and during my degree I was awarded the Jacob's Creek Scholarship for Viticulture. As part of the scholarship, I was employed with Pernod Ricard Winemakers for the 2017 harvest as a Vintage Field Officer in the Adelaide Hills, where I assessed pest, disease and damage in the vineyard. After completing my degree, I began working at Yalumba Nursery in January 2018 in the newly formed Technical Officer position. This is an integrated role working on research and development related projects, quality control throughout the propagation process, viticultural management of source areas, variety and clone evaluation, as well as assisting in the development of the nursery's new tissue culture propagation program. I enjoy anything outdoors, and spend my spare time playing netball, hiking and have also recently become a novice beekeeper."

"I am excited to become a part of the IPPS community and my email address is dgaggl@yalumba.com for anyone who would like to contact me."

Brayden Fitzpatrick

My name is Brayden Edward Fitzpatrick, I am 20 years old. I have spent my entire life in the country town of Gawler (40km North of Adelaide). Growing up, my parents were very involved with the environment and owned a small native plant nursery. Along with that they were very engaged with the community and plant committees around Adelaide. My earliest memories of being involved and developing my interest surrounding the environment was constantly annoying both mum and dad on how to do things and trying to help them within the nursery. The first native plant I remember propagating was a *Eremophila bignoniiflora* by seed, which was very exciting as it isn't very easy to do. Mum and dad were very impressed, this is essentially where my life-long passion began to form.

My dad worked in nurseries around South Australia, I would always help him during my school holidays and learn to how propagate different plants. When I was 15 I decided to re-start the family nursery in our backyard. Once we had enough plants I was able to sell at the local markets where I was able to learn and teach customers. This is where I confirmed that my passion was for propagating native plants and showcasing how beautiful native plants can be in home gardens. From writing labels, seed collecting and collecting plant material for cuttings, I started remembering plants names and locations of where plants grew and how they grew.

During high school I did a dual certificate in Horticulture and Conservation land management. Just before graduating high school in 2016, I got a part time job with Ecodynamics, the role was to work in the plant nursery for 3 days a week whilst I was completing school. Since then, I have now progressed into a full-time native-propagator for the Ecodynamics company. Working at Ecodynamics has assisted me in developing skills regarding plant propagating on larger scales and has consistently expanded my plant-based knowledge. Working on a larger scale and with better facilities has allowed me to experiment with difficult species, I thoroughly enjoy challenging myself daily.

My passion is for Australian native plants and I'm always looking for new and exciting ways to propagate difficult species to try and include them in people's gardens and eventually revegetation projects. My goal is to eventually manage a plant nursery and/or own a retail native plant nursery where I can share my knowledge and sell rare and exotic native plants to the general public.

Occupation, work place, experience and interest :

- Nursery hand for Ecodynamics South Australia

- Work experience for Greening Australia, Provenance natives and LCS
- Environment, native animals, revegetation, horticulture, native plants
- Landscape design



Donnybrook / Ferguson Valley Social Event & Seed Shed Tour

On behalf of IPPS Australia, we are excited to invite members and all involved in plant propagation and related work to a free WA IPPS event.

Firm RSVP essential.

Friday October 12TH at 3 PM

Plan to dive early into the weekend with a midday knockoff and a trip with workmates or family to the Donnybrook / Ferguson Valley area, an easy 2.5 hours from the City. We will meet at the premises of Seed Shed, a major processor & supplier of native plant seeds and enjoy a tour and a few short presentations /IPPS event updates.

Enjoy free food and drink in a relaxed industry and interactive setting.

Attendees may choose to dine out and stay the night at the many good accommodation places in Ferguson Valley / Donnybrook and take additional time in the South West.

Act Now – RSVP by email or text to;

david@naturalarea.com.au 0429 095 850

neroli@seedshed.com.au 0427 050 471



Pacific Rim Conference Report

The Pacific Rim conference organised by the Western region of the IPPS was held at Courtyard King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel, Hawaii, on the Big Island with the volcano doing its thing on the other side of the island. The conference attracted around 120 attendees with 12 different countries being represented, including Japan, India, China, New Zealand, Australia, Peru, America, Canada, Singapore and some of the pacific nations.

A pre-conference tour (50 starters) was organised from the 28th to 30 July, but we took the opportunity to go a couple of days earlier to get acclimatised to the warmer weather.

The tour started with visits to a broad range of sites starting with the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific up in the Punchbowl area of Honolulu, where there is a great display of the American forces 2nd world war battles in the Pacific.

Then we went on to visit the Foster Botanical Garden, where they have some very unique trees including a double fruiting Coconut. They had only just managed to get a couple of seedlings starting to grow, and we saw a 4 year old seedling with one frond starting to grow. Never miss an opportunity to visit the University of Hawaii Research facilities, where they were working on Anthurium and orchid breeding, there were some very interesting colours coming through the anthuriums being bred mostly for cut flowers.

Probably the highlight of the tour was visiting the Hibiscus Lady of Honolulu, Jill Coryell gave us a fascinating talk and display on her breeding of Hibiscus. To date she had a history on over 20,000 crosses creating all sorts of shades and shapes and had everyone totally engrossed.



challenge, because the islands have been settled and visited by numerous Pacific islanders a lot of the native plant life has been replaced by introduced species, two particular headaches are *Panicum* from California and *Albizia* species.

Other topics discussed were the propagation of edibles and the use of micropropagation in the production of fruiting crops and cut flowers.

Day two involved us getting on a bus and heading for the hills (up to 2000 m high). There are 8 different micro climates on Hawaii, and each has its own distinctive growing advantages. There are areas just for growing Coffee, separate from the Macadamia nuts area, one area seemed just to grow

We then visited the Waimea Arboretum and Botanical gardens with David Orr, who gave a great tour through the gardens, and I was green with envy seeing my indoor range of plants growing in the wild without any fuss. If anything, what we grow would nearly be classed as a noxious weed in that part of the world.

The last visit was to Frankie's Nursery and he over the years had collected a very extensive range of tropical fruits from around the Pacific Region. His main business was grafting fruit trees, of which he couldn't keep up with demand. His current favourite fruit is a pineapple variety which was according to him was twice as sweet as any other variety on the market, and after sampling I couldn't disagree with him at all.

So that was only the beginning we then moved over to the Big Island for the conference itself.

The first day at King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel complex included a very broad range of speakers whose subjects covered; regional trends and trade throughout the Pacific Rim, native plant production primarily on Hawaiian natives which turned out to be quite a

orchids, while others areas only managed just to stay alive, the whole island is covered with lava, and they talk about every 100 years as regular flow. While we were there the volcano stopped sending out lava, so now they wait to see where it will come out again!

The wet side of the island is where the volcano is, in addition it is also the side for the great winter surf that happens there every year, but while we were there not a wave to be seen.

Day three involved a morning of in-house speakers including our own David Cliffe sharing his experience on trying to containerise everything including their successes and failures. David Hancock gave us a quick rundown on the project in Oman Botanical Gardens and also a overview of the Bauer Resources Project- the largest manmade constructed wetlands in the world.

Chad Davies from Gardens in The Bay Singapore gave a paper on the challenges of keeping plants cool in tropical glasshouse. Juliann Zhu from China spoke about the last 2018 IPPS tour in the Hangzhou district.

In the afternoon we had a choice of local tours. Ours had a coffee experience - seeing how it is grown and prepared and naturally sampled (the biggest coffee drinkers in the world are the Finnish, drinking an average of 10 cups per day per person), and the growing of Vanilla, or the other tour included Mountain Thunder Coffee Plantation and the Kona Cloud forest sanctuary situated 3000 ft above sea level.

Saturday morning was another session indoors where our crowd had thinned out considerably, we started with a combined breakfast and then went onto morning session where those who had stayed got to enjoy Greg McPhee on going back to basics.

"Making the Most of the IPPS 2020 International Meeting" – presented by Douglas Justice, Associate



Double fruiting Coconut seedling

Director and Curator of Collections University of British Columbia Botanical Garden - one to put on your bucket list for the future.

A new twist on “Seek and Share” was also the chance to exchange business cards with fellow members - which was encouraged.

Todd Jones explained how to expand your contacts throughout the Pacific region, he thanked everyone who attended and looked forward to next year’s international conference in Australia.

Tony Vander Staay

Horticultural Photography

Photography is about capturing an image of something for some purpose. We need to know what our goal is. It could be to take photos of plants that are part of a research project or perhaps a flower for a new label.

How we go about capturing that image is the subject of this article. Put simply photography is about how we handle light and composition of our subject with our equipment.

Thankfully these days most of us have a digital camera available that is adequate for our needs. There are limitations affecting our camera choice however that we need to be aware of, whether it is a mobile phone, compact camera or more elaborate mirrorless or SLR camera. Quoted resolution in megapixels (MP) is one thing, but detector size and lens quality are also important. Mobile phones and compact cameras have small light sensor detectors and this has consequences. Controlling depth of field is often very important in close-up photos, so some manual control could be useful. I have attempted to compare these points below to assist your choice, recognising that more often than not we will use what we have available.

Seasol Six Pack

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

Rod Tallis Award

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

The worthy recipient will gain an award that they can be proud of and mark the start of a successful career in horticulture. All you need to do is report on some horticultural work you have undertaken. Then go to the website and apply soon.

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

The more important issue is how you go about taking that photo. There are some simple rules that will improve your photography.

Ensure you have sufficient light without it being too bright and washing out your subject. Move around or move your subject around so that it fills the frame, and try to avoid distracting lights, and white patches. If a flower is your subject, frame your photo so you have only one, as multiple subjects can be confusing - keep your composition simple.

Shadows can help give the impression of depth as artists have done for centuries in paintings. If you want your picture to tell a story then try applying the rule of thirds to frame your photo - “google” this.

I hope these tips will help your work and enjoyment of your passion for plants. Bruce Higgs

PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT				
Camera Type	Pros	Why	Cons	Why
Mobile Phone	Accessible Fair depth of field	Often carried Small detector	Low resolution Lens quality Distortion- close	Smaller detector Small single lens Lens design limitation
Compact	Light / small - carry Reasonable resolution Program control Fair depth of field	Small detector / lens Typ. up to 24 MP Optimised for scenes Small detector	Low quality photo Difficult to steady shot Difficult to compose / see screen in daylight Long lag time	Lens quality Hand held at arm length Glare on screen & resolution No processor buffer
Pro / semi-pro DSLR / Mirrorless	Multi-purpose High Quality Photo Aperture / manual control as well as program No lag time – very responsive	Interchangeable lens Resolution / lens/ detector Best control of depth of field Memory buffer	Bulky / Heavier Most expensive Limited depth of field (macro) Some mirrorless – fixed lens	Construction Design / construction Larger detector – may need special lens and kit – stacking program Less versatile – but may suit you

SOUTH AFRICA 2019

YOUNG HORTICULTURISTS APPLY NOW

For the opportunity of a lifetime, it is now time to apply for the **Southern African Exchange Program**.

This IPPS project aims to give young propagators at the start of their career the opportunity to gain experience of the industry elsewhere and to build a better understanding of each country.

In March 2019 the person chosen will spend approximately 3 weeks in South Africa hosted by local members, where they will work and visit other nurseries and places of interest in South Africa, including tourist venues, plus attend the IPPS Southern African Region Conference in Stellenbosch.

The exchange program is sponsored by Australia and Southern Africa IPPS. After the trip the chosen propagator will be expected to attend the Australian IPPS International Conference at the Novotel Twin Waters Resort on the Sunshine Coast in May 2019 to June 2 as well as talking about their experience.

Now that you are thinking about this or you know someone who may be suitable, check the following to make sure of eligibility:-

- You must be over the age of 18 and in the early years of your career of growing plants.
- You must be able to travel to South Africa in early March 2019 and attend our Australian Conference.
- Your employer must support this application and your time off work.
- You must be prepared to make notes and take photographs of your great experience and report back at the Australian IPPS Conference.

If all of the above suits you and you would like to be hosted in South Africa (at no cost to you, except spending money) and gain from the experience. Then send in the application form which is available on the IPPS website <http://aus.ipps.org/members/exchange/south-africa-exchange> by the end of December 2018.

News and Letters

Tony Vander Staay has supplied the formula for Synerol mentioned in Rose's paper at the Hobart conference and requested by members.

Ingredients:

NAA (naphthalene acetic acid) 5 g/l dissolved in warm metho
IBA (indole-3-butric acid) 5 g/l in KOH soln.
KOH (potassium hydroxide) 1.4 g/l water soln.
Phenyl mercuric acetate 0.1 g/l dissolved in hot metho.
Boric acid 0.2 g/l dissolved in warm water
methyated spirts 750ml

We normally only use around 100 ml of water or metho for dissolving the relative chemicals which we then make up to one litre solution.

I think this will give a solution of 8000 ppm, or thereabouts.

Tony Vander Staay

Newsletter Editors Comment

The Hawaiian Pacific Rim conference is over and now we look forward to the International conference next year at the Sunshine Coast, Qld. There are a number of regional meetings being planned as well ... Well worth attending,

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**".

Please 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"

IPPS Conference Calendar

11 - 12 October 2018	European Region conference, Breda, Netherlands
20 - 24 October 2018	Southern Region conference, Chattanooga, TN
5 - 7 March 2019	Southern African Region conference, Protea Hotel Techno Stellenbosch
17 May - 1 June 2019	International Tour and conference, Australian Region, Port Douglas to Maroochydore, Qld.
24 - 28 September 2019	Western Region conference, Hilton Santa Cruz/Scotts Valley