

# the Propagator



International Plant Propagators' Society

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

Australian Region - Newsletter Summer 2019 - No: 64

## Its' all about Gardening!

How many times have I been asked by someone what I do, with me replying that we operate a wholesale nursery? Well the next response is often 'Oh, your a gardener'.

Have you had something like this happen to you?

Aside from an arrogant feeling that this demeans the professionalism of the industry, I have to admit that I am not a great home gardener.

That said, even growing plants on the east coast of Australia is tough these days, and especially now. There are high temperatures and long persistent severe droughts, empty dams and water restrictions, dust storms and cyclonic winds (with consequent structural damage) ... not to mention bushfires and sun-blocking irritating smoke. The dust and smoke have spread to New Zealand. In other parts of the country it has been very cold and overcast.

This all makes growing a top quality product challenging. Spare a thought for our customer ... The consumer. Gardeners also have it tough these days, especially with the necessary tough water restrictions.

Sydney Water moved to level 2 restrictions on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December, where gardens can only be hand watered before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m. with a watering can or bucket.

Smart drip irrigation systems can only be used there for 15 minutes before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m., this is only up to about 1 litre a day for 4 l/hour drippers. That should be fine for most small plants and shrubs with a well laid out irrigation system, and a mulched garden to

conserve water. How many gardeners have installed this I wonder?

Yes gardening is tough at these times. Despite this there is hope. Each of us needs to adapt to changes in weather, and that applies to professional growers too.

I am looking forward to learning new things at next years conference in Geelong that will help us manage changes.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Bruce Higgs



Smoke obscuring the red sun over Sydney area

### THIS EDITION

It's all about Gardening!  
IPPS Conference 2020  
2020 Pre-Conference Tour

IPPS Symposium Singapore  
Regional Meeting  
News  
Newsletter Editors Comment

IPPS Event Calendar  
Reports  
▪President's Report  
▪Executive Officer's Report  
▪International Directors Report

## President's Report

It is the beginning of December and Hobart is a little chilly, unlike our northern states who are suffering from strong winds and hot weather, smoke and water restrictions.



Last Saturday I had a visit from the Master-Class group, (24) who are students working in different areas of Horticulture and over the past year have been doing a course run by the university of Tasmania/Lincoln University N.Z.. The course is based around the development of each students personal strategic business plan via a range of engaging, interactive and flexible learning methods.

Now what the hell is that got to do with the IPPS, well as it turned out in the group there where 5 people from the nursery industry, of which all had heard about the Society, even had one as a past member. So I asked the question Why not join? Well two said they would, and possibly be at Geelong or Canberra conferences, one said I couldn't see the value and time was of essence, and the others well maybe one day.

The challenge is for us to become more relevant for the next generations, so over the next few week David Hancock and Dermot Molloy are going to put up a proposal to the board on how we could become more active, we already have facebook and instagram pages for the society, so we need to expand this arena.

I look forward to the new year challenges, and wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and New year.

Cheers

Tony Vander Staay

## Executive Officer's Report

### IPPS OFFICE

Even though the IPPS Office slows down at this time of the year, I am still kept busy tending to general office and in-house duties. Preparations for next years conference are also progressing well.



**PC tour – Great Ocean Road - Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019 to Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

## IPPS Australian Region Board for 2019 - 2020

Tony Vander Staay [tvanders@westlandnurseries.com.au](mailto:tvanders@westlandnurseries.com.au) **President**

David Daly [david@conifer.com.au](mailto:david@conifer.com.au) *1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*

Jacqueline Jenkins [jacqueline.jenkins@cit.edu.au](mailto:jacqueline.jenkins@cit.edu.au) *2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.*

John Messina [johnmessina30@gmail.com](mailto:johnmessina30@gmail.com) *International Director*

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

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

Puthiyarambil Josekutty [josekutty964@gmail.com](mailto:josekutty964@gmail.com) *Area Meetings*

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

**Conference – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2020 “Coast to Country”**



*Make a note of this date in your diary.*

**NOVOTEL GEELONG, 10-14 Eastern Beach Road, Geelong VIC 3220**

For further information go to [www.ipps.org](http://www.ipps.org) or <http://aus.ipps.org/events-regional>

## Membership Subscription Renewal



**Members will shortly receive an automated renewal email notice generated from the International Board advising that your IPPS Membership will expire on 01.01.2020.**

The Australian Region Office will still manage membership subscriptions and I will be sending out Tax Invoices for Membership Renewals to all Members in January 2020.

**If you experience difficulties in logging on or paying online please do not hesitate to contact me. Credit Card or EFT facility are the preferred options.**

**INTERNATIONAL WEBSITE – [www.ipps.org](http://www.ipps.org)**

### 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 onto me at [pam@ipps.org.au](mailto:pam@ipps.org.au)

Pam Berryman

## **Great online features!**

### **Mobile friendly**

Looks great on mobile devices too. Web content adapts beautifully to any screen size.

### **Proceedings library**

Access to all past and current Proceedings, conveniently in the members' only online section. Download individual papers or a complete volume with a click of a button.

### **Searchable database**

Find information you're looking for on the site quickly

### **Media Centre**

IPPS news articles, photo galleries and video galleries keeping you informed of IPPS activities world wide.

### **Register for events online**

Access event information and do bookings online

### **Pay online**

PayPal online

### **Apply for membership online**

Apply for or renew annual membership online.

### **Ten websites, one system**

A professional look throughout all IPPS websites. The layout is clear and easy to navigate.

### **Japanese & Chinese characters**

On the Japan and China sites text can be entered in Japanese and Chinese

### **Dedicated IPPS hosting server**

Hosting service by GoDaddy in the USA, ensuring uninterrupted service

## **International Directors Report**

The IPPS website upgrade is nearing going live. It will encompass upgrades of the application process for new members, and importantly, the renewal process for existing members. It's in the approval stage and hopefully wont be far off. Our international editor Bob Geneve is looking at getting the front part of the 'black book' - which includes honour roles, dedications, obituaries and the like - migrated to the website where it can be amended each year.

As you would be now be aware, the proceedings are now online only. With the removal of the 'Black Book' as an option from the international office, your Australian Region is looking into getting its own copies printed. These proceedings will be a complete version of all the international regions papers, as it has always been. It is likely though, that it will be a soft-cover publication, rather than the traditional hard cover we have previously received. **If you are interested in still receiving a copy of the black book, please register your interest via email with Pam as soon as possible.**

The 2020 International meeting is hosted by the Western Region. It's being held in Bellingham, Washington USA. The Tour commences in Vancouver, Canada on

13th June 2020. It travels to Bellingham until 22nd June. The Conference then runs until 27th June. Details will be up on the Western Regions website soon. If you have never joined an international tour, you really should consider it. It is a great opportunity to see how things are done around the world, and its one of the great benefits of being a member of a truly international society.

Cheers,

John Messina





Photo courtesy Novotel Geelong

## **IPPS CONFERENCE 2020 – Propagation in Action - Coast to Country**

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2020**

**Geelong** – A haven for the hipsters and horticulturists

David and his team have followed the great tradition of past IPPS conferences, and the 2020 conference at Geelong, Victoria is set to be an exciting event. Geelong is known for the Cats (its AFL Team), the foreshore, Corio Bay and surrounding picturesque regions that offer a variety of good food, coffee, beer and wine. Our conference will have a great line up of speakers, people to meet or catch up with and inspirational places to see.

- A not to be missed opportunity to network with like minded people from a variety of places and our allied suppliers.
- Enjoy the field trip days to awesome nurseries and gardens; and a practical hands on afternoon at Gordon TAFE, that will provide you with some very stimulating conversation points.
- Participate in the fun packed pre-conference 3 day tour from Geelong to Warrnambool and the Great Ocean Road visiting the sites as well as some great nurseries and plants people with astonishing collections.

### **Students**

This year we are offering special discounted rates for horticultural students so that they are able to attend

### **Six Pack**

Applications are open for the chance to be a 6 pack member in Geelong. **Send your forms by the closing date of Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020.** 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 14<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2020.** Contact details are on the IPPS website (see under members at <http://aus.ipps.org/> )

and experience what IPPS has to offer them for their ongoing careers.

### **Accessibility**

Geelong is a developing horticultural area in western Victoria, and is easily accessible with either direct flights from major Australian airports to Avalon Airport or Melbourne Tullamarine airport .

The Avalon Airport (AVV) is an international airport serviced by Jetstar Airways and AirAsiaX. Novotel Geelong is 20 minutes from Avalon Airport or 60 minutes from Tullamarine Airport, in the heart of Victoria's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city, right on the beautiful waterfront.

Novotel Geelong adjoins the Westfield Shopping Centre, and it is close to all of Geelong's major attractions including: Eastern Beach, the National Wool Museum and Steampacket Gardens.

### **Accommodation**

Accommodation for the conference will be at the **Novotel Geelong, 10-14 Eastern Beach Road, Geelong.** When you call please mention that you are booking for the IPPS Conference. The contact number for the Novotel Geelong is: (03) 5273 5526.

**Speakers** – we will have a great technical speaker programme. Our keynote speakers will be Andrew Laidlaw and Clare Hart.

**Andrew Laidlaw** is one of Australia's leading landscape architects and designers. With over 30 years of experience in the industry and an impressive array of award winning designs and high profile projects. Andrew has also taught Landscape Design at the University of Melbourne's Burnley campus for over twenty-five years,



teaching many of Australia's gardeners and designers, and is a regular presenter on ABC 774's Saturday morning gardening program.

**Clare Hart** is head horticulturist at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria with over 23 years of experience. Clare has worked in numerous roles and areas of horticulture and arboriculture including Nursery Management, Garden Design, Botanic Gardens and Local Government.

**Dr. Noushka Reiter** manages the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Orchid Conservation Program. Noushka has a particular interest in threatened flora ecology, mycorrhizal associations and re-introductions. Her research has focussed on the conservation of threatened flora.

**Three great talks from our Platinum Sponsor- Garden City Plastics** – including topics such as “Water sanitisation for the nursery environment”, “The use of low toxic chemicals in the modern nursery environment” and “Hygiene Practices for the modern nursery with regard the increase pressure of Bio-Security protocols”.

**Dr. Puthiyaparambil C. Josekutty** is Research Manager, Skybury Coffee Pty Ltd, ([www.skybury.com.au](http://www.skybury.com.au)), is an Agriculture- biotechnologist with 30 years of experience in research and research management. Jose has micro-propagated over 100 plant species and crop varieties from Australia, USA, New Zealand, Micronesia and India. He will present “Tissue Culture Propagation of Temperate Woody Ornamentals”.

If you are interested in speaking at this conference, please contact **David Daly now on (03) 9756 7668** or [david@conifer.com.au](mailto:david@conifer.com.au)

#### **GOLF:**

The Geelong area boasts many fine Golf Courses including where the Victorian Open is held, and they also offer great views. Grant Rankin as a keen golfer has had the job of selecting the course this year, and it should be challenging as well as rewarding for those members who want to contest the tournament on the Wednesday afternoon. When you register let the conference organisers or Pam know if you want to participate.

#### **WELCOME FUNCTION:**

The evening of Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May at Novotel Geelong will provide a great venue to relax and socialise. A casual evening starting off with a few nibbles and drinks will provide the opportunity for networking and re-acquainting with old friends and the opportunity to meet new ones.

**THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY** – Will be conference sessions, trade exhibits and workshops and site visits.

#### **Nursery visits include:**

Friday afternoon;

**Gordon TAFE** - Interactive, hands on sessions will cover a wide range of propagation and production ideas including Tissue Culture and micrografting, pH / EC and soil media testing.

<https://www.thegordon.edu.au/courses/programs/horticulture>

**Geelong Botanic Gardens**, established in 1851 and has noted collections of Pelargoniums, Salvia, heritage roses and a regional collection of indigenous plants.

<http://friendsgbg.org.au/visiting-the-gardens/location>

<http://www.friendsgbg.org.au/uploads/images/Jubaea/Online%20version%20Jubaea.pdf>

**Boomaroo Nurseries**, Lara – a modern and highly automated business supplying vegetable seedlings and greenlife.

<https://www.boomaroo.com/about-us/victoria/>

Saturday visits include:

**Roraima Nursery** at Lara – with a great collection of unusual and rare plants from around the world set in two acres of gardens. <https://roraimanursery.com.au/>

**Batesford Nursery** – a small well run propagation nursery,

Other nursery visits not yet confirmed.



### FRIDAY NIGHT GALA DINNER:

The annual awards dinner and auction will be held at Novotel Geelong on Friday evening.

### SATURDAY & EVENING:

We will be finishing up on Saturday evening with a 'farewell function' at Little Creatures Brewery.

### SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorship packages are available ranging from \$500 to \$1500, please contact David Daly for details.

## 2019 PRE CONFERENCE TOUR

### Great Ocean Road, Victoria

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Come and join in this leisurely bus tour along the scenic, Australian National Heritage listed Great Ocean Road and surrounds. The description below of course includes most of but not all of the sights we will be experiencing.

The tour will start around midday on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> leaving Geelong for our first visit at Plants Direct Australia. We will stay the night at Colac Central Motel.

On Sunday we will travel South West visiting Alistair Watt's Lavers Hill 4 hectare "Otway Ridge Arboretum". Alistair has a renowned extensive collection of conifers, many grown from seed that he has collected in the wild around the world. The Araucariaceae family is well represented here with species from New Caledonia and South America.

The tour will be stopping for lunch at the village of Timboon with award winning produce and gourmet treats. This includes a stop at Timboon Distillery and Ice-creamery. Then a well earned rest for the night at the Best Western Olde Maritime Hotel Warrnambool.

On Monday we visit Warrnambool Botanic gardens, who have produced a drone video of what we might see;

<https://wbgardens.com.au/the-gardens/drone-footage>

Then Tower Hill Wildlife Reserve, whose flora and fauna have been rehabilitated, is actually the crater of an extinct volcano.

Afternoon we will be visiting the Flagstaff Hill Maritime Museum and village and historic gardens of Warrnambool. The museum houses Australia's richest collection of shipwreck artefacts from some of the 200 ships known to have been wrecked along this coast. We will also have a behind the scenes historical garden tour at Flagstaff Hill as well as attending the Sound and Light



Show.

<http://www.flagstaffhill.com/sound-and-light-show>

We leave early on Tuesday morning traveling South East down the Great Ocean Road and visit the famous Twelve Apostles, and Loch Ard Gorge, and London Bridge in Port Campbell National Park.

Before our return to Geelong on Tuesday evening we will also walk among the tree tops in the forest at Cape Otway Fly.

Just off the Great Ocean Road heading to Apollo Bay we will also visit the Californian Redwood forest in the Great Otway National Park, which is thought to have been planted in the 1930s as part of a softwood logging experiment.

Cost: \$850.00 per person based on twin share

Single supplement: \$560.00 (Total \$1410.00 per person)



Redwoods Photograph: Parks Victoria

Price includes:

- 1 nights' accommodation at Colac Central Motel
- 2 nights' accommodation at Best Western Olde Maritime Hotel
- Nursery visits
- Stop at Timboon Distillery and Timboon Ice-creamery
- Warrnambool Botanic Gardens
- Tower Hill Wildlife Reserve
- Day entrance to Flagstaff Hill Maritime Museum as well as:
  - Historical garden tour at Flagstaff Hill
  - Sound and Light Show
- See the 12 Apostles, Loch Ard Gorge and London Bridge
- Entrance, lunch and a walk among the tree tops in the forest at Cape Otway Fly
- Visit to the Redwood Forest
- 2 breakfasts
- 2 dinners

Complete the registration form from the website and return it preferably before **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020** to avoid disappointment.

## IPPS Symposium Singapore.

The IPPS International Board has an interest in potential expansion into new areas of Asia. As a follow-on from the Western Region's Pacific Rim theme at their conference in 2018, the NZ Region organised a Symposium and Field Trip to Singapore.

Singapore was chosen because of its central location, excellent infrastructure and support from Gardens By The Bay who have sent staff to several IPPS meetings around the world and they also provided the venue for seminars and assisted with on ground organisation for example; transport and site visits to nurseries and Singapore Botanic Gardens.



The objective of the Symposium was to give IPPS members an insight into Urban Horticultural projects in Singapore and in turn demonstrate to attendees outside of existing IPPS Regions the benefits of participating in the activities enjoyed by IPPS Regional members.

The symposium consisted of three main themes, Gardens by the Bay staff delivering papers on their work, technical topics and Botanic Gardens themes. These themes covered topics such as Greening Singapore (motivations, benefits and challenges), South African plants suitable to the tropics, Disease diagnosis as well as Singapore Botanic Gardens and Field trips to Oman.

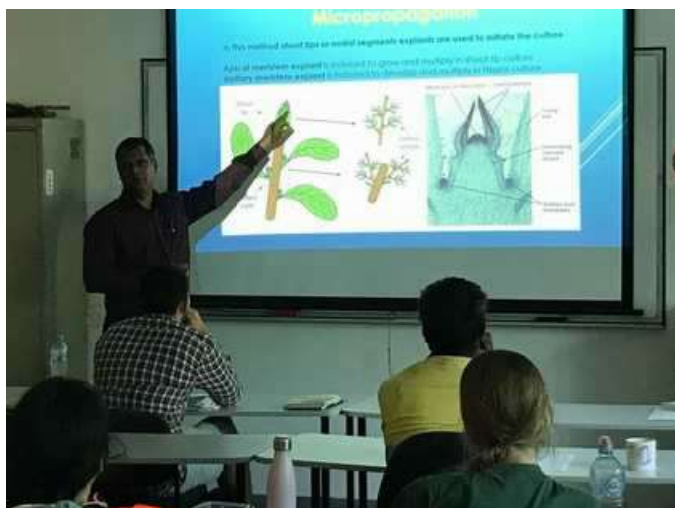
The desired outcome would be to see another similar event organised soon in another area of Asia with horticulturists interested in affiliation with IPPS.

David Hancock & Dermot Molloy

## Regional Meeting

Our local Area Meetings Committee Chairperson Dr. Puthiyaparambil C. Josekutty held a regional meeting in October at Cairns North Region TAFE Queensland.

Both teachers of the Horticulture program and their students participated and appreciated the meeting focussing on micropropagation.



## News

### It is time to say farewell.

Ron & Debbie Deckys have recently sold Alstonville Palms, and are retiring and they plan to do a bit of travelling. They have very much enjoyed membership with IPPS. It is sad to say good bye, but it is time for them to move on.

### Plant Varieties Journal Update

The current issue of Plant Varieties Journal (PVJ Vol. 32. No. 3) was published in November. Download at: [https://www.ipaaustralia.gov.au/tools-resources/pbr-journals?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Plant+Varieties+Journal+update+-+Volume+32+Number+3&utm\\_content=PBR+Journals&utm\\_source=www.vision6.com.au](https://www.ipaaustralia.gov.au/tools-resources/pbr-journals?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Plant+Varieties+Journal+update+-+Volume+32+Number+3&utm_content=PBR+Journals&utm_source=www.vision6.com.au)

### Blue is the Pantone Colour for 2020

Blue plants and fruits often use a red anthocyanin pigment which causes the plants to appear from red to blue or even black, depending on pH. These pigments also are thought to protect plants and fruits against extreme temperatures, as well as deterring herbivores. There are a number of native plants and cultivars that have blue flowers as well as exotics listed here: <https://mrplantgeek.com/2019/12/05/blue-natural-colour/>

### Meeting the Challenge of Scarce Water Resources

Stacked Farm announce Australia's first fully robotics end-to-end vertical farm with significant water savings. <https://www.businessnewsaus.com.au/articles/stacked-farm--australia-s-first-fully-robotic-end-to-end-vertical-farm.html>.

### Courts given power to protect PBR

Australia's intellectual property law was changed in February to give courts more options to protect plant breeders' rights. In November the Federal Court ordered a farmer in New South Wales to pay \$290,000 to a blueberry-producing company because he had grown and sold a proprietary variety of the fruit without permission.

<https://phys.org/news/2019-11-case-pirated-blueberries-courts-flex.html>

## Newsletter Editors Comment

The board are currently investigating production of Black Books with the New Zealand region. Let Pam know if you would like to receive one. Proceedings continues to be available for members on the [website](#).

Spare a thought for all those businesses suffering from drought and bush fires at this time throughout the country. At one stage recently there were significant fires in nearly all states.

As you can see David Daley and his team have something special for us at the 2020 Geelong conference. We all need to encourage others to attend. Please also talk to colleagues in the industry and get them to join or apply for one of our awards.

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". We also now have an [Instagram](#) page.

**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 are available in colour at <http://aus.ipps.org/news>

Bruce Higgs - editor "the Propagator"



## 2019 - 2020 IPPS Calendar <http://www.ipps.org/events-regional>

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 3 - 5 March       | South African Region Conference: Johannesburg, Cradle Moon Lakeside Game Lodge; 6 Mar. Post conf. tour |
| 16 - 19 April     | New Zealand Region Conference: Ascot Hotel, Invercargill, 20 May Post Conf. tour                       |
| 20 - 23 May       | Australian Region Conference: Novotel Geelong (pre-conference tour 16 -19 May)                         |
| 13 - 22 June      | International Tour: Vancouver, BC, to Bellingham, WA,  |
| 22 - 27 June      | Western Region Annual Conference: Bellingham, Washington   |
| 23 - 26 September | Eastern Region Annual Conference, Hamilton Ontario: Sheraton Hamilton Hotel                            |