



Australian Institute of Horticulture Inc.

'Promoting Horticulture - the Profession of the 21st Century'

June 2009

Queensland Branch Newsletter Looking after our members

The Presidents Report

AIH QLD and NT and its members have had a busy time over the last 6 months. A couple of the highlights include:

- Member involvement in attending and providing input into the QLD DERM Water wise Plants workshop. This work has been undertaken on behalf of DERM by Deicke Richards (our AIH member there is Arno King.)
- Preparation for the Great Debate by the sub-committee that includes Penny, Ben French's wife. Paul Plant and Dr Jeannie Sim put up a good fight for the affirmative, but it was the negative argument that won out on the night.
- The winners for 2009 were Colin Campbell and Marian Hammond for the negative: Gardening is not a dangerous addiction. A very entertaining debate in which they also took out the 'booby' prize. We have pictures and a story loaded onto the new AIH website: www.aih.org
- Involvement in the new AIH web pages. Some members have provided items and photos for the website. I encourage any QLD or NT member to send me info to load up onto our pages. This month we call for spectacular trees/plants for the tropics and subtropics. Send me through your favourite plants and a picture from the website.
- Also, do you have a horticultural employee or trainee you would like to recognize? A short bio and picture would be good for our website to raise the recognition of professional and emerging horticulturists.

Send the above to: lindahbrennan@bigpond.com.au

Arc Linkages Grant

AIH was recently approached by Dr Daryl Joyce at UQ and Brisbane City Council to support the research on an ARC linkages Grant for 'Plant selection Guidelines for Urban Water Conservation'. Although we received the invitation to support too late for AIH inclusion into the grant as Steering Committee members, Annette Irish and Arno King have offered to be available to represent the AIH over the life of the project.

It is commendable that the largest Council in Australia is working towards a future scenario where urban water conservation linked with tree selection is likely to be an even more pressing issue than we have seen in recent drought times.

AIH Qld also respects the excellent research and industry support work that University of Queensland has consistently provided. Dr Daryl Joyce shares our commitment to improve the investment in research on ornamental plants and urban landscapes because of the many acknowledged benefits of successful urban green spaces to city residents, urban environment and outdoor lifestyles.

Agrifood Skills Australia Environmental scan

Thanks to members who were part of the Agrifood skills scan either as individual participants in the surveys or attending the meetings as did Linda, Annette Irish and Beth Cooling on behalf of the AIH.

The annual Agrifood scan (of which Horticulture is one of 23 sectors and sub-sectors), found that amenity horticulture which includes landscape, maintenance workers and nursery persons, is one of Australia's fastest growing industries, closely linked to urban growth and development and accounting for 125,000 people or 30% of all agricultural workers. It is estimated that amenity horticulture in Australia has an annual turnover of \$6billion. Unfortunately, Agrifoods does not seem to recognise amenity horticulture as a significantly unique area of horticulture and have lumped us in with many other so-called 'related' industries. The amenity hort. industry is easily overlooked in this scheme of things. Here are some highlights of the scan:

- It predicts that the impacts of climate change notably seasonal extremes and water scarcity will create significant impacts on the sector.
- There is evidence of increased sophistication in the workforce requiring higher levels of skills and education. The increased skills and knowledge will assist in enhancing productivity and sustainability in the sector.
- In relation to training, the scan identified the need for commitment to the National Training System and in particular, 'consistency and enforcement' of the AQTF standards.
- While training numbers and completion rates are down, there is a suggestion that this is due not to quality or relevance of the training packages but withdrawal as people gain only the skills they need.
- Future additions to the training and workforce development packages include: Bio diversity; Bush regeneration; Carbon sequestration; Landscape Design; Pest and disease management, and Soil health and biology.

The environmental scan may be viewed on line at www.agrifoodskills.net.au

Coming up: The 4th National Agrifood Conference Sydney September 24-25 September 2009
Information: Go to: www.agrifoodskills.net.au

Please remember our AGM is coming up in September. We would love to see you there and to have YOU consider taking a place as president, secretary or treasurer or a role on the Council. Please call me to discuss the opportunities. 07 3349 2967

Cheers, Linda Brennan

General news by Marian Hammond

Good day to you all, hope you enjoying the cooler weather and getting down to the winter tasks in the garden. Good-bye pests and diseases of the warm, humid summer and hello renewed vigour and the pleasure of working away without the hot sun beating me into submission.

I am looking to start a database for listing the best organic cures of pests and diseases that you think work without fail.

We know milk cures Powdery Mildew and is far more efficient than some fungicides and doesn't require the applicator to wear protective suits etc.

Send your tips to marianhammond@netspace.net.au marked "My favourite organic cure" or ph me 0412 558 368. This is a personal project and not part of the A.I.H.

Has anyone been using the new herbicide "Slasher" from OCP? See below for an excerpt of some research data from the NSW newsletter. I am happy to forward the full article to those interested.

Ban Roundup tolerant GM crops

These latest studies confirm a wealth of evidence on the toxicities of Glyphosate and Roundup formulations [2] ([Glyphosate Toxic & Roundup Worse](#), SiS 26), and pinpoint the different sites of action, all of which result in cell death.

Epidemiological studies have previously linked glyphosate to spontaneous abortions, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, and multiple myeloma. Laboratory studies showed that Glyphosate inhibits transcription in sea urchin eggs and delays development. Brief exposures to Glyphosate in rats caused liver damage, and adding the surfactant in Roundup had a synergistic effect, causing greater liver damage. Roundup was also found to be much more lethal to frogs than to weeds, and could have contributed to the global demise of amphibians within the past decades [3] ([Roundup Kills Frogs](#), SiS 26).

We have called for a new regulatory review on Glyphosate and Roundup in 2005 [2]. There is now a strong case for restricting, if not phasing out Glyphosate and Roundup; in the first instance, by banning the release of Roundup tolerant GM crops worldwide. For the same reason, no further Roundup tolerant GM crops should be approved for commercial release.

References

1. Benachour N and Séralini G-E.. Glyphosate formulations Induce Apoptosis and Necrosis in Human Umbilical, Embryonic, and Placental Cells *Chem. Res. Toxicol.* , 2009, 22 (1), pp 97-105
2. Ho MW and Cummins J. Glyphosate toxic and Roundup worse [Science in Society 26](#), 12, 2005. <http://www.i-sis.org.uk/GTARW.php>
3. Ho MW. Roundup kills frogs [Science in Society 26](#). 13, 2005.

As horticulturists we need to be aware of our practices and keep updating our methods to protect ourselves and our clients and colleagues.

On a happier note the AIH is implementing a new scheme for traveling horticulturists. This is another way to enjoy your membership of the A.I.H. The benefits come to those that use them!

Horticultural Wanderers Program
For those that like to travel and meet people

Traveling regional or interstate?
Here's what to do!

Send your details as outlined below and meet other horticulturists at your destination.

Send your:

Name: Ivy Geranium

Horticultural Role/Area of expertise: What ever you do.

From: Bris Vegas; Qld

Destination: South Yarra Melbourne **State:** Victoria

Date of travel: (1/10/09 to 30/10/09)

Free time: 07/10/09....16/10/09 all day/night or if anything is on around this time in Melbourne/Vic. let me know I'm interested!

Interests: Guide/friendly face/ Nurseries/ Drinks/coffee/anything! I want to meet other horticulturists from other areas

Contact details Ph xxx xxx xxx/Email: ivygeranium@leafstop.com.au

Include anything you think is relevant and email to your state rep or secretary and we shall email this to the relevant state member.

Response form: Please send direct to Wanderers and c.c. to state rep.

Horticultural highlights in the destination area at that time

are:.....

Respondent: Daisy Wheel

Contact details....xoxoxoxo email: freewheeling@leafspot.com.au

Time available: 8.00 am – 11.30 am 10/10/09: Morning trade show for nursery industry.

Would you like to attend with me and I can show you the way?

Can do coffee afterwards at South Yarra.

Interests: Flowering soft wooded perennials

Comments:

**This is a free service and is offered to all members of the A.I.H.
All members are encouraged to participate and expand their contact
base and remember the organization is only as good as the members. So
give generously of your time as what goes around comes around.**

Queries: marianhammond@netspace.net.au

Commonly not asked questions

1. Should I do this?

Answer: Yes why not?

2. What's in it for me?

Answer: The unexpected is one of the greatest unexpected moments
that can change your life! Be brave!

3. What if no one answers my request?

Answer: Send it again just in case they need a second chance.

4. Is accommodation included in this?

Answer: No.

**Please add more questions – nothing serious will be taken seriously,
horticulture is far too serious for that!**

Should you like to participate in this program please contact me and I will forward
your details on. There are some great people out there and you should get to know
them!

Plant of the Moment



Brugmansia species.

Common Name: Moon Flower; Angels Trumpet; Hells Bells

This plant used to grace so many churches at the beginning of the last century due to the ease of cultivation and the highly decorative flowers with their heady night fragrance. Hence the highly descriptive common names.

Rumor has it, the plant was used by Nefertiti to give her those big black pupils you see in her images. Though I can't verify this as I was not there at the time.

The flowers, leaves and stems are all dangerous when ingested. An article in the paper caught my eye recently about the plant about the effects of ingesting the plant. Over the years there have been some tragic outcomes from people looking for a "cheap high". Side effects include heart palpitations; enlarge pupils, loss of reality, vomiting diarrhea and delusions and hallucinations. This can last for several days. Keep this in mind if using this plant in your garden design placements.

Do you have any interesting stories of horticultural interest or wish to start a forum discussion relating to your work? Send them through to me and I will include them in the next newsletter.

Goodbye for now my fellow members and please participate in the A.I.H. to make our organization strong and cohesive. You are our strength and we need you!

Regards,

Marian Hammond