



aih newsletter

#3/19

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National conference update
From our convenors
Brisbane Collectors Plant Fair



Botanica's Plant of the Month is *Gardenia augusta* Buttons - see more back page.

President's message;



*Michael Casey MAIH, AIH
President*

Dear Councillors and Members,
Welcome to the middle of the year and the countdown to our 2019 Conference and Awards night to be held in Perth, Western Australia.
The National Council have now received all the nominations for the upcoming awards and I send out a big thank you to all that sent through their nominations as there have been some fantastic projects and colleagues nominated. I must say the large amount of nominations that came in this year was great to see.
Our Conference Convener Neville Passmore has been working hard to ensure that this year's conference will not disappoint. The line up can be seen on the AIH webpage as can the online booking form so ensure you make the most of the discount offered for the conference early bird tickets.

See link: <https://www.aih.org.au/conference-topics/awards-2019/>

We are looking for members/affiliated groups to contribute to the AIH Newsletter and Journal for Plant Pick and Project of the Month. Any other contributions are also welcome. Please send to the AIH Editor- Communications Manager, tempemac@gmail.com. Thank you.

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The wildflower and garden tour is open for all AIH members and the public so please make the most of booking early as numbers are limited. It will be held on Sunday 22nd September following the awards can be seen on the website.

Therapeutic Horticulture Australia is also having their annual conference on the 20th September and this will be full of accomplished presenters discussing innovation, practice and research in the field of therapeutic horticulture. Please ensure you take a look at their website for more details or you can book online at our Try booking site.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work of our Membership manager, David Thompson, who has been working hard over the last 2 months ensuring all members have their current memberships processed and replying to messages of both support and enquiries from prospective members. We have had a great number of new members join in recent months and I welcome them to the AIH on behalf of the National Council and myself. To all renewing members please ensure you head to the website of ACS Distance Education to receive your \$30 eBook voucher. Thanks again to John Mason FAIH for this kind gift to our members.

The continuing workshops and 'walk and talks' around the country are bringing both fantastic and insightful topics and sites for our members but more importantly they are attracting large amounts of participants ensuring that members can network with like minded industry colleagues. The appointment of Wayne Van Balen as our Registered Horticulturist Manager will also ensure that these events be run around the country and with the best topics and presenters we can find. For all RH members we will be starting our auditing of members CPD points so please ensure your records are up to date.

Thank you again to all members and if there is anything myself or the National Council can help you with then please do not hesitate to get in contact with us.

Regards, Michael Casey, National President

National conference update; AIH Conference & Awards - 21st/22nd September, 2019, PerthWA.

WA convenor, Neville Passmore FAIH, Registered Horticulturist, gives an update on speakers and topics.

The Welcome to Country will be given by Prof. Simon Forrest. It will give an insight into traditional aboriginal landcare methods.



Wildflower season in WA - detail of Patersonia occidentalis

The speaker's list is growing and we have a number of themes running through the program to expose delegates to the many ways in which horticulture can benefit mankind in the Anthropocene era.

This will be followed by the Conference opening by the Honourable Rita Saffioti, WA State Minister for Transport and Planning. The Minister is charged with the responsibility of making the state more liveable through the Metronet project. Its purpose is to extend the rail and road network around Perth; a green blueprint for new developments in the area.

The speaker line-up includes:

- Graeme Sait will introduce the topic of the Anthropocene, its consequences and possible horticultural solutions. Food security in the 21st Century is a topic exercising many minds today and Graeme Sait will address this.

- Carole Fudge has for many years, participated in the Industry Advisory Committee for Horticulture Innovation Australia and its predecessor HAL. She will bring us up to date with their 2020 vision program on the eve of the year 2020. What has been achieved is pretty amazing and she will inform us as to the future program that is being mapped out now.

- Professor Peter Newman will address why it is that we humans need a daily dose of Biophilia and how we can get it through good urban design and horticulture.

- Professor Lyn Abbott will talk on new discoveries and understandings in soil science and what this means for humanity.

- Professor Steven Hopper Western Australian former chief of both Kings Park and Kew Gardens will talk on new perspectives on revegetation of local area native plants in old infertile landscapes.

Each of these keynote topics will be followed by breakout sessions with two or three speakers and a panel session as well.

Among the breakout topics will be:

- "Successful rooftop and wall garden in the harsh WA environment".

- "Creating a nursery and propagation facility in one year then planting out 800,000 plants into a constructed wetlands project to clean hydrocarbon contaminated water all within 12 months".

- "Tree root management in urban environments", Aeroponics and desalination combine to grow top quality truss tomatoes in a desert" and,

- "Compost the link between waste, soil health, plant health and human health".

AIH Conference: <https://www.aih.org.au/conference-topics/awards-2019/>

Members Corner;

Plant pick of the Month; **CLEMATIS SMILACIFOLIA**

Clematis can be absolutely wonderful but unfortunately warm subtropical and tropical climate are not ideal for the majority of the most showy species. That is until I saw *Clematis smilacifolia*, this is an evergreen tropical clematis with a large natural distribution north from India to South East China down to the Malay peninsula, to PNG and the Phillipines.

It is a sweetly scented vigorous and hardy climber. The fluffy white stamens are offset by 6 narrow purple black fully re-flexed sepals appear in late summer and autumn. The simple entire ovate leaves are dark and glossy becoming glabrous with age. As I have not yet grown it myself, I have been told that it is better given a lot of space to grow such as a wall or a large pergola. By all accounts it seems that this climber can resist very hot and dry periods without showing any sign of stress.

**Selection by
Patrick Regnault MAIH,
Registered Horticulturist,
convenor for Northern NSW
and Gold coast.**



New member's profile;

Louisa Mettam, MAIH

Louisa Mettam MAIH gives some insights into the benefits of being a member and her passion for what she does.



What was your path to becoming a Landscape Architect and horticulturist?

I had some great advice from industry mentors and did what was then known as an Associate Diploma in Horticulture (Landscape Design) at Ryde TAFE. It provided a wonderful foundation in horticultural knowledge, practical skills and information I still use in my practice every day. I then went on to complete my Landscape Architecture Degree at University of Canberra, which expanded my academic and broad scale thinking and pushed the boundaries of what I considered the 'landscape' to be.

For anyone considering Landscape Design or Architecture, the study options have changed quite a bit in recent times and I would recommend doing your homework and getting advice from a range of sources (including industry practitioners) to decide the best path for you. But the value of a strong horticultural focus can't be underestimated, as it is what fundamentally sets us apart from other design sectors.

What are your main passions and interests in the field?

I love compiling detailed and interesting plant lists and plans, within my designs, switching some of the 'usual suspects' for new and interesting varieties being released all the time. Playing with the endless combinations of colour, texture and form and the interplay of the 'softscape' with the built environment are also aspects that I am passionate about. It's wonderful when I can introduce clients to something they haven't seen before, educate them on how to look after it and see the excitement and ownership they take of their new garden. It's the same reaction we get from kids when we do a Hort4kidz session and they learn something about plants they didn't know before, take ownership of their own seedling and gain the confidence and passion to take care of it once they get it home. It's a very rewarding experience.



*Hort4kidz /Bush Tucker'
Plants in decorated take away
boxes*

What benefits/opportunities do you see in joining/being a member of the AIH

I work on my own quite a bit, and even though time is precious and social media can be a convenient way to connect, for me it's really important to be connected to industry groups and have the chance to network face to face and cross-pollinate knowledge and opportunities with other passionate horties from a variety of industry sectors. It's lovely to see a resurgence in members and a growing public interest in sustainability and urban farming. I think the future of 'green' industries looks pretty bright and full of possibilities and that's really exciting!

Are there any burning issues that you believe need addressing within the field?

I'd love to see more collaboration within different sectors of the industry, there are so many different skills involved in planning, designing, implementing, nurturing and maintaining and

throughout the industry. managing our landscapes, it would be great to see more high quality examples of diverse teams that work well over long time periods for amazing results.

I think education around the definition of different qualifications and abilities within the green sector for clients and the public, will lead to better selection of contractors and services and increased engagement and client experiences. And that recognition of skills and experience hopefully follows in improved wages



Sample landscape plan

Fitzpatrick newsletter: <https://www.fitzpatrick.com.au/resource/Out%20n%20A%20>

OUT ON A LIMB

An informative newsletter for all those with an interest in horticulture

Our very popular newsletter is now available on-line!

To read our Winter Edition of Out On A Limb please click [here](#)

We trust you will enjoy reading it.

Kind regards,

Fitzpatrick & Co Insurance Brokers

Botanica's Plant of the Month; 'Buttons' Gardenia Augusta

Another superb release from Paradise Plants

Selected under Australian conditions for excellent plant habit without the need for pruning.

- Naturally bushy and self-branching, low-growing and ever-green.
- Lots of highly perfumed, double flowers through Spring and Summer .
- Tough and hardy. Full sun or part shade.
- Excellent as a low hedge or border.
- Ideal for display tubs, mass planting or accent planting.

Tolerant of most soil types provided there is good drainage. 'Buttons' rarely exceeds 75cm tall and will spread to approx. 75cm wide. Head and frost tolerant but may require protection in extreme situations. Drought tolerant once established.

Other Gardenias in the 'Paradise' range include, 'WHITE GOLD' and "SUPERSTAR'.

This plant may be eligible for PBR under section 43(6) of the Plant Breeder's Rights Act 1994. Unauthorised commercial propagation prohibited.



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From our convenors;

AILA & AILDLM WORKSHOP REPORT

**From Regional
Convener for Northern
NSW and Gold Coast Qld,
Patrick Regnault, MAIH,
Registered Horticulturist**

On the 22nd of June our colleagues of AILA & AILDLM had organised a workshop on Contract Administration for Landscape Projects. The speaker was Graham Fletcher, Graham is a Landscape architect with a long career which started in 1977 which included teaching design, contract administration, law at Ryde TAFE and University of NSW. Graham has held national position in major industry organisations including AIH, AILA and AILDLM and is currently head of school at the recently formed Australian School of Gardening. This well-presented workshop covered Contract basics, Project Administration basics, Contract Administration Step by step, Money and Time and Professionalism. There were about 50 people attending, mostly Landscape architects and Landscape designers but also some Landscape designers/contractors. Emphasis was on liability and managing risks whilst providing a good outcome for the client, being able to have clear role delineation, avoiding to take on responsibilities for which the designer is not qualified for, understanding the paperwork and paper trail required to manage a landscape project when many people are involved.

This engaging 4hr workshop succeeded in imparting a large amount of information which will give food for thought and will take some time to assimilate. A very successful event.

Sydney Regional Networking night

**An update from Chris
Poulton FAIH, Registered
Horticulturist, Regional
Convener for Sydney.**

The networking night on the 13th June at the El Rancho hotel at North Ryde was a great success. Members had a chance to get together, share a meal and catch up on all the latest news within the industry. Chris Poulton and Wayne Van Baylen, immediate past AIH President had the opportunity to inform the members about the all the latest initiatives and plans that the A.I.H have for its members in the coming year.

A really great night . Make sure to get along to the next members get together later on this year.



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An Aviso Group Partner

An update from Tom Lantry, MAIH, Registered Horticulturist, Regional Convenor for the Hunter and Central Coast, NSW.

Hunter and Central Coast, NSW.

The Guest Speaker at the June Meeting of Hunter / Central Coast group was Danielle Lloyd- Prichard whose topic was beekeeping in gardens. The members were impressed by the presentation which covers many topics associated with European and native bees. The next event for the group is the Walk & Talk at Riverdene Nursery on the 7th July.

The value of holding regular meeting is that it fosters Networking; on the 25th June seven members will be pruning a fairly large neglected mixed orchard. This opportunity came about when one of our members Steve Williams MAIH. Was approached in his role as Arborists to carry out the work to return the run down orchard back to a productive unit.

At one of our meetings Steve suggested that this would be a good exercise to not only promote the group but to allow other members to take part and share the experience.



before pruning



after pruning



before pruning



during pruning



Brett and Glen working on an appletree



The general size of the citrus before pruning



The Collectors Plant Fair; Brisbane

The Brisbane Plant Collectors Fair was held at Rocklea, Brisbane on 1-2 June 2019 for the fourth year running. Patrick Regnault MAIH reports on this small but successful Fair.

On the 1st and 2nd of June the Brisbane Plant Collector Fair was held in Rocklea, Brisbane for the 4th year running. It was also a great opportunity to network and make contact with smaller growers and meet other professionals and share tips and information.

Although relatively small many people passing through the gate. The exhibitors came from all over Queensland and NSW. A good lay-out of the stalls allowed the visitors to flow seamlessly from stall to stall without feeling rushed or crammed.

It was an occasion to see and purchase plants seldom seen in wholesale nurseries or wholesale markets. There were plenty of plants to see and to choose from temperate to tropical plants to orchids, trees and climbers.

A horticulture student, who is very passionate about plants, came along with me to the fair. This raises the role that experienced AIH members can play in mentoring the upcoming generation of horticulturists. If we are serious in keeping our profession alive and passing it on to the younger ones to build upon and improve it, we need to pass on without holding back all of our knowledge and introduce these young passionate horticulturists to other well informed specialists in production, ornamental, soft and hard landscaping and design aspect of the industry. AIH has a role to play in passing the batten on, which is why we encourage members to mentor people in their field and younger members such as students to ask their local Regional Convener to pair them with a mentor if they have not yet done so.



Damon from Parkers Place Nursery



Mrs Parkers with her Renaissance Herbs Range

Media Sponsor; Hort Journal

Innovative Communication in Horticulture

Hort Journal Australia magazine is a national trade and industry journal for the nursery and garden industry, landscape industry and the broader horticultural community. Our magazine is based on passion, commitment, experience and a genuine enthusiasm for horticulture in Australia and we have a truly national focus that embraces all industry sectors.

Our commitment to communication between these sectors is one of our strengths and our support to industry is proven, particularly through supporting, attending and sponsoring, as well as reporting on national conferences and expos for the various sectors Australia-wide.

The readership of the magazine is varied and includes nurseries, both wholesale and retail, the landscape sector, interior plantscape, therapeutic horticulture, local government parks and gardens, botanic gardens, educational and training institutions such as universities and TAFE colleges, merchant buyers and allied trades. Hort Journal Australia magazine is informative, newsworthy and reflects industry responses.

Featured articles include topics such as pest and disease management, plant profiles, trees, landscape design, interior Plantscaping, soils, therapeutic horticulture, environmental issues, industry events and more.

The Nursery & Garden Industry Australia Nursery Papers, which includes high-level technical information, features every month as does the 2020 Vision updates, ensuring information is disseminated to their members.

Because of the broad readership, Hort Journal Australia is a vital link connecting all sectors of the horticultural industry. We believe this is another of our strengths and having representation and articles from all sectors ensures information reaches a wide audience. This monthly magazine, with 11 issues per year (December/January is one issue), is available via subscription. It is written by experienced, qualified and knowledgeable people in the industry, and for the industry, on a national level.

At a time when our industry is shrinking, now more than ever is communication and connection vital.



In-kind Sponsor; PlantSelect

PlantSelect.com.au is a cloud-based website designed to streamline communication between, and connect people looking for plants (landscape and design professionals, horticulturists, nurseries, etc.) with people who grow or supply plants. It allows buyers to specify and select the plants they require, so they can obtain competitive quotes for supply.

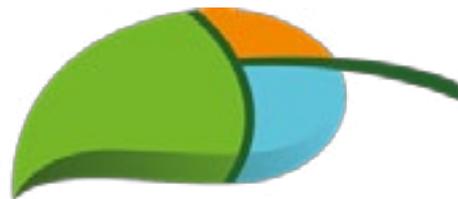
PlantSelect is based on a comprehensive national database of plants and plant suppliers that includes botanical/scientific names (genus/species), cultivar and common names, and attributes and characteristics of each plant, such as height and spread at maturity, flower and foliage colour, flowering times, climatic zones etc. Broader plant categories including trees, shrubs, perennials, ground covers and turf, facilitate searches.

It works by Growers/Nurseries (suppliers) uploading their complete plant growing lists, including container sizes, to the website, and any plants not already on the database are added. People looking for plants select them from the database and add them to a project or job. Once their selection is complete, they submit the job or project list to obtain quotes.

Our system automatically matches their plant list against all the uploaded nursery and growers' growing lists, and only those who grow or have the required plants are notified (text message and email). They are invited to provide a quote directly to the person looking for those plants, who can then compare the quotes they receive and deal directly with their chosen supplier/s. Matching is also done using the geographical location of the buyer's office or project location.

PlantSelect allows people to source the right plants for projects of any size, and allows them to easily obtain and compare quotes to get the best possible price. Quotes for forward orders can be accommodated, the comprehensive database provides information, and the easy 24hour access means PlantSelect does the searching for you which saves time and money for everyone.

www.plantselect.com.au



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