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Australian Region of the
International Plant Propagators' Society

33RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE MILDURA APRIL 21ST - 24TH 2005



First Announcement and Call for Papers

intro

The International Plant Propagators Society (IPPS) started in the eastern states of North America in 1951. Today the Society has evolved into eight regions worldwide including New Zealand, Great Britain and Ireland, Western Region of North America, Southern Region of North America, Scandinavian Region, Japan and Australia, with Southern Africa working towards regional status. The IPPS is a great networking opportunity for members both locally and internationally and the international conference represents a great way to meet people who share common interests and professional goals.

location

The 33rd Annual Conference will be held in Mildura, Victoria, in an area rich in irrigated horticulture. The township is a vibrant community of some 30,000 people nestled around the mighty Murray River.

Surrounding areas present varied and beautiful National Parks and many different wineries offering cellar door sales.

getting there

By Car > Mildura is 560 km from Melbourne, about 6 hours minimum travel by car, over stretches of arid dryland agriculture and Mallee scrub. From Adelaide, the journey is approx 400 km, first through the wine areas of the Barossa and Clare Valleys, then the agricultural areas of the Riverland.

By Plane > Both Qantas and Regional Express operate daily services to Mildura. Fares can be as low as \$58 one way if booked on the net, otherwise usually \$100-\$120 each way if booked in advance.

By other > As at May 2004, there is no direct train service to Mildura. Trains depart from Spencer Street Station in Melbourne, then change to bus either at Bendigo or Swan Hill (approx 7 hours trip). There is also an overnight bus service from Sydney/Adelaide. (14 hours ex Sydney, 5 Hours ex Adelaide.)

tours

Post Conference Tour

In conjunction with the Conference, there will be the opportunity (optional) for participants to spend a week travelling around this area of geographic and archeological importance. A rare opportunity to see Lake Mungo, visit Broken Hill, Mootwingee National Park, Silvertown, and the horticultural developments at Tandou. If numbers permit, this tour can also be offered pre-conference. Don't miss out.

Nurseries in the Mildura Area

With Mildura being a prime area for grapes, citrus, olives, avocados, asparagus, and other fruit crops, the nursery focus is large-scale propagation of these crops for commercial growers. The two leading wholesale nurseries in the area are Boulevard Nurseries, and Sunraysia Nurseries.

Boulevard Nurseries: Employing up to 100 people depending on the season, Boulevard's focus is on various methods of grapevine propagation, including dormant bench grafting, green cutting propagation, tissue culture and Green-Grafting (Micrografting). In addition, the nursery produces budded Citrus, grafted avocados, as well as a range of ornamental lines including Hydrangea, Chrysanthemum and Zantedeschia.

The nursery has grown from being a small family-oriented business into one of the major employers and leading enterprises in the Sunraysia District. The nursery has attained growth in excess of 500% over the past few years.

In 1993, the Nursery won the Mildura Chamber of Commerce 'Business Achievement Award'. In 1994 the Nursery won the 'Telstra and Victorian Government Small Business Award' for the North West Region of Victoria. In 1999 the Nursery won the Mildura Chamber of Commerce 'Business Excellence Award' in the category Primary Production.

Sunraysia Nurseries is a wholesale nursery situated on the Murray River at Gol Gol near Mildura in the Sunraysia District, right in the heart of the fruit Bowl of Australia. The nursery has been serving Murray Valley Fruit Growers for over 50 years and with a staff of up to 120 people representing an aggregate experience in excess of 500 years in the nursery industry. The Sunraysia Nurseries Group comprises an 18 acre container nursery, 200 acre field nursery and a retail garden centre with cafe. The Group also farms 130 acres of wine grapes, citrus and olives. The nursery specializes in the production of Grapevines, Citrus, Olives, Avocados, Kiwifruit, Passionfruit and Pistachio.

attractions

For when you're not conferencing Lake Mungo. An archaeologically significant part of the Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area.

Located 110 km north-east of Mildura, Mungo National Park is a 27847-ha archaeological and geomorphological site of world importance. Lake Mungo is one of 17 dry lakes which constitute the Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area, declared in 1981. Remains of the earliest known humans to inhabit the Australian continent have been found here.

25 000 to 45 000 years ago the lake covered 135 square kilometres and was about 10 m deep. It was one of a series of freshwater lakes along Willandra Creek, which was then a major branch of the Lachlan River. The lakes dried up about 14 000 years ago. They are, however, an extraordinarily rich source of fossils.

The remains of extinct creatures - Tasmanian tigers, giant, short-faced kangaroos and a strange oxen-sized animal called a zygomaticus - have been found. Crucially, carbon dating has indicated that Aborigines inhabited the area 40 000 years ago, making it the site of the oldest known human occupation in Australia. Findings of ochre in the area, dating back 32 000 years, constitute the earliest evidence in the Pacific Basin of the deliberate selection of pigments. Moreover, a 28 000-30 000-year-old burial site that reveals a body that was covered in red ochre. A 26 000-year-old grave contains the earliest known human example of cremation. After the ritual incineration the bones were smashed and deposited in a hole by the pyre. These practices clearly suggest the presence of spiritual considerations.

Hattah-Kulkyne National Park. Centred on an impressive lakes system, adjacent to the Murray River, these parks offer an abundance of wildlife, majestic River Red Gums, and ancient Buloke trees. Around 74 km from Mildura, the parks encompass almost 50,000 hectares of magnificent mallee, floodplain and dune country.

Mildura Regional Art Gallery. One of the best regional Galleries in Australia, the Mildura Art Gallery's foundation Elliott Collection includes important paintings by Anglo Irish artist Sir William Orpen and a number of works by Sir Frank Brangwyn, as well as an Edgar Degas pastel. The continuous programme has touring art, craft and social history from around Australia plus the best new work by artists from the Murray Darling area.

Mildura Inland Botanical Gardens. One of the very few arid zone parks in Australia, this garden of international standard includes a fully developed rose garden containing 1700 rose plants. Some specific features include endangered species beds, and a West Australian Dryland section. The old Garnpang Homestead is also there, and this will be the location of one of the conference tours.