



JUNE | JULY 2016

Nursery & Garden Industry
South Australia

What's Growing On

Official Journal of NGISA



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Industry restructure attracts interest in SA



There was an excellent attendance at the South Australian meeting of the Nursery & Garden Industry Structural Review on Wednesday June 15, with 22 people coming along to have their say and listen to the national committee.

The meeting is one of a series being held in each state and territory to discuss the possible future make-up of the industry on a state/national basis.

Among those attending there was strong support for the retention of a South Australian association.

Acting chair Glen Fenton from Victoria posed several questions to the group, looking at what they expected from state and national associations. Overall there was common support for the need of a national body to manage biosecurity, advocacy, regulations and help grow the market, as well as improved communications.

The National Committee conducting the review includes Gary Eyles, chair from NSW, Gena Campbell from Queensland and Carl Heyne for SA. Gary attended part of the meeting, which was followed by the committee meeting with the SA Board.

SA President Graham Brown told the meeting that SA was favouring a regional model where the states remained the main point of contact for members and had a more direct input into the national body which would be governed by representatives from state boards or executives.

Others talked about the need for the national and state bodies living within their means, particularly now that pot levy funding supporting projects managed by them was not widely available.

Member and president of the Hort Media in SA, Kim Syrus, said it was important that any structure was not top heavy, while SA board member Peter Jong said he wanted any structure to be more equal and that voting should be proportional to the memberships across the country.

The two most important issues in the future were agreed and these were biosecurity and Bunnings. "What industry structure do we have so that Bunnings comes into our shed?" was one comment.

The meeting resulted in two hours of discussion and input which will all feed into the review. Individual submissions are being sought in the review process and the submission form can be downloaded from the NGIA website at www.ngia.com.au They are due by Friday July 15.

The committee will also be looking outside of the nursery and garden industry at other associations and assessing what successful structures could be considered. They are due to report back to the industry in November.

The SA Board will be making a submission.



President's REPORT

You will be receiving this newsletter after the industry structural review committee has held its 'town hall' meeting in Adelaide but you will still have a chance to have your say by submitting your thoughts up until Friday July 15.

I urge you to consider what you want from your industry and what type of structure you think will work better - the form is available on the NGIA website.

Your board is making a submission and we believe that, while our South Australian association is working well, there is always room for improvement.

The national office is now under pressure with reduced project funding because of Hort Innovation changes to the way the pot levy is spent so this review will help decide on what role/s they have and how the whole industry is structured.

It would be fair to say that members almost always come to their state association first on any matters, and see themselves, foremost as members of the state association and second, members of the national association.

*We believe that state associations should be the main point of contact for industry members as we deal with local issues and are best placed to organise state industry promotions, training and events. So, NGISA sees the current role of NGIA as **supportive** of state NGIs and acting on national matters across industry - a very important role to play.*

DIARY DATES

Spring Trade Day
- Tuesday August 23

Hanging Basket Competition on display
- September 2 Adelaide Showgrounds

Nursery & Garden Industry of South Australia
505 Fullarton Road Netherby 5062
P: (08) 8372 6822
www.ngisa.com.au

COVER PHOTO: The Living Colour Festival in Rundle Mall did just that - it added living colour supplied by NGISA members to support the promotion 'Improve Your Plant/Life Balance'. This display of pansies was grown by Living Colour Nursery.



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Hanging Basket Competition up and running



Staff and students from Ironwood Careers and Training assisted Grant Dalwood with watering and daily inspections of the displays during the Living Colour Festival came along to the Hanging Basket Competition launch.

The SA Hanging Basket Competition is now in full swing as our member nurseries encourage a variety of entries from all around the state. 'The impact of a hanging basket in full colour is just magical' says Brett of Barrow and Bench in Malvern 'it encourages people to garden.'

The Hanging Basket Competition is a fantastic opportunity for people of all ages to get involved and is open for gardeners of all persuasions: schools, individual groups, and older people. Entries can be made under any one of the following categories: Colour, Foliage, Edible, Creative, Watermiser, School and Garden Club.

"[It] is about encouraging people who haven't thought about gardening, to see what others are doing and to give it a go for themselves," says NGISA's Neville Sloss. Some member nurseries, such as Barrow and Bench, are offering a 15% discount on products to be used in baskets. 'It's a fantastic opportunity for garden centres to endorse what's in season,' says Brett.

The Hanging Basket Competition has seen similar successful competitions take place interstate, including the Victorian Horticultural Society's show at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show and has a variety of great prizes on offer for finalists. Gardening Australia's Sophie Thomsen says "this is a great idea for SA! Get growing!" Lorraine at Jungle in Willunga agrees that it's a fantastic local initiative - "It's

great the Hanging Basket Competition is in SA, it allows us local nurseries to 'piggy-back' on the bigger brands and to engage with customers on a personal level," she says.

NGISA with Kim Syrus, President of the Hort Media in SA, officially launched the competition in Rundle Mall during the Living Colour Festival.

Each garden centre will be judging its own Hanging Basket entries and finalists will be chosen from each category on the weekend of August 27 and 28. The Hanging Basket Competition is an excellent opportunity for local nurseries to generate publicity in their own local media.

Finalists' entries will be displayed at the Royal Adelaide Show, as Brett says "it's the largest public event in Adelaide, with 500,000 + attendees, it's a fantastic way for nurseries to promote themselves."

by Emma Heidenreich



President of the Hort Media in SA, Kim Syrus, launched the competition and is seen here with Sharyn Ward from Glynde Mitre 10 garden centre.



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Nursery & Garden Industry
South Australia

Mall comes to life with Living Colour Festival

The result of careful planning, three month's growing, a day of 'potting' into crates by TAFE students and three early morning hours of loading and unloading culminated with bright and colourful displays along the length of Rundle Mall. The Living Colour Festival began on Sunday May 1 and resulted in a wide variety of plants being on show to the public and encourage them to get gardening. It ran for two weeks and, as is the case with most successful events, its success was due to a team effort.

Thanks first to Garden City Plastics and Ball Australia who supplied the pots and tube stock respectively. Growers Poplar Grove, Adelaide Plant Growers, Plummers United, Living Colour and Briggs grew on the plants and Living Colour and Poplar Grove provided the trucks to get them all to the Mall.



Hort students from Urrbrae TAFE helped arrange the plants into the crates the day before they were shipped into Rundle Mall. Poplar Grove and Living Colour Nurseries kindly provided the trucks to transport the crates at 6am on a crisp autumn morning.

Grant Dalwood undertook the early morning watering towing a tank through the Mall each day and students and staff from NGISA member, Ironwood Careers & Training, checked on the plants each day to organise replacement plants.

At the end of the festival local charity Headspace Adelaide organised a sell-off of plants and raised over \$2,000 while the rest were brought back to Urrbrae and were planted out in the gardens by students.

The Rundle Mall Management Authority organised a range of complementary events, promoted it strongly and was pleased with the response from the visitors to the Mall. It is hoped we can do it all again next year - helping shoppers 'improve their plant life balance'.



A mix of plants and flowers were used either side of the Gawler Place canopy to add colour and interest to this gathering point in the Mall.

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The Pulteney St end of the Mall with this colourful display grown by Adelaide Plant Growers.

Mall comes to life with Living Colour Festival cont...



Salvias, angelonias and verbenas made up this colourful display.



A striking combination of osteospernums and ornamental chillies.



Flowers held up very well over the two week festival.

ADVERTISER.COM.AU FRIDAY APRIL 29 2016 **NEWS 15**

BLOOMING TIME BRINGS JOY AND AWARENESS

BRIGHT IDEA: City workers Teall Palmer and Michael Sutton with some of the flowers destined for the inaugural Living Colour Festival in Rundle Mall. **Picture: TOM HUNTLEY**

SAM KELTON

RUNDLE Mall will blossom into a sea of colour as more than 3000 plants give shoppers a lift and raise awareness for mental health.

The Rundle Mall Management Authority has partnered with Nursery and Garden Industry SA and mental health organisation Headspace Adelaide for the Living Colour Festival.

RMMA general manager

Amanda Grocock said the Festival which begins this Sunday, would add beauty to the CBD, and help visitors reflect on mental health issues.

"Flowers are often a symbol of joy and we hope the displays will brighten people's day," Ms Grocock said.

When the Living Colour Festival ends on May 15, all plants will be sold with proceeds going to Headspace Adelaide.

The organisation's Youth

and Community Engagement Leader Shane Hough said it was important to raise awareness about mental health.

"The Living Colour Festival is a perfect example of Rundle Mall and Nursery and Garden Industry SA being innovative and thinking out of the square to help support our services in Adelaide," Mr Hough said.

"I live and work in the city so a bit of colour around the place is great," Michael Sutton added.



Australian Flora for Horticulture



Native Plant Wholesalers is one of Australia's larger native plant growers and proudly based in South Australia near Mount Gambier. Begun 30 years ago by Australian native plant enthusiast, Phillip Dowling, the nursery now has 6 hectares of growing area producing over 800,000 plants per annum in 140mm and 200mm pots. A staff of more than 30 full-time and casuals, work with Phillip and nursery Manager Jason Dawe to produce and promote Australian flora for horticulture.



Native Plant Wholesalers has been a NGISA Accredited Nursery since 2000, an NIASA accredited nursery since 2009 and in 2011 achieved Biosecure HACCP certification. An extensive stocklist is available on the Native Plant Wholesalers website which is updated weekly for ordering. We offer quick and efficient delivery.

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www.nativeplantwholesalers.com.au

INDUSTRY SNIPPETS

New Member

NGISA welcomes another new member, Caperplants, the business of Brian Noone from Ethelton.

Brian has been well known in the industry and is now undertaking the wholesale production and growing of caper plants, especially the 'Eureka' variety.

Yates acquires Munns Lawn Co

Yates Australia (DuluxGroup) has acquired South Australian based Munns Lawn Company Pty Ltd.

Yates, established in Australia in 1887, is Australia and New Zealand's largest garden care brand. Munns is a proudly Australian family owned company. Established in 1948 by the late Brian Munn, over the last 67 years it has become one of Australia's best-known lawn brands.

Yates says it is committed to building the Munns brand - "The acquisition of the Munns business and its brand will be a great addition to our lawn care portfolio and we believe we can continue to build on the wonderful foundation the Munns family has built to date," said Jennifer Tucker, Executive General Manager, Yates.

From Munns, Alexandra Munn, says a number of the experienced Munns staff will be looking for employment soon. "If you're looking for experienced sales, warehouse & administration employees please contact me," says Alexandra. She can be contacted at alex@munns.com.au

Grow Me Instead update underway

The newly convened Expert Reference Committee has held its first meeting to discuss the update of the Grow Me Instead booklet.

It considered additions, deletions and replacements to the varieties featured in the revised booklet. It has been brought about by the fact that since the last issue, there have been several new declared plants and there are better varieties now available for some of the suggested alternatives.

There will be 20,000 copies printed, which has been made possible through funding from:

- Natural Resources - Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges, Arid Lands, Murry Darling Basin & South East
- Biosecurity SA
- SA Power Networks

To date in South Australia more than 28,000 copies have been distributed in nearly a decade.

The project will also see an update of the SA Grow Me Instead website.

Advertiser winter feature

NGISA worked with The Advertiser to produce a two page spread in the last Saturday edition before winter began featuring the 'Hottest plants for winter'.

Members assisted in making the feature happen, suggesting varieties and providing photographs.

The colour spread featured categories such as colour, natives, ground covers, trees and indoors, with three varieties selected for each. It appeared on Saturday May 28.

Community spirit at work at Milang



Nursery Manager, Jill Dennis.



The nursery stocks local species.

Just an hour's drive out of Adelaide, Milang Shoreline Nursery has been a member of NGISA for two years, listed under the name of Milang and Community District Nursery, because of its beginnings. University intern working with NGISA, Emma Heidenreich, made the trip to Milang and here is her report.

Milang Shoreline Nursery is a unique and wonderful place, specialising in native provenance seedlings. It's not just the refreshing coastal breeze or gentle birdsong that makes this place special.

Jill Dennis, the local horticulturalist and nursery manager has been around since the nursery began and she has a special story to tell.

Milang and the communities surrounding Lake Alexandrina were some of the worst hit by the South Australian drought that lasted from 2006 to 2010. Despite the hardships, Jill says Milang was, and is, a true community.

"Once the drought hit, everyone wanted to get involved and help get the community back to what it was," says Jill.

The community was really shocked about what was happening to the environment as a result of the drought and realised there was very little habitat left around the lakes.

In 2010, the Federal Government responded by providing a total \$180 million in funding, with a five-year timeframe, meaning the project expires this year. It became known as the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray

Mouth Recovery Project (CLLMM) and precipitated the formation of many local community bodies, including the Milang District Community Association (MDCA).

"It's the biggest revegetation project in the Southern Hemisphere and doesn't just plant seedlings, but funds conservation education programs, plant preparation and overall land care," says Jill.

The government funding and support of the MDCA made it possible for nurseries in the region, like Shoreline, to flourish. In its first year, they planted 10,000 plants from 33 different native species and helped to restore shelterbelts and buffer zones surrounding the lakes, which has seen a return of the Southern Emu-Wren to the area.

Today, Shoreline is the only nursery in the area that sells native provenance seedlings. Jill says focusing on native plants is so important because they are hardier, they use less water and they bring in native birds, bees, butterflies and other insects, as well as being adaptable to the varying soils in the region.

"This is good for gardeners to know but also useful for local farmers. If you can

put that balance of a small shelter belt against your paddock, that provides a wind buffer for stock, shade and provides habitat for kangaroos and birds," Jill says.

The project has been incredibly healing for the land, but this has translated somewhat to the people of Milang as well.

"I love the camaraderie - a lot of people have somewhere to go now and locals come in and help, in fact most of our staff are volunteers. They just love to be here, helping where they can. We also get a lot more young families coming to the area now."

"Shoreline is currently in its busiest time of the year - once we get that first good breaking winter rain, you want to get everything in the ground," says Jill.

The nursery's seedlings range from woodland to lake-edge species.

The furthest place they source from is Meningie which ensures that the seedlings are truly appropriate to the environment. Popular seedlings at the nursery include *Bursaria Spinosa*, *Kennedia Prostrata* and *Kunzea Pomifera*.

"Shoreline is looking to sell a lot more to the public in future and to promote ourselves not just in the community but further around the region too," says Jill. "We're pretty lucky here; it's so peaceful, just think of all the poor sods stuck in traffic jams in Sydney!"

by Emma Heidenreich

SA Power Networks

THINK BEFORE YOU PLANT

Plant the right tree in the right place

SA Power Networks takes its regulatory obligations and the safety of South Australians seriously and is committed to continuously improving how we manage vegetation near powerlines.

Planting limitations

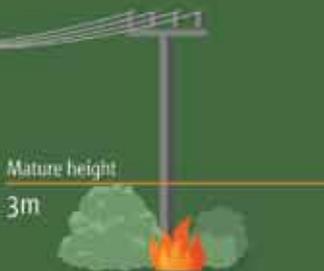
There are limitations regarding the type and location of trees and vegetation you can plant near powerlines. It is a legal requirement to maintain a safe clearance zone around any applicable trees on a property you occupy or own.

What is the right tree for the right place?

The mature height of a tree is the main criteria to determine how close it can be planted to particular types of power lines. There are two lists of trees outlining appropriate species for planting under powerlines:

BUSHFIRE RISK AREAS

or areas where lines are uninsulated – trees with mature height of 3m or less



In addition, all vegetation with a mature height of 2 metres or less is exempt from the planting restrictions.

UNDERGROUND POWERLINES

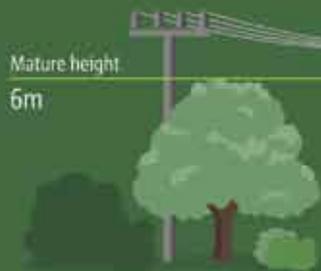
Near an underground powerline of 66kV or more, only trees with a mature height of less than two metres can be planted within three metres of the centre of the underground powerline.

Dial Before You Dig

If you are not sure if you should dig, dial 1100 or visit 1100.com.au

NON-BUSHFIRE RISK AREAS

or areas where lines are insulated – trees with mature height of more than 3m but less than 6m



Seek advice

Before you plant near powerlines (whether overhead or underground), refer to the Botanic Gardens online plant selector tool at the address below or speak with your local nursery representative who can guide you on the safest options for planting near powerlines.

▶ plantselector.botanicgardens.sa.gov.au

More information

If you require more information about the pruning activity in your area contact our Customer Response team during business hours on 13 12 61 or by email at customerrelations@sapowernetworks.com.au. You can find an **appropriate species list** and more information about managing trees around powerlines at the address below or from the *Office of the Technical Regulator Trees and Powerlines* document.

▶ sapowernetworks.com.au/trees

Biosecurity Updates

Russian Wheat Aphid hits SA

The Russian Wheat Aphid first detected by Biosecurity SA in Tarlee in the South Australia's mid north region has since been discovered in several other parts of South Australia and in at least five locations in western Victoria.

The National Management Group (NMG), comprising all Australian governments, Grain Producers Australia and Plant Health Australia, met on 8 June 2016 to discuss the incursion of Russian wheat aphid (*Diuraphis noxia*) in South Australia. Acting on advice from the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests (CCEPP), the NMG agreed that it is not technically feasible to eradicate Russian wheat aphid from Australia.

The NMG agreed that a national management plan for Russian wheat aphid be developed to manage the pest in Australia.

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) have issued an emergency permit (82792) for growers to control Russian wheat aphid.

Russian wheat aphid is a major global

pest of wheat, barley and some grasses, it can cause significant yield losses and until the detection in May was not believed to exist in Australia.

Fruit Fly Outbreak extends

Adelaide now has had three fruit fly outbreaks recorded since the beginning of 2016.

The suspension area has been extended to stretch in the north from Croydon across to Glynde and then south through the Adelaide Hills to Coromandel Valley and west across to Seacliff. An outbreak of Mediterranean Fruit Fly was declared at Clarence Park back in February, another in Colonel Light Gardens and one at Highgate in April.

The anticipated earliest re-instatement date for fruit fly freedom (lifting of suspensions) will not be until December 19, 2016, however further events may cause this date to change.

For further information on requirements, produce movements, treatment options or maps please contact PIRSA Plant Health Operations on 82077 814 or explore pir.sa.gov.au/ica

New App for ordering

Plant Merchant is a new direct business-to-business tool being launched across Australia with a special offer to NGISA members.

In a nutshell, it links nurseries and their retailers, so nurseries can see all their retailers in the one easy place. They can literally "snap a photo" of their plants on their smartphone and upload them directly and instantly through the in-built camera.

They tell us that this is a feature no other green life technology tool offers all retailers. The retailer can then view the seasonal photos of plants, place orders and track spending. Plant Merchant utilises cloud storage meaning the entire database is live, secure and infinite.

Plant Merchant has two types of subscriptions, one catering for small to medium nurseries and another for larger production operations, both currently offered with 20% discounts to NGISA members.

See their advertisement on page 4 for more information.

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Ball Australia

Better tree management to benefit all

Over the next few years South Australians will start to see the benefit of improvements to managing trees around power lines.

SA Power Networks has undertaken detailed consultation with the community and local government to develop more balanced and localised approaches that try to balance the need to maintain safe clearances while meeting community expectations on how urban and rural trees are managed.

Up to 40 per cent of power outages can be attributed to interaction between power lines and vegetation, which also has a significant role to play in the potential for fire starts in bushfire prone areas. Consequently, SA Power Networks is required to undertake vegetation clearance to ensure community safety and the delivery of a reliable electricity supply to customers.

“Tree trimming has been a vexed issue for us as we have to meet very specific legislated clearance requirements established after the Ash Wednesday bushfires that are about bushfire risk mitigation, safety and reliability, while trying to accommodate an increasing community desire to protect trees and their visual amenity,” said Stakeholder Engagement Lead for SA Power Networks, Ms. Alex Lewis.

“The reality is we touch a very small proportion of SA trees, but they are often highly visible and the cutting requirements established by the legislation work against achieving the best aesthetic outcomes.

“So our focus is on developing a long-term plan that shifts the focus from a one size fits all approach of vegetation trimming to a sustainable and cost-effective vegetation management approach undertaken in consultation with local communities through their councils,” said Alex.

In consultation with local government and the horticultural industry, SA Power



SA Power Networks manages all tree trimming right through metropolitan Adelaide and in country areas.

Networks is moving away from a “tree trimming” approach to one of “vegetation management”. This approach includes targeted tree removal and replacement, an updated appropriate species list, a protocol for vegetation management near power lines, the provision of more community education and information and working more collaboratively with Councils and stakeholders to deliver improved outcomes.

SA Power Networks established a Working Group with the Local Government Association (LGA) and a number of representative councils and an Independent Reference Group three years ago to provide ongoing advice and input into key strategic initiatives. SA Power Networks is keen to expand this group to include expertise from the nursery industry so if you are interested

please speak to Grant Dalwood or email Alex Lewis on alexandra.lewis@sapowernetworks.com.au

A protocol outlining the approach for vegetation management and opportunities for partnerships with Councils has been developed in consultation with the LGA and Councils and provides a framework for managing vegetation and moving from a tree trimming to a vegetation management approach over time.

SA Power Networks has also been working with the Nursery Industry Association of SA to encourage more appropriate species selection and has developed a Right Tree, Wrong Place poster to increase community awareness and understanding of what is appropriate to plant under a power line. The poster has been distributed to all the retail garden centres and nurseries in South Australia.

“Getting the whole community, local government and landholders to plant more appropriate species under and around power lines will help ensure we can reduce the impact of tree trimming around power lines over time. If we have the right tree in place, we won’t

have to continually return to prune it and customers will have a more reliable electricity supply.”

SA Power Networks worked with the Botanic Gardens to upgrade their online resource and highlight plants suitable for growing under power lines. The Interactive Plant Selector Tool has been updated and includes about 800 trees or plants that are considered appropriate for planting under power lines <http://plantselector.botanicgardens.sa.gov.au/>

SA Power Networks has produced a poster and leaflet which have been distributed to garden centres and is also contributing to the 2016 update of the SA “Grow Me Instead” booklet - we thank them for their support.



Workplace Partners renews partnership with NGISA

Workplace Partners have been working with NGISA for two years and have reaffirmed their partnership to provide NGISA members with a range of business services.

Workplace Partners is a private consultancy that operates nationally, but is based in South Australia and maintains a core interest in the South Australian gardening industry.

Arvin Bisbal and her husband Tony Bisbal are the co-founders of the business which began in 2010, and have since formed a highly qualified and skilled team of consultants specialising in Human Resource Management, Industrial Relations, Workplace Safety, Quality Management and Business Improvement.

Arvin is keen to reinforce that Workplace Partners provides support, education, coaching and advocacy to help businesses achieve sustainable success.

“We don’t aim to be generic - we work closely with industry to gain a well-rounded knowledge of the gardening industry, we work in many different fields - in quality management, industrial relations, waste reduction through lean systems and even safety accreditation... this helps especially if you are a business looking to expand, reduce operating costs or even apply for tenders,” she says.

Workplace Partners also provides a variety of contractual services and advice, including affordable and comprehensive employment contracts as well as protection for confidential information and intellectual property. These have been developed specifically for the nursery and gardening industry - something that Arvin believes is becoming a necessity for specialised small and medium sized businesses.

“This is a fantastic opportunity for you to protect your business,” says Arvin “and it’s available for NGISA members at a discounted rate.”

Workplace Partners work with only a few select industries, to ensure they can focus on providing the right advice, support and an informed opinion.

“Giving general advice only works for a short while, you really have to understand the specifics that relate to that industry. This helps us to put a structure and framework in place that helps your business to be effective,” adds Arvin.

NGISA members receive a discount on Workplace Partners’ services. For any queries contact them on their national hotline 1300 116 400, or email support@workplacepartners.com.au



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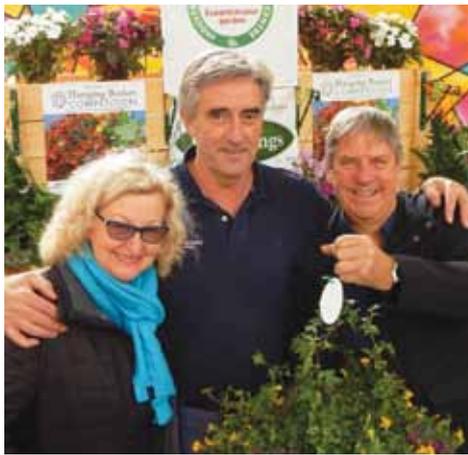
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CEO looks back after two 'quick' years



Grant with Jon & Di Hall at Hanging Basket competition launch recently in Rundle Mall.

It is hard to believe but it is two years since Grant Dalwood took over the reins at NGISA after Geoffrey Fuller retired as CEO.

While Grant had been on staff since 2008, he had been a member of the NGISA for 37 years. He has seen the industry through joy and hardship alike but says its success rests largely on one thing, his greatest inspiration - teamwork.

"I love the collegiality of NGISA. You meet a lot of people with similar problems and similar concerns and having been a nurseryman you understand them... so it's good to come together with people who face the same challenges," Grant says.

Grant's horticultural career began in 1979 when he joined SA Wholesale Nursery at Yatala Vale. The same year they bought the nursery, Grant and his family became members with the NGISA.

"Being involved with the NGISA is really

useful for bringing nurseries up to speed with government legislation, pests and diseases or biosecurity incursions... as well as trade days and national awards, he says. "The association can roll these things out for people and make it a lot easier a process for members."

Grant joined NGISA in 2008 after the family nursery was sold and had been in the position barely a year when the South Australian drought entered its worst phase. "In 2009, the South Australian drought meant a huge downturn in the industry", he says. During this time, Grant and Geoffrey coordinated to keep the association going, this meant asking members to turn out their pockets.

This became another exemplar of the team player ethic that Grant* pursues, "if you're not here to support the members and work as a team, you might as well not be here, because you certainly cannot be here for yourself."

For a couple of months in 2009 Grant was alone, while Geoffrey recovered from a heart attack.

The CEO role has meant Grant is now extensively involved with administration and representing NGISA, as well as other responsibilities such as funding, organisational goals and collaborating with Neville Sloss in a communication role.

"Working with Neville has been fantastic," he says. "He's been one of the most important contributors to the association, from the beginning he recognised that promoting the industry and

communicating its benefits to members was key to its success... I really like working with Neville, he's a breath of fresh air and he's motivated'.

While in the CEO role, Grant still has the task of audits, both in South Australia and interstate. 'I do about 130 audits a year now... And my experience and knowledge in the auditing sector is developing all the time', he says. 'It's also a huge benefit for members...What they like about me auditing is that I was a grower for so long and so they can talk to me and I can understand their challenges', he says.

Since Grant and Neville have collaborated, NGISA's member base has grown by about 20% and the association continues to flourish.

"We have seen our loyal sponsors stay and grow, we have worked with SA Life to establish a high quality garden and outdoor living magazine that is the envy of the country and provides a return to the association and we have a number of projects on the go."

"That's what we're about here at NGISA," says Grant. "We're about benefitting members as much as we can."

by Emma Heidenreich

* In his spare time apart from building a new home with his wife Deb at Glen Osmond, Grant continues to be a board member at the Norwood Football Club, where he played 55 league games, 'some' years ago as well as coached at different levels.

SA wows IPPS Congress



Each Congress, Yates sponsors a group of six budding horticulturists called the 'Yates Six Pack' pictured here.

The International Plant Propagators Society celebrated a most successful congress in Adelaide last month, with 84 people attending the event.

On the organising committee was Samantha Hall from Greenstead Nursery (and a board member of NGISA) and she reported that it all went very well.

"The nursery tours, gala dinner and speakers segments were all highlights for members. Of note was that SA speaker Kate Delaporte was voted best presenter at the congress," said Sam.

International speaker, Christie Coker from Mississippi in the US talked about edible landscapes, most fitting when the congress theme was 'food for thought'.

"The congress really lived up to the Society's motto - 'seek and share'. Many people don't realise that the Society is open to anyone interested in plants - it is one of our industry's best kept secrets!"



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The background of the entire image is a dark blue, textured surface that resembles soil or mulch, with small, irregular particles and a slightly grainy appearance. The color is a deep, muted blue, and the texture is consistent throughout.

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