

I.P.P.S. in New Zealand “Seek and Share”

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Firstly what is “Seek and Share”. I would like to take a few moments to go into the meaning behind this phrase. The success of the I.P.P.S. and its well being and future involves all members taking to full heart the Society’s motto “Seek and Share”.

In English the word “Seek” has a number of meanings:

- to search or inquire.
- try or want to find or get.
- endeavor or try.
- hunt or attempt.

Seek will have slightly different meanings for academics and craftsmen. The academic researcher is after facts, proving ideas right or wrong, and wants answers to questions. The craftsman is more concerned with finding a better way to carry out a task and is not so much concerned with the reasons - but is still very interested. His role is to constantly improve.

The word seek, therefore, means we are constantly striving to find out more information.

In English the word “Share” means:

- to give and receive.
- to contribute so others can benefit.

We must be first to share as through sharing we discover something new. It’s a form of what we English call swapping or exchanging, it happens willingly without remuneration of any form and with no strings attached.

Seeking and sharing requires people to put aside any status, prejudices, or barriers. Discovering the joy of helping, in this case plant propagation and cultivation, is what has made people so enthusiastic about the I.P.P.S.

The International Plant Propagators’ Society provides the platform for members to seek and share. They do this in large forums such as this conference where people can present papers or discuss their experiences openly and frankly and share their knowledge across a cup of coffee at the tea breaks, or dinners, or in the bar in groups, or in a one-to-one situation.

The success of I.P.P.S. has been the respect members have had for its motto “Seek and Share”.

In the time available to me I will present to you an overview of I.P.P.S. in New Zealand.

- The I.P.P.S. is an international society of people of all ages from nurseries, parks, universities, and research organizations willing to “seek and share” information. In addition, fostering international relationships and networks is an important aim of the I.P.P.S. and a feature of many gatherings.
- New Zealand conferences always hold a rare and unusual plant auction which raises money to offset conference costs and help fund projects. Plants are donated — prices often keen.

- Subjects and technology discussed at I.P.P.S. conferences and field days are often extended into Polytechnic courses. For example, Spin Out™ root control (copper treatment) trials were organized by students. This trial extended their knowledge and data available on the material throughout New Zealand and added to the students' education.
- Field days and visits to nurseries and research stations are held during the year throughout the country and at conferences. At such an event in Nelson results of a comparison trial between Swedish, Japanese, and New Zealand cell trays for forestry species occurred. The speakers, such as N.Z. International Director Robert Appleton, are active I.P.P.S. members. Sweden's Stellan Karlson gave a paper at the Nelson conference on the theme "forestry container production".
- Industrial relations are fostered through the I.P.P.S. For example, at Top Trees, a mail order retail nursery at Hastings, the owner, not an I.P.P.S. member, spoke about his nursery and crops and showed members through the operation.
- Botanic gardens managers and curators are active participators in I.P.P.S. At a past conference Jack Hobbs, manager/curator Auckland Botanic Gardens, discussed the performance of New Zealand native plants in the scree garden.
- I.P.P.S. members are always interested in the latest machinery and exhibits such as mobile potting machines always attract large interest during nursery visits. Although I.P.P.S. members are plant oriented they are also keenly interested in new and modified machinery that, while they may not use it themselves, gives them a greater understanding of the industry.
- I.P.P.S. field trips often include retail garden centers. Spontaneous two-way discussions involving plants and their performance often develop between retailers and growers and also amongst growers. This is an important part of I.P.P.S. knowledge dissemination. Grasses and sedges are currently popular in New Zealand as we saw on a field trip at the last I.P.P.S. conference shows.
- Jim Rumbal, propagator at New Zealand's largest nursery, Duncan & Davies (New Plymouth) is a long standing I.P.P.S. member and his contributions often add a sparkle to conferences and field days. His hobby is collecting Japanese enoki cypress (*Chamaecyparis obtusa*) cultivars.
- The I.P.P.S. offers young people the opportunity to develop speaking skills and prepare papers for seminars and conferences, and help is always at hand. At a recent conference a young propagator who

had never spoken in public before made an olive propagation presentation to I.P.P.S. members and was helped by her boss Doug Simpson one of New Zealand's top fruit tree producers.

- New Zealand nurseries are quite varied in the plants grown. For example, Deane Keir has an exciting program growing New Zealand species for coal and limestone mine revegetation.
- Australian I.P.P.S. member, Clive Larkman, a regular visitor to New Zealand has developed a network of propagator contacts and is growing and promoting New Zealand raised hybrids in Australia.
- Plant breeders, such as Dr. Keith Hammett who is recognized world wide as a sweet pea, dahlia, and dianthus breeder, are also I.P.P.S. members. He is developing a strain of perennial *Nemesia* and the first progeny will be released on the N.Z. market this spring.
- New Zealand I.P.P.S. region presents an award annually recognizing service to horticulture and the I.P.P.S.. The 1998 recipient was cyclamen and polyanthus breeder Noel McMillan who owns a garden center and nursery in the North Island and has never missed an I.P.P.S. conference since he joined in about 1971.
- I.P.P.S. is not all serious business and learning. Members also enjoy social get togethers at their conferences.