

IPPS Student Exchange Program

“Sharing Plant Production Knowledge Globally”



MEGAN BLATCHFORD

Nominated by Prof. C Laubscher

Why Horticulture?

"Life begins the day you start a garden"

- Gardening accidentally/ fatefully introduced me to Horticulture
- $\frac{3}{4}$ Life is spent on our careers
- Fascinated by plants and the natural world
- Growth, fulfilment and purpose in life
- *I LOVE PLANTS!*



Orothamnus zeyheri "The Marsh Rose"

Horticultural Background:

- National Diploma Horticulture
(Dean Medal Award Nominee 2015)
- Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden (2015, 2014)
- Guillaume Nel Environmental Consultants (2013)
- Harold Porter National Botanical Garden (2013 Volunteer)



Horticultural Experience:

- Propagation of various indigenous plant species
- Cross-genus grafting with Robbie Thomas
- Field Collection Trips with SANBI and MSB
- Research Work & Interpretation
- Fynbos Rehabilitation & Plant Rescue



Cross-genus Grafting:



Grafting away in the workshop.



The cut...



The peg...



The slice...



The insertion...



The tape...



The sealant!

Horticultural Memberships:



Current Studies:

- BTech Horticulture 2015



- Research Project:
Cross-genus Grafting
Natural 'Bee Propolis' effects



- Successful grafting will aid introduction of sensitive species into Kirstenbosch Garden

Mimetes argenteus



Mimetes hottentoticus



Mimetes splendidus



Current Workplace:

SANBI
Biodiversity for Life



The Kirstenbosch Scholarship

- Redevelop 4 Garden Beds (BotSoc Entrance)
- Field Collection Trips
- Plant Research
- Plant Propagation
- Mentor 4 WIL Horticulture Students



Interests & Passions:

"It is a beautiful thing when a career and a passion come together."

- Conservation and cultivation of our fragile flora
- Medicinal and useful plants of South Africa
- Plant Propagation using various techniques
- Permaculture and organic plant production
- Ecology and plant-animal relationships

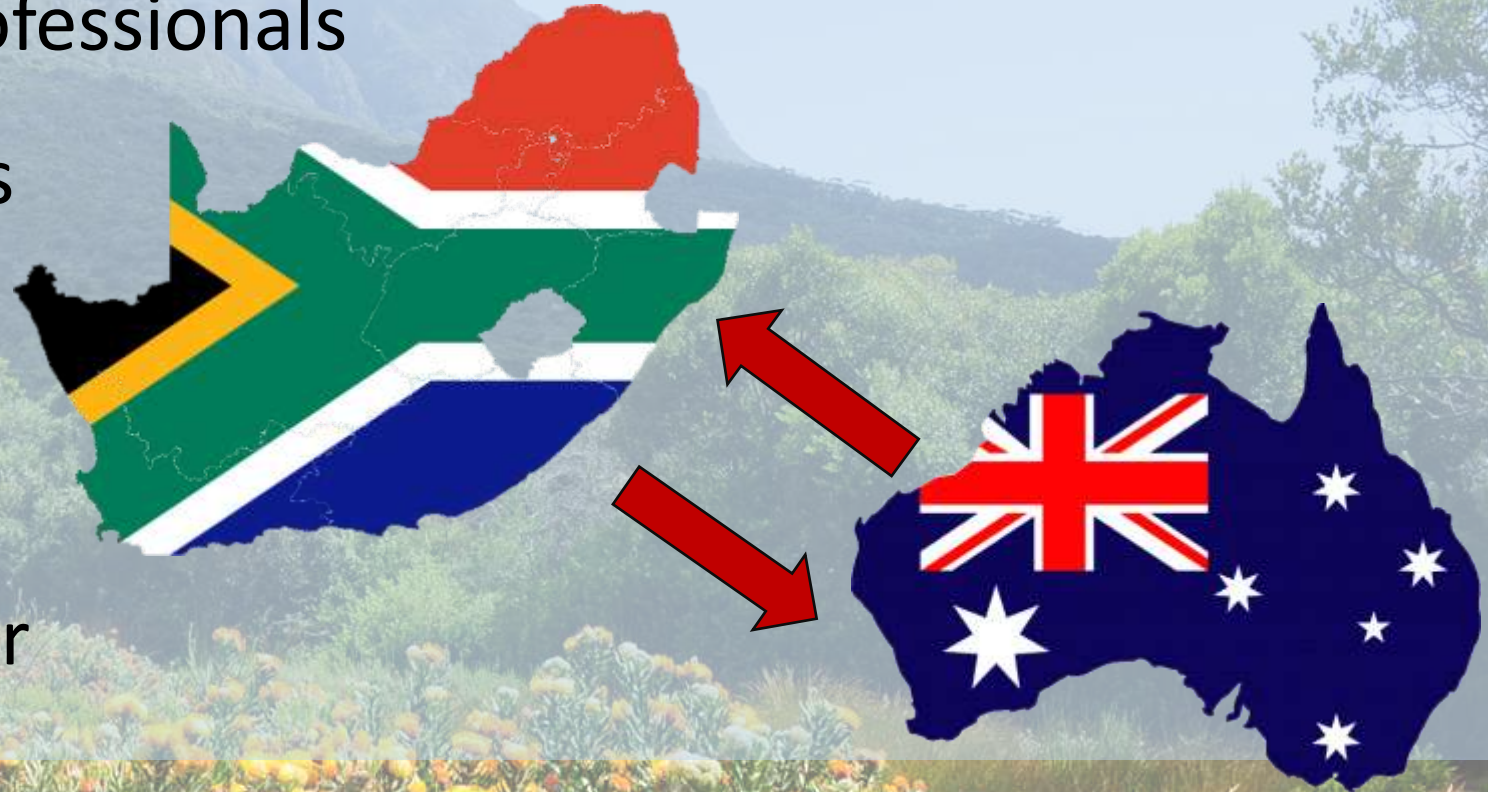


Collecting *Gladiolus cardinalis* bulbs.
Villiersdorp 2013



Australia Exchange Opportunity:

- What is horticulture beyond South Africa?
- Exposure to modern, innovative techniques & procedures
- Connect with affiliated professionals
- Share knowledge and skills
- Discover solutions
- Observe and absorb
- Solidify horticultural career



Suitable Ambassador:

- Loyal to our South African flora and community
- Observant and eager to learn
- Make the most of this wonderful opportunity
- Mentored by some of the best Horticulturists
- Dedicated and absolutely passionate about plants!



Looking Ahead:

- Remain part of Horticultural Associations
- Improve local industry procedures
- Improve industry sustainability
- Help communities grow
- Inspire & encourage young people to grow plants
- Contribute to conservation through plant propagation
- Produce top quality, indigenous plants one day!



Conclusion:

"More than anything, I must have flowers, always, always." Claude Monet

- A valuable opportunity made possible by IPPS
- To seek & share the art & science of plant production
- An opportunity to be a South African IPPS ambassador
- An opportunity to grow as a horticulturist

Disa uniflora, Leopards Kloof, Betty's Bay.



Acknowledgements:

- Prof. C Laubscher
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- IPPS Board
- IPPS Members





Thank You!