

INAUGURAL SESSION

September 26, 1972

HAMILTON, NEW ZEALAND

An account of the inaugural meeting of the International Plant Propagators' Society, New Zealand Chapter-at-Large. Tuesday, September 26, 1972.

A gathering of plant propagators was held at the University of Waikato, Hamilton, to discuss the formation of a Chapter of the Society here in New Zealand.

The move to start a chapter here was initiated by Mr. J. S. Wells of Redbank, New Jersey, in correspondence with Mr. Ella-by Martin of Martin's Nurseries, Hamilton. Although this was not the first time the development had been considered, Mr. Martin felt that the time was right for exploring the possibilities in greater depth. He contacted Mr. R. E. Lycette of the University of Waikato and other horticulturists he knew to have an interest in plant propagation as well as some of the existing members of the society living in New Zealand.

The preparation for the inaugural meeting was carried out largely by Ellaby Martin and Ron Lycette and the date was fixed to coincide with Mr. Jim Wells' visit to Hamilton. The horticulturists were contacted through their connections with the New Zealand Nurserymen's Association, Institute of Parks and Recreation Administration, and other professional horticultural groups.

Mr. Martin opened the inaugural meeting by welcoming all those present, particularly those who had travelled a considerable distance. He apologized for the relatively short notice everyone had had, but in view of the good attendance this had not stopped people from travelling from as far as Levin, New Plymouth, and Kaikohe. He extended a special welcome to Mr. Jim Wells and described him as a keen member with a wish to extend the benefits of the IPPS around the world. He said that it was Mr. Wells' presence in New Zealand which had been the stimulus for the start of a group here.

It was then decided that Mr. Martin and Mr. Lycette, as convening officers, retain the positions of President and Secretary for the meeting. Mr. Martin outlined the proposed programme for the afternoon and evening. He said that there would firstly be a series of seven short papers given by prominent horticulturists and that at the end of the afternoon Mr. Jim Wells would give a talk on the IPPS. The meeting would then adjourn for a meal and reconvene in the evening to discuss the formation of a group in New Zealand. If it was decided to form a group

there would need to be an election of officers and a short business meeting.

The meeting was then addressed by the following speakers:

Mr. F. Schuurman, Sunbeam Roses, Auckland

“Propagation of Roses by Cuttings”

Mr. A. Palmer, Palmers' Nurseries, Auckland:

“Grafting of Tropical Hibiscus”

Mr. E. E. Toleman, Horticultural Advisor

Dept. of Agriculture, Hamilton:

“Propagation of Nymphaea”

Miss P. Bates, Ruakura Research Station, Hamilton

“Application of Overseas Research to Local Conditions”

Mr. B. Haggo, Dawn Nurseries, Auckland

“Propagation and Production of Daphne”

Mr. R. M. C. Scott, University of Waikato:

“Propagation by Leafbud Cuttings”

Mr. R. E. Lycette, University of Waikato:

“Aspects of Fern Propagation”

The first half of the meeting concluded with Mr. Martin thanking all the speakers for the trouble they had taken in preparing such interesting papers. The standard of the papers should have proved to everyone present the value of the society. Mr. Martin extended his gratitude to the University of Waikato for the provision of facilities and to Mr. Lycette for his assistance in arranging the meeting and his help in preparing the publicity.

After a short meal break the meeting reconvened. Mr. Martin welcomed back the assembly and extended a welcome to those who had not been present during the earlier part of the day.

An open discussion took place with many people expressing their appreciation of the afternoon's programme and how it could be regarded as a forerunner of many such programmes should an I.P.P.S. Chapter be formed here in New Zealand. Everyone was obviously keen to set up a Chapter and it was formally moved by Mr. George Smith and seconded by Mr. Ivor Harvey that a branch of the International Plant Propagators' Society be set up in New Zealand. This motion was carried unanimously. Mr. Martin then vacated the chair and Mr. Jim Wells acted in the capacity of chairman for the election of a president. Mr. Martin was elected as the Foundation President of the Chapter in New Zealand, with Mr. G. B. Smith as Vice-President. The position of Secretary-Treasurer was filled by Mr. R. E. Lycette and members of the executive committee were Miss N. Parr, and Mr. B. Haggo.

A number of matters of business were then discussed regarding subscription rates and entrance fees. It was decided that the pattern as set by both the American Regions should be

followed as nearly as possible. The business part of the meeting concluded with the executive committee being instructed to take the necessary action to set up a constitution and the structure of the Chapter. With no further business Mr. Martin thanked everyone present for their enthusiasm and support and promised that the efforts of both himself and the executive committee would be directed at setting the Chapter on a firm foundation, so that it could grow from strength to strength.

At the conclusion of the general business meeting Mr. Jim Wells outlined further the history and objects of the I.P.P.S. He described briefly the formation of the Society from its inception in 1951 until the present day. He told how Mr. E. Scanlan, Commissioner for Shade Trees, City of Cleveland, had been the instigator, bringing together the original members, and that it eventually fell on Mr. Wells to become the first President. He emphasized that the general purpose of the organization was to provide for the dissemination of knowledge through the proper channels, providing helpful guidance and assistance to plant propagators through its meetings and publications.

Mr. Wells then showed some slides of tunnel houses and some methods of propagation he thought would be of interest to New Zealanders. It was obvious from the enthusiasm and interest shown by those gathered that Mr. Wells' keenness had spread to everyone and the newly-formed executive committee felt spurred on to establish the framework for a branch of the Society in New Zealand.

TECHNICAL SESSION

Tuesday Afternoon, September 26, 1972

A METHOD FOR THE VEGETATIVE PROPAGATION OF HARDY WATER LILIES [NYMPHAEA]

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In this case the term "hardy" refers to those *Nymphaea* which grow in temperate zones but not necessarily to those known generally as tender or tropical. The technique to be described was evolved to meet the requirements for several hundreds of small plants of a standard size and age. In this case the cultivar, Gonnere (syn. Crystal White), was used as sufficient material if it was readily available.