

**INAUGURAL MEETING IPPS  
AUSTRALIAN CHAPTER-AT-LARGE**

JACK PIKE<sup>1</sup>

*Pike's Nurseries,  
Rydalmere, New South Wales*

It gives me a great deal of pleasure on behalf of the Federation of Australian Nurserymen to officially open what is a very auspicious occasion in the history of the nursery industry in Australia.

I was reminiscing only last week about how maybe this Australian inaugural meeting of the International Plant Propagators' Society would have been if it had come along five or six years ago, when people in the industry were saying there was over-production; we needed more merchandising; we needed more outlets and anyone who mentioned propagation or new techniques to produce more efficiently, well, they were sort of frowned upon. How things have changed.

There is one of the greatest shortages of plant material in Australia today than there has ever been in the history of the country and how timely it is that here at Leura, we should be holding an inaugural meeting to form the Australian chapter of the I.P.P.S. It is a very timely thing and I think it is going to, or it has, there's no question of doubt, gotten off to a very good start. This was very evident at the Conference in Sydney in March and many of you, most of you here today, got together and decided to give a mandate to the Queensland Wholesale Ornamental Growers Group (W.O.G.G.) to form or hold this meeting in New South Wales around about this time and the Queensland Wholesale Ornamental Growers Group have done a very good job in organizing and getting this meeting to the stage it is here today.

I am sure that give or take a few constitutional problems, we're in for a wonderful treat this weekend; the venue is wonderful — we're experiencing Blue Mountain greenery weather and it gives me a great deal of pleasure to declare the meeting open and I am sure that this will go down as a milestone in the short history of the nursery industry in Australia. We do not have the long history in horticulture of the United States or the mother land of England, but in a short time, I think we have come a long way and this is taking it another step forward.

It is a wonderful gesture by Mr. Wells to come out here. We appreciate all the spade work he has been doing throughout the world over the years in furthering the interest of our industry, and, I think he mentioned to me, an industry in which in the early fifties all that went on was behind padlocked glasshouse

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<sup>1</sup>President — Federation of Australian Nurserymen

doors. I can remember this in our industry just after the War; you couldn't go in there because such and such is going on and people were reticent to tell you anything about their trade secrets, but I think nobody in the world has done more to break that barrier down than our distinguished guest here today, and I am sure we are going to have a very enjoyable and informative seminar with Mr. Wells as our very distinguished guest.

It gives me a great deal of pleasure on behalf of the Federation of Australian Nurserymen to wish the seminar well. It is another step in the right direction and all those associated with the industry should be very proud . . . Thank you very much.

**THE PLANT PROPAGATOR HOLDS  
THE FUTURE IN HIS HANDS**

JAMES S. WELLS

*James S. Wells Nursery, Inc.  
474 Nut Swamp Road  
Red Bank, New Jersey 07701*

It has been my good fortune to have been able to travel fairly extensively during the past few years and this travel has of course been associated with my interest in plant propagation and the nursery industry, wherever it may be. I have been able to meet and talk with nurserymen in America, England, Europe, last year in New Zealand and now in your country, discussing with them problems of plants, production, propagation, business, all the items that together make the nursery world tick. Now one thing stands right out from all this and that is that the speed of change — whether in our business or in the world around us — is accelerating to such a degree that even if we are aware of what is taking place, we feel quite unable to cope. In fact a book has been written on the subject and in many of the highly industrialized areas of the world, the problem of “future shock” is a very real one, for the future is arriving so fast and in such solid doses that many of us feel we don't understand and moreover we really don't know what to do with it.

The shock waves of change are running through the nursery industry also, and the most serious one is undoubtedly economic. People, by and large, are refusing to accept as they have in the past the rather rough and ready working conditions usually associated with horticulture, and the modest financial returns which may come from work of this type. I don't know what the situation is in Australia, but certainly in America, a very large