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N&G NEWS

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President's Report

by Malcolm Calder, President NGINA

This is my first penned article for *N&G News* as President and knowing the great honour it is, I acknowledge our previous President, Ian Rogan, who carries much respect and thanks for an excellent three years' tenure, and who continues to act and engage with wisdom and insight.

We are all in an unprecedented and most unusual time in Australia. As the world works through it nation by nation, right here at the coalface of the horticultural industry we have seen many valiant efforts among our valued members. We cannot forget the savage impact the bushfires had on our nation and on a number of our members—2020 has seen a double impact, totally unforeseen. Incredible lobbying was effected, during and after the bushfires, to the water ministers and, now with COVID-19, to the state and federal agriculture ministers to ensure our industry was officially recognised as 'essential'.

There are so many individual people that deserve a shout out for efforts given, wisdom provided and outcomes attained for our industry. I have been honoured as your President to be among a group of amazing people as we all navigate our way through. The future in my view is still bright. Our industry valid and needed.

I personally thank all our members for applying safe COVID-19 procedures and protocols. The upside has been that, through lobbying and relationships, our industry has a stronger profile and understanding among state and federal governments, and the importance level has increased dramatically—our function has been categorised as critical to a healthy Australia. Let's move forward from here into our future!

Do continue to draw from the help and information provided by the excellent staff at the office. As an association—for you, our members—we have an exciting time of growth ahead. Personally, I have been working to build and strengthen national relationships, and want to see open doors between all state industry bodies and Greenlife Industry Australia, including their CEOs and boards, so we

can share ideas and create a national understanding as to where, as an industry, we want to go and how we can get there.

As you will now know, our General Manager, Ray Lee, has resigned for personal reasons and we have begun the process of recruiting a new CEO to lead NGINA. We have elected, as a board, to engage a professional agency called Agricultural Appointments, who came recommended with a high reputation in our industry. The new CEO will have an exciting challenge as we build the association with strong member relationships and benefits. We commit to engage with you, listen to you and respond with progress and leadership in our state region.

In addition, I'd like you to join me in welcoming Lynn Morris to the NGINA team. Lynn joins us as our Communications & Membership Officer and has played a huge part in getting this edition into your letterbox! Lynn can be contacted through the office (02 9679 1472) or via email (lynn.morris@ngina.com.au) and is eager to hear your story leads and communication ideas.

We have faced challenges, tough decisions and future casting in the last three months. Through this time, the board has been working overtime to bring us into this new season and I am grateful to each Director.

As we look ahead there are tangible opportunities to grow our association. Join us on the journey.

"Together We Grow"



New NGINA Board Members

We would like to welcome and introduce the following new NGINA Board members:

David Cliffe | Director

David has been involved in horticulture for 40 years within the seed and nursery industry. He is the owner of Narromine Transplants, a large container seedling, nut and fruit tree nursery, based in the central west of New South Wales. Narromine Transplants is recognised as a leader and innovator in its field, with markets in all the eastern states and South Australia. The nursery has 15 full-time staff and up to a further 30 part-time workers.



David has a background with the Nursery & Garden Industry of Australia (now Greenlife Industry Australia) having been a director and president of the association. Over a period of 12 years, he has also been a director of Horticulture Innovation Australia (the body that manages levies and government funding for horticultural producers in Australia). He has also enjoyed a long association with the International Plant Propagators Society (IPPS) at a regional and international level.

David is particularly keen to ensure that he gives back to the industry just as much, or even more, than he has received over the years. In particular, he is dedicated to the IPPS motto, “to seek and to share”, and commends that philosophy to all nursery businesses.

Robert Love | Director

Robert owns Batlow Rhododendron Nursery, a cool climate production nursery based in the Riverina, NSW. He is a qualified accountant (CPA) and has worked in professional practice, property funds management and investment banking. In joining first the investment committee and then the board of NGINA, his objectives are to assist with asset management, reinvigorate Trade Day and streamline industry logistics.



Samantha Birkwood | Director

Sam and her husband Matt are owners of Bamboo World, a production nursery and gardens with over 25 years' experience in supplying quality non-invasive clumping bamboo, located in Alstonville, Northern NSW. The Birkwood family purchased the business in early 2019, after returning to Australia having spent 17 years living, travelling and working around Asia; from Pakistan to Indonesia and everywhere in between. With Matt's landscape and tree farm background, and Sam's management experience they are enjoying taking the business to new heights.



Sam grew up in Port Douglas, in North Queensland, serving 11 years in the Australian Army and was involved in operations both here and overseas, finishing as Captain teaching at the Royal Military College in Duntroon Canberra. In 2000, Sam left the army and moved to Singapore, where she took on various roles within PR and marketing, project management and finally managing small businesses.

Having spent almost two decades in Asia, a big part of her life has always been about giving back to the community and getting involved in helping others. This has led to many amazing opportunities, including being on the board for the International Ladies Club of Macau (ILCM) and, still to this day, as a member of the Global Lamborghini Female Advisory Board.

As part of the NGINA Board, Sam enjoys giving back and providing input—mostly adding value by drawing on her business experience in other industries around marketing, communications and customer relations.

Craig Williams | Director

Craig is State Manager NSW at Garden City Plastics. Unfortunately, owing to personal reasons, Craig has recently tendered his resignation from the NGINA Board. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Craig for the time and effort he has dedicated to the nursery and garden industry on behalf of NGINA. We wish him and his family all the best.





Busy as a BTSO

by Craig Perring, Business & Technical Support Officer, NGINA

COVID-19

For someone who has been confined to the office, practicing social distancing for two months, I can assure you this has been the busiest eight weeks I have experienced at NGINA since my tenure (February 2019), if not ever, owing to the outbreak of coronavirus and the initiation of lockdown laws in NSW and other states.

Concerns around ensuring the nursery sector was on the “essential services” list was an initial focus of NGINA. Phone calls and emails were exchanged with Adam Marshall’s office, the NSW Minister for Agriculture, to reiterate the importance of our sector as a primary producer and food chain supplier from both a retail and wholesale nursery perspective, which was duly recognised.

I attended weekly, and later bi-weekly, Zoom meetings, held by Greenlife Industry Australia (GIA) and other state NGIs to help coordinate a successful national response. NGINA also worked directly with the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and Local Land Services (LLS) who were also lobbying the government on behalf of our industry.

NGINA promptly established a Corona Crisis Committee (CCC), which comprised a hand-picked team of experts who would provide guidance and expertise to the association throughout the ongoing crisis. The committee included:

- Retail—Mark Sammut (Flower Power)
- Allied (and Board)—Craig Williams (GCP)
- Production—Mal Morgan (Glenfield Wholesale)
- Business/mentoring—Richard Palmer (Alstonville Plants)
- Marketing (and Board)—Sam Birkwood (Bamboo World)
- Ex-President State and National/Association Expert—Mike Mehigan (Elegant Outdoors)
- NGINA—Craig Perring

The CCC developed many initiatives including a closed industry Facebook page, communication initiatives to all industry stakeholders, a webinar on how to manage your

business during a crisis, new products available to industry (i.e., hand sanitiser), support ideas for businesses, sharing of supply chain information and border closures, financial information for our members and updates on the ongoing and current COVID-19 situation.

The NGINA team (Craig and Kim) maintained on-point communications on all government grants, industry status updates in relation to “essential services”, daily updates on legislation and more, through all social channels, our newsletter and phone calls, including “counselling” services to members who called NGINA to seek advice.

Despite the tough summer with bushfires, water restrictions and drought, the industry has fared well in most cases with some businesses up on production to 1,250% on YTD trade. Despite initial concerns, comments such as “this is the spring we never had” and “this is the best thing our industry has seen in a long time” were constantly echoed throughout the membership with sales up across the sector.

Although NSW and ACT legislation is softening, the COVID-19 crisis is ongoing and NGINA is both well placed and informed to keep members and industry stakeholders abreast of all legislative changes and information pertaining to the crisis, and we look forward to continuing to provide information as it comes to hand.

We hope there is not another outbreak of the virus in Australia and that the current alumni of “new gardeners” that has driven our industry continues into spring.

GIA has been liaising with all the state NGIs and has initiated a national retail marketing campaign, Plant Pals, that NGINA will support in kind through time, communication channels, support and promotion of the program, and we strongly encourage all retailers to take the opportunity to use the campaign resources provided.

WATER

Even though the drought has broken in much of the state, I have continued to spend time focussing on lobbying the

Minister for Water, Property & Housing, The Hon. Melinda Pavey, on concerns around the handling of our industry and the water restrictions implemented during the drought. I managed to meet with Minister Pavey via teleconference (owing to COVID 19) and flagged the association's concerns. (Sonja Cameron, who was instrumental in lobbying the government during the millennial drought, also joined the meeting.)

Prior to the meeting I sought counsel from a university colleague, Niall Blair, who was the previous water minister. He provided great insight and is a valuable resource to NGINA in working with government.

The meeting was considered a success in the sense some of the concerns were flagged as being tabled and potentially addressed. It was mutually agreed that post COVID-19 we would have a face-to-face follow-up meeting to continue discussions.

An outcome of the lobbying efforts, carried out in conjunction with the turf, landscape and Irrigation industries, has resulted in the idea of replicating a NSW version of the Green Space Alliance (GSA), which was a group formed in WA in 2014 to provide a single voice when lobbying the government on such issues. Please visit greenspacealliance.com.au for more information.

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION CODES (PIC)/PLANT TRACEABILITY

I have continued meetings with Dianna Watkins, DPI Director Strategic Projects, on the use of PIC numbers and traceability of nursery stock for biosecurity purposes. This is a complex project and NGINA is providing advice in the hope that we can come up with a simple but effective way of adding value to biosecurity measures, including online selling of plants and aid in times of crisis, such as bushfires, drought, flood, (pandemics!?), to establish where growers are located and if they may need assistance.

Although an ongoing project, and likely a lengthy one, I have recommended to the NGINA Board that we continue industry consultation around this process and suggest it is done through a small sub-committee. If any member has thoughts, ideas or experience in this space from the previous 'nursery registration' program I encourage you to contact me.

Without taking up more space in this important edition of *N&G News*, since the last edition I have also visited many nurseries, with a focus on the south coast bushfire ravaged areas, I've been working on industry initiatives such as Plant Sure, and collaborating with Crime Stoppers on a crucial online weed initiative. I encourage you to read the related articles in this edition.

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COVID-19 — What Does Our Future Hold?

by David Jakobs Vice President, NGINA and CEO, Oasis Horticulture

History shows us that major pandemics cast a long shadow, inevitably forcing change on people, society and countries. We learn from and are shaped by pandemics. Interestingly, the idea of quarantine as a way of managing pandemics originated from the fourteenth-century Black Death plague. Its greatest public health legacy was the establishment of the concept of “quarantine”, from the Venetian term “quarantena”, meaning 40 days.

The Black Death pandemic of 1334–1353 resulted in 30–50 million deaths and was thought to have catalysed enormous societal, economic, artistic and cultural reforms in medieval Europe. This and more recent pandemics (such as the Spanish Flu 1918–1919, which resulted in 50–100 million deaths) serve as case studies on how infectious disease pandemics can be major turning points in our history, with generally lasting impacts on society globally.

Most of us have been saturated with information on COVID-19 which, at the time of writing, has caused around 314,000 deaths worldwide, with this figure continuing to rise. While Australia has performed reasonably well going into the pandemic, coming out maybe more challenging, both societally and economically.

In the business community, we know there will be winners, losers and those in between—sectors that could go either way depending on how they respond. Current thinking categorises industry sectors as follows:

- Major winners—e-commerce platforms, pharmaceuticals, logistics and delivery, video conferencing, online entertainment, agribusiness (food production).
- Major losers—travel and tourism, oil and gas, investment banking, traditional retail, professional sport and entertainment, including cinemas.
- The “inbetweeners”—banking, healthcare, manufacturing and education.

So where does this leave our industry? Let us consider the retail sector first. We know in countries such as the UK and New Zealand, retail gardening has been negatively impacted by domestic factors and the initial response of their respective governments. In Australia we have not had the same punitive restrictions. In part, this is a result of federal and state approaches to pandemic management, but it is also due to the influence applied federally via Greenlife Industry Australia (GIA) and Independent Garden Centres (IGC), along with the media support and focus given by Graham Ross on 2GB. They, along with NGINA and other state industry associations, have all worked hard to lobby state ministers to ensure we fit into the essential services definition, thereby allowing and underpinning retail plant and allied gardening sales to continue. Retail garden sales have been strong since early March with many members breaking records and turning around a financial year that otherwise would have been more sombre due to the earlier droughts, water restrictions and fire events across NSW, and Australia more broadly.

Secondly, many of us might fit into the ‘in between’ segment as manufacturers. Clearly there are going to be strong pockets within manufacturing, particularly where manufacturing crosses over with the high-performance food production category. Let’s consider the agriculture and horticulture sector. The production of food and fibre is, and continues to be, strong within Australia but it has seen some export challenges, particularly relating to beef and barley, based on looming trade tensions with China (which accounts for over 30% of this sector’s exports), and it’s larger than the next five export markets combined. Further narrowing the lens to ornamental and allied horticultural products and services sold via retail channels, shows how more niche and specialised categories can perform during fractured economic times. For those that went through the recession of 1990–1992 (which at the time, was the worst recession since the Great Depression in Australia), you will recall that

our sector overall managed this better than most.

What is the connection between darker economic times and an uplift in our sector? We can probably find the answer in a phenomenon known as “cocooning”. Cocooning was originally crafted as a term and concept in 1984 by Faith Popcorn—futurist author, trend forecaster and CEO founder of consulting firm The Brain Reserve. Cocooning is where people choose to stay inside their home, insulated from a perceived danger, instead of going out. Evidence of intensifying home-focussed behaviour during bad times was clearly identified in several studies she carried out, leaving her to call it out as a known behavioural response of people in response to uncertainty. Popcorn later explained the concept involves building a “shell of safety” around oneself. Sound familiar?

If we think about cocooning (whether forced or voluntary), we have all experienced it in Australia where it was evident in our purchasing behaviour. People chose to “bunker down” and stockpile in response to a threat. Yes, we were told to stay home by the government, but our purchasing choices of goods, such as pasta, toilet paper, rice and even vegetable seedlings, speaks to something much deeper. People were preparing for the worst and it showed in what they were buying. As restrictions lift and more becomes known about COVID-19, we will see that some of these behaviours will be temporary. However, some of these behaviours will become more enduring trends that will benefit our sector. Discretionary expenditure will shift from the losers to the winners.

Let us think about it linked to life in and around the home where the DIY segment will be a major winner if those retailers are able to continue operating. Discretionary

spending shifts, food security, mental well-being and education linked to the backyard will see a renaissance. Many families have used the garden as part of practical skill development for their kids during the lockdown and a way to get out of the house, reimagining the once great Australian backyard. Given that we have already started to see a significant reduction in the size of backyards, we now may see a pivot to how that space is used and greater reengagement and consideration of its importance in our domestic lives and the cocooning securities it brings with it. The art of gardening used to be handed down from grandparents to parents and children. This period of wider social isolation may regenerate some of this and actually create another gardening golden era akin to the times when only garden centres were allowed to open on weekends. Over the last eight weeks we have also seen a lot of new gardeners coming into the segment, having invested in their

“ People were preparing for the worst and it showed in what they were buying. ”

gardens, veggie patches, balconies, and general outdoor soft and hard spaces, to both create and improve on their newly found backyard space and the increased importance that they now bring to their families. We will also continue to see the outdoors coming alive inside the home and all this will generate opportunities for our businesses.

Ultimately, COVID-19 should not be at the centre of our thinking. Instead, how we respond to the downstream effects of the virus is most seminal. Agility, innovation and resilience, and how we engage collectively and individually, will determine the true winners.



by Malcolm Calder, NGINA President and Marketing Manager, Transplant Systems

It's certainly an interesting case study how we, the world population, started hearing about and reacting to this new airborne respiratory virus we now know as COVID-19.

All of us at Transplant Systems thought it would be similar to bird flu or SARS and assumed it wouldn't be too long before the news was reporting that the virus had been successfully contained within Asia. However, as the days and weeks ticked over we realised that we, yes we, would be impacted and even our normal way of life be invaded upon.



WHAT WAS YOUR EXPECTATION GOING INTO COVID-19?

We were optimistic that this would be contained and corralled, and at least a vaccine would be available soon. Surely with global medicos working around the clock they would save us?

WHAT'S THE REALITY FOR TRANSPLANT SYSTEMS NOW THAT WE'RE IN THE THICK OF COVID-19?

When reality set in we sat down to work out what impact it would have on us as individuals, the company and the industry. Much discussion was had with our European suppliers and our nursery customers. Logistics on delays in machine supply, hearing the reality from our supplier in Italy, Urbinati, as they lived through rapid high rate cases, lockdowns and restrictions. We felt we were dragged unwillingly into a global crisis not of our own making and without the ability to predict the future.

NAME SOME OF THE CHANGES TRANSPLANT SYSTEMS HAS HAD TO MAKE OWING TO THE COVID-19 SITUATION.

Like our colleagues in the industry we stopped all travel, all installations and all servicing for a time, and

we all began to work remotely from home. We also explored, being in an essential and prime industry, how to continue to provide key levels of automation so that our production nursery customers could see opportunities to grow better margins and grow better plants.

WHAT CHANGES ARE LIKELY TO STAY POST COVID-19?

We do expect that we will now live in a world and business world of sustained social distancing, higher sanitation habits, spot health tests (such as fever identification on entering airports) and no more actual handshakes. There is a heightened level of awareness now wherever we go. I can say that from now on we will all be aware of safety protocols, respectable distancing and standard workplace add-ons to ensure a more safety-conscience environment. Constant sanitising is now the norm.

For Transplant Systems supplying mechanisation to the industry, we will be including instructions on keeping machines sanitised and clean, as often there is a number of different staff operating them. Training here will be the key—machine sanitisation during and after operation. These are examples of the new norm for us.



by Mark Sammut,
Group Operations Director, Flower Power

WHAT WERE YOUR EXPECTATIONS GOING INTO COVID-19?

Initially we were concerned that the closures and self-isolation measures being introduced by the government would result in a negative impact on our business. We held strategy meetings to formulate possible measures the company may be forced to take if there

was a significant decline in our expected trade and, in particular, strategies to ensure the business would be in a sound position to allow us to reopen and return to normal production quickly in the event we were forced to close for an indefinite period.

WHAT'S THE REALITY FOR FLOWER POWER NOW THAT WE'RE IN THE THICK OF COVID-19?

As a retail business, Flower Power is very fortunate to have been able to continue trading during the COVID-19 pandemic—and not only have we continued to trade, our business has succeeded in many ways. Keeping our doors open has enabled us to keep all our staff employed. It has also enabled us to create relationships with new customers and reinforce relationships with existing ones, with both groups happy with the services we're providing and the products that are keeping them busy in isolation. In what has been a very uncertain time, it's fair to say our business has thrived.



Photo by Matt Seymour on Unsplash.com

NAME SOME OF THE CHANGES FLOWER POWER HAS HAD TO MAKE OWING TO THE COVID-19 SITUATION.

As always, we continue to work together to keep all staff and customers safe, and to keep our stores operational. We have:

- installed perspex screens in all stores to provide a barrier between register staff and customers, helping to keep everybody safe.
- provided additional COVID-19 decals to each store. These have been an effective reminder to customers and staff to keep a safe distance.
- provided hand sanitiser receptacles in all stores, and masks and gloves for staff members.
- designated social distancing marshals in each store on the weekends, uniformed in high-vis vests to further reinforce the message. We have strongly urged all staff to courteously remind customers of the required social distancing, both on weekends and weekdays.
- introduced fixed price deliveries at a discounted rate to attract business from customers who prefer home delivery for products rather than having to leave their homes to shop.

WHAT CHANGES ARE LIKELY TO STAY POST COVID-19?

The ongoing health and safety of our staff members is paramount. Fortunately, no Flower Power staff member has recorded a case of COVID-19 thanks to measures we have implemented. Our staff wear social distancing lapel tags, disinfect surfaces, keep the appropriate distance from others at all times and wash or sanitise hands regularly, and these behaviours will be encouraged into the future. Our priority is also to continue to ensure our customers can enjoy a safe location to shop for their gardening needs and will continually improve and adapt to changing circumstances to ensure this is provided.

ARE THERE ANY UNFORESEEN BENEFITS THAT HAVE COME ABOUT AS A RESULT OF COVID-19?

We have been fortunate to have had a positive impact on trade since COVID-19, which has enabled us to be in a position to give back to community. We have donated to the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection & Immunity (Doherty Institute), to assist with research into finding a vaccine for COVID-19. The work that the Doherty Institute does is vital and we are in a position to help fund this wonderful cause.

A joint venture between the University of Melbourne and the Royal Melbourne Hospital, the Doherty Institute's vision is *"to improve health globally through discovery research and the prevention, treatment and cure of infectious diseases"*. After diagnosing Victoria's first positive COVID-19 patient, the Doherty Institute was the first organisation outside of China to grow the virus within a laboratory and share it with both Australian public health laboratories and the World Health Organisation. The Institute has staff working on minimising the effect of COVID-19 in many areas across public health and policy but, in particular, their research teams are working toward developing antibody tests, treatments and, ultimately, a vaccine.

We have been fortunate to re-attract those gardeners we lost during the droughts, water restrictions and bushfires, and reignite customers' passion for gardening. Our aim is to ensure they continue gardening by making it easy, enjoyable and successful.

We have been able to ensure the continued employment of all our staff and been able to provide additional opportunities for nursery sales consultants, cashiers and various other positions at many of our stores.

We have also benefitted from the opportunity of bringing forward many capital purchases, as well as capital works projects, to assist the economy by providing work opportunities we had not envisaged possible at this time.

Photo by CDC on Unsplash.com

Fall Armyworm

by Martin Horwood, Senior Biosecurity Officer, Greater Sydney Local Land Services

Fall armyworm (FAW) is the larval stage of the fall armyworm moth, *Spodoptera frugiperda*. The common name of the lepidopteran insect is derived from larval characteristics, with 'fall' (autumn) being the period when larvae reach their largest size and are most observable, 'army' describing the way larvae march in large numbers away from sites where their food has run out and 'worm' being based on the smooth larval skin creating some resemblance to worms, although the creatures are actually caterpillars.

FAW is one of the world's worst invasive insect species, having spread far and wide throughout the world in recent years, causing massive losses to a wide range of plant industries. A species native to tropical and subtropical regions of North and South America, in 2016 it established in Africa, where major losses were inflicted on cereal crops, especially maize and sorghum, as well as cotton, corn, rice, nuts and fruit. The polyphagous pest has had a negative effect on standards of living through its impact on yields, food quality and farmers' incomes. Another downside stems from the heavy reliance on insecticides for controlling the pest, which can result in food containing chemical residues. FAW has since spread to more than 25 African countries and across Asian nations including India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Thailand, Myanmar and China.

We now have them in Australia with the first detection occurring in January 2020 at Bamaga in far north Queensland through the use of traps baited with a male pheromone lure. Since then it has been found as far south in Queensland as Bundaberg and across the Northern Territory

and into Western Australia.

A surveillance trapping program is being carried out by the Department of Primary Industries and Local Land Services in northern NSW where the environment is suitable for FAW to become established but to date has not been identified in this region. FAW also poses a risk to other parts of NSW where the weather may be less favourable as adult moths are strong flyers and can also be carried by air currents across massive distances. For example, in the Americas, adult moths can undertake annual seasonal migration as far north as Canada. FAW can also spread through people movement or transported via infested plant material.

It is therefore imperative for the wellbeing of plant industries in NSW that people inspect plants regularly for the presence of unusual pest infestation symptoms.

FAW eggs are pale yellow and are laid on plant foliage in masses of up to 200 and can be covered with a coating of moth scales or fine bristles. Larvae hatch in three to five days and pass through six instars, ranging in size from 2 mm after hatching to 35 mm prior to pupation. Larval features include white end-to-end stripes, dorsal dark spots and spines, and a pale ventral surface (Figure 1). Colouration changes as larvae develop, from green-brown to a darker grey-brown. Pupae mature underground over a one- to five-week period in a shiny red-brown, 1.5-cm-long cocoon.

FAW larvae cause most damage to host plants by feeding on leaves, shoots, stems and fruit with plants of different ages, from seedlings to mature plants being affected. In some

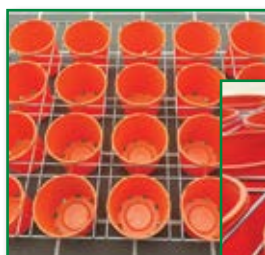
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Figure 1. Fall armyworm larvae.
Image by Biosecurity Queensland

crops larvae initially move into whorls and feed on leaves, producing 'windowpane' damage with scraped areas and exposed veins. FAW larvae also consume buds and burrow into fruit with large larvae having the ability to sever plants at their base.

Many FAW larvae may be present on one plant. When in large numbers, they can defoliate preferred host plants and acquire an 'armyworm' habit by dispersing en masse. Crops have reportedly been destroyed almost overnight. With such heavy infestations insect droppings can be a sign that larvae are present.

FAW moths (Figure 2) are 1.5–2.0 cm long with a 32–40 mm wingspan. Forewings are greyish brown with white spots at the tip and near the centre on male moths. Hindwings are pale with a partial brown border.

FAW larvae feed on the flowers, leaves and stems of around 350 plants including economically important varieties such as maize, cotton, tobacco, sweet corn, rice, peanuts, cotton, sugarcane, wheat, apples and oranges. For controlling FAW some reliance is placed on traps using insect pheromone lures in combination with dichlorvos. However, trapping is more useful for detecting FAW. Due to their power of destruction and economic impact on crop production, FAW control programs will rely heavily on the application of insecticides to host plants.

There are now a range of permits approved by the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) available for control of FAW in a wide range of plants, situations and environments including: maize, sweet corn, sorghum, summer and winter pulse crops, winter cereals including triticale, millet, soybean, peanut, sunflower, cotton, brassica vegetables, leafy vegetables, cucurbits, fruiting vegetables, legume vegetables, stalk and stem



Figure 2. Fall armyworm moths. Images from Wikipedia

vegetables, culinary herbs, root and tuber vegetables, citrus fruits, bananas, ornamentals, tropical and sub-tropical fruits, macadamias, berry fruit, coffee, pistachios, forage brassicas, canola, grapes, pome fruit, stone fruit, onions, olives, potatoes, almonds, avocado, golf courses, lawns, sports grounds and recreational turf, and sugar cane. To access these permits, go to the APVMA website portal. apvma.gov.au/permits.

FAW is now established in Australia and will remain an ongoing cause for concern. Biosecurity is everyone's responsibility and it is essential that industry and the general public remain on alert and report any unexpected symptoms and suspected sightings of this insect, especially in high-risk situations such as proximity to host plants. If you think you have seen a FAW, take a photo and collect a sample, if possible, then contact the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.

Nursery Winter Weed Management

by Garden City Plastics' Agronomy Team

INTRODUCTION

The science of weed management in production nurseries is a major determinant to its success. The cost of weed control in container nurseries is assessed at between \$3,700 and \$96,000 when challenging-to-control weeds are present.

Most nursery weeds are winter or summer annuals, fulfilling their life cycles in one growing season. However, the different microclimates in container nursery crops, especially in Australia's climates, obscure the characteristics between winter annual and summer annual life cycles, hence making weed control a continuous practice.

To reduce weed control costs, nursery managers need an integrated weed management program, involving an understanding of both the target weeds and available weed management options; utilising a combination of cultural practices and chemical practices which is mainly the use of herbicides.

MANAGING WEEDS

Cultural Practices

- Weed scouting
 - Information collected in scouting will facilitate the nursery pest management operator to monitor the effectiveness of the weed management program and to make proper modifications.
- If plants are weedy, withdraw and discard the top two cm of the potting substrate before potting.



Managing weeds—cultural practices (photo from Pinterest)

- Hand-weed pots frequently (at least every two weeks) to prevent weeds from producing seeds.
- Control weeds around the nursery to prevent them from spreading into your crops.
- Weed control discs:
 - Geodesics—they are needle punched; non-woven polypropylene fabric treated on one side with copper to prevent weed seedlings taking hold.
 - Coir weed control discs—they are made from tightly woven coconut fibres. The coir plant cover is permeable, lets water and nutrients through while keeping weeds away.
- Weed hygiene:
 - Weed hygiene includes planting the weed-free seeds, cleaning machinery and vehicles, checking clothing and equipment for weed seeds or weed parts, and removing sources of weed reinfestation around the nursery.
 - Weed control in propagation houses is difficult due to restrictions on herbicide application. Therefore, disinfecting propagating tools, trays, shoes, equipment and seeds prevents the spread of perennial weeds.

CHEMICAL PRACTICES

Pre-Emergent Chemicals

Pre-emergent herbicides are applied before the emergence of weeds. They work by creating a barrier on the soil layer to inhibit seed germination, and interfere with root and shoot growth.

Some examples of pre-emergent herbicides include:

1. Active ingredient: **Dichlobenil**
Brand examples include Sierraron G and Casoron G herbicides
2. Active ingredient: **Oryzalin plus Oxyfluorfen**
Brand example, Rout
3. Active ingredient: **Pendimethalin plus Dimethenamid-P**
Brand example, Freehand
4. Active ingredient: **Prodiamine**
Brand example, Barricade



Managing weeds—chemical practices (photo from incredible.co)

5. Active ingredient: **Oxadiazon**

Brand example, Ronstar

6. Active ingredient: **Isoxaben**

Brand example, Gallery 750

POST-EMERGENT CHEMICALS

Post-emergent herbicides provide relatively quick control of existing vegetation, particularly if it is well established. Many

post-emergent herbicides have very little, if any, soil activity. This allows control, and avoids the risks associated with herbicides that remain active in the soil for long periods.

The table below contains just some examples of post emergent herbicides for non-crop weed control applications, listed by mode of action (in italics).

The following are examples of post-emergent active ingredients with non-selective action commonly used in landscape and nursery situations:

- **Contact post-emergent herbicide:**
Active ingredient: **Glufosinate-Ammonium**
Brand example, Basta
Active ingredient: **Nonanoic acid**
Brand example, Slasher

- **Systemic post-emergent herbicide:**
Active ingredient: **Glyphosate**
Brand example, Roundup

Please always check product labels and adhere to instructions.

Herbicide Active Ingredient	Product Examples
<i>Contact Herbicide</i> Nonanoic acid	Slasher
<i>Systemic Herbicide — Amino Acid Synthesis Inhibitors</i> Imazapyr	Arsenal
<i>Systemic Herbicide — Growth Regulator (Broadleaf)</i> Dicamba	Many
<i>Systemic Herbicide — Lipid Biosynthesis Inhibitors (Grass Herbicides)</i> Fluazifop-p-butyl	Fusilade
<i>Systemic Herbicide — Photosynthetic Inhibitors</i> Hexazinone	Velpar
<i>Systemic Herbicide — Inhibitors of protoporphyrinogen oxidase (PPOs)</i> Saflufenacil	Sharpen



Stock Management Tips During Uncertain Times

by Robert Megier, Regional Sales Manager, ICL

In recent months nurseries have faced increasing uncertainty due to the spread of COVID-19—the effects on trade and the long-term availability of staff has been difficult to predict. Throughout the COVID-19 crisis most horticultural businesses have been allowed to continue to trade as they did not fall into the ‘non-essential service’ category, however, nurseries may in practice be challenged owing to fewer staff and changed production schedules.

With this in mind, here is some proactive advice for managing and maintaining nursery stock over the coming months, which will assist you in your daily operations. The principles discussed below are always applicable to nursery management, but especially when dealing with uncertain staff availability and fluid crop finishing date.

FERTILISER MANAGEMENT

Altering controlled-release fertiliser longevities may be worth considering if you either want to hold stock longer or accelerate growth. Other factors to consider are:

- Provide greater retail shelf life.
- Reduce the need for top dressing, which will save labour and reduce overall nutrition costs.
- Liaise regularly with your potting media supplier or fertiliser supplier to discuss options to suit your specific needs.

EFFECTIVE WATER MANAGEMENT

Water management is critical in maintaining plant quality when holding stock for longer periods. Dry patch is more common in older media and will put plants under unnecessary moisture stress. Ensure your watering system is fully operational and ideally programmed to operate without staff present:

- Maintain your water filtration and treatment systems to prevent downtime.
- Ensure your potting media has a quality wetting agent added at formulation.
- Top dress stock over six months old with Hydraflo 2 Granular or consider dosing liquid Hydraflo L through your irrigation system.

WEED MANAGEMENT

Attention to weed control now will help to reduce weed pressure over the coming months:

- Adopting the “pull ‘em or leave ‘em” principle of speed weeding, on a fortnightly schedule, has been shown to half labour requirements and reduce weed growth by 74%.
- Spray surrounds and borders to knock down host weeds while vegetative or before flowering/seeding. Also remove weeds between pots.
- Sweep weed mat clean of soil and vegetation.
- Use pre-emergent herbicide on paths and surrounds for up to six months suppression of weed growth.
- Apply a pre-emergent herbicide to potted plants to control a broad range of broadleaf and grassy weeds. Reapply to stock older than eight weeks to extend control.

QUALITY MEDIA AND INPUTS

Good quality growing media is physically and chemically stable, and will provide an optimum growing environment for at least 12 months. Ensure the media includes a complete trace element package and a quality wetting agent.

Quality controlled release fertilisers will meet their stated longevity and provide a safe, consistent nutrient delivery. This is essential when staff availability is uncertain, as the correct longevity will minimise the need to top dress pots, and help crops maintain their colour and quality. We encourage you to stick with trusted and reputable suppliers and products at this time.

SUPPLY CHAIN

Concerns around supply chains in uncertain times can always add to delays in accessing stock.

“Our distributors and ICL have been proactive in assessing stock levels, particularly considering the improved climatic conditions experienced in many regions compared to the same time last year. We are confident that stock levels of key products will be maintained over the next few months although we are experiencing minor delays in shipping times and at this point we have no issues around supply which is fantastic in such an uncertain environment.



Look Before You Leap — Tips for Nurseries Looking to Recycle Water

by Luke Jewell, Department of Primary Industries

The NSW nursery industry has been through more than one drought in the last 10 years and has accepted the need to adjust to more extreme weather events. One powerful tool growers can use to become more resilient and maintain production through these lean times is efficient water management and recycling.

I've seen great recycling success stories, which continue to offer sustainable economic and environmental returns to growers. I've seen examples and heard stories too, which would lead growers to not even consider the positive outcomes and profitability recycling can offer.

So, how can industry learn from these experiences and ensure that they can continue to operate with environmental credentials that boost their social licence and set them apart from those who don't?

TALK TO THOSE WHO HAVE HAD SUCCESS IN THE LONGER TERM

It's far more beneficial to speak to growers who have taken the time to learn the keys to successful water management in the nursery sector, than find someone who has something negative to say about systems they've tried that have failed.

Case studies and YouTube videos are readily available, such as 'Case Study—Producing More, With Less: Cameron's Nursery'¹, which features Cameron's Nursery in Arcadia (north west Sydney).

DO YOUR HOMEWORK

There are some great Hort Innovation and nursery industry funded resources available:

NIASA water management toolbox site²—a virtual tool kit of water management information, case studies and fact sheets for the nursery grower.

*Efficacy of chlorine, chlorine dioxide and ultraviolet radiation as disinfectants against plant pathogens in irrigation water*³—a study done in collaboration with Andreasens Green Nursery at their Kemps Creek site, looks at real-life performance of typical disinfection treatments that tested turbid on-site dam water samples using the current best management practice guidelines.

CHOOSE A SUPPLIER WITH EXPERIENCE IN RECYCLING NURSERY GRADE WASTE WATER

The choice of supplier is critical to success in recycling. Domestic suppliers and retailers of irrigation or UV kits will sell you a system, but may have little understanding of the challenges of treating nursery dam water which can be highly turbid, high in pH and EC, and highly changeable when weather events cause wash-in and stir up the dam inflow areas and dam lining.

SEEK INDEPENDENT ADVICE

NGINA has a highly experienced and technically skilled Business & Technical Support Officer, Craig Perring, who is available to advise NSW growers on a range of issues related to water management. I can't overstate the value of this industry resource in helping you to achieve success in recycling. You can contact Craig on 0439 661 368 or email him at craig.perring@ngina.com.au.

¹ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_iOMVXikpdw&feature=youtu.be

² <http://nurseryproductionfms.com.au/irrigation-water/>

³ https://www.nwsolutions.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/CleanOxide-75-DPI_2015_Efficacy-of-disinfectants.pdf



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GIA Plant Protection Officer Appointed to New South Wales

Greenlife Industry Australia (GIA) is pleased to welcome Emma De Landre as its new Plant Protection Officer.

Based in Sydney, New South Wales, Emma's role will operate across New South Wales and northern Victoria under the levy funded 'National Nursery Industry Biosecurity Program' (NY15004).

With experience spanning 25 years in nursery production and retail, Emma brings with her a strong background in quality plant production, project management and formal training in horticulture.

"I'm excited to join the Greenlife Industry Australia team, and look forward to working closely with growers to protect plant health, achieve efficiencies and foster innovation within individual businesses," Emma said.

At her previous role as Nursery Manager at Agri Australis, a large-scale hazelnut producer in the NSW Riverina, Emma utilised nursery management systems to improve propagation techniques, increase production and significantly reduce waste.

Emma was also employed as Project Manager at National Arboretum Canberra (NAC), where she was responsible for managing the water security project, the propagation of forest plantings and the development of biosecurity procedures.

As Plant Protection Officer, she would like to use her experience and encourage more growers to utilise and adopt a holistic approach to plant health and biosecurity, supporting businesses to demonstrate best practice in container and field production. This approach encompasses irrigation, nutrition, plant hygiene, weed control, soil health and integrated pest management (IPM).

"Through collaboration with production nurseries, growing media manufacturers and greenlife markets, my goal is to help businesses grow resilient plants, reduce pest and disease incursions, and maintain or increase market access," Emma said.

"It's great to see that a number of production nurseries in NSW continue to strive for continuous improvement in plant health, both for the benefit of the environment and the consumer.

"NIASA accreditation, EcoHort and BioSecure HACCP are extremely useful tools to achieve market standards, and I



look forward to providing advice and support to facilitate the growth of our thriving industry."

As Plant Protection Officer, Emma will take on the following roles and responsibilities:

- Provide on-site support to industry stakeholders in the implementation of key plant protection aspects of the programs within the Australian Plant Production Standard.
- Contribute to the ongoing development and implementation of the Australian Plant Production Standard; delivering a range of plant protection and biosecurity services across NIASA, EcoHort and BioSecure HACCP.
- Industry engagement and liaison with production nurseries, greenlife markets and growing media manufacturers throughout NSW and northern Victoria across all aspects of plant protection and biosecurity.

If you are a production nursery, greenlife market or growing media manufacturer in New South Wales or northern Victoria, and would like to get in touch with Emma, she can be contacted at: emma.delandre@greenlifeindustry.com.au or by mobile on 0409 737 801.

Emma's role has been funded through the Research Agreement (RA) between Hort Innovation and Greenlife Industry Australia.



Green Walls Bridge Gap Between Urban Cities and Nature

by Hort Innovation

There is now a simple and easy way to remove pollution from the air, promote biodiversity and naturally control the temperature in your home—and it's all thanks to a new community-focussed resource designed to help urban dwellers go green.

“It’s time to grow up”⁴ is a free online resource developed by researchers at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) through a Hort Frontiers Green Cities funded project.

The greening tool simplifies vertical greening (or green walls) with an aim to encourage the community to help bridge the gap between fragmented urban habitats and nature.

Green walls refer to walls with plants growing either directly onto a wall or on supporting structures, such as frames, that adjoin a wall. Green structures have gained popularity as a means of mitigating a range of environmental impacts associated with urbanisation.

Hort Innovation Head of Research and Development, Byron De Kock, said the aim of the project was to simplify vertical greening at a community level and provide the knowledge and resources needed to assist in the planning, designing and management of green walls within urban spaces.

“Green walls allow plants to be grown in dense urban areas where spatial constraints may limit the presence of traditional urban forestry, such as parks and street trees,” he said.

“Green walls provide a modern approach to urban greening that works to effectively increase biodiversity in urban areas, especially if plants native to the region are used. Additionally, green walls not only enable the presence of nature but also allow people to connect with nature as they build, plant and maintain these living systems.”

Lead researcher from UTS, Dr Peter Irga, said plant-based systems such as green walls helped to mitigate poor urban air quality, provided acoustic insulation and helped with thermal regulation.

“Thermal regulation is one of the most researched benefits of green walls. This means green walls can reduce high temperatures within buildings by intercepting solar radiation and through evaporative cooling. Additionally, green walls have been shown to have beneficial insulating effects in cold climates,” he said.

“These mechanisms enable less reliance upon heaters and air conditioners for temperature maintenance and allow reductions in energy consumption associated with temperature maintenance.

“Most exciting though is that green walls are able to remove air pollution from the air. The plants within green walls can capture airborne particles from the air on their foliage, while the biological components of green walls, including the plants and associated microbial community, are able to degrade a range of gaseous pollutants, such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The natural air cleaning ability of this biological system leads to improved air quality in the home and in urban settings.”

To check out green wall resources and start your green wall project, visit: itstimetogrowup.com.au.

**Hort
Innovation**

⁴ <http://ttgu.horticulture.com.au/index.html>



Plant Sure — Trade Day 'Grow Me Instead' Survey Results

Grow Me Instead (GMI) is a long-standing initiative of Greenlife Industry Australia (over 15 years) designed to promote a positive change in the attitude of both industry and consumers toward invasive plants. (More information can be found at growmeinstead.com.au.)

At the November and December Trade Days last year, Craig Perring (NGINA BTO) distributed 50 hard copies of the GMI brochure to stall holders. A number of wholesalers and retailers then participated in a short face-to-face survey with Aimee Freimanis from Ecohort Pty Ltd (Plant Sure Independent Project Manager), which asked for their thoughts on the information in the GMI brochure and if they traded in any of the plants listed as invasive.

The survey gathered opinions about the plants listed and captured suggestions about how to help people in the industry better identify 'weedy' or invasive ornamental plants, and asked what might work to prevent invasive ornamental plants from being traded.

Survey participants reported many challenges including:

- Lack of knowledge about which plants are non-invasive and which are invasive.
- Confusion and difficulty with replacing popular 'weedy' plants with better non-invasive alternatives.
- Commercial realities of supply chains and demand for 'weedy' favourites requested by landscape architects and gardeners.
- Difficulties communicating and reaching everyone across the supply chain with the right information.

- Complexity and 'noise' at the product labelling and branding level.

- A lack of incentives to trade non-invasive plants.

Many people spoke about the confusion associated with understanding which plants are OK in each jurisdiction. Ornamental plant supply chains operate Australia-wide, so identifying which plants are non-invasive and in which regions, can be quite challenging and time consuming. Another factor included a lack of like-for-like alternatives to invasive plants.

Even the way industry groups discuss plants can vary among the different professional fields across the supply chain. For example, a landscape architect describes plants very differently to a landscaper or a backyard gardener. People also select plants in a variety of different ways—by plant types (trees, shrubs, groundcovers), by install locations (parks, verges, beds), by design features (strappy, variegated, hardy) and even by design philosophy (form, line, colour). The language we use is important in understanding how people perceive plants.

Survey feedback has been incorporated into the next phase of the Plant Sure project and is helping us to determine plant categories, how we communicate and market non-invasive plants, and how we might reward and recognise responsible wholesalers and retailers to promote non-invasive ornamental plants.

The Plant Sure business plan for Phase 2 of the project was submitted to the NSW Environmental Trust in April 2020. We will keep readers informed on future opportunities with Plant Sure as the project progresses and would like to thank those wholesalers and retailers who participated in this survey.



Department of
Primary Industries

Crime Stoppers Gets Heavy on Illegal Plant Movements!

The Department of Primary Industries has teamed up with Crime Stoppers in the fight against selling water weeds (prohibited plants) online, in an initiative known as 'Prohibited Plants' Enviro Crime Campaign 2020.

The opportunity to work with Crime Stoppers to stop the selling of prohibited plants is unprecedented and will give our industry some authority when it comes to educating the general public on the impacts these prohibited plants can cause to the environment.

Prohibited plants are causing myriad problems including flooding and erosion, poor water quality, less fish and other water life, less habitat for our native plants and animals, and a reduction in our opportunities for boating, fishing and swimming.

Under the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015 it is an offence to sell certain weeds in NSW, including online sales, which can lead to a \$1.1 million fine or three years imprisonment. COVID-19 has led to more online transactions of plants with people having to stay home and find other income streams.

The aim of the campaign is to drive home the message, particularly to offenders, that it is illegal to grow and propagate certain invasive water weeds. The campaign is also appealing to the community, retailers (nurseries, pet shops, etc.) and other industry stakeholders, to help protect Australia's waterways by stopping online trading and sales of prohibited plants.

Running in June and September 2020, and promoted across both online (social media, websites, etc.) and print (direct mail, magazines, fact sheets, etc.) mediums, the campaign will provide the general public with a clear understanding of:

- what is illegal.
- the consequences these prohibited plants cause.
- how to report the illegal online sales of these plants.

NGINA is playing an important role on the consultative committee and will continue to provide input from an industry perspective. NGINA will also look to tie this into other campaigns where applicable (such as Plant Sure).



If anyone suspects, sees or knows something they are strongly encouraged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or report it online at www.nsw.crimestoppers.com.au.



Plant Pals — Locally Delivered, National Public Relations Campaign for Members

People are flocking to gardening like nothing we've seen before.

To capitalise on the trend and keep people interested, while providing a source of advice and support to new and emerging gardeners, Nursery & Garden Industry NSW & ACT (NGINA) is supporting Greenlife Industry Australia (GIA) to deliver an eight-week member-orientated, local consumer engagement campaign called Plant Pals.

The campaign aims to benefit the members of NGINA by helping to strengthen the independent retail channel, valued at an estimated \$500 million nationally; and by establishing a movement for growers, landscapers and retailers to share information and advice with gardeners long after COVID-19 has moved on.

The campaign is positioning retail nurseries and garden centres as the primary destination for garden tips, landscaping advice and consumer purchases of greenlife. NGINA retail members will play a critical role in the success of the campaign and in doing so, receive direct benefits for their business.

The campaign combines the social media power of the collective fan base of members by providing members with free #PlantPals content to share socially on Facebook and/or Instagram. It has also established a 'community hub' of information at plantpals.com.au, which was promoted through a national media launch in May.

"A soft launch of the campaign, just before Mother's Day, saw great engagement from retailers and growers", says Kobie Keenan, Communications Manager at Greenlife Industry Australia.

"The feedback has been great; and it has been received

by members of all sectors who are backing the campaign through their own social networks. Plant Pals is providing businesses with the tools to be the hero of their own campaign and the beneficiaries of its success."

All businesses can get involved. A 'campaign in a box' has been shared with all NGINA retail members, and the social media tiles and infographics have been sent to all grower and allied members for immediate use.

The team is also seeking content for the Plant Pals website. If member businesses would like to contribute a video or a blog post to the site, they are asked to email the links to kobie.keenan@greenlifeindustry.com.au.

The message to members is simple, the more business support Plant Pals receives, the greater its reach will be. By sharing the information, NGINA members will receive direct benefits for their business, by way of a fun, community-driven opportunity to work together for a strong and united industry.

If you would like more information about the campaign or would like to find out more about how you can support future phases, please email Kobie Keenan at kobie.keenan@greenlifeindustry.com.au.





What's in the retailers' 'campaign in a box'?

In the campaign box you will find the following tools:

- **FAQs for you.** This is a document for you. It gives you an overview of how some of the Plant Pals activities will be conducted, provides instructions to facilitate the social boosting and gives you the number of someone you can call if you need support.
- **Plant Pals social media tiles.** Use these on Instagram and/or Facebook. When you tag #PlantPals and @Greenlife Industry Australia we can boost your post with advertising dollars, resulting in new followers and page likes for your business.
- **Social media posts.** In case you are stuck for words, these examples of social media posts will be great to use with your Plant Pals social tiles.
- **Plant problems CPR infographic.** This document can be used digitally or would be great as a handout or in-store poster. This document directs people to their local garden centre for advice with their plant health concerns and problems.
- **Plant selector flowchart** is another great poster or digital tool. It is intended as a conversation starter, helping people identify the plants they want in their spaces and seek out advice from their local garden centre.
- **A top five plants infographic** to help customers choose from more specific plant types.
- Include your own quotes and local information in the **media release template**. You can send this release to your local media and be the hero of your own campaign. This is your time to shine.
- **Key messages** will help you with some talking points if (hopefully, when) you are contacted for an interview by your local paper or community radio.

Choosing the right plant for you

SUNBAKERS

Are you looking for a plant that worships the sun as much as you? Some plants absolutely thrive in the Australian sun.

Look for these guys and never worry about your plants becoming sunburnt.

1. Rosemary
2. Salvia
3. Baisies
4. Geranium
5. Lavender

MY GREVILLEA BRINGS ALL THE BIRDS TO THE YARD

There is nothing more serene than watching your plants attract native birds, bees and butterflies to your backyard.

With these five plants, you can grow your own wildlife menagerie right from home.

1. Grevillea
2. Callistemon
3. Correa
4. Kangaroo Paw
5. Lamandra

PLANTS LIKE CAMELS

It can be hard to know when to water your plants and not everyone has the time to water their plants regularly.

Check out these top five low-water plants.

1. Lamandra
2. Westringia
3. Leucadendron
4. Saltbush
5. Salvia

STOP AND SMELL THE ROSES (OR LAVENDER)

Plants have long been revered for their calming, aromatic properties and its easy to get your own garden smelling fresh.

Each of these plants can bring a unique perfume to your garden.

1. Lavender
2. Magnolia
3. Gardenia
4. Star Jasmine
5. Roses

DARKNESS, BE MY FRIEND

Gardening is an inclusive activity and even those of us who don't have a lot of sun to work with can reap the benefits of greenlife in our homes.

These five plants love the indoors, and don't mind the dark!

1. Zanzibar Gem
2. Peace Lily
3. Cast Iron Plant
4. Snake Plant
5. Pothos

SHADE LOVERS

Not all of us have year round sun in our gardens. Not to worry, some of the most beautiful plants actually prefer to stay out of the sun.

Look out for our top five shade loving plants.

1. Helioberus
2. Liriope
3. Lamium
4. Plectranthus
5. Ferns

HEDGING AND SCREENING

Whether you just like the look of a bushy green hedge, or you want your backyard to be a private Oasis, a screening hedge is a great addition to any backyard.

Choose the right screening hedge for you.

1. Murraya
2. Buxus
3. Lilly Pilly
4. Camellia
5. Pittosporum

LOW MAINTENANCE FAVOURITES

Growing plants can be hard! Whether its light, water or just general TLC, we can't always be the best plant parents.

But these five plants thrive on neglect!

1. Crepe myrtle
2. Nandina
3. Myoporum
4. Carex
5. Aloe

ALL THE COLOURS OF THE RAINBOW

Revivifying beds, blooming blazes and everything in between. A garden sometimes isn't a garden without a splash of colour.

These plants will give your garden year round colour.

1. Alyssum
2. Viola
3. Marigold
4. Begonia
5. Pansies

BRIGHT LIGHT BABIES

Just because they prefer the indoors, doesn't mean that these guys don't love the sun.

Pick one of these five plants to give your sunniest rooms a green makeover.

1. Palms
2. Dracaena
3. Succulents
4. Orchids
5. Ficus

Join #PlantPals: your online community of greenlife and gardening advice. www.plantpals.com.au Find your local garden centre today!

Plant Pals
Building a Greenlife Community

Alternatives to Neonicotinoid Insecticides

by Dr Reyhaneh Pordel, Horticulture Agronomist & Sales, Garden City Plastics

Neonics are a unique group of synthetic pesticides with six different actives registered in Australia: acetamiprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, imidacloprid, thiacloprid and thiamethoxam. Neonics control insects by acting on their central nervous system. These insecticides have been an important chemical tool to manage pests in Australian production nurseries for more than 20 years, with imidacloprid (e.g., Confidor) the most recognised neonic used in horticulture, and one of the most recently debated.

Several overseas countries began imposing restrictions on some of the neonics from as early as 2008 due to environmental concerns. The European Food Safety Authority concluded in February 2018 that “most uses of neonicotinoid insecticides represent a risk to wild bees and honeybees”. This year the EU will phase out clothianidin,

imidacloprid and thiamethoxam for all outdoor uses as well. Several US states, Canada and the UK have also restricted the use of neonics out of concern for pollinators and bees.

Currently, there are no restrictions placed on the use of

“The European Food Safety Authority concluded in February 2018 that “most uses of neonicotinoid insecticides represent a risk to wild bees and honeybees.”

neonics by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA). Moreover, some see that prohibiting the use of neonics in Australia could severely impact on pest management strategies and give rise to more toxic and older

TABLE 1: LIST OF CURRENT AVAILABLE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS ALTERNATIVES TO IMIDACLOPRID

Insect Pest	Alternative Insecticide	Permit Number
Aphids	Alpha-cypermethrin, Diafenthiuron, Petroleum oil, Pymetrozine, Spirotetramat	PER81707
	Flonicamid	PER83964
	Pirimicarb	PER84735
	Sulfoxaflor	PER85011
Ants	Fipronil	PER81707
	Chlorpyrifos	PER85259
Fungus gnats	Bacillus thuringiensis, Fipronil, Pyriproxyfen	PER81707
	Cyromazine	PER83506
Mealy bugs	Buprofezin, Fipronil, Spirotetramat	PER81707
	Flonicamid	PER83964
	Sulfoxaflor	PER85011
Psyllids	Abamectin, Bifenthrin, Methomyl	PER84229
	Azadirachtin, Chlorpyrifos, Methomyl	PER84953
Scales	Buprofezin, Fenoxycarb, Petroleum oil, Spirotetramat	PER81707
	Sulfoxaflor	PER85011
Scarab beetle larvae	Fipronil	PER81707
Whiteflies	Buprofezin, Diafenthiuron, Pyriproxyfen, Pymetrozine, Spirotetramat	PER81707
	Flonicamid	PER83964
	Sulfoxaflor	PER85011
	Dimethoate	PER86930

TABLE 2. REGISTERED NON-NEONIC ACTIVES FOR ORNAMENTALS

Insect Pest	Alternative Insecticide	Trade Name (Mode of Action Group)
Aphid	<i>Beauveria bassiana</i>	Velifer
	<i>Afidopyropen</i>	Versys
	Emulsifiable botanical oil	Eco-Oil (oil)
Ants	Hydramethylnon	Amdro Ant Bait (Group 20A)
Beetles	Carbaryl	Carbaryl (Group 1A)
Borers	Carbaryl	Carbaryl (Group 1A)
Fungus gnats	Azadirach2n A and B <i>Azadirachta indica</i> extract	Azamax
	<i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> subsp. <i>Israelensis</i>	VectoBac WG
	Diazinon	Diazinon (Group 1B)
Lace bugs	Dimethoate	Danadim (Group 1B)
Leafhoppers	Dimethoate	Danadim (Group 1B)
Mealy bugs	Bifenthrin	Procide 8oSC
Mirids	Dimethoate	Danadim (Group 1B)
Psyllids	Dimethoate	Danadim (Group 1B)
Scales	Carbaryl	Carbaryl (Group 1A)
Scarab beetle larvae	Dimethoate	Danadim (Group 1B)
Thrips	Pyrethrins	Pyganic
	<i>Beauveria bassiana</i>	Velifer
	Bifenthrin	Procide 8oSC
	Spinetoram	Success Neo (Group 5)
Whiteflies	<i>Beauveria bassiana</i>	Velifer
	Bifenthrin	Procide 8oSC
	Emulsifiable botanical oil	Eco-Oil (oil)

chemicals. However, a major Australian Greenlife retailer announced that from 2020 onwards they would no longer be selling plants exposed to neonics, a decision based on



claimed concerns around neonics and their potential impacts on bee populations.

Based on the GIA's Minor Use Permit (MUP) program it has been ensured the majority of new non-neonic alternative pesticide actives in Australia are available to the nursery industry. Table 1 and Table 2 below list a range of pesticide alternatives to imidacloprid, noting it is vital that a sound rotation program is in place (minimum of three different actives from three different modes of action groups) when using alternative actives to reduce the risk of pest resistance.

Based on the information in Table 1 MUP, spirotetramat (in red) is the most likely alternative to imidacloprid, based on the number of pests the product can treat. The trademark for this active ingredient is Movento. Price wise, as of June 2019, the cost per litre for imidacloprid was around \$20 and \$160 for spirotetramat, with the latter almost 13 times more expensive.



Green Space Alliance, NSW

A concern for the future and sustainability of natural green space for NSW among horticultural and allied industry has established the need for a united approach to ensure the continued growth and viability of green space across the state.

The formation of Greenspace Alliance NSW (GSA NSW) will establish a group of industries to provide a united voice to government on green space issues in NSW.

GSA NSW founding members are Nursery & Garden Industry NSW & ACT (NGINA), Turf NSW and The Landscape Association (NSW). Other industry groups and aligned bodies will be invited to join the group.

The success of GSA NSW will identify it as the independent key group for green space consultation by all state and local government departments, key decision makers and planners.

THE VISION

“To live in a community that values green spaces at its core, which deliver benefits to everyone through improved health, wellbeing and liveability by using innovative water and urban planning solutions.”

KEY FACTS REGARDING NSW’S GREEN SPACE

Research shows the ‘triple bottom line’ benefits of urban greening, including:

- Environmental, water and air quality improvements.
- Social improvements, such as improved aesthetics, mental wellbeing and physical health.
- Improved business and economic outcomes including increased workplace and community productivity, increased

attractiveness of business centres and increased urban property values.

Key wellbeing issues impacted by the lack, loss of or deterioration of green spaces include:

- Increased health risks and deaths as a result of the urban heat island effect.
- Reduced opportunities for physical activity and improved mental health outcomes.
- Increased bushfire risk.
- Increased cost of managing public health and community wellbeing.

GSA NSW RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Improve liveability by placing greater prominence on green space in the planning process and prioritise the creation of sufficient, quality designed public open space.
 - a. The NSW Planning should respond to green space concerns by improving planning policy to provide greater protection for existing vegetation, and establish minimum green space needs within new development at lot and precinct scales.
2. Prioritise water resources, improve water management practices and support ongoing research and demonstration of innovative urban water management solutions to sustain quality green space.
 - a. The NSW Government should protect potable water resources by developing non-potable water use targets for irrigation to facilitate the uptake of fit-for-purpose water sources to meet green space irrigation requirements.

3. Recognise NSW's unique green space and enhance biodiversity protection and management practices.
 - a. The Western Australian Government and local governments should develop green space strategies that plan for the management of green space and identify green space targets. Management policies, such as bushfire mitigation and roadside vegetation legislation, should reflect growing awareness of the value of vegetation and better address linkages to water sensitive urban design.
4. Recognise the value of the health and economic benefits green space generates for NSW and ensure appropriate resourcing and funding.
 - a. In partnership with industry, the NSW Government should undertake research that quantifies the value of green space in the state.
 - b. Consideration should also be given to allocating sufficient funds towards state and local government green space enhancement activities.
5. Promote ground-up engagement and communication across the community, industry and government to increase end-user involvement in urban green space, and support social equity outcomes.
 - a. The NSW Government should undertake transparent consultation with industry and the community to ensure the value of urban green space is embedded in legislation and relevant policy instruments.

ESTABLISHMENT

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) to be established to confirm the structure and goals of the organisation whether that be formal or informal.

A commitment from the industry groups to be confirmed, including funding arrangements. Options for additional funding to be reviewed.


Consideration of membership/affiliation structure for direct

green space industry groups and allied groups. Development of a target list of groups to be invited.

A plan of management to be developed, including meetings, record keeping/administration, marketing and short- and long-term goals of the group, and be agreed by all parties.

Code of conduct to be established to ensure the activities of the group are conducted in accordance with its values and objectives.

Agreement in principle to be affiliated with the GSA WA group and their principles.



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Greener Spaces Better Places —COVID-19 'Pulse Check': The Results Are In

Pulse Check is a research project carried out by Greener Spaces Better Places. The aim of the research was to listen and understand current attitudes, concerns and needs of green space professionals at local and state levels of government in relation to the COVID-19 crisis. Their approach in the research was to take a 'snapshot' of the thinking within a very specific timeframe (31 March–13 April 2020).

Greener Spaces Better Places then ran a series of online seminars⁵ to share the results of this research. Contributors included: President of Local Government NSW/ALGA representative Councillor Linda Scott; Gemma Cook from Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA); Martin Hartigan from Living Melbourne; Adele Gismodi from WaterCorp (WA); Louisa Grandy from Cairns Regional Council; Greg Ingleton from SA Water; and Kristy Gooding from Local Government Association of Queensland.

Below, Greener Spaces Better Places summarise the main discussion points from the online seminars:

SPRING HAS SPRUNG (AND IT'S NOT EVEN WINTER)

Discussions with industry have confirmed what councils and other survey respondents suggested—communities all over Australia are falling head over heels in love (some again, and many for the first time) with green spaces and their own gardens.

More than ever, people are relying on public open spaces, gardens and streets for a natural dose of health and wellbeing that comes from being out in nature. In high density areas and for apartments dwellers, access to high quality green space has never been more crucial to mental and physical health. At the same time, the absolute rush

on seedlings and plants at local nurseries illustrates that spending time simply looking out your window at your garden might be motivation enough to get out there and show it some love.

BUT WILL THIS NEW DEMAND FOR GREEN SPACE OUTSTRIP SUPPLY?

We've heard that one issue that many in the nursery and garden sector did not expect to have only months ago, was running out of stock. At a time of year when many nurseries focus on production ahead of spring, the rush has meant that there has never been greater need to understand, or talk about, 'development pipelines' for plants and trees.

Ensuring that there will be an adequate supply of plants and trees over time is equally important to councils and governments who are thinking about and embarking on 'shovel (or rather, spade) ready' projects, as it is for producers.

LIVING INFRASTRUCTURE STIMULUS —A 'TRIPLE POINT SCORE'

We heard very clearly that while economic stimulus, job protection and recovery is a top priority, that more work needs to be done to ensure that decision makers understand that 'living infrastructure' jobs are a great investment insofar as they provide environmental, positive health and wellbeing AND an economic ripple effect throughout local areas.

HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

Across the board, discussions highlighted that there has been a real shift when it comes to community attitudes toward green spaces. While there is still so much that's unknown about COVID-19 in terms of how long restrictions will last, and how deep the change will be—the appreciation



for high quality green space has never been greater.

It was only months ago that we were dealing with the impacts of bushfires, drought and flood—yet amid all of this disruption and change, industry and government have managed to adapt and once again prove their resilience. Overall, our observation has been that there is a good sense of confidence, optimism and thoughtfulness currently pervading the sector.

WHAT NEXT?

It appears that our network accepts that the only constant is change. Our conversations keep coming back to the question of, “What should we be thinking about now, to ensure our success in future?”. The need for high-quality data, research and knowledge exchange was also highlighted and is front of mind for many, as teams and organisations prepare strategies for the next financial year.

To that end, it was excellent seeing so much information being shared about what different organisations all over the country are doing to address water management and water sensitive design. Climate adaptation and species selection remains hot on the agenda, and we are pleased to report that the ‘Which Plant Where?’ project is progressing nicely, with new updates expected soon.

For more information on any of the content contained in this article, please contact hello@greenerspacesbetterplaces.com.au

⁵ Listen to it here: bit.ly/3g6clPp

Hot House for Lease

Located in Peats Ridge, NSW, this fully automated atmosphere-controlled greenhouse has 2,500 m² of production floor space and roller benches, a separate office and controller room, and semi-trailer access.

The price will be made available to those who apply.

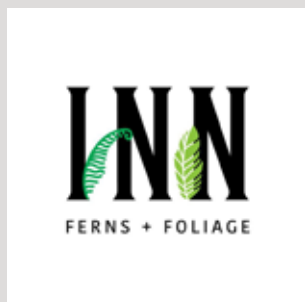
Email enquiries to admin@luhrmann.com.au



Whisper Ridge, 71 Brieses Road,
Peats Ridge, NSW 2250. Phone: +61 2 9484 5700

Meet Our Members

Stephen & Janice Bonamy INN Ferns & Foliage



Address: 1704 Chichester Dam Road,
Dusodie via Dungog, NSW 2420

Phone: (02) 4995 9272

Business email: dusodie2@bigpond.com.au

Nursery size: Approximately two acres with six
individual growing spaces

Number of staff: Working team of four

Website: innfernsfoliage.com.au

Facebook: INN Ferns + Foliage

Instagram: [inn_fernsandfoliage](https://www.instagram.com/inn_fernsandfoliage)

Stephen and Janice Bonamy are proud owners/operators of trade nursery **INN Ferns & Foliage** (formerly Illawarra Native Nursery) and Country Elegance Gardens & Gifts, a retail garden centre. Their eldest daughter, Amanda Marsh, has also been involved in the family business over the last few years, assisting with marketing and communications, and it was Amanda we spoke with when putting this story together.

Back in the day, well before INN Ferns & Foliage (or INN as it's known for short, which is Illawarra Native Nursery abbreviated) even began, Steve had a passion for propagating and growing native orchids. It was through this passion that he quickly discovered he has a natural ability to grow plants. He also has a natural flair for working strategically—he's perceptive, open-minded, proactive, works off the front foot, and makes and takes decisions based on evidence and calculated hunches. It was these two qualities that drew Steve into the industry all those years ago.

INN was founded in 1981 in Gympie, NSW, in Steve's mother-in-law's backyard. In 1985, Steve and Janice moved to a property near Chichester Dam, NSW, to start their rural lifestyle and further expand their business. With the creation of several new growing spaces, INN was able to introduce several fern varieties for independent retail and chain store supply.

Five years later, in 1990, they opened Dusodie Craft Cottage, a retail garden centre. Located on the property, the garden centre was introduced to service local tourism. In 1999, Janice relocated the garden centre into the township of Dungog and changed its name to Country Elegance Gardens & Gifts. Twenty years on it's now known as "one of the most extensive and well-resourced retail garden centres in the Hunter Valley." (Country Elegance Gardens & Gifts also won the 2017 NGINA Retailer of the year award.)

Over the years, Steve and Janice have added several new growing lines to the mix at INN, gearing up to supply to landscapers and further independent retailers through their involvement with Sydney Trade Day (circa 2000). In 2017, owing to a combination of great growing conditions and seeing a gap in the market, Steve began growing indoor plant lines. With his natural flair for growing plants coming to the fore again, INN has, to date, been able to supply more than 50 indoor plant lines to its trade customers.

In addition to the trade nursery and garden centre, Steven and Janice also provide a plant freight service, and Steve





can generally be found dropping off his stock to his trade customers, as well as working with other trade nurseries to supply to the Newcastle, Central Coast and Sydney regions.

Steve and Janice just love being part of the nursery and garden industry. They strive to deliver the best possible service, and affordable and high-quality stock to their customers—that is what they find most rewarding. Their ultimate desire is to see the whole nursery and garden industry succeed, and having feet in both retail and wholesale, they have a lot of experience and expertise to share with the industry and their customers.

When asked about some of the biggest challenges they’ve had to face, Amanda said, “with the nursery being located on a rural property alongside a working farm, water supply, the development of more extreme heat over the years and the recent drought has, and always will be, our greatest challenge.”

So, what does INN Ferns & Foliage sell and what’s their best-selling product just now? Over the past couple of years the business has really focussed on growing quality indoor and shade plants (with a couple of miscellaneous lines that are supplied for landscaping use only). The breakdown of stock

would be a 50:50 split between independent retailers and landscaping, including involvement with associated plant trading markets. Their stock is obviously seasonal, however, Amanda tells us that coloured foliage for indoor use and ferns for building developments are very popular. Varieties include calatheas and syngoniums, as well as shade plants in baskets and ferns like maidenahairs, doodias and birdnests.

Talking about products reminds Amanda of a saying that Steve says almost daily and one which causes everyone around the nursery to chuckle and it’s, “If you don’t grow it, you can’t sell it!” Basically, INN is willing to try new things and work hard to ensure there is a lot of stock down and available.

If we were to ask Steve and Janice where they see themselves in the next five or ten years, Amanda says, “their vision for INN would be to maintain the growth they have built in the business and their stock supply, and move towards a happy retirement, with a succession plan to see their long-term investment continue into the future.”

Welcome to NGINA Steve, Janice and Amanda!

Keith & Elisabeth Hallett Lonely Goat Nursery



Address: 153 Eglinford Lane, Congewai,
NSW 2325 (Hunter Valley)

Phone: 0419 746 686

Business email: lonelygoatolives@gmail.com

Number of staff: 4

Nursery size: 100 acres

Website: lonelygoatolives.com.au

Facebook: Lonely Goat Olives

Instagram: lonelygoatolives

Keith and Elisabeth Hallett are proud owners of **Lonely Goat Nursery**, a working olive farm.

It all began nearly 20 years ago while travelling around the Hunter Valley region shopping for wine when Keith and Elisabeth stumbled upon, and fell in love with, an unkempt 100-acre field, complete with a few cattle and numerous tree stumps that had been left behind by logging.

Having no experience whatsoever in farming they soon engaged a farm consultant to help them decide what to do with their surprise purchase, which is when the decision was made to plant olives and the hard work began.

Soil improvement programs were instilled to breathe life into the cattle trodden paddocks which, after four years, led to the planting of 2,500 olive trees. However, Keith and Elisabeth soon realised they did not have sufficient scale for a commercial crop on a regular basis, so it was then the idea to develop an olive nursery was hatched. Looking back on this thought- and ultimately decision-making process, Keith likened it to the Californian gold rush—not many miners actually made much money from it, instead it was those who provided the miners with tools, supplies and services that were successful.

Meanwhile developments continued, such as the construction of four dams (with the combined capacity to hold 14 megalitres of water) and a series of outbuildings. Over the years, environmentally friendly projects were also undertaken, something that Keith and Elisabeth are very passionate about, such as solar and wind technology (2005) to provide power for the entire farm, and, shortly thereafter, rainwater harvesting (which involved interconnecting tanks that allowed a gravity-fed water supply to all buildings).

As well as being environmentally friendly, Keith and Elisabeth also strive to be self-sufficient. Already boasting a large collection of self-sufficient products (drinking water, an on-site sewage treatment system, firewood, olives, olive



A few fun facts about Lonely Goat Nursery:

- Keith and Elisabeth also run a guest house and wedding venue business, **Lonely Goat Olives**. Many guests and wedding couples plant an olive tree and come back and visit it each year.
- I asked Keith where the business names came from—when they first bought the block of land they noticed a track that looked a bit like a goat track. This soon became known as Lonely Goat Drive (inspired by words from the Sound of Music song “High on a hill was a lonely goat...”), however, they finally settled on Lonely Goat Nursery/Olives.
- They have four Highland cows that live on the property—Glen, Fiditch, Taggart and Sirloin—and Keith reckons they are the most photographed cows anywhere. (They did have a fifth, Gabe, but sadly he died from a snake bite.)



oil, honey, farm fresh eggs, and a wide selection of fruit, vegetables, herbs and spices) they try to add at least one new product each year—2020 will see the introduction of garlic, ginger and potatoes.

So, what does Lonely Goat Nursery sell? It sells olive trees—from small plants to 20-year-old trees. They’ve also started selling rosemary and in 2021 have plans to introduce lavender. Their best seller is their 20-year-old olive trees, as they are easy to look after and don’t need much water. Keith and Elisabeth have found that having just come through a drought, customers are now looking for drought-proof plants and trees.

Lack of water is one of the biggest challenges the business has had to face: at the peak of the drought the nursery was down to less than 1 megalitre of water, and when water gets so low the quality drops and pumps start filling with mud.

Keith’s role in the business involves everything from propagation through to sales, including a sideline business designing and building olive groves for other people. He’s passionate about helping new businesses get into the marketplace, particularly those that hire local people. Ask him what he finds rewarding about his involvement in the nursery and garden industry, and he’ll tell you it’s meeting all different



kinds of people and receiving the occasional bizarre order, such as being asked to plant 10 olive trees in the roof garden of the new Sydney casino.

(Keith and Elisabeth were lucky enough to team up with horticulturist, Joel Booty, who happens to live close by and is now a partner in the business. Without his knowledge and experience, the nursery project would not have been possible.)

Welcome to NGINA Keith and Elisabeth!

Recognition of Service and Achievement

LINDSAY NEWPORT CLOCKS UP 45 YEARS OF EMPLOYMENT AT OASIS HORTICULTURE

While 2020 officially marks 45 years of permanent employment for Lindsay Newport at Oasis Horticulture, it was, in fact, in 1971 that Lindsay embarked on a lifetime's work at a small family-owned production nursery in the north western suburbs of Sydney.

In that year, at 13 years old, Lindsay started working for his grandfather (Arch Newport) and uncle (Allan Newport) at Newport's Nursery, which was close to the family home in Dundas. For the following four years he worked in the glasshouses every afternoon after school, as well as Saturday afternoons, pulling blackout curtains over the popular chrysanthemum crops.

In 1975, after completing his School Certificate, Lindsay continued to work side by side with Margaret Rowe at Dundas, potting and growing chrysanthemums for the retail nursery market.

Allan encouraged Lindsay to complete his horticultural certificate but, while he later came to have some regrets about not following that advice, he was not interested at the time. It was instead cars, trucks and the mechanics of them that sparked Lindsay's enthusiasm.

After Arch and Allan purchased land in Yellow Rock in the Lower Blue Mountains to expand the business, Allan asked Lindsay to travel to the new site to work in the nursery's workshop where he was able to indulge that interest.

In 1977 Lindsay acquired his truck license. At the same time Newport's was starting to supply Woolworths in a big way. Lindsay made regular trips to Woolworths' distribution centre, also known as 'K' Shed, at Flemington Markets, sometimes up to three times a day. Seedlings were delivered in wax cartons and each delivery consisted of 600–700 cartons.

Lindsay also started delivering further afield with runs to sales agents Norm and Roy Atkins in Newcastle, and runs to Canberra.

In the late 1970s/early 80s, Newport's moved away from using sales agents and began to deliver to individual stores and outlets. This move meant Lindsay regularly travelled to the central western regions of NSW and sporadically to Canberra, until 1986.

From 1986 to 1998, Lindsay moved to delivering Newport's products twice a week to Canberra and the Southern Highlands after doing a full round of deliveries to the plant hire companies in Sydney on a Monday. He recounts these years with fondness and has great memories of the customers he built special relationships with at that time.

Newport's was sold to Consolo in 1994 and that brought with it a change of name for the business and the opportunity for Lindsay to take some of his long service leave. The three months Lindsay took off have been the longest break in his lengthy career.

In 1998, after the birth of his second child, and tired and worn out from the long days driving down south, Lindsay made a switch to taking on some delivery runs that were more local to him, the North West and South West of Sydney, before adding Central Coast customers to list in the year 2000.

In 2012 Lindsay took on deliveries to Newcastle, where he still delivers to each week, along with the Central Coast, and has come full circle to deliver to the Central West again, as well as other odd delivery jobs in between.

It is fair to say that Lindsay has seen his fair share of changes across the business and the horticultural industry, from the variety of products that has made it to market, to the changes in packing and distribution of the products, especially seedlings—originally packed in pear crates, then into individual aluminium containers attached to trailers, then waxed cartons, it was the move to packing seedling trays onto trolleys that streamlined and sped up the delivery process for Lindsay and his fellow drivers.

He has delivered far and wide to a vast range of diverse customers including garden centres, hardware stores, supermarkets, department stores, florists, councils, golf clubs and schools, and has assisted at large shows such as the Easter Show and other nursery industry events.

This rigorous schedule has, at times, taken its toll, with Lindsay suffering from three hernias, and bouts of cellulitis and vertigo. That said he rarely takes a day off and has the better part of a year owing to him in accumulated sick leave.

When asked if he had any plans for retirement, Lindsay does not believe it will be anytime soon, but that when the time

LINDSAY HAS RACKED UP AN IMPRESSIVE LIST OF STATISTICS, INCLUDING:

4 million
kilometres truck driving

7
trucks

1,000
trips up and down the
Great Western Highway

4,000
trips along the M1

100,000
deliveries

28 heavy vehicle driver
logbooks completed

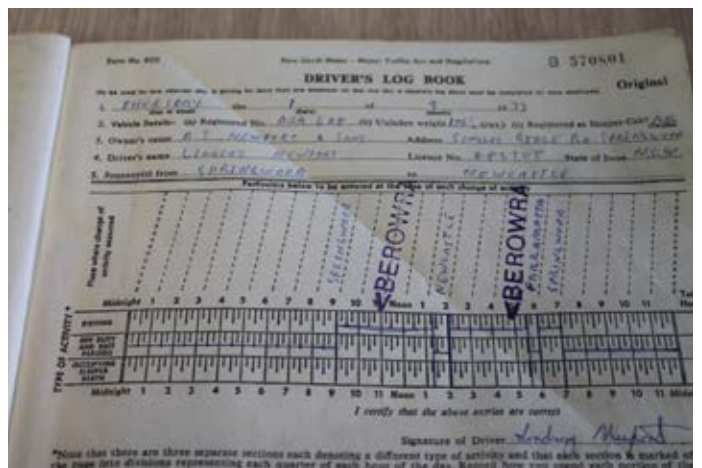
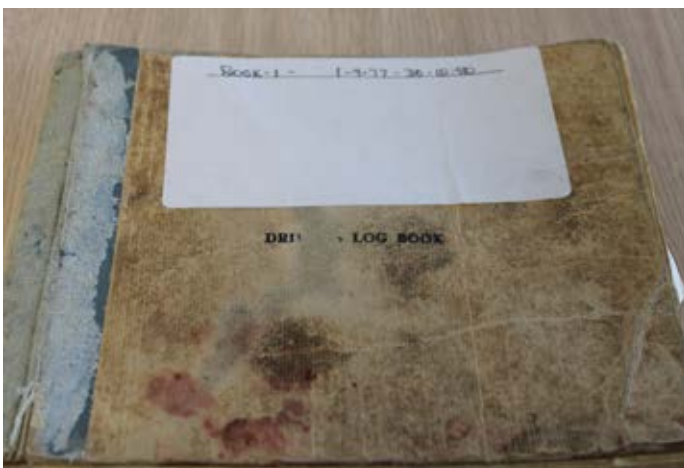
20,000
trips up and down
the M4 motorway

2,000
along the Hume Highway

100,000
working hours

7
bosses

oasis®
create your own



Logbook cover and logbook page from 1977

comes, he will need to cut back gradually as he feels he would struggle with a transition from full-time work to nothing. One day he would like to spend some time in a caravan, travelling Australia and spending more time with his wife Sharon and children Hayden and Katrina.

It would be difficult to find a more hard-working employee than Lindsay Newport. The relationships he has built with

customers over the years are a testament to his willing and happy nature. He is a special remaining link to the history of Oasis Horticulture, and he is proud of that heritage.

Fellow staff members at Oasis Horticulture would like to congratulate Lindsay on his tenure recognition achievement as he celebrates this significant anniversary of employment and thank him for his long service.

News Clippings

Train Station Living Wall Helps Commuters Breathe Easier

In April, Campbelltown city centre (NSW) got a green boost with the installation of a new piece of living infrastructure—a breathing wall. The pilot project is a partnership between Campbelltown Council, living infrastructure specialists Junglefy, and the University of Technology Sydney.

The Junglefy Breathing Wall™ consists of 160 modules and 1,200 plants, including a range of native and non-native species. The installation works as an active air ventilation system that draws in polluted air, which is then filtered within a growing medium in the modules, before cleaner air is expelled.

“Breathing walls are designed to clean the air around them, ensuring that people are breathing healthier, less polluted air. I’m delighted we’ve been able to install this wall so we can examine how further living infrastructure will benefit the health and wellbeing of our community,” Mayor George Brticevic said.

“Plants are a natural solution to creating healthy and more liveable cities,” said Jock Gammon, Junglefy’s Managing Director and Co-founder.

Recycled water captured from the Campbelltown Civic Centre precinct will be used to keep the plants in the breathing wall healthy and environmental sensors have been installed at the site by UTS to provide real-time data to

measure the benefits of the breathing wall.

“Given the recent poor air quality from Sydney’s bushfires and increased global air pollution, the development of natural, biological solutions are key to future sustainable cities,” Dr Fraser Torpy, Director of Plants and Environmental Quality Research Group at UTS said.

“The Breathing Wall is the most developed system of its type in the world and its efficiency to remove all of the major air pollutants has been extensively researched,” he said.

A great example of green infrastructure being used to increase community health and wellbeing, as part of a local council’s city centre masterplan.



The Breathing Wall will help to reduce air pollution and urban heat.
Photo by Campbelltown Council

Children Need an Hour of “Nature Time” Each Day

According to UK-based conservation organisation, The Wildlife Trusts, children need at least one hour playing and spending time in nature each day, and wants to see the UK government incorporate this into the daily school curriculum by creating a network of wild spaces where young people are free to climb trees, learn about wildlife and connect with the natural world while at school.

The request is based on a study for the trust by the Institute of Education. Its 451 participants were eight or nine years of age, and they were interviewed before and after participating in nature-based activities run by The Wildlife Trusts over the course of several weeks, such as identifying plants and trees and learning about wildlife habitats.

The children demonstrated a remarkable increase in

personal wellbeing and health, and a sense of connection with the natural world and demonstrated high levels of enjoyment. Ninety percent said they learned something new about the natural world; 79% the experience would help their schoolwork; 81% said they had better relationships with their teachers. Perhaps most importantly, 79% cited greater self-confidence and 84% “felt that they were capable of doing new things when they tried.” In a world where resilience is lacking, those are rare and special statements.

Director of strategy for The Wildlife Trusts, Nigel Doar, said in a statement:

“This research shows that children experience profound and diverse benefits through regular contact with nature. Contact with the wild improves children’s wellbeing,



Photo by Jeremiah Lawrence on Unsplash.com

motivation and confidence. The data also highlights how children’s experiences in and around the natural world led to better relationships with their teachers and classmates.”

While the UK government’s uptake of this initiative seems unlikely—schools are hard-pressed as it is to squeeze



Photo by Viktor Forgacs on Unsplash.com

everything into a single day—it would be lovely to see this made a priority. In the words of Professor Michael Reiss, of the Institute for Education, each generation has less contact with nature than the previous ones, and “we owe it to all young people to reverse this trend.”

An Indoor Plant is 2020’s Co-Worker of Choice

The positives of having more greenery in your workspace have been well documented over the years—it improves air quality, boosts creativity, increases productivity and reduces stress—and coupled with humans having an innate desire to be connected with nature, it’s no wonder that with more people than ever working from home indoor plants are the co-worker of choice.

Richgro, a garden products retailer, recently released the results of its national survey and found that 71% of those who are now working from home have indoor plants near or on their workspace.

Of this group, nine out of ten people said they felt it was extremely or very important to have plants nearby when working from home as they helped them feel calm, happy and relaxed, particularly while living through these uncertain times. Around one third of those have given them names, with many favouring alliteration—Ozzy the Orchid, Suzy the succulent, Fergus the Ficus—and three out of five people with indoor plants admitting that they talk to them on a regular or semi-regular basis. For most (78%) these talks consist of gentle encouragements of growth, however, around one in 10 people confess to using their indoor plants

as bouncing boards, asking them questions, as they would do a human colleague.

The survey also showed that Australians have been embracing their gardens like never before, with 75% of respondents spending more time in their gardens and outdoor spaces during March and April 2020 than normal. Almost all participants (98%) agreed that spending time close to plants and nature improved their mood.

For more information head to: richgro.com.au/suzy-succulent-the-2020-co-worker-of-choice/



Photo by Nathan Riley on Unsplash.com

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Why your business needs cyber insurance

IF YOU HAVE AN INTERNET CONNECTION YOU'RE AT RISK FROM A CYBER-ATTACK WHICH COULD HAVE A DISASTROUS EFFECT ON YOUR BUSINESS.

Here's how to protect yourself.

A cyber-attack happens every 39 seconds. Not a day goes by without an attack or data breach hitting the headlines. Businesses in all industries, and of all sizes, are more than ever the targets of online threats.

You may think that these attacks will never happen to you but unfortunately that isn't the case. According to research figures, more than 500,000 small businesses fell victim to a cyber-attack in 2017 – and that number is growing.

In fact, 61% of breaches hit SMEs and 60% of those impacted are out of business within six months of the attack. The cost of breaches is growing steadily.

The most common cyber-attacks take the form of

- phishing and social engineering, where an attacker pretends to be someone known to you
- malware, such as viruses or other software that accesses or damages your systems
- ransomware, which is malware that locks you out of your systems unless you pay a ransom
- human error, when your own people make a mistake that provides access to criminals.

Cyber security is the best first step to ensuring you stay protected online, but your cyber insurance plays an important role in getting you back on your feet.

Cyber insurance acts in the same way as any other insurance policy – it helps you pick up the pieces in the aftermath of a security breach, covers your business for a variety of threats and gives you access to experts to help you contain, control and recover from an attack.

It does this through a four-step process.

- 1. Prepare:** our cyber specialists help you identify the hidden risks you face, and the things you need to protect.
- 2. Threat:** cyber insurance protects you from a range of threats including human error, ransomware, malware and social engineering.
- 3. Expertise:** cyber insurance gives you access to a suite of experts, from legal to PR advice, to IT specialists and forensics.
- 4. Response:** if your business is forced to close after an attack cyber insurance helps you pay the bills during any damage.

FAIL TO PLAN, PLAN TO FAIL

Know your risk – if you don't know what you need to safeguard how can you protect it? Start by identifying what the most important parts of your business are.

Manage your exposures – working with cyber security specialises can help you decide on the best practical ways you can protect your business.

Transfer your risk – if things go wrong insurance can make the difference between recovery or closing your doors for good.

WHAT TO DO NEXT

Want to find out more about your cyber risk and how cyber insurance can help you? Our specialists are here to help. Contact the friendly Gallagher NGINA team by calling **8838 5736** or drop us an email to **NGINA@ajg.com.au**.

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