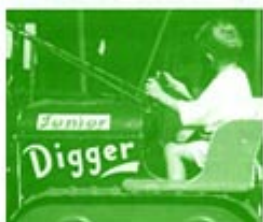




Ifpra Circular

International Federation of Park and Recreation Administration
Asia Pacific Regional Newsletter

ABN: 25 818 601 344



AWARD FOR SERVICE TO THE MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY IN AUSTRALIA

Dr. Lalith Gunasekera

Dr. Lalith Gunasekera was born in Sri Lanka and educated in the same country and obtained his PhD degree on weed science from University of Wales, Bangor, United Kingdom in 1993. He worked as an agronomist for weeds in the Coconut Research Institute in Sri Lanka about 10 years. He migrated to Australia in 1995. Dr. Lalith Gunasekera joined the Keith Turnbull Research Institute-Department of Primary Industries in Victoria in 1996 as a research officer for aquatic weeds.



The Sri Lankan community in Australia has been using alligator weed as a vegetable by mistake since 1960's. The entire program was developed from an inclusive approach to working with the community, demonstrating that partnerships between the Department and the community can produce outstanding results. It was the vision, understanding and innovation of Lalith that led to the formation of a taskforce to initiate, plan, manage, coordinate and monitor a program aimed to

eradicate one of Australia's top 20 weeds from Victoria. His project not only succeeded in reducing the weed infestation from 400 in 1996 to 7 in 2001, but he also succeeded in building a most constructive partnership with the Sri Lankan community to overcome the problem.

Through the links with the community, he was able to identify and overcome some of the key barriers to achieving community commitment and action. Through Lalith' work, the Sri Lankan community and the broader community are much more aware of weed issues and willing to become partners in their eradication.

The Victorian State government has recognised the outstanding achievements of Dr. Lalith Gunasekera through Victoria's award for excellence in Multicultural Affairs.

The award was presented by Mr. John Pandozopoulos, Minister assisting the Premier.

Expression of Interest

The Commission is calling expressions of interest for hosting the 2008 and 2011 Regional Congress. Please contact the Secretary, Mr John Brandenburg, for further information.

Visit the IFPRA Asia-Pacific Web Site: www.zip.com.au/~ifpra_ap

IPRA Asia -Pacific Congress 2005

Delegates to the 2005 IFPRA Asia Pacific Congress to be held in Kuala Lumpur will visit Putrajaya the new Federal Government Administrative Centre of Malaysia. Already the home of 40,000 residents, the site was only selected in June, 1993. The first concept Masterplan was developed in 1994, then revised and adopted in 1995 and advanced works began on site soon after. The Masterplan envisaged that Putrajaya would be built as a 'City in a Garden' and reflecting a 'parkland' setting.

The name Putrajaya was chosen in memory of the nation's first Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj.

Putrajaya, set on 4,581 hectares of lush tropical garden, is located midway between Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's capital and internationally recognised business centre, and Kuala Lumpur International Airport. The central feature of this garden city will be the 600 hectare man-made lake providing a huge body of water for visual enjoyment and recreation. The core area of the city is linked by a 4.2 kilometre Putrajaya Boulevard, to be lined with spectacular Malaysian architecture and civic buildings of cutting edge design.

Residential areas will provide a total of 67,000 homes of varying design, plot size, type and density in fourteen precincts. Each precinct will be complemented by a kindergarten, school, park, mosque, community centre and health clinic ensuring total community care. The first 3,000 government employees took up residence in December, 1999. The resident population is expected to be 330,000 by 2010. **Mark your calendar now - Kuala Lumpur September, 2005.**



Skyrise Greening in Singapore

Singapore, a small city state in South East Asia, has transformed itself from a underdeveloped country into an economically vibrant and luxuriant garden city in a short span of slightly over 30 years. Visitors to Singapore are impressed by its tree-lined roads and highways, parks and gardens.

In an effort to bring the greening of Singapore to a even higher level, the National Parks Board has initiated the "skyrise greening" for Singapore. A collaboration between the National Parks Board and the Centre for Total Building Performance, National University of Singapore, studied the effects and usefulness of rooftop gardens and their application locally.



National Parks Board spares no effort in promoting this concept and ensures that everyone plays a part in this vision. Skyrise greenery may come in the forms of intensive green roofs, extensive green roofs, greening of building facades, decking over roads or canals, etc.

With a projected population of 5 million in 50 years' time, all within a tiny island of 683 km², the trend would inevitably move towards higher density housing to optimize landuse. To protect and further enhance its garden city image, Singapore has to look beyond the greening of available areas to a total greenery concept, where even buildings become complementary components of the garden.

The benefits of skyrise greenery is not only aesthetic but manifold. The environmental benefits are: reduction of temperature, improved air quality, improved rainwater retention, reduction of carbon dioxide and increase oxygen exchange and improved water quality. The economic benefits are: more usable space for other developments, reduction of cooling resources through insulation, increase property value, better acoustic insulation.

In an effort to promote skyrise greenery, the National Parks Board works together with other authorities such as the Urban Renewal Authority to relax some of the rules and regulations so as to facilitate and encourage developers to adopt the concept of skyrise greenery. We should be able to see more roof gardens and vertical planting in Singapore in the next few years making Singapore a true city in a garden.

Otto Fung - IFPRA Commissioner, Singapore.

Australia - Rugby World Cup 2003 is the world's third largest sporting event, behind the Olympics and the Soccer World Cup. Throughout Australia matches will be played in metropolitan and regional centres in October and November and a website www.rugbyhospitality2003.com can be accessed to source official corporate hospitality services.

Singapore - The Institute of Parks and Recreation (Singapore) has a new president. Mr Otto Fung has assumed the post as president at the AGM held in February, 2003, after Dr Russell Smith stepped down following 3 years as president. The council was also boosted by some new and younger members. Under the leadership of Dr Smith, the Institute successfully organized the 2002 IFPRA Asia Pacific Congress and mooted the idea of the certification of horticultural workers in Singapore.

Hamamatsu, Japan - The 20th IFPRA World Congress will be held 6 - 10 September, 2004 in Hamamatsu. The theme of the congress is 'New Capability, Green Renaissance', putting together our wisdom and new technology. The Congress Committee is now calling for three types of papers for the congress - Oral, Poster and Workshop. For Oral presentations, there are two styles; academic papers and practice papers. For academic papers, the referee system is prepared. For further information, please visit the website www.ics-inc.co.jp/IFPRA2004

Bukit Timah Reserve, Singapore - Informative field trips were included in the 2002 IFPRA Asia Pacific Congress program - the Jurong Bird Park, Sentosa Island and the Singapore Botanic Gardens were three of the most popular venues selected by delegates. The magnificent riverside setting of the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel, the main congress venue, was also a bonus with delegates enjoying early morning or evening walks or a leisurely cruise.



Congress group enjoying the view from Bukit Timah Reserve in Singapore

Perth, Australia - The 2003 Parks & Leisure Australia National Conference will be held in Perth, Western Australia at the Burswood Convention Centre October 26 - 30, 2003. The theme of the conference is 'Fresh Parks, Fresh Leisure, Fresh Water', in line with the International Year of Fresh Water. International speakers include: Professor Joseph Maguire, Head of the School of Sociology of Sport, Loughborough University, UK and Dr Leong Chee Chiew, Deputy CEO (Parks Management), Singapore National Parks Board. Further information can be obtained from IFPRA member Shirley Barnes - email: sbarnes@iinet.net.au

With droughts and floods happening at the same time in China and also occurring in Australia, nature again shows its dominance over our lives and well being. We have also all been affected one way or another with economic influences over the last 2 years and now the impact of SARS on local economies and tourism is headline news in our region. Parks and recreation professionals have to deal with these problems, whether it be when managing open spaces or when providing leisure, health and other community programs. We cannot be complacent and must strive for new and better ways of managing our resources both human and physical under new and changing conditions. Increased membership of IFPRA and therefore the strength and depth of the organisation provides a forum for networking and the sharing of ideas in facing these challenges. I encourage everyone to promote the aims of the organisation and to encourage colleagues to become members.

Commissioners News

Members Profile: Dr. Russell Arthur Smith - IFPRA Chairman

Dr. Smith is a recreation and tourism development and management expert with extensive Asia Pacific experience. His doctorate in landscape and urban planning is from Harvard University and his Master of Architecture from the University of Queensland. He is a Life Fellow, Singapore Institute of Parks and Recreation, and served as its President from 1999-2003. Russell is a director of a landscape architecture office in Singapore and he lectures in the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. He has addressed many international meetings including those of IFPRA and IFLA.



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IFPRA Asia • Pacific

Regional Noticeboard

2003

IFPRA Europe
 Venue: Stavanger, Norway.
 Date: 15-18 June, 2003
 Contact: + 0047 515 070 90
 Website: <http://www.stavanger.kommune.no/ifpra.europe.2003>

2004

IFPRA World
 Venue: City of Hamamatsu, Japan.
 Date: 6-10 December, 2004.
 Website: <http://www.ics-inc.co.jp/IFPRA2004/>

2005

IFPRA Asia-Pacific
 Venue: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
 Date: September, 2005.
 Contact: datoismail@kpkt.gov.my

2006

IFPRA Europe
 Venue: Annecy, France.
 Date: June, 2006.
 Contact: jean-claude.gaultier@ville-annecy.fr

2007

IFPRA World
 Venue: Glasgow, Scotland.
 Date: TBA
 Contact: J. Conway Tel: +44 (0) 141 287 9508

2008

IFPRA Asia Pacific
 Venue: TBA
 Date: TBA
 Contact: ifpra_ap@zip.com.au

7th National School in Park Management

Applications are now being taken to register for the 7th National School in Park Management, which will be held at Queen's College, University of Melbourne 20-25 July 2003. This School has been developed in partnership with the University of Melbourne, Parks Victoria, and the City of Melbourne, and has the support of Australia's peak body in park management, Parks and Leisure Australia. The School has developed both a national and international standing for professionals working in the park and recreation industry. The 2003 program is centered on water conservation, conservation, and triple bottom line reporting as well as other core business and management areas in parks and recreation.

Further information from Dr David Aldous on daldous@unimelb.edu.au

Successful Seminar on Sports Turf Management

Reporting on the benefits & detriments of soil micro-organisms, this seminar was held at the Burnley Campus, University of Melbourne, Australia in April, 2003. Speakers included Professor Brian Holl, University of British Columbia who spoke on beneficial turf/soil microbial interactions, Mr Terry Woodcock, Director, Sports Turf Consultants (Australia) on detrimental turf/soil microbial interactions, Dr John Hunt, Agrimm Technologies Pty Ltd., New Zealand on Soil microbes and integrated pest management in turf, Mr John Neylan, AGCSA Tech Manager, on natural organics and microbes in turf management, Mr David Nickson, Ecogrow on the use of nematodes in integrated pest management and Mr Martin Mebalds, Institute of Horticultural Development on turfgrass-endophyte partnerships.

Proceedings on this seminar are available for \$A25.00 through Dr David Aldous on daldous@unimelb.edu.au