

THE ROD TALLIS MEMORIAL AWARD

This award was set up in memory of the late Rod Tallis, a young Sydney nurseryman who had been very active in IPPS. The award is offered each year in the State where the Conference is being held. Young people under 25 years of age in nurseries, educational institutions, and government departments who have an interest in plant propagation are invited to apply.

The applicants, who need not be members of IPPS, must outline why they should be given the chance to attend the IPPS Conference. They also have to present a biography and outline their interest in horticulture and plant propagation.

The winner of the award attends the Conference as a guest of the Society and must prepare a paper for presentation at the Conference. The winner also receives a book award.

In 1986 Alison Fuss, a student at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute, won this year's award and presented the following paper:

GLASSHOUSE PEACHES: FORCING OF BUD BURST AND ITS EFFECT ON FLORAL DEVELOPMENT

ALISON FUSS¹

Waite Agricultural Research Institute
Waite Road
Urrbrae, South Australia

Murray Bridge, which is 85 km southeast of Adelaide, is one of South Australia's significant glasshouse areas. In the past, tomatoes and cucumbers have been the main crops grown, however at present such crops are unprofitable. In this economic situation there has been a great interest shown by the growers in finding alternative crops which will bring greater returns.

Following the success of temperate-zone fruits, such as apples and peaches, in the tropical and subtropical regions of the world, it was suggested that they may also be suited to the hot and humid conditions of a glasshouse.

In December 1984, a glasshouse of peaches was established at Murray Bridge. A cultivar of a low chilling *Prunus persica* hybrid developed in Florida, U.S.A., was budded onto a nematode-resistant rootstock, 'Nemaguard'. The trees were closely spaced and four main branches were trained from the main stem onto the outer wires of a low, 5-wire T trellis.

Work began in February, 1986, to study the vegetative and

¹ Rod Tallis Memorial Youth Award for 1986.