

WOTT News

New Members

Firstly, welcome to all the new members to the WOTT Database Contact List. We have new member representation from Port Macquarie, Sweden, Sydney, Toronto, Germany, Melbourne and New England. The database is growing rapidly with the hope of connecting more and more women from all over the world.

ITCC Results

This year the International Tree Climbing Championships (ITCC) were held in Montreal, Canada on August 2 and 3 with 11 women entered representing five countries: Australia (1), Germany (1), USA (5), Canada (3) and Sweden (1). The competition was intense and the climbing standards were even higher than in previous years with returning climbers gaining more experience with each year of competition.

After the five preliminary events were staged on Saturday, the top three climbers overall were announced. In third place was Marlies Laser from Germany, in second was Kiah Martin from Australia and in the top spot was Wenda Li from Ontario (the 2002 World Champion). The top two women advanced to the Masters Challenge and climbed for the title of World Champion on Sunday 3 August.

The eagerly awaited announcement was made at the opening reception of the ISA Conference and the new World Champion for 2003 was named. Congratulations Kiah Martin from Australia! Congratulations also to Wenda Li for such a sterling effort on the day. Congratulations and thanks to all participating female climbers who proved themselves as fierce competitors in 2003 and no doubt formidable climbing opposition for 2004! (if anyone has images of this event, please forward to wott@isaac.org.au)

International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Annual Conference

The 79th ISA Conference followed the climbing championship at the Palais des Congres. WOTT members represented at the conference were Denise Johnstone, Rebecca Ramsden (Melbourne, Australia) and Melissa LeVangie (Massachusetts, USA).

Denise gave a presentation on her research into the potential for the resistograph to predict trunk decay in trees – 'Eucalyptus Trees, Resistance and Tree Risk Assessment in Australia'. The talk was very well supported and received.

Rebecca's presentation explained her research into DNA fingerprinting of trees. This new technology offers positive identification of invasive tree roots where tree root damage is alleged. There was great interest in the potential of this technology.

Melissa presented a summary of 'Systematic Safety Programs' which highlighted amongst other things the important role leadership plays in ensuring safety is considered the highest priority in all working situations. Melissa also participated in the Tour de Trees again this year and fared well in the ITCC placing third in the throwline event.

Networking

At the ISA Conference in Montreal a Women's Networking Session was held where women across the Arboricultural industry met to share their experiences and connect with other women in similar fields of work. Women at the meeting included tree company owners, tree breeders, tree workers, consultants etc. etc. Several WOTT members were at this session and the success of the WOTT database was discussed as the "Australian" version of bringing women together. It was terrific to meet women in arboriculture from other parts of the world and talk shop. As a result of this session, we now have many new international additions to the WOTT database.

The ISA is currently setting up an email list / database for women in Arboriculture around the world. We'll keep you posted as to when this is up and running and of course invite you all to join. If you were at this networking session and you would like to make a brief report to WOTT members, please submit your correspondence to wott@isaac.org.au

VTCC Saturday 16 August

For those WOTT members in Australia, the regional Victorian Tree Climbing Championships are being staged **this Saturday at St James Park, Hawthorn** from 8am until 5pm (visit the link below for more info): <http://isaac.org.au/pages/events/tcc/vtcc2003.htm>.

The VTCC will be a great opportunity to connect or reconnect with other women in the industry and support all the female climbers in their competitive endeavours. Heaps of prizes are on offer and if the weather holds out we should have another great day of tree climbing for participants and spectators.

Feedback

Please keep your feedback coming in. WOTT is here to connect women from across the nations. If you would like to contribute feedback, technical or practical information, images, interesting anecdotes, research documents, comments, constructive criticism etc, please forward all correspondence to: wott@isaac.org.au. Your contributions may make a difference to someone on the other side of the street, or the other side of the planet.

Jump on-line and climb higher with us!
WOTT Team

PS For those new members, the majority of the WOTT correspondence is listed and displayed (including photos, but excluding your database details) at: <http://isaac.org.au/wott>