

# GROWING UNDERCOVER

MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER

PCA

Protected Cropping Australia

## STRAWBERRY PICKING ROBOTS

With years of research behind them, fruit farmers are turning to robots to help with harvest amid a human worker shortage.

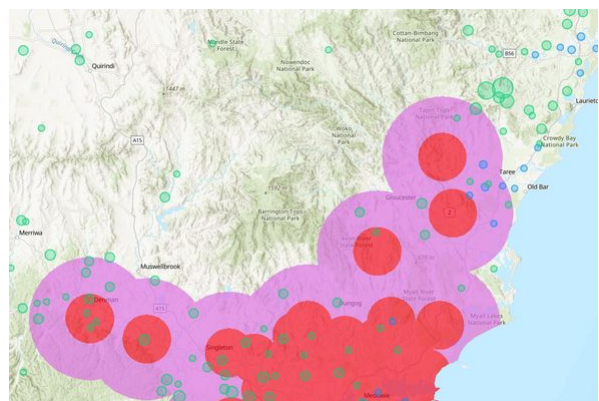
Eva Thilderkvist, who works with robots, said the robots work alongside humans. "They're not a replacement for your workforce. It's peace of mind for growers in case you can't get the workforce you need".



[VIEW MORE](#)

## VARROA MITE RAPID RESPONSE MAP

The AARSC (Applied Agricultural Remote Sensing Centre), has created a map of the current biosecurity response to Varroa mite. It shows the locations of both protected crops and open tree crops, as well as the eradication and surveillance zones of the Varroa mites, across Australia.



[VIEW MAP](#)

## SUBSTRATE SUBSTITUTE

From Sam Turner, EO

GyroPlant is working to bring the 'circular economy' approach to protected cropping to develop resilient, cleaner and waste free farms through their 'GyroCup' system.

The GyroCup system eliminates the need for traditional single-use substrates by growing plants in a gel insert. These gels are low-cost, clean and sustainable.

Benefits include:

- Avoids the rising costs of substrates
- Prevents contamination from mould, algae and pests
- Enhances plant root development
- Eliminates the need for plastic net pots
- Growers can use tailored gels to enhance growth
- Reduces waste costs
- Creates cleaner farm environments

[LEARN MORE](#)



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## PLANTLOGIC LIMITED APPOINTS FERNLAND AS DISTRIBUTER IN AUSTRALIA

Plantlogic Limited, a provider of innovative solutions for commercial substrate production, has partnered with Fernland as their distributor in Australia. Fernland will offer Plantlogic's full range of products to its customers, using their 45 years of distribution network and industry expertise, to enable Plantlogic to better serve its customers in the region. Plantlogic's advanced solutions for sustainable and efficient crop production will be backed by Fernland's expert advice and support.

Click the logos below for more information.

### Contact:

Fernland: Nick Hutchinson, General Manager | Ph: +61-7-5454-8800 Plantlogic Limited: Israel Holby, Director | Ph: +1-503-308-8837



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## BECOME A MEMBER

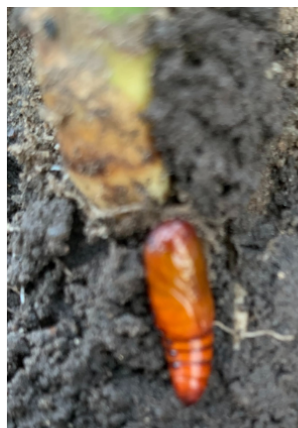
PCA has more than 40 years' of experience providing relevant and practical services to businesses in the protected cropping industry. We strive to keep our growers profitable and to provide allied trade and other industry partners with opportunities to grow with the industry.

Corporate	Individual	Student
\$1000 <sub>/yr</sub>	\$250 <sub>/yr</sub>	\$50 <sub>/yr</sub>
+ GST	+ GST	+ GST

[SIGN ME UP](#)

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**BOWEN GUMLU**  
GROWERS ASSOCIATION INC.  
*Collectively we grow*

**05.04.23**

**Fall armyworm**

**MASTERCLASS**

**12pm - 4pm**

**45 Warwick Road, Bowen**



**Presenters:**



**Wee Tek Tay**

Principal Research Scientist, CSIRO (Pest Genomics)  
Adjunct Fellow, Macquarie University  
FAO IPPC FAW working group

**Beatrice Apirajkamol**

PhD candidate, Macquarie University

**Dr Rahul Rane**

CSIRO Health & Biosecurity, Senior  
Research Consultant

Tek will host a series of presentations outlining Fall armyworm impact in Australia and globally from his work on the FAO global panel.

The masterclass will include the following presentations:

- **Wee Tek Tay** - Understanding FAW movements across Australia's agricultural landscapes
- **Dr Rahul Rane** - Genomic assets for management of FAW
- **Beatrice Apirajkamol** - Identifying novel biopesticides and bacterial toxins for FAW management

Please register as spaces on the day will be limited. If you are unable to attend in person the masterclass will also be available online. Register for the event via our [website](https://www.bowengumlugrowers.com.au).



National Vegetable  
Extension Network

Ph: (07) 4785 2860

Email: [admin@bowengumlugrowers.com.au](mailto:admin@bowengumlugrowers.com.au)

[www.bowengumlugrowers.com.au](https://www.bowengumlugrowers.com.au)





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FLORAL MARKETING IN THE USA

**Interview with CalFlowers' Steve Dionne**

GARDEN RETAIL

**How is the UK garden centre industry faring?**

AIPH SPRING MEETING

**Learn about production opportunities in Portugal**

## FLOWERS SYMBOLISE THE RESILIENCE OF ITS PEOPLE

Exclusive interview with the President of  
Ukrainian Florist's Society

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