

JANUARY | 2024

UPDATES

From The Chair

Andrew Tout

As we step into 2024, I wanted to pose some questions based on personal observations, feedback from our members, and thoughts on the unfolding landscape of protected cropping and its impact on Australian horticultural supply chains.

Observations on Market Dynamics

One thing that has caught my attention is the significant transformation taking place in our markets and the realisation of our overall value as an industry. The increasing prevalence of protected cropping is not just altering the supply chain and the reliability of quality and quantity; it's reshaping how we perceive and interact with fresh produce. I would love to know your thoughts on these changes, and how do you see our collective role in influencing market dynamics?

Contemplating Competition

With more protected cropping facilities entering the scene, it's impossible not to notice the risk of oversupply and heightened competition. While this presents challenges, it also brings opportunities for growth and stability. How are you preparing to navigate this evolving competitive landscape, and what strategies do you think will help us thrive?

Stability and the Transition Journey

Reflecting on the shift away from traditional outdoor growing, I'm curious about your experiences with this transition. Have you

Exploring the Role of Protected Cropping

Protected cropping, fuelled by technology, has become a cornerstone in our year-round crop supply. I'm interested in hearing your thoughts on the role we collectively play in ensuring a steady and reliable food supply chain. How can our collaboration with major retailers be strengthened to benefit all and how we can better interact with outdoor growers and international markets to ensure continued market growth and stability?

Sustainable Practices: Challenges and Rewards

Sustainability has become a key focus, and it's heartening to see the industry's dedication to ESG friendly practices. What challenges have you faced in adopting sustainable methods, and what rewards have you reaped so far? How do you envision our industry's sustainability journey progressing in the coming years?

Envisioning the Future

Looking ahead, the expansion of protected cropping facilities holds both promise and challenges. As a collective group, what do you see as the most significant opportunities and potential pitfalls? How can we better work together to ensure a prosperous and sustainable future for the Protected Cropping Sector?

At PCA we are eager to hear your insights, experiences, and thoughts which we will summarise and share as we embark on this journey together in 2024. Let's continue to use this space for open dialogue and shared learning.

quantified increased stability in your operations?
What challenges and successes have you encountered along the way?

TAKE THE SURVEY

Behind The Scenes

Julie Krieger, EO

Welcome back from what we trust was a relaxing and re-energising break. 2024 is already shaping up to be another in which the weather will play a big part. As I write, cyclone Kirrily bears down on Townsville - and the property (pictured right) of PCA team-member, Amanda. The red sky that night was certainly not a grower's delight! The Queensland government is already planning support measures for those affected and we share some helpful links below.

At PCA, we're already working on important projects for the industry and members and we look forward to rolling these out over the coming months. Please [contact us](#) with your input and feedback at any time. Here's to a prosperous 2024!



Projects

Tony Bundock

After a well earned break for the Christmas period, the project team are now back and working on a number of separate areas of the Early Needs Recovery Project:

Development of a workshop for the Coffs Harbour and Sydney Basin areas in interpreting water quality tests. This will be led by myself and Levi Nupponen, and will provide growers with a step by step guide as to how to interpret water quality tests, and make suitable changes to stock solutions in recirculatory systems. Dates for these events will be advised in the coming weeks.

Our onsite visit program will be continuing and the PCA team will be accompanied by members of the Local Land Services team, enabling us to see first hand the issues growers are facing, and hopefully aid solutions. It is quite ironic that this project has seen floods, followed by storms and bushfires, and then floods again to date. Where possible we will be hoping to identify funding sources that growers can



access to aid recovery as well as providing advice on growing issues.

Development of the online learning platform. The aim of this area is to provide new and existing growers with some basic level of understanding of the concepts associated with protected cropping in an easy to access format. We are looking to start the roll out of this area in the next month. Access will be via an invitation process but will be free – watch this space for more detail!

The team will also be continuing to produce the fortnightly newsletter which will provide updates on all of the project developments.

GROWER UPDATES

Did you know we have an Industry Advisory Council?

The Industry Advisory Council (IAC) is a vital link between the PCA team, Board and growers. The group meets every second month and is led by our Deputy Chair, Andrew McIlwain.

If you would like to hear more or become a part of this important group, please **get in touch** with us.

Do You Have Something To Share?

PCA

Growers, do you have something to share? This is your space! We'd love to hear from you.

If you have something to share with the PCA membership, or would like to get word out to other growers, **send us an email** with your article or content, and we'll work with you to make sure it gets out there!



EVENTS

AIPH



A message from AIPH President

We pleased to extend my warm greetings for a prosperous New Year! As the President of AIPH, I am honoured to serve in this esteemed role. In my first year, I am pleased to see nations and cultures coming together in the name of horticulture, sustainability, and a brighter future. I have had the privilege of sharing my vision for the ornamental horticulture industry in speeches at ceremonial openings of International Horticultural Expos in the Republic of Korea, Dubai, Qatar (the first horticultural expo in a desert region), and Turkey (despite the challenges for us people after a long war period).

As the champions for the power of plants worldwide, AIPH supports plant nurseries in growing products that contribute to the aesthetics of our cities and play a vital role in improving the quality of the air we breathe, reducing stress, and enhancing the community's overall well-being. The horticulture industry has a global production value of approximately \$90 billion and an estimated retail market value of \$225 billion. Hosting an AIPH-approved International Horticultural Expo provides a valuable opportunity for a nation to demonstrate its recognition of the importance of sustainability and an ecological transition.

AIPH is committed to promoting the interests of horticultural producers. This year, we are looking forward to two significant events: the International Horticultural Exhibition 2024 Chengde on April 28 and the International Horticultural Show Floradeo International on May 17.

We support Expo organizers through our Organizers Guide and Master Plan Guide. Check out our publications, Growing Economics, for case studies of past Expos if you're considering hosting an Expo. By attending our bi-annual Expo conferences, you can learn about future International Horticultural Expos or apply to host an International Horticultural Expo in your country and participate in a future event.

We would be pleased to meet you sooner next week at the International Horticultural Trade Show (IHTS) in Essen, Germany. During this world-leading trade fair, the AIPH team will be delighted to discuss more at Stand C.6.54.

AIPH International Horticultural Expo

[Learn more →](#)

INFORMATION NATIONAL

NEWS



Founder of Perfection Fresh has died aged 86

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NEWS



VICCHEM appoints Bill Dowdle as new CEO

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NEWS



Level up your business with data for success

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SUPPORT

NEWS

NEWS



Hort Innovation - dealing with dry times

[Learn more →](#)



Aussie horticulture industries unite

[Learn more →](#)



Forces combine to shield vegetable industry

[Learn more →](#)

NEWS

PER14352 Version 4	Apron XI 350 Es fungicide seed treatment (metalaxyl-m) / Broccoli (seed treatment) / Damping-off
PER14443 Version 3	Copper Hydroxide / Rubus spp (incl. raspberries and blackberries) / Rust and leaf spot
PER14584 Version 4	Imidacloprid / Brassica leafy vegetables / Aphids, whitefly and thrips
PER81702 Version 4	Alpha-cypermethrin / Various vegetables / Various insect pests
PER82551 Version 4	Diazinon / Various onions and herbs, and cauliflower / Onion maggot, onion fly and thrips
PER84427 Version 3	Methomyl/ Mango (mangifera indica) / Redbanded thrips; Chilli thrips; banana flower thrips; tomato thrips
PER84804 Version 3	Movento 240 SC/Stone Fruit/Western flower thrips
PER86489 Version 2	Fenhexamid/Blueberry/Grey mould
PER86805 Version 2	Phosphorous acid / Rhubarb / Downy mildew

Latest minor use permits

[Learn more →](#)

NEWS

NEWS



Varroa Mite monitoring toolkit

[Learn more →](#)

NEWS

PRABIN DAWADE
→ Master of Science

"I came from a small and beautiful country called Nepal. After completing my schooling there, I went to study Bachelor in Agriculture with an Indian Government Scholarship. Being in another country helped me get exposure to a variety of knowledge, practices involved, people and cultures, etc. During my study period, I had dreamed of starting my agriculture firm which could work as a liaison between the farmers of the rural part of the country and the government."

"My desire to expand my knowledge regarding the uses of greenhouses in increasing the production of crops and their management as well as the new technologies being introduced in the field of agriculture was one of the many reasons to choose the course. The facilities, facilities, research, and access to top technologies were some of the reasons I chose to study at Western Sydney University. The method of teaching was a bit of a cultural shock at the beginning weeks of the course. Back in my home country and the country where I did the Bachelor, the method of teaching to the students was mostly one-way from professors to the students. In the first few weeks here, the two-way style of learning and a lot of topic-related discussion was new and challenging. With the time, that was all gone and the learning was then easy."

"I was delighted to know about being the recipient of the scholarship. I was also determined to use it in improving myself and developing some skills. I had reached and shared the news with my family and classmates."

"Receiving this scholarship means a lot to me and this scholarship will be beneficial in different ways. I would utilize this scholarship mostly in the areas which would be beneficial in my long term. I would learn some new technologies and programs that would be beneficial for work in crop-related areas and will be an asset. Furthermore, this will also aid in research and gaining experience in new studies."

"Some goals I would like to achieve are that I would like to develop some more skills that would assist me in doing the work efficiently. I would also like to join some agricultural and horticultural firms in the country and start working in Australia. I would like to be a part of either a crop-producing company or some research-based company to develop and advance crop production."

PICTURED
Prabin Dawade

Scholarship for Emerging Leaders in PC

[Learn more →](#)



Overcoming challenges of hard water

[Learn more →](#)

QUEENSLAND

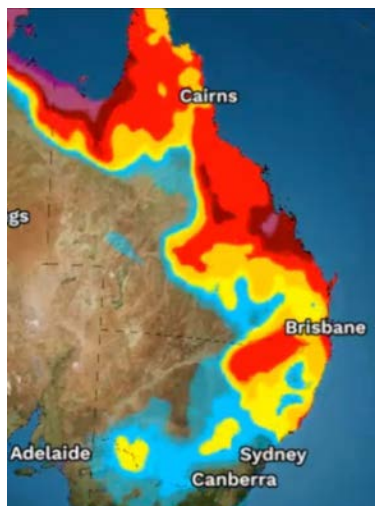
NEWS



Intensive masterclass at Gatton Smart Farm

[Learn more →](#)

SUPPORT



SEQ storms - financial assistance activated

[Learn more →](#)

SUPPORT



Jasper – grant assistance available

[Learn more →](#)

SUPPORT

SUPPORT



Response ready for tropical Cyclone Kirrily

[Learn more →](#)

QLD financial disaster relief round-up

[Learn more →](#)

NEW SOUTH WALES

NEWS



Biosecurity response - red imported fire ants

[Learn more →](#)

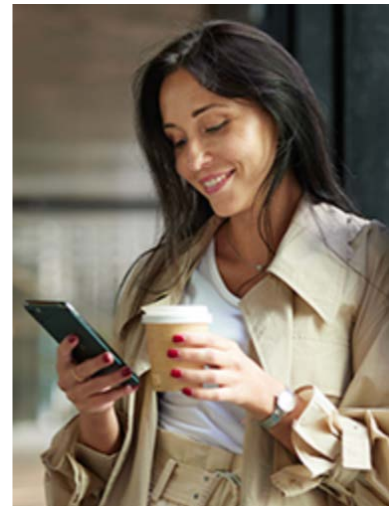
NEWS



Grafted cucumbers now on the scene

[Learn more →](#)

SUPPORT



Service NSW Business Beuro is here to help

[Learn more →](#)

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JANUARY 2024

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JANUARY 2024

KENYA FLOWER COUNCIL

**CEO Clement Tulezi analyses
flower market**

THE FERN FILES

**Vitro Plus
produce
hardy ferns**

TECH

**Global greenhouse
construction trends**

BATTLING THE POST-CHRISTMAS BLUES

Tropical houseplant production - the perfect antidote for
the grey and damp monotony of winter

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