



GROWING UNDERCOVER

JUNE | 2024

UPDATES

Behind The Scenes

Julie Krieger



It has been a busy month at PCA as we come to the end of another financial year.

As I write this article, the Australian Government has accepted the recommendations in the final Food and Grocery Code of Conduct Review report. PCA welcomes this announcement, which we hope will ensure our growers can operate in a fairer and more equitable supply chain environment.

In other news, it is important to keep abreast of industrial relations changes, particularly the

I encourage all our financial members to take advantage of the resources and discounts provided by our friends at Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers (QFVG). A range of Human Resources documents are available at heavily discounted rates to our financial members. Please reach out to the team for further details.

PCA continues to liaise with the Australian Building Codes Board regarding the fire and egress study and we are planning our first virtual advocacy forum on this important issue in August.

In addition, our conference team is hard at work planning an exciting, not-to-be-missed event. Please place the 27th- 30th of July 2025 in your diaries and stay tuned for more information soon on sponsorship and exhibition opportunities.

Many of our members and partners have been busy at Hort Connections, with our very own Chair, Andrew Tout advocating for our industry at this forum. Similarly, many of our partners have been in Europe for Greentech, gaining valuable experience and knowledge to bring back to their businesses and share with the broader industry.

changes to the National Employment Standards coming into effect on the 1st of July this year.

The Fair Work Ombudsman has a range of webinars and resources regarding the new minimum National Employment Standards, including what the standard covers and obligations for casual employees.

A list of resources and upcoming webinars can be found at: www.fairwork.gov.au/webinars or www.fairwork.gov.au.

IDO Update

Matt Plunkett



Many growing regions are experiencing variable weather across the country. In Tasmania, very dry conditions are persisting, and late Autumn rains have been welcomed in South Australia and Western Australia.

Its worth noting that in Virginia South Australia, the Autumn period has seen some of the coldest temperatures at night in the last 30 years despite clear days and good light levels. Before the Autumn rains, it was the driest start to the year since records began in the last century.

We eagerly await news on our Climate Smart Agriculture funding applications, and are also finalising an application for the National Farmers Federation National Roadshow funding stream, to enable wider sharing of education and member benefits.

And finally, if you're a PCA subscriber and would like to get more from us, I encourage you to join. [The benefits](#) and discounts are well worth the investment.

Please reach out to the team if we can help you at all. Thank you for your support of your PCA.

With the challenges all businesses are facing now, I encourage all our growers to spend more time working on their business rather than in it, including getting up to speed with the new national employment standards coming into effect next month.

The recent release of a vegetable and onion benchmarking project entitled "Level Up Hort" has identified some interesting trends when comparing returns per hectare across participating businesses.

Not surprisingly, the most profitable businesses have better labour efficiency returns per hectare and are maximising input efficiencies to convert costs to income. Any protected cropping vegetable levy paying businesses can apply to participate in this program and more information can be found at www.leveluphort.com.au.

PCA are currently looking for funding and opportunities to co-deliver networking events across the country and planning for the PCA 2025 conference is progressing well. Our regular webinars have returned so please keep a lookout for those in your inbox.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Hydroponic Farmers Federation Conference in

Along the Eastern seaboard, it has been variable with persistent rainfall an ongoing challenge. Diseases pressures are high in some crops and storage levels are at or near capacity.

Melbourne next month.

Have a great month.

GROWER UPDATES

Did you know we have an Industry Advisory Council?

The Industry Advisory Council (IAC) 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 vital group, please **get in touch** with us.

Webinar Recordings Now Available

PCA

Missed our recent webinars, or want to rewatch them? The recordings of the below webinars, are now available for members to view on our website.

Greg Carrick's - Garden City Plastics
'Plastic Recycling Processes'

Stephanus Malherbe's - Biological Services
'A Guide to Integrated Pest Management in Protected Cropping'

[WATCH WEBINARS](#)



PCA GROWER MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

The aim of this survey is to seek feedback on how the PCA are meeting your needs as a valued member (for both financial and subscriber members). This information will guide the ongoing implementation of the PCA Strategic Plan and ensure the development of programs and services that better meet your needs. Three survey participants (selected at random) will receive 2 FREE WATER TESTS WITH AGVITA ANALYTICAL. Thankyou for taking the time to complete this survey (closes 16 June).

Name *

First Name

Last Name

Email *

example@example.com

Company *

Congratulations!

PCA

Thankyou to all those who completed our recent grower survey. We appreciate and value your opinion, and will use it to help shape PCA's future.

As promised, 3 growers who completed the survey, have won 2 free water tests with AgVita Analytical. Congratulations to our winners:

- Liz Preece
- Nicky Mann
- Harisson Bruinsma

EVENTS

SEPTEMBER



FERTILIZER AUSTRALIA

2024 Fertilizer Australia Conference

FERTILIZER AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE
2024 Sustaining Soil Health
11-13 SEPTEMBER
BIRRELL

United Plant Pathogens
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The countdown is on – Early Bird registration closing July 12!

Don't miss your chance to attend Australia's prominent fertiliser conference and exhibition with a stacked speaker lineup, fantastic networking opportunities and events that bring together the entire fertiliser supply chain, all at our exclusive

2024 Fertiliser Australia Conference

[Learn more →](#)

AUGUST

JULY



2024 HFF Conference -
23rd-25th July

[Learn more →](#)

FEBRUARY

SEPTEMBER



GVF 5th Global Vertical Farming Show 2024

5th Global Vertical Farming Show
Middle East's Largest & Only Exclusive Vertical Farming Event
10th - 11th Sept 2024 | Le Méridien Hotel, Dubai - UAE
Exclusive Discounts For Members
Limited Slots Available

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www.verticalfarmingshow.com

5th Global Vertical Farming Show 2024

[Learn more →](#)

AUGUST



BERRIES AUSTRALIA RESOURCE LIBRARY

As part of the latest Hort Innovation funded industry development and communication project - *Facilitating the development of the Australian berry industries (M122010)* - we have developed a Resource Library housed on the berry industry website.

The library has been designed as a single repository for all resources created by both current and former levy-funded projects, as well as a place you will find links to resources created by other parties in Australian horticulture that may be of use to berry growers.

The library is being continuously expanded and already contains 600 items.



Berries Australia Resource Library

[Learn more →](#)

NEWS



AIPH - GreenTech Showcases Innovations

[Learn more →](#)

RESOURCES



Priva 65th Anniversary and New Products

[Learn more →](#)

NEWS

Permit ID	Description	Date Issued	Expiry Date	Permit holder
PER88018 Version 3	Chlorpyrifos / Sweet Corn / African black beetle	23-Nov-2020	31-May-2025	Hort Innovation
PER88174 Version 2	Danadim / Blueberries / QLD Fruit Fly	25-Jul-2019	31-May-2029	Hort Innovation
PER80344 Version 4	Chlorpyrifos / Potato / Black Beetle, Red Legged Earth Mite	02-Jan-2015	31-May-2025	Hort Innovation
PER14240 Version 5	Chlorpyrifos / Bananas / Sugarcane bud moth, Banana scab moth, Banana rust thrips, Caterpillars, Mealy bugs	08-May-2024	31-May-2025	Hort Innovation
PER87332 Version 2	Aero Fungicide / Olives / Anthracnose	09-May-2024	31-May-29	Hort Innovation
PER86665 Version 3	Fipronil / Carrots / White fringed weevil and Symphlyids	09-May-2024	31-Dec-25	Hort Innovation
PER14703 Version 4	Tramat 500 SC Selective Herbicide (ethofumesate) / Spinach / Spinach	09-May-2024	31-May-29	Hort Innovation

Hort Innovation - Minor Use Permits

[Learn more →](#)

NEWS



Hortidaily - Takeaways From GreenTech 2024

[Learn more →](#)

NEWS



Hort Innovation - AI Weather Forecasting

[Learn more →](#)

NEWS



Hi Matthew

As a valued member of QFVG we are pleased to offer this exclusive first look at the *Tricks of the Trade - Negotiation Tactics Masterclass* being delivered throughout the state from the end of the month.

Run over two consecutive days, the Masterclass will cover:

1. **Understanding retailers, agents and suppliers** - How do they think? What shapes their behaviour and why? What are their KPIs and how do you best engage to strengthen your position?
2. **Negotiating better deals** - improve your skills in getting the best possible deal when you are negotiating. How do you shift the power balance in your favour?

QFVG - Tricks Of The Trade - Masterclass

[Learn more →](#)

NEWS



LLS - PC North Coast Bus Tour

[Learn more →](#)



3C Mornings with Susan Graham-Rye
Food & Grocery Code of Conduct to be made mandatory; Federal Government pledges to accept all recommendations.



Rachel Chambers - ABC Radio Interview

[Learn more →](#)

NEWS

Tendrils
Your monthly round-up of plant biosecurity news

Message from the CEO

As we approach the end of June and look to the new financial year, it would be remiss to mention the 2024-25 Federal Budget, drafted in May by the Treasurer, the Hon Jim Chalmers.

The new Budget provides \$789 million over five years to help farmers and producers adapt to the impacts of climate change, build their resilience and maintain Australia's position as a trusted and reliable trading partner.

[Read more](#)

PHA - Tendrils Newsletter

[Learn more →](#)



PHYSICAL & CHEMICAL VARIABLES AFFECTING NUTRIENT UPTAKE



Physical And Chemical Variables

[Learn more →](#)

NEWS

NZ: Gas shortage heightens growers' transition challenge

Vegetable growers need cheaper energy solutions or face exiting the business as energy costs rise and gas supplies tighten. Vegetables New Zealand engineer Ellery Peters says natural gas makes up a large proportion of the sector's emissions and growers are now dealing with fluctuating prices and availability. Supply contracts are getting smaller, and, in some cases, growers are being told they must "shut off their supply now", Peters says. "We are trying to support their transition from that, if they are forced to."

He says growers have also been responding to rising carbon prices. In 2011 about 50 percent of the industry's emissions profile was from coal, followed by natural gas and then other hydrocarbons such as diesel and waste oil. "What we have seen from the new data we have collected in 2024 is that a portion of coal has reduced substantially, and it is actually dominated by natural gas." Some larger growers are switching to biomass, Peters says. "A lot of the small-to-medium players are moving to waste oil from coal because they find that it's a very easy switch and it's the cheapest fuel source that they can find for themselves." Gas is now the sector's largest source of fuel. It is "difficult to move away from natural gas for a lot of the very, very large growers because they actually collect the CO2 that comes off the flue gas and put it back into their greenhouses." That CO2 adds an extra 25 percent to crop productivity, and Peters notes that even producers using renewable energy often run generators for the CO2 alone. "Finding a solution to that is very challenging."

Small grower challenges
Speaking at the Carbon and Energy Professionals conference last month, Peters says his role is to support "time-poor" growers to reduce energy costs.

Gas Shortage Intensifies Growers' Transition

[Learn more →](#)

MEMBER ADVERTISEMENTS

AIPH - FLORA CULTURE INTERNATIONAL

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JUNE 2024

BIODIVERSITY

The threat of alien invasive species

AIPH INTERNATIONAL GROWER OF
THE YEAR

Young Plant 2024 Winner Sjaak van Schie thinks globally and works locally

ORCHIDS

As the EU market recovers Dutch grow fewer Phalaenopsis

IT'S GRANDTASTIC!

A filler and accent flower in one

HFF - CONFERENCE 2024



Hydroponic Farmers Federation

CONFERENCE 2024

23-25 July | Melton Entertainment Park



Sustainable Growing



Centuria



The Hydroponic Farmers Federation are holding their 13th Biennial HFF Conference from Tuesday 23rd July - Thursday 25th July, 2024 at Tabcorp Park in Melton, Victoria.

PCA will be exhibiting at the conference with our IDO – Matt Plunkett manning the stand.

GREENLIFEGRO - NEXT GENERATION STRUCTURES



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Growers and Upstream

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