

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: <a href="www.fairwork.gov.au/webinars">www.fairwork.gov.au/webinars</a> or <a href="www.fairwork.gov.au">www.fairwork.gov.au</a>.

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. <u>The benefits</u> 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.

# **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.

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 <a href="https://www.leveluphort.com.au">www.leveluphort.com.au</a>.

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





A guide to Integrated Pest Management in protected crops

Stephanus Malherbe

85c (Microbiology), 85c. Hors (Microbiology), MSc (Microbiology), PhD (Agronomy)

IPM Product Specialist, Biological Services



# 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 Company Company Company

# Congratulations!

PCA

Thankyou to all those who completed our recent grower survey. We appreciate and value your opinon, 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**



2024 Fertiliser Australia Conference

Learn more →

#### JULY



2024 HFF Conference - 23rd-25th July

Learn more →

#### **SEPTEMBER**



5th Global Vertical Farming Show 2024

Learn more →

#### **AUGUST**

#### **FEBRUARY**

#### **AUGUST**



PHA - 3rd Australian Biosecurity Symposium

Learn more →

Sponsorship & Exhibitor Packages selling quickly\*\*\*
ryQuest International 2025 will be held 24-27 February 2025 at the Wrest
rth Hotel Casino, Hobart including 2 days of farm tours to both north and sout
ry growing regions.

\*\*conference offers a unique opportunity to promote your company and marke
ri products and services to growers, wholesalers, marketers, retailers,
earchers, nursery, and allied trade suppliers across the Australian berry
ustries.

\*\*Yt miss out - secure your Sponsorship or Exhibitor package today online
\*\*steps://inkd.in/gwxtUikn

\*\*BERTY QUEST
International
24-27 February 2025
\*\*Wrest Point Hotel Casino, Hobart

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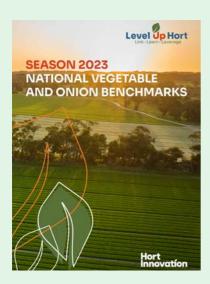
Learn more →



Agriculture Victoria -Researcher Roadshow

Learn more →

#### JULY



Webinar - Level Up Hort Program

Learn more  $\rightarrow$ 

#### MAY



Agential AI AgBio -Super Early Bird Tickets

Learn more →

# **INFORMATION**

**NATIONAL** 

RESOURCES NEWS NEWS



#### 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 (MT22010) - 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 bot 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

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



#### Berries Australia Resource Library

Learn more →



Priva 65th Anniversary and New Products

Learn more →



Hortidaily - Takeaways From GreenTech 2024

Learn more →

#### **NEWS**



AIPH - GreenTech Showcases Innovations

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 Symphylids	09-May- 2024	31-Dec-25	Hort Innovation
PER14703 Version 4	Tramat 500 SC Selective Herbicide (ethofumesate) /	09-May- 2024	31-May-29	Hort Innovation

#### Hort Innovation -Minor Use Permits

Learn more →

#### **NEWS**



Hort Innovation - AI Weather Forecasting

Learn more →

#### **RESOURCES**

#### **NEWS**

#### **NEWS**





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.

un over two consecutive days, the Masterclass will cover:

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

QFVG - Tricks Of The Trade - Masterclass

Learn more →

### 3C Mornings with Susan Graham-Rya

Food & Grocery Code of Conduct to be made ndatory; Federal Government pledges to acce all recommendations.





Rachel Chambers - ABC Radio Interview

Learn more →

**PHYSICAL & CHEMICAL VARIABLES AFFECTING** NUTRIENT **UPTAKE** 



Physical And Chemical Variables

Learn more →

#### **NEWS**



LLS - PC North Coast **Bus Tour** 

Learn more →

#### **NEWS**





Message from the CEO

PHA - Tendrils Newsletter

Learn more →

#### **NEWS**

#### NZ: Gas shortage heightens growers' transition challenge

Vegetable growers need cheaper energy solutions or face exiting the busin as energy costs rise and gas supplies tiphten. Vegetables New Zealand en 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, growe are being told they must "shut off their supply now," Peters says. "We are try 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 perceit of the industry's emissions profile was from coal, followe 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 portion of coal has reduced substantially, and it is actually dominated by natural gas." Some larger growers are switching to biomass, Peters says. "E natural gas." Some larger growers are switching to biomass, Peters says. "E many 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 sour that they can find for themselves." Gas is now the sector's largest source of the. 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 perc 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 cos:

Gas Shortage **Intensifies Growers'** Transition

Learn more →

# **MEMBER ADVERTISEMENTS**

AIPH - FLORA CULTURE INTERNATIONAL





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.

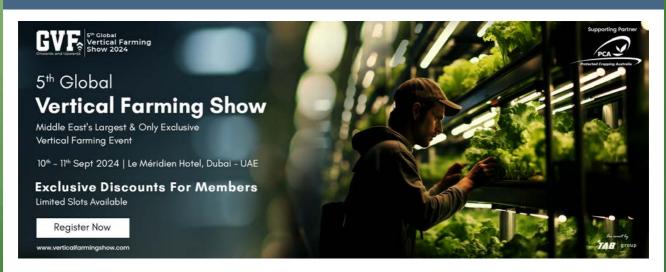
PCA will be exhibiting at the conference with our IDO – Matt Plunkett manning the stand.

#### GREENLIFEGRO - NEXT GENERATION STRUCTURES





#### GFV - PCA MEMBERS VIP ACCESS



AGENTIAL AI AGBIO 2025 - SUPER EARLY BIRD TICKETS



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