



GROWING UNDERCOVER

NOVEMBER | 2024

UPDATES

Projects Update

Tony Bundock

On the 7th of November, PCA hosted the first of the National Horticulture Roadshow events in Adelaide. The funding was gained after a tender process with the initial intent to run events in Western Australia, South Australia and Queensland.

The original timetable was somewhat disrupted with the outbreak of Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus with growers being hesitant to attend events where there may have been the potential for any cross contamination. However, with the outbreak issue having reached something of a hold pattern, the decision was made to hold an event in Adelaide at a neutral venue.

The event was scheduled to be held at Sneaky's Restaurant in Angle Vale, and was widely advertised through the PCA social media pages and a targeted email program using the 'Mailchimp' program. This was all co-ordinated by administration assistant Jade Lewis.

The organisation of the event was largely run by PCA Industry Development Officer, Matt Plunkett and PCA Project Officer, Tony Bundock. Rovensa Next and Muirs kindly sponsored the event.

The proceedings started at 2:30pm and were hosted by Tony Bundock and PCA Director, Alastair McLean.

The event also included the serving of finger food throughout the proceedings and the room set out included two large tables running the length of the room.

A total of 53 delegates attended the event with a range of growers and trade representatives. Tony provided an introduction to the event and acknowledged the National and local event sponsors. The new PCA membership rates and the upcoming conference were also highlighted and QR codes for membership and the conference were distributed across the tables to allow delegates to scan the code and access details.

Alastair McClean acted as MC to start the more formal proceedings and our first speaker was Dr Anita Marquart from Biological Services who provided a generic overview of the Integrated Pest Management Process.

This was followed by a more in depth view of issues associated with IPM from Stephanus Malherbe who also highlighted software that is available to assist growers in pest level monitoring. Stephanus also introduced the Biobest Academy which is a great learning resource for the principles and practices of Integrated Pest Management.

Following on from this we had Alastair Delooze from Denso presenting on current and emerging technologies for the Protected Cropping Industry. Alastair highlighted a number of developments that could be of potential use to the industry to assist in the IPM process.

The presentations were concluded with a grower panel hosted by Alastair McClean, and the panel was made up of Paula Yoshicawa, Vyras Thach, and Andrew Braham. This allowed everyone to hear first hand about generic issues impacting the individual growers as well as their approach to Integrated Pest Management.

The day concluded at 5:30pm after what was a really informative and productive day.

"It was great to have so many delegates attend the event which provided such a great opportunity for both knowledge transfer and networking. We are looking forward to presenting more roadshow events across the country in the next six months."
said PCA Project Officer, Tony Bundock.

The next PCA / National Roadshow event is planned for Wednesday the 4th of December and will be held at the Warragul Campus of Community College Gippsland. Speakers at the event will include Channel 7 weather presenter Jane Bunn, who will highlight a bespoke weather forecasting program. Additional presentations will include the use of drones for the application of shade material on greenhouse roofs, the use of a web based platform for vegetable crop sales, and a technology update for crop production.

Further details of the next event in Warragul can be found [here](#).







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.



Tony Bundock

IAC

Tony Bundock currently works part time for PCA as the Project Officer. Tony comes from a strong background in protected cropping and originally gained his Diploma in Horticulture from

Writtle Agricultural College in the UK. After graduating Tony worked as an assistant manager at a cut flower farm in the Lea Valley area. In 1990 Tony emigrated to Australia and became involved in training, which eventually saw him become head of Department at Chisholm Institute of TAFE and manage the colleges protected cropping training facility. Tony then spent five years with Powerplants Australia as a trainer before starting his own training business – Genesis Horticultural Solutions. Tony currently holds both the TAE training qualification and a First Class Honours Master's Degree in Education. Tony has also served on the board of PCA and was Deputy Chair for a number of years.

Andrew McIlwain

IAC Chair

On behalf of PCA, Andrew currently chairs the Industry Advisory Committee and resides as Deputy Chair of PCA. Andrew made a career for himself operating glasshouses in Australia. Specialising in growing specialty tomatoes, large truss tomatoes and baby cucumbers in semi closed glasshouses. Starting at Sundrop Farms in 2016 as an assistant grower he then moved on to head Green Camel's operations as General Manager. Andrew switched from conventional hydroponics to organic growing practices along the way, also adding to his skill set: raspberry & blueberry cultivation and seedling propagation. He occasionally give guest lectures on Control Environment Agriculture at Sydney Uni & Western Sydney Uni.

Awards:

Grower of the Year - Protected Cropping Australia 2022

Young Organic Leader of the Year - Australian Organic 2022



EVENTS

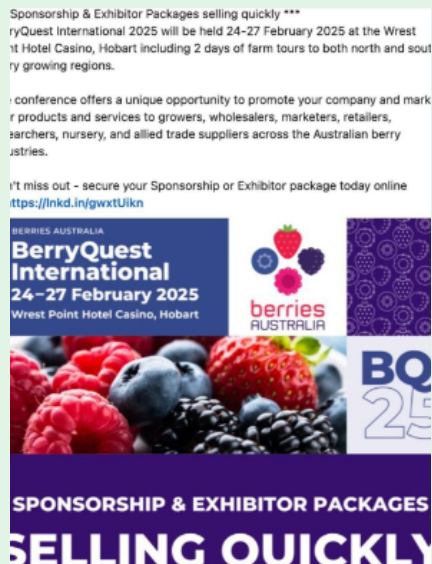
FEBRUARY



Greenlife Industry Australia Conference

[Learn More →](#)

FEBRUARY



BerryQuest International Packages

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MAY



AGENTIAL AI AgBio 2025 in Bangkok

[Learn More →](#)

DECEMBER

National Horticulture Roadshow

The National Horticulture Roadshow is an initiative to bring together industry experts, growers and the community to share knowledge, showcase new technologies, celebrate the horticulture sector's achievements and foster growth in the industry.

[More Information](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

WARRAGUL - 4 DECEMBER 2024

The Details

Protected Cropping Australia is excited to announce that we will be delivering an event in Warragul, Victoria as part of The National Horticulture Roadshow, supported by the NFF Horticulture Council; and funded by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

The event will take place on Wednesday the 4th of December between 9:30am and 12:30pm, and is being kindly hosted by Community College Gippsland. The event itself will offer a unique opportunity for the industry to engage with the latest advancements and innovations in overall farm management

Date - 4 December 2024
Time - 9:30AM - 12:30PM AEDT
Location - Community College Gippsland, 71 Korumburra - Warragul Road, Warragul

Event Highlights

9:00AM

- Registration for 9:30am start
- Welcome and overview of session (PCA)
- Jane's Weather - presentation by Channel 7 meteorologist Jane Bunn and Ellen Bowditch, on the use of

PCA NFF Hort Roadshow - Warragul

[Learn More →](#)

2024 - 2025



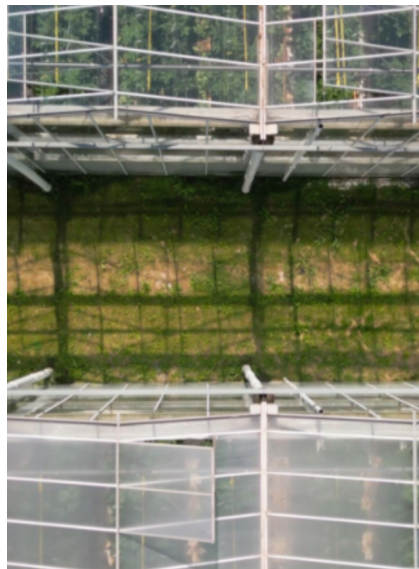
AIPH International Horticultural Expos

[Learn More →](#)

INFORMATION

NATIONAL

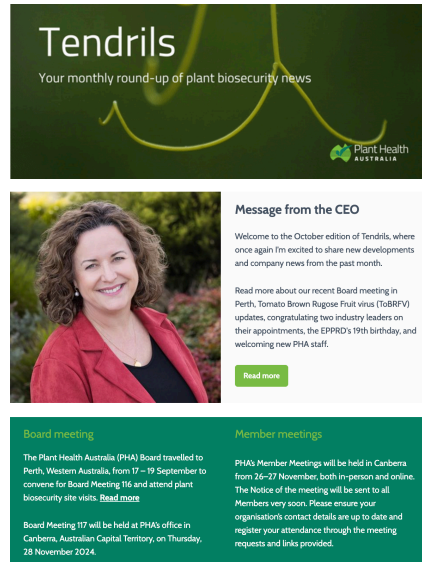
NEWS



AI and Plant Science - Transforming Greenhouses

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NEWS



Plant Health Australia - Tendrils Newsletter

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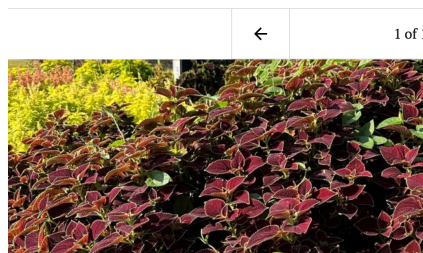
RESEARCH

Top Performers and Consumer Favorites From the University of Tennessee Jackson Gard



By Greenhouse Grower staff | November 6, 2024

Note: Information for this trials report was provided by Jason Reeves, and Camille Sikes, Research Assistant, at the University of Tennessee



Top Performers & Consumer Favourites

[Learn More →](#)

NEWS



Far-Red in Horticulture



The Use Of Far-Red Light In Horticulture

[Learn More →](#)

RESEARCH



How does an AI actually work?

 **Paul Voutier**
Founder at Ambit Robotics



November 25, 2024

Recently a farmer approached us wanting a device that would determine if a watermelon is ripe. His pickers are sending immature fruit to the packing house which is then going to waste. We proposed using a small camera mounted on each picker's wrist which uses "AI" to determine if the fruit is mature enough to pick.

The farmer gave us an image of a piece of immature, and mature fruit by way of an example.

Paul Voutier - How Does AI Actually Work?

[Learn More →](#)

TENDER

[View in browser](#)

Request for Tender

Hort
Innovation

Request for Proposal: Optimising protected cherry production

Hort Innovation is seeking a suitably qualified, experienced and capable delivery partner for the project: *Optimising protected cherry production* (CY24004).

The objectives of the services being sought are to understand the optimal growing practices across multiple regions and across a variety of systems to achieve commercial yields of large, firm fruit.

Hort Innovation has prepared a Request for Proposal (RFP) document that provides background information, outlines the scope of services, the procurement process and the information required from interested parties.

The RFP may be downloaded from www.tenders.net (you will need to be a member of tenders.net to access this information).

The closing date for responses is December 23, 2024 3:00 PM (AEDT).

www.horticulture.com.au



Hort Innovation - Request For Tender

[Learn More →](#)

TOBRFV

[View this email in your browser](#)

PIRSA biosecurity news

26 November 2024

Industry update: Tomato brown rugose fruit virus response in South Australia

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) continues to respond to the detection of Tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV) in the Northern Adelaide Plains.

Update to National Response Plan

National agreement has now been achieved on the National Response Plan to eradicate ToBRFV.

The Plan not only provides a clear approach to a return to trade for impacted South Australian tomato, capsicum and chilli growers but also the process for ToBRFV eradication within affected premises.

The Response Plan was developed by PIRSA in conjunction with other state and territory, and industry representatives on the national Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests (CCEPP). It carefully balances the need to eradicate the disease while ensuring that the disease does not spread further while also ensuring a safe and measured return to trade for affected businesses.

The Plan details the destruction and decontamination process affected businesses

PIRSA ToBRFV Update To National Response Plan

[Learn More →](#)

NEWS



Suspension of turf supply from the QLD fire ant infested area

The NSW Government has taken immediate action to mitigate the risk of fire ant movements into NSW by placing a temporary suspension of turf movements from QLD fire ant infested areas into ANY part of NSW.

The swift response follows the interception of fire ant infested turf at Clunes, near Byron Bay last Wednesday.

From Friday 15 November, turf importation from the QLD fire ant infested area will be suspended pending further investigations and compliance work.

Investigations continue; however, initial enquiries revealed the supplier involved in the recent interception produced all the required documentation for the Clunes turf delivery.

Since December 2023, over 762 record of movement declarations have been made for turf alone, documenting the movement of over 1.1 million m2 of turf into NSW.

The department published Biosecurity (Fire Ant) Emergency Order (No. 15) 2024 on 15 November 2024, including the temporary condition on turf. This supersedes Biosecurity (Fire Ant) Emergency Order (No. 14) published on 12 November 2024.

For more information or if you've seen a red ant, visit: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/ffa](#).

Biosecurity Response - Red Imported Fire Ant

[Learn More →](#)

NEWS

Vegetable growers in Australia's gla deploy 'good bugs' to reduce pestic

By Kate Higgins ABC Rural Agricultural Pest Control

Thu 10 Oct



These tomatoes are protected by a small army of bugs. (ABC North and West SA: Kate Higgins)

In short:

Bugs For Bugs In The Adelaide Plains

[Learn More →](#)

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WWW.FLORACULTUREINTERNATIONAL.COM

NOVEMBER 2024



LOGISTICS

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air cargo market with
AFKLMMP'S Luc Diebold**

FLOWERTRIALS CHAPTER 3

**A must-see
pre-summer
showcase**

PLASTICS

**Sustainable floriculture
project at Coventry
Cathedral**

EXPLORING THE SPECTRUM

Our annual look at the state of
Plant Breeders' Rights (PBR)



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