



A message from our Chair

FAREWELL and THANK YOU to all our Protected Cropping Australia members, corporate members, corporate sponsors, allied trade and subscribers – this is my last piece for the monthly newsletter as I step down as Chair and Director of PCA on 31st October, 2021.

Wow! What a time it has been, and as I reflect on some huge changes in our organization from when I first became a director back in July 2009 at the Conference in Sydney of the then called Australian Greenhouse and Hydroponic Association (AGHA) which later became Protected Cropping Australia Ltd under the leadership of Graeme Smith in 2011. It has been a terrific ride with lots and lots of learnings, meetings, networking events, conferences, farm tours, workshops, webinars & getting to know some of the most fabulous people in our industry here in Australia and across the globe.

Since our immigration to Australia in late 2002 – Wade & I quickly joined the national representative body for greenhouses & hydroponics which was the AGHA. We have attended every conference since then:-

2003 – Melbourne; 2005 – Bundaberg; 2007 – Launceston; 2009 – Sydney – where I first joined the Board; 2011 – Adelaide; 2013 – Melbourne; 2015 – Gold Coast – where I was the Conference Chair; 2017 – Adelaide – in September 2017 – I took over as Chair of PCA; 2019 – Gold Coast

We have been so blessed by this industry and have literally lived, breathed, slept & eaten it since we started growing roses back in Zimbabwe in 1994. We have been fortunate to experience most types and forms of hydroponic & protected cropping production from gum pole structures covered in plastic, to Richel Multi-spans, Twin-Skin Croft Multi-spans, tunnel production and now high-tech, high-wire venlo glasshouse structures. We have been exporters and then affected by imported produce; we've grown a multitude of products from roses to berries to dragon fruit to figs to ginger to turmeric to mini-snack cucumbers (plus many things in between). We've been large scale exporters of roses, to "Mom & Pop"



Nicky Mann • PCA Chair

operators, to retailers (owned 3 florist shops) and now into corporate horticulture. And throughout this all – it's always been about the PEOPLE whether they are staff, colleagues, competitors, customers, suppliers, researchers and all those associated with our industry. The people we've met have made the journey so much more sweeter and valuable. I have cherished every moment. I have been lucky enough to travel on three industry study tours one with PCA, one with AUSVEG & one with the NSW Blueberry & Cherry Growers plus I have travelled extensively with NUFFIELD – and it's been incredible to learn, share and experience our protected cropping industry around the world with incredible PEOPLE!

The PCA is in great hands going forward and a lot of work has been done in the past 5 years to get a solid foundation in place for the organization, the tweaking of the constitution, the strategic plan, "Growing Protected Cropping in Australia to 2030", the Board, the Finance & Audit Committee, the Training & Education Committee, the Marketing & Membership Committee, the Conference Committee and lastly the Industry Advisory Committee are all functioning 100%. With the newly appointed CEO – Greg Fraser – I am feeling particularly excited for the future of PCA.

To Matthew Plunkett who has been my Deputy Chair for the past 18 months – the PCA is lucky to have you taking over the reins and leadership in the Chairman's role; everyone knows how hard working and dedicated you are to this industry – so watch this space for some amazing things happening for PCA and it's membership. To Tony Bundock the new incoming Deputy Chair and my past Deputy Chair too – your experience and considered approach will be essential to give the support and confidence to Matt whilst he takes over "top job". To Emily Rigby, Marcus van Heijst, Andrew Potter, Michelle Mak, Shane Steffan and Neil Miles – it has been amazing to work

A message from our Chair (cont.)

with you all and your experience and skill going forward will be the perfect ingredient for ensuring PCA reaches the goals set out back in February 2018; I have every confidence that PCA will continue to strive and flourish and most importantly add immense value to our valued membership.

Lastly, I would just like to make a heartfelt thank-you to the current PCA Board – Matt, Tony, Marcus, Emily, Andrew, Shane, Michelle and Neil; ASN Events team especially Kerrie Harris-Spencer, and Jennifer Stackhouse – you have given so much to the PCA and really assisted me to do my job and serve our members. THANK-YOU!

To all the previous Chairs of PCA & AGHA and previous Directors that I have served with during my

time – thank-you so much for sharing your time, experience and knowledge with me. Much thanks also to Saskia Blanch, Nam Ly and Rick Donnan who have also made big impacts on me during my time with PCA.

A big thank-you to Family Fresh Farms who has allowed me to dedicate a lot of my time to PCA and lastly, a big thank-you to Wade for bearing with me while I spent endless hours of our personal time on PCA business.

Hopefully, you will join us on the 26th October for our PCA AGM and my last official commitment as the Chair of this wonderful organization which is so very dear to my heart!

Thank-you & good bye!



We say Farewell to Nicky Mann (Chair)

By Matt Plunkett (Chair Elect), Tony Bundock (Deputy Chair Elect)

At the forthcoming AGM, the PCA will be saying farewell to one of the most dynamic and energetic board members that has ever served the PCA.

Chair Nicky Mann will be stepping down from her position after first joining the then Australian Greenhouse and Hydroponic Association as a director in 2009, which later transitioned into the PCA.

Nicky has never been one to stand still! Her enthusiasm for the industry in general has been boundless, and not content with running a business with her husband Wade, and now managing a major facility, Nicky has undertaken many study tours and has been a Nuffield Scholar.

But it is Nicky's tireless energy and dedication to the role that has helped drive the PCA to the strong position that it is now in. Being the Chair of PCA is something of a thankless task and there is a tremendous amount of 'behind the scenes' work that goes on. Nicky has been very much the driving force behind PCA, and she leaves a large void that Matt Plunkett and Tony Bundock are working hard to fill!

If we listed all the achievements that Nicky has completed on behalf of the PCA in this edition of undercover, we would probably end up with a 24 page document - needless to say they are numerous.

Nicky is a great leader, mentor and friend. So while it with sadness that we say farewell to Nicky, we are delighted that she will now (hopefully!) be able to devote a little more time to herself.

Nicky has been a joy to work with and she leaves an indelible stamp on our industry. Nicky will no doubt continue to contribute to our industry through the PCA and other initiatives including our upcoming PCA 2022 conference.

On behalf of the PCA Board, Staff, our members and all involved in our industry we say thank you and all the very best wishes in your future endeavours.

Advocacy Update

Greetings to all our members,

Vegetable growers across Australia are set to benefit from the next generation of a national extension program aimed to boost productivity and deliver the latest research and development on-farm.

The new \$14.1M VegNET 3.0 program is being delivered through Hort Innovation using vegetable industry levies and funds from the Australian Government, and led by Australia's peak vegetable industry body AUSVEG.

Hort Innovation Chief Executive Matt Brand said the initiative represents the single largest research and development investment in the vegetable growing sector's history, and it is anchored on best-practice and what the industry has identified as priorities.

"This supercharged 5-year extension initiative takes a collaborative, local focus, with Development Officers based in ten growing regions across the country. Each region will receive tailored support that meets local challenges," he said.

"This network of experienced professionals will provide evidence-based tools and information in vital areas such as biosecurity, pest and disease management, soil and water management, the supply chain and protected cropping."

This project funding will allow the NSW VegNET team to build on the work undertaken in protected cropping vegetable sector over the last 6 years.



Matthew Plunkett • PCA Deputy Chair

This included training for growers and allied trade in integrated pest management, improved water and nutrient management and the upgrading of the Greenhouse Cucumber Manual and associated training materials.

The NSW VegNET team are planning to develop a protected cropping interest group amongst the network of ten projects to share ideas and drive research and development priorities across the vegetable protected cropping sector.

A training workshop program for growers at our PCA 2022 conference is well underway so stay tuned for more information in the coming months.

For further information on the project nationally, please contact the National Coordinator Sam Turner from AUSVEG on 0437 469 607 or sam.turner@ausveg.com.au

Until next month, take care and stay safe.

Acknowledgement - This article has been reproduced based on the Press Release developed by AUSVEG on the 12th of October 2021. The full article can be found by clicking here at:

<https://ausveg.com.au/media-releases/supercharged-14-1m-program-to-support-nations-vegetable-growers/>.

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PCA Annual General Meeting Tuesday 26 October 2021 1.00pm NSW & VIC; 12:30pm SA; 12:00pm QLD

To all our financial members, it is almost time for our Annual General Meeting!

Wanting to add a reminder to your outlook calendar?
Then look no further, we have you covered!

AGM Outlook Invite

PHILIPS
Horticulture

Grow with the pros

Jim Iwasaki
Iwasaki Bros., Inc., USA

innovation + you

Philips GreenPower
LED toplighting

#growwiththepros
www.philips.com/horti

Sponsored Advertisement

Introducing Protected Cropping Australia's New CEO – Greg Fraser

The PCA Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Greg Fraser as the new Chief Executive Officer of Protected Cropping Australia.



The PCA Board are looking forward to working with Greg to further advance our mission of adding value to members by promoting and supporting all forms and aspects of protected cropping and advanced technological growing systems in Australian Horticulture.

Chair of Protected Cropping Australia, Nicky Mann, stated that after an extensive recruitment process, that she and the rest of the "PCA Directors were thrilled with the appointment of Greg and feel that another piece in the strategic plan puzzle has been put into place. Greg will be absolutely essential in driving the PCA's strategy forward and delivering benefit to our entire membership and sector which is rapidly developing right now". Nicky added that "Greg has the experience, knowledge, connections and skills to make a huge impact on the development of the national peak industry body for protected cropping - the PCA!" Although Nicky is exiting the Chair role at

the end of October 2021 & Matthew Plunkett is taking over this position - she is "excited and satisfied that the PCA is in great hands with excellent leadership, management and structure in place, plus PCA is in a very strong position to make some valuable contributions to the industry in the coming years".

Greg will be working closely with the Board of Directors and staff and have responsibility for the execution of the overarching strategy across the following three functional areas:

- Strategic Planning, Advocacy, Policies
- Relationships (partners, members, board, other stakeholders)
- Initiatives (events, campaigns, promotions)

Greg was most recently the Executive Director and CEO of Plant Health Australia, focusing on plant biosecurity and brings a wealth of experience in management, stakeholder engagement and strategy to the PCA.

Greg has a diverse background in Australian agriculture having worked in tropical and temperate horticulture, broadacre agriculture, sugarcane, cotton and forestry industries.

Greg has held membership on a number of Boards and managed various enterprises in the agricultural, chemical, plant breeding and biotechnology industries.

Greg has had a strong focus on research and development working with governments, industry and plant based Research and Development corporations.

Greg is looking forward to talking to members over the coming months and hopes to meet you in person at the PCA Conference in 2022.

If you have any concerns or issues you would like PCA to advocate on your behalf, please do not hesitate to reach out to Greg.

Greg can be contacted on 0419 503 315 or via email greg.fraser@protectedcropping.net.au

Advertise here!

Looking for more advertising opportunities?
Then look no further!

Our Undercover Grower's Newsletter has you covered.

Quarter page advertisements are available or you can purchase a package deal which includes one newsletter advertisement and a commercial e-mailout.

For more information visit our website:

protectedcropping.net.au/publications/advertising

or email us at: protectedcropping@asnevents.net.au

New Webinar Available Now!

Missed out on our recent webinar?

The full recording of all our webinars are available online for financial members.

In our most recent webinar, Kayla Waldorff and Daniel Than from WayBeyond presented:

["Uncovering climate warning signs of fungal disease in your growing environment."](#)

[Browse Past Webinars](#)

Protected Cropping Australia 2022 Conference

PACIFIC BAY RESORT,
COFFS HARBOUR, NSW

28 – 31 MARCH 2022

www.pcaconference.net.au



SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATIONS NOW FOR THE 2022 PCA INDUSTRY AWARDS

NOMINATIONS ARE STILL OPEN!

Our industry is full of inspiring people working every day to make our industry the best it can be. We celebrate the achievements of these amazing people at our conference. Tell us who you think would be worthy recipients in the categories below by **Friday 29th October 2021**.

☆ Outstanding Contribution ☆

☆ Grower of the Year ☆

☆ Young Grower of the Year ☆

☆ Industry Development Award ☆

For more information on how to nominate someone and the full description of the award categories, click the link below.

[Nominate Someone Now!](#)



The PCA Board would like to extend our warmest welcome and good wishes to our new members.

Individual Member

Stefan Nieuwenhuyzen, Metazet Formflex

We look forward to many successful years together!

Did you know PCA offers a range of Membership options?

Financial Individual Members are usually individual grower or smaller allied trade organisations. Corporate Memberships are usually for larger grower or allied trade organisations.

See our corporate members at <https://protectedcropping.net.au/our-partners/>

A Corporate Membership 'bundle' includes five Individual Memberships and up to 10 Subscriber Memberships. Subscribers are non-financial members who are encouraged to upgrade to financial membership status to access PCA's full range of benefits and opportunities.

Details of Membership options are available at: <https://protectedcropping.net.au/become-a-member/> or by contacting:

Michelle Harris - Spencer: +61 (0) 3 8560 4391 or at protectedcropping@asnevents.net.au



Pocket Herbs, Burringbar NSW

2021 Elected Board Director Candidate Statements



BAHRAM FAYAZ

An Agronomist and Business Development Manager with over twenty four years' experience in the agricultural industry. Strong background in direct customer relationship and management dealing with industry leaders and regional markets as well as growers.

Recently joined PCA advisory council and I am proud to be the voice of the growers in meetings to solve their challenges and dramas that the industry is now facing. Farming is getting difficult considering low

margins, global warming, weather events and new pest and diseases in Australia. So, guiding growers and supplying them with the right information is crucial to maintaining their business.

I think I can fill this gap easily because, as an agronomist and ex farmer, working for HM.Clause, I have day today exposure with growers all over Australia, feeling and seeing their challenges. I am also involved with new technologies and information within my company through our different branches all over the world, which can be useful by sharing and bringing new ideas to the industry. I hope having this position brings more help and knowledge to growers and the industry.

It is with pleasure and due consideration I submit my nomination for the Elected Director PCA Board position.



KAELA BONOMI

It is with pleasure and due consideration I submit my nomination for the Elected Director PCA Board position.

As the Managing Director of BON, our organization has been a proud allied trade member of PCA since 2018.

I believe the protected cropping sector is the future of horticultural production in Australia and it is vital PCA, as the peak industry body, has an opportunity to advocate on behalf of its members.

Whilst I am not a grower, I believe I have a clear understanding of the challenges presented to this sector.

As an evolving high growth industry, it is critical those

operating within it have an opportunity to have a say in how benchmarks are set and ensure the training of the future labour force will adequately meet the needs of the industry.

My family business, BON, is embedded in the agricultural sector and in the best interest of our clients we wish to see the protected cropping sector grow and evolve with diligence and due care.

I am a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and I have previous experience working within an industry board.

Previously I held a nonexecutive director position on the National Electrical Communications Association board for three years. This was a small industry organization representing the interests of electrical contractors.

I also spent four years as a nonexecutive director of Western Australia's largest private group training organization.

It would be my privilege to hold the position of Elected Director and I would be grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the protected cropping industry.

Vote Now!

Voting closes on Sunday 24 October 2021

PCA's 'Next Generation' Group

Any organisation needs to secure it's ongoing viability with a mixture of new ideas and members, and the PCA recognises that this theory certainly applies to it.

The nursery industry association has been running a 'Next Generation' with great success over a number of years, and now the PCA is preparing to launch its own version of this idea.

So what is the 'Next Generation' project all about?

Primarily, the 'Next Gen' group will be a vehicle for future leaders of the Protected Cropping Industry to network and develop their own careers. Our industry has a wealth of young and enthusiastic people who are collectively shaping the future of our industry, and the 'Next Gen' group will provide a forum for people under 35 years of age to meet.

It is envisaged that the 'Next Gen' group will allow the participants to exchange ideas and hone their leadership skills, as well as forming networks, helping to develop careers, as well as learning more about the industry. Plus, it should allow the participants to have fun!

'The PCA Board are very keen to get this project off the ground and provide some opportunities for the younger members of the association' said PCA Board Member Tony Bundock.

'Board member Shané Steffan will be taking a lead in this project to help guide the process of establishing the group, with assistance from myself' added Tony.

The objectives of the 'Next Gen' group are proposed to:-

- ensure young people in the industry have a voice
- develop careers and career pathways within the industry
- equip the industry with innovative and knowledgeable young staff members and business leaders
- to acknowledge excellence and initiative in the industry.



Tony Bundock • PCA Director

In terms of what 'Next Gen' members will realise from being involved in the group:-

- ultimately it will be holding quarterly NextGen member meetings, which will facilitate networking opportunities and feature inspirational industry speakers
- providing opportunities to participate in business workshops, motivational sessions and nursery tours
- working closely with other state, national and international horticulture organisations to provide exchange opportunities
- communicating relevant information via e-newsletters
- giving members the opportunity to share ideas and suggestions with the industry's key players
- supporting members to apply for industry positions, such as the PCA board and Industry Advisory Committee

Membership will be FREE and available to those under 35 who are working in the horticulture industry. Obviously current restrictions in various states are limiting a lot of face to face contact, but the aim of the project is to establish groups in all states that collectively are the PCA Next Gen group that can meet at organised events.

'Our goal is to have a face to face meeting of the 'Next Generation' group at the PCA Conference which would really cement the establishment of the group' added Deputy Chair, Matt Plunkett.

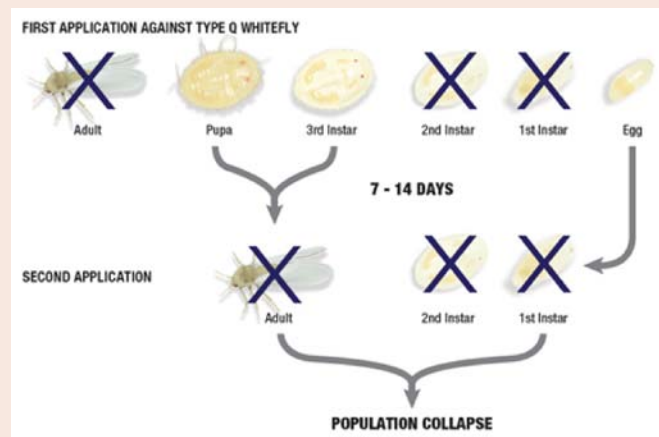
Further details will be circulated on the Next Generation group and how to participate across the next month.



Growers' fight against whitefly intensifies

By E.E. Muir & Sons

Whitefly control in vegetable crops is at the centre of a new pesticide available to Australian growers. It can be used alone for quick knockdown or tank mixed with other pesticides as a part of an Integrated Pest Management program.



There is a new product on the Australian market registered for whitefly control in cucurbits and tomatoes.

Released by Oro Agri and available exclusively through E.E. Muir & Sons, PREV-AM has a quick knockdown effect that makes it a versatile stand-alone treatment or tank mix partner with other pesticides or liquid fertilisers. It can stop whitefly within minutes and its level of control is accomplished within 1-2 hours.

The quick knockdown action makes this product a great addition to an Integrated Pest Management program. An application can be timed to control insects and diseases only when they reach the economic threshold. Because it is a contact pesticide and has no residual activity, PREV-AM applications can be scheduled to avoid impacting bees or other beneficial insects.

To achieve best results in controlling whitefly, it is recommended in consecutive spray applications seven days apart (see figure). This strategy will provide the best opportunity to achieve population collapse of whitefly within your crop.

How it works

Whitefly are susceptible to PREVAM at critical stages within their life cycle.

Adult Whitefly have a protective waxy coating over their wing structure. Once PREVAM comes into contact with this waxy coating, it rapidly disrupts the waxy coating causing a collapse of the wing tension and structure. This eliminates the Whiteflies ability to move, feed or mate.

In a tank mix with other pesticides, PREVAM will help distribute the spray solution evenly throughout the crop canopy and on the leaf surfaces. This will improve product uptake by the plant and efficacy of applied pesticides. There is no need for an

additional adjuvant when using PREVAM in a tank mix or on its own.

Because PREVAM has a low re-entry interval and no withholding period, it will not disrupt harvest schedules or your ability to continue working in the field or glasshouse.

Find out more

Please contact your local E.E Muir & Sons store for more information and product availability.

Family-owned business looking to the future

E.E. Muir & Sons is a privately-owned Australian company, wholly owned by the Muir family.

The business is focused on providing superior services and products to a wide range of rural enterprises that concentrate on high-value production agriculture.

The company operates from several locations right across Australia. This unique footprint offers both international and local manufacturers of farm inputs (fertiliser, crop protection and seed) with a specialised route to the farmgate. Its significant investment in people with agronomic qualifications provides farming customers and input manufacturers with a professional approach to maximising farm production.

Established in 1927 and approaching 100 years in business, E.E. Muir & Sons is committed to providing its farming customers with every opportunity to meet and profit from the present and future requirements in feeding the ever-increasing demand.

The fourth generation Muir family employees – Andrew, Stuart, James and Cameron – have begun to lead the business into the future, knowing that it is becoming increasingly important to maximise every technical advantage and input at farmers' disposal.

Scouting solution saves hours of data entry time and improves crop health

BumperCrop introduces another affordable tool for greenhouses

A new solution is saving scouting teams hours of data collection work each week, and is freeing up time to focus on achieving healthier crops. Introduced by BumperCrop, this system simplifies data collection and improves decision making. It consists of an easy to use mobile App, scannable row tags and scout heat maps. The system has been designed and tested over the past year in conjunction with one of New Zealand's leading greenhouse producers, NZ Gourmet.

"Preparing concise and comprehensive reports is key to successful pest and disease control. By using this user-friendly App to record and identify problems on crops, we can save time and have better communication with management and other pest control technicians." explains Hamzeh Ghasemi, Biocontrol Technician at Gourmet Waiuku.



Above: Hamzeh Ghasemi using the BumperCrop Scouting App to scan a tag and begin scouting the row.

Prior to using BumperCrop's system, NZ Gourmet was recording scouting data using a custom designed Excel workbook on a tablet. By switching to a

purpose-built solution whereby row tags are scanned and only a few taps in the App are required, Gourmet Waiuku can now save an additional 2-3 hours a week of labour across 2 scouting staff. The time taken for data entry relating to one issue on a 85m capsicum row is now only 10-15 seconds. "Handling a compact mobile device in one hand is easier than a tablet and much better than using pen and paper. I have tried all options during three years of work as a biocontrol technician and found this to be the best." says Hamzeh.

Reports are automatic and are separated from data collection, which enables their format to be optimized for review and decision making. "Having neat and standardized reports helps to save time when compared to the old way." continues Hamzeh.

An online heatmap of each greenhouse allows managers to see the status of pests, diseases and beneficials applied in each row and pole and how these have changed over time. This results in better pest and disease control decision making and related outcomes. "Scouting reports now arrive automatically in my inbox and are in the precise format that I need to make accurate assessments and decisions" according to Roelf Schreuder, Director of Covered Crops for NZ Gourmet.

Time that is saved by improved data entry, reporting and expedited decision making can now be put towards achieving healthier crops. Crop scouting can be divided into the three steps of identification, marking, and recording data. "We prefer to invest more time on identification of problems on crops and less time on data collection. So, using a system with more time efficiency helps us to achieve a healthier crop." concludes Hamzeh. BumperCrop solution is available to growers around the world in multiple languages.

For more information:

BumperCrop

info@mybumpercrop.com

www.mybumpercrop.com



Above: heatmap displaying severity level of Thrips for each row and pole

CHOOSE YOUR #AgVenture!

Friday, 19 November 2021

National Agriculture Day



Young Australians get first-hand insight of jobs in agriculture with #AgVenture Careers Expo

High school students are encouraged to log on and find out more about the many and varied jobs in agriculture with the NFF's AgVenture Careers Expo. The AgVenture Careers Expo is part of the celebrations for this year's National Agriculture Day, Friday 19 November.

Beginning on Monday 25 October, Years 10, 11 and 12 students and other young people are likely to be surprised to learn of the jobs on offer – on farm, in an office and even in the air!

"The great part about agriculture is that there is a career to suit almost every interest, skill, education level and location," NFF President Fiona Simson said.

"Through the #AgVenture Careers Expo, the NFF is looking forward to providing young Australians potential pathways for fulfilling and rewarding jobs in agriculture."

The webinars will provide a-day-in-the-life, no holds barred insights into jobs like cattle vet, stock and station agent and of course, farmer! Through the first-hand accounts of webinar guests, students will be taken, virtually, to the saleyards, shearing shed and a high-rise city office and have the opportunity to ask the tough questions like: how much do you get paid or did you have to do a lot of study?

Guests will also provide guidance on the training and education needed for the featured jobs.

Food writer, farmer and 2016 Rural Woman of the Year, Sophie Hansen and Humans of Agriculture podcast creator Oli Le Livere will host the webinars, sharing their own ag career journeys.

Over four weeks students can tune into hear from Australians like Top End pilot Bobby Nicholl. As a teenager Bobby thought his life-long dream of becoming a pilot was out of reach due to a minor vision impairment. Today, Bobby flies the length and breadth of a remote Queensland cattle station checking stock and infrastructure and is an integral part of a tight-knit station team of ringers, mechanics, cooks and overseers.

Barley breeder, Dr Hannah Robinson is excited to share her career story, that sees her at the forefront of Australia's development of new barley varieties, work critical to farmers' ability to better manage drought into the future.

First generation farmers Jacynta and Adam Coffey will explain how they realised their dream of owning a cattle property and their goal to continue producing high quality beef while increasing the biodiversity and ecological value of their land.

To find out more and to register for the #AgVenture Careers Expo visit the [AgDay website](#). This year's National Agriculture Day is Friday 19 November.



Join us in Coffs Harbour for our 2022 Conference, 28 - 31 March!

Early Bird Registrations close Friday 21 January 2022



Agsafe's ChemClear program is holding a collection in New South Wales in March 2022. Agvet chemical users can now register their unwanted or obsolete agvet chemicals for collection by visiting the ChemClear website, www.chemclear.org.au or by calling 1800 008 182. Registrations close on 28 January 2022.

All successful registrations are acknowledged by email or post. A reference number relating to each of your Group 1 and 2 chemical registrations will be provided. Once your chemicals are registered with ChemClear, continue to store the chemicals safely and securely.

An appropriate quantity of storage stickers will be sent out by post, one month after your registration with ChemClear. These stickers will display your registration reference number and are provided for placement on the containers you have registered for disposal. These stickers will aid safe storage and identify the chemicals to your employees, auditors and others as being registered for disposal.

ChemClear will contact you directly to advise the location and date of the collection point in your local government area. If you have registered any Group 2 classified chemicals, you will be provided

with a quotation on a per lt/kg basis for the collection and disposal of these products.

When a collection is scheduled in your area ChemClear will contact you and provide the following information:

- the address of the collection site
- a date for the collection
- an appointment time to deliver the chemicals to the collection team

To register your chemicals, please visit:

www.chemclear.org.au/register-your-chemical

For further information please contact ChemClear on: 1800 008 182



ChemClear Flyer

New Sustainable Irrigation Cleaning, Soil & Water Conditioning Technology Now Available In Australia

By Advanced Nutrients

Water availability and water use efficiency (WUE) are becoming more and more important to farmers to ensure consistent high production. All this while under the microscope of government, supply chains and the now very aware consumer, all demanding sustainable use of our natural resources.

The options for farmers in improving WUE through water quality and cleaning/maintaining irrigation lines, filters, drippers and emitters has been very limited. The only option has been harsh, toxic chemicals that are dangerous for farmers and staff to work with, can damage irrigation equipment and have a negative effect on soils and even crops.



One company that understands this better than most is Advanced Nutrients Pty Ltd. Advanced Nutrients is an Australian company working with farmers across Australia and globally for over 21 years in improving soil and water quality, water and nutrient use efficiency through its core focus of 'solutions to issues, advancing both a farmers economic and environmentally sustainability'.

"Water quality, irrigation system efficiency and soil health all contribute to improved water use efficiency, and therefore maximum crop production and maximum economic and environmental sustainability for farmers", explains Advanced Nutrients Managing Director Craig Salmon.

Craig continues, "We are continually pushing the boundaries through R&D and through our team and global network, looking for and discovering opportunities to assist farmers improve production. We all understand the importance of irrigation for food and fibre production, but we also understand what a precious, finite resource water is, therefore its use efficiency and sustainability is crucial".

"Water quality and delivery systems of it, is a major consideration in efficient irrigation for all crops. Irrigation blockages and restrictions cause higher operating costs, irregular plant growth, and pathogen habitats. Biofilm (slime) is caused by microorganisms

and/or algae inherent in the water. The "slime" restricts lines, provides glue for minerals to accumulate, and supports the life cycle of plant and soil pathogens. In addition poor water penetration and poor distribution throughout the soil or medium only adds to poor water use efficiency".

By looking at water and soil with a sustainable and broad spectrum approach, the Advanced Nutrients team, through extensive R&D have been able to develop the product Aquamax™. A highly concentrated liquid of synergistic patented organocatalyst's, non-ionic surfactants, and fulvic acid. As with most of Advanced Nutrients products, Aquamax™ offers irrigators a product that can undertake many beneficial processes as Craig explains.

"Aquamax™ is a first for the irrigation industry on several aspects.

One, it is the only product that is completely safe to handle for farmers and workers, is non-toxic, and non-corrosive to irrigation systems.

Two, it cleans by removal and continued deterrence of biofilm (slime) in irrigation system – lines, nozzles, filters, pumps, and lagoons. Therefore removes and prevents mineral build up in irrigation systems of iron, calcium, magnesium, and sodium.

And three, cleaning is just the first step, Aquamax™ enriches water with additional dissolved oxygen, irrigated water distributes more evenly and laterally within the soil or medium profile. All resulting in more uniform plant growth, less water use, greater yield and/or crop quality via uniformity and typically higher brix, increased soil oxygen transfer and restriction of pathogen risk. Which is all quite unique, as no other cleaning product offers such scope."

These claims have been backed by many field trials in Australia the USA, Europe and South Africa. Only recently they concluded, a 2 year study by the University California Davis, S Kaan Kurtural (see website) showing that Aquamax™ not only does an exceptional cleaning job for irrigation systems and far exceeds past products used for cleaning, but offers farmers a broad spectrum, beneficial approach to water quality and use efficiency, soil health and ultimate crop production gains.

"We are excited to get Aquamax™ out to more irrigators so we can assist them improve their irrigation systems, water use and farm production." Craig said.

You can learn about Aquamax™ and Advanced Nutrients here – www.aquamax.farm and www.advancednutrients.com.au or call to find out more – 1800 207 009

Bayer Launches New “Vegetables by Bayer” Brand Platform to Reaffirm Commitment to Customer and Partners

By Bayer

Bayer has unveiled the “Vegetables by Bayer” brand platform, uniting two trusted brands, Seminis® and De Ruiter®, under one shared purpose with a new brand identity, positioning, and global website (vegetables.bayer.com).

Seminis and De Ruiter have long provided cutting-edge solutions for customers in diverse open-field and protected environments. Now, they will join forces as part of “Vegetables by Bayer” with refreshed branding and an even deeper commitment to delivering value at every step – to growers, partners, consumers, and the planet.

“By bringing together world-class experts and resources from across Bayer, the new ‘Vegetables by Bayer’ umbrella enables our Seminis and De Ruiter brands to provide value to our customers and partners in new and exciting ways,” said Darren Wood, Commercial Lead of Vegetable Seeds Australia and New Zealand at Bayer.

That value is reflected across four core pillars: partnership, innovation, performance, and sustainability.

- **Partnership:** The recently opened De Ruiter Experience Center in Australia is one example of Bayer’s commitment to partnering with our local community in the produce industry. Utilising a seven metre high purpose-built glasshouse in partnership with local grower SA Tomatoes, Vegetables by Bayer focusses on bringing the latest breeding, cultivation and digital technologies for sustainable tomato production under local growing conditions.
- **Innovation:** New varieties within Bayer’s High Rise™ broccoli series grow tall and feature strong, clean stems with few large leaves and visible crowns that are firm and heavy. The uniform maturity, strong yield potential and consistent product quality help growers to achieve efficient harvests through less harvest passes and the ability to adopt mechanised harvesting.

- **Performance:** From best-in-class seeds to an expert agronomic service with tailored digital solutions, Bayer have developed a 360° virtual tour of the De Ruiter Experience Center where customers can experience and interact with all De Ruiter has to offer, remotely. We bring our customers direct access to all the latest varieties from overseas faster and provide opportunities for growers to collaborate on a regular basis to share knowledge or ask questions.

- **Sustainability:** According to the FAO, approximately one third of all food produced for human consumption globally is lost or wasted each year. With its Seminis and De Ruiter vegetable seeds, Bayer is committed to helping reduce food loss and waste, ensuring high-quality, nutritious produce reaches more consumers.

The launch comes as the [United Nations celebrates the “International Year of Fruits and Vegetables 2021”](#) which aims to raise awareness of the benefits of fruit and vegetable consumption. “From our industry-leading R&D to tailored solutions that go beyond the seed to meet the evolving needs of the market, ‘Vegetables by Bayer’ reflects our commitment to helping our customers grow their businesses so together we can foster a healthier, more sustainable world,” said Mr Wood.

Learn more at vegetables.bayer.com

About Bayer

Bayer is a global enterprise with core competencies in the life science fields of health care, nutrition and agriculture. Its products and services are designed to help people and planet thrive by supporting efforts to master the major challenges presented by a growing and aging global population. Bayer is committed to drive sustainable development and generate a positive impact with its businesses. The company has operated in Australia since 1925 and has a long term commitment to the health and nutrition of all Australians. Locally, Bayer currently employs almost 900 people across the country and is dedicated to servicing the needs of rural and remote communities. The Bayer brand stands for trust, reliability and quality throughout the world. For more information, go to crop.bayer.com.au



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Knowledge grows



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