



A Message From Our Executive Officer

Industry Update

Major flooding continues for many rivers in Victoria and Tasmania, particularly in communities around the norther rivers. Agriculture Victoria have several resources for affected growers here:

<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/emergency-management/floods>

For growers experiencing flooding impacts, please stay safe and reach out for support.

Summer weather outlook

Unfortunately, summer looks wet and gloomy. La Niña and negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) continue and are likely to persist into early 2023. These conditions typically increase the chance of above average rainfall for northern and eastern Australian spring and summer. The Southern Annular Mode (SAM) is currently in a positive phase and is likely to remain positive throughout spring and summer.

La Niña, negative IOD, and positive SAM all combine to increase the likelihood of a cool, wet summer, similar to the past 2 summers.

Modelling from the BOM indicate the La Niña conditions are likely to decline over spring with a return to neutral ENSO conditions in early 2023.

More detail can be found here: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso>



Sam Turner • PCA Executive Officer

Labour Data from the ABARES [Labour use in Australian agriculture survey](#) shows that the total number of workers used by Australian horticulture has declined throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and associated border closures. Despite labour market initiatives to attract labour, workers have not returned to pre-COVID levels (figure 1). The market for horticultural labour remains tight. If these shortages are not resolved, there is a risk that production may not be able to efficiently service demand, which could support sustained high fresh produce prices.

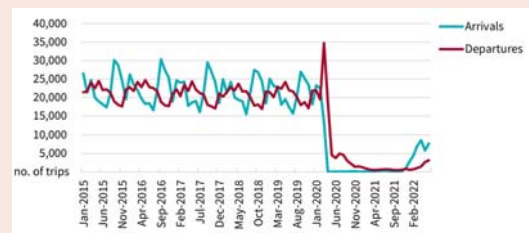


Figure 1: Source ABS

Markets

Vegetable prices are predicted to remain high for the rest of 2022. Increases in input costs and inflation pressures coupled with high fertiliser prices and low labour availability are reducing yields and contracting supply. Fuel prices remain high, increasing the cost of both production and transport. Wholesale indexes for beans, broccoli, lettuce, and zucchini remain elevated for 2022. (Figure 2) The question remains as to the long-term impact of higher pricing for fresh produce, but the market fundamentals indicate support for increased pricing into the medium term.

A Message From Our Executive Officer Continued

More detail can be found [here](#)



Figure 2: Wholesale price indexes. Sources ABARES, ABX

Upcoming Webinar

RMCG and Protected Cropping Australia will be conducting a webinar on current and emerging substrates. Join Jake Gaudion, Dr Doris Blaesing, Rohan Davies and an industry guest as they discuss the pros, cons and economics of coir and its alternatives that have come to light through the Hort Innovation funded project. Join on Zoom for a 3:30 p.m. start on Thursday 3rd November.

Current and emerging substrates for hydroponic production

Webinar 3:30 p.m. Thurs 3rd November 2022

Please join us for an hour of interactive information and discussion with other protected cropping hydroponic growers on Thursday 3rd November 2022

3:30 p.m. Please join around 3:20 for a prompt 3:30 p.m. start

3:30 - 4:10 p.m. Jake Gaudion, Dr Doris Blaesing - RMCG
Rohan Davies - Grow Fibre
an industry guest speaker on using wood fibre product

4:10 - 4:30 p.m. Discussion

Come and hear Jake and Doris from RMCG discuss what they've found about potential alternatives to coir, including the economics, and from Rohan and another guest, discussing developing and using wood fibre alternatives.

Join the discussion about alternatives to coir growing substrates. Come with your questions and share your experiences.

Join via Zoom using this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82465274154?pwd=c1gxWXR2dzRZM-W1KN3lUUFBwSGxOUT09>

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Coir



Wood fibre alternative



Zoom Link

HFF Grower Day



On Wednesday 12th October, HFF hosted an event for local growers and industry at Australian Strawberry Distributors in Coldstream, Victoria. Attendees were treated to some beautiful Victorian weather and a tour of ASD's impressive Cravo structure. Jo Ripepi from ASD provided an overview of the system, its function, and the technology which enables them to lengthen their growing season to target market opportunities. Marcus Van Heijst and the team from Powerplants walked through the setup and explained the how's and why's of their system as the rain fell.

After a chat and tour of the Cravo unit, attendees were provided lunch and an opportunity to hear from industry members such as Tony Bundock, HFF Treasurer and PCA Deputy Chair, Jo Ripepi from ASD as well as Sam Turner from PCA.

It was a great event which highlighted the importance of industry collaboration and learning from peers. Thank you to HFF for hosting.



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

Individual Members
Daniel Grono, ANTG

We look forward to many successful years together!

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Business For Sale

The advertisement is for a business for sale. At the top left is the 'POCKET HERBS & PRODUCE' logo. At the top right is the 'MANA' logo, which consists of a grid of orange dots. The central image is a circular aerial view of a farm with several large white polytunnels, a pond, and various buildings. An orange circle on the left of this image contains the text 'For Sale'. Below the image, the text reads 'TENDER CLOSING SOON' in orange, followed by 'Pocket Herbs & Produce Pty Ltd' and 'Profitable Business & Home Opportunity' in white. To the right of this text is a QR code. Further right, the address '67 Howards Road Burringbar NSW' is listed. At the bottom right, the contact information 'adrian.howe@manare.au' and '0477 222 457' is provided.

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