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Protected Cropping Australia Industry Trade Magazine Vol 3 2017 Spring
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Visit Stand 32 at the Future Growing APEX - Brinkman PCA Biennial Conference 2017

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FRONT COVER

Stephen Hill of Hills Transplants in Devonport, Tasmania under his new APEX 'Retrack' retractable roof. It was officially launched at the APEX-Brinkman PCA Conference and winner of the 2017 Best New Product (Full story page 21)



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2017 APEX - BRINKMAN PCA CONFERENCE REPORT *FUTURE GROWING*

By RAQUEL NEOFIT, Eat Fresh PCA Editor



Again this year, in July, the PCA conference (sponsored and assisted by APEX-Brinkman) was a great success at many levels. With 431 delegates from all over Australia and from 12 overseas countries, participants enjoyed 4 days of networking, talking to suppliers at the exhibition booths, as growers enticed off their farms shared information amongst themselves, did business, went on farms tours, and had some fun and social activities too.

The emphasis as in the past has been in new technologies, new ideas, and how growers can get the best possible outcome from their crops. Industry specialists and experts were happy to share their knowledge and answer questions.

Hydroponic and greenhouse growing is on the rise throughout the world, and Australia is no exception.

The conference was officially opened by Senator, The Honorable Anne Ruston, Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources.

As the peak industry body for the commercial hydroponics, aquaponics, and greenhouse growers in Australia, PCA is proud to bring technology pioneers and experts from across the globe together in one convenient forum where the knowledge seekers can learn from the knowledge holders.

What was on offer:

The sold out trade exhibition with 67 suppliers and manufactures were busy engaging with growers and a positive energy enveloped the room throughout the event.

It is always important to have the opportunity for attendees to interact and ask questions of speakers and exhibitors.

Notable topics on display within the trade hall covered innovation, advanced technology, transitioning from outdoor to indoor farming, greenhouse construction, retractable roofing, tunnels, shade screens, lighting, automation, media, recycling, nutrients and fertilisers, identification of pests and diseases, seed supply, packaging, insurance and energy use.

International delegates and exhibitors came from the Netherlands, Belgium, France, UK, Canada, Taiwan, Malaysia, South Korea, China, Sri Lanka, Ghana, and as always New Zealand.

Delegates divided their time between guest speakers and the trade hall, soaking up the vital information that moves Australian horticulture forward and facilitates the industry and business to run efficiently and cost effectively.

Discussions covered included low-medium-high technology, advanced technology, transitioning from outdoor field to under retractable roofs, media selection, the greenhouse construction code project, and recycling nutrients.

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