



Hydroponic Farmers Federation Newsletter

A0033906W

Volume 6, Issue 4

December 2022



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Food Forward: Unlock the potential of data driven decision making

Whitepaper by Gursel Karacoc, Senior Data Scientist e-Gro



Part of the ROCKWOOL Group



The Secretary



Once again living in our 'sunburnt country' has thrown up some additional challenges! The recent weather has seen some massive rainfall figures across the country with large scale flooding across the state, especially in the North. To date we have only been made aware of a couple of growers who have been adversely affected by floods, but if you have been affected (or know of someone) please feel free to let us know so we can direct them towards some of the relief programs that are available. We have listed some of the links in this newsletter so feel free to have a look at these. On a personal level, we have seen crews from my CFA Fire Station travel to Euchuca to operate large scale pumps in the battle to keep flood waters down. I have to say flood work is not my favourite task in Fire Brigade as it is generally dirty water that you can't effectively pump away, and it always seems to be 10mm deeper than the top of my boot! But the cold and damp weather has also given our growers a

headache with production levels falling behind expectation, but without any real rise in prices at the market. Challenging times indeed. And once again, it seems that we have blinked and another year is over and Christmas is on the horizon. Well last year we celebrated the festive season only to be rewarded with a lockdown! It seems that Covid cases are still with us but hopefully the likelihood of lockdowns are well behind us. - fingers crossed! For me it's been an interesting year in that I joined the team at Royal Brinkman in May to assist them in the area of greenhouse machinery and equipment sales. This has been a great experience but this secondment concludes at the end of December and I'll be returning to the world of Priva training from January 2023 along with some other projects that are happening. So good times ahead in the world of TB! So I do hope that the past year has not been too harsh on you, and that Christmas will be a peaceful and restful event, and that the outlook for the New Year will be one that is enjoyable and profitable at least! So take care everyone and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at either HFF events on your farms, Regards **Tony B**

HFF Executive Details and Contacts

President:

John Elford johnelford@bigpond.com 0417 035 956

Vice President & VFF Representative:

Tony Spurling tspurling63@gmail.com (03) 9739 0568

Secretary & Newsletter:

Tony Bundock tony@genesis-hort.com.au 0409 007 610

Treasurer:

Martin Vadakekuttu prodoz@bigpond.com 0402 648 607

Membership:

Ian Mortlock ian@morthydro.com (03) 5461 1111

Committee Members:

Trade liaison

Michael Tran mtran@eemuir.com.au 0418 899 586

Media Liason

Simon Monk simomonk4242@gmail.com 0414 593 706



The President



Hi everyone, well I know it was a time ago but I'm still feeling very happy about how our recent conference went - a great event! But rather than rest on our laurels, I'm pleased to report that the committee have been busy looking at prospective venues for the 2024 event already. Whilst attending the conference you could be forgiven for thinking that everything just runs smoothly, but let me assure you the committee achieves that result by putting in a huge amount of work behind the scenes. Obviously the choice of venue is critical, and we are currently looking at three prospective sites - more on that early on in the New Year! Whatever the choice, we have decided that the format needs to follow the tried and tested version that we ran this year, which is effectively a balance between technical knowledge, networking, and of course socialising! We are hoping that once we have the venue identified we can turn our attention to actively seeking sponsors and exhibitors, and of course speakers. If you have any ideas of who you would like to see presenting at the conference feel free to give me a call or drop me a line. This year certainly had it's challenges which tested all of us, but from the HFF point of view I do need to thank a few people. Our Treasurer David Pearson stepped down from the role after making a huge contribution to the organisation. Thank you David (and of course Marika) for all that you have done for the HFF. Whilst Tony Spurling effectively retired from growing he has continued in his role as Vice President. And of course it was wonderful to recognise the efforts of these two gentlemen with life membership of the HFF! And whilst David stepped away, we welcomed Martin Vadakekuttu into the role of Treasurer - he's doing a great job! Thank you Martin. Gary Edwards also stepped off the committee this year and I need to acknowledge his great support and work during his time. Thank you Gary. Thank you as ever to our Secretary, Tony B for all the work he does including the newsletter, minutes of meetings and countless other tasks. Thank you Tony B. The HFF wouldn't function with members so I need to thank Ian for handling this area - and as you will see he's had a good year! Thank you Ian. Michael Tran continues to do a great job with both the HFF and the WVVA as well as representing the HFF at other conferences - thank you Michael. And finally, a big thank you to Simon for his expertise and advice in all things conference! Thank you Simon. But finally I need to thank you, the members for another great year. Your continued support is what makes the HFF work and I have to say it is a real pleasure to see us returning to grower days, conferences and generally being able to interact again with each other. I wish you all a very merry and safe Christmas and hope that 2023 is a rewarding (and profitable one for you all! Thanks everyone, see you in 2023! **Regards, John**

Membership

Hi everyone. It's great to be able to report that our membership has now grown to over one hundred members - what a great result! In fairness we do see our membership grow when we are in a conference year, but we have to acknowledge that reaching this milestone is a great achievement for the organisation. But as ever, we can do better! If you know of anyone who isn't a member, either have a word with them to join up, or any member of the committee will always be happy to give the person a call. As we saw at the recent grower day, the HFF events always give members a great opportunity to network and learn from others - something that you really can't put a dollar value on. It's certainly been a busy year for all of us, and especially those who have been dealing with flood issues. Hopefully that's behind us, so Happy Xmas and New Year to everyone! **Ian**



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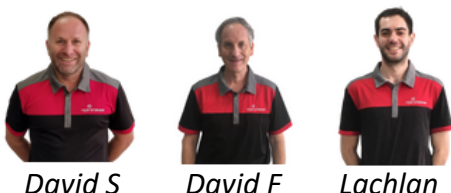
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With the festive season fast approaching, the team at Brinkman Australia would like to wish you all a happy and safe holiday period. Can we also thank you all very much for the support and the trust throughout the year. We are excited what 2023 will bring, and look forward to continuing our good co-operation with you all in the new year and beyond.



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- ▶ Shadecloth
- ▶ Bird Netting
- ▶ Hold Down Pins
- ▶ Fixing Channel
- ▶ Wiggle Wire
- ▶ Plastics



HFF Grower Day review

Wednesday the 12th of October saw something of a milestone for the HFF in that we were able to resume our much loved Grower Day program after all the dramas of Covid 19 restrictions. Yes, we did restart the program some months earlier with a trip to Rijk Zwaan only to enter lockdown again and effectively all bets were off! So it was a great relief that our planned day was able to proceed once again with a visit to the large scale Cravo production area of A & D Strawberries at Coldstream, with the kind permission of the Ripepi family. The visit was to start with a tour around the main machinery shed to look at the dosing and irrigation control systems before moving into the main Cravo production area. But it seemed that the 'Gods' couldn't resist giving the HFF one final kick in the pants and shortly after we entered the shed, the heavens opened turning the large area into an imitation drum with the rain pounding out a beat on the roof! But in true HFF fashion, it was on with the show and we weren't going to let a minor monsoon spoil our day. After the initial tea and biscuits were consumed, the workings of the system and the general layout were fully explained by Joe Ripepi of ASD, Tom Ellis and Keith 'Rocky' Rockman of Powerplants Australia, and Marcus van Heijst of Priva Oceania. The ASD system was certainly built without cutting any corners and the level of technology installed is very impressive. The intricate workings of the system were fully explained to the assembled members by our team of 'experts'. There can be no doubt that the ASD team have definitely had their eyes on the future with this level of technology, which is all controlled by a Priva Connex system. So after the explanations it was time to make the 10 metre 'dash' across from the shed to the main growing area. The Ripepi crop is grown in elevated gutters in coir substrate and makes for an impressive sight. The level of hygiene in the structure was second to none and reflected the attention to detail that Joe and his team place on maintaining the crop. For irrigation, use is made of a Priva gro-scale which effectively relays the overall weight of the growing media, crop and water to a central control point. When drain is detected via the tipping spoon measure, this is deemed to be the saturation point. The growing media can then be managed to maintain a level of drain or a certain moisture level below saturation. The system effectively sees the crop being irrigated via real time transpiration. According to Joe it has taken a while for the team to get used to the system but they are now definite converts to the gro-scales. The Cravo house itself is a fully retractable roofed structure. The concept behind Cravo is that the roof can be closed to protect the crop from inclement weather - and on the day of our visit the roof was certainly closed!. The control for the roof is linked to an external weather station which can be triggered to open or close based on rain, wind, radiation or internal humidity. The opaque roof can also be drawn across the crop to provide shade against high levels of radiation. Joe gave an overview of the crop and the various issues that he had been



Tom Ellis, 'Rocky' Rockman, Joe Ripepi and Marcus van Heijst



HFF Grower Day review

facing. Joe also highlighted the new sachet system that he had been using as part of his IPM program which encouraged a more staged release of predators. The group were given total access to the crop which also provided a first class opportunity for networking amongst all the participants. At the conclusion of the tour we made our way to the Gardeners Run Golf Course, where lunch was served with some refreshments (as we all know - hydration is important!) The post lunch session was supposed to start with a presentation by Bede Millar who is the Cravo Business Development Manager for Australasia. Unfortunately Bede's young son had a nasty fall off of a balcony at their Queensland home, necessitating Bede to have to return home urgently the night before. However, despite the need for surgery we are pleased to report that the young lad has made a full recovery and is none the worse for wear! Rocky from Powerplants stepped in at the last minute and gave an overview of the Cravo systems. This was followed by Joe Ripepi outlining his families experience with the Cravo 'journey'. Joe also explained how the company is set to build another similar sized house to aid their production levels. HFF Secretary Tony Bundock provided an overview of his recent experiences working with growers in the New South Wales region of Coffs Harbour, and how the Environmental Protection Authority and other regulatory agencies were cracking down on growers who were not retaining their run off water from hydroponic production. It seems the various agencies are taking an almost harsh approach to growers so this should be seen as a word of warning to Victorian growers that the same situation could arise here. Newly appointed PCA Executive Officer Sam Turner provided an insight into the various projects that the PCA are engaging in at present, and also highlighted the dates for the PCA conference in Brisbane next year - entitled 'Growing our future' between the 17th and 20th of July. President John Elford wrapped the day up and thanked ASD, all the presenters and members for attending. Special thanks were given to Powerplants Australia and Cravo for kindly sponsoring the day. If you would like to host a Grower Day in 2023 or know of anyone who would be willing to host an event we would love to hear from you. We have our AGM coming up next year so we are definitely on the lookout for a suitable event venue to be the host site!



Joe Ripepi explains about his crop management



John Elford and Sam Turner



WVVG Christmas Party



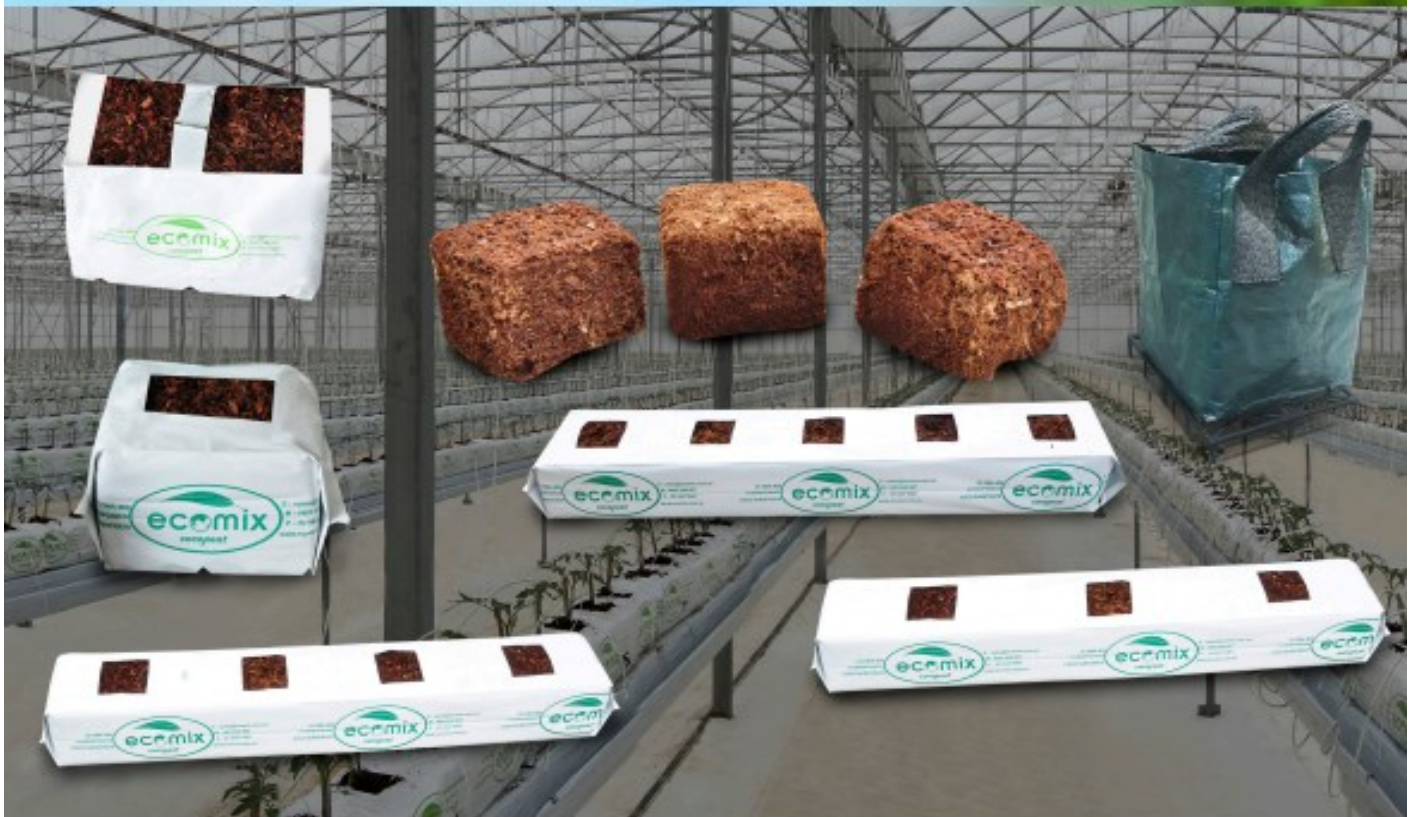
The Western Victorian Vegetables Growers Association had their Xmas Party at Sparrow Park in Geelong West for the first time in three long Covid interrupted years. We could not have wished for a better weather day as we had to postpone the event from last Saturday (19/11/2022) due to heavy rain. The venue was new to us as the Barwon Valley Fun Park was still very muddy and infested with mosquitoes! It was great to see both the growers and the industry families turn up in good numbers considering we had the postponement last week and the State election on the day. The Auction was very exciting and we had some very aggressive bidders. We are very thankful to the industry members for their support and donations for the Auction , the money raised will contribute to the social events we will proactively seek in 2023. The attendees' signature dishes were delicious and plentiful, I think everyone went home with a full stomach. With the last few years being very challenging for everyone, it was great to see the shouting, the smiles, the laughter and a great sense of unity within the group, it was all worth the long wait ! **Merry Christmas Everyone from The WVVA Family!!!**



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Painted heating pipes emit 10% more heat



As we struggle to deal with rising energy costs, as growers we are having to look at any viable solution to effectively 'get more with less' in terms of heating. For most growers, hydronic heating is the method of choice for greenhouse heating as the 'pipe rail' system not only provides our heating net, but also acts as the rail system for crop access and harvesting trolleys. But with constant use, it's not surprising that the surface layer of paint is eroded from the pipes and a more rusted surface develops. The bottom line is that over time rusty heating pipes emit less heat. So why is this? Basically a rusty surface has the ability to pool some heat rather than provide an even transmission surface. Simply painting uncoated heating pipes increases heat emission by as much as 10%. This adds up in a time of high energy prices. After all, it is necessary to use the in-house generated energy as efficiently as possible. Furthermore, the bright white pipes maximally reflect incident sunlight and assimilation light. This ensures that all available light reaches the crop. This topic has recently been the subject of Independent research conducted by Wageningen University & Research NL. Wageningen have been working closely with the Dutch based ReduSystems company who have provided the detail for this article. They also have some interesting detail on their web page located at <https://www.redusystems.com/en/articles>



Feel free to check the detail out on this page.

A History of Flavorite

The ABC Landline program recently featured a story on the dynamic Flavorite Company. However, whilst most of us were expecting the program to just be about current production, it was great to see the history of the enterprise being told, with footage of Mark Millis and Warren Nicholl. The story covers a wide range of topics and provides a great insight into this ever expanding and progressive company. The story is available for viewing online at <https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/programs/landline/2022-10-30/glasshouse-growth:-a-family-quest-to-grow-tastier/101595082?>



Energy and labour 'pain' is world wide

While growers in Australia are facing tough times with increased energy costs, the story is similar, if not worse, across the other side of the world. The Lea Valley, situated North of London, has been a traditional growing area for greenhouse produce for the UK across decades. But increased energy costs are seeing growers taking radical steps to stay in business. We spoke with the Lea Valley Growers Association Secretary - Lee Styles who offered the following viewpoint.



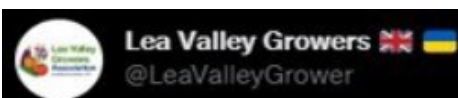
“Half of Lea Valley Growers didn't plant this year as they heat with conventional gas boilers and capture the CO². The gas price started to creep from 40 pence per therm in July 2021, which stopped many growers planting a third Cucumber crop last year. The gas price was around £3 per therm this January so the growers that did plant started in mid February to late March (two months later than usual) and only planted one or two Cucumber crops.

The Tomato, Pepper & Aubergine growers also started two months later but finished earlier in September. England had warm weather from April this year so many growers turned off their boilers as the gas price reached £8 on occasions. This meant they didn't produce CO² and their yields were down, however, they would have lost more money by keeping the boiler on. Around 20% of our growers have biomass boilers, Combined Heat and Power (CHP) or Anaerobic Digestion (AD) so it didn't affect them as much.

The issue British growers have is that Fresh Produce has tight margins resulting from decades of supermarket price wars, so a distribution to the cost price of production such as this has left growers unable to absorb input price increases. They also have a lack of workers following government policy on Brexit & the seasonal workers scheme which is only six months long so growers have to train two lots of workers for an eleven month season, this has left them 40% down of workers this year. The UK government are subsidizing the gas price to £2.19 per therm until April 2023, however this is not low enough to encourage British growers to plant early again.

The Lea Valley has lost 15% of its grower's this year and I fear a similar number will cease trading next year without government intervention. Growers need to move away from fossil fuels but geothermal & micro nuclear are beyond the means of family growing business such as those in the Lea valley.”

Another sign of UK growers struggling came up last week when the Lea Valley Growers Association shared that they were putting a few nurseries on sale. “We have five nurseries for sale at the moment,” said Lee. “However we would say that the lack of labour is the major factor forcing these properties on the market.”



Nurseries for Sale/Rent
Nazeing, Essex
3.5 Acres of Glasshouses,
Broadley Common, Essex
3.25 Acres of Glasshouses
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Waltham Abbey, Essex
7.25 Acres of Glasshouses



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TOM-System is the new, quick, and easy working method for trellising greenhouse plants such as tomatoes, cucumbers, and capsicums/peppers to string lines. The AgriFast V-46 ring clips are fastened using the Model TT235 electronic application tool. These metal clips support similar or heavier loads than other tying methods, do not hinder plant growth and support formation of the stem. The Model TT235 allows the user to apply ring clips to string line up to 50% faster than standard clipping methods and requires no specialised training. The clips are designed to rust away after composting. The period depends on the conditions but there have been some reports here in Australia of clips disappearing after only 7 months

What are the benefits of TOM System?

- Reduces labour costs by 40% or more
- Reduces damage to the plant caused using other trellising methods
- User friendly with no specialised training required
- Adjustable tension to suit different string thickness
- Compatible with eco-string
- Clip closure between 22mm and 23mm
- TOM-System can hold plants more than 8kg
- Reduces transport costs compared to other clips
- Reduced fatigue on the operator
- Battery will last up to 2 days



For a demonstration or quotation, feel free to contact

Michael Tran at EE Muirs - 0418 899 586

AgNova Technologies



Brad Johnson
AgNova Area Sales
Manager

Powdery mildew is the most common and widespread disease in Australian cucurbits. Powdery mildew infection occurs when spores are blown onto leaves, with symptoms appearing 3 – 7 days later. The disease infects green tissue and appears as white fluffy growth on either side of the leaf. Heavy disease infection leads to leaves becoming fragile and yellow to brown in colour. Any stresses to the crop will favour the development of powdery mildew, which includes the stress associated with fruiting. Flute and Kusabi are protectant fungicides which control powdery mildew. They perform best when applied to a clean crop and used alternately. Kusabi is ideally suited to follow Flute in a fungicide spray program from flowering until harvest (as shown in the table below). Flute and Kusabi offer strong vapour action when applied with optimal spray coverage. The performance of powdery mildew fungicides can be improved with Du-Wett, especially when lower spray volumes are used. Flute (Group U6) and Kusabi (Group 50) are compatible with a wide range of commonly used insecticides and fungicides. They offer strong vapour action when applied with optimal spray coverage and have 1 and nil day WHPs respectively, which provides great flexibility around picking time. Both products have a proven track record of successful use in crops where IPM is practiced. For further details, please visit the AgNova Technologies website - agnova.com.au

CROP STAGE						
DOMINANT DISEASE	ESTABLISHMENT	FLOWERING	FRUIT SET		FRUIT MATURITY	
Powdery mildew	Group 3, 7, (7+11), 11 or 13	Group 3, 7, (7+11), 11 or 13	Flute ⁵⁰ EW FUNGICIDE (U6)	Kusabi [®] FUNGICIDE (50)	Flute ⁵⁰ EW FUNGICIDE (U6)	Kusabi [®] FUNGICIDE (50)



Data Driven Growing

Food Forward: Unlock the potential of data driven decision making

Whitepaper by Gursel Karacor, Senior Data Scientist e-Gro



As we move forward with technology there has been a lot of talk about data driven growing. So what's this all about? Digital data cultivation, analysis and automation are being seen as the future of the greenhouse. Artificial intelligence (AI) and data science will result in game-changing efficiencies and yield improvements. But what exactly are these technologies, how do they work and how can you, as a grower, actually make use of them? Grodan have produced a whitepaper that gives some great insights into how these systems can be adopted and implemented in to the growing environment. The whitepaper itself is available as a download through Grodan.

To access the white paper, follow the link below which will take you to the website:- <https://www.grodan.com/learning/> and once you have registered your details you can access the whitepaper Enjoy!



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Flood Damage Aid

The recent floods have had a devastating effect on land owners, especially in the Northern part of the state. In response to the flood emergency Agriculture Victoria is trying to get in touch with as many farmers as possible to assess flood loss, damage and help with immediate animal welfare needs. To ensure growers and farmers are receiving up to date information about flood safety and advice, Agriculture Victoria are regularly posting on both Facebook and Twitter, as well as updating their web page at <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/emergency-management/floods/floods-current-situation>



Growers and farmers who have been impacted by floods and require assistance or have urgent animal welfare needs, are asked to please contact the **VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226**.

Below is a list of the most recent Facebook posts banners from Agriculture Victoria offering information for flood safety and advice.



Are you eligible for any of the flood recovery grants? Impacted farmers and rural landholders from the majority of Victorian council areas can apply for flood recovery grants and concessional loans.

Grant guidelines and application forms are available via tinyurl.com/yubvrt3.



We are providing regular updates on upcoming events.

Past webinar recordings, resources and support available to flood affected Victorians via our flood recovery events and resources newsletter.

Sign up today at <https://tinyurl.com/2spj6x3f>



Farm dams and channels can become contaminated after a flooding event which may impact water quality and supplies for growing, stock and dairy sheds.

Information on 'Managing contaminated livestock water' is available on our website via go.vic.gov.au/3Xt9JAW to step you through how to manage contaminated supplies.



Primary Producer Concessional Loans remain available to farmers impacted by the floods.

Concessional loans of up to \$250,000 will help farmers restore or replace damaged equipment and infrastructure, or to cover the short-term business expenses.

For more information or to apply visit www.ruralfinance.com.au

Virtual Reality Training Project

Attracting new entrants to our industry has always been a challenge as to some extent we are something of a 'hidden secret'. Careers teachers at schools are often unaware of the industry and the various opportunities that are available to young people. To help combat this viewpoint, Goulburn Murray Local Learning and Employment Network in Victoria are developing a bespoke online digital platform, loaded with Virtual Reality experiences, that will allow students to engage in workplace experiences and scenarios to build work readiness skills and build aspirations into priority industries, including protective cropping.



Led by Tania Pearce of the Goulburn Murray Local Learning and Employment Network, the project is aiming to help to create the future industry workforce, by creating a virtual reality platform VIC-VICE 'Your Career in Sight', VR experiences will allow secondary students to engage in workplace experiences and scenarios to build work readiness skills and build aspirations into priority industries.

Supported by Victorian State funding, the platform will roll out across the state into every secondary school, with the support of the VicLLEN.

The project will be aiming to enable school-aged students an opportunity to explore careers that they may not otherwise have considered, or had exposure to, such as protected cropping. Filming is currently underway at a number of key grower's sites. Project lead - Tania Pearce - commented 'We see this is a great opportunity to allow young people to gain a foothold in this exciting industry as well as working towards easing industry labour pressures. We are really excited about taking this project forward with the assistance of growers so that we can showcase this wonderful industry'. Once the project is finished we will be placing links to the various sites so that growers can see first hand the end result of this project



Date for the Diary

Protected Cropping Australia

PCA 2023
BRISBANE
CONFERENCE 17 – 20 JULY

Growing our Future
PEOPLE. PLANET. PROFITS

The Titration Test

As an industry we operate in a fairly high tech world when it comes to nutrient dosing. The nutrient recipes that we provide for our specific crops can be fairly complex and are often tailored to the needs of individual growers.

Dosing is commonly carried out with the use of specialised equipment that gives precise pH and EC values to the gift water. But to get the best out of the system, and to counter against any potential changes in our water source, it's a good idea to carry out a titration test on a regular basis. So what's a titration test?

Basically this is a manual test to see what results we get when we mix our A and B solutions together in our source water. For system such as Priva Compact and Connex, knowing these values is important to get accurate results from the associated dosing unit. In general terms our dosing units operate on a 1:100 basis (One part fertiliser to 100 parts water for each dosing channel) So the titration test effectively replicates this percentage. To carry out the test you need the following:-

- In a bucket place 10 litres of your fresh source water
- Add 100ml of the A tank concentrate solution to the water
- Add 100ml of the B tank concentrate solution to the water
- Stir well!



The resultant solution can then be tested with a hand held EC / pH meter. So what do the results tell you?

If we get the test results of an EC of 4.5 and a pH of 7 from our test this tells us a couple of things.

-COMPOSITION & ALARM LIMITS-				
3		EC supply	EC	pH
1	Too high alarm	0,0	5,0	8,0
2	Nutrient recipe	0,0	4,5	7,0
3	Desired	---	3,1	5,8
4	Too low alarm	0,0	2,0	4,0

Firstly the EC result is higher than the desired value, so this means our stock solutions have enough capacity to meet the desired EC target. Secondly, the pH result is higher than the desired pH target meaning that we need to have an acid to bring the pH down.

-COMPOSITION & ALARM LIMITS-				
3		EC supply	EC	pH
1	Too high alarm	0,0	5,0	8,0
2	Nutrient recipe	0,0	2,6	4,1
3	Desired	---	3,1	5,8
4	Too low alarm	0,0	2,0	4,0

However if the EC result is lower than the desired value, this means our stock solutions don't have enough capacity to meet the desired EC target, so you will need to add more volume fertilisers to the recipe.

Secondly, if the pH result is lower than the desired pH target this means that we need to have an alkali to bring the pH up to the desired level.

This is a simple test to perform and it does mean that you have an instant check on what's happening in your nutrient tanks and ultimately your dosing system. So probably always worth taking the time to carry this quick check to ensure continuity in your feed solutions.

New CEO for Gippsland College

Local education and horticultural training organisation Community College Gippsland (CCG) has announced the appointment of Dale Gemmell to the role of CEO.

CCG Board Chair, Mrs Marianne Shearer, said the move heralded an exciting new chapter for the organisation, which has well over 40 years of history in the region.

“We are thrilled to welcome Dale on board,” Mrs Shearer said. “Over the last 12 months, CCG has focused on developing strategies that position us to deliver on our purpose – positively changing lives and enhancing social inclusion through education and training.

“Dale has significant experience in implementing strategy and driving innovation. His skills, knowledge and dynamic approach will be invaluable in harnessing our organisation’s innovative thinking and energy to reach our goals.”

Dale brings over 12 years of experience in the education and training sector to the role, as well as expertise in effective leadership, financial management, stakeholder relations and funding acquisition.

“This varied skill set, familiarity with the sector and previous work with complex cultural, corporate, highly regulated and not-for-profit organisations has perfectly prepared Dale to succeed as CEO. We know he will drive even more positive change for the benefit of our community,” Mrs Shearer said.

Having grown up in Gippsland, Dale also has the benefit of local knowledge, so important in regional areas.

“I was born and raised here,” said Dale. “My background has given me a passion for both the region and for the transformative power of education. I am a real advocate for the not-for-profit sector, and the power we have in supporting those that may be facing barriers to achieve great outcomes like meaningful employment.

“I am delighted to be joining CCG. I am looking forward to working with the entire team and our industry stakeholders including the protected cropping sector, to build on CCG’s existing reputation of delivering quality education outcomes for all.”



HFF Committee Membership

The Hydroponic Farmers Federation was originally started as a ‘self-help’ group of like minded growers who wanted to get into hydroponic growing. It’s probably fair to say no one quite knew what they were doing in the early days!, but the group pooled resources and this saw companies develop the skills required to grow hydroponic crops. The HFF has come a long way since those initial times and now it is run but a committee made up of volunteers. But the members of the committee by their

own admission not getting any younger, and we are looking for some ‘fresh faces’ to come on board. So what’s the commitment? Well basically a zoom meeting once a month to deal with the behind the scenes management of the organisation (which also will guarantee you a good laugh with the rest of the team!) and lending a hand at the practical field days and the conference. You will also get the opportunity to have direct input into the overall direction that the organisation is taking for the future. We really would encourage anyone to consider joining the committee, so feel free to have a word with any of the current members - their contact details are on page two of this newsletter. So don’t delay - call today!



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