

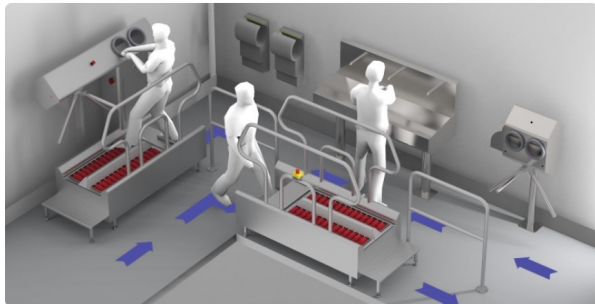


Hydroponic Farmers Federation Newsletter

A0033906W

Volume 4, Issue 01

March 2020




HFF CONFERENCE 2020

21 - 23 July | Hydroponics Tomorrow

INVITED SPEAKERS

Jan de Smet, Van der Knaap, Mexico
 Paul Higgins, Emergent Futures, Australia
 Scott Matthew, Syngenta Australia, Australia
 Levi Nuppenon, Agrology, Australia
 James Pateras, Modular Farms, Australia
 Emily Rigby, Cannatrek, Australia
 Michael Russo, Fresh Herb Company, Australia
 Yoni Sharon, Monash University, Australia
 Paul Simmonds, Rijk Zwaan, Netherlands
 Trevor Steinthal, Althea, USA
 Toby Wright, Tom d'Aqui, France

Join the HFF at an all exclusive experience at the Atura Dandenong in 2020, the 12th Biennial Conference is not to be missed!

EARLYBIRD REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY 1 MAY 2020



MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED!

EXHIBITION ALMOST SOLD OUT!

ATURA DANDENONG, VICTORIA

www.hffconference.org.au

In this issue:-

The Secretary	pg 2
Presidents Report	pg 3
AIS Greenworks	pg 4
Roskham Consultancy	pg 4
Bushfire crisis	pg 5
ToBRFV update	pg 6
OH & S Innovation	pg 8
Horticulture Labour Award	pg 10
Membership	pg 10
Brinkman Australia	pg 11
Hygiene Focus	pg 12
A & D Australasia	Pg 14
HFF AGM / Grower Day	pg 15
Rijk Zwaan	pg 16
HFF Conference	pg 18
Powerplants Australia	pg 20

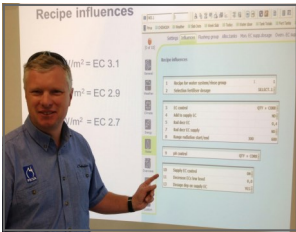


Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

Immigration and citizenship



The Secretary



Well 2020 started in fairly spectacular style for me as I saw the new year in whilst being involved in the firefighting in the Omeo region! I was part of

a strike team on a three day deployment, and we flew from Moorabbin to Wangaratta, and then a 3 hour bus ride to pick up the trucks in Omeo. As you would have seen there was plenty of fire activity on the go which was generating those huge smoke columns. And 5 days after getting back from Omeo it was off to Lakes Entrance for the Bruthen fires and another 3 day deployment. As some of you know, my wife Karen is also a firefighter in CFA with me, and we were both on the same crew, so whilst it wasn't exactly a romantic getaway, at least we got to be together. The fires were pretty devastating and certainly some of the biggest I have been involved in within my 30 years of CFA. But of course now the bushfires are something of a distant memory for the TV stations, but there is a huge amount of repair work to be done on many rural properties. As part

of the process, an organisation called BlazeAid are doing some tremendous work in helping farmers and rural land owners get back on their feet. On top of this I have been working behind the scenes to get a group of current and ex London Firefighters out to Australia to assist BlazeAid. The group are called Tunnel2Towers and they are all volunteering to give up to one month of their time and also pay their own way. So some great efforts happening there. So now to get back to paid work! **Tony B**



Tony and Karen Bundock on their CFA vacation!

HFF Executive Details and Contacts

President:

John Elford johnelford@biqpond.com 0417 035 956

Vice President & VFF Representative:

Tony Spurling info@gatewayestate.com.au (03) 9739 0568

Secretary & Newsletter:

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

Treasurer:

David Pearson peo@live.com.au 0419 966 477

Membership:

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

Committee Members:

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

Honorary advisors:

Gary Edwards gary.edwards@gardencityplastics.com 0498 001 926

Simon Monk simomonk4242@gmail.com 0414 593 706



The President



Welcome to our first News Letter for 2020! It's a busy time for us as we head to our annual AGM, which this year will be held at Rijk Zwaan's facility in Musk. Many thanks must go to Annie and the great team at Rijk Zwaan for putting this day together, we are really looking forward to seeing all the changes that have taken place from when we were there last. In 2019 our AGM was held at the premises of Grandiflora and Garden city Plastics, with good numbers in attendance. The feedback from members from this meeting was very positive and we hope that many of you will join us at Rijk Zwaan

for our latest AGM. The HFF is always seeking/looking for interesting venues to provide information and share knowledge with its members, so please let us know if you are keen to share your facility with our Members. On a very sad note we need to advise of the passing of Tony Bundock's father, Philip, back in England. Philip was in a nursing home and had suffered from a couple of strokes but he always maintained a positive outlook on life, and he was 90 when he passed. On behalf of the Committee and our members I would like to sincerely pass on our condolences to both Tony and Karen. Our last Grower Meeting was held at Chisholm Institute of TAFE back in November 2019, and this was run as a joint venture between PCA/HFF and Bayer. We had huge numbers to this event, and it was well supported by both Growers and Trade members, and in fact we had to limit the total numbers—a great situation to be faced with! So that brings me on to the forthcoming 2020 HFF/ Garden City Plastics - Powerplants Conference! This has been a huge challenge for the Committee, but what makes this so much more manageable is having our Trade partners involved in the planning. This year we have a very broad range of speakers from all over the World, not to mention some from our own back yard, I personally am really looking forward to the Grower Panel hosted by Chris Millis. Once again we are applying huge discounts to our members and the Trade also have the incentive to invite their customers as a reward for their support. The Venue (Atura Dandenong) was chosen for the Conference, and there are specific features that will make this event/venue a "don't miss" occasion! We are taking over the whole venue, which means you can't help but bump into fellow/ like minded people, and that will apply for the trade areas, the conference areas, and should you venture there - the bar! It's great to see that the Trade Booths are all but sold out at this stage, but there are still a couple of unique Sponsorship options available, so contact ASN Events immediately if you want either a booth or to be involved in the sponsorship agreements. A feature of the conference will be the ever popular farm visits and we have some great venues lined up for this year that will allow you to get a first hand look at some of the latest technology being used in the industry. We expect the conference to be well attended, with similar and potentially larger numbers than our 2018 event, so we could see the number of delegates hitting the 280 plus mark. With that in mind, we would advise you to look at booking your accommodation early with the Atura to avoid missing out on a room! The HFF are not about making money from this event, we really are about bringing growers together to learn, share and build relationships with our Trade Partners, and to get some real benefit from attending the event. The weather has been changeable to say the least and we went from drought to floods in around 30 minutes! We are not aware of any members that have suffered in the recent bushfires, but please let us know if your property was affected in any way so we can see how we might help. Finally I must express my gratitude to the Committee, who really do work tirelessly behind the scenes. The group really have a special relationship and all work well together. In the last twelve months we have enlisted a further two committee members under the title as Advisers to the Committee. Gary Edwards from Garden City Plastics and Simon Monk, formally of ASN Events, have come on board to help run the organisation and their input and advice will be invaluable to us. So come and talk to us at our Next Grower/AGM Meeting at Rijk Zwaan, we have lots to discuss and share with you as our Members! **Regards, John**

AIS Greenworks



Greenworks offers a complete service for all
Priva fertigation and climate control systems



Australia-wide
Sales & Service
NSW - VIC - QLD - TAS - SA - WA - NT
Ph 1300 763 141 www.aisgreenworks.com.au



Roskam Greenhouse Consultancy



We would like to inform you that Multigrow™ Rockwool will soon be available through Job Roskam. Benfried B.V. from The Netherlands have appointed Job Roskam as their Australian and New Zealand agent for the Multigrow™ Rockwool.

“Job Roskam brought all the right qualifications and skills to the table and turned out to be a perfect match for us”, explains Fried Koop of Benfried B.V. For Job Roskam it was an obvious choice to choose Benfried's Multigrow™ Rockwool as he already used it when he was gerbera grower in The Netherlands.

Multigrow™ Rockwool has a wide range of products which can be used for propagation and cultivation of cannabis, flowers and vegetables.

In Australia and New Zealand, the Multigrow™ rockwool will be sold under the Multigrow™ brand as in some other countries it's also sold as Speedgrow™.

More info about Multigrow Rockwool; www.roskam.com.au/horticultural-products

Bushfire Crisis



This current bushfire season has been one of the most aggressive and unpredictable seasons on record, with active fires being recorded from Sydney and all along the eastern sea board to Lakes Entrance. In what was an unprecedented move, we also saw large areas of Gippsland being evacuated, a state of emergency being declared in Victoria, and stranded holiday makers and residents being evacuated off of the beaches in Mallacoota. To date a total of 8,400,000 hectares of land has been burnt out this year across all states, with the largest proportion of this figure being in the QLD,NSW, VIC regions.



All HFF members were contacted to see if assistance was required but we are pleased to report that so far none of our members seem to have suffered from the fires.

However, To help growers and others in bushfire-affected areas access information and assistance during what continues to be a difficult time, Hort Innovation have provided key links and resources at www.horticulture.com.au/bushfires.



The page includes:-

Practical bushfire recovery resources and guides for farms, and for specific crops

Links to support services, including on-farm assistance

Where to go to access financial, legal and other support.

The Federal Government has also promoted access to funds via the website:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/bushfires/primary-producers> Up to \$75,000 is available to farmers, fishers and foresters located in declared bushfire disaster areas. This is to cover costs for immediate and emergency needs not covered by existing insurance policies. These grants will be available under existing Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. This is a co-funding arrangement with state and territory governments. To be eligible, you must:

- not be a corporation
- earn more than 50% of your income from primary production
- spend part of your labour on primary production
- intend to rebuild your business in its current location.



Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus

Although we have highlighted this issue around nine months ago, we felt that it was still a timely reminder to be aware of this potential threat to Australian growers. Dubbed the Ebola of plant viruses, Tomato Brown Rugose virus (ToBRFV for short) is a relatively new threat to the Tomato and Pepper industry worldwide. Thought to have originated in Jordan in 2016, ToBRFV has since been located in America, Europe and Africa. At the time of writing, unconfirmed reports of the virus in both Holland and Spain have many experts warning to brace for the worst. Although Australia has very strict bio security arrangements, the reality is that the virus may enter Australia at some time, so the industry is being urged to be prepared rather than complacent. ToBRFV belongs to the genus of the Tobamoviruses which also includes Tomato mosaic virus and Tobacco mosaic virus. It's mainly recognisable by the mosaic pattern that presents on young leaves which become gnarled over time, the stems of the plant can present with



Symptoms of Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus

browning or necrosis and the fruit itself also develops mottled yellow spots and becomes disfigured. The ToBRFV virus can survive for long periods in water, seeds, soil and plant material. It's high tolerance to traditional methods of disinfection mean it's hard to treat and this can often be compounded by the fact it presents similarly to the less destructive Pepino mosaic virus.

The best form of defence against this latest threat is prevention, Growers are advised to take all precautions to avoid ToBRFV entering the Greenhouse. This means setting up perimeter barriers in the form of Hygiene locks to ensure that anyone entering the Greenhouse receives appropriate disinfection. Hands should be thoroughly cleaned and both hands and feet should be disinfected as a minimum step. All visitors should be screened to ensure they have not visited other farms without protection and protective coveralls, hairnets, boots and



Hygiene lock and barriers

Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus

gloves should be worn if entry to the greenhouse is absolutely necessary. Because ToBRFV spreads mechanically through activities like De leafing, clipping and harvesting, Hygiene is critical to avoid contamination and in the worst case minimize the spread of any outbreak. Common carriers of the virus inside the greenhouse are,

- Material like knives, scissors and clothing (rusted metal is very difficult to disinfect)
- Crates, trolleys and packaging
- Contaminated fruits
- Insects and birds (in theory)

A strict company hygiene plan with regular audits is recommended to safeguard against widespread outbreaks, steps like designated staff zones, Hygiene officers, mandatory tool disinfection, internal transport disinfection and row by row glove changes are all options should you perceive an imminent threat. If this is already common practice within your business, you have given yourself the best chance to avoid disaster.

Crop rotation is another area where extra care can be taken to avoid dangerous conditions that harbour disease. Some steps to take are:-

Develop a plan for crop rotation that involves relevant stakeholders, focus on problem areas that may harbour disease and deal with them in the most thorough way possible.

Utilize specialized equipment and chemicals that can improve the clean, disinfection and reduce human labour.

As ToBRFV can survive in water, take extra care to clean and disinfect all Tanks and irrigation equipment, this is especially important when starting a new crop.

There is no known cure for ToBRFV so if an outbreak is detected the area must be segregated immediately and all infected plants must be removed and destroyed. Please do so in consultation with Ag Vic.

If you suspect the presence of ToBRFV in your Greenhouse, please contact AgVic via the details below,

The 1800 Exotic Plant Pest Hotline or Customer Service Centre - 1800 084 881

The Plant Protection e-mail (plant.protection@agriculture.vic.gov.au), especially suspect exotic plant pests and diseases

The Market Access e-mail (market.access@agriculture.vic.gov.au), especially suspect endemic plant pests



The stem of infected plants can present browning or necrosis

Innovative Approach to OH&S

Queensland growers - Eden Farms - were recently faced with an issue that has been impacting growers across Australia. 'Our issue was that we wanted to replace the plastic skins on the greenhouses, but the OH and S legislation demanded that we required a large scaffolding structure to carry out the work, and installed a safety line etc,' said Farm Manager Tom Redfern. The solution was work directly with the Queensland government OH&S team to find a workable solution. The farm produces cucumbers and the growing areas have a crop wire system running the greenhouse area. The wires are part of the structure of the greenhouse and are situated 210mm from ground level. The gutter (where the workers feet need to be when replacing a plastic skin are around 2300mm from the ground. A layer of Ausmesh which was 1800mm wide with 150mm X 300mm spacings was able to be attached to the crop wires to act as a fall arrestor to protect workers who were to work on the roof.



Whilst the theory of the solution sounded good, it was important to see practically if the net would withstand a large weight falling into it. 'We wrapped 4 x 25kg bags of fertiliser, total 100kg, into a plastic sausage and then dropped it from pallet. This was achieved by pulling the weighted package with a rope. The pallet was 3000mm off the ground, higher than

any worker would need to be if they were working on the roof for reskinning plastic," said Tom. "After that we then dropped another one of the weights onto the net making a total of 200kg falling at force. The net easily took the weight, and we videoed the trial as well to provide evidence to the Queensland OH&S department." And after reviewing the design and process, The Queensland government OH&S

Innovative Approach to OH&S

Department gave the green light to the innovative solution. According to Tom Redfern, the key in the process was the willingness to enter into finding a workable solution by both parties. "The guys at OH&S were fantastic with their approach. We had a clear vision of the parameters that we had to work to, and they were equally as keen to find a solution that worked for all parties. It would have been very easy for them to just dictate to us what they wanted, but they were more than willing to take an 'outside the square' approach to finding a workable solution," said Tom.



The second 100kg weight is launched into the netting!



200kg of weight supported by the improvised safety net

New Horticulture Labour Agreement

From 1 January 2020, businesses in Australia's horticulture industry are now able to apply for the new Horticulture Industry Labour Agreement. The Horticulture Industry Labour Agreement increases access to skilled and semi-skilled migrant workers for the horticulture industry, where appropriately qualified Australians are unavailable. The Horticulture Industry Labour Agreement can be used by Australian employers for the following:

- Sponsor overseas workers for the Temporary Skill Shortage (TSS) (subclass 482) visa for a total of 31 approved occupations.
- Sponsor overseas workers for permanent residency under the:
- Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (SESR) (subclass 494) visa program with a permanent pathway to a Permanent Residence (Skilled Regional) visa (subclass 191) available after three years; or
- Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS) (subclass 186) visa program after a three or four year transitional period on a TSS visa—three years for approved Skill Level 1-3 occupations and four years for approved Skill Level 4-5 occupations.
- Access the following concessions to standard skilled visa requirements:
- Discount of up to 10% on the Temporary Skill Migration Income Threshold (TSMIT) where it is demonstrated that equivalent Australian workers do not receive annual earnings of \$53,900.
- A broader range of monetary payments (e.g. regularised overtime) and non-monetary benefits (e.g. accommodation) can be counted as guaranteed earnings.
- For the TSS visa—overseas workers must score at least IELTS 5.0 overall, and at least IELTS 4.0 in each individual component score. For the ENS and SESR visas—overseas workers must score at least IELTS 5.0 overall, and at least IELTS 4.5 in each individual component score.
- Overseas workers can be up to 50 years of age when they apply for an ENS or SESR visa.

Horticultural industry employers will be able to submit an application to the Department of Home Affairs. Online labour agreement request forms are available in <https://online.immi.gov.au/lusc/login> To read the full list of terms and concessions of the Horticulture Industry Labour Agreement, please visit the website <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/what-we-do/skilled-migration-program/recent-changes/new-horticulture-industry-labour-agreement>

For more information, please contact: **Australian Government Dept. of Home Affairs**
Email: labourour.agreement.section@homeaffairs.gov.au Website: www.immi.homeaffairs.gov.au

Membership

Hi everyone, our numbers are looking good to date and we have a grand total of 44 current members. Good, but we can do better! With the conference on the horizon we really need to ensure that we get as many members signed up as possible, so if you know of a neighbour / friend (or enemy!) who might benefit from membership, please encourage them to sign up! We also have the AGM and the grower day coming up fast and these events are run at no cost for members, so another good incentive for people to take out membership. Having an HFF membership also entitles you to a discount with our National organisation, Protected Cropping Australia, so it really is a win: win situation for growers to keep their membership current. If you need more detail feel free to get in touch with me via email or the mobile. Thanks everyone! **Ian Mortlock**



Royal Brinkman

Global specialist in horticulture



Growers want to provide the highest quality vegetables, flowers and plants and there is nothing we enjoy more than helping them to achieve this.

Royal Brinkman has specialized knowledge about cultivation and business processes and works worldwide on innovations for better and unique products.

Brinkman Australia: your reliable partner with quality products and specialists who advise and install.

royalbrinkman.com/australia
the No. 1 platform for horticulture.



CROP ROTATION



CROP CARE



CROP PROTECTION & DISINFECTION



PACKAGING & DESIGN



MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT



TECHNICAL PROJECTS



SERVICE ARTICLES

royalbrinkman.com/australia Brinkman Australia Pty Ltd | 18-20 Jarrah Drive, Braeside | Victoria 3195
T 03 9587 2566 | info@royalbrinkman.com.au


royal brinkman
global specialist in horticulture

“Targeted, controlled and efficient disinfection”

Huwa-San TR-50 is a unique stabilized hydrogen peroxide that stands out for its superior stability and efficient operation. Huwa-San is the product for powerful cleaning of drip hoses, tanks and other parts of the irrigation system. Thanks to its unique stabiliser, Huwa-San retains its power throughout the entire water system. Moreover, unlike other products, it doesn't contain any harmful substances and is odourless, colourless and non-corrosive at the correct dosage. Huwa-San has proven itself in removing biofilm and preventing blockages in the water system.

Advantages

- Powerful stabiliser throughout the enterprise irrigation system
- Prevents the spread of germs
- No harmful substances
- Biodegradable
- Algae prevention
- Odourless and colourless
- Non-corrosive

For further details contact David Sobevski and the team at Royal Brinkman

Targeted, controlled and efficient disinfection with Huwa-San



royalbrinkman.com/australia
the No. 1 platform for horticulture.

Application

- Huwa-San is a uniquely stabilized powerful hydrogen peroxide cleaning your drip hoses, silos and other parts of the watersystem.
- Huwa-San has proven itself in removing biofilm and preventing blockages in the water system.

Properties:

- Sustainable and proven to be effective.
- Chlorine-free, no added organic compounds and acids.
- No harmful by-products.
- No traceable residue in the crop.
- Active at extreme pH values and high temperatures.


royal brinkman
global specialist in horticulture

Brinkman Australia Pty Ltd — 18-20 Jarrah Drive, Braeside — Victoria 3195
T 03 9587 2566 — info@royalbrinkman.com.au

Hygiene Focus

With the threat of new and rigorous virus and disease infections, many growers are now looking to heighten their hygiene protocols. So the following points are intended as a guideline for those wishing to upgrade their hygiene protocols. Hygiene starts at the enterprise boundary, and it is wise to have some clear indications for potential visitors as to what is expected. As you can see from the picture below, this



grower ensures that any potential visitors have a very clear understanding of what is required! Pests and diseases can also be transferred via clothing, so any visitors to the enterprise should not be wearing clothing that has been work in other crop areas. Upon entering a greenhouse you often see a hygiene station where you can disinfect your hands, and after that you can enter the greenhouse. It is often thought that the disinfection of hands is enough to make hands free of bacteria and prevent contamination of

the crop, but this is not true. The hygiene process has to go much further. It does not stop at just the disinfection of hands. Cleaning and disinfecting are two separate concepts. In order to disinfect your hands, they must first be cleaned properly. By cleaning hands with soap, you remove the existing layer of dirt and grease. Because you remove this layer, a disinfectant can then reach the persistent bacteria on the hands. If you do not clean your hands first, the disinfectant can't work effectively as it is unable to get any layers of dirt or contamination. The overall aim with hygiene is to prevent bacteria or other plant pathogens getting in to your crop, potentially causing major problems. To avoid this, you want to create a hygienic situation so that employees or other visitors cant spread these organisms in to the crop. For optimal hygiene, you can make the best use of a complete hygiene station which incorporates the following steps.

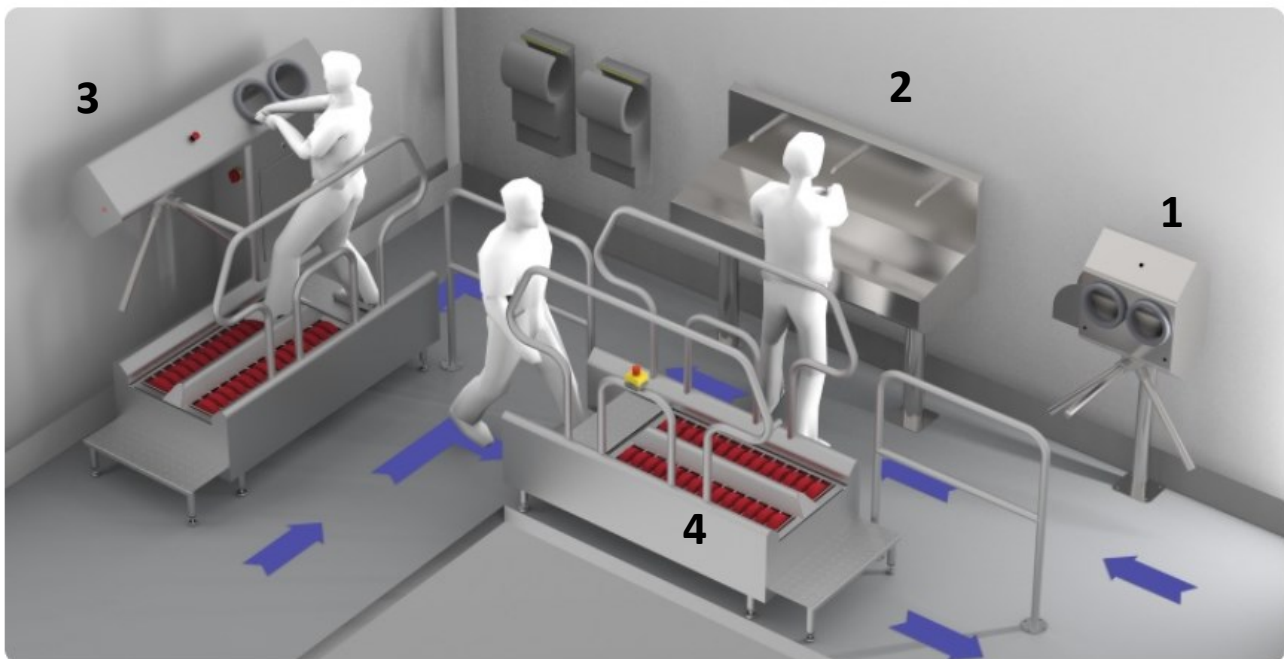
1. Washing hands with soap
2. Drying hands
3. Disinfecting hands
4. Cleaning the soles of footwear
5. Disinfecting the soles of footwear.



The first step is washing hands with soap. Individual dispensers beside a sink can be utilised, but ideally the unit is linked to a turnstyle. (1) The advantage of a unit is that persons are 'forced' to soap their hands

Hygiene Focus

before they can enter the greenhouse area. After soaping, hands can be washed in the sink. (2) This will remove any traces of grease and dirt, and hands can then be dried—ideally with a forced air automatic drying system. When the grease and dirt layer is removed, you can disinfect your hands. (3) For this you can choose individual dispensers or a unit. The advantage of a hygienic gateway is that the hands are disinfected with the aid of nozzles that automatically spray on the top and the bottom of the hands with disinfectant. For the shoe soles the same applies as for the hands, first they need to be cleaned, and then disinfected. Cleaning of shoes happens when you walk on the bristles of the unit (3)



The final part of the operation involves the disinfection of the soles of the shoes (4). By walking across the bristles of the unit which contain disinfectant, the soles of the shoes are cleaned. If you really want to ensure an additional layer of hygiene security, visitors can be issued with protective clothing to wear over shoes and clothing. (5). So do I really have to go to these lengths? The items we have highlighted represent the top level of hygiene, and it is possible to implement a working hygiene protocol using some of the methods mentioned. But ultimately you have to consider that the hygiene protocol you have in place is there to protect your facility, and ultimately your source of income. For more detail on the automation and equipment available for hygiene protocols, feel free to have a chat with Matthew Dent at Royal Brinkman.




royal brinkman
 global specialist in horticulture

A & D Australasia Pty Ltd

Inspection Systems | Metal Detectors | Checkweighers | Data Capture

PREVENT PRODUCT RECALL

REDUCE PRODUCT GIVEAWAY



Includes A&D's wide range of stand-alone or networked scale solutions that can reduce giveaway and increase packer speeds.



Talk to A&D today about how to reduce giveaway and improve product quality with our local range of In-line Inspection Systems. Locally Stocked and supported in Australia.

1800 241 434
or visit: www.andweighing.com.au



HFF Grower Meeting and AGM



Hydroponic Farmers Federation Grower Meeting and AGM Wednesday 25th March, 2020



Rijk Zwaan
269 Dairy Flat Road, Musk, VIC 3461

Our next Grower meeting and farm tour will be kindly hosted by Rijk Zwaan at Daylesford. Join us (HFF) in an opportunity to see and talk with other Growers/Wholesales/Trade at these premier industry research and trial facilities.

Given the quality nature of this facility, this grower day is likely to be a very popular event, so we would ask that you indicate your intention to attend via the RSVP as soon as possible so that we can cater accordingly.

Following the farm tour we will be moving in to the Rijk Zwaan office area for lunch followed by the AGM and grower meeting.

AGENDA

09:30 am	Registration tea/coffee
10:00 am	Welcome and introduction by the HFF President—John Elford
10:15 am	Farm Tour, Nursery, Seed production, Hydroponics, Seed threshing and cleaning, Export
12:00 pm	HFF AGM—including President's report, Treasurers report, Memberships report Voting for vacant positions
12:30 pm	Lunch with salads provided by Rijk Zwaan, hosted by Stephen Roberts
13:15 pm	Rijk Zwaan in Asia, plant factories and more by Arie Baelde
14:00 pm	Jurgen - Issues surrounding seed health, testing, import requirements
15:00 pm	HFF wrap up—including briefing on forthcoming conference
15:10 pm	Any other business
15:15 pm	Meeting closes

FOR CATERING PURPOSES PLEASE RSVP BY FRIDAY 20TH MARCH

PLEASE EMAIL RSVP TO John Elford—johnelford@bigpond.com.au

NAME/S.....

NAME OF BUSINESS/COMPANY.....

PHONE NUMBER/Email address.....

Endeavour celebrates a decade of success

When looking at large truss tomato varieties, you can't go past the market leader in Australia which is Rijk Zwaan's Endeavour RZ. Celebrating a milestone birthday this year, Endeavour was introduced to the Australian market in 2010 and celebrates its 10th anniversary in September, while continuing to be the benchmark for quality in the market. This variety performs exceptionally well in the harsh Australian climate and features good shelf life and the ability to maintain firm fruit.

Within Australia, as products can often travel considerable distances to market, this trait is of particular importance and benefit to growers. Plant balance, shelf life and additional qualities have underpinned the success of Endeavour in Australia. New South Wales based Account Manager, Phill Ritchie explains "Endeavour is a consistent performer and it retains a high quality truss and plenty of vigour. Endeavour is a strong variety and its strength helps greatly in the Australian climate. The plant is balanced enough to set consistently and provides fruit with good quality and great shelf life. Endeavour RZ is quite unique in the Australian tomato industry setting some very high standards." Trials commenced in mid-2009, with Endeavour introduced to the market in September 2010. Since its introduction, Endeavour has proven to be a great performer with an impressive yield potential under the right conditions and management.

Many key growers in the Australian industry were quick to pick up the opportunities offered by Endeavour RZ in their growing systems. "As growers get to know a variety, they also understand and learn to manage it best. They know what to expect in any given set of conditions. Endeavour is reliable and versatile, and as growers gain more experience and understand the variety, they will find their yields continuing to show improvements."

Adventure RZ is the latest Rijk Zwaan variety to enter the truss tomato market in Australia. Introduced in late 2019, it features a number of key attributes including an intermediate resistance to powdery mildew and resilience under extreme climates. Powdery mildew can form on the leaves and truss stems of tomatoes, thriving under certain climatic conditions. It may present a challenge for growers, resulting in decreased growth and strength of the crop, which can be important when harvesting during the Summer and Autumn months in some areas.

South Australian Account Manager, Steve Natsias explains "Adventure performs really well in the most extreme of climates. In particular, some areas in South Australia, such as Virginia on the Northern Adelaide Plains and likewise areas further inland with lower humidity. In contrast, in high humidity climates it can be a bit vegetative and less easy to control than Endeavour."

"Both varieties work well in high tech crops over 12 months, and also in shorter term low-medium tech semi-heated or unheated crops. It may be that those working in lower humidity environments find that Adventure is a good option. It comes down to the priorities of the grower. If mildew resistance is a priority, growers may find an advantage and achieve good results with Adventure.

There are so many variables and crop management can be built around variety selection. Under the right conditions and management Adventure balances well and growers will see the benefits, but it does need to be grown actively and growers need to create the right climate to get the best results from it."

With a continued spotlight on environmental sustainability, varieties like Adventure can help growers contribute to more sustainable outcomes. At the end of the day, what it's about is finding essentially the best outcome for the grower and the market."

For more information, please contact Rijk Zwaan Australia on vegieseeds@rijkszwaan.com.au or call on phone number +61 3 5348900.

Rijk Zwaan



Adventure RZ **NEW**

Trials have yielded impressive results in Australia.

Well adapted to handling extreme conditions and harsh climates, it produces high yields of quality truss tomatoes.

Key features

- High quality and high yield
- Strong well balanced plant
- Sets well under hot and cool conditions
- Improved mildew resistance

Endeavour RZ

This variety has a strong reputation for its balanced plant habit, improved flavour and high quality fruit.

It consistently performs under the tough and variable Australian conditions.

Key features

- Market leading variety
- Good presentation and shelf life
- Open and balanced crop
- Exceptional setting ability

For more information contact your technical representative

Platinum Sponsor HFF 2020

Rijk Zwaan Australia Pty Ltd | PO Box 284 Daylesford, Victoria 3460 | Australia
T (03) 5348 9000 | www.rijkszwaan.com.au

Sharing a healthy future





HFF Conference 2020



HFF CONFERENCE 2020

21 - 23 July | Hydroponics Tomorrow



INVITED SPEAKERS

Jan de Smet, Van der Knaap, Mexico
Paul Higgins, Emergent Futures, Australia
Scott Matthew, Syngenta Australia, Australia
Levi Nupponen, Agrology, Australia
James Pateras, Modular Farms, Australia
Emily Rigby, Cannatrek, Australia
Michael Russo, Fresh Herb Company, Australia
Yoni Sharon, Monash University, Australia
Paul Simmonds, Rijk Zwan, Netherlands
Trevor Steinthal, Althea, USA
Toby Wright, Tom d'Aqui, France

MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED!

**EXHIBITION
ALMOST
SOLD OUT!**

Join the HFF at an all **exclusive** experience at the Atura Dandenong in 2020, the 12th Biennial Conference is not to be missed!

**EARLYBIRD REGISTRATION
DEADLINE:
FRIDAY 1 MAY 2020**



ATURA DANDENONG, VICTORIA

www.hffconference.org.au

The HFF Conference will be held in Dandenong, Victoria in July of this year! The venue itself is located adjacent to the main Princes Highway at Hallam, and will provide the ideal venue for the HFF's event. As part of the negotiations with the Atura, the HFF has reached agreement that the venue will be solely occupied by HFF delegates and trade, providing an exclusive venue for trade and growers alike. Garden City Plastics and Powerplants have agreed to take on the role of co-sponsors once again, which will provide great support for the event. The gala dinner will be held off site at the adjacent Bunjil Place in Narre Warren, with busses ferrying delegates to (and more importantly back!) from the event. Bunjil Place is the modern entertainment complex run by the City of Casey, which will provide an ideal venue for the dinner. The conference will also include the ever popular 'farm visits' where growers will be able to view first hand some of the latest developments in the Horticultural Industry. Our provisional program is printed below and on the next page (subject to change) so get the dates in the diary—it's going to be big!!!!

TUESDAY 21ST JULY

9:00 am	Registration Open until 6:00 pm
11:00 am	Official Opening and Presidents Welcome
11:30am	Keynote: Paul Higgins, Emergent Futures, VIC
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm	Coco substrates for Hydroponic Production Jan de Smet, Van der Knaap, Mexico
2:00 pm	Trends in the World Tomato Market Paul Simmonds, Rijk Zwan, Netherlands
2:30 pm	Organisational leadership and change management in Horticulture Speaker to be announced
3:00 pm	Afternoon Tea
3:30pm	Trends in the French Market Toby Wright, Tom d'Aqui, France
4:00pm	Future High Tech Panel with Growers & Q&A Moderator: <i>Chris Millis</i> Panel Participants to be announced.
6:00 pm	Welcome Cocktails for Registered Delegates



HFF Conference 2020



WEDNESDAY 22ND JULY

8:00 am Registration and Trade Exhibition open to delegates

8:30am **Perfection Fresh Sponsored Breakfast Session**

9:30 am UV/Plant Interactions

Speaker to be announced

10:00 am Small Farms, Big Cities

James Pateras, Modular Farms, QLD

10:30 am Growing Herbs Commercially

Michael Russo, Fresh Herb Company, VIC

11:00 am Morning Tea in the Exhibition Area

12:00 pm Farm Tour

7:00 pm **Conference Dinner at Bunjil Place**

Sponsored by A&D Weighing

11:00 pm - **After Party at Brownstone Brewery**
late

Sponsored by Enza Zaden

THURSDAY 23RD JULY

8:00 am Registration and Trade Exhibition open to delegates

9:00 am Medicinal Cannabis: From Seed to Patient – a Grower's perspective

Emily Rigby, Cannatrek, QLD

9:30 am MedCan Industry

Trevor Steintal, Althea, USA

10:00 am Berry Farming

Speaker to be announced

10:30 am Morning Tea

11:00 am Organics Certification

Levi Nupponen, Agrology, NSW

11:30 am HMI (Human Machine Interaction) and Future Automation in Farming/Protected Farming

Yoni Sharon, Bosch, Monash University, VIC

12:00 pm Artificial Intelligence using sensors

Speaker to be announced

12:30pm How will your crops be protected in the future?

Scott Matthew, Syngenta Australia, SA

1:00pm Lunch

1:30pm Lunchtime Guest Speaker to be announced

Conference close 2:30pm

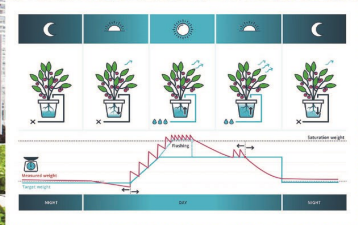


POWERPLANTS AUSTRALIA

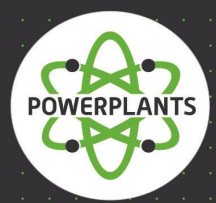


CREATING A CLIMATE FOR GROWTH
PRIVA

Australia's Only Full Service Provider



Powerplants is Australia's only Priva full service provider offering 24/7 support. Contact our team today for custom tailored solutions for all your horticultural projects.



Technology is what we do,
innovation is what we live for

powerplants.com.au pb-tec.com



Follow Us  /powerplantsaustralia  @powerplantsaust  /user/powerplantsaustralia  @powerplantsaustralia