



# Hydroponic Farmers Federation Newsletter

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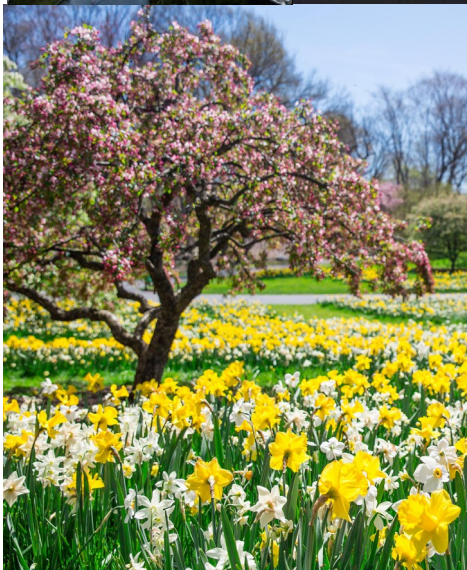
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September 2021



### ***In this issue:-***

The Secretary	pg 2
Presidents Report	pg 3
Membership report	pg 3
Royal Brinkman	pg 4
Seasonal worker visa	pg 5
Royal Brinkman	pg 6
Mongolia project update	pg 8
Software Grant Program	pg 10
Ecomix	pg 11
Eclipse Enterprises	pg 12
Mental Health	pg 13
PCA Conference	pg 14
A and D Australasia Pty Ltd	pg 15
Ryan Douglas	pg 16
Fernland	pg 16
AIS Greenworks	pg 17
Watch this space! - Update	Pg 17
Western Sydney University	pg 18
Powerplants Australia	pg 20





# The Secretary



I am sure that many of you have been feeling like we are in the middle of a bad dream that doesn't have an end! Whilst I don't think any of us disagreed with the notion of a snap 5 day lockdown to try and control a Covid outbreak, none of us expected it to turn into a three months duration. And with the restrictions on working also comes the mental anguish associated with this whole saga. And now really is the time to look after yourself to make sure that you are able to cope. I am sure I am not alone when I say that I haven't had a break in two years as we seem to jump from one crisis to another. It's really important that you take time out to look after your mental health - something that most of us would not have dreamed about doing a couple of years ago. In this edition of the newsletter we have drawn attention to an online group called 'Campfire' which is focussed on the welfare of the general farming community. And there are other groups around that offer similar services. So please

take the time to make time for yourself and look after the most important person in the world - you! On a personal note I don't mind admitting that I have been struggling with lockdown this time round, and half the battle is admitting to yourself that you may need a hand. Even if it's just talking to someone, it's good to share a problem. I was talking to an accountant friend this week who was telling me that he has never had so many sets of business accounts ready for processing so close to the end of the financial year - perhaps many people are at home looking for things to do could be the answer! However, if you are looking for an opportunity to upgrade your accounting software, you may well be eligible for a Small Business Digital Adaptation Program grant through Business Victoria. This is a great program that can also be used for website software etc, so have a look at page 10 of the newsletter for all the details. Website. So I hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter, and please make sure you all take care of yourselves in these unpredictable and difficult times. It certainly will be good when we can all meet up again in 'normal' circumstances! **Tony B**

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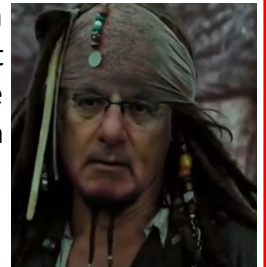
## The President



Hi everyone, Well just when we thought we were making some headway on this COVID issue, here we are once again in an extended lockdown. To say we are frustrated is probably the understatement of the year, having come so far only to have all the restrictions placed back on us. On a personal note I was very fortunate to be able to take a holiday to Darwin just before the proverbial hit the fan again. The plan was to come home via Queensland but those plans had to be changed at the last minute. So now we are in a 'sit and wait' situation while the vaccination numbers add up. And like

ourselves, the PCA have also been hit with having to postpone their Conference. With the event planned for Coffs Harbour, New South Wales, it soon became very clear that the event could not proceed. This now means that the PCA conference is in the same year as the HFF conference, but we are working closely with PCA Chair Nicky Mann, and the PCA Board to ensure that the two events complement each other rather than conflict. And I think that just highlights the frustrations that we all feel in that planning any events is nearly impossible in the short term while Covid is still a threat. One of the regular events that HFF have traditionally run have been our grower days, when we can all get together and share some knowledge - the very foundation on which HFF was built. We were so fortunate to be able to enjoy a great day with Rijk Zwaan earlier in the year but it now looks like these events will be off the agenda until 2022. However, we are really looking to 2022 to be the year when we can hopefully get the show back on the road. In this edition of the newsletter you will see an update on the dinner event we are planning, and of course the Conference is set to run in the middle of the year. Quite what that will look like in terms of Covid rules is unclear, but no doubt a vaccination passport system may well be on the cards. It is possible that we may also be able to see a welcome return of international speakers to the conference, but obviously that will depend on rules in place at the time. As I mentioned earlier, the ongoing uncertainty of things is the biggest frustration that I and the HFF are facing when trying to run a business, and I am sure that I am not alone on that score. I know we all need to be flexible, but we didn't expect to have to perform virtual gymnastics to keep our lives going! Finally, in these trying times we all need to have a laugh, so feel free to follow the you-tube link shown below to see me at my acting finest - I think I may have a new career! **Regards, John**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZhGqxpU6y8>



## Membership

Firstly my thanks to all our members who have stuck with us during these difficult times. Currently we have sixty six members on the books and we are still receiving new applications to join the organisation - great stuff! Currently we are in the process of reviewing the various categories of membership so that we can appeal to as wide a range of industry members as possible. And with the PCA conference on the horizon, membership of the HFF will give a discounted rate to this event—so if you know of anyone who's thinking of taking up HFF membership, now is the time to get them to sign up. We are also working on re-engaging with a number of growers who have let their membership lapse so that we can get them back into the HFF family - the more members we have on our books, the stronger we are as an organisation. So if you know of anyone who is either considering joining or needs to rejoin, give them a gentle nudge to get them on board! Stay safe everyone! **Ian Mortlock - Membership Secretary**



# Royal Brinkman

## Hygiene

Reduce the risk of contamination in the crop



Hygiene, protecting your staff and overall operation has become a major focus in the glasshouse horticultural industry in recent times, the threat of a virus outbreak which has the potential of wiping out your entire crop can be avoided with proper planning and preparation - disinfecting and thoroughly cleaning the glasshouse and implementing hygiene protocols for your staff and the equipment they are using are important measures you can take toward combating such threats.

### PERSONAL HYGIENE

Cleaning your hands thoroughly is still a challenging process. The majority of infections are conveyed through contact via the hands. Brinkman can offer you 2 options to consider MENNO H for cleaning wet hands and ENNO RAPID for dry hands.

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#### Menno Clean

Menno Clean is a Benzoic acid-based cleaning detergent. This product was created specifically for the horticultural sector and is used to clean and remove organic and inorganic contaminants.

#### Menno Hortisept Clean

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#### Huwa-San

Huwa-San is the product for powerful cleaning of your drip hoses, silos and other parts of the water system.





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## Disinfection Mats and Hygiene Stations

Disinfectant mats and hygiene stations are highly recommended preventive hygiene solutions for hydroponic situations. Working to prevent micro-organism introduction and the repercussions of such Invasions.

### Disinfection Mats

The Flexomat P disinfection mat is the number one preventive hygiene solution for personal transport in horticulture. Placed at the various entry/exit zones at the facility, delivers protection against the containment of micro-organism and the possible consequences.



### Hygiene Stations

If you opt for the more stringent personal hygiene, then a hygiene station is the way to go. The URK Hygiene station is designed for the controlled entry and exit of workers in and out of the work environment by disinfecting hands and footwear.

For further details, please contact the team at  
Brinkman Australia

E: [info@royalbrinkman.com.au](mailto:info@royalbrinkman.com.au)

P: 03 9587 2566

  
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# Seasonal Agricultural Worker Visa

## HYDROPONIC FARMERS FEDERATION INC



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30<sup>th</sup> July, 2021

Hon. Scott Morrison MP  
Prime Minister  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

### **RE: Implementation of Seasonal Agriculture Worker Visa**

The Hydroponic Farmers Federation (HFF) are the peak industry body for the protected cropping industry in Victoria. We represent growers across the state who are involved in commercial vegetable and berry production that employ people throughout the year, and are key employers in regional areas within Victoria.

I appreciate your leadership throughout COVID19 and, in particular, driving the restart of the Pacific Labour Mobility programs. These programs have supported the Australian horticulture sector to continue growing, harvesting and providing fruit and vegetables for all Australians.

The sector was greatly encouraged by your announcement in June that a new Agriculture Visa was to be implemented as part of the outcomes of the Australia UK Free Trade Agreement. The Australian horticulture industry warmly welcomed this announcement as part of the policy and visa framework for the structural changes underway in the horticulture workforce.

It is vital that we move forward and introduce the new visa this year. This will provide confidence to growers in horticulture, and agriculture more broadly. Importantly, it will also continue laying the framework for growers to remove their over reliance on backpackers and focus on returning workers – including Australians, people from the Pacific, and from the UK and ASEAN under the new agriculture visa.

If the government is not able to implement the new visa in 2021 and prior to calling an election, it will be the second time that a Coalition Government has announced an agriculture visa and not been able to deliver. This would be a very difficult situation for Australian horticulture, particularly small family farmers who would benefit most from access to the seasonal agriculture worker visa.

I ask that you continue your support for the Australian horticulture sector, and agriculture more broadly, and operationalise the Seasonal Agriculture Worker Visa this year.



## A Win For The Good Guys!

We understand that a new visa may need to be trialled initially, with further development and expansion of the visa over time.

Yours sincerely,



**John Elford**  
**President HFF**

CC Hon Barnaby Joyce MP, Deputy Prime Minister [Barnaby.joyce.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:Barnaby.joyce.mp@aph.gov.au)  
Hon Karen Andrews, Minister for Home Affairs [karen.andrews.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:karen.andrews.mp@aph.gov.au)  
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Following receipt of a letter from Michael Simonetta (CEO of Perfection Fresh) the HFF was made aware of the proposed new 'Seasonal Agriculture Worker Visa, which was announced by the Prime Minister and the Agriculture Minister, David Littleproud in June, 2021.

Unfortunately, the Department of Home Affairs was advising Government that they could not implement a new agriculture visa this year and were wanting to delay it until next year. The general feeling was that our industry could not wait until next year, and as such government needed to be advised so.

The afore mentioned letter was sent directly to the Prime Minister and other associated Ministers on behalf of the HFF and members. Similar letters of support were sent from other industry peak bodies including PCA.

Following on from this work, we are delighted to announce that by lobbying the government, an Australian Agriculture visa has been introduced that will address the immediate workforce shortage facing Australia's farmers, and support the ongoing structural change in the agriculture workforce.

The Australian Agriculture visa will be available to all agriculture sectors, including horticulture where the largest number of roles are short term, seasonal roles supporting the harvest of fresh fruit and vegetables.

The Australian Fresh Produce Alliance (AFPA) Chair - Anthony Di Pietro commented "It's pleasing to see that the new Australian Agriculture visa seems to have taken into account that the agriculture sector has a variety of different workforce needs and is looking to accommodate all of these.

In horticulture, we have a number of short term, highly seasonal roles that often see workers move to follow work. This is different to other sectors, like meat processing, which may have work in the same processing facility throughout a year"

A key component of the Australian Agriculture visa will also be the need for robust employer standards to ensure the welfare of future visa holders. An initial challenge in operationalising the Seasonal Agriculture Worker visa will be accessing the required additional quarantine capacity to support arrivals of critical harvest and agriculture workers into Australia, and ensuring appropriate vaccination levels amongst participants. .

# Mongolia Project Update

David and Marika Pearson previously of Country Fresh Herbs Pty Ltd devote a few weeks every year to philanthropic work for those less fortunate. Back in 2011 with the international relief organisation *Samaritan's Purse* they visited Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia. In Mongolia the normal growing season for food production was limited to a mere 60-90 days before the minus 50 degrees Celsius winter, covers the land in ice and snow. David and Marika quickly saw the potential in the free, municipal hot water pumped to each household, keeping the city residents warm. This heat source could also keep a greenhouse and crops warm, and efficiently double the



short growing cycle. The plight of the Mongolian farmers and their cropping environment is characterised by limited rainfall between 150-230 mm per annum which generally falls in the summer. Their land is mildly undulating or flat in the South from the Gobi Desert, to more mountainous terrain in the North. The average winter temperature in the capital, is 0°C dropping to -35°C in the country areas and down to -50°C degrees in the North. In summer Mongolia reaches 36°C and they have an average of 257 cloudless days per annum, which in practical terms is fabulous for protected cropping!

About every decade, Mongolia experiences a weather phenomenon called a Dzud. This phenomenon occurs when a summer drought is followed by a wet and heavy snow winter. This weather pattern kills all the fodder and grass necessary for the herders. In 2010 the country lost over 8 million animals - horses, yaks, cattle, sheep, goats, so the herders were left with nothing for basic sustenance. The end result was that many Mongolians perished with their animals, including many suicides, faced without any food, crops or animals. Herders follow their grazing stock and live in yurts. There is some field produce grown but only where seed to crop times are less than their spring/summer three-month growing season.

After the Dzud, *Samaritans Purse Australia* established a vegetable growing commune. In a village of 38 families they dug a well and built a 300m<sup>2</sup> single-skin poly greenhouse to grow basic produce in soil. In the city of Ulaanbaatar there is a coal mine and an adjacent power station. This municipal infrastructure pumps free hot water at 86°C throughout the city homes, keeping people warm. Being successful hydroponic growers, David and Marika immediately knew that this same heat source could warm a nutrient solution and greenhouse environment. By simply adding six weeks to either side of the existing 3 month growing season, heated hydroponics and greenhouses could double the time available to grow crops. Mongolian host Turkuu Yadmaa was shown photos of David and Marika's hydroponic herb farm on Phillip Island, Victoria. Turkuu has a degree Agronomy and is a Director on the Board of several NGO agriculture development organisations. He was totally amazed by soilless growing and immediately embraced the whole concept and it's possibilities for improving the lives and welfare of the Mongolian people.

With some help, Turkuu began to study our industry bible, *Hydroponic Food Production* by Howard Resh and plan how to feed his people and animals in their harsh climate.



**Basic greenhouse construction**





## Mongolia Project update

However he still needed to see hydroponic greenhouses in action. Upon returning home, David attended the Hydroponic Farmers Federation (HFF) AGM whose core objective is to educate and help people using hydroponic growing techniques. The HFF executive immediately offered to sponsor Turkuu to attend their conference in Ballarat held in July 2012.

Following much concern about visa's and logistics, Turkuu finally arrived in Melbourne on the 12th July 2012 for a two week visit. He went on many farm visits with a diversified range of hydroponic installations, and undertook training at Chisholm Institute's hydroponic training facility. During his Australian visit with his Mongolian CEO Hoiga, he gained a wealth of information and was well on his way to establishing hydroponic growing systems back in Mongolia.

Turkuu wishes to express his unqualified gratitude to the HFF for his inspiring hydroponic and greenhouse study tour. He networked with the industry, visited farms and was offered ongoing support and assistance in developing a hydroponic growing system for the people of Mongolia.

Learning how some basic and simple growing systems could be introduced in Mongolia, could ensure the people and livestock have enough food to eat, despite their harsh climate. If you would like to get involved in this project, contact the Hydroponic Farmers Federation executive committee via [www.hff.org.au](http://www.hff.org.au)

Since that time Turkuu has established over 30 small locally designed and built greenhouses that are producing vegetables with a growing envelope of up to 250 days and giving herders a reliable income and healthy lifestyle. They have now upgraded to LEDs and are looking at using YAK dung for heating.

Their latest achievement being the equivalent of a TAFE course designed for the training of disabled Hydroponic growers.



We received this email last week with the smiles in the accompanying pictures being testament to the success of this HFF venture of growers helping growers.

***“Dear Marika, We always remember your help and funding for the vulnerable ex-herders. Through your help many vulnerable households improved their livelihoods and they became real farmers. Thanks for your valuable recommendations and design of very well insulated Mongolian winter greenhouse”***

# Software Boost For Small Business

Horticultural small businesses around Victoria will have the chance to improve their online presence and arm themselves with more digital skills, with the Small Business Digital Adaptation Program reopening for applications.

Through the Business Victoria website, businesses can trial selected digital products on offer. Available digital products include online website, e-commerce, finance and business management tools.

Businesses can also attend free digital adaptation workshops offered by Business Victoria and its program partners. Workshops will be delivered across Victoria in face-to-face (subject to COVID restrictions) and online formats.

Businesses must purchase a digital product available under this program before applying for a rebate. Businesses will be asked to provide evidence of purchase dated between 15 November 2020 and 5 December 2021 as part of the application process.

Applicants will be contacted six weeks after advice of a successful rebate application to ensure their business has established product use and begun its digital adaptation journey.

Applicants who confirm continued use will receive a purchase rebate of \$1200 to cover 12 months' access to their chosen product. Businesses will pay the ongoing costs of access to their digital product after fully utilising the rebate.

## How the program works

Businesses that participate in this program will progress through three key steps:

- Step 1 – Complete product trials and optional workshops
- Step 2 – Sign up for their preferred digital product available under this program
- Step 3 – Apply for a purchase rebate of \$1200 to cover 12 months' free access.

Software applications offered by Square, Shopify, MYOB, XERO and Squarespace are some of the resources on offer as part of the program. Businesses will also be able to participate in free digital workshops offered through Small Business Victoria.

The first round of the program was launched in November 2020 and more than 8,000 successful applications were received.

The Minister for Small Business Jaala Pulford commented "Gaining a tech edge and learning new digital skills can be a game-changer for small businesses, and that's exactly what this program provides." "

Full details at <https://business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/small-business-digital-adaptation-program>

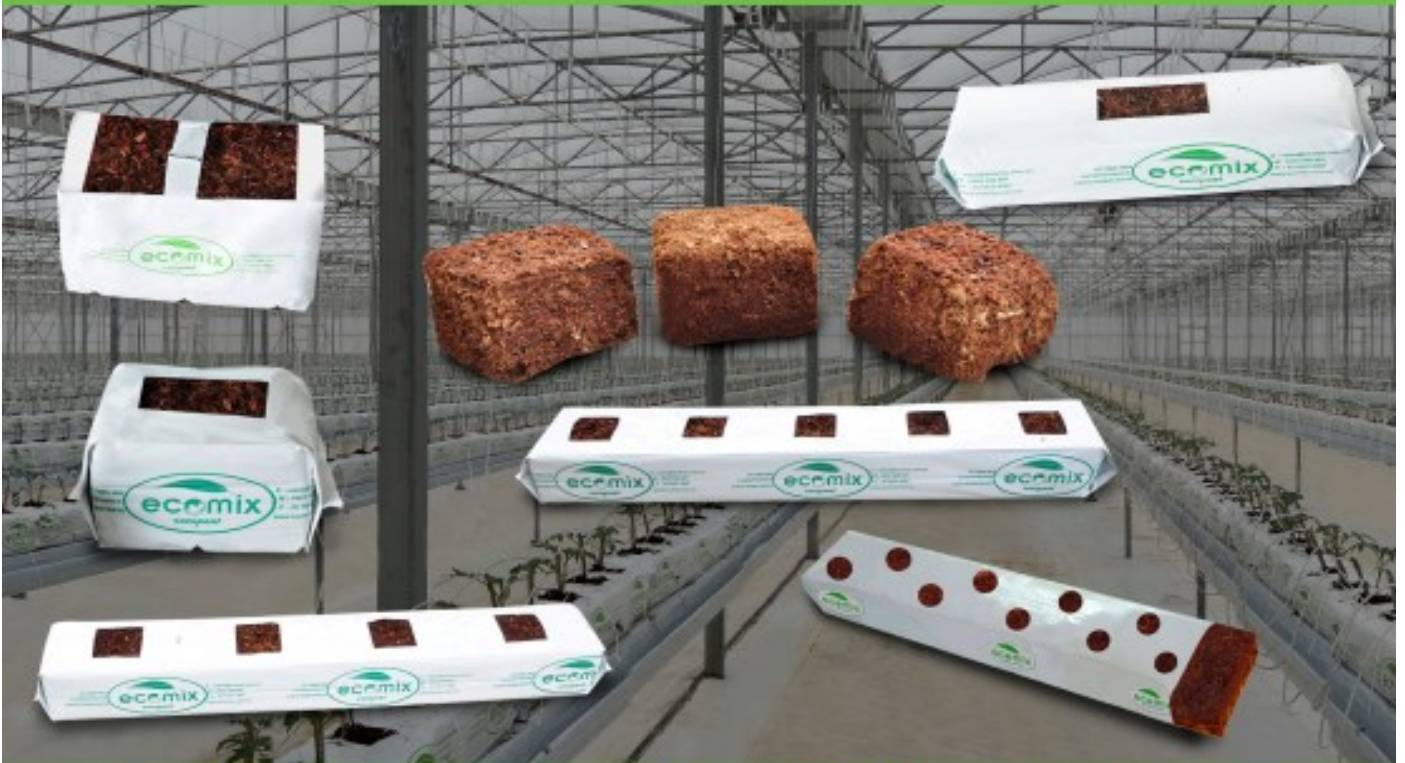




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PH0200187

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



# Mental Health

The ongoing saga of Covid has brought the issue of mental health well and truly to the forefront of everyday life. The National Centre for Farmer Health are excited that the innovative and exciting new chat-based platform 'Campfire' has now been up and running for 3 months. During this time they have engaged with over 100 registered participants across a wide range of agricultural industries in Victoria, and reaching many more primary producers through blogs, podcasts and social media messaging. Campfire brings farmers and growers together in a relaxed environment where people with shared interests can get together, listen to experts and peers, ask questions and pose solutions. It helps farmers and growers to improve their systems of work in order to better manage the demands and challenges of primary production, and to develop mentally healthy workplaces for farm owners, managers, workers and their families.

Bonfire events have attracted the most participation so far. These are held fortnightly on the Campfire platform on Wednesday evenings (from 7.30pm) where farmers and growers can hear from topic experts and participate in live Q&A. The audience will soon be able to submit questions ahead of time, to be answered by experts on the night. Keep your eye on the NCFH Facebook and Instagram pages about how to lodge your questions in advance or visit the Campfire page to leave your questions.

On alternate Wednesday evenings, farmers can join smaller Campfire Q&A discussions on work-related challenges relevant to them, including the topic of the previous week's Bonfire.

The Farmer Health Campfire webpage at <https://farmerhealth.org.au/campfire> is home to resources developed around the topics tackled so far, including podcasts, blogs and the link to access the Campfire platform. You can view past Bonfire conversations at any time, with current content covering:

- Working effectively in a family business
- Making your business more resilient to environmental extremes
- Strengthening your support team: farming safety consultants
- Strengthening Your Support Team - AgriSafe
- New to Farming: Learning from Experience
- Communication: it's more than words
- Planning for Success(ion)
- Strengthening Your Support Team – Rural Financial Counselling Service

Register today to join the conversation, receive information about upcoming events and access topic blogs and podcasts by clicking on <https://farmerhealth.org.au/campfire>



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# PCA Conference Update



The Protected Cropping Australia Conference is an unmissable opportunity to connect with like minded people driving protected cropping management in Australia. Attending the conference will enable you to share new experiences and advancements in knowledge and practice.

As you may have already heard, the planned PCA conference for the 25 - 28th of October has had to be postponed due to the ongoing Covid-19 outbreak and associated restrictions in New South Wales.

The PCA Chair, Nicky Mann, explained "We have had to make the difficult but necessary decision to postpone the 2021 PCA Conference, which will now be held on Monday 28th - Thursday 31st March 2022. The PCA Board looked at delegate health and safety as a priority, and we wanted to ensure the conference could proceed in person rather than a virtual event, hence why we took the heartbreaking decision to postpone the event".

The event will still take place at the Pacific Bay Resort - Coffs Harbour, and all existing accommodation bookings have been transferred to the revised dates.

"We have had to deal with a very dynamic situation around Covid-19, and while we appreciate that our Victorian members are well versed in lockdowns etc, it has been a tough time for all concerned" said Nicky.

For those HFF members looking to attend this event, discounts do apply for fully financial HFF members on registrations, and the HFF will be present at the conference representing Victoria on the National Platform.





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## Ryan Douglas

**RD RYAN DOUGLAS  
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The candidate does not need previous cannabis growing experience, but at least 10 years of commercial vegetable or flower production is required.

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[ryan@douglascultivation.com](mailto:ryan@douglascultivation.com)

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## Watch this space—update!



Grower's and Trade Member's Dinner

In the last newsletter we informed you that the HFF committee were looking at the potential for hosting a Growers and Trade Members dinner at the Atura Hotel. The idea behind this is to host an event prior to the HFF Conference at the same venue. Aside from a first class meal, the event

will also allow all trade and grower members to enjoy an evening of networking and socialising. Obviously the latest Covid outbreak has forced a cancellation of the previously nominated August event, but planning is now going ahead for a potential early March event. The event will be fairly informal and we have pencilled in a guest appearance from Brian Nankervis, the Australian writer, actor, radio host, comedian, who will host an informal quiz component during the night. "We are pretty determined to run this event so that both trade and grower members can catch up with each other, as well as having a good night of entertainment", said President John Elford. More details will be sent out to all members ASAP.



# AIS Greenworks



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# AgNova



**The Perfect Crossover**

**Flute 50 EW**  
FUNGICIDE

**Kusabi 300 SC**  
FUNGICIDE

**AgNOVA**  
TECHNOLOGIES

Michael Tran (photo above), is the Hydroponic Crop Consultant for E.E. Muir & Sons and has been advising growers for over ten years. According to Michael, "Powdery Mildew is one of the major diseases in cucumbers. I have recommended both Flute & Kusabi in spray programs and found them to be highly effective in preventing Powdery Mildew. The greatest benefit to my growers is the 1 day withholding period with Flute and nil withholding period with Kusabi, due to the fact that they may be picking every day. Both products also have an extensive list of compatibilities with other products on the market."

Please find Links for the products; Flute - <https://www.agnova.com.au/products/flute.html>  
 Kusabi - <https://www.agnova.com.au/products/kusabi.html> For further information, please contact AgNova's Area Sales Manager Brad Johnson on 0488 140 220 or email [bjohnson@agnova.com.au](mailto:bjohnson@agnova.com.au)





**WESTERN SYDNEY**  
UNIVERSITY

A woman with brown hair tied back, wearing a white lab coat, is smiling slightly. She is standing in a greenhouse with green plants in the background. The text 'BE A SECTOR LEADER IN PROTECTED CROPPING' is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.

# BE A SECTOR LEADER

IN PROTECTED CROPPING



# GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PROTECTED CROPPING GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PROTECTED CROPPING

**The Graduate Diploma/Graduate Certificate in Protected Cropping will educate future leaders for the Australian horticultural sector via an innovative and flexible industry-supported training model.**

Be part of the fastest growing food producing sector in Australia and join the only protected cropping course delivered at a postgraduate level in Australia. Western Sydney University offers a unique Graduate Diploma/Graduate Certificate course in Protected Cropping providing exciting learning opportunities. Extend your knowledge and further develop your expertise in the areas of science, technology and business with a strong focus on high-tech and intensive horticulture.

This course is designed to comprehensively cover both Australian and international challenges in sustainable greenhouse production in a changing global climate. Students will learn how protected cropping utilises cutting-edge technologies in the core areas of crop production, plant physiology, biotechnology, pest management, postharvest, climate control systems, integrated data intelligence, and business management and logistics. Additionally, students will learn best-practices from the protected cropping industry experts to equip graduates for employability and mobility.

The Graduate Diploma/Graduate Certificate courses in Protected Cropping are funded by the Hort Frontiers Leadership Fund, part of the Hort Frontiers strategic partnership initiative developed by Hort Innovation, with co-investment from Western Sydney University, key industry partners (Flavorite, Costa Group, Perfection Fresh, Australian Fresh Leaf Herbs, and Greenworks) and contributions from the Australian government.

The industry partners will host students for their industry research projects. Therefore, engaged students will be job-ready to start in the protected cropping industry following completion of the course.

## ACCREDITATION

Both the Graduate Certificate and the Graduate Diploma in Protected Cropping are recognised by the two industry organisations – Protected Cropping Australia and the Hydroponic Farmers Federation.

## WHAT YOU'LL STUDY

The course includes a combination of flexible online learning modules and practical on-site workshops to allow you the flexibility to work while studying.

The highlight for your learning journey is the Masterclass experience, where you will meet with industry experts and work on real life industry challenges in a world-class, high-tech greenhouse facility. Themes within the workshops for the Masterclass include software and hardware systems, crop and produce management, integrated pest management and fertigation systems.

## PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

The Graduate Diploma/Graduate Certificate in Protected Cropping courses are a key education and training component of National Vegetable Protected Cropping Centre, jointly funded by Horticulture Innovation Australia and Western Sydney University. The Centre encompasses 1800sq. m. over 9 independently controlled growing spaces designed with the world's very best glasshouse infrastructure and sensor controlled systems, to offer research, education and training opportunities in modern protected cropping horticulture.

The practical experience gained during this course will allow you to be part of the sustainable solution that focuses on resource management, reducing agricultural pollutants and environmental footprint, and using technology to advance production.

Graduates of this degree can look forward to career opportunities, such as; Horticultural Business Managers, Crop and Nursery Managers, Business Consultants or High-tech Growers.

## HOW TO APPLY

Postgraduate course applications are processed online and can be made directly to Western Sydney University at [westernsydney.uac.edu.au/ws](https://westernsydney.uac.edu.au/ws) or alternatively through the Universities Admissions Centre (UAC) at [uac.edu.au/postgraduate](https://uac.edu.au/postgraduate).

Students are eligible to apply for one of the 65 **scholarships** (up to \$5,000 each) and **internships** (up to \$17,500 each) generously provided by the five industry partners. The applicants need to submit an Expression of Interest form and the Project Reference Group will make the selection.

For more information about studying this course, please contact

**Professor Zhonghua Chen**

**0466 544 696**

**[z.chen@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:z.chen@westernsydney.edu.au)**

Visit our Protected Cropping course pages for more information.

**[westernsydney.edu.au/graduate-certificate-in-protected-cropping](https://westernsydney.edu.au/graduate-certificate-in-protected-cropping)**

**[westernsydney.edu.au/graduate-diploma-in-protected-cropping](https://westernsydney.edu.au/graduate-diploma-in-protected-cropping)**



LEADERSHIP  
FUND



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