

Final Report

Australian almond conference and field days 2017-2022

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Almond Board of Australia

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Australian almond conference and field days 2017-2022 (AL16700)

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Public summary

The industry's communication and conference programs play a critical role in ensuring world's best production systems and management strategies are put in place to maximise the competitiveness of the Australian almond industry.

The biennial Research and Development Forums and Australian Almond Conferences are integral events to showcase ongoing research and address existing and emerging issues and opportunities through the supply chain. Projects co-funded through Hort Innovation are the basis from which the industry continues to evolve as it emerges as the most valuable horticultural export crop in the land. These major events are designed to bring all industry stakeholders together to share information, network and improve how they do business. In more recent times the focus on water efficiency, carbon footprints, bee welfare and chemical use have raised the expectations on almond growers to substantiate that we are growing in a sustainable manner. The ABA Forums and Conference help facilitate an environment in which the industry explores how best to meet these expectations and delivers a positive end of financial year result that accounts for People, Planet and Prosperity.

Australian Almond Conference (AAC)

The Australian Almond Conference is a three-day event hosted biennially and dedicated to the Australian Almond Industry. This Conference is the premier event for the Australian almond industry, bringing together almost 600 delegates representing 90% of total Australian production, and 99% of processing and marketing. The entire supply chain of the Australian almond industry attends the event, along with valued members of the research community, government and major input suppliers.

The primary goal of the event is development and presentation of an informative and effective program that addresses key research issues and focuses on providing updated information on the industry and future outlook. A broad range of relevant topics and issues are addressed throughout the program, whilst providing opportunities for delegate networking and interaction.

Each Conference program featured presentations, key-note speakers, workshops, trade exhibitions and networking opportunities across the three days. This, together with an effective promotional program directed to the almond industry through traditional and social media channels, ABA and nut industry publications attracted stakeholders from across the industry. Participants targeted included growers / R&D levy payers, research, the industry supply chain, other industry participants and service providers, including members of the R&D community.

A major asset to the AAC at previous events has been the attendance by many members of the Californian industry and the sharing of knowledge on research, production techniques and marketing. The valuable relationship with the Californian almond industry (which produces 80% of the world's almond crop) is facilitated and strengthened by the participation of speakers in both countries and is highly valued. This collaboration and alliance will be utilised and built upon for future Conferences.

The objectives of the Australian Almond Conference have been aligned to:

- Provide an opportunity for networking by a broad range of industry members from across the supply chain and service providers to the industry, including R&D providers.
- Encourage and facilitate discussion and education regarding key industry topics and challenges, including pollination, plant improvement, water availability, economic outlook, productivity and market outlook.
- Provide an effective forum to inform levy payers on the almond industry R&D Program, with specific presentations on the key Horticulture Innovation Australia Ltd research projects.

Almond Industry Research & Development Forum & Field Day

In 2013 an inaugural 'Activated Almond Research Forum' was held with an open invitation to all industry stakeholders to attend. The Forum featured Australian almond industry committees and collaborating researchers presenting the latest updates on almond levy funded research projects and enabled industry to converse with researchers, provided networking opportunities, and an opportunity for collaboration/conversations across the supply chain and between researchers and industry.

The ongoing investment in almond orchards and plantings have now increased from 3500 hectares in 2000 to 60,500 hectares in 2022. The industry is located across five growing regions and four states: Adelaide (SA), Riverland (SA),

Sunraysia (Vic), Riverina (NSW) and Swan (WA). Production has also increased in the last from 85,000 tonnes in 2017 to 143,805 tonnes in 2022 with production growth projected to increase to approximately more than 200,000 tonnes by 2027.

The forum has continued to provide an event that allows the industry to take stock of completed research and identify potential new opportunities in research, development and extension projects. The forums featured on-site orchard tours facilitating knowledge uptake and technology adoption.

The ongoing objective of this project has been to enable participants to improve their knowledge, leading to enhanced business enterprises better able to compete in a sustainable manner. While the project's objectives have a primary focus on producers, the project aims to communicate across the entire value chain. The structuring of the program has also been important to facilitate information exchange between other producers / researchers and the development of networks that allow continued access to knowledge of other participants after the conferences and forums have concluded.

The Australian almond industry is a very dynamic one; wherein these activities play a key role in industry adopting world's best practices and technology, positively supporting industry levy payers and Hort Innovation, research organisations, and enabling participants of industry to make better business decisions in the following areas:

- Orchard design
- Water management
- Sustainability
- Plant nutrition
- Production cost management through input efficiency
- Pest and disease control
- Soil health
- New varieties
- Pollination
- Extreme weather events
- Product quality and food safety issues
- Ag-technology: autonomous vehicles
- Biosecurity
- Scope 3 emissions

These events attract strong attendance and presentations are made covering all aspects of the industry from plant improvement to promotion.

Keywords

Australian Almond Conference and Research and Development Forum

Introduction

The Conference and Field Days Project has followed on from AL12702, AL11702 and further projects covering Conferences from 2007. The focus of these events has been providing a broad range of timely information to all Australian almond industry stakeholders and interested parties. Industry events including Conferences, Forums and Field Days remain a high priority as per Hort Innovation's Strategic Investment Plan's Extension and Capability criteria: "provide opportunities for the required levels of engagement across the almond industry to innovate through trusted relationships".

The ABA is well positioned to undertake the Australian Almond Conferences & Field Day's program as it has developed a skilled staff base and a global network of contacts to ensure the highest quality content is involved. A thorough understanding of the almond industry R&D strategic plan that the ABA is responsible for implementing gives ABA staff a holistic approach to this project. The quality of the Australian Almond Conference has been widely recognised for many years and continuous improvement is an important driver of the conference remaining relevant and interesting.

The rapid growth of the Australian almond industry and high level of corporate investment has significantly increased the participation of professional managers who have high-level communication needs. The ABA strives to provide a range of communication avenues, tools and publications to enable access to knowledge in the most timely and suitable way.

The Almond Board of Australia has responsibility for representing 99% of Australian production and is responsible for implementing the industry strategic plan covering many facets of production, processing and market development. Communicating the actions required to implement the industry's strategic plan is crucial if the industry is to continue to work in the cohesive manner that has been the hallmark of its successful development to date. Hort Innovation's research program aims to deliver in part the knowledge and technologies required for the ABA to implement the industry strategic plan, but information is also sourced from researchers, suppliers and industry participants around the world to ensure Australian industry members are well placed to make strong business decisions.

Methodology

The strategy by which this project was delivered to the Australian almond industry and its stakeholders was multidimensional in that delivery methods were be linked, and target audiences were able to access information from a range of sources.

This project aimed to continue to deliver high standard events that the ABA has become renowned for since the first conference in 1999. A collaborative approach that has resulted in broad support has been underpinned by an active ABA organising committee and staff who have been able to provide knowledge and experience essential for effective event concepts, planning, management and evaluation.

In 2022, the conference adopted a theme around "doing more with less" in recognition of the growers' plight around escalating costs of production. More content than previous conferences was able to be covered in the same time frame by adding a second presentation area and running presentations on varying topics concurrently. This proved very popular and kept delegates engaged. The conference venue, the Adelaide Convention Centre, also added another dimension to the program as it provided more space and comfort that delegates in the post Covid-19 world appreciated.

Different communication methods are suited to different people, and this project utilises a range of communication methods including print, digital and written media as outlined below. Delivery methods are integrated so each contains links with others and encourages feedback and information sharing. It is essential that these outputs are readily available to all participants and service providers in a variety of formats to suit the diverse reach of intended audiences. At the October Conference live and interactive app Slido was used for the first time and allowed members of the audience to test message questions to presenters. These questions appeared on the display screen and maximised the interaction with the expert presenters.

The ongoing objective of these projects is to provide an effective program to enable industry participants to improve their knowledge, leading to enhanced business enterprises better able to compete in a sustainable manner. While the project's objectives will have a primary focus on producers, the project aims to communicate across the entire supply chain. It has never been more important given the increased workforce and number of on-farm workers new to the almond industry.

Areas covered since 2017 included:

- Production: orchard design; rootstocks; varieties; pollination, irrigation; nutrition; pest and disease control; soil health; robotics and automation; harvest technologies; on farm dehydration and storage; carbon efficiency; and quality assurance.
- Processing: hulling; shelling; packaging; phytosanitary requirements; food safety; new products and quality assurance.
- Marketing: domestic & export including nutrition research; market analysis; market development and market access.
- Sustainability: What is it, how do we tackle it and who is driving the need were all covered to enhance adoption.
- Operating Environment: economic updates; Australian Almond industry statistics (plantings, production, sales); climate change, water availability; biosecurity; labour.

Increasing capacity to meet the challenges, firstly involves knowing what the challenges will be and secondly, having a knowledge base of how the challenges can be met. The programs delivered these messages on several levels, including:

1. High calibre national and international speakers linked to the industry in various capacities to outline challenges and opportunities.
2. Sessions that outline the importance of continuing to produce high quality almonds as a means of meeting the challenge including speakers from VIC DPI, PIRSA, SARDI, DEDJTR on pest & disease management.
3. Case studies from other industries to show how they met challenges facing Australian growers.
4. Educating industry at an operational and sensory level with presentations.

With these objectives in mind, the project achieved key outcomes including:

- Effective stakeholder engagement at each event
- Event communications distributed to industry contacts spanning the almond industry supply chain, including growers, processors, marketers, nurseries, beekeepers, chemical providers, research providers, investors, etc.
- Effective up-to-date website pages that provide a comprehensive information source for anyone seeking information relevant to Australian almond industry events
- Dissemination of conference/event proceedings including copies of presentations and abstracts
- Hosting acknowledged ag-orientated media representatives to further spread the word on the conference content.

Images:

[2022 Australian Almond Conference - Australian Almonds](#)



- *A full house at the Loxton Research Centre for the 2019 R and D Forum*



- Below: Images from the 2017 R and D forum in Loxton.



Results and discussion

Since the inception of this Project technological advances and a pandemic have provided change and challenges for all the ABA and its stakeholders.

After sustaining increasing growth and interest with two Research and Development Forums in 2017 and 2019, and a Conference in Melbourne in 2018, it would be another three years before another ABA major event could be held. Due to covid restrictions, the scheduled 2020 Conference in Adelaide was postponed by a year twice before returning in October 2022.

2022 Australian Almond Conference

While industry stakeholders could not gather for face to face events during the pandemic, the shutdown of social distancing did nothing to stop the momentum of growth within the Australian almond community nor the appetite for new and better ways to do more with less. As a result, the 2022 Conference far exceeded expectations in both attendance and content. Moving from a hotel setting to a purpose built Convention Centre facility in Adelaide was a game changer for the event. The ABA was able to increase the footprint of the event and run presentations on two stages concurrently to cater for more fields of interest and updates of Hort Innovation supported projects.

The ongoing costs of production pressures was the key focus of the conference and with an ever-growing cohort of newcomers, the appetite for networking and knowledge about doing things more efficiently, more sustainably and more cost effectively had also grown. There was also a lot of new members of the industry attending for the first time. Corporate growers recognised it as a personal development opportunity for many of their staff. Just as the events of 2017, 2018 and 2019, the 2022 Conference acted as a one-stop shop for getting answers on a range of issues through attending presentations, getting one-on-one access to expert speakers or simply interacting with other more experienced growers throughout the three days. Dividing the content into two stages within the same venue increased the volume of information provided while innovations like the phone app Slido enhanced the interactivity and kept presentations relevant.

Making the switch to a purpose-built venue like the Adelaide Convention Centre was also a significant factor in the success of the event. Behind the scenes support from the centre's staff in IT and set up before and during the event took the quality of the experience to a new level.

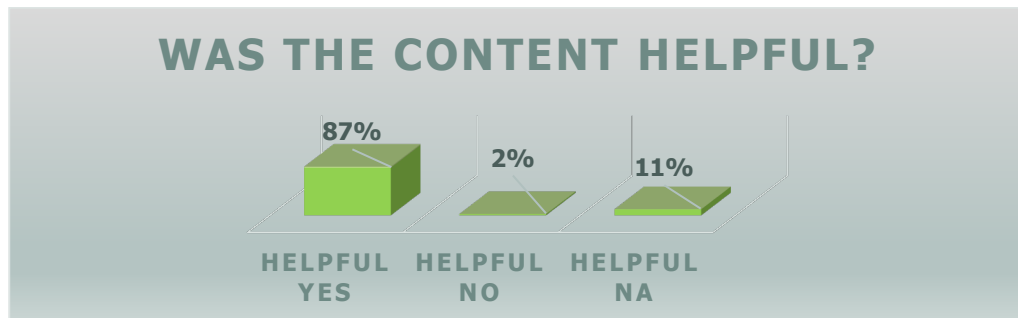
Identifying quality presenters, engaging MCs and relevant subject matter for the target audience combined to produce an event that delivered wide ranging benefits for the attendees. The fundamental secret to its success was seeking feedback from key stakeholders on the challenges being faced on farm and in the market well before framing a program and then delivering experts who could help address those same issues. Across all four events, the lynchpin was the efforts of a dedicated ABA team who came together to ensure the event was a memorable experience for all who attended.

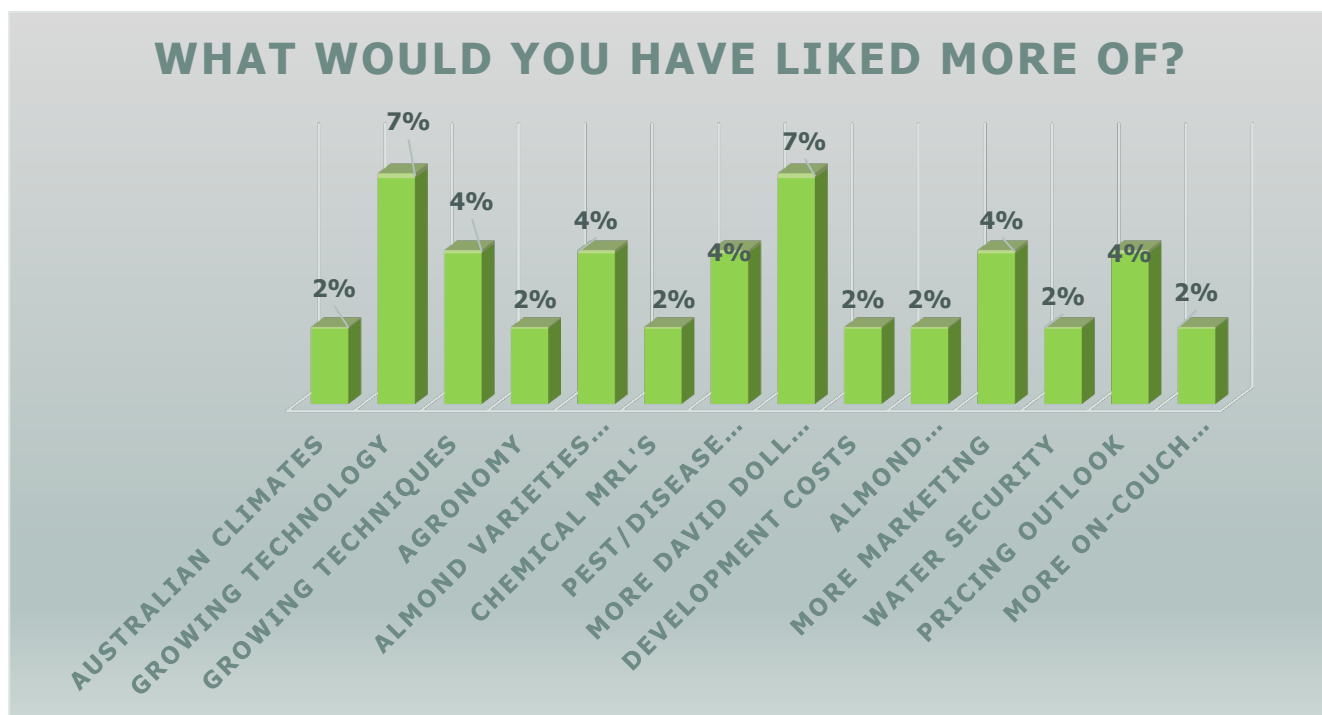
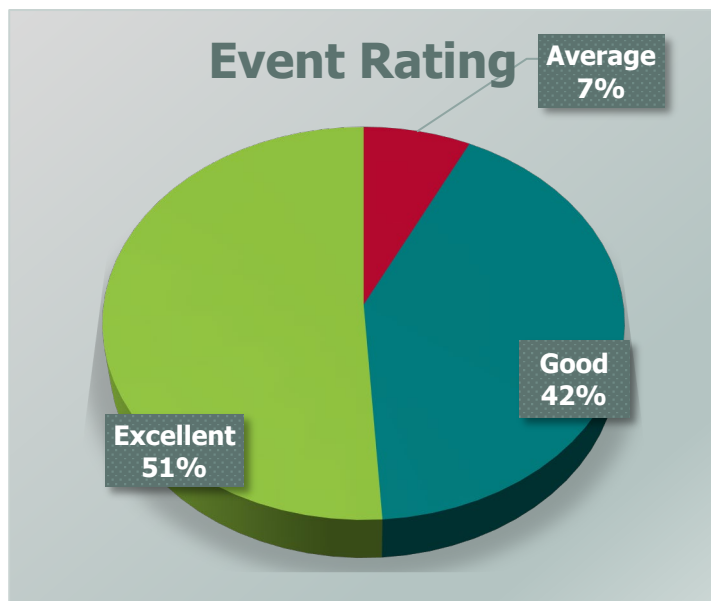
There were 575 delegates registered for the event, up from the 484 registered in 2018, an increase of 18.3%.

Delegate survey conducted through the online registration portal revealed that the content and event itself was rated highly.

In the name of continual improvement, the survey sought feedback on what they would like to see more of in 2024 and whether the conference was helpful to their business. The high satisfaction rating indicated that stakeholders from across the industry had found the conference helpful to their business. It was also noted the engaging world renowned experts like Patrick Brown and David Doll was a big hit with growers.

A wide range of PR initiatives were introduced to foster collaboration and information sharing. (See





- See Appendices 1 – 2022 Conference program

2017 Australian Almonds R and D Forum - Loxton

The Research & Development forum was held at the Loxton Research Centre on 24th October, 2017, with the accompanying Field Day hosted by Century Orchards at Loxton on 25th October, 2017.

The Program was developed by the ABA staff working with the Conference Committee comprising the ABA Chair, Neale Bennett, Deputy Chair Damien Houlahan, and immediate past Chair and SIAP member Brendan Sidhu.

The program was developed to cover the almond R&D program currently being undertaken or recently concluded that had progressed to the point of having valuable information to convey. In addition to the researchers, Corrine Jasper and Alok Kumar of Hort Innovation provided information on the new funding model and opportunities for the almond industry in the Frontiers Fund. The ABA reported on the progress in establishing the Almond Centre's Experimental

Orchard at Loxton as the home for the industry's R&D trials. A major element of the Forum was the inclusion of an overseas presenter to talk on a topic that would be of particular interest to producers. The organising committee agreed that a presentation on the efficacy of spraying operations and how this can aid in better implementing IPM programs was an ongoing challenge in the industry. It was agreed to invite Matt Strmiska to present as he is an acknowledged expert in this field with extensive experience in the Californian almond industry and also has knowledge and experience of the Australian production sector.

A focus during the planning process was to have a balance of technical and practical presentations across the Production and Processing aspects of the industry. Presenters were requested to present their information in a manner suited to the predominantly grower audience.

The field days were also planned around key industry suppliers with some novel technologies also on display. These included all the Californian harvest machinery manufacturers, local orchard contractors involved in preparing orchards for planting / replanting, nutrient suppliers, task management software providers, and a drone operator applying SPLAT, a mating disruption chemical for Carob Moth.

The field day site at Century Orchards was chosen as it was not only in close proximity to Loxton Research Centre but also was one of the industry's best performing producers and the site of new variety trials and an early adopter of the University of South Australia dehydration technologies. Prof. John Fielke of the University was on site to demonstrate the moisture monitoring equipment.

Given the spread of varietal trials around the orchard, mini buses were organised to take people to the sites where the ABA Industry Development Officers provided information on the new varieties.

Event proceedings distributed to participants.

Immediately after the forum had finished, all of the PowerPoint presentations were placed on the Almond Board of Australia website. In addition, video footage of all presentations were also uploaded at the following address <https://growing.australionalmonds.com.au/2017-research-forum/2017-almond-rd-forum-presentations/>.

During the Forum, all attendees were informed that the presentations would be available on the ABA website and an email was also sent to all attendees on Friday 27th October.

The R&D Forum was attended by over 200 participants, the maximum capacity of the Loxton Research Centre. This represented an increase of 82% over the previous Forum held in 2015. All major producers were represented with over eighty percent of industry production in attendance. A small number of people attempted to register on the last day or two, well after the registration deadline, and could not be accommodated.

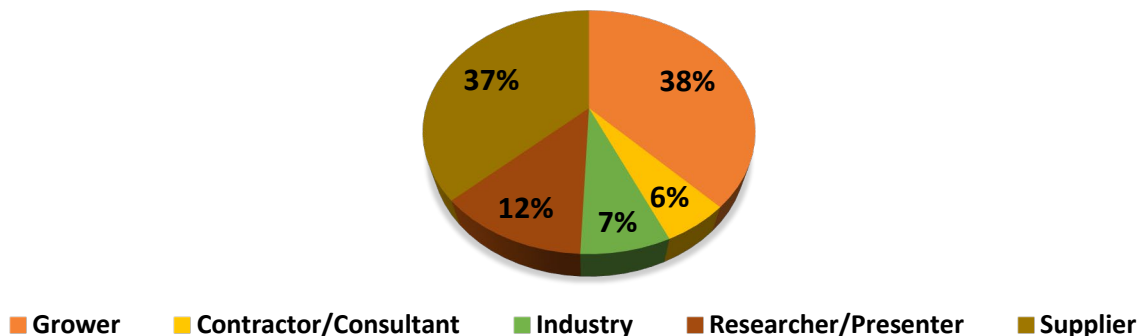
Breaking down the participation across the two-day event, 83 of the attendees were growers. This represents a strong percentage as the industry has less than 200 producers. As a proportion of total production, the figure is much higher as all major and most medium production enterprises were represented. These attendees produce at least 80% of the almond industry's annual tonnage. Interest from almond industry supply companies followed closely with 37% as they find it a valuable opportunity to improve their knowledge of almond production and are able to network with growers.

The supplier representation from the fertilizer and chemical companies is often their agronomists who provide advice to producers so it is encouraging to see such a strong attendance from this sector. Likewise, the attendance of consultants was a pleasing result.

The Industry figure comprised the ABA staff as well as industry processors and marketers. The attendance by the industry's processors and marketers covered 96% of production.

Most current, recent past and prospective researchers attended and gave them an opportunity to see the broader almond research program and meet others engaged in developing and delivering the knowledge, and technologies needed to implement the industry's strategic plan. The mix of attendees included producers, processors, marketers, agronomists with suppliers, consultants, researchers, Hort Innovation staff and media.

R&D Forum Attendee Breakdown

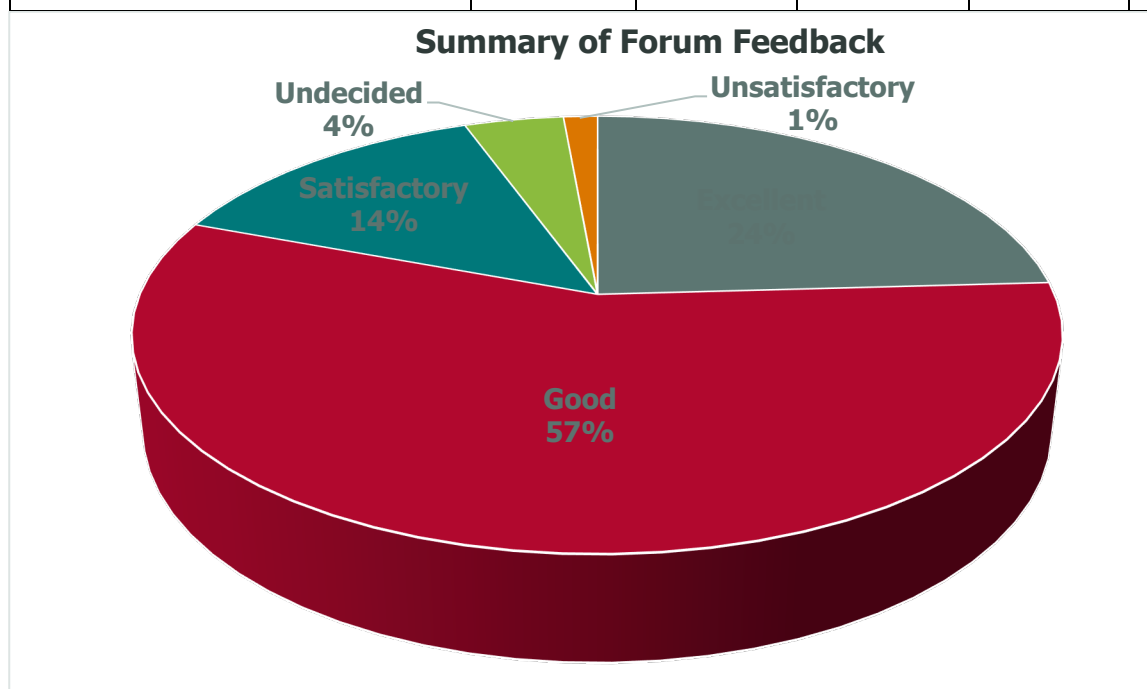


Conference feedback was gained through a number of means including interactive surveys emailed to participants at the conclusion of the R&D Forum, telephone feedback and verbal comments. Evaluations were used to gauge effectiveness of the R&D Forum program, venue and speakers and will be used to make changes and improvements for future events.

Following is a summation of the results from the survey emailed to attendees:

Organisational & Administration aspects of the Forum	Excellent (%)	Good (%)	Satisfactory (%)	Undecided (%)	Unsatisfactory (%)
Choice of Facility	44.83	41.38	10.34	0.00	3.45
Forum Catering	51.72	31.03	17.24	0.00	0.00
Length of Forum	24.14	62.07	13.79	0.00	0.00
Length of Forum Sessions	17.24	65.52	10.34	3.45	3.45
Number of Speakers & Sessions	31.03	48.28	17.24	3.45	0.00
Registration process	55.17	34.48	6.90	0.00	3.45
Scheduling/Timing of Forum	37.93	55.17	6.90	0.00	0.00
Rating of Forum attributes					
Forum Structure	17.86	60.71	17.86	3.57	0.00
Relevance of Presentations	22.22	59.26	18.52	0.00	0.00
Balance & Mix of Topics	18.52	66.67	11.11	3.70	0.00
Quality of Speakers & Presentations	7.14	75.00	7.14	10.71	0.00
Forum Value for money	14.29	67.86	10.71	7.14	0.00
Overall how would you rate the R&D Forum presenters and topics?					
Expertise on topics presented	20.69	55.17	13.79	10.34	0.00
Clarity of presentations	17.24	62.07	17.24	3.45	0.00
Level of new information provided	13.79	58.62	13.79	10.34	6.90

Effectiveness of presentation	10.71	64.29	17.86	7.14	0.00
Amount of new information learned	6.90	58.62	24.14	6.90	6.90



Following the R&D Forum, all the presentations were posted on the ABA website within two days and since the event, the site has been viewed 611 times, nearly 3 times the number of attendees.

The Forum was one of the first large scale events held at the Loxton Research Centre and it performed very well with only minor concerns. A post Forum meeting was held by the ABA staff and the event was later considered by the ABA Board of Directors. Feedback regarding the facilities has been provided to PIRSA. This covered: the lack of fixed cabling to the audio-visual support desk at the rear of the audience; the positioning of the monitor screen for the presenters at the back of the audience is large but could be mounted much closer to the podium; and the lack of cover to provide shelter against poor weather during meal breaks. Due to the lack of shelter, few attendees stayed after proceedings for networking and refreshments which led to significant over-catering.

The review immediately following the Forum by ABA staff noted:

- The facility generally being new presented very well.
- The attendance was the maximum the facility could hold and registrations were closed leaving some unable to attend. The Loxton Research Centre capacity was double the 2015 venue and was still not sufficient. A lack of modern venue capacity in the almond producing regions will be an ongoing issue.
- The registration process ran smoothly, however, some growers left registration to the last minute and were not able to be attend and their disappointment led to some hostility.
- When it became apparent the attendance was going to be much stronger than the past Forum promotional efforts were curtailed.
- Having a keynote international speaker focusing on a topic of much interest to growers worked very well in gaining strong producer attendance.
- Most presentations were very good and were targeted to the grower audience rather than the researcher's peers. There were a few instances of the key messages being lost in a mass of information download. Generally, it is hard for presenters to please everyone in the audience but no negative comments about the program or presenters were made to ABA staff.
- The caterers did an excellent job under trying circumstances.

The conclusion on the Forum was that the day was successful in achieving its aims and showcased the industry and the research program in a professional manner. The limited hotel accommodation in Loxton meant that those that left it late

to book were forced to find hotel and motel rooms in neighboring towns.

Positive informal feedback from participants was received by the ABA staff and Directors who reviewed the Forum at the ABA Board Meeting held November 21. The Board concluded that the capacity attendance and the excellent response to the program and presenters had resulted in a very successful day that had provided valuable exposure to the recently completed and current research. The Board noted that the combination with the Field Day had worked very well as participants were able to view at Century Orchards the practical application of the knowledge and technologies from the research program.

The day continued to build connections with the US industry. The following email was received from Matt Strmiska, the keynote international presenter at the Forum:

"It was an honor to be asked to speak for the Almond Board of Australia at the 2017 R&D Forum. Not only did the Board make it easy for me to travel from California, but I was able to speak along-side other wonderful researchers and projects. The audience was engaged and inquisitive throughout my portion, which signals to me that the ABA knew what the attendees needed to hear. The ABA is truly a professional group and it showed at the R&D Forum. Thank you for the opportunity to assist in the betterment of the Australian almond industry".

2018 Australian Almond Conference - Melbourne

The 18th AAC that was held in Melbourne at the Pullman Hotel on October 30th – November 1st 2018 was the highest attended conference to date, with 484 registered delegates. The trade exhibition had 45 stands (maximum available), reserve lists have been established for the 2020 AAC. Growers, marketers, processors, suppliers and members of the research community attended in strong numbers and benefited from the carefully crafted program but also from the networking that takes place at this biennial industry event.

The Conference was widely acknowledged as the best conducted to date with much positive feedback provided during the event from all sectors of participants. The calibre of speakers and keynote presenters on the program is the foundation on which a successful Conference is based and the 2018 program covered a wide mix of topics with engaging presenters. The program enabled industry participants to build on their knowledge in areas such as: best practice and research updates; industry supply and demand statistical data; market development information; and an insight into future risks and opportunities.

The 31st October (Day 1) was opened by Senator the Hon. Richard Colbeck, the Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources. The first day was divided into three segments, the first being: production technology which had a panel discussion concluding the segment. The second; global market development and third; global almond industry both of which had speakers from California displaying the relationship between the Australian and American industry. The 1st November (Day 2) included a session on future challenges, national marketing advantages and the future of Australian almonds.

Both international and national keynote speakers gave presentations at the 2018 conference including: Brent Holtz, Pomology Farm Advisor, University of California; David Haviland, Entomology Farm Advisor, University of California; Richard Waycott, President and CEO, Almond Board of California; Hayden Higgins, Senior Analyst – Horticulture, Wine, Rabobank (New Zealand); and local keynote speaker Bernard Salt, Social Commentator, The Demographics Group. The attendance at each other's conferences has helped establish and build the strong relationship that exists between the Australian and Californian Almond Industries.

Networking was a key reason for many delegates attending the Conference. The Welcome Function, Dinner and Trade Exhibition provided a good environment to meet with the wide range of delegates and develop worthwhile contacts with whom to exchange ideas and practices. The almond industry is recognized for its co-operative nature and the Conference is an event that enhances this characteristic of unity with shared advice building the spirit of support and community within the industry members.

The sold out Dinner welcomed its eleventh inductee into the Hall of Fame, Mr Maxwell Fremder, acknowledging his role in pioneering large scale orchard developments and modern processing facilities that have become the basis of the current Australian industry. The induction ceremony acknowledged Max's contributions and the contributions past industry members have made in laying the foundation for the almond industry that is now one of Australia's most

valuable horticultural industries.

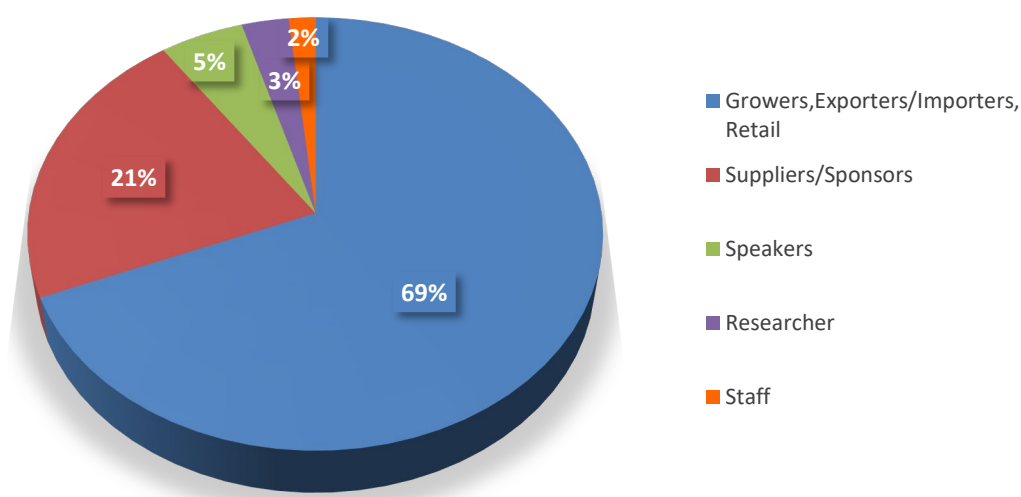
The Australian Almond Conference was attended by a record 484 registered delegates. The proceedings and accompanying events went to plan without incident. The survey revealed that 53% of attendees rated the conference as “A lot better than expected” and “Better than expected”. Given that the 2016 AAC was a successful event, these numbers corroborate the positive verbal feedback we received for the 2018 AAC.

Event proceedings distributed to participants.

Following the Conference, delegates were notified on Wednesday, 14th November 2018, that the PowerPoint presentations had been uploaded to the Almond Board of Australia’s website:
<https://industry.australianalmonds.com.au/research-topics/2018-australian-almond-conference-presentations-slides/>.

Evaluation was established through a number of avenues, a survey sent to all participants (appended), and feedback from emails / phone conversations. The Conference was our largest ever in terms of participants and exhibitors, attended by 484 delegates; an increase of 18% from the previous conference held in 2016 (full list, appended).

Australian Almond Conference Attendee Breakdown



Voluntary feedback was received from delegates and sponsors immediately following the Conference. Examples of these are: “My colleagues and I thought this year’s conference was better than our experience of the event in 2016” - Bayer CropScience and “Congratulations on organising the event it was great and very professionally run” - Australian Bee Services.

Survey results stated 68.42% of voting delegates thought the length of the conference sessions were “Good” or “Satisfactory” indicating some room for improvement. The comments from the delegates stated the length of the sessions could be longer, information more detailed or less presentations. Questions were occasionally cut short to stay within scheduled time frames, making some sessions feel hurried. Two full days of sessions and break out smaller sessions were suggested, this may be considered for the 2020 AAC.

Organisational & Administration aspects of the Conference	Excellent (%)	Good (%)	Satisfactory (%)	Undecided (%)	Unsatisfactory (%)
Choice of Facility	48.21	37.50	7.14	5.36	3.57
Conference Catering (Day)	36.84	42.11	14.04	5.26	1.75
Length of Conference Overall	38.60	50.88	10.53	0.00	0.00
Number of Speakers & Sessions	33.33	52.63	14.04	0.00	0.00

Registration process	61.40	36.84	3.51	0.00	0.00
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Speakers rated highly among delegates, averaging 71% of presentations as extremely engaging or very engaging. Bernard Salt, although costly, provided an entertaining and informative session for the day. Surveyed participants rated Bernard's presentation the best, with 75% of votes as extremely engaging and 21% as very engaging. The Conference Committee agreed to continue with a high profile keynote speaker for the 2020 AAC.

- See Appendices 3 – 2018 Conference Program

2019 R and D Forum – Loxton

Successful completion of the 2019 Australian Almond Industry Research & Development Forum.

The Australian Almond Industry Research & Development Forum & Field Day (AAIR&DF) was held at the Loxton Research Centre on October 30th, 2019, and the Field Day was held at the Almond Centre of Excellence Experimental Orchard in Loxton, South Australia on October 31st, 2019. The event combined was attended by a record 271 registered attendees. The program (appended) featured local presenters all receiving strong reviews, with one international speaker on the second day. The survey revealed that 50% of attendees rated the forum as "A lot better than expected" and "Better than expected". Given that the 2017 AAIR&DF was a successful event, these numbers corroborate the positive verbal feedback we received for the 2019 AAIR&DF.

Event proceedings distributed to participants.

Following the forum after receiving permission from speakers, the PowerPoint presentations were uploaded to our website. Delegates were notified on Friday, 15th November 2019, that the presentations had been uploaded to the Almond Board of Australia's website: <https://industry.australianalmonds.com.au/research-topics/2019-australian-almond-research-development-forum-field-day-presentations-slides/>

The forum was our largest ever in terms of participants and exhibitors, attended by 271 delegates (full list, appended) over the two days; an increase of 16% from the previous forum held in 2017. There were 15 machinery exhibitors, with numbers looking to increase at the next forum. Attendees had the opportunity to give feedback through a number of avenues. During the event a survey link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P2YBT8W> was available to all participants via a QR code in the program. Feedback was also gained by speaking with attendees, from emails and phone conversations.

Voluntary feedback was received from delegates and sponsors immediately following the forum. Examples of these are: "Congratulations on helping present a successful forum this year" – Australian Fumigation.

"The forum is great! I have a couple of our team who could not attend and wondered if there will be conference proceedings available later to look at." – Hancock Farmland Services Australia. One of our exhibitors mentioned that they received more interest from our field day than the two days they spent at another field day earlier in the year. – Gallard Group.

Survey results stated 87% of voting attendees thought the length of the forum sessions were "Excellent" or "Good" indicating that 20 minutes for the presentations worked well for the majority of speakers. Comments from delegates stated that the length of the question panels could be longer to encourage more interaction between the speakers and the attendees. Two full days has been suggested to incorporate more time for field walks, machinery field day site engagement and sessions running concurrently. This may be considered for the 2021 AAIR&DF.

Organisational & Administration aspects of the Conference	Excellent (%)	Good (%)	Satisfactory (%)	Undecided (%)	Unsatisfactory (%)
Choice of Facility	45	38	15	3	5
Conference Catering (Day)	48	35	10	5	5
Length of Conference Overall	31	59	8	3	0
Number of Speakers & Sessions	36	51	15	0	0

Registration process	58	30	10	3	0
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Speakers rated highly among delegates, averaging 73% of presentations as extremely engaging or very engaging. Ben Hooper (South Australian Apiarist Association) provided an overview of what beekeepers are facing, with the challenge of trying to keep up with demand of almond pollination in our industry. One key topic brought up was the access beekeepers have to public lands in various states with the corresponding land management of these sites, along with other key issues the apiarist industry is facing. Surveyed participants rated Hooper's presentation the best, with 63% of votes as extremely engaging and 33% as very engaging.

- See Appendices 2 – 2019 Forum program

Outputs

Table 1. Output summary

Output	Description	Detail
Design and deliver 2 conference and 2 Forums showcasing levy funded R and D.	2017 and 2019 Research and Develop Forums 2018 and 2022 Australian Almond Conferences	All four events attracted improved attendance throughout and positive delegate feedback on content and delivery.
Demonstrate effect these events had on Knowledge, Attitudes, Skills, Aspirations, Adoption.	A wide range of topics were cover that focused on the key issues of the day.	Throughout the four events engaging the acknowledged experts in a specific field proved popular with delegates. The response to hosting Californian almond growing experts/researchers Patrick Brown and David Doll proved extremely popular with growers searching for answers and affirmation on how do more with less. Survey results highlighted the satisfaction with delivery relevant and helpful content.

Outcomes

The Conference and R and D Forum content and delivery were largely aimed at meeting the Hort Innovation's Strategic Investment Plan's to improve capability and create an innovative culture in the Australian almond industry. Outcome 3 of the SIP focus on upgrading knowledge, skills and leadership. These major events are an integral plank in delivering that outcome.

Table 2. Outcome summary

Outcome	Alignment to fund outcome, strategy and KPI	Description	Evidence
Deliver knowledge to Australian almond growers and others to enable them to make better business decisions and enhance the sustainable viability of their enterprises.	This Project aligns with Outcome 3 of Hort Innovation's Strategic Investment Plan (SIP): Improved capability and an innovative culture maximise investment in productivity and demand. The conference provided training and leadership opportunities and also delivered insights to support change in areas of productivity and demand.	A range of speakers provided in-depth knowledge and advice on a wide spectrum of topics, including on-farm efficiency solutions.	575 people registered for the conference, with a large number of attendees providing feedback on the speakers and topics covered. The survey results indicated the speakers and content rated highest for the most liked aspect of the event. Of the speakers Patrick Brown and David Doll rated the highest for most valuable content. Both speakers provided attendees with practical advice and resources on how growers can make their operations more efficient.
Provide information to almond levy payers on how their funds are being invested to enable them to be more informed, able to investigate the latest research on technology to improve growing practices and know what activities are taking place in their industry.	The conference content provide opportunity to meet a range of KPIs in Outcome 3 of the SIP, most notably the demonstrated growth in co-operation within industry and across industries leading to business and industry innovation.	A number of presentations on current ABA projects were delivered by researchers, project deliverers and industry experts.	The interest in the scientific and levy payer project talks was illustrated by the high volume of attendees at the stage where the talks were held. Survey results showed that 2 per cent of respondents indicated having more tech specific sessions as what they wanted to see improve the most, which shows how valuable the science-based topics were. There was also a strong uptake of question-asking platform for attendees to request further details surrounding those topics.
Distribute information on the ABA's international market information and marketing strategies.	As per Outcome 4 of the SIP, presentations on the ABA's domestic and export marketing initiatives to	Attendees were delivered a 'Global Nut Snapshot' and a 'Marketing Update', which provided significant	Survey results from attendees indicated 41 per cent of people said the speakers were the

	create and drive demand in new, emerging and existing markets were covered extensively.	information on the international state of play regarding export markets and marketing plans to encourage the consumption of almonds globally.	highlight of the conference and 38 per cent of people said the presentation content was the highlight. This indicates the satisfaction of the topics covered including the information provided on international markets and marketing strategies.
Distribute information on water infrastructure and pollination strategies.	As per Outcome 3 of the SIP, strategies aims to support positive change in the areas of productivity and demand were key considerations in presentations aim at increasing leadership in key areas such as pollination and water security.	Presentations included representation from the National Irrigators' Council, the Murray Darling Basin Authority, the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council and the Wheen Foundation.	Presentations from representatives from the National Irrigators' Council, the Murray Darling Basin Authority, the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council and the Wheen Foundation provided attendees and growers important information regarding water infrastructure and pollination strategies.

Monitoring and evaluation

The ABA is committed to a culture of continual improvement and as such consider the debrief and delegate feedback critical to ensure the next events are better than the previous version. The figures suggest that despite a large turnover in staff, the ABA has delivered events that are both helpful and presented in a manner that is easy to understand and in line with the latest trends and technologies. Further opportunity to interact with delegates will be explored at future events.

Table 3. Key Evaluation Questions

Key Evaluation Question	Project performance	Continuous improvement opportunities
Increase attendance at these key events by 5% per year.	There has been steady growth beyond the required 5% on conferences, while capacity issues restricted growth potential at the Forums 2017 and 2019.	Identifying potential participants and recruiting from within will be the key aim for future events. Many smaller growers still not perceiving value in attending the conference despite those who attended hailing it as so valuable to their business.
Evaluate the perceived value of these events through delegate survey.	All events were regarded to be helpful to stakeholders.	The post event debriefs are key to recognising areas in need of improvement. Staging secondary presentations more than once to allow for broader attendance will be considered for 2024 Conference. The concurrent staging of some topics was identified as an issue for attendees who wanted to watch both.

Commitment to self improvement will underpin post event staff and committee debriefs.	The expertise and resources required to stage an event as big as the conference was recognised as an opportunity for future events.	Seeking professional help to stage conferences and major events as required was recognised as the number priority by the team during the debrief.
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Appendix:

Promotion and public awareness

The 2022 event was widely promoted within the ABA database and beyond. It received widespread attention in the media. For the first time the ABA took a proactive approach and hosted rural-based journalists to attend the conference to improve their knowledge of the industry and establish a broader network of contacts.

The event was also covered extensively in industry journals.

Press releases



Almond Conference makes successful comeback

Over 550 people flocked to the 2022 Australian Almond Conference for three days of networking, presentations and exhibitions in Adelaide recently. The conference – which was the first since 2018 due to Covid-19 – was held at the Adelaide Convention Centre in early October and attracted people from all over Australia – and the world.

The world's leading almond agronomists David Doll and Professor Patrick Brown flew in from overseas to be among the keynote speakers to discuss how to do more with less on farm.

Updates on the various aspects of the industry's extensive research and development program including integrated pest and disease management, whole of orchard recycling, water efficiency and growing almonds on heavy soils were among the many issues covered. Australian Almond Board of Australia Chief Executive Officer Tim Jackson said in his 'State of the Industry' address that despite the recent challenges of Covid-19, Varroa mite, increase of input costs, storms and challenging weather, almond growers remained in a strong position to feed the world.

Mr Jackson said the 'plant-based food phenomenon' is helping drive demand along with the fact that as a growing proposition the non-perishable attributes of almonds and returns per megalitre used were attracting more investors to the industry.

"We are working toward zero waste as an industry and are well advanced," he said.

"To think that every piece of almond harvested is used. It changes the whole discussion around water use. With every kernel grown there is also a shell and a hull. Not that long ago they were considered waste. Today we are seeing innovative ways to utilise every part of the fruit grown, including energy, fertiliser and even furniture. It is an exciting time to be involved in an industry that is embracing its sustainability responsibilities."

"We aimed to provide delegates with as much information as possible but ensure we kept it as relevant as possible to growers of all sizes."

Mr Jackson said the Market Update by the industry's processors including ofi, Select Harvest, Nut Producers Australia and Almondco gave growers the latest insight into the challenges currently being addressed around the world.

The half year ABA Position Report unveiled at the conference, showed that China has continued to emerge as a key component of the export program making up more than 40% of all exports.

Exports, overall, were back on track with last year's record levels but domestic consumption was down.

The Almond Board launched a new purpose-built portal to assist growers benchmark their on-farm practices. Growers will be invited to sign up for the free service.

Mr Jackson said the portal would be an integral tool to help growers, processors and the industry in formalising what is going on a ground level and also meet consumer demands.

Mr Jackson said the support of sponsors, key stakeholders and service providers had ensured the conference broke all records. Attendance was up 40% on the previous best and trade exhibits up 25%.



National Almond Conference kicks off

Over 500 almond growers, industry experts and business stakeholders will converge on the Adelaide Convention Centre for the National Australian Almond Conference this week.

The first day of presentations will take place on Tuesday, October 11, followed by a Gala Dinner, while a second day of presentations will kick off on Wednesday, October 12.

Usually held every two years, the conference hasn't taken place since 2018 due to Covid-19, but is now back in business giving almond growers from across the country the opportunity to network, learn from a range of industry experts and peruse over 50 exhibitions.

World-renowned speakers from the US David Doll and Patrick Brown will lead a 50-strong list of speakers and panelists who will educate attendees over two days of presentations.

Almond Board of Australia Chief Executive Officer Tim Jackson said the program contained a number of international speakers and was designed to assist growers do more with less.

"There is an expectation from consumers that growers produce food sustainably so the conference will showcase how our industry is meeting those expectations," he said.

"Growers have been doing it tough with increased costs of production, 10-year low global pricing, heavy rain, hail damage and reduced beehive numbers, so it will be great opportunity to get together for the first time in four years and compare notes."

"We are a growing industry, so many of the new entrants will be experiencing a conference for the first time."

For more information about the conference or to request photographs contact Almond Board of Australia Communications Manager Jane Kuerschner by emailing jkuerschner@australialmonds.com.au.

To view the conference program visit here: <https://viewer.joomag.com/australian-almond-conference-program/0288763001664345137>

EDMs



The 2022 Australian Almond Conference is just a few weeks away and the Almond Board of Australia is excited to present a stacked line-up of experts and guests over the two days of presentations.

The aim of the Conference in 2022 – titled 'Growing together' – is to bring together as many stakeholders as possible after the unprecedented impact COVID-19 has had on our industry. The Conference program delivers on a wide range of topics from farm gate to plate, and helps growers understand how to 'do more with less'.

Early bird tickets still available!

The early bird ticket special is open until Friday, September 23!
Full registration includes two days of presentations, entry to our welcome function and a seat at the always-popular Gala Dinner.
GET IN QUICK - Tickets are selling fast!

[Register here](#)





Registrations for the 2022 Almond Conference at the Adelaide Convention Centre October 10-12 are now open. [Register Now!](#)

The event is focused on delivering key information on growing almonds and access to some of the world's leading authorities.

Two of the industry's leading agronomists - the Almond Doctor David Doll and Californian-based guru Patrick Brown have both agreed to attend the conference. Their key focus areas is managing inputs in the most effective way. Everyone is facing the same challenges around do the same with less, so David and Patrick will be available to discuss grower problems during the conference.

To assist with access, the conference will for the first time feature a Speakers' Corner, where grower members can book a one-on-one chat with guest speakers like David and Patrick. We look forward to seeing you there.

The conference will also be offering a discounted registration fee for ABA members, so the time is right to also become a 2022-23 member. Building a detailed membership database is a critical tool in communicating on a range of issues and challenges. [Become a member.](#)

If you're interested in sponsoring this event, please view the 2022 Sponsorship Prospectus or contact us at events@australianalmonds.com.au for more information.

[AAC Prospectus 2022 Interactive spreads final copy](#)

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Get in quick to secure your spot as a Sponsor or Exhibitor at the 2022 Australian Almond Conference. There are a range of sponsorship packages that offer unique opportunities to align your brand with this successful industry event.

If you would like to confirm your sponsorship/exhibition participation, please complete the online booking form below. Registrations will close on 29 July 2022.

We look forward to you joining us as we all get back together.

[AAC Prospectus 2022 Interactive spreads final copy](#)

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Official program now available!

The 2022 Australian Almond Conference is just around the corner, and the official program is now available.

For the first time ever, the conference will feature concurrent sessions meaning there is more content on offer than ever before, with dozens of presentations and panels meaning there is sure to be something to peak everyone's interest.

There will also be opportunities to meet a range of experts and get face-to-face knowledge and advice on a range of topics.

The full program is available below, so have a flick through and start planning your time at the conference now!



MEMBER OFFER

As a current Almond Board of Australia member, we are excited to invite you along to our 2022 Australian Almond Conference at a discounted price. Plus if you register for this year's conference before Friday, September 9, you will also receive an early bird special.

Conference pricing:
Registering By Friday, 9th September (Early Bird):
 Full Registration (Member) - \$400
 Full Registration (Non-Member) - \$470
 Day Registration - \$220ea

Registering After Friday, 9th September:
 Full Registration (Member) - \$500
 Full Registration (Non-Member) - \$570
 Day Registration - \$270ea

This year's event will feature expert speakers, including David 'The Almond Doctor' Doll, Patrick Brown, from California, plus panels on sustainability, presentations on irrigation, BeeFriendly Farming, the health of almonds, export marketing and much more.

After years of uncertainty due to Covid-19, we are thrilled to present this conference once more and cannot wait to reconnect with people throughout the industry.

To secure your spot visit: <https://australianalmonds.com.au/events/events-growing-together-2022-australian-almond-conference>



The 2022 Australian Almond Conference agenda is officially available for viewing, with a stacked line-up of experts and guests set to grace the Grand Stage and the Experts' Forum stage over the two days of presentations. The aim of the Conference in 2022 - titled 'Growing together' - will be bringing together as many stakeholders as possible by delivering a Conference program that educates, facilitates, collaborates and celebrates a wide range of issues from farm gate to plate, and helps growers understand how to 'do more with less'.

We thank all of our wonderful sponsors for supporting this event and look forward to coming together to present the conference after a lengthy break.





The 2022 Australian Almond Conference is just a month away and the Almond Board of Australia is excited to present a stacked line-up of experts and guests over the two days of presentations.

One of the conference's most prestigious guests is David 'The Almond Doctor' Doll, who will present on 'Balancing costs with yield'. Click on the video below to hear from David ahead of next month's conference.



The aim of the Conference in 2022 – titled 'Growing together' – is to bring together as many stakeholders as possible after the unprecedented impact COVID-19 has had on our industry. The Conference program delivers on a wide range of topics from farm gate to plate, and helps growers understand how to 'do more with less'.

Early bird tickets extended!

The early bird ticket special has been extended to Friday, September 23! To register and to view the full line-up of speakers follow this link: <https://australianalmonds.com.au/events/growing-together-2022-australian-almond-conference/>. Full registration includes two days of presentations, entry to our welcome



Were you snapped?



The 2022 Australian Almond Conference is all done and dusted and what a massive few days it was.

The Almond Board of Australia would like to thank of our attendees, all of the speakers and panellists for sharing their time and valuable knowledge and to all of our sponsors, in particular a huge thank you to our major sponsors Haifa Group and Stoller Australia Pty Ltd for their ongoing support of the event.

And to all of the exhibitors, who put on such impressive, interesting and worthwhile displays, we cannot express our appreciation enough to everyone who chose to be apart of this event.

Many of you would have seen photographer John Kruger around the place over the three days capturing a lot of great moments, from the presentations to the glitz and glam of the red carpet at the Gala Dinner.



The Australian Almond Conference is here!

The 2022 Australian Almond Conference is finally here! Today will kick off with our Annual General Meeting at 4pm, before the official Welcome Function begins at 6pm. Tomorrow's registrations will begin at 8am, with the official opening starting at 8.30am.

We look forward to seeing all our registrants either today or tomorrow. Anyone who was unable to make it to this year's conference can follow along through our social media channels (links available at the bottom of the email). To have a look at the list of speakers, exhibitions and event details click on the program below.



Program



Media coverage

- SA Farmer, November 2022

safarmer.com.au

Almond conference makes successful comeback

WORDS HUGH SCHUITMAKER

METHODS for minimising Riverland almond production waste and increasing international exports were key aspects of a major industry conference in Adelaide recently.

Over 550 people attended the 2022 Australian Almond Conference, held over three days last month at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

Leading international almond agronomists David Drell and University of California Professor Patrick Brown were among keynote speakers at the event, and discussed how to do more with less on local farms.

Updates on aspects of the industry's research and development program, including integrated pest and disease management, whole-of-orchard recycling, water efficiency and growing almonds on

heavy soils were also among the issues covered in the state of the industry address. Almond Board of Australia chief executive officer Tim Jackson said despite the recent challenges of Covid-19, various rain, an increase of input costs, storms and challenging weather, Riverland almond growers remained in a strong position to feed the world.

"We aimed to provide delegates with as much information as possible, but ensured we kept it as relevant as possible to growers of all sizes," Tim said.

Tim said a "plant-based food phenomenon" had driven further demand for almonds in overseas markets.

"As a growing proposition the non-perishable attributes of almonds and the returns per negative used are attracting

more investors to the industry," he said.

"We are working toward zero waste as an industry and are well advanced."

"To think that every piece of almond harvested is used... changes the whole discussion around water use."

"With every kernel grown there is also a shell and a hull. Not that long ago they were considered waste, but today we are seeing innovative ways to utilise every part of the fruit grown, including energy, fertiliser and even furniture."

"It is an exciting time to be involved in an industry that is embracing its sustainability responsibilities."

Tim said a market update from processing companies including Aft, Select Harvest, Nut Producers Australia, and Almondco provided an insight into current export opportunities.



The half year ADA Position Report, unveiled at the conference, showed China continued to emerge as a key component of the almond export program, receiving more than 40 per cent of all exported almonds.

"Overall exports were back on track with last year's record levels, but domestic consumption was down," Tim said.

The Almond Board of Australia also launched a new purpose-built portal at the event, aimed at assisting growers benchmark their on-farm practices.

Tim said the portal, which is free to

use, would be an "integral tool to help growers, processors and the industry in formulating what is going on at ground level, and also meet consumer demands."

Tim said attendance for the conference had been 40 per cent higher than the event's previous best, with trade exhibits also increasing by 25 per cent for this year.

Doctor Michelle Wirthensohn was awarded a Contribution to Industry Award at the conference's gala dinner, while John Dird was posthumously inducted as a hall of fame member.

ABOVE
Almond Board of Australia's market development manager Joseph Elabage and industry development officer Josh Fialla with board member Luke Stockel. PHOTOS: supplied



Doctor Michelle Wirthensohn received a Contribution to Industry Award at the gala dinner.



RIGHT
Almond agronomist Patrick Brown, from the University of California, and David Drell took part in a question-and-answer session during the conference.

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Australian Almond Conference makes successful comeback for 2022 | PHOTOS

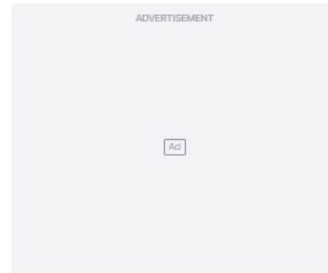
Updated October 20 2022 - 12:10pm, first published October 19 2022 - 12:30pm



📷 Patrick Brown, from the University of California, and David "The Almond Doctor" Doll, taking part in a lively Q and A, fielding questions from the audience during the 2022 Australian Almond Conference this month. Picture by John Kruger

A SURGE towards plant-based foods is helping counter the pressures from a global pandemic and rising input costs for the Australian almond industry.

It was one of the messages to emerge from the 2022 Australian Almond Conference where more than 550 people gathered for three days of networking, presentations and exhibitions in Adelaide recently.



[Australian Almond Conference makes successful comeback for 2022 | PHOTOS | Stock Journal | SA](#)

• Tree Crop, December/January 2023

NEWS

2022 Almond Conference a success

Over 550 people flocked to the 2022 Australian Almond Conference for three days of networking, presentations and exhibitions in Adelaide recently.

The conference – the first since 2018 due to COVID-19 – was held at the Adelaide Convention Centre in early October and attracted people from all over Australia – and the world.

The world's leading almond agronomists **David Doll** and Professor **Patrick Brown** flew in from overseas to be among the keynote speakers to discuss how to do more with less on farm.

Updates on the various aspects of the industry's extensive research and development program, including integrated pest and disease management, whole of orchard recycling, water efficiency and growing almonds on heavy soils were among the many issues covered.

In his 'State of the Industry' address, Australian Almond Board of Australia CEO **Tim Jackson** said despite the recent challenges of COVID-19, Varroa mite, increased input costs, storms and other challenging weather, almond growers remained in a strong position to feed the world.

He said the 'plant-based food phenomenon' is helping drive demand – along with the fact that as a growing proposition, the non-perishable attributes of almonds and returns per hectare used were attracting more investors to the industry.

"We are working toward zero waste as an industry and are well advanced," Mr Jackson said. "To think that every piece of almond harvested is used."

DECEMBER / JANUARY 2023



The packed 2022 Australian Almond Conference, marking a long awaited return of this important industry event – the first held since 2018.

It changes the whole discussion around water use. With every kernel grown there is also a shell and a hull. Not that long ago they were considered waste.

"Today we are seeing innovative ways to utilise every part of the fruit grown, including energy, fertiliser and even furniture. It is an exciting time to be involved in an industry that is enhancing its sustainability responsibilities."

"We aimed to provide delegates with as much information as possible but ensure we kept it as relevant as possible to growers of all sizes."

Mr Jackson said the market update by the industry's processors including off, Select Harvest, Nut Producers Australia and Almondco, gave growers the latest insight into the challenges currently being addressed around the world.

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Exports overall were back on track with last year's record levels, but domestic consumption was down.

The Almond Board has launched a new purpose-built portal to assist growers benchmark their on-farm practices. Growers will be invited to sign up for the free service.

Mr Jackson said the portal would be an integral tool to help growers, processors and the industry in formalising what is going on at ground level and help meet consumer demands.

He said the support of sponsors, key stakeholders and service providers had ensured the conference broke all records. Attendance was up 40% on the previous best and trade exhibits up 25%.

Dr **Michelle Wirthensohn** was awarded a 'Contribution to Industry Award' at the Gala Dinner, while **John Bird** was posthumously inducted as a Hall of Fame member.



A packed session signalled a welcome return of the Australian Almond Conference.

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Positive outlook at Almond Conference

The numbers for the long-awaited Almond Conference showed that people had really been waiting for it – a record 550 delegates attended over the three days at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

Held in early October, it had been postponed for over a year by Covid, like many other events in the tree nut sectors, but it was held with an atmosphere of a high degree of optimism for the future.

The South Australian Minister of Agriculture, Claire Scriven officially opened the conference then it was into the state of industry in a wide-reaching presentation by the Almond Board of Australia's (ABA) CEO Mr Tim Jackson, his first conference in that role.

Mr Jackson covered all the topics of relevance to delegates: the industry 'in a nutshell', global consumer megatrends, issues negatively affecting the industry, the ABA's Strategic Plan to combat them, the positive economic and social impact of their industry here in Australia, R & D and innovation and the projects currently underway, bees, water and market share country. He concluded by telling delegates how they can be more involved in the decision making through advisory committees, the Strategic Investment Advisory Panel and the ABA board itself.

What was pointed out at the start was the need to increase demand for Australia almonds as the investment in almond orchards continues.

"In 2001 there were 3,500 hectares of almond orchards, in 2021-22 there are 60,000 hectares and by 2026-27 it is predicted there will be 75,000 hectares of almond orchards established," he told the conference.

The good news he said that the plant-based food phenomenon was driving demand and more consumer awareness of health and wellness, and sustainability would help in targeting existing, emerging and new markets.

Mr Jackson's presentation set the scene for the speakers following, with the topics being addressed by panels and keynote speakers.

The outgoing (see page 36) CEO of Select Harvests, Mr Paul Thompson gave delegates food for thought when he spoke about the need to re-engage consumers to think differently and the importance of clarity in the marketing messages.

He said the industry needed to view success as not just profit, referring to its social licence to operate, and that industry needed to consider what, how and where it communicated.

"Our story has to address people, planet and profit."

Professor Patrick Brown from the University of California in Davis talked about managing nutrients in tough times – that is when prices are rising and prices are low.

AUSTRALIAN NUTGROWER SUMMER 2022



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Almond Industry Hall of Fame – John Bird

The success of Australia's almond industry is recognised worldwide and the late John Bird played a key role in establishing that reputation – this was recognised when John was inducted into the Almond Industry Hall of Fame at the recent conference.

From the presentation at the ABA Conference dinner...

Through board scale orchard expansion, John Bird helped take a thriving boutique industry and set it on a path to international prominence supplying more than 50 export markets. His big picture mindset and visionary developments underpinned a business philosophy that had a profound impact on the trajectory of the Australian almond industry.

During his time Australia almond production increased from about 4,000 tonnes annually at the turn of the century to about 80,000 tonnes, making almonds Australia's most valuable horticultural export commodity. John's vision for an internationally competitive Australian almond industry together with his financial, managerial and trading skills, was a key driver behind Australia becoming the second largest almond industry in the world.

John started in the nut trade in 1986 as a Financial Controller with Jorgenson Waring Australia. Trading in nuts and dried fruits, Jorgenson Waring sourced product from numerous countries and while John knew little about nuts and dried fruit at that time, he excelled in the trading environment.

Following his promotion to Managing Director of Jorgenson Waring Australia in 1988, annual sales of the company grew to \$110 million. While homegrown almond product was limited initially, through a joint marketing arrangement with Riverland Almonds and Select Harvests under the Allinga brand, the volume of Australian almonds traded increased substantially, highlighting the potential for significant growth of almond production in this country.



The Bird family were present to receive the plaque to honour John Bird's entry into the Almond Industry Hall of Fame.

John Bird was appointed CEO of Select Harvests in 1998 and soon after implemented a new business model establishing a processing and marketing division. To provide the necessary investment required for more extensive orchard projects, the company formed a strategic alliance with Timbercorp Limited to develop and manage almond orchards for investors which resulted in over 40,000 acres of new almond orchards. It was the dawn of a new era for Australian almonds raising production to global significance. By 2004, Select Harvests Limited managed around 65% of Australia's almond orchards and was in the top five growers internationally.

John shared his enthusiasm and expertise as an active member of the Australian Almond Growers Association setting the Almond Industry Marketing Committee on solid foundations, and later leading the newly structured Almond Board of Australia as Chairman from 2007 to 2009.

In the latter part of his career John had broadened his involvement in the almond industry as Sales Manager of Bright Light Australian Almonds, Non-Executive Director of Langdon Group, Director of IDAY Pty Ltd Agribusiness Consultancy, and Director of Almond Investors Limited.

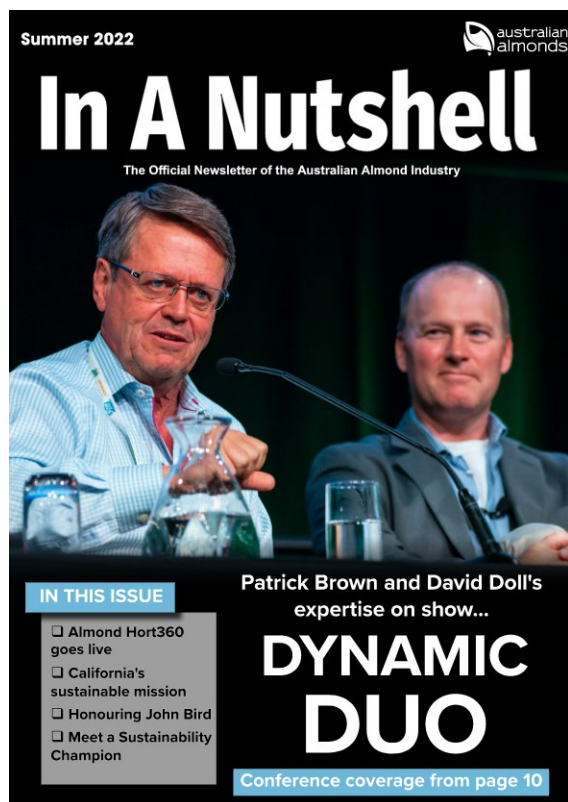
John passed away in 2015, aged only 56. He will be remembered with much admiration by his nut industry colleagues and friends in Australia and internationally.

John Bird was inducted into the Australian Almond Industry Hall of Fame in October, 2022.

AUSTRALIAN NUTGROWER SUMMER 2022

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In A Nutshell



Summer 2022

australian almonds

In A Nutshell

The Official Newsletter of the Australian Almond Industry

Patrick Brown and David Doll's
expertise on show...

DYNAMIC DUO

Conference coverage from page 10

IN THIS ISSUE

- Almond Hort360 goes live
- California's sustainable mission
- Honouring John Bird
- Meet a Sustainability Champion



Successful comeback for conference



Almond Board of Australia Chief Executive Officer Tim Jackson addresses the 2022 Australian Almond Conference.

MORE than 550 people flocked to the 2022 Australian Almond Conference for three days of networking, presentations and exhibitions in Adelaide in October. The conference – which was the first since 2018 due to Covid-19 – was held at the Adelaide Convention Centre and attracted people from all over Australia – and the world. The world's leading almond agronomists David Doll and Professor Patrick Brown flew in to be among the keynote speakers to discuss how to do more with less on farm. Updates on aspects of the industry's extensive research and development program including integrated pest and disease management, whole of orchard recycling, water efficiency and growing almonds on heavy soils were among the many topics covered. Australian Almond Board of Australia Chief Executive Officer Tim Jackson said in his 'State of the Industry' address that despite the recent challenges of Covid-19, Varroa mite, rising input costs, storms and challenging weather, almond growers

remained in a strong position to feed the world. Mr Jackson said the plant-based food phenomenon is helping drive demand, along with the fact that as a growing proportion the non-perishable attributes of almonds and returns per hectare used were attracting more investors to the industry. "We are working toward zero waste as an industry and are well advanced," he said. "To think that every piece of almond harvested is being used – it changes the whole discussion around water use. "With every kernel grown there is also a shell and a hull. Not that long ago they were considered waste. Today we are seeing innovative ways to utilise every part of the fruit grown, including energy, fertiliser and even furniture. "It is an exciting time to be involved in an industry that is embracing its sustainability responsibilities. "We aimed to provide delegates with as much information as possible but ensure we kept it as relevant as possible to growers of all sizes." Mr Jackson said the Market Update

by the industry's processors including off, Select Harvest, Nut Producers Australia and Almondco gave growers the latest insight into the challenges being addressed around the world. The half-year ABA Position Report unveiled at the conference showed that China continues to emerge as a key component of the export program making up over 40% of all exports. Exports, overall, were back on track with last year's record levels but domestic consumption was down. The Almond Board launched a new purpose-built portal to assist growers benchmark their on-farm practices. Growers will be invited to sign up for the free service. Mr Jackson said the portal would be an integral tool to help growers, processors and the industry in formalising what is happening on a ground level and also meet consumer demands. He said the support of sponsors, key stakeholders and service providers had ensured the conference broke all records. Attendance was up 40% on the previous best and trade exhibits up 25%.

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Expert advice on efficient farming



RENNOWNED almond expert David Doll spoke about the importance of operating properties efficiently and economically to hundreds of attendees at the recent Australian Almond Conference. Mr Doll, who attended the conference from Portugal, used his decades of experience and knowledge to share how growers can be more efficient by collecting the right data. He urged growers to collect a mix of 'backward looking' and 'forward looking' information. 'Backward looking' data includes the results of past activities and provides insights on how to operate in future, while 'forward looking' data allows for providing adjustments for in-season practices, such as irrigation and fertility.

Collecting this data through a range of methods helps focus efforts and ensures the relevant tasks are being taken care of, Mr Doll said. He shared what data he collects on his property, and how the information collected is used. Mr Doll said the most important step in becoming more efficient is identifying waste by categorising activities by 'actions that add value', 'actions that do not add value, but are necessary', and 'unnecessary actions'. He said 'unnecessary actions' can include over-irrigating, unnecessary pesticide applications, excessive driving to complete tasks, and collecting data and performing analysis that will not be used. Mr Doll showcased examples of how he has made his property

Data David Doll collects:

- Weather forecast and ETo estimates
- Soil moisture data
- Mid-summer leaf data
- Soil samples
- Satellite imagery
- Aerial imagery
- Hull analysis
- Pressure bomb/chamber
- Water meter data
- Valve pressures
- Various tree count data, yield and yield parameters
- Sap analysis
- Activity progress.

Data used for strategic decisions:

- Weather forecast and ETo estimates
- Soil moisture data
- Mid-summer leaf data
- Soil samples
- Aerial imagery
- Hull analysis
- Yield and yield parameters.

Data used for spot decisions:

- Valve pressures (adjusted on the spot)
- Pressure bomb/chamber
- Activity progress, pest reports.

Data not used regularly:

- Satellite imagery
- Various tree count data
- Sap analysis.

more efficient by taking the audience through real-life scenarios, demonstrating how even a small change like moving a pump station to cut down on travel resulted in a significant saving. Mr Doll also spoke about farming in Europe and the different conditions and challenges faced by almond growers in Portugal, with the biggest concerns at his orchard associated with rain, pests and diseases, which have wiped out some years' crops. Battling pests is made more challenging by strict pesticide regulations, with more registrations being cancelled each year. Mr Doll's presentation will be made available online.

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“The South Australian Government is proud to work closely with almond growers and is committed to working with growers well into the future.”



Minister for Primary Industries Clare Scriven, above, opens the 2022 Australian Almond Conference.

INSET: Almond Board of Australia Chairman Peter Hayes welcomed attendees to the first major industry event in three years.



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Industry has 'bright future' - Minister

THE 2022 Australian Almond Conference was officially opened by South Australian Minister for Primary Industries Clare Scriven. Ms Scriven said South Australia prides itself on its premium produce, of which almonds play a key role. She said the South Australian Government is proud to work closely with almond growers and is committed to working with growers well into the future. Ms Scriven touched on the Labor Government's connection with the Almond Board of Australia, with the Almond Centre of Excellence orchard officially unveiled by Labor seven years ago. She said she believes there is a "very bright future" for the industry and hoped to continue a strong relationship with the almond industry to see it continue to expand. Almond Board of Australia Chairman Peter Hayes also welcomed attendees to the conference at the Adelaide Convention Centre, expressing his joy of seeing the industry come together again after a forced break due to Covid-19.

Dynamic duo's knowledge shines

ONE of the highlights of the Australian Almond Conference was the Q and A session with Patrick Brown and David Doll, where attendees had the opportunity to ask questions of the two experts. Both highly-admired almond industry figures presented individually but came together on the final day to be asked questions by the audience, which was very well received by attendees. They both added their expert comments to the questions put to them by ABA's Josh Fiekie and often asked questions of each other. Topics put to the pair included getting potassium to trees, their thoughts on growing large canopies and proximity of plantings, and they also spoke about heavy rainfall conditions currently being experienced by Riverina growers.



Patrick Brown, left, and David Doll shared their expert industry insights in a special Q&A session.

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California's sustainable mission

REDUCING the amount of water used to grow almonds, increasing environmentally friendly pest management tools and achieving zero waste in orchards are key objectives for the Californian almond industry, according to the Almond Board of California's (ABC) Chief Scientist, Josette Lewis.

Josette Lewis outlined the ABC's mission to achieve a number of sustainable and environmentally friendly goals by 2025 when she addressed the Almond Board of Australia's recent conference. She spoke about the impressive take-up among Californian almond growers who are using a grower self-assessment tool as part of the California Almond Sustainability

Program, and other tools made available to growers to assist in further reducing the water used to grow almonds.

Ms Lewis also spoke about the challenges facing the Californian almond industry when it comes to pollination. Four species of native bees have been listed under the state's endangered species act, with the Californian almond industry cited as a threat to native bees.

However, foreseeing a potential problem, Ms Lewis helped establish the California Pollinator Coalition a year and a half ago. The move helped to confirm the industry's support for the protection of native bees.

"This was getting ahead of the story that says we are the reason these bees are declining and instead saying we are part of the solution," she said.

"We can add habitats on our farms and build back the biodiversity systems. If you don't do that with farms you can't resource some of these populations because the Central Valley is predominately farmed and private land."

"So we have to be part of the solution and we're stepping up."

Ms Lewis said an enjoyable aspect of her role is to advance the ABC's story of zero waste.

"The zero-waste mold has two value propositions to our industry," she said.

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Australia and California working together

THERE are many opportunities for the Australian and Californian almond industries to learn from each other, according to Josette Lewis, Chief Scientist from the Almond Board of California.

"It's really great to see we share a lot of the same challenges," she said.

"And while a lot of the learnings have been California sharing information that the Australian industry can take advantage of, I also think there's an opportunity for us to learn some things as well from the Australians."

"It's great to better understand the similarities and differences between our industries."

Ms Lewis said it was clear conference attendees were there to learn and improve.

"I think it's the same in California as it is in Australia (with a thirst for knowledge)," she said. "It's interesting to see the two different stages happening at the same time."

"You see a pretty big exodus of what looked like growers to me to hear about production research and we have that same dynamic at our conference."

"We spend more money on the marketing of almonds and we're growing global demand, which I think Australia can clearly take advantage of."

"But the growers who come really want to know how do I solve the problems in my orchard? how can I be more efficient and more profitable?"

"That's pretty much the same for us, so you get a lot of interest in those research panels so they can learn how to become a great grower."

Ms Lewis said it was more important than ever for growers to learn how to be efficient on their properties.

"It's a tough time for our industry in terms of profitability because of a whole host of problems like Covid-19 and the threat of global recession that really impacts our markets," she said.

"I'm hearing the same things here in Australia that growers are really feeling the pinch."

"It's a time maybe when you double down on efficiency and profitability, and less on pushing outward and upward and more on tending to the basics and I'm hearing a lot of those conversations here."

"I think it's a challenging time but still one where there's opportunity to make progress and that progress will still pay off in the future."

“ We have to be part of the solution and we're stepping up ...

- Almond Board of California's Josette Lewis

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Family growers at heart of Californian industry

DESPITE Californian almonds being the biggest heavyweight in the world when it comes to almond production, small family growers are still at the heart of the industry, according to Almond Board of California (ABC) President Richard Waycott.

Mr Waycott flew all the way to Adelaide from California to address attendees at the Australian Almond Conference and to give a snapshot of the Californian almond industry. His presentation well and truly illustrated the enormity of the industry, from the size of the almond board staff to the acreage covered in California by almond plantings and the vast marketing campaigns promoting almonds happening globally.

Mr Waycott said almond plantings in California had increased significantly since 2015, but most orchards were still under 100 acres (40 hectares) and 90 per cent of the almond orchards belonged to family farms.

He said bigger companies would continue to invest heavily in almonds and account for more plantings in the future, but for now it was largely a family business.

Touching on current challenging weather conditions, Mr Waycott said California (along with other western states) was in its third year of the third multi-year drought in the last 20 years.

Other challenges facing Californian almond growers included increasing input costs associated with pollination such as rising beekeeper costs to maintain hives and declining honey

revenue, plus increased costs of irrigation, rising energy costs to pump, high labor costs around harvest, and a huge cost spike for fertilisers.

There were plenty of positives Mr Waycott touched on in terms of the demand for almonds and it being the frontrunner in consumer preferences for plant-based options.

And despite the current drought conditions, the American almond industry is still forecast to produce over four billion pounds of almonds by 2030, up from the current 2.9 billion pounds of almonds currently being produced (pictured).

The Almond Board of California is currently implementing marketing programs in 10 different countries, with each program specifically tailored to consumers based in each country.

During his visit to South Australia, Mr Waycott also participated in the Almond Board of Australia's Open Day at the Almond Centre of Excellence in Loxton, along with ABC Chief Scientist Josette Lewis.

California's almond production is forecast to produce a whopping four billion tonnes of almonds by 2030.

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Michelle's almond industry honour

Following over two decades of dedication to the Australian almond industry, Dr Michelle Wirthensohn was honoured with a Contribution to Industry Award.

DR Michelle Wirthensohn was honoured with a Contribution to Industry Award at the Australian Almond Conference Gala Dinner for her hard work and dedication to the almond industry over the past two decades.

Almond Industry Hall of Fame member Andrew Lacey spoke to the crowd about Dr Wirthensohn's background and involvement in the industry, touching on how she came to work with almonds.

Dr Wirthensohn is currently the Program Leader of the National Almond Breeding Program based at the Waite Campus of the University of Adelaide and has dedicated much of her professional career to the study of almonds.

She joined the university's Almond Breeding Program in 2000 after it was first started in 1997.

Dr Wirthensohn was recommended to the organisers of the program after she finished her Doctorate and she took up the position with much enthusiasm.

"The program's success was reliant on strong connections with overseas breeders, and Michelle helped establish great relationships with contacts abroad," Mr Lacey said.

"She worked with Waite and overseas researchers to complete the DNA profile of the almond, which has played a pivotal role in the breeding program, with the profile providing a much clearer path to what would assist the goals of the industry and made quick progress possible."

Mr Lacey said Michelle showed immense dedication to the program and spent a significant amount of time overseas working on the research, and even took her family on longer stays.

"She has always given 100 per cent to the program for the benefit of almond growers, and has played a pivotal role in the growth of the Australian almond industry," he said.

Dr Wirthensohn's legacy includes the varieties released by the program, including five self-fertile varieties, but also the new ones to be released in the future.

She will enter into a much-deserved retirement in July 2023 after over 20 years of incredible dedication and hard work.

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THE success of Australia's almond industry is recognised worldwide – and the late John Bird played a key role in establishing that reputation. John's legacy was honoured at the Australian Almond Conference Gala Dinner when he was inducted into the Hall of Fame, posthumously. John's proud family members were in attendance to accept the honour on his behalf. Through board scale orchard expansion, John helped take a thriving boutique industry and set it on a path to international prominence supplying more than 50 export markets. His big picture mindset and visionary developments underpinned a business philosophy that had a profound impact on the trajectory of the Australian almond industry. During his time Australian almond production increased from about 4,000 tonnes annually at the turn of the century to about 80,000 tonnes, making almonds Australia's most valuable horticultural export commodity. John's vision for an internationally competitive Australian almond industry together with his financial,



managerial and trading skills, was a key driver behind Australia becoming the second largest almond industry in the world. John started in the nut trade in 1986 as a Financial Controller with Jorgenson Waring Australia. Trading in nuts and dried fruits, Jorgenson Waring sourced product from numerous countries and while John knew little about nuts and dried fruit at that time, he excelled in the trading environment. Following his promotion to Managing Director of Jorgenson Waring Australia in 1988, annual sales of the company grew to

\$110 million. While homegrown almond product was limited initially, through a joint marketing arrangement with Riverland Almonds and Select Harvests under the Allinga brand, the volume of Australian almonds traded increased substantially, highlighting the potential for significant growth of almond production in this country. Up until the late 1980s South Australia had been the centre of the Australian Almond Industry but as the first Victorian orchards established in the 1970s and '80s reached maturity, the worth of the Sunraysia region for almonds was proven. Almond production in this region was pioneered by the Blazey family, founders of Defender Farms. Following a company restructure and name change to Select Harvests Limited, new almond projects were established. Select Harvests soon became the largest almond producer in the country, and there was more to come. John was appointed CEO of Select Harvests in 1998 and soon after implemented a new business model



Oh, what a night!

THE almond industry's night of nights culminated in the conference's gala dinner, with a night of dining and socialising enjoyed by the 450-plus attendees. It was a magnificent backdrop for cocktails before the main event with the River Torrens and Adelaide Oval in full view. Some of the industry's finest were celebrated, with the late John Bird receiving a Hall of Fame induction posthumously and Michelle Wirthensohn honoured as

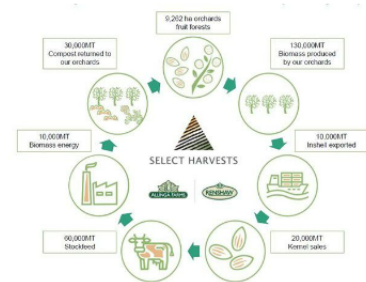
a Contribution to Industry. John Bird's proud family were in attendance and were clearly moved by the video tribute to the almond industry powerhouse. Michelle Wirthensohn was on hand to receive her award, with the announcement followed by a standing ovation from the crowd. Attendees were entertained during the night by guest speaker Simon Kuestenmacher and musical duo Ben Whittington and Sarah Day.



How the industry is using the entire almond

The Closed Circle Economy

TAKING to the stage on the first day of presentations at the Australian Almond Conference was Select Harvests' Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Paul Thompson who spoke about the industry's 'Closed Circle Economy'. Mr Thompson, who is also an Almond Board of Australia director, shared Select Harvests' mission of 'maximising our resource use and financial return by utilising everything we grow'. He said changing community values and expectations meant consumers have a desire to know products are grown in a sustainable and environmentally conscious way. Throughout his presentation, Mr Thompson illustrated the ways in which Select Harvests operates in a closed circle economy by using every part of the almond down to using hulls as stockfeed, composting almond waste to return to the orchard and burning almond by-products to run steam turbines to produce energy. He said not only is the closed circle economy method a significant win for sustainability but also a significant win in an economic sense for his company. Mr Thompson outlined the specific co-waste projects being undertaken by Select Harvests and what benefits each method created for the company and the environment. The emphasis on the importance of sustainability, water efficiency and carbon neutrality were major themes throughout the conference with many speakers touching on the industry's push for accountability.



Above: Select Harvests' commitment to the closed circle economy is ensuring as much of the almond and its by-products as possible are used productively.

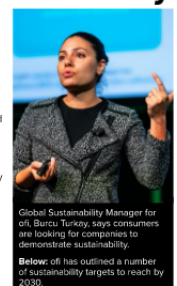
Below: Co-waste projects are using almond hulls to generate power, compost and fertiliser.

Co-waste projects			
Select Harvests is undertaking three co-waste projects to increase sustainability and generate positive commercial outcomes for the business.			
Almond Hull to Energy Select Harvests has generated power and is the largest producer of co-waste projects. - Waste to Energy - Compost generation - Renewable energy	Waste Ash to Compost Waste ash by-product generated by our co-generation power station is being used to produce high quality compost. - Reduces chemical fertiliser - Improves soil quality - Improves tree health	Almond Hull to Fertiliser Select Harvests has developed a new process for generating almond hulls to produce liquid and solid fertiliser. - Reduces chemical fertiliser - Generates clean, sustainable results to increase soil carbon levels by up to 30% - Improves soil health and potentially water efficiency	Fly Ash to Liquid Fertiliser Select Harvests has developed a new process for generating almond hulls to produce liquid and solid fertiliser. - Reduces chemical fertiliser - Generates clean, sustainable results to increase soil carbon levels by up to 30% - Improves soil health and potentially water efficiency

Consumers demand sustainability

CONSUMERS are becoming more aware and demanding action from companies when it comes to sustainability, according to Global Sustainability Manager Burcu Turkey from oil. Ms Turkey, who travelled from Istanbul to present at the conference, spoke to the audience at the Australian Almond Conference about 'The almond trail' – how do we adapt to consumer demands? She said becoming a sustainable industry means offering traceability, sustainability and quality, starting in the orchard right through until the end product that is purchased by consumers. A recent survey indicated 51% of millennials reported checking packaging for claims on sustainability, with plastic packaging becoming an emotive topic. Ms Turkey said while oil has made

many commitments to sustainability – including beginning bee-friendly programs in the US and Australia, signing a large-scale renewable corporate power purchase agreement, and introducing whole-orchard recycling in the US – there were many other sustainability practices to be introduced. A number of targets have been outlined for oil to achieve by 2030. Ms Turkey said it was important to outline oil's goals to help create closer relationships with customers and to indicate to consumers that sustainability is a high priority for big businesses. Oil has launched a platform called 'AtSource' to help drive and monitor sustainability amongst producers, and to provide insights for agricultural supply chains. For more information on the 'The Almond Trail' visit Sustainability in almonds (oil.com).



Global Sustainability Manager for oil, Burcu Turkey, says consumers are looking for companies to demonstrate sustainability. Below: oil has outlined a number of sustainability targets to reach by 2030.





Taking Australian almonds to the world

ALMOND Board of Australia (ABA) Market Development Manager Joseph Ebbage provided a marketing update to conference attendees and how we're taking Australian almonds to the world.

Global almond production is still dominated by the US with 78 per cent of almonds grown in America, while Australia accounts for eight per cent of the world's production. Australia's almond production is consistently growing with 124,499 tonnes grown last year compared to 79,901 in 2018.

It is forecast that Australian production will jump significantly to over 160,000 tonnes by 2024.

Mr Ebbage said challenges facing the Australian almond industry include freight, economic uncertainty, inflation, the war in Ukraine, energy and rising input costs.



Joseph Ebbage, the ABA's Market Development Manager.

Despite the ongoing challenges, the shipments for 2021-22 of Australian almonds was a record for the industry, with China being our major importer. Mr Ebbage said the significant drivers of Australian almond consumption include health, versatility and increasing industry sustainability practices.

Almonds remained the most frequently used tree nut ingredient in new

products launched during 2021-22, according to Innova Market Insights. The Australian almond industry is now setting its sights on Gen Y and Gen Z. It has become increasingly clear that younger consumers want to know how their food is being produced and want to know their food is environmentally conscious.

The rise of plant food will also be a major advantage to the industry with consumers gravitating towards plant milk alternatives in particular.

Mr Ebbage said after a significant break due to Covid-19, the Almond Board team is invested in getting back on the world stage by attending trade shows and marketing opportunities. The ABA also showcased its new domestic 'Live the Almond Life' campaign aimed at engaging a younger generation of nut lovers.



Domestic 'Live the Almond Life' campaign showcased

LOU Martin, Almond Board of Australia Marketing Officer, gave a Domestic Marketing Update to conference attendees, and showcased the new 'Live the Almond Life' campaign.

Ms Martin outlined the campaign objectives of increasing the consumption of almonds by Gen Y and Gen Z consumer segments and increasing domestic shipping.

She said targeting this demographic is important for the future "health" of our domestic market. Consumption data shows we over-index with our older consumers and under-index with our younger consumers. Given health, physical and emotional wellbeing is becoming more important globally, we have positioned almonds as a nutritious and sustainable wholefood to drive consumption.

Consumer analysis was undertaken before the campaign was launched to better understand the target demographic. The study showed the following:

- Methodology**
- Conducted the study from 14th to 22nd August 2022 (Pre campaign launch)
 - On-line survey comprised 1,003 Australians aged 18-40yrs
 - All participants had consumed nuts in the last 6 months
 - All participants had consumed almonds in the last 3 months

- Study purpose**
- Baseline reading of Gen Y and Gen Z nut consumers prior to the Almond commercial campaign
 - Build capacity to track changes to awareness, behaviours and attitudes around almond consumption - post campaign

The campaign was first launched in September this year, with the multi-platform advertisements running until May next year. Ms Martin played all three television advertisements plus a blooper reel during her presentation and outlined the performance analytics the campaign has received so far.

For the campaign's full performance statistics read the Marketing Update on page 34.

What is The Almond Life?

Sure, it's a marketing campaign. But it's also something bigger than that. It's a lifestyle. A way of living built on making smart, healthy choices.

It's choosing a healthy handful of Australian Almonds over other snacks that have no nutritional value. It's about integrating almonds into your routine and favourite recipes. It's about feeling good on the inside and looking great on the outside.

It's the Almond Life!



ABA Marketing Officer Lou Martin showcased 'The Live the Almond Life' campaign to conference attendees and explained the strategy behind the multi-media campaign.



'The Live the Almond Life' campaign will appear in television advertisements, on social media platforms and is being promoted on www.thealmondlife.com.

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23

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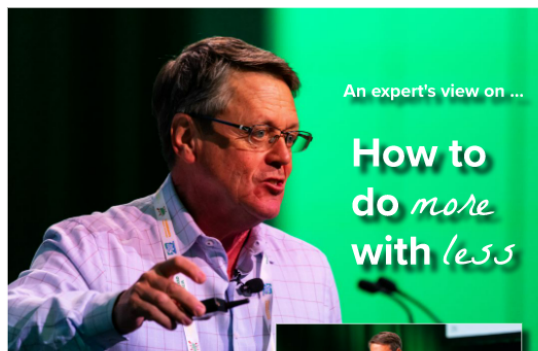
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An expert's view on ...

How to do more with less

ACCOMPLISHED almond expert Professor Patrick Brown was a star attraction at the Australian Almond Conference.

The ABA brought Prof Brown to the conference all the way from California and he used his time to educate the audience on 'Doing more with less'. He said the operational costs means it is more important that ever to optimise efficiency and use products at the right time.

Prof Brown said knowing the needs of the tree is key to apply nutrients effectively to almonds and can help reduce costs.

Key nutrients are nitrogen, potassium, zinc and boron, and what can be monitored and managed like calcium and manganese.

Prof Brown referenced the recent study conducted in California that stated to grow one kilogram of almonds the tree will use 68 grams of nitrogen.

Stating that if you have a poor pollination and you are only going to produce 2,000kg/ha you won't

Professor Patrick Brown, above and right, gave growers a wealth of expert tips on how to do more to support their orchards with less inputs.



increase your crop size by providing the tree with the resources for 3,000kg/ha.

This is where you can therefore save that extra cost.

In making this decision you also need to consider the variability of cropland within the orchard, to try and get a best fit.

Prof Brown also settled the concern of growers of not meeting the early nutritional demands of the tree due to the wet weather causing growers to not be able to fertigate. He stated the tree only starts to use applied

nutrition after 70 per cent leaf out which is in early September.

Until this point the tree is utilising the reserves that it has put away.

From this time until early November the tree will have used 55 per cent of its total requirements and 77 per cent by early December.

Prof Brown's extensive knowledge of almond production was demonstrated by his in-depth analysis and explanation throughout his engaging presentation, which was very well received by the audience.

Appetite for scientific knowledge on show

MANY of the Australian Almond Conference's technical presentations were heavily attended with conference-goers showing an appetite for knowledge and industry best practices.

Highlights included David Mudge's talk on 'The links between orchard hygiene and pests' and SARDI representatives Tonya Wiechel and Brittany Oswald's presentation on 'Hullrot and trunk diseases'.

A panel on growing on heavy soils was also popular late on the first afternoon, featuring Ben Brown from Select Harvests, grower board member James Callipari and Peter Reynolds from Yenda Producers.

This year's concurrent sessions meant there was more information delivered at the conference than ever before.

The introduction of a question asking platform also added another dynamic with attendees given the opportunity to submit questions to speakers and panelists.



Peter Reynolds, from Yenda Producers, Ben Brown, from Select Harvests and grower board member James Callipari spoke about growing almonds on heavy soils.

This platform was heavily utilised, in particular when there was an opportunity to ask questions of the conference's lead experts David Doll and Patrick Brown.

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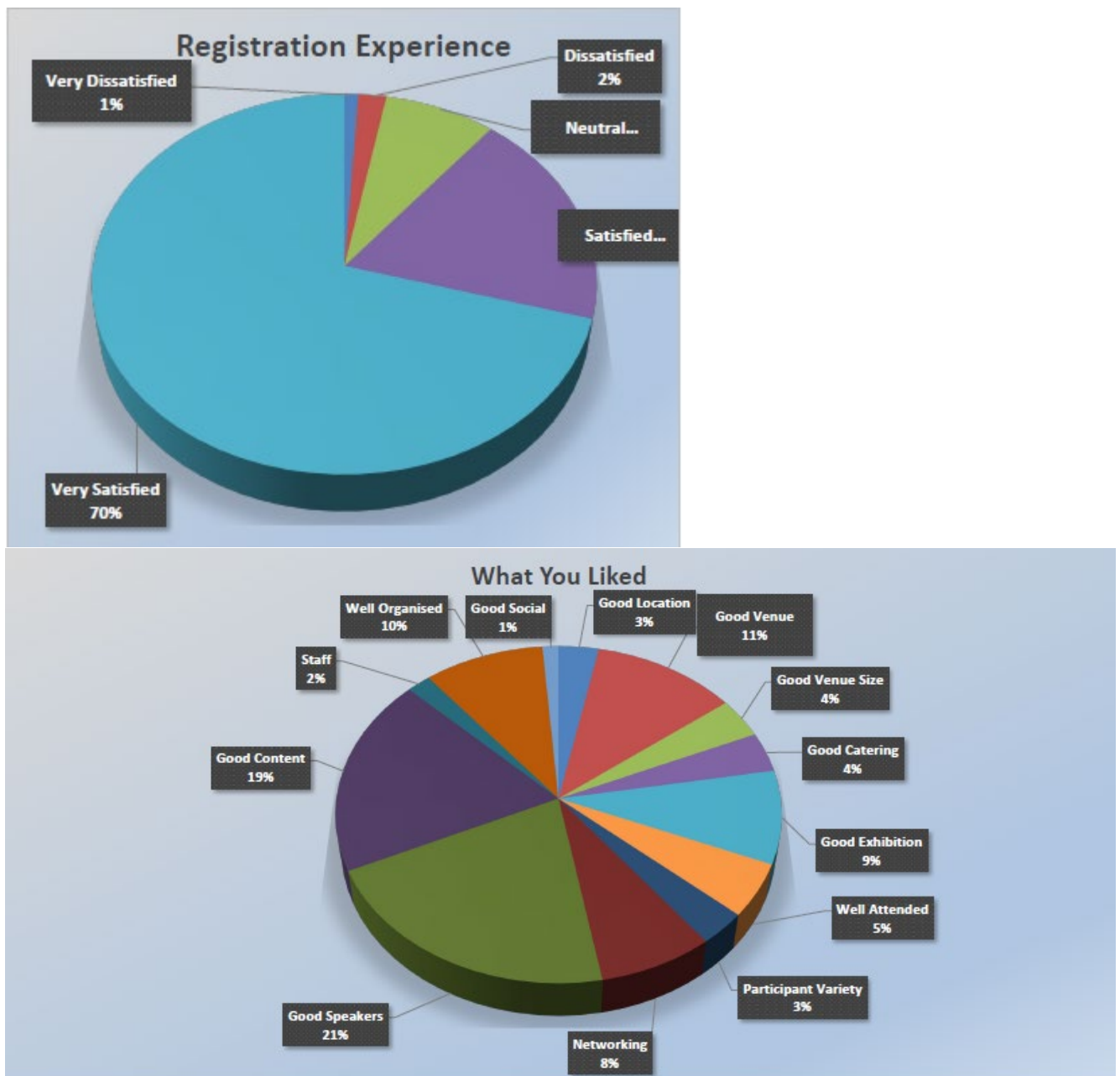
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Survey



Recommendations

- To make participation in Planting Surveys more convenient and on-line to streamline data collection.
- To establish and capture key industry-wide Sustainability metrics like carbon footprint
- To make the Insights Statistical Review a live e-document that is updated throughout the year
- To implement any potential improvements that emerge from the independent evaluation conducted by AgEcon.

Intellectual property

No project IP or commercialisation to report' if there are none to report.

Appendices

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**Welcome to the 2022 Australian
Almond Conference. We thank
our attendees, sponsors,
speakers and members for
supporting this event.
We will see you again in 2024!**

INFORMATION

Registration

Registrations open 3pm - 5pm, Monday October 10, and from 8am Tuesday and Wednesday, October 11 and 12.

Please see the Conference registration desk at the venue if there are any questions in regard to your registration.

Arrival

All attendees (including exhibitors) must check in at the registration desk. Delegate name badges are to be collected at the registration desk upon arrival and must be worn at all times during the Conference and Gala Dinner.

Accommodation

The InterContinental Hotel is conveniently right next to the Adelaide Convention Centre. The InterContinental has offered a 25% discount to all attendees of the Australian Almond Conference. All you need to do is let them know you're attending when you make your booking!

Cashless venue

The Adelaide Convention Centre is a fully cashless venue. We accept payment via card only for all onsite charges, including car parking, food and beverages.

Major credit cards, debit cards and mobile pay (Apple Pay, Google Pay and Samsung Pay) are accepted. Any applicable payment surcharges will be absorbed by the venue.

Disclaimer/Insurance

The Almond Board of Australia will not accept liability for damage of any nature sustained by participants or guests for loss or damage to property as a result of the conference or exhibition and related events.

Participants carry their own risk for personal injury or loss of property (including baggage) during the conference. The organisers are in no way responsible for any claims concerning insurance.

Liability

Whilst every precaution will be taken, neither the Almond Board of Australia nor the Conference Venue will accept responsibility for any loss or damage which may occur to persons or property at the Conference (from any cause whatsoever).

Personal Details

In registering for this Conference, relevant details will be incorporated into a participant list (name and organisation only); details may be made available to parties directly related to the conference including venue and accommodation providers (for the purposes of room bookings only) and to inform you of future Almond Board of Australia activities.

Parking

If you are driving to the Adelaide Convention Centre, we offer two undercover car parking options with our North Terrace and Riverbank car parks. The Riverbank car park is accessible from Morphett Street / Festival Drive. Both car parks are located directly under the Centre and operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Each is fitted with video surveillance camera systems and security patrols both areas. Clearance is 2.0 metres and automated payment stations accept payment via card only (major credit cards, debit cards and mobile pay). Please note that our car parks can reach capacity early in the day during busy events.

0-1 HOUR \$7.50
1-2 HOURS \$12.00
2-3 HOURS \$16.00
3-4 HOURS \$18.00



WELCOME

The Almond Board of Australia takes great pleasure in welcoming you to the 2022 Australian Almond Conference. After a covid-induced hiatus, the industry will stage its first conference in four years, and is proud to be hosting the conference at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

The program developed will provide growers with a wide range of presentations that assist with day-to-day and strategic decisions on the orchard.

The main aim is to provide as many sessions that assist growers to do more with less while addressing the changing demands of the market.

It is a wonderful opportunity to meet many of the greatest almond growing minds under one roof.

The cost of inputs is a major issue at the moment, so the ABA has been lucky enough to secure the services of two of the world's leading nutritional experts in David Doll and Professor Patrick Brown to speak at the conference.

We have also adjusted the program to ensure there will be opportunities for grower members to have one-on-one time with these speakers and all other presenters for free! New technology during presentations will also ensure questions from the audience can be queued using a simple messaging app you can download on your phone.

The conference trade exhibition site will be bigger than ever before and is shaping up as a one-stop shop that all growers should visit to discuss their needs. It will also feature a second presentation stage, Experts' Corner. This will be a forum for specific grower issues and provide an intimate atmosphere within the trade area that encourages interaction with the audience. Sessions will be run in parallel to the Grand Stage so you can chop and change between presentations that might suit. There will also be specific presentations through the conference on Sustainability, ABA marketing projects, a complete range of updates on research programs like integrated pest and disease management, as well as whole of orchard recycling and for the first time, a panel discussion on the different challenges growers are facing on the Riverina's heavy soils.

Sponsorship is critical to the success of this event, and we gratefully acknowledge the support of our Conference sponsors once again this year. Our largest ever trade exhibition features over 55 exhibitors showcasing products and information, allowing you to browse and interact with exhibitors throughout the two days of the Conference.

Our Gala Dinner in Hall D at the Convention Centre will start with red carpet pre-dinner drinks overlooking the famous Torrens River and Adelaide Oval lights, while the after-dinner speaker will be Simon Kuestenmacher who is a rising star globally in the field of data management and insight.

The ABA appreciates your attendance at this year's Conference, our 19th event, as it is the interaction of all participants that is the hallmark of the forum's success.

On behalf of the Almond Board of Australia Directors and staff of the ABA, we hope you will enjoy the 2022 Australian Almond Conference and benefit from attending.



Tim Jackson
CEO



Peter Hayes
CHAIRMAN

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GALA DINNER

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11
6.30PM RED CARPET COCKTAILS
7.30PM DINNER

The Australian Almond Conference Gala Dinner is one of the highlights of the entire conference, with the extravagant affair giving attendees the chance to be wined, dined and entertained. The dinner is an opportunity for everyone to come together, have a great time and celebrate the industry. Features of the night include, a Hall of Fame inductee, entertainment by Simon Kuestenmacher and musician Ben Whittington, plus the chance to taste test an almond liqueur spritzer.

ENTERTAINMENT



Simon Kuestenmacher **The Demographics Group**

Simon Kuestenmacher is a Co-Founder of The Demographics Group. Together with Bernard Salt, the group provides specialist advice on demographic, consumer, and social trends to business and government.

Simon holds degrees in human and urban geography from leading universities in Germany and Australia; he writes a weekly column for The New Daily and a monthly column for The Australian newspaper.

In his spare time Simon has authored three books on maps and runs what is by now the world's largest Twitter account dedicated to maps and data. His social media posts reach over 25 million people every month. Simon ranks as one of the world's top 10 influencers in data.



Ben Whittington

The Gala Dinner attendees will be dancing in their seats when Ben Whittington graces the stage.

He is the lead singer and guitarist for That 90's Show band at The Adelaide Fringe, with every show without fail selling out.

Ben is a long time solo and duo artist from Adelaide, a frequent featuring artist at Finn McCools, The Arkaba, Coopers Ale House, The Highway, The District at Sky City.

He was the supporting artist for Reese Mastin tour this year and in the process of recording his first album of his own originals. Ben's musical stylings are sure to get the party started at the always-popular dinner.

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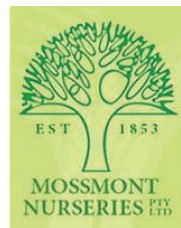
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CONFERENCE OVERVIEW



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MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2022

4pm to 5.30pm

**Almond Board of Australia
Annual General Meeting**

Trade Exhibit Hall
Adelaide Convention Centre
Registrations open 3pm - 5pm

6pm to 8pm

Welcome function

Trade Exhibit Hall
Adelaide Convention Centre

**TUESDAY - WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 11-12**

Registrations open 8am

**Conference presentations
from 8.30am**

Grand Stage and Experts' Forum
Adelaide Convention Centre, Hall

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11

6.30pm Red Carpet cocktails

7.30pm dinner

Gala Dinner

Adelaide Convention Centre - Hall
Hall of Fame induction
Lifetime achievement award
It's all in the numbers by
Simon Kuestenmacher
Music by Ben Whittington

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12

Jurlique Spouses Tour

Explore the Adelaide Hills and the famed
Jurlique cosmetic farm
8.30am pick up, 3.00pm return to
Adelaide Convention Centre entrance

DAY 2

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11

Grand Stage

MC Daniela Ritorto

8.30	Opening	Peter Hayes, ABA chairman and SA Ag Minister Claire Scriven
8.45	State of the Industry Address	Tim Jackson, ABA
9.30	Benchmarking our industry - Hort 360 - Almonds	Scott Wallace and Tim Jackson, ABA
9.50	The Closed Circle Economy of the industry	Paul Thompson, SHV
10.05	Questions to presenters	

Experts' Forum

MC Deidre Jaensch

9.15	The links between Orchard Hygiene and Pests	David Madge, AVS
9.45	On farm drying update	Michael Coates, Plant & Food Research

10.15 MORNING TEA

10.45	Grow more with less	Patrick Brown, UC Davis
11.30	Marketing update	
	Taking our almonds to the world	Joseph Ebbage, ABA
11.55	Live the Almond Life	Lou Martin, ABA
12.15	High level health claims	Belinda Neville, Nuts for Life

11.45	Hullrot and trunk disease	Tonya Wiechel, AVS, Brittany Oswald, SARDI
12.10	MRLs	Jenna Garwood, NRS, Deidre Jaensch, ABA
12.25	Q and A	

12.30 LUNCH

1.30	Newcomers to industry	
	Stahmann Webster	Ross Burling
	Kooba Pty Ltd	Chris Corrigan
	Manulife (Hancock)	Shane Bodiam
	Australian Farming Services	David Armstrong
	Q and A	Tim Jackson, ABA
2.45	Water surety	Andrew Reynolds, MDBA
3.00	Water threats-opportunity	Isaac Jeffrey, National Irrigators' Council

2.45	Panel discussion: Whole of Orchard Recycling	SARDI, Josette Lewis, ABC and Neale Bennett, Cowanna
3.00	Facilitated panel	Kathryn Young, Hort Innovation

3.15 AFTERNOON TEA

3.45	Multi-national expectation on Sustainability message	Chris Stevens, Kellogg's
3.55	The Almond Trail - how do we adapt to consumer demands?	Burcu Turkey, ofi
4.25	Small grower profile: Peter Freeman	Ella Henson, ABA
4.42	Leading Harvest Program	Steve Mackinley, SW
5.00	Close	

3.45	Research findings on growing projects	Tim Pitt, SARDI
4.15	Tree Architecture - Harvest Light	Ken Breen, Plant Food Research NZ
4.40	Panel discussion including ABA higher density grower	Adrian Hunt, Hort Innovation
5.00	Close	

DAY 3

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12

Grand Stage

MC Daniela Ritorto

8.30	Californian Overview	Richard Waycott, ABC President.
9.00	Just How Healthy are Almonds	Josette Lewis ABC Chief Scientist
9.30	What is the price?	Michael Easterbrook Stratamarkets
9.55	Global Nut Snapshot	Michael Waring INC President

Experts' Forum

MC Deidre Jaensch

9.30	Irrigation trials - being more efficient with your water	Mark Skewes, SARDI
10.00	Improving Orchard Management and Profitability with targeted imagery data	Scott Gillett, Ceres Imaging

10.15 MORNING TEA

10.45	The Almond Doctor - Balancing costs with yield	David Doll, Agronomist
11.30	Bees and Pollination - A varroa update	Danny le Feuvre AHBIC
11.45	Bee Friendly Farming	Fiona Chambers Wheen Foundation
12.00	Life Cycle Analysis	Sarah Day, Mark Siebenbitt, Edge
12.15	ACE Orchard update	Brendan Sidhu ABA director

11.45	David Doll and Patrick Brown on the Couch	Josh Fielke, ABA
	Q and A session	

12.30 LUNCH

1.30	Global Market Challenges	
	ofi	Ben Fessey
	Almondco	Brenton Woolston
	NPA	Nigel Carey
	Select Harvest	Ekrem Omer
	Damien Houlahan	Facilitator
2.15	Shipping update	Brian Mousley, Tayper Enterprises
2.35	Input Supply Outlook	Trevor Dennis, Haifa
2.50	Q and A	Damien Houlahan, ofi
3.00	Conference closing remarks	Peter Hayes

1.30	Help with on farm waste	Stephen Richards, Big Bag Recovery
1.45	Growing on heavy soils panel	Peter Hayes, ABA
	Ben Brown	SHV
	James Callipari	ABA Director
	Peter Reynolds	Yenda Producers
2.30	Close	



MASTER OF CEREMONIES



Daniela Ritorto

Daniela Ritorto is a journalist, MC and communications professional with two decades of national and international experience including as BBC World News presenter in London, SBS Chief Political Correspondent in Canberra and managing communications for an ASX top 30 company.

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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Ben Fessey

of Australia

Global Market Challenges panel, Wednesday, Grand Stage, 1.30pm

Ben Fessey is a Trader at of Australia, where he is responsible for export sales and trading. Ben's commercial responsibilities also include managing water trading, electricity and insurance. He has worked in the Almond industry since 2013.

Ben holds a Bachelor of Agricultural Economics from The University of Sydney with majors in Agricultural Science and Economics. He is currently completing a Masters of Business Administration at The University of New South Wales majoring in Finance.



David Doll

Lead Developer for Rota Unica Almonds

B.S. Plant Biology, Purdue University M.S. Plant Pathology, University of California, Davis

The Almond Doctor – Balancing costs with yield, Wednesday, Grand Stage, 10.45am

David was raised in a rural area growing apples and peaches. After attending Purdue University for his B.S. in Plant Biology, he attended graduate school at UC Davis, completing his M.S. in Plant Pathology. Shortly after completion, he started to work as a Farm Advisor the University of California.

After ten years of working as a Farm Advisor, David made the move to Portugal in November 2018 to work as the lead developer for Rota Unica Almonds. His task is to develop California styled almond plantations within Alentejo. Through this process, he has become familiar with some of the various challenges associated with growing almonds in Portugal and Europe.

Prior to his move, David worked with farmers in the Central Valley of California in troubleshooting problems and conducting on farm research within almonds, walnuts and pistachios. In this position, he would visit nearly 200 operations and deliver 35 presentations annually as well as publish regularly in scientific journals. Currently, he works with almond operations across the world, including Australia. Many of his observations and lessons learned have been shared within his online platform, "The Almond Doctor."



James Callipari

Wilga Lane Produce, Almond Board of Australia Director

Growing on heavy soils panel, Wednesday, Experts' Forum, 1.45pm

James completed a Bachelor of Applied Science (Agriculture) degree, graduating in 2003 before returning to the family farming business in a formal capacity. He has extensive experience in all aspects of the production of a wide range of fruits, vegetables, and grains, both irrigated and dryland. James commenced his involvement in the Australian Almond Industry with the development of an almond orchard in the Riverina region during 2006 where his past farming experience proved invaluable. In 2013, James was the recipient of the Phil Watters Award which recognises excellence and service to the Australian Almond Industry. In 2019, James joined the Board as a Director representing the Riverina growing region and has since become a graduate of the Australian Institute of company Directors.



Fiona Chambers

WHEEN BEE FOUNDATION CEO

Bee Friendly Farming, Wednesday, Grand Stage, 11.45am

Fiona is CEO of WHEEN BEE FOUNDATION, an Australian registered charity that promotes awareness of the importance of bees for food security, biodiversity and ecosystem health, and funds research and development activities that address the national and global threats to bees. Fiona has 35 years experience working in food production, farming and sustainability. She is a Churchill Fellow, an ISS Fellow, and a Fellow of the Williamson Community Leadership program. Fiona lives in south west Victoria on a Bee Friendly Farming certified farm and in her spare time breeds heritage breeds of farm livestock and a few too many horses.



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Tim Jackson

Almond Board of Australia

State of the Industry, Tuesday, Grand Stage, 8.45am

Tim has been the Chief Executive Officer of the Almond Board of Australia since October 2021.

He has been working in the almond industry for the past 13 years and was previously the Group Sales and Marketing Manager of Almondco Australia Ltd. He is also a former director of Almond Board of Australia and served on several industry committees.

Tim has more than 30 years' experience in agri-business through a wide range of communications and marketing roles including running his own business.

Paul Thompson

Select Harvests, Almond Board of Australia Director

The Closed Circle Economy of the Industry, Tuesday, Grand Stage, 9.50am

Paul has over 30 years of management experience. Formerly President of SCA Australasia, part of the SCA Group, one of the world's largest personal care and tissue products manufacturers. He is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and has formerly held positions as a Director of the Food and Grocery Council and councillor in the Australian Industry Group.

Appointed as the Managing Director of Select Harvests Limited on 9 July 2012. Under Paul's leadership Select Harvests' almond orchard portfolio has grown from 3,536ha to 9,262ha, including over 3,500ha of greenfield developments. Value adding capacity has been doubled. Today one third of the company's electricity is generated from a 3.4MW biomass plant.

The feedstock for the biomass plant is orchard waste, almond hull and shell.. The company continues to explore ways to create value from the co-waste from almond production, further closing the sustainability loop.

Joseph Ebbage

Almond Board of Australia, Consumer Insights

Taking our Almonds to the World, Tuesday, Grand Stage, 11.30am

Joseph is engaged by the ABA to manage the Almond Market Development Program. Based in Melbourne, Joseph has worked with the ABA since 2003 and is the principal of "Consumer Insights", a market research and consultancy agency. Joseph works with industry marketers to promote almonds on the domestic market and build awareness of the Australian almond brand internationally.

Ekrem Omer

Select Harvests

**Global Market Challenges,
Wednesday, Grand Stage, 1.30pm**

Ekrem is the International and Retail Sales Manager at Select Harvests, with over 10 years of experience in the exporting and importing industry specialising in food related products.

He has a vast range of experiences within the industry which include Sales, Procurement and Export Management.



Steve Mackinlay

Stahmann Webster

Leading Harvest Program, Tuesday, Grand Stage, 4.42

Steve has had extensive experience in the FMCG sector and earlier this year was appointed head of Stahmann Webster's ESG and Sustainability program for Australia. Like many within the ag sectors, his ESG journey so far has been a steep learning curve and one which revolves around adopting a collaborative approach to meet organisational goals and aspirations across the entire supply chain.



Lou Martin

Almond Board of Australia

Live the Almond Life, Tuesday, Grand Stage, 11.55am

Lou has a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing (Business). Her role is to promote the consumption of almonds to Australians and educate consumers about the many health benefits of regularly eating almond products. This involves managing the ABA stand at food, health and fitness exhibitions throughout Australia, liaising with health and fitness professionals and working closely with various industry stakeholders to prepare materials promoting almond consumption. Lou is responsible for the ABA's social media and digital platforms. She has been an integral part of launching the Live the Almond Life campaign, which will help target a younger demographic to consider almonds as a healthy eating option.



Belinda Neville

Nuts for Life

High Level Health Claims, Tuesday, Grand Stage, 12.15pm

Belinda Neville is the Program Manager at Nuts for Life – the leading health education initiative of the Australian Nut Industry, responsible for raising the awareness of the health benefits of nuts.

Belinda is an Accredited Practising Dietitian (APD) with over fifteen years' experience working in the food industry sector, specialising in regulatory affairs and in preparing relevant and effective nutrition and health communications.



Stephen Richards

Big Bag Recovery

Help with On-Farm Waste, Wednesday, Experts' Forum, 1.30pm

Stephen is the Managing Director of Industry Waste Recovery, a dedicated product stewardship business operating since 2015 with Farm Waste Recovery and Australian Government accredited Big Bag Recovery programmes.

Big Bag Recovery is the award winning product stewardship program for plastic packaging over 15kg/l of contents (sacks and bulk bags).



Peter Freeman

Freeman Farms

Small Grower Profile, Tuesday, 4.25pm, Grand Stage

Peter Freeman is the Managing Director of Freeman Farms and has been growing almonds in the Riverland, South Australia since 1983. Peter was Chairman of the Almond Board of Australia between 1997 and 2002 and Deputy Chairman of the Almond Co. board between 1986 and 1992. A champion of sustainability, Peter prioritises incorporating established sustainable practices into his farming operations and exploring new developments.



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Chris Corrigan

Kooba Pty Ltd

Newcomers to industry, Tuesday, Grand Stage, 1.30pm

25 years in investment banking with BT Australia and Bankers Trust;

27 years in transport and logistics with Patrick Ltd And Qube Ltd, and 10 years in agriculture as Chairman of Webster Ltd.

More recently, as Chairman and an investor in Griffith based private company, Kooba Pty Ltd, which is involved in irrigated cropping and almond business.



Shane Bodiam

Manulife

Newcomers to the Industry, Tuesday, Grand Stage, 1.30pm

Shane is the Managing Director/Chief Operating Officer of Manulife Investment Management Agriculture Services (Australia), a division of Manulife Investment Management Timber and Agriculture's global business.

Shane provides operations oversight for the investments in Australia, including safety, stewardship, human resources and marketing, all with a focus on maintaining client performance and profitability.

Shane is supported by a team of Regional Managers, Farm Managers and committed field staff, who all share the goal of being Australia's premium Investment Management business. Shane has a diverse background, having managed large scale agricultural assets across most Australian states, and multiple horticultural, broad-acre (dryland and irrigated) and livestock enterprises.



Michael Coates

Plant & Food Research

On Farm Drying Update, Tuesday, Experts' Forum, 9.45am

Dr. Michael Coates is a research engineer working with Plant & Food Research Australia.

Based in Adelaide, Australia, his primary interests are in drying and harvesting technologies for tree crops.



Kathryn Young

Hort Innovation

Facilitated panel, Tuesday, Experts' Forum, 3pm

Kathryn is the R&D Manager for Horticulture Innovation's Natural Resource and Emerging Technology portfolios. Kathryn has been involved with the horticulture industry for nearly 20 years and is passionate about delivering sustainable outcomes to meet industry's R&D needs through engagement and collaboration. Kathryn's focus is on supporting R&D investments to manage, sustain and regenerate the natural resources of the horticulture industry, including for soil, water, carbon and waste. Kathryn also manages projects that drive innovation across industries through the investigation and development of emerging technologies to improve productivity and competitiveness. Projects in these portfolios include Multi-scale Monitoring Tools for Managing Australian Tree Crops: Phase 2 (ST19001) and Pathway to carbon neutral whole orchard recycling in almond orchards (AL21000).

Scott Gillett

Ceres Imaging

Improving Orchard Management and Profitability with targeted imagery data, Wednesday, Experts' Forum, 10am

Scott has been part of Ceres Imaging since 2018, where he works with Australian clients to ensure that Ceres data contributes to improving their production and sustainability. Prior to Ceres, Scott worked in a range of roles in natural resources management and agriculture, including running his own mapping business and providing land management advice to farmers. Ensuring that remote sensing insights are accessible and understandable is something that's always been interesting and rewarding to do when working with almond growers.



Adrian Hunt

Hort Innovation

Facilitated panel including ABA higher density grower, Tuesday, Experts' Forum, 4.40pm

Dr Adrian Hunt is R&D Manager for Crop Production at Hort Innovation. He has a background in crop physiology and manages a diverse range of investments across horticulture including the National Tree Intensification (AS18000), Optimising almond production systems (AL21001), Almond Centre of Excellence Experimental and Demonstration (AL19000) directly relevant to almonds. Prior to joining Hort Innovation Adrian worked in Queensland, Tasmania, and New Zealand, conducting research on establishment, crop nutrition, irrigation, harvest and post-harvest management.



Richard Waycott

Almond Board of California

Californian Overview, Wednesday, Grand Stage, 8.30am

The Almond Board of California's President and CEO, Richard Waycott, joined the organisation in 2002. Prior to heading up the ABC, Mr. Waycott worked for over 20 years, mostly in Latin America, in the food manufacturing and agribusiness industries, with extensive experience in the consumer products and B-to-B grains and oilseeds market segments.

Richard's experience complements the other professionals at the Almond Board by bringing strategic leadership to the global development of the California almond industry. Almond production and worldwide almond shipments, as well as the activities of the ABC, have grown tremendously over the past two decades, with Almond Board programs now touching every aspect of the industry's interests.



Michael Easterbrook

Stratamarkets

What is the price? Wednesday, Grand Stage, 9.30am

Prior to starting Stratamarkets to provide companies in the global almond market with impartial price data and market intelligence, Michael served as Vice President of Business Development for U.K.-based Argus Media and before that as Director of Product Management for S&P Global Commodity Insights, both leading providers of commodity price benchmarks. He holds degrees from the University of California at Santa Cruz; Columbia University in New York City; and an MBA from Rice University in Houston, Texas. Michael lives in the U.S. (Katy, Texas) when he's not on the road in California.



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Mark Skewes

South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI)

**Irrigation trials – being more efficient with your water,
Wednesday, Experts' Forum, 9.30am**

Mark has worked at Loxton Research Centre since 1988, primarily in the field of irrigated crop management, including irrigation scheduling, and soil and plant water monitoring.

In his time with SARDI, Mark has conducted research in a range of irrigated crops including citrus, vines, almonds, and in the last few years industrial hemp. He is currently the national coordinator for AgriFutures Australia's Industrial Hemp Variety Trials program.

Mark is part of the SARDI team establishing and monitoring trials at the Almond Centre of Excellence research orchard at Loxton. Mark also provides research support to a number of ABA projects, including carrying out an almond industry irrigation efficiency audit. Mark will provide an update on that project.



Neale Bennett

Grower and Almond Board of Australia Director

Whole of Orchard Recycling panel, Tuesday, Experts' Forum, 2.45pm

Neale is a fourth-generation horticulturist who is still farming the same land that was cleared by his ancestors in the early 1900's at Merbein, approximately 20km's from Mildura in Victoria. He has worked in the horticulture field for 40 years. In 1992, he started converting the 17 ha family property from vines (dried fruit) to almonds. This was completed by 2005.

Neale is also a current member of the Almond Board of Australia as one of the two Sunraysia Representatives. He also served as the Board Chair for 6 years.



Patrick H. Brown

University of California-Davis, Distinguished Professor

Grow more with Less, Tuesday, Grand Stage, 10.45am

Dr. Patrick Brown is the Professor of Plant Nutrition at the University of California, Davis - USA. He received his B.Sc. in 1984 from Adelaide University, Australia and Ph.D. from Cornell University, USA in 1988. Dr. Brown has authored more than 220 scientific journal articles and numerous books and is among the highest cited experts in plant nutrition, biostimulants, boron, foliar fertilizers and horticulture. Dr. Brown is recognized globally as a leader in both basic and applied plant nutrition research with notable contributions to the function, transport and management of nickel and boron, and significant contributions to research on potassium, nitrogen, zinc, foliar fertilization, salinity and biostimulants.

He has served as a member of numerous scientific and technical committees for governmental agencies including US-EPA, USDA, Californian Dept. Food and Ag and the International Standards Organization. Dr. Brown is a member of the IFA's Science Panel for the Responsible Use of Fertilizers.



Scott Wallace

Growcom Hort360 Manager

Benchmarking our Industry, Tuesday, Grand Stage, 11.30am

Working for Growcom since mid 2003 Scott is the principle designer of the Growcom Hort360 Best Management Practice program and brings a wealth of experience in developing and delivering land, water, energy and environmental programs for improved productivity, business and stewardship outcomes.

David Armstrong

Australian Farming Services

Newcomers to the Industry panel, Tuesday, Grand Stage, 1.30pm

David Armstrong is CEO of Australian Farming Services, a farmland development and management company.

David has two masters degrees and more than 25 years experience in agribusiness management, working with listed companies and international investment funds.

He is a strong believer in decentralised management teams.



Ross Burling

Stahmann Webster

Newcomers to the Industry panel, Tuesday, Grand Stage, 1.30pm

Ross has been in management leadership roles in the private, public and not-for-profit sectors for over 25 years.

Across his career Ross has worked in the mining services area and has extensive experience across several agricultural sectors, with a passion for horticulture.

Ross Joined the Board of Stahmann Farms in February 2010, leading the company as the Chief Executive Officer since March 2013, culminating in the recent merger of Webster LTD, which formed Stahmann Webster, completed November 2020.

The Journey for Stahmann Webster is an exciting one as they embark on a sustainability journey alongside others in Australian agriculture.



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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Deidre Jaensch

Almond Board of Australia

Master of Ceremonies, Experts' Forum

Deidre joined the ABA in October 2019 as Industry Development Manager. She holds a Bachelor of Agricultural Science and has worked in irrigated horticulture within the government, industry and private sectors for over 27 years. Deidre manages the research and development program working with growers, researchers, suppliers and service providers as well as industry collaborators to generate the knowledge, skills and technologies required to enhance industry's competitiveness and further development in line with the almond industry strategic investment plan.



Burcu Turkey

ofi

The Almond Trail, Tuesday, Grand Stage, 9.30am

Expectations of Operating in the Global Village, Tuesday, Grand Stage, 4.15pm

Burcu Turkey completed her Bachelor's Degree from both Boğaziçi University and State University of New York, Binghamton on Global and International Affairs, continued with Master's Degree on International Relations in 2010. She started her career in a non profit human rights organisation titled Amnesty International as the Campaigns Coordinator between 2008-2012. She continued her career in various private sector companies as Corporate Social Responsibility Manager, Sustainability Manager between 2012-2017. Burcu joined Olam International now titled ofi in 2017 as the Sustainability Manager for hazelnuts in Turkey and Georgia. In 2020, she was appointed as the Global Head of Sustainability for Nuts responsible from hazelnuts, cashews, almonds, pistachios, and walnuts that are produced in multiple continents.



Tonya Wiechel

Agriculture Victoria

Hullrot and Trunk Disease, Tuesday, Experts' Forum, 11.45am

Tonya is a plant pathologist with Agriculture Victoria based at AgriBio in Melbourne and has experience in researching foliar and soilborne disease of horticultural crops including grapevine, potato and almond. She has achievements in understanding the biology of horticultural pathogens and identification of novel treatments to manage plant disease. Tonya has successfully co supervised to completion two PhD and two Masters students. She is a scientist on the project AL16005: An Integrated Disease Management Programme for the Australian Almond Industry with funding from Agriculture Victoria, SARDI and Hort Innovation.



Ken Breen

Plant and Food Research

Tree Architecture - Harvest Light, Tuesday, Experts' Forum, 4.15pm

Dr. Ken Breen is based in Hawke's Bay, New Zealand and leads the Temperate Tree Physiology Science Team at the New Zealand Institute for Plant & Food Research. Over the past 18 years, he has worked on the physiology of fruit development and production in intensive orchard systems, focussing on orchard light relations, flowering, and productivity. He travels widely to support significant international collaboration with industry and scientists. He has a Ph.D. from the University of Tasmania, an M.Sc. and B.Sc. from the University of Natal, and directed a number of agribusinesses in Southern Africa for ten years.

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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Jenna Garwood

National Residue Survey

MRLS, Tuesday, Experts' Forum, 12 noon

Jenna Garwood joined the National Residue Survey in November 2018, bringing with her significant experience in agvet chemical regulatory policy, as well as agricultural chemical stewardship. Previously, Jenna held the position of Risk Manager at the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicine Authority, the regulator of crop protection products, where she was responsible for assessing crop protection applications.

Jenna undertook her tertiary studies at Colorado State University and holds a Master in Tropical Plant Science from James Cook University.



Brendan Sidhu

Century Orchards & Laragon, Almond Board of Australia Director

ACE Orchard Update, Wednesday, Grand Stage 12.15pm

CEO Century Orchards, Managing Director Laragon Pty Ltd, Director Nut Producers Australia, Director Almond Board of Australia (ABA), Chair ABA Market Development Committee, Chair ABA Almond Centre of Excellence, Member of the Strategic Investment Assessment Panel, (SIAP) almonds, 30 years almond growing, President Waikerie Football Club, Committee member Industry Leaders Group (Riverland), Loxton Research Management Reference Committee, Riverland Energy Group, Immediate past Chair ABA, Immediate past Chair Grow Smart Training.



Isaac Jeffrey

National Irrigators' Council

Water Threats Opportunity, Tuesday, Grand Stage, 3pm

Isaac Jeffrey was appointed CEO of National Irrigators' Council in December 2020. Isaac has a background in government, small business, and public and government relations. He spent over a decade in government holding roles which included Chief of Staff and Principal Private Secretary to various Federal Ministers. Isaac has a Master of Politics and Policy and a Bachelor of Business (Honours). He is a country boy at heart, having grown up in Gunnedah in North West NSW, and he is passionate about regional issues and empowering local communities.



David Madge

Agriculture Victoria

The links between Orchard Hygiene and Pests, Tuesday, Experts' Forum, 9.15am

After graduating from Adelaide University in 1981 with a Degree in Agricultural Science, David joined the Victorian Department of Agriculture's horticulture group at Irymple. In 1987 he joined the crop protection group where he carried out field research and extension in integrated pest management for the grape and citrus industries and provided extension and industry development support for the organic industry. Since 2011 David has been investigating management options for the industry's major almond pests – carpophilus beetle and carob moth. He is currently managing a five-year project to develop 'An integrated Pest Management program for the Australian almond industry', with a focus on these two pests.



Brittany Oswald

South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI)

Hullrot and Trunk Disease, Tuesday, Experts' Forum, 11.45am

Brittany Oswald is an early career researcher officer in the Horticulture Pathology group at SARDI. She completed a Bachelor of Agriculture with honours in Advanced Plant Science and has been working for 4 years in trunk disease research of almond and grapevine. Her research to date has advanced the understanding of trunk diseases, Phytophthora, and lower limb dieback syndrome in Australian almonds. Her research outcomes have featured in several industry articles and manuscripts.

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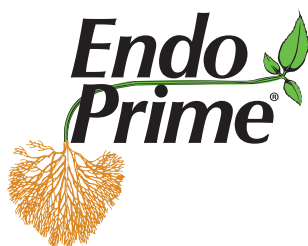
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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Amanda Schapel

South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI)

Panel discussion: Whole of Orchard Recycling, Tuesday, Experts' Forum, 2.45pm

Dr Amanda Schapel is a senior soils consultant for SARDI and has worked on agricultural soils since 1997. She started her career classifying and assessing soils for grapevines and almonds and in the last decade has focused on the importance of organic carbon particularly in broadacre, sandy soils. She has been involved in a number of soil carbon projects that have included benchmarking carbon in SA agricultural soils under different soil types and management practices.



Andrew Reynolds

Murray-Darling Basin Authority

Water Surety, Tuesday, Grand Stage, 2.45pm

Andrew Reynolds joined the Murray-Darling Basin Authority in 2013 and is currently the Executive Director of the River Management Portfolio.

Andrew Reynolds has over 28 years' experience in the water industry managing major water supply infrastructure, the past nine with the MDBA. He has worked extensively in the fields of engineering project delivery, dam safety and river management. He holds a Bachelor of Engineering (Agricultural) Hons. from the University of Melbourne. Andrew is the past Chairman of the Australian National Committee on Large Dams (ANCOLD).



Josette Lewis

Almond Board of California

Panel discussion: Whole of Orchard Recycling, Tuesday, Experts' Forum, 2.45pm

Dr. Lewis oversees research for the Almond Board of California. Prior to joining the Almond Board, she was Associate Vice President at the Environmental Defense Fund, where she focused on ecosystems and sustainable agriculture. She previously served as the Associate Director of the University of California, Davis World Food Center and worked in business development for Arcadia Biosciences. Dr. Lewis spent 16 years with the U.S. Agency for International Development, most recently as Director of the Office of Agriculture, where she played a leadership role in the development of the Administration's global initiative on food security.



Tim Pitt

South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI)

Research Findings on Growing Projects, Tuesday, Experts' Forum, 3.45pm

Tim Pitt is a SARDI Scientist whose research activities target improved production efficiencies for perennial horticulture in Australia's temperate irrigation districts. He currently leads a multidisciplinary team of field-based scientists characterising constraints to alternate almond production systems and manages a suite of smaller projects investigating soil amendments, the monitoring of rootzone nutrients and recovery strategies for tree crops affected by bushfire. At the 2022 Australian Almond Conference, Tim will present an overview of SARDI's production focussed research activities at the Almond Centre of Excellence.



Trevor Dennis

Haifa

Input Supply Outlook, Wednesday, Grand Stage, 2.35pm

As the Managing Director of Haifa Australia, Trevor has had a front row seat to the challenges around supply of fertilisers to Australian agriculture over the past 14 years. He is a board member of Fertiliser Australia, the peak industry body for the Australian fertiliser industry and has a decorated career across a range of roles in the agriculture sector.



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Mark Siebentritt

Edge

Life Cycle Analysis, Grand Stage, Wednesday, 12 noon

Mark Siebentritt's career spans over 20 years in the sustainability services sector. He leads Edge's development of tools and products and also works in the business on Climate Change Risk and Advisory. His focus is on bringing together rigorous technical information and engagement processes to support improved decision making. Mark has over 14 years' experience in environmental consultancy, firstly in his own businesses (Mark Siebentritt & Associates, Seed Consulting) and now with Edge Environment. He has delivered over 80 climate change projects in the past 5 years. Mark is also a Non-Executive Director with AgTech company Airborne Logic.



Sarah Day

Edge

Life Cycle Analysis, Grand Stage, Wednesday, 12 noon

Sarah Day is a strategy and agriculture expert at Edge. Prior to joining Edge, Sarah was responsible for establishing sustainability as a key pillar at AACo, Australia's largest beef producer. In this role, Sarah delivered the Company's first sustainability report, the Company's first sustainability strategy, convened the first Animal Health & Welfare Committee and delivered their first carbon abatement project. Sarah brings her skills in project management, major project consultancy and law to her role at Edge and is driven by achieving positive outcomes for clients in the agricultural sector who engage in sustainability thinking.



Michael Waring

International Nut and Dried Fruit Foundation

Global Nut Snapshot, Grand Stage, Wednesday, 9.45am

Michael is Chairman of the International Nut and Dried Fruit Foundation (INC). INC is the international source for information on Nuts and Dried Fruits for Health, Nutrition, Statistics, Food Safety, Government Standards and Regulations regarding Trade Barriers and Agricultural Quality Standards. INC has recently created an all of industry Sustainability Manifesto under its Sustainability Committee.

Michael is also the current Chair and a founding member of 'Nuts for Life Australia', with Hort Innovation, an all of Australian Industry nutrition and health education initiative.

Michael works with his business partners and brothers Andrew and Christopher Waring, and is Chairman and Managing Director of MWT Foods Australia and the Waring Group of companies (est 1965) which has industry investments in Australia, Vietnam and USA.

He is chairman of MWT Foods USA and Laurel Foods USA (based in Oregon).

He is a former deputy chairman of the Australian Macadamia Society (AMS) board, currently serving on that bodies Marketing Committee (former Chair).



Danny le Feuvre

Australian Honey Bee Industry Council

Bees and Pollination - A Varroa Update, Wednesday, Grand Stage, 11.30am

CEO of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC), Danny has been involved in the recent Varroa incursion in NSW. A current non-executive director of AgriFutures Australia and is passionate about rural industries and in particular the honey bee industry.

He has been a commercial beekeeper for 15 years with Australian Bee Services (ABS) and is experienced in providing pollination services and honey production in South Australia.

Danny has been involved in the primary industries his whole career with a strong background in agricultural science, RD&E and agribusiness consultancy.

He has previously volunteered in many industry roles over the years. Previously an executive member of Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) and a member of the Hort Innovation Expert Advisory Panel.

Danny holds a Bachelor of Applied Science from Melbourne University, Masters of Agribusiness from the University of Adelaide and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD).



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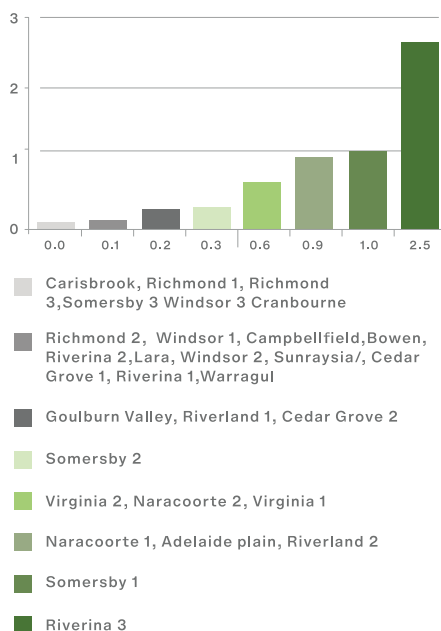


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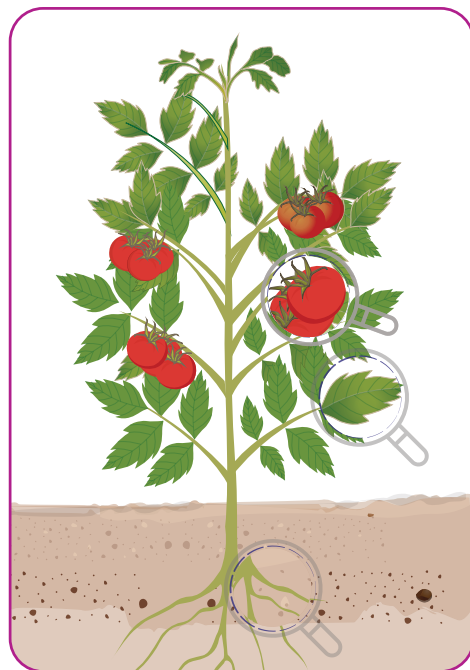
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Evidences for a nutritional role of iodine in plants.
C. Kiferle, M. Martinelli, S. Gonzali, S. Beltrami, P.A. Salvadori, K. Hora, H.T. Holwerda, A. Salzano, A. Scaloni, P. Perata.
January 2021, Frontiers in Plant Science, DOI: 10.3389/fpls.2021.616868

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Brenton Woolston

AlmondCo, Australia Ltd, Almond Board of Australia Director

Global Market Challenges, Wednesday, Grand Stage, 1.30pm

Brenton was appointed to Almondco as Marketing Manager in 2001 and was promoted to Group General Manager in late 2002. In 2012 he commenced his leading role as Managing Director. Brenton continues to manage a period of significant growth and sustained success in Almondco's long history and is a strong advocate for promoting Australian almonds as a premium, food safe product on the world stage. Brenton has gained extensive international market and industry supply chain exposure over the past 20 years.

He has been a Director of the Almond Board of Australia (ABA) since 2003 and was Chairman from 2007 to 2009. He has held several committee positions over this period.

Brenton also was appointed to the Australian Nut Industry Council (ANIC) from 2004 and held the position of President of ANIC from 2006 to 2009. Brenton has represented and featured on the International Nut and Dried Fruit congress almond panel on a number of occasions and presented on behalf of the Australian almond industry at the California Almond Conference.

Damien Houlahan

ofi, Almond Board of Australia Director

Q and A facilitator, Wednesday, Grand Stage, 2.50pm

Damien is the Executive General Manager of ofi Australia. Damien has the responsibility of overseeing almond operations for ofi in Australia.

This has included building a team to manage the orchards exclusively from 2012, the building of the new almond processing facility and the global marketing of ofi almonds from the Australian orchards.

In addition to this role in Australia Damien is also a member of the Olam International Edible Nuts Management Committee which includes the global cashew and peanut businesses.



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Ben Brown

Select Harvests

Growing on heavy soils panel, Wednesday, Experts' Forum, 1.45pm

Ben Brown joined Select Harvests as Project and Technical Manager in November 2014. Ben's role was to lead the development of greenfield orchards and expansion of the company's horticultural assets. In addition, Ben led the development, monitoring and evaluation of the horticultural program, and assist in its implementation. On 1st April 2018, Ben was appointed the General Manager Horticulture.

Before joining Select Harvests, Ben was the Industry Development Manager at the Almond Board of Australia for nearly eight years, and an irrigation and soil agronomist at Yandilla Park for a similar duration. In addition to this, Ben's had experience in the applied production of almonds, stonefruit, citrus and carrots.

Ben is an Applied Science graduate with Honours in Soil Science and has nearly 20 years' experience across perennial irrigated horticulture with expertise in: orchard development; production horticulture; the development of detailed RD&E strategies; and extension and technology transfer of best practice.



Nigel Carey

Nut Producers Australia, Almond Board of Australia Director

Global Market Challenges, Wednesday, Grand Stage, 1.30pm

Nigel is the CEO of Nut Producers Australia, having previously been General Manager Operations, with responsibility for managing NPA's Export Sales and Marketing activities and Group Operations spanning both almonds and pistachios. He has been with NPA for 12 years, following an extensive agri-marketing, operations and management career in Tasmania.

Nigel's qualifications include an MBA and GAICD, and he has served as a member of the ABA Processing Committee.



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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Peter Reynolds

Yenda Producers

Growing on Heavy Soils Panel, Wednesday, Experts' Forum, 1.45pm

Peter has more than 30 years of experience in cropping in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area and is a former AgriFood Skills Australia fellow. He has been actively involved in the expansion of the almond industry within the Riverina through his consultancy work and is widely regarded for his expertise in adopting and adapting to new irrigation technologies.



Brian Mousley

Tayper Enterprises

Shipping update, Wednesday, Grand Stage, 2.15pm

Brian has been a pioneer in the Australian almond export program via his freight forwarding operation Tayper Enterprises. He is responsible for the shipping and off-shore logistics of almost all of Australian inshell and has more than 40 years' experience in the sea-freight industry.



Thank you to all the speakers and panelists for sharing their invaluable knowledge and expertise.



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SPOUSES' TOUR

For the first time ever, this year's conference features a Spouses Tour on Day 3, departing from the Adelaide Convention Centre at 8.30am and arriving back at 3pm.

The tour will feature a walk through natural cosmetic manufacturer Jurlique's picturesque farm and gift shop. ABA Marketing Officer Lou Martin will host a fun filled day that also includes a walk through the famous Hahndorf village and a coffee stop at the Beerenberg Farm and lunch at Sidewood Estate.

Jurlique Farm Tour

Immerse yourself in nature and science on this guided Jurlique Farm Tour. Discover the home of this much-loved Australian brand, where many of the herbs, flowers and plants are grown for these popular natural skin care products. Discover the history of Jurlique, how seedlings and plants are propagated, plant varieties and their uses, biodynamic farming principles, soil fertility and compost production, harvest process and bee keeping. At the conclusion of the tour you have the opportunity to visit the Farm Retail Shop where you can purchase a selected range of the Jurlique products with 10% discount.

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National Horticulture Manager

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| 3. | Australian Frost Fans | 32. | HAIFA |
| 4. | Pelenc | 33. | Nu-Edge Solutions |
| 5. | CropX | 34. | Nu-Edge Solutions |
| 6. | Grochem | 35. | Rometron |
| 7. | Filtersafe | 36. | OMC |
| 8. | Weiss McNair Ramacher | 37. | Netafim |
| 9. | Growers Services | 38. | Peats Soil and Garden Supplies |
| 10. | Orchard Rite | 39. | Fieldin |
| 11. | Omnia | 40. | Agworld and Semios |
| 12. | Omnia | 41. | E.E Muirs & Sons |
| 13. | Spray Gro Liquid Fertilizers | 42. | Motion Australia |
| 14. | AgOtter by Insero | 43. | Motion Australia |
| 15. | TriCal Australia | 44. | E.E Muirs & Sons |
| 16. | Graham's Factree Pty Ltd | 45. | Flory |
| 17. | Redox | 46. | Zadco |
| 18. | BASF Australia | 47. | Rivulis Irrigation |
| 19. | BASF Australia | 48. | Jack Rabbit |
| 20. | Agspec | 49. | Dual Chelate Fertilizer |
| 21. | Plant & Food Research NZ | 50. | Onside |
| 22. | Australia Fumigation PTY LTD | 51. | Silvan |
| 23. | Almond Board of Australia | 52. | Sumitomo |
| 24. | Almond Board of Australia | 53. | International Mowers |
| 25. | Agridry Dryers | 54. | OCP (Organic Crop Protectants) |
| 26. | WheenBee | 55. | AgCO |
| 27. | Stoller | 56. | Ceres Imaging |
| 28. | Tayper | 57. | Swan Systems |
| 29. | Suregro Treemax | 58. | Croplands Equipment |
| | | 59. | Polytex |
| | | 60. | S.J.B Ag Nutri |

Grand Stage

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Most recently Plenty Foods was awarded a \$9m Australian Government MMI* grant towards its \$22m defatted nut flour factory, due to come online 2024. Super fine defatted nut flour is highly sought after as a gluten-free plant-based protein baking substitute.

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*Modern Manufacturing Initiative





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RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT FORUM & FIELD DAY

Official Program

Loxton Research Centre &
Almond Centre of Excellence
Experimental Orchard,
Loxton, South Australia

30th - 31st October 2019



HOSTED BY:

The Almond Board of Australia



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Venues

Loxton Research Centre

The Loxton Research Centre is a showcase for South Australia's extraordinary River Murray region, supporting and promoting our global reputation as a leader in agriculture and producer of premium food and wine from our clean environment.

The Loxton Research Centre recently underwent a \$7.5 million redevelopment, funded as part of the \$265 million Australian Government-funded South Australian River Murray Sustainability (SARMS) Program.

The new look centre forms a collaborative hub, bringing together industry, research, education and government to drive agriculture and business innovation in South Australia, Australia and overseas.

The centre sits beside a newly constructed building, which encompasses a state-of-the-art conference facility that seats up to 200 people, meeting areas, demonstration kitchen and flexible working spaces.



Almond Centre of Excellence Experimental Orchard

The Almond Centre of Excellence experimental orchard is a 60-hectare site purchased by the South Australian Government in 2016 and leased by Almond Board of Australia to develop with funding support from the Australian and South Australian Governments. Based five kilometres from the Loxton Research Centre, the orchard is a home for the almond industry's research and development program.

The experimental orchard will trial all aspects of almond growing to deliver input efficiencies and risk mitigation for existing production systems for the hectares of conventional orchards currently planted in Australia. It will also have trials aimed at developing new production systems in terms of varieties, rootstocks, spacings, tree architecture and harvesting methods to increase nut yields and quality from smaller more manageable trees.



Interactive

Forum Question App- Slido

This year we have organised a website that you can submit questions to while you think of them during the presentation. Josh will select a couple and ask the panel on your behalf. If time permits there will still be an option for questions from the crowd.

The website is simple to use, type in the following:

www.sli.do

Enter the event code: **19ABA**

Enter your name (optional) and type your question.

Survey Monkey

You asked and we have listened, you requested to have the survey accessible during the event. This will allow those who are interested in giving feedback to do so at the end of each day or at the conclusion of the event in your own time.

Please type in the link below to access the survey for this year's forum & field day. Alternatively you can scan the QR code on your phone.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/19aardf>



Forum Program

Wednesday, 30th October 2019
Loxton Research Centre, Loxton South Australia

8:00	Registrations Open & Sign In	
9:00	Official Welcome Address	Neale Bennett Almond Board of Australia
9:10	Word from the Platinum Sponsor	David Cavallaro Stoller Australia
9:20	Hort Innovation	Anthony Kachenko Hort Innovation
9:35	Integrated Disease Management in Almonds	Jacky Edwards Agriculture Victoria
9:55	An Integrated Pest Management Program for the Australian Almond Industry - One season in	Paul Cunningham Agriculture Victoria
10:15	<i>Panel Discussion</i>	
10:25	Morning Tea	
10:55	Almond Productivity: Tree Architecture and Development of New Growing Systems	Grant Thorp Plant and Food Research Australia
11:15	SARDI Projects at the A.C.E Experimental Orchard	Tim Pitt South Australian Research & Development Institute
11:30	Update on Agriculture Victoria's Mildura Experimental Orchard and Victorian Research Developments	Michael Treeby Agriculture Victoria
11:45	Spur Dynamics	Zelmari Coetzee Agriculture Victoria
11:55	Australian Almond Varieties - Breeding Update	Michelle Wirthensohn University of Adelaide
12:15	Better Tree Performance and Water Use Efficiency Through Root System Resilience - Project Update	Everard Edwards Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
12:35	<i>Panel Discussion</i>	
12:45	Lunch & AGM Sign In	
13:25	Almond Board of Australia Annual General Meeting	Neale Bennett - Chairman Ross Skinner - Chief Executive Officer
14:15	Pollination Supply Issues	Ben Hooper South Australian Apiarists Association
14:35	Bee Friendly Plantings	Katja Hogendoorn University of Adelaide
14:55	Better Pollination Outcomes from your Bees	Mark Goodwin Ecrotek
15:15	<i>Panel Discussion</i>	
15:25	Afternoon Tea	
15:55	Water Trading Market/Deliverability	Phil Grahame Ruralco Water
16:15	Managing Almond Production in a Variable and Changing Climate	Dane Thomas South Australian Research and Development Institute
16:35	<i>Panel Discussion</i>	
16:45	Day Close	Neale Bennett Almond Board of Australia
16:45 - 17:45	Light Catering & Refreshments	

Forum & Field Day Program

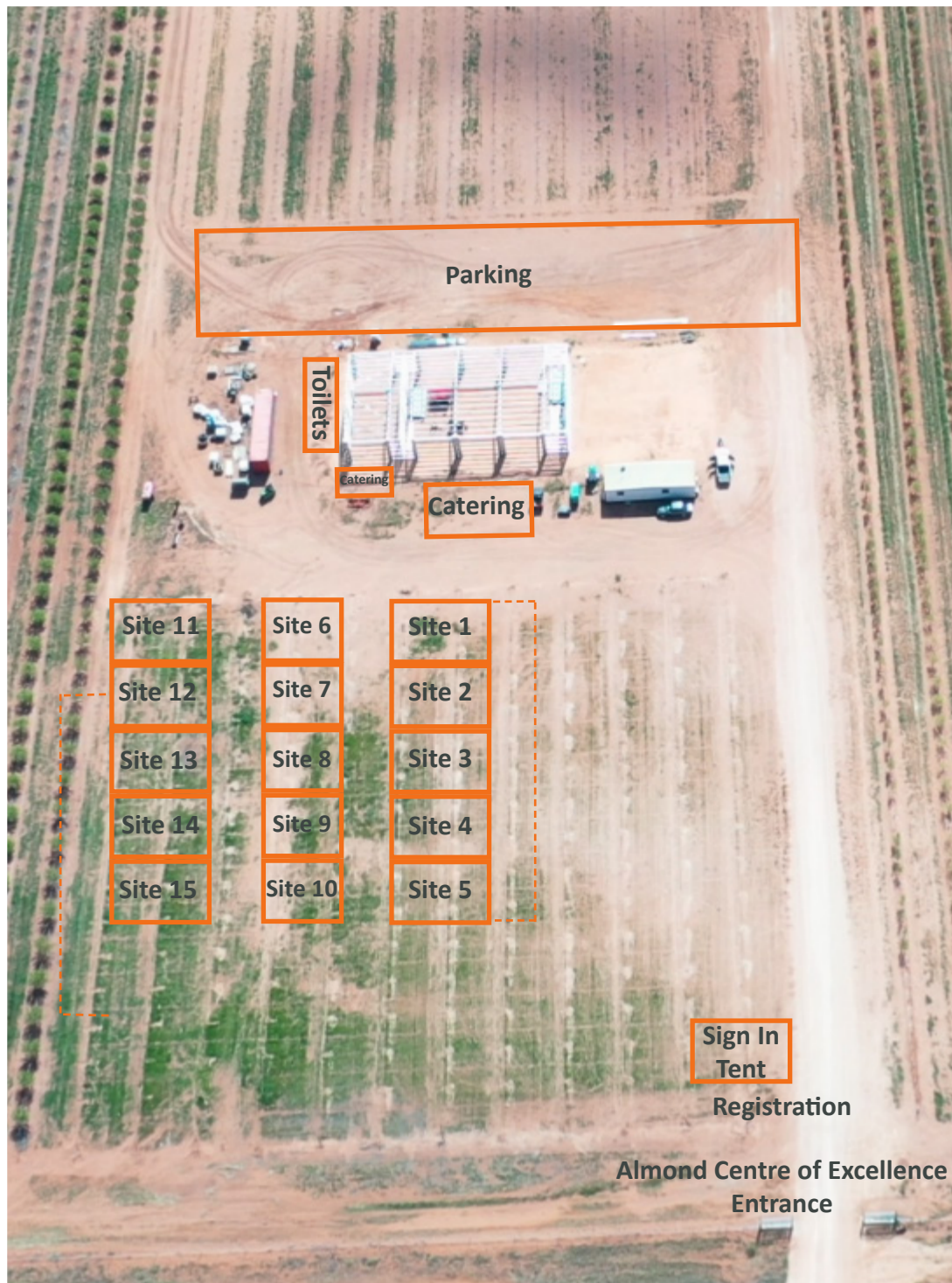
Thursday, 31st October 2019
Almond Centre of Excellence Experimental Orchard,
Loxton South Australia

8:30	Registrations & Sign In	
Breakfast Roll & Coffee		Catering Sponsored By:  conservis
9:00	Welcome Address & Overview of Almond Orchard of Excellence	Ross Skinner Almond Board of Australia
9:10	Word from the Catering Sponsor	Geoffrey Moore & Kate Carmichael Conservis Corporation
9:20 - 9:40	The Effects of Winter Banding of Nitrogen with Compost Application in Almonds	Upul Gunawardena Select Harvest Ltd
9:40 - 10:00	On Farm Hulling & Moisture Management	John Fielke University of South Australia
10:00 - 10:20	Spray Application	Jason Deveau (US Speaker) OMAFRA Sprayers 101 (Guest of Citrus Australia)
10:30 - 13:00	Machinery Site Visits & Demonstrations	
11:00-13:00	Sausage Sizzle Open	Catering Sponsored By:  conservis
12:00 - 12:20	Plant Based Irrigation Decisions	Mark Heyward Phytech
12:20 - 12:40	Irrigation Best Practice Management	Mark Skewes South Australian Research & Development Institute
12:40 - 13:00	Almond Harvesting and Drying and an Update on Californian Almond Trials	Michael Coates Plant & Food Research Australia
13:00 - 14:30	Experimental Orchard Trial Tours	
14:45	Day Close	

Remember...

Name Tags

We ask that everybody wears their names tags to the orchard on Thursday. This will speed up registrations at the gate, as we will be able to wave your car through to the parking area.



Location: 57 Anderson Road, Loxton SA 5333

Exhibitors

Site 1 Nelson Hardie

Site 6: Peats Soil & Garden Supplies

Site 11: Conservis Corporation

Site 2 Sunrise Ag

Site 7: Bayer Crop Science

Site 12: Dual Chelate Fertilizer

Site 3 Organic Crop Protectants

Site 8: Measurement Engineering Australia

Site 13: Agco

Site 4 Gallard Group

Site 9: TracMap

Site 14: Orchard Machinery Corporation

Site 5 Silvan Australia

Site 10: Toro Australia

Site 15: Flory Industries

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DELEGATE LIST

Surname	First Name	Company
Alcantara	Rafael	CLVAGRO
Alexander	Darren	Bayer Crop Science
Alexander	Darren	Bayer Crop Science
Anderson	Brian	Orchard Machinery Corporation
Armstrong	Hugh	Bayer
Armstrong	David	Australian Farming Services
Armstrong	Will	Ecrotek
Atwal	Sunita	Olam Orchards Australia Pty Ltd
Baker	Greg	South Australian Research & Development Institute
Ball	Simon	Australian Fumigation Pty Ltd
Barber	Alex	AGCO Australia Ltd / Aggtech Machinery
Beckwith	Stephen	Indian Ocean Farms Pty Ltd
Bekker	Stefan	Nu-Edge Solutions Australia
Bell	Nigel	Select Harvest Ltd
Benham	Luke	AroonaFarms Vic Pty Ltd
Bennett	Neale	Cowanna Almond Harvesting
Bennett	Greg	FMC Australasia
Best	Craig	Hancock Farmland Services Australia
Blake	Brendan	Australian Farming Services
Blyth	Adam	Olam Orchards Australia Pty Ltd
Briggs	Sue	CSBP Soil & Plant Lab
Brown	Neil	Gardner Brown Chartered Accountants
Brown	Kane	Bright Light Agribusiness
Buchanan	Greg	Almond Board of Australia
Buhagiar	Jacob	EE Muir & Sons
Bullock	Luke	Yara Australia
Burns	Mike	Walker Flat Almonds
Bye	Sam	Seasol Pty Ltd
Cabrera	Jose	CLVAGRO
Cabrera	Courtoy Rafael	CLVAGRO
Callipari	James	Wilga Lane Produce Pty Ltd
Cannard	Mary	Olam Orchards Australia Pty Ltd
Cappello	Jason	Rawlinson & Brown
Carlson	Garry	Demopolis Pty Ltd
Carmichael	Kate	Inform Ag
Cavallaro	Peter	Walker Flat Almonds
Cavallaro	David	Stoller Australia Pty Ltd
Cavallaro	Domenic	Stoller Australia Pty Ltd
Childs	Gordon	Organic Crop Protectants
Christian	Kieran	Omnia Specialities
Coates	Michael	Plant and Food Research Australia
Coetzee	Zelmari	Agriculture Victoria
Conlan	Robert	Australian Farming Services
Coombes	David	Yara Australia
Costa	Michael	Costa Brothers Hullers & Shellers
Coventry	Steven	Stoller Australia Pty Ltd
Crawford	David	CMV Farms
Cribbes	Darren	conNEXUS global
Cunningham	Dr Paul	Agriculture Victoria
Curtis	Louis	Curtis Vineyards
Davies	Greg	Bayer
Davison	Craig	Nu-Edge Solutions Australia

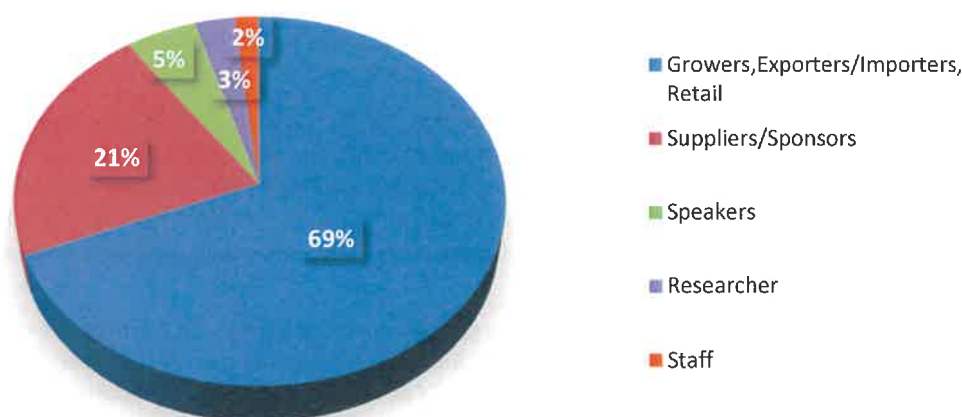
Surname	First Name	Company
de la Bastida	Rafael	CLVAGRO
de Palma	Michael	TracMap
de Puerta Garcia	Gregorio Sanchez	CLVAGRO
de Speville	Gerry	SprayGro Liquid Fertilizers
Demer	Larry	Weiss McNair
Deveau	Jason	OMAFRA Sprayers101 (Guest of Citrus Australia)
Dinicola	Denis	Dinicola Management Pty Ltd
Dinicola	Dean	Dinicola Management Pty Ltd
Dobbin	Thomas	Almondco Australia Ltd
Doecke	Andrew	Omnia Specialities
Doecke	Luke	Phytech
Donovan	Cale	Ceres Imaging
Dugo	Julie	Flory Industries
Edwards	Everard	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
Edwards	Dr Jacqueline	Agriculture Victoria
Eitzen	Paul	Yara Australia
Englefield	Luke	Bright Light Agribusiness
Estes	Mike	Nelson Mfg. Co, Inc
Estes	Jason	Nelson Mfg. Co, Inc
Evans	Rebecca	Silvan Australia Pty Ltd
Faulkner	Peta	Agriculture Victoria
Fielke	Josh	Almond Board of Australia
Fielke	Pr. John	University of South Australia
Fielke	Brodie	Koch Contracting
Fielke	Lez	Koch Contracting
Finch	Jane	Select Harvest Ltd
Flaherty	Stephen	Platinum Ag Services
Fleming	Graham	Almond Factree Pty td
Fleming	Nigel	SARDI
Foo	Nathan	Select Harvest Ltd
Freeman	Peter	Freeman Farming
Fremder	Andrew	Almas Almonds
Gade	Des	CMV Farms
Gallard	John	Gallard Group
Gallard	Sam	Gallard Group
Gallo	Joe	Growers Services
Gardner	Geoffrey	Gardner Brown Chartered Accountants
Garwood	Jenna	National Residue Service
Gaylard	Ivor	SWAN Systems
Germishuys	Lelanie	Seasol Pty Ltd
Gill	Billa	Gill Farm
Gillett	Scott	Ceres Imaging
Goodwin	Mark	Ecrotek
Gordon	Will	EE Muir & Sons
Gorman	Aedan	Bayer
Grahame	Phil	Ruralco Water
Granger	Andrew	Plant & Food Research
Grant	Ron	Inform Ag
Greig	Chris	Amaretto Almonds
Griffiths	Charlie	Toro Australia
Grossman	Blair	Agriculture Victoria
Gunawardena	Upul	Select Harvest Ltd
Harding	Murray	Select Harvest Ltd
Harkins	Shannon	Almond Board of Australia
Haslett	Ben	Woolenook Fruits
Herrero	Juan	CLVAGRO
Heyward	Mark	Phytech
Hildebrand	Orville	Peracto Pty Ltd

Surname	First Name	Company
Hingston	Jason	Orchard Crop Protectants
Hobbs	Andrew	Gro Plan Australia
Hogendoorn	Katja	University of Adelaide
Hooper	Ben	South Australian Apiarists Association
Jackson	Tim	Almondco Australia Ltd
Jaensch	Deidre	Almond Board of Australia
Janse van Rensburg	Pierre	Olam Orchards Australia Pty Ltd
Jolley	Andrew	Sunrise Ag / Orchard Rite Frost Fans
Judd	Graeme	EE Muir & Sons
Jury	William	Grochem Australia
Kachenko	Anthony	Hort Innovation
Katis	Nick	Almas Almonds
Kennedy	Timothy	Select Harvest Ltd
Kernich	Stephen	Curtis Vineyards
Kerr	Stephanie	Queensland University of Technology
King	Jason	CMV Farms
Kirk	Alice	Dual Chelate Fertilizer Pty Ltd
Knowles	Simon	Earthwise Services
Koch	Rashliegh	Koch Contracting
Kreidl	Simone	Agriculture Victoria
Laker	Morne	Nu-Edge Solutions Australia
Lamacraft	Simon	Bayer Crop Science
Lambert	Ashley	Industrial Rubber Sales
Lawlor	Alexandra	CSIRO
Linan	Julio	CLVAGRO
Lloyd	Chris	BARMAC
Logoida	Stephan	BioAg Pty Ltd
Lorimer	Steve	EE Muir & Sons
Lowe	Robert	Hancock Farmland Services Australia
Madge	David	Agriculture Victoria
Magarey	Peter	Magarey Plant Pathology
Malone	Richard	Customised Farm Management
Manktelow	David	Applied Research & Technology New Zealand
Manuel	Jesse	Colliers International
Maragozidis	John	Yunis Pty Ltd/Goanna Produce Pty Ltd
Marasigan	Pam	Toro Australia
Marion	Marie	FluroSat
Martin	Louisa	Almond Board of Australia
Martin	Paul	Nutwood Orchards
Martin	Ron	ACE Ohlsson Pty Ltd
Martin	Rita	ACE Ohlsson Pty Ltd
Martin	Drew	Omega Orchards
May	Rob	Costa Brothers Hullers & Shellers
McCallum	Quinton	Stock Journal
McCann	Pete	Agripath
McClelland	Aaron	AGCO Australia Ltd / Aggtech Machinery
McCloskey	Anthony	Key Water
McGregor	Alison	Citrus Australia
McHaffie	Scott	AGCO Australia Ltd
McKay	Suzanne	SARDI
McKenzie	Scott	Century Orchards Pty Ltd
McMahon	Debbie	Almond Board of Australia
McNaughton	Callum	CMV Farms
Mecwan	Samir	Olam Orchards Australia Pty Ltd
Millan	Jose	CLVAGRO
Millen	Tim	L & T Almonds Pty Ltd
Mills	Bradley	Hort Innovation
Minter	Darren	Minter Magic

Surname	First Name	Company
Moore	Geoffrey	Inform Ag
Moore	Adam	Olam Orchards Australia Pty Ltd
Moriconi	John	Nu-Edge Solutions Australia
Moss	Ian	Mossmont Nurseries
Moss	Valerie	Mossmont Nurseries
Mueller	Melina	Walker Flat Almonds
Nacinovic	Bruno	Hancock Farmland Services Australia
Nesbitt	Penny	Dual Chelate Fertilizer Pty Ltd
Nish	Mark	Dual Chelate Fertilizer Pty Ltd
Norton	Ryan	CMV Farms
O'Riley	Jarrad	Peats Soil & Garden Supplies
O'Rourke	Bob	Olam Orchards Australia Pty Ltd
Osorio	Manuel	CLVAGRO
Oswald	Brittany	SARDI
Paltridge	Steve	Weiss McNair
Pathania	Narender	Rmonpro Developments Pty Ltd
Peterson	Anna	Almond Board of Australia
Petrie	Paul	South Australian Research & Development Institute
Phogat	Vinod	South Australian Research & Development Institute
Pickering	Ray	Sunrise Ag / Orchard Rite Shakers
Pippos	Jo	Costa Brothers Hullers & Shellers
Pitt	Tim	South Australian Research and Development Institute
Pitt	John	PIRSA
Preusker	Tim	CMV Farms
Quirke	Abigail	Almond Board of Australia
Reed	Ken	Seasol Pty Ltd
Rendell	Stewart	Rendell Enterprises
Reynolds	Karyn	Landmark
Roberts	Kaylan	Mossmont Nurseries
Robertson	Bryan	TriCal Australia
Rohde	Mark	Bright Light Agribusiness
Rohrlach	Caleb	Century Orchards Pty Ltd
Rohrlach	Peter	Nutwood Orchards
Rosenzweig	Brett	Rosy Ridge Farms
Rudd	Emily	Stoller Australia Pty Ltd
Sandhu	Roop	Thomas Elder Consulting
Sargeant	Mark	OptiAg
Sarkis	Michael	Customised Farm Management
Scott	Phil	Hancock Farmland Services Australia
Semmler	Adelle	CSIRO
Senes	Roberto	Hancock Farmland Services Australia
Shanmugam	Kavitha	South Australian Research & Development Institute
Sheridan	Aidan	Silvan Australia Pty Ltd
Sidhu	Brendan	Century Orchards Pty Ltd
Simes	Craig	EE Muir & Sons
Skewes	Mark	South Australian Research & Development Institute
Skinner	Ross	Almond Board of Australia
Skinner	Dominic	Measurement Engineering Australia Pty Ltd
Slahzed		Olam
Slater	Brian	AroonaFarms Vic Pty Ltd
Slattery	Ben	Stoller Australia Pty Ltd
Slaughter	John	Mossmont Nurseries
Sleep	Ashley	Woolenook Fruits
Sloss	Neville	Australian Nutgrower
Smith	Aaron	Olam Orchards Australia Pty Ltd
Smith	Peter	Select Harvest Ltd
Smith	Ann	Plant & Food Research
Smith	Rachael	Kalyx Australia

Surname	First Name	Company
Spilsbury	Brett	
Stacey	Ben	SelectAG Services
Steer	Lanita	Elders
Stein	Matthew	TriCal Australia
Stevenson	Dale	SelectAG Services
Stjepovic	Tony	Amaretto Almonds
Stoeckel	Clint	Curtis Vineyards
Stoeckel	Luke	Cannonball Almonds
Stoeckel	Troy	Elders
Strout	Graham	Amandula Orchards
Sullivan	Barry	AGCO Australia Ltd
Tana	Peter	Indian Ocean Farms Pty Ltd
Taylor	Cathy	Agriculture Victoria
Tesoriero	Len	Crop Doc Consulting
Thomas	Dane	South Australian Research and Development Institute
Thomas	Ben	Ben Thomas Consulting
Thorp	Grant	Plant and Food Research Australia
Thorp	Don	TracMap
Treeby	Michael	Agriculture Victoria
Trezise	Anthony	Aroona Farms SA
Van Kralingen	Hein	Olam Orchards Australia Pty Ltd
Van Zyl	Pieter	Phytech
Varona	Francisco	CLVAGRO
Veilofia	Hino	Amaretto Almonds
Villalba	Francisco	CLVAGRO
Wachtel	Anthony	Almond Board of Australia
Wadewitz	Peter	Peats Soil & Garden Supplies
Wadewitz	Mack	Peats Soil & Garden Supplies
Wager	Shane	Stoller Australia Pty Ltd
Walker	Nick	Cowanna / Fidiey
Ward	Michael	Select Harvest Ltd
Watson	Melissa	Fresh Country Farms of Australia
Watson	Scott	Hancock Farmland Services Australia
Wellington	Paul	Landmark
Wheatley	Rob	Auston Corp
White	Abby	Almas Almonds
Wiblin	Ben	Almond Board of Australia
Wiechel	Tonya	Agriculture Victoria
Williamson	Mitch	Walker Flat Almonds
Winkley	Todd	Fresh Country Farms of Australia
Wirthensohn	Dr Michelle	University of Adelaide
Woolston	Brenton	Almondco Australia Ltd
Wrathall	Dave	Ecrotek

Australian Almond Conference Attendee Breakdown



Voluntary feedback was received from delegates and sponsors immediately following the Conference. Examples of these are: *"My colleagues and I thought this years conference was better than our experience of the event in 2016"* - Bayer CropScience and *"Congratulations on organising the event it was great and very professionally run"* - Australian Bee Services.

Survey results stated 68.42% of voting delegates thought the length of the conference sessions were "Good" or "Satisfactory" indicating some room for improvement. The comments from the delegates stated the length of the sessions could be longer, information more detailed or less presentations. Questions were occasionally cut short to stay within scheduled time frames, making some sessions feel hurried. Two full days of sessions and break out smaller sessions were suggested, this may be considered for the 2020 AAC.

Organisational & Administration aspects of the Conference	Excellent (%)	Good (%)	Satisfactory (%)	Undecided (%)	Unsatisfactory (%)
Choice of Facility	48.21	37.50	7.14	5.36	3.57
Conference Catering (Day)	36.84	42.11	14.04	5.26	1.75
Length of Conference Overall	38.60	50.88	10.53	0.00	0.00
Number of Speakers & Sessions	33.33	52.63	14.04	0.00	0.00
Registration process	61.40	36.84	3.51	0.00	0.00

Speakers rated highly among delegates, averaging 71% of presentations as extremely engaging or very engaging. Bernard Salt, although costly, provided an entertaining and informative session for the day. Surveyed participants rated Bernard's presentation the best, with 75% of votes as extremely engaging and 21% as very engaging. The Conference Committee agreed to continue with a high profile keynote speaker for the 2020 AAC.

Event report on 2018 Australian Almond Conference submitted.

With submission of this report, all reports have now been submitted to HIA in accordance with the project agreement.