

Protected Cropping Australia Conference



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28-30 JULY 2025
ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE

Growing profitably
and sustainably

PROGRAM

Growing Profitably and Sustainably



**** Program subject to change at the discretion of the PCA Conference 2025 Program Committee ****

Monday, 28 July 2025

9.00am – 2.00pm	Exhibitor Bump In	Hall H
From 2.00pm	Registration and Exhibition Open	Hall H
2.00pm -3.30pm	Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus Workshop Chair – Andrew Tout	Hall H
3.30pm - 3.45pm	Break	
3.45pm – 5.30pm	Ag Tech & Startup Alley Chair – Chris Wilkins	Hall H
5.30pm – 7.30pm	Welcome Reception	Hall H

Tuesday, 29 July 2025

	Registration Open (arrival tea and coffee)			
07.00am – 8.00am	Sponsored Breakfast – Warren Davies – The Unbreakable Farmer			
From 8.00am	Exhibition Open			Hall H
8.30am – 8.45am	Welcome & Acknowledgement of Country (Des Dowling MC) Andrew Mcillwain (PCA Deputy Chair)			Hall C
8.45am – 8.55am	Opening Address: TBC Zak Iqbal (PCA Conference Chair)			Hall C
8.50am – 9.00am	Naming Rights Sponsor Address TBC			Hall C
9.00am – 10.30am	Keynote Panel Presentations & Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Levi Nupponen – Agrology Pty Ltd (Presentation & Panel) Godfrey Dol – (Virtual) Van Der Hoeven & Glasshouse Consultancy (Presentation & Panel) Anna Drake – Rabobank (Panel) Steve Marafioti – Sundrop Farms (Panel) Chair – Andrew Mcillwain			Hall C
10.30am – 11.10am	Morning Tea and Exhibition			Hall H
11.10am – 12.45pm	Concurrent Sessions			
	Hall C	Hall A	Hall B	
	Ag Tech Innovation (Robotics, AI, Automation) Chair – Alastair Mclean	Climate, Energy & Renewables Climate control (incl. lighting) Chair – Andrew McIlwain	Grower Workshop Growing for Profit Chair – Graeme Smith	
11.10am – 11.30am	25. Artificial Intelligence and Agricultural-Technologies in Protected Horticulture: Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities <i>Md Shahiduzzaman, University Of New England (UNE)</i>	16. Engineering Sunlight for the Horticulture Industry <i>Chris Wilkins, LLEAF Pty Ltd</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul Omodei – 10. Unlocking the key drivers of business profitability Georgia Stormont 	
11.30am – 11.50am	43. Bioscout - Helping farmers see the unseen <i>Charles Simons, Bioscout Australia</i>	62. The underestimated importance of controlled air movement through the canopy for more active, more healthy and more sustainable crops <i>Ton Habraken, Ludvig Svensson BV</i>		
11.50am – 12.10pm	1. How does AI work in a greenhouse? <i>Paul Voutier, Ambit Robotics</i>	21. Boosting crop yield in protected cropping systems with carbon <i>Amrutha Vijayakumar, University of New England, Armidale</i>		
12.10 pm – 12.30 pm	Unpacking the findings of two recent berry trials to improve traceability, consumer	5. Optimal Climate Control in Greenhouses: The Importance of Double Screens		

	engagement and streamlining the cross-border inspection process <i>Greg Calvert, Freshchain</i>	<i>Carmen Berkhout, Ridder</i>	
12.30 pm – 12.40 pm	TBC	47. Smart Farm Management System: Enhancing Efficiency and Sustainability through an Online Dashboard <i>Mark Cardamis, UNSW</i>	
12.10pm – 12.45pm	Grower Panel discussion - Growing Profitably and Sustainably <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giacomo Pippo • Jo Van Niekerk • Paul Millett • Angus Murray Chair: Jack Mooney		Hall C
12.45pm – 1.45pm	Lunch and Exhibition Open		Hall H
12.45pm - 1.45pm	Young Researcher R&D Presentations (sponsored by Australian Society of Horticultural Science) Chair SP Singh		TBC
1.45pm – 3.00pm	Concurrent Sessions		
	Hall C	Hall A	Hall B
	Building Resilient Profitable Businesses Chair – Jack Mooney	Food Safety Chair – Michelle Mak	Grower Workshop Irrigation and Fertigation Basics Chair - Tony Bundock
1.45pm – 2.05pm	10. Unlocking the key drivers of business profitability <i>Paul Omodei, Planfarm</i>	27. Meeting the Challenge: Navigating Increasing Sustainability Requirements in Food Safety Certification <i>Jane Siebum, Freshcare</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bjorn Baker • Tony Bundock • Alastair Mclean
2.05pm – 2.25pm	46. Lessons from the Field: Sales Strategies for Building Profitability in Horticulture <i>Georgia Stormont, Curious Georgia Coaching</i>	12. Food safety risk management in protected cropping systems <i>Sukhvinder Pal Singh, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development</i>	
2.25pm – 2.45pm	53. Maximising Profit and Reducing Risk with High Quality Structures <i>Terry Parsons, Envirotec Horticultural Structures</i>	Business Management & Labour Efficiency Chair- Chris Wilkins	
		23. Skilling the Way to Labour Efficiency, <i>Navtej Bal, Ironwood Institute</i>	
2.45pm – 3.05pm	34. Attracting multi-generational talent in a competitive world: How can protected cropping continue to encourage capable people into the industry? <i>Speaker TBC</i>	24. Protected Cropping Trends and Insurance Insights from Europe <i>Ilse Van De Meent, Achmea Farm Insurance (pre-record)</i>	

3.05pm – 3.35pm	Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Len Tesoriero • Jasper Verhoeven • Chris Millis • James Bertram • Manos Thoen –75. Enza Zaden Hypersensitivity reaction as defence mechanism to ToBRFV on Tomato Chair: Andrew Tout			Hall C
3.35pm – 4.15pm	Afternoon Tea and Exhibition			Hall H
4.15pm – 5.30pm	Concurrent Sessions			
	Hall C	Hall A	Hall B	
	IPDM & Biosecurity Chair – Steve Coventry	Pollination Chair – Zak Iqbal	Nutrition & Irrigation Chair – Daniel Robinson	
4.15pm – 4.35pm	11. Effective management of Tobamoviruses (Tomato brown rugose fruit virus & Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus) in greenhouse horticulture <i>Len Tesoriero, Crop Doc Consulting Pty Ltd</i>	26. Evaluating stingless bees and flies as pollinators for glasshouse strawberries <i>Claire Allison, Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, Western Sydney University</i>	3. WaterWise for the Future: Building Irrigation Capacity in Intensive Horticulture for Sustainable Growth in Coastal NSW <i>Ewan Leighton, Local Land Services</i>	
4.35pm – 4.55pm	15. Banker Plants in IPM: A Useful Tool But Not A One-Size- Fits-All, <i>Stephanus Malherbe, Biological Services</i>	28. Pollination in protected strawberries - pollen requirement, alternative pollinators, and CEA environments <i>Melissa Broussard, The New Zealand Institute for Plant and Food Research, Ltd</i>	50. Benefits of nanobubble technology for protected cropping <i>Leon Power, Nanobubble Agritech</i>	
4.55pm – 5.15pm	38. Genetic defence mechanism for tomato varieties Highly Resistant (HR) to ToBRFV <i>Manos Thoen , Enza Zaden Australia</i>	42. Sonication unzips floral anther trichomes boosting pollination and tomato fruit size <i>Christopher Cazzonell, Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, Western Sydney University</i>	8. Smart fertigation: unlocking higher yields and sustainability in greenhouse cucumber production at different EC and K levels <i>Sonali, Western Sydney University</i>	
5.15pm – 5.35pm	6. Green and Clean: Mastering pest management and hygiene in horticulture <i>Jasper Verhoeven, Royal Brinkman</i>	30. Optimising honeybee pollination in protected apple orchards <i>Lisa Evans, Plant and Food Research</i>	14. Economic And Environmental Gains from Sustainable Eggplant Fertigation <i>Md Mazadul Islam, Western Sydney University</i>	
5.35pm – 7.00pm	Networking Event – (Arrival Drinks & Canapes)			Hall H

Wednesday, 30 July 2025

From 7.00am	Registration Open (arrival tea and coffee)		
From 8.00am	Exhibition Open		
8.30am – 9.10am	Plenary: Tristan Kitchener, Kitchener & Partners Pty Ltd		
9.10am – 9.50am	Plenary: Lee Stiles, Secretary, Lea Valley Growers Association UK		
9.50am – 10.30am	Plenary Panel - Understanding Consumer & Retailer Needs in PC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tristan Kitchener Lee Stiles (Virtual) Claire McClelland Paul Millett Chair –Tristan Kitchener		
10.30am – 11.10am	Morning Tea and Exhibition		
11.10am – 12.10pm	Concurrent Sessions		
	Hall C	Hall A	Hall B
	New RDE (Protected Cropping Research, Development Program) Chair - Gordon Rogers	Sustainability & Waste Management Chair – Julie Krieger	Emerging Crops and Technologies Chair – Elio Jovicich
11.10am – 11.30am	17. Introducing horticulture's new protected cropping program: Growing horticulture through protected cropping innovation <i>Gordon Rogers, Applied Horticultural Research</i>	55. Sharing the Wins – Initiatives to Help Horticultural Businesses achieve Net Zero and contribute to a more Sustainable Future <i>Dean Parsons, Chep</i>	64. Strengthening Northern Australia's horticulture through protected cropping pathways to adoption <i>Elio Jovicich, Department of Primary Industries</i>
11.30am – 11.50am	Panel Moderated by Gordon Rogers featuring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alvaro Vidiella (<i>Costa</i>) Jim Madden (<i>Flavorite</i>) Folco Faber (<i>Apex Greenhouses</i>) Ian Goodwin (<i>Ag Vic</i>) Stephanie Tabone (<i>AHR</i>) Siddarth Jadhav (<i>Polybee</i>) 	NSW Cut Flower Chemical & Plastics Project <i>Anne Maree Boland – RMCG</i>	22. Assessing the Australian native bush tomato (<i>Solanum centrale</i>) for greenhouse production <i>Michelle Mak, Western Sydney University</i>
11.50am – 12.10pm	Panel as above	29. Eliminating Single-Use Plastics in Hydroponic Production: A High-Impact Shift from Plastic Pots to Ellepot Paper Pots <i>Darran Stone, Ellepot</i>	63. Polyhouse in the Lockyer shows Potential for Sub-tropical Summer <i>Heidi Wiggerhauser, Department of Primary Industries</i>

12.10pm – 12.45pm	Sustainability – Challenges & Opportunities in Protected Cropping Panel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dean Parsons • Ed George • Anne Maree Boland Chair – Alastair McLean			Hall C
12.45pm – 1.45pm	Lunch and Exhibition			Hall H
1.45pm – 2.45pm	Concurrent Sessions			
	Hall C	Hall A	Hall B	
	Medicinal Cannabis Forum Chaired by Angus Murray (Cann Group Limited) and featuring: Ricarda Jost (<i>La Trobe University</i>) Lennard Garcia-de-heer (<i>Southern Cross University</i>) Matthew Dent (<i>Cannabiz Australia</i>) Lydia Doherty (<i>Green Farmers Aus</i>) Brad Gallard (<i>Medtec</i>)	Berries Forum Chair - Sandy Shaw How can automated insect monitoring technology enable site specific berry pollination management? <i>Alan Dorin, Monash University</i> <i>Other talks TBC</i>	Grower Workshop Managing pests and diseases in the greenhouse Chair - Andrew McIlwain	
1.45pm – 3.05pm	Pollination & Pest Management Chair - Elio Jovicich	Energy Efficiency Chair – Chris Wilkins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephanus Malherbe • Steve Coventry • Eugene Chau • Jasper Verhoeven • Emily White 52. Multi-Action 3-in-1 Insecticide, Miticide, and Fungicide: An Ideal Solution for Integrated Pest and Disease Management 	
1.45pm – 2.05pm	32. Development of the Hoverfly (<i>Eristalis tenax</i>) as a Complimentary Managed Pollinator <i>Raylea Rowbottom, Seedpurity</i>	4. A transition to green energy <i>Sohum Gandhi, Enriva Pty Ltd</i>		
2.05pm – 2.25pm	31. The use of Solitary Bees in Protected Cropping, <i>Katja Hogendoorn, the University of Adelaide</i>	66. Climate screens: an indispensable tool for greenhouse growers to achieve more resilient, sustainable and profitable cultivation <i>Ton Habraken, Ludvig Svensson BV</i>		
2.25pm – 2.45pm	18. Varroa: the New Frontier of Honey Bee Pollination <i>Danny LeFeuvre, Australian Honey Bee Industry Council</i>	59. Resource Use and Sustainability Assessment of Australian Greenhouse Capsicum Production <i>Jing He, Western Sydney University</i>		
2.45pm – 3.05pm	20. Assessing Visual and Olfactory Cues for Enhanced Monitoring of Serpentine Leaf Miner <i>Lok Nath Aryal, Macquarie University</i>	48. Optimizing Water, Energy and Production for Horticultural Success <i>Andrew Harford, Irribiz</i>		
3.15pm – 3.55pm	Afternoon Tea and Exhibition			Hall H

3.55pm – 5.25pm	Concurrent Sessions		
	Hall C	Hall A	Hall B
	Agronomy & Environment Chair – Elio Jovicich	Market & Supply Chain Chair – Navtej Bal	Grower Workshop Improving energy efficiency Chair - Matt Plunkett
3.55pm – 4.15pm	36. Coping with Hotter and Brighter Climates <i>Graeme Smith, Graeme Smith Consulting</i>	67. Time and Temperature: The Two Pillars of Fresh Produce Supply Chain Management <i>Patrick Ulloa, Schreurs & Sons</i>	Ton Habraken Jack Mooney Alex Townsend Clinton Muller - <i>Tools and assessing baseline emissions</i>
4.15pm – 4.35pm	37. Rock Solid Developments in the Grodan Research Department, <i>Saskia Blanch, Irribiz</i>	60. The Food Frontier: Could the Asia Pacific Feed the World? <i>Alastair Maclean, Powerplants</i>	
4.35pm – 4.55pm	54. Growing Profitably and Sustainably Using Vento Tunnel Films, Increased Yields While Reducing Energy and Labour Costs with Self Ventilating Greenhouse Films <i>Rob Trenchard, Terrashield Pty Ltd</i>	56. Horticulture Goes Urban delivering knowledge to enable close to consumption production of perennial crops <i>Samantha Baldwin, The New Zealand Institute for Plant and Food Research Limited</i>	
4.55pm – 5.15pm	TBC	TBC	
5.25pm – 7.00pm	Free Time		
7.00pm – 11.00pm	Gala Dinner & Awards Presentation - Sponsored by Perfection Fresh		Hall FG

Thursday, 31 July 2025 Farm Tours – <i>timings are estimated</i>			
Tour 1 Times	Tour 1 – Vegetable Crops	Tour 2 Times	Tour 2 – Mixed Crops
5.45am	Depart Adelaide Convention Centre	7.00am	Depart Adelaide Convention Centre
6.00am	SA Produce Markets	8.00am	Australian Grain Tech
9.00am	TRL Produce	10.00am	PNLeav Greenhouse Builder
11.00am	VocoFresh	12.00pm	Quality Harvest
12.30pm (lunch)	Apex Greenhouses	2.00pm	Living Colour Nursery
3.30pm	Adelaide Airport drop off	5.00pm	Adelaide Airport drop off
4.30pm	Return to Adelaide Convention Centre	6.00pm	Return to Adelaide Convention Centre

All the Posters that will be on display in the Exhibition Hall.

Presenter	Organisation	Poster Title	Theme
Alastair Delooze	DENSO	35. Technology adoption: Developing the right foundations for success.	Ag tech (including the application of AI & Robotics)
Anshul Phaugat	Centre Of Excellence - Plants For Space, La Trobe University	61. Optimizing Hydroponic Mini Cucumber Cultivation: Enhancing Nutrient Management, Labour Efficiency, and Space Exploration	Crop management
Anu Jayaweera	Macquarie University, Sydney	73. Vibratory mating disruption as a potential tool for managing serpentine leafminer (<i>Liriomyza huidobrensis</i>) in protected cropping systems	Integrated Pest & Disease Management
Harriet Brickhill	North Coast Local Land Services	2. Capture & re-use of greenhouse drain water on farm	Irrigation
Hussein Ibrahim	Zebbraagriculture	19. Enhancement evaporative cooling for greenhouses	Climate control (incl. lighting)
Maduni Wijethilake	RMIT University	68. A light diffusion radiative cooling film for high-yield protected cropping.	Emerging technologies
Mark Cardamis	UNSW	41. Leafeon: Toward Accurate Sensing of Leaf Water Content for Protected Cropping With mmWave Radar	Ag tech (including the application of AI & Robotics)
Md Sahadat Hossain	Applied Biosciences, Macquarie University	33. Identification of host plant volatile compounds for modifying adult pest behaviour of <i>Liriomyza huidobrensis</i>	Integrated Pest & Disease Management
Ricarda Jost	La Trobe University	65. Understanding nutrient use in <i>Cannabis sativa</i> L. to optimise cultivation in protected cropping environments	Climate control (incl. lighting)
Robert Spooner-Hart	Western Sydney University	39. Managed buzz-pollination of protected crops by native, blue-banded bees	Pollination
Sanjana Akter	Macquarie University	51. Life History traits of <i>Liriomyza huidobrensis</i> and its parasitoid (<i>Neochrysocharis formosa</i>) on different temperature	Integrated Pest & Disease Management
Ton Habraken	Ludvig Svensson Bv	44. Plant Empowerment: the road-map to sustainable horticulture! A Data-Driven growing philosophy to grow more sustainable and profitable	Climate control (incl. lighting)