

Protected Cropping Australia Conference



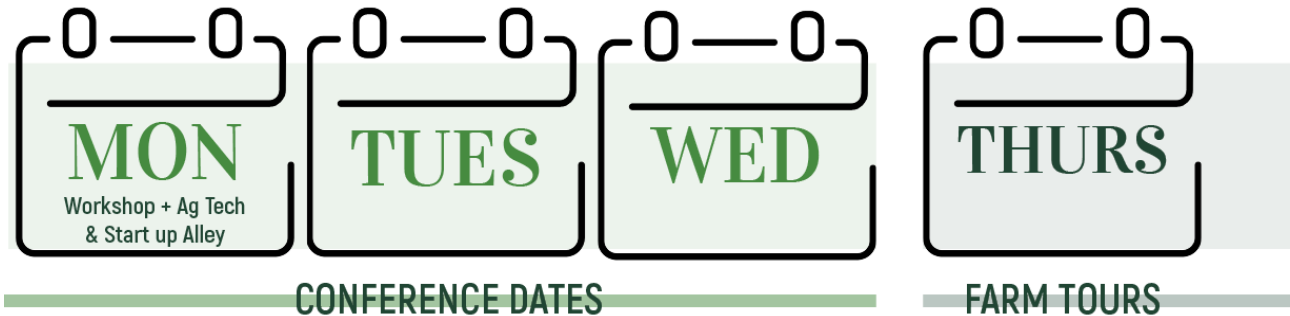
CONNECT • SHARE • LEARN

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 • Zarmeen Hassan, <i>National Manager, Biosecurity and Extension</i> • Pete van der Goor, <i>Katunga Fresh</i> • Andrew Redman, <i>Perfection Fresh</i> • Jack Mooney, <i>Provenance</i> Chair – Andrew Tout	Hall H
3.30pm - 3.45pm	Break	
3.45pm – 5.30pm	Ag Tech & Startup Alley How can agritech deliver real value for protected cropping growers - not just in theory, but in the greenhouse and under pressure? Join AusAgritech Committee Member Michael Macolino for this session unpacking the current state of Australia's agritech sector and the role of protected cropping in its future. This session will explore how emerging technologies are being shaped by producers, where real traction is happening, and how you can engage with tools that actually move the needle on productivity, sustainability, and profit. Session Format: 3:45PM – 4:15PM / Keynote: Australia's Agritech Landscape: Opportunities for Protected Cropping Michael Macolino (Managing Director, Recode Ventures & AusAgritech Committee Member) A national overview of agricultural innovation, followed by a focused look at technology trends relevant to protected cropping - from automation and environment control to data-driven decision-making and energy efficiency. 4:15PM – 5:15PM / Panel: What Growers Want, What Tech Can Do? A practical discussion with agritech founders/companies actively working with protected cropping producers. Learn what's being trialled, what challenges are being solved, and how grower feedback is shaping product development and commercial readiness. Agritech companies suggested: BioScout, Nannobubble, InvertiGro. 5:15PM – 5:30PM / Audience Q&A	Hall H



5.30pm – 7.30pm

Welcome Reception sponsored by Enza Zaden



Hall H

Tuesday, 29 July 2025

7.00am	Registration Open (arrival tea and coffee)		Foyer J
07.00am – 8.00am	Breakfast – Keynote Speaker: Warren Davies – The Unbreakable Farmer		Adelaide Convention Centre
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 – 9.00am	Opening Address: Zak Iqbal (PCA Conference Chair)		Hall C
9.00am – 10.30am	Keynote Panel Presentations & Panel: - Levi Nupponen – Agrolgy Pty Ltd (Presentation & Panel) - Godfrey Dol – (Virtual) Van Der Hoeven & Glasshouse Consultancy (Presentation & Panel) - Anna Drake – Rabobank (Panel) - Ben Hoodless – Element AG Chair – Andrew McIlwain		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 Session Sponsored by DENSO <i>DENSO</i>	Grower Workshop Growing for Profit Chair – Graeme Smith - Paul Omodei - Levi Nupponen - Ian Mortlock, Mortlock Hydroponics - John Elford, Yendon Gourmet Tomatoes
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>Amity Bliss, LLEAF Pty Ltd</i>	
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 is a Greenhouse AI built <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	71. Unpacking the findings of two recent berry trials to improve traceability, consumer engagement and streamlining the cross-border inspection process <i>Greg Calvert, Freshchain</i>	47. Smart Farm Management System: Enhancing Efficiency and Sustainability through an Online Dashboard <i>Mark Cardamis, UNSW</i>	
12.30 pm – 12.50 pm	Grower Panel discussion - Growing Profitably and Sustainably (12.30 – 1.10pm) - Giacomo Pippo, Fresh at Heart - Jo Van Niekerk, Boomaroo Nurseries - Paul Millett, Invertigro - Angus Murray, Cann Group Chair: Jack Mooney	72. Renewable Energy & CO2 for Protected Cropping Kane Ravenscroft from Optimal Group	
12.50pm – 1.45pm	Lunch and Exhibition Open Lunch is sponsored by HM Clause		Hall H
12.50pm - 1.45pm	Lunch and Learn! Poster session		Hall H
1.45pm – 3.05pm	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 - Bjorn Baker, Gakon Netafim - Tony Bundock, Protected Cropping Australia - Alastair McLean, Powerplants
1.45pm – 2.05pm	10. Unlocking the key drivers of business profitability <i>Paul Omodei, Planfarm</i> <i>Donna Lucas</i>	27. Meeting the Challenge: Navigating Increasing Sustainability Requirements in Food Safety Certification <i>Jane Siebum, Freshcare</i>	
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. Eating with your eyes <i>Terry Parsons, Envirotec Horticultural Structures</i>	Business Management & Labour Efficiency Chair – Julie Kreiger	
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>Gino Mascia, DENSO</i>	23. Skilling the Way to Labour Efficiency, <i>Navtej Bal, Ironwood Institute</i> 24. Protected Cropping Trends and Insurance Insights from Europe, <i>Marie Groenhof, Greenhouse and Horticulture, Hagelunie, the Netherlands (pre-record)</i>	
3.05pm – 3.35pm	Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus Panel Discussion		Hall C

	• Dr Len Tesoriero, Crop Doc Consulting Pty Ltd • Jasper Verhoeven, Royal Brinkman • Chris Millis, Flavorite Hydroponic Tomatoes Pty Ltd • James Bertram, Rijk Zwaan Australia Pty Ltd • Manus Thoen, Enza Zaden Australia Chair: Andrew Tout			
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  Session Sponsored by Syngenta	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>Anita Marquart, 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>Manus 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 Koundal, 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 – 6.45pm	Invited Networking Grower Event – Light refreshments served Sponsored by Exfoliators 			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: Grocery retailing faces pressure from innovation, inflation, and shifting behaviors, requiring understanding of evolving consumer and retailer needs. Tristan Kitchener, Kitchener & Partners Pty Ltd		Hall C
9.10am – 9.30am	Plenary: The Rise of CEA: Defining Excellence in Controlled Environment Agriculture Lessons for Australia, Global Insights That Matter Lee Stiles, Secretary, Lea Valley Growers Association UK		Hall C
9.30am – 10.30am	Plenary Panel - Understanding Consumer & Retailer Needs in PC - Tristan Kitchener, Kitchener Partners Pty Ltd - Lee Stiles (Virtual) - Claire McClelland, Fresh Produce Alliance - Paul Millett, Invertigro Chair –Tristan Kitchener		Hall C
10.30am – 11.10am	Morning Tea and Exhibition		
11.10am – 12.10pm	Concurrent Sessions		
	Hall C	Hall A	Hall B
	(Protected Cropping Research, Development Program)  Chair - Gordon Rogers Session Sponsored by Hort Innovation	Sustainability & Waste Management Chair – Matt Plunkett	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>	76. Agricultural plastics – what is the future? <i>Anne-Maree Boland – RMCG</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: - 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>)	83. Sustainability in protected cropping <i>John Baker, Perfection Fresh Australia</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 Wigganhauser and and Gaurav Bhuj, Department of Primary Industries</i>
12.10pm – 12.45pm	Sustainability – Challenges & Opportunities in Protected Cropping Panel - Ed George, Redpath & Elite Tunnels - Anne-Maree Boland, RM Consulting Group - John Baker, Perfection Fresh Australia - Steve Marafiotte – Sundrop Farms (Panel) Chair – Alastair McLean		Hall C
12.45pm – 1.45pm	Lunch and Exhibition		Hall H
1.45pm – 2.45pm	Mixed 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>) - Caleb North, - Lydia Doherty (<i>Green Farmers Aus</i>)	Berries Forum Chair - Sandy Shaw 74. How can automated insect monitoring technology enable site specific berry pollination management? <i>Alan Dorin, Monash University</i> 79. Bioreactors: A Sustainable Solution to Nutrient Pollution <i>Melinda Simpson, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development</i> 78. Understanding “e-weights” (AQS) and how it instantly (and legally!) reduces giveaway <i>Julian Horsley, A&D Weighing and Inspection</i>	Grower Workshop Managing pests and diseases in the greenhouse Chair - Andrew McIlwain - Stephanus Malherbe, Biological Services - Steve Coventry, Bugs For Bugs - Eugene Chau, Rovensa Next - Jasper Verhoeven, Royal Brinkman
2.45pm – 3.35pm	Concurrent Sessions		
	Hall C	Hall A	Hall B
	Pollination & Pest Management Chair - Elio Jovicich	Energy Efficiency Chair – Tony Bundock	Mixed Themes Chair – Andrew Mcillwain
2.45pm – 3.05pm	32. Development of the Hoverfly (<i>Eristalis tenax</i>) as a Complimentary Managed Pollinator	4. A transition to green energy <i>Sohum Gandhi, Enriva Pty Ltd</i>	Managing pests and diseases in the greenhouse

	<i>Raylea Rowbottom, Seedpurity</i>		52. Multi-Action 3-in-1 Insecticide, Miticide, and Fungicide: An Ideal Solution for Integrated Pest and Disease Management <i>Eugene Chau, Rovensa Next</i>
3.05pm – 3.25pm	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>	49. Strengthening biosecurity measures to prevent diseases <i>Ivan Casteels, Roamtechnology</i>
3.25pm – 3.55pm	Afternoon Tea and Exhibition		Hall H
3.55pm – 5.45pm	Concurrent Sessions		
	Hall C	Hall A	Hall B
	Agronomy & Environment Chair – Elio Jovicich	Energy Efficiency Chair – Tony Bundock	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>	59. Resource Use and Sustainability Assessment of Australian Greenhouse Capsicum Production <i>Jing He, Western Sydney University</i>	• Ton Habraken, Ludvig Svensson Bv • Jack Mooney, Provenance Propagation • Alex Townsend, Choice Energy • Clinton Muller - <i>Tools and assessing baseline emissions</i>
4.15pm – 4.35pm	54. Growing Profitably and Sustainably Using Vento Tunnel Films, Increased Yields While Reducing Energy and Labour Costs with Self Ventilating Greenhouse Films <i>Robert Trenchard, Terrashield Pty Ltd</i>	48. Optimizing Water, Energy and Production for Horticultural Success <i>John van der Wilk, Stolze</i>	
	Pollination & Pest Management Chair – Elio Jovicich	Market & Supply Chain, Chair – TBC	
4.35pm – 4.55pm	20. Assessing Visual and Olfactory Cues for Enhanced Monitoring of Serpentine Leaf Miner <i>Lok Nath Aryal, Macquarie University</i>	60. The Food Frontier: Could the Asia Pacific Feed the World? <i>Alastair Maclean, Powerplants</i>	
4.55pm – 5.15pm	18. Varroa: the New Frontier of Honey Bee Pollination <i>Danny LeFeuvre, Australian Honeybee Industry Council</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>	
5.15pm – 7.00pm	Free Time		
7.00pm – 11.00pm	Gala Dinner & Awards Presentation - Sponsored by Perfection Fresh		Hall FG



Thursday, 31 July 2025 Farm Tours

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
2.30pm	Adelaide Airport drop off	3.30pm	Adelaide Airport drop off
3.00pm	Return to Adelaide Convention Centre	4.00pm	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
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)