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[Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [Membership](#) | [Events](#) | [Growers](#) | [Services](#) | [News](#) | [Contact](#)

Wednesday, 13 May 2015

The latest industry news at your fingertips

'Guacamole' is the Australian avocado industry's fortnightly email newsletter delivering the latest news of relevance to the Australian avocado industry.

Make sure you check out:

[Avocado grower secures Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarship](#)
[Holy Guacamole its May Mexican Month](#)
[The Voice responds to ABC's Four Corner's "Slave Labour" program](#)
[Tristate Qualicado Workshop - RSVP now!](#)
[Attention: Central NSW Growers & Packers](#)
[Study Tour of Peru & Chile - Last chance to reserve a place!](#)
[Best Practice Resource - Access Qualicado Presentations](#)
[Infocado and Retail Prices updates](#)
[Woolworths losing supermarket war](#)
[Horticulture industry proposes workers' photo ID smart card](#)
[Aldi Australia responds to supplier misconduct allegations](#)

Grower Update



Tristate Qualicado Workshop – RSVP now!

The **Tristate Qualicado Workshop** takes place next **Thursday 21 May** at 22 Dearman Road, Ramco. All avocado growers and packers in the region are invited to attend this free and informative event. Avocados Australia would like to thank Thiel Orchards for hosting and supporting this event. [Click here](#) to view the event program.

On the day the South Australia Avocado Growers Association Annual General Meeting will also take place.

Topics being presented as part of the workshop program will cover nutrition for healthy avocados, maximising profit in avocados, avocado handling and temperature control, and how to leverage Avocados Australia's Infocado reporting system. The day also provides growers with the means to track their performance using Grower Self Assessments. Presentations will be followed by an orchard walk.

RSVP now!

Please RSVP to Nathan Symonds on 07 3846 6566 or supplychain@avocado.org.au before **Monday 18 May 2015**. Complimentary refreshments will be provided.

Attention: Central NSW Growers & Packers

All Central NSW growers and packers are invited to attend Avocados Australia's "Central NSW Qualicado Workshop" that is to be held on Thursday 4 June at 387 Stennetts Rd near Comboyne. The program is being finalised and will be sent out soon. For now claim the date in your diaries!

RSVP now to Nathan Symonds, call 07 3846 6566 or email supplychain@avocado.org.au.

Avocado grower secures Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarship

Bernadette Mortensen, from Mangrove Mountain in New South Wales, has received a Nuffield Scholarship supported by Woolworths. She will investigate how farmers can manage urban encroachment, unfavourable public perception and legislative change.

Bernadette is owner/operator of a 12-hectare farm that grows 350 avocado trees and also produces free-range chickens. The scholarship will assist Bernadette in her plans to visit and investigate how urban encroachment is being managed in agricultural areas located in the United States, China, Singapore, Mexico, the UK and Denmark.

"The Nuffield Scholarship is a wonderful opportunity to broaden the horizon and perspectives of young farmers and I am thrilled to be given this opportunity," she said.

Avocados Australia congratulates Bernadette and wishes her well.

"We wish Bernadette well with her endeavours and we will be keen to see the outcome of her investigations into how farmers are managing urban encroachment around the world," said John Tyas CEO Avocados Australia.

The Nuffield scholarship applications for 2016 are currently open until the 30 June 2015, those interested can find out more on their website www.nuffield.com.au.

The Voice responds to ABC's Four Corner's "Slave Labour" program

The Voice of Horticulture recently issued a media release in response to the recent ABC Four Corner program "Slave Labour" showing illegal treatment of workers in the fresh food / horticultural industry in Australia (aired on Monday evening 4 May).

In response, the Voice of Horticulture media release condemns the illegal exploitation of workers and stated that it genuinely believes in "a fair day's pay for a fair day's work". The Voice also condemned unscrupulous labour hire contractors and all those associating with them and welcomes increased enforcement and engagement activity, especially by the Fair Work Ombudsman, to "bring the weight of the law on those who illegally exploit workers."

Importantly, The Voice outlined a proposed solution to prevent the future exploitation of workers in the form of introducing a 'Green Card'.

[Click here](#) to view the Voice of Horticulture media release in full.

You can follow news and issues related to Voice of Horticulture on Twitter via [#voiceofhort](https://twitter.com/voiceofhort)

Marketing update

Holy Guacamole its May Mexican Month

This May Australian Avocados are going mad for all things Mexican on the Australian Avocados

[Facebook page](#) and [website](#). Throughout the month our Facebook fans will be posted with messages of great Mexican recipes, fun Mexican facts as well as some fun competitions. As Mexican cuisine is a perfect partner for avocados May is also a perfect time to encourage usage ideas to promote avocado consumption.

With new season fruit starting to emerge and the cooler nights, Mexican is an easy and accessible family meal alternative. It also continues to be the hot trend in food. We will be suggesting fans adopt Taco Tuesday or Fajita Friday, guess the ingredients of a guacamole or try our killer Quesadilla. Check out some of the new recipes in the Mexican collection on the website such as Mexican pulled pork, Fajitas with chicken and guacamole and tortillas with prawns. To help support Mexican month our paid SEM activities and paid Facebook media will help encourage content sharing, drive engagement and ultimately bring consumer traffic back through our assets.

Study Tour of Peru & Chile – Last chance to reserve a place!

This is your last chance to reserve a place to take part in the Study Tour!

The Study Tour to Peru and Chile will take place in September and include attendance at the **VIII World Avocado Congress** in Lima Peru - includes a Pre-Congress tour - and a tour of avocado production locations outside of Santiago in Chile. For those who had requested the opportunity to visit Machu Picchu an optional extension to the study tour is also available.

Interested in taking part? Contact Anna Petrou at Avocados Australia on 3846 6566 or email co@avocado.org.au to receive the booking form, itinerary and further details.

Bookings are to be received before **close of business tomorrow, Thursday 14 May!**

Best Practice Resource – Qualicado Workshop Presentations

Did you know that the Best Practice Resource (BPR) contains all of the presentations that have been made at all of the Qualicado Workshops to date?

If you missed a Qualicado Workshop in your region you can catch up with what was presented by accessing the presentations on the Best Practice Resource. Australian avocado growers and packers can access them by logging in to the Best Practice Resource. Once logged on move your cursor to the "Growing" menu item and then select "Qualicado". Once on the Qualicado webpage move your cursor and click on your region and go to the page that lists the presentations.

If you are an Australian grower/packer/wholesaler/ripenner/transporter/exporter/retailer and you haven't applied to access the Best Practice Resource apply for access now! [Click here](#) to access the online application form and apply for access now.

Infocado and Retail Prices updates

Past Infocado Reports and Retail Prices data are available for access from the Avocados Australia website. You can regularly access this information by going to the Avocados Australia website (industry.avocado.org.au):

To access **Infocado reports** [click here](#)

To access **Retail Prices** [click here](#)

Industry News

Woolworths losing supermarket war

Woolworths have admitted that their businesses are underperforming financially, and as a

result job cuts will need to be made. Read more by [clicking here](#).

Horticulture industry condemns exploitation of workers & proposes photo ID card

The horticulture industry is proposing migrant workers be given a so-called "Green Card" by the Department of Immigration. This statement comes in response to the recent Four Corners investigation of 417 visa holders being exploited in horticulture and food processing. [Click here](#) to read more.

Aldi Australia responds to supplier misconduct allegations

One of the retailers named in a recent Four Corners report into migrant farm worker maltreatment has defended its professional and ethical standards, and announced an investigation of all suppliers mentioned in the program is now underway. [Click here](#) to read more.

Can't wait for Guacamole? You can read all the latest [Avocado News](#) and industry-related [National & International News](#) on the Avocados Australia industry website.

This email was sent by Avocados Australia, Level 1 / 8/63 Annerley Rd, Woolloongabba, Australia 4102 to co@avocado.org.au

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