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Friday, 14th of February 2014

## 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.

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## Grower Update



### Brisbane Qualicado Workshop this Thursday - RSVP Now!

This **Thursday, 20 February**, Avocados Australia's **Brisbane Qualicado Workshop** will be providing Brisbane avocado wholesalers, ripeners and transporters with the latest information regarding where bruising of fruit occurs in the Avocado supply chain and the best ways to handle and ripen avocados to meet customer expectations. The event details appear below:

**Brisbane wholesalers, ripeners and transporters should RSVP now and attend this free event!**

**When:** arrive 8.30am (for a 9.00am start) finishes 11.30am, Thursday 20 February 2014

**Where:** Training Room 2, Ground Floor, Fresh Centre Brisbane Markets, 385 Sherwood Rd, Rocklea.

**RSVP now:** Call Nathan Symonds on 07 3846 6566 or email [supplychain@avocado.org.au](mailto:supplychain@avocado.org.au)

**AGENDA:**

- 8.30am Complimentary coffee and tea on arrival
- 9.00am Welcome and Program Overview - John Tyas, CEO Avocados Australia (15mins)
- 9.15am Overview of Qualicardo Program - Nathan Symonds, AAL Program Manager (10mins)
- 9.25am Best Practice Resource Overview - Nathan Symonds, AAL Program Manager (15mins)
- 9.40am Avocado Bruising Research Update - Daryl Joyce, School of Agriculture & Food Sciences (UQ) (30mins)
- 10.10am Break (15mins)
- 10.25am Handling and Ripening - What you can do to minimise risk  
- Terry Campbell, Qld Dept. of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (QDAFF) (30mins)
- 10.55am Infocado Program Update - Nathan Symonds, AAL Program Manager (20mins)
- 11.15am Avocado Varieties (TBC) - Denis Roe, Senior Manager, Birdwood Nursery (15mins)
- 11.30am Finish

**Members Update - Avocados Australia Board to meet this Month**

Avocados Australia would like to make members aware that the **Avocados Australia Board** will be meeting in Brisbane on **Wednesday 26 February**.

**HAL Avocado Industry Advisory Committee Meeting**

Avocados Australia would like to make levy payers aware that a Horticulture Australia Ltd (HAL) **Avocado Industry Advisory Committee meeting** will be taking place this month on **Thursday 27 to Friday 28 of February** in Brisbane.

**Best Practice Resource Users - New features!**

The Best Practice Resource authors have added four new items under the heading "Other Insect Pests" in the "Growing" section of the Avocados Australia website. Under the heading "Other Insect Pests" growers will now find information on how to identify and treat: Planthopper, Zebra shield bug, Whitefly and Tussock moth.

If you haven't applied to access the Best Practice Resource now is the time. If you are an Australian avocado grower (or packer, wholesaler, transporter, ripener or retailer) and you do not as yet have access to Avocados Australia's Best Practice Resource [click here](#), then click on "Apply to access" and complete the online form. For assistance email [co@avocado.org.au](mailto:co@avocado.org.au) or call toll free 1300 303 971.

**Growers feedback invited at HAL review meetings**

Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL) has commissioned ACIL Allen to conduct an independent review of HAL's operations and model and the horticulture levy system. As part of this process a series of Stakeholder Forums or review meetings were being held this month around the country. The remaining three Stakeholder Forums taking place are in New South Wales, Tasmania and Queensland as follows:

- **Sydney, NSW** - 18 Feb, 10.00am - 12.00pm, Horticulture Australia Limited, Level 7, 179 Elizabeth Street
- **Launceston, TAS** - 27 Feb, 9.00am - 11.00am, Clarion Hotel City Park Grand, 22 Tamar St
- **Brisbane, QLD** - 27 Feb, 9.00am - 11.00am, Training Room, Brisbane Markets Fresh Centre, Sherwood Rd, Rocklea

The key issues for discussion include:

- What is the primary purpose of HAL?
- How efficient is it?
- Could it consult better with levy payers?
- Can it deliver better value for money from its many projects?
- Are there too many industry bodies making too many decisions about levies?

We encourage you to attend and provide your feedback. Forum details may change so please refer to the ACIL Allen website prior to attending a forum ([click here](#) to go to the website).

To download the **Terms of Reference** [click here](#).

To access the HAL Consultation Paper [click here](#).

To contact the HAL Review Team email: [halreviewteam@acilallen.com.au](mailto:halreviewteam@acilallen.com.au).

Or call the HAL Review hotline on 1300 794 025.

## **ORCHARDINFO - Contribute and help plan for the future!**

For all those growers who have been contributing data to the **OrchardInfo** system you would have received reports detailing tree numbers and average yields by variety for the 2011 season just before Christmas.

**OrchardInfo Reports** will be published and distributed detailing the 2012 season within the next few months. As well as this Orchardinfo forms will be sent to growers in March to collect data from the 2013 season. We would like to strongly encourage you to complete the forms when you get them as this information is really important for planning marketing programs into the future both at an industry and individual grower level. There will also be incentive prizes of iPads so get your info in! The prize offers are available if you provide your survey forms by the deadline. OrchardInfo Forms will include the details about the prize draws and will be mailed out soon.

OrchardInfo enquiries and forms can be directed to Nathan Symonds on 07 3846 6566 or email [supplychain@avocado.org.au](mailto:supplychain@avocado.org.au).

## **Why should you contribute to OrchardInfo?**

When Australian avocado growers provide their data to OrchardInfo you provide us - your peak industry body - with the means to more accurately assist with monitoring production trends, allow for future planning and forecasting. If all of Australia's commercial avocado growers contribute reliable data into OrchardInfo it benefits the industry as a whole, and YOU. That is why it is within your own best interests to help us make this a comprehensive and accurate database. Once you contribute you are eligible to receive the Annual OrchardInfo Reports. These reports provide you with better information regarding estimated future production that can assist you with long term business decision making. The data you submit will also ensure that as an industry we are well prepared to market future volumes of fruit.

## **Brisbane to host the International Horticultural Congress (IHC2014)!**



The **29th International Horticultural Congress (IHC2014)** will be taking place in Brisbane from the **17th to the 22nd of August at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre**. The theme for this congress is "*Sustaining Lives, Livelihoods and Landscapes*".

Included in this event is the International Tropical Fruit Symposium. This symposium will cover themes such as breeding, production technologies and physiology, pests & diseases and postharvest and processing technologies, and will include oral and poster presentations on avocados. Avocado papers will also be presented in a few other symposia, including "Postharvest Knowledge for the Future" and "Mechanisation, Precision Horticulture & Robotics." Special day tours to the Sunshine Coast will also be held.

The organisation of IHC2014 is a joint initiative of the Australian Society of Horticultural Science (AuSHS), the New Zealand Institute of Agricultural and Horticultural Science (NZIAHS) and Pacific Island countries. It is expected that over 2,500 international delegates from at least 120 countries will attend the 2014 congress in Brisbane.

Today is your last chance to register at Early Bird rates!

Click here to access and complete a [Registration Form](#). Registration rates will increase after 17 February 2014.

Full details of this event, including the scientific program, are available at [www.ihc2014.org](http://www.ihc2014.org), where you can also register your interest to receive newsletters and updates about this event.

### **Dry Matter Results & Retail Prices - View online!**

The latest Dry Matter results (20 January 2014) and the Retail Prices (10th February 2014) have been uploaded to the Avocados Australia website. You can regularly access this information by going to the Avocados Australia website (<http://industry.avocado.org.au>). Glide your cursor over the maroon menu bar to "Services". Once there drag your mouse down the list to "Maturity Monitoring" and then "Retail Pricing".

### **Online Report Centre - latest uploads!**

Avocado levy payers and Avocados Australia members that have access to the **Online Report Centre** (located on the Avocados Australia website) can view and open electronic copies of Avocado-related Research & Development reports, Annual Reports, Market Data, Member notices and other useful documents. To view the latest uploads, and all of the above documents, [click here](#) to access the Online Report Centre and then enter your username and password to log in.

#### **Latest uploads:**

- R&D Report: "Optimizing phosphonate use for Phytophthora root rot management in Shepard avocados in North Queensland"
- Market Data: "Export Market Intelligence Report (Jan-Dec 2013)"

If you require assistance in accessing the Online Report Centre please email [co@avocado.org.au](mailto:co@avocado.org.au) or call 1300 303 971.

### **Department of Agriculture - New Plant Export Authorised Officer Hotline!**

Australian avocado export enterprises that have Authorised Officers (AOs) can now benefit from the Department of Agriculture's new information export hotline. AOs who have technical questions and issues in regard the export of horticulture related products such as fresh avocados can now call the "**Plant Export Authorised Officer Hotline**" number for assistance. The hotline number is: **1800 851 305**.

Calls to the hotline will be answered during departmental office hours. AOs who call outside of office hours will be able to leave a voice mail message and will be contacted by an administrator within the next business day.

[Click here](#) to view the Authorised Officer Hotline Poster for more information.

### **Growers have until 7 March to comment on Ag Chemicals' red tape!**

The Australian Government is reviewing agricultural chemicals and veterinary medicines (Agvet chemicals) regulation. The government's first step will be to introduce legislation to remove the re-approval and re-registration scheme before it commences on 1 July 2014. An exposure draft of the Bill to remove re-registration is now available and open for comment until **7 March 2014**. You can find the bill at [www.daff.gov.au/agvet](http://www.daff.gov.au/agvet).

To assist you a consultation document about the exposure draft Bill has been prepared and you can access this by [clicking here](#). This consultation paper explains how the government would remove re-approval and re-registration. The paper also discusses some additional amendments to reduce red-tape and address minor issues identified with implementing existing legislation, including a detailed explanation of specific provisions.

The draft legislation is available for public comment until 7 March 2014 at



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