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Monday, 23 March 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.

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Grower Update



The Voice of Horticulture address gathering at Parliament House

The Voice of Horticulture had the opportunity to address the gathering that came out to attend the Horticulture Innovation Australia Ltd (HIA) introduction event that was held recently at Parliament House in Canberra. The event was held as part of a Horticulture Industry Forum.

Minister for Agriculture, Barnaby Joyce, hosted the Horticulture Industry Forum in order to officially welcome HIA as the new RDC body. The event included presentations on some of HIA's major research and marketing projects.

Tania Chapman, Chair of Voice of Horticulture, had the opportunity to speak on behalf of fruit, nut, mushroom, turf and flower growers.

Tania spoke passionately about the potential of horticulture and the role the Voice will take to educate people about the importance of horticulture, fight for a fair deal for the sector in trade, reduce regulatory burden and improve government advice and assistance.

The Voice of Horticulture now represents 25 horticultural industries.

Tania reinforced that “there are more than 30,000 growers in the horticulture sector in Australia, but their contribution to Australian agriculture and Australia’s economy is often overlooked.”

“The Voice of Horticulture is here to change that. We will speak up for horticultural growers to help our industry get the support it needs.”

The aim is that *“the Voice will work with Horticulture Innovation Australia to ensure grower levies are allocated and invested both effectively and efficiently in necessary research, development, extension and marketing - a true grower representative body.”*

HIA staff, public servants from the Department of Agriculture, members of grower representative organisations and politicians, including the Minister for Agriculture Barnaby Joyce, were all part of the event.

To access the **Voice of Horticulture** media release [click here](#).

To access a copy of **Tania Chapman’s** speech [click here](#).

HIA is seeking your input on Strategic Investment Priorities

Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited (HIA Ltd) recently released its consultation paper seeking input on the strategic investment priorities for its strategic investment program. So have your say!

HIA Ltd’s consultation paper is seeking wide stakeholder input to determine the priorities for the HIA strategic investment fund. It details information on:

- the strategic co-investment funds and how they will operate
- the broad challenges that will impact the horticulture sector over the next five to 20 years
- potential criteria as a basis to screen research programs and encourage innovative approaches
- a road map to develop the strategic co-investment funds and process to prioritise funds.

In addition to discussing the strategic investment fund, the consultation paper also provides an overview of the overall investment structure being implemented by HIA and how it will work.

The consultation paper is available online and comments close at the **end of March 2015!**

[Click here](#) to access [HIA’s Consultation Paper](#).

Have your say, email your submission to HIA_responses@consultingis.com.au. For further information contact: John Lloyd, Chief Executive Officer, Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited, on 02 8295 2321.

Tamborine/Northern Rivers Qualicado Workshop - this THURSDAY!

The **Tamborine/Northern Rivers Qualicado Workshop** will be taking place next **Thursday 26 March 2015** at Laurel Park, Wardell Rd, Alstonville NSW. All growers and packers in the area are invited to attend this free and informative event aimed at providing avocado growers and packers in the region with the latest information on how to further improve fruit quality and productivity.

Topics that will be covered at the workshop that will benefit growers include nutrition for healthy avocados, maximising profit in the avocado industry, 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.

The workshop’s program and location map can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

Avocados Australia would like to thank **Tom and Veronica Silver** for hosting and supporting this event. Tom Silver is the Avocados Australia’s Regional Director representing the

Tamborine/Northern Rivers region.

Avocados Australia would also like to thank our sponsor [Barmac](#) for supporting the workshop as a regional sponsor. This project is funded by Horticulture Innovation Australia using the Avocado Industry levy and funds from the Australian Government.

RSVP now:

Those interested in attending should contact Nathan Symonds on **07 3846 6566** or supplychain@avocado.org.au



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OrchardInfo Winners Announced

Avocados Australia is excited to announce that **Russell Carey of Wemen Victoria** and **Victor Braun of Ravensbourne Queensland** have each won a brand new iPad! During the last few months Avocados Australia has been running a competition where two free iPads were up for grabs as a reward for growers taking the time to return their 2013 OrchardInfo forms. Everyone who did so went into the draw. Thank you to all the businesses who took the time to contribute their OrchardInfo data.

All the information provided will now be aggregated and a summarised report will be sent to the OrchardInfo contributors.

The OrchardInfo program is designed to collect information about the total number of avocado trees growing in Australia. There are a number of benefits to individual businesses and industry. As a grower you will be provided 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 can better plan and be well prepared to market future volumes of fruit. 2013 season reports will be available to contributors in the coming weeks.

The lucky winners are very excited about the win and are looking forward to receiving their new iPads.

"It's a fantastic reward for these two businesses for taking a few minutes out of their day to send their orchard data into us," said Nathan Symonds AAL's supply chain program manager.

If you have any questions regarding OrchardInfo please don't hesitate to contact Nathan Symonds on 07 3846 6566 or email supplychain@avocado.org.au

Reduce your business's energy costs!

Apple and Pear Australia Ltd's **"Watts in your Business"** program has developed useful information to assist horticulture industries in a range of ways. The following Energy Saving fact sheets assist businesses wanting to save energy (and money) when undertaking irrigation, refrigeration, lighting, powering packing lines and renegotiating tariffs.

Below is a list of fact sheets that outline how and where fruit production businesses can save energy in their packing sheds and orchards. Click on the **Energy Saving fact sheets** linked below to find out how your business can reduce energy costs:

- [Saving energy - Lighting in packing sheds](#)
- [Saving energy - Refrigeration in fruit cool stores](#)
- [Saving energy - Electricity tariffs](#)

- [Saving energy - Grading in packing sheds](#)
- [Saving energy - Irrigation in orchards](#)
- [Useful service providers and websites to help fruit production businesses cut energy costs](#)

'Watts in Your Business' is managed by APAL, undertaken with Summerfruit Australia Limited and Cherry Growers Australia Inc., and was funded under the Australian Government's Energy Efficiency Information Grants program.

Best Practice Resource – Spotlight on Ripening

Do you know the steps that should be taken when ripening avocados?

Ripening avocados is a complex procedure in which factors such as the season, the growing district, the grower and fruit maturity need to be taken into account as well as a host of other factors. This information along with how to store avocados, conduct assessments, set and monitor ideal ripening conditions, and more can be accessed from Avocados Australia's Best Practice Resource online.

If you are an Australian grower/packer/wholesaler/riper/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, Retail Prices & Dry Matter Content updates

Past Infocado Reports and Retail Prices 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](#)

To access Dry Matter results [click here](#)

Marketing Update

Australian Avocado Evolution A Winner



As part of the Australian Avocado Chef Masterclasses targeting the next generation of chefs, a unique training session was held at the Evolution Hospitality Institute in Sydney at the beginning of March. Two classes of students were put through their paces in hands-on instructional sessions with Masterclass veteran presenter Kate McGhie and the Institute's professional cookery trainers. The morning session saw 22 students discover and experience the uses of avocados and produce a range of courses under the watchful eye and helping hand of McGhie. The afternoon session saw a new contingent of senior students work diligently, learning about the versatility of fresh Australian avocados. But for this more seasoned group, the fruit of their labour was served as canapés, entrée, mains and dessert to 60 invited hospitality industry guests in the Institute's dining room that evening.

All participating cooking students were challenged to create a special avocado dish for the event ensuring they pushed the boundaries of their understanding and potential of the fruit - with the winning dish being served as the entrée. In addition to the honour and accolade, the

winner received an Australian Avocados engraved Tojiro knife as a prize.

While running a rigorous, all-day and into the evening session was a first for the avocado Masterclass program - for the first time it also involved the front-of-house and management students, right from the planning stage. Student waiters described the dishes to guests, listing ingredients and technique, as they served them canapés at the pre-dinner drinks and again during table service. Management students developed an 'event management' program to attract industry guests to attend, and thematically 'dressed' the rooms and managed the logistics of the evening's highly successful event.

Evolution Hospitality Institute is a young and dynamic organisation that won the 2014 NSW Training Award for Small Training Provider.

Industry News

Disease-resistant avocados close

A root-rot fungus that costs the avocado industry more than \$10 million a year is facing a dubious future thanks to a genome sequencing project at The University of Queensland. Read more by [clicking here](#).

Avocado industry's unprecedented growth makes the news

A steady increase in avocado consumption over the past six years, along with strong prices, is continuing to drive unprecedented growth in the industry. Read more by [clicking here](#).

Medina sees "big future" for Peruvian avocados in China, Japan

The Peruvian Hass avocado industry expects a decent first year of trade with the Chinese and Japanese markets, and also hopes to gain access to several Latin American countries in the near future. [Click here](#) to read more.

Peru: Rainfall delays avocado harvest and pushes prices up

The heavy rainfall that lasted until last weekend caused the avocado harvest in the southern Peruvian region of Ayacucho to stop. [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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