

**Australian
Pecan
ASSOCIATION**

**APA Annual Conference
24 - 25 August 2019**

Program



Day One: 24 August 2019

Conference & AGM

**Westport Club, 25 Buller Street
Port Macquarie NSW**

Day Two: 25 August 2019

Rustic "Health & Nutrition" Pecan Breakfast & Field Day

**Old Butter Factor & Will & Sally Cutler's Farm
Telegraph Point NSW**



A Message from our Conference Chair

Welcome!

The APA conference committee is excited to present this year's Australian Pecan Association Conference. This year we will be travelling to the mid-north coast region of NSW to beautiful Port Macquarie.

What a great opportunity to book in some well needed holiday time (tax deductible!) in this neck of the woods and reward yourself for all the hard work after this year's harvest!

What you can expect this year

In the past we have focused mainly on our AGM with a few additional speakers & events. For this year's conference we wanted to ramp things up a bit...we have some exciting new ideas that we hope you will all love along with many of the traditional favourites from past conferences. We really want to make this the first year where we offer a truly professional conference experience worthy of our growing pecan industry.

Day one will be a full day of really interesting industry speakers - in the morning we will focus on big picture, global, retail and business perspectives followed by our AGM. In the afternoon we have a full line up of industry & grower speakers including the latest grower ag tech, soil and agronomy issues. Mindful that we have growers at different stages of the journey, we have endeavoured to offer a tiered approach in the afternoon - you can choose which is best for you.

One of the highlights of our conference this year will be our social pecan cocktail evening event with a chance to kick back at the end of the day with fellow pecan industry peeps over a drink or two.

Sunday morning will start with a warming rustic breakfast by the fire at the Old Butter Factory, focusing on the latest on health & nutrition information from Belinda Neville from Nuts for Life, followed by a field day not far out of town to Will & Sally Cutlers farm, at Telegraph Point, NSW.

Be part of the action!

Also at conference this year will be terrific competitions open to all our members & families, including old favourites "Best Pecan" & "Best Pecan Recipe" plus we will be hosting a new Pecan Photo Competition with several categories including a kids section. Join in the action and submit something for one or all of the categories.

Support the industry that supports you

We have aimed to provide a great value conference this year. You will notice we are charging a nominal fee this year for attendance. This is an unavoidable change because we want to provide a truly professional conference for our valued members, and of course at the end of the day, we have to charge cost fees for catering. Everything else has been supported by our very generous sponsors, to ensure you get great value from a terrific conference! We encourage you to take the time to connect with the suppliers at conference at the trade display.

Needless to say we have a really terrific line up of conference speakers and events this year that we know you will love to be part of. You CANNOT MISS THIS...enrol now to make the most of our early bird rates!

Lastly, on behalf of the conference committee I personally welcome you to our exciting Australian pecan industry event and look forward to seeing you in Port Macquarie!

Michelle Chicken

APA Conference Chair

Port Macquarie NSW

Make a weekend of it!

Port Macquarie has so much to offer as a destination - why not extend your conference stay for the weekend or more? Located on the Mid North Coast of NSW, boasting over fifteen gorgeous pristine beaches, a lush hinterland, interesting rural towns and villages to explore and not far from some of the most stunning national parks.

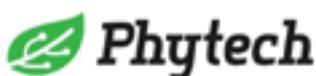
Port Macquarie offers a big range of accommodation from 4.5 star luxury hotels to camping by the beach, and did we mention, one of the best year-round climates.

Contact the Port Macquarie tourism office for more ideas and suggestions to make the most of your time away <https://portmacquarieinfo.com.au/>.



Shout Out to our Sponsors

The APA couldn't put on a conference without the wonderful support from our sponsors including:



APA Conference Program

Day One: Saturday, 24 August 2019

Conference, Trade Display & AGM

MC: Michelle Chicken, APA Conference Chair

8.00am - 9.00am Registration & trade display
Grab a coffee and take time to visit & engage with our pecan industry suppliers at their respective trade stands

9.00am-9.15am Welcome & overview, Michelle Chicken, MC & Conference Chair

Morning Sessions: Global & Big Picture Perspectives

9.15am - 10am **"Global & Retail Perspectives - International Markets & Pecans"**
 Richard Sampson-Genest, Stahmann Farms

10am - 10.15am **"The South African Experience"** Johan Prinsloo, Omnia

10.15am - 10.30am **"Lessons learnt from the Macadamia Industry"**
 Jolyon Burnett, CEO Australian Macadamia Society

10.30 - 11.15am Morning Tea: APA Cooking Competition Judging - Sponsored by Phytech

11.15am-11.45am **"The Value of Ag-Tech in Pecan Farming?"** Mark Heywood, Ag-Tech Pioneer

11.45am-12.45pm **APA Annual General Meeting**

11.45 am- 12.00pm *President's Welcome & Overview (Scott Clark)*

12.00pm- 12.15pm *Executive Officer Update (Anne Briggs)*

12.15pm- 12.30pm *Treasurer's Report (Will Cutler)*

12.30pm - 12.45pm *Grower's Handbook Update (Geoff Bugden)*

12.45pm - 1.45pm **Lunch: Best Pecan Competition on Display**
Sponsored by Enerbi Sustainable Energy Solutions

Afternoon Sessions: Grower & Industry Perspectives - Sponsored by Phytech and Northern Agriservices

Session A: Sponsored by Phytech

Session B: Sponsored by Northern Agriservices

1.45pm - 2.15pm

"Precision Ag Basics for Pecan Orchards"
 Nick Barton, PCT Agservices

"HCOs and Pecan Grading"
 Miriam Villen Rodriguez, Stahmann Farms

2.15pm - 2.45pm

"Plant Stress Monitoring in Orchards"
 Paul Grobler, Phytech

**"Joining the Dots -
 Agronomy 101 for Pecan Production"**
 Scott Herd, Northern Agriservices

2.45pm - 3pm

Afternoon tea. APA Photography Competition Display

Afternoon Sessions: Grower & Industry Perspectives - Sponsored by Omnia and Northern Agriservices

Session A: Sponsored by Omnia	Session B: Sponsored by Northern AgriServices
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3.00pm - 3.30pm

"High Performance Biology Underpinned by Soil Health Optimization"
Andrew Doecke, Innovation & Development Manager Omnia Specialities Australia

"Irrigation for Pecan Orchards"
Linden Rothwell & Aiden Macqueen, Think Water Northern Rivers

3.30pm - 4.00pm

"Sustainable Energy Solutions for Pecan Farmers"
Andras Nagy, Enerbi

"What Your Soil & Leaves are Telling You?"
Graham Lancaster, Environmental Analysis Laboratory, Southern Cross University

4.00pm

"Next Steps" Conference wrap up, Adam Gibson, Venture Organics

4.30pm - 4.35pm

Thank you and close, Michelle Chicken, APA Conference Chair

4.35pm

Close

6.00pm - 8.00pm

APA Cocktail Event

Drinks sponsored by Stahmann Farms

A highlight of our conference program - come along and enjoy a special cocktail on arrival & delicious canapes! Kickback with your new and old friends from the pecan industry at our friendly, welcoming social event sponsored by the legends at Stahmann Farms.

The winners of our APA competitions will be announced & we look forward to kicking back with you after a great day!

Includes - one drink on arrival & delicious canapes.

Additional drinks can be purchased from the bar at own expense.

Trade Display

Make sure you take the time while you are at conference to visit our valued suppliers at the APA trade display section to see, hear and understand their offerings.

Our Trade Display will include exhibits from a range of suppliers to the Australian pecan industry.

Day Two: Sunday August 25th 2019

Rustic Pecan Breakfast & Field Day

8.30am - 10am

Rustic Breakfast at the Old Butter Factory, Telegraph Point, NSW



Warm your toes by the fire, delight your tastebuds & hear the latest on Health, Nutrition & Pecans, with our delicious festive breakfast from the creative team at Veg Out Café.

Enjoy a three course rustic long table breakfast...featuring pecans! We can't disclose the menu just yet, but one thing is for certain - you will not leave hungry!! There will be lashings of delicious food to fill up on.

Our special guest speaker will be Belinda Neville, Dietitian Nuts for Life Program who will offer an update on the latest on "Health, Nutrition & Pecans".

10.30am - 12 noon

Field Day at Telegraph Point NSW



Visit Will & Sally Cutler's farm, Telegraph Point NSW.

The Cutler's "Cornbury Park" is a 40Ha farm on the Wilson River at Telegraph Point that has been converted from grazing over the past 20 years. One of the goals has been to enhance biodiversity whilst developing a viable enterprise mix. At present the Cutler's have approx 600 mature pecans (14 -19yrs), planted on undulating flood plain. The orchard is partially irrigated, with 10m x 15m tree spacings.

Special Guest Speakers:

Dr David Elmouttie, BASF. Topic: Rodent Control for Pecan Farms.

Conor O'Brien, Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer, Multikraft.

Field Day Sponsored by Multikraft



Multikraft Probiotics Australia specialises in providing innovative bio-technologies for sustainable agriculture. Multikraft has 20 years experience with using beneficial microbes (probiotics) and has developed a range of products and services that use naturally occurring "probiotic" microbes to build immunity in plants, improve soil health through fermented compost and provide cost-effective, sustainable and financially viable integrated solutions.

Our Speakers



Richard Sampson-Genest

Director Commercial Operations
Stahmann Farms Enterprises

Richard Sampson Genest joined the nut industry in 2005 as Marketing Manager at Stahmann Farms (Australia) after a previous career in specialty food marketing. Since that time he has served as a director (representing the Australian Pecan Industry) and chairman (2013-2015) of the Australian Nut Industry Council and is a member of the Australian Macadamia Industry Marketing Committee and of the INC Pecan Working Group and Statistics Committee.

Stahmann Farms is Australia's largest pecan grower and processor with a retail packing division that supplies the majority of pecan consumer products in Australia. Richard's experience in pecans (and macadamias) extends from global commodity sales to retail product development and marketing. His current executive role is Director Commercial Operations. Richard is also a board member and shareholder of Stahmann Farms.



Johan Prinsloo

Territory Manager/Agronomist
Omnia

Based in the Hunter Valley, Johan services Central NSW and Tasmania. Johan worked for Omnia in South Africa for nine years, before immigrating to Australia to join the Omnia Australia team. Johan has many years experience working with balanced fertiliser programs and is passionate about Boron and Molybdenum. Johan enjoys the challenge of improving farming operations, yields and quality.



Jolyon Burnett

Chief Executive Officer, Australian Macadamia Society
Director, Australian Nut Industry Council

Jolyon is the CEO of the Australian Macadamia Society, a role he has held since August 2008. The AMS provides leadership and advocacy for an industry worth \$300 million at farm gate and \$270 million in annual export earnings. The AMS manages the Australian macadamia industry global marketing program and supports industry development and growth. Jolyon has played a major role in developing cooperative relationships with the industries in Africa, Asia and particularly China.

He is also a Director and past Chair of the Australian Nut Industry Council which represents 7 tree nut crops grown in Australia. The industry exported close to \$1 billion worth of products in 2017/18 and has played a key role in coordinating industry input into free trade agreements and market access.

Jolyon has worked in Australian horticulture for the last 40 years during which time he has been the CEO of Irrigation Australia Limited, the CEO of Nursery & Garden Industry Australia, the Senior Program Manager for the Horticultural Research & Development Corporation, a Director of the Horticulture Australia Council, a member of the Australian Government National Water Commission Advisory Council, a member of the National Working Party on Pesticide Application and worked as a researcher, an academic, a horticultural consultant and journalist.

Jolyon has degrees in Agriculture and Environmental Science and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Mark Heywood
Managing Director
Phytech



Mark Heyward is a 20 year veteran of the agricultural technology scene with a passion for introducing innovative ideas and developing new markets.

Less than three years ago, Mark established the Australian subsidiary of Israeli agtech startup, Phytech Ltd. As the Managing Director, he has overseen the swift expansion to where Phytech is now the primary irrigation decision support tool for the majority of almonds, walnuts and pecans grown in Australia.

Prior to this, Mark spent eight years as the Asia Pacific Manager for the agriculture division of the Silicon Valley GPS company, Trimble Navigation. In addition, he has worked with several multinational machinery manufacturers and also acted as an independent technology consultant for numerous South-East Asian food and sugar producers.



Miriam Villen Rodriguez
Technical & Scientific Project Officer
Stahmann Farms

In 2014 Miriam moved to Toowoomba and took on the role of Quality Analyst for Stahmann Farms Enterprises where she applied her expertise to provide technical assistance on quality matters for the business. Since joining Stahmann Farms Miriam's role has continuously evolved to her current role as Technical & Scientific Project Officer, where she is responsible for conducting ongoing and new Research & Development projects aimed to improve efficiency, yield, quality and food safety in Pecans and Macadamias.

In addition to her role, Miriam is a member of the International Nut Industry Scientific and Government Affairs Committee. She has contributed to the Australian Macadamia Kernel Laboratory Accreditation Scheme and she is also an active member of the Australian Institute of Food Science and Technology. Miriam's qualifications includes Bachelor of Engineering Science, Chemistry Major and Masters of Engineering Sciences, Agricultural Major.

Scott Herd
Agronomist
Northern AgriServices



Scott is a Sales Agronomist with Northern AgriServices, Casino, NSW.

His work is focused on tree crops and blueberries. Scott's career started in the Nursery Industry and then moved to teaching horticulture, crop monitoring and advisory services.

For the past 16 years Scott has been advising macadamia, avocado and blueberry growers on crop protection, crop nutrition, telemetry and fertigation.

Scott with wife Bronwyn owned a peach & nectarine orchard at Hogarth Range, selling the orchard in 2015, regaining weekends and annual holidays in the process. Being exposed to many agricultural and horticultural enterprises has given him a well rounded experience and knowledge of profitable, sustainable production systems on the Northern Rivers. Working with major growers he is a conduit of information, ideas and contacts.

Scott likes to play bocce in his extensive garden with his 4 children and 5 grandchildren.



Nick Barton

Precision Cropping Technologies Agservices

Nick Barton has worked with Precision Cropping Technologies (PCT) since its inception in 2001- as a client initially and then in 2013 he joined as an employee. Nick's background originally in cotton and broadacre agronomy with Twynam Pastoral Company led him to explore why there was yield variation within a field, and if anything could be done to manage it. PCT started around the Moree-Narrabri area in irrigated and dryland cropping and as demand for in-field knowledge increased over time, PCT has branched out to cover a large portion of Australia and overseas with many varied crops. PCT has developed its own powerful proprietary software for the analysis of precision ag data.



Paul Grobler

Client Services Manager
Phytech

Paul Grobler is the Client Services Manager at Phytech. His primary responsibility is to ensure that growers get the maximum benefit from the Phytech Service through optimising irrigation decisions based on their plant-based data.

Paul grew up and farmed on their family farm in Zimbabwe. He holds a Civil Engineering qualification from the Tshwane University of Technology in South Africa. Paul has spent most of his career consulting growers, designing and automating irrigation systems. Paul immigrated to Australia 3 years ago as Project Sales Manager for Irribiz until joining Phytech in October 2018. For Paul, Phytech has brought his love for farming and his passion for irrigation together in a unique platform.



Andrew Doecke

Innovation & Development Manager
Omnia

With a passion for improving crop production, Andrew Doecke provides comprehensive nutrition solutions to growers. Based on the Murray River in Loxton, SA, he has 25 years of experience working with biostimulants. With responsibility for Omnia's Australian research and development effort, Andrew works to incorporate the latest innovations into his grower solutions.



Linden Rothwell

Project Sales Engineer
Think Water Northern Rivers

Linden Rothwell is the project sales engineer for Think Water Northern Rivers. With ten years' experience in the water industry, Linden specialises in the design and implementation of efficient irrigation, filtration and pumping solutions for agricultural and horticultural operations. Think Water Northern Rivers are a member to member franchise group of independent businesses specialising in water pumping and water irrigation systems. The business is locally owned and operated by Lee Rothwell and his team of highly experienced staff. They are supported by their preferred suppliers, manufacturers with a proven track record combined with innovation in pumping water, filtration and irrigation. Think Water Northern Rivers and their team of sales engineers are irrigation specialists are helping to ensure their pecan industry clients get the optimum system for their orchards with a focus on quality, efficiency and performance.



Aiden Macqueen

Operations Manager
Think Water Northern Rivers

Aidan Macqueen is the Operations Manager for Think Water Northern Rivers. Aidan has over 15 years Engineering experience in, Agriculture, Municipal Engineering, Mining and Energy industries. Aidan also has a strong background in electrical and electronic engineering with a focus on energy efficiency. He has experience with reduction of running costs for pumping and energy systems. He puts a strong focus on industry specific methods to ensure the effective evaluation and management distribution systems, to achieve maximum performance with a minimum capital and operational cost. Aidan hopes he is able to offer some of this knowledge and advice to many industries including the Pecan industry group. Think Water Northern Rivers values maximum performance with minimum cost and effort for its customers.



Andras Nagy

Director
Enerbi Sustainable Energy Solutions

Andras has had an extensive apprenticeship in creative industrial solutions: he grew up on a property where he and his dad built the family house using timber from the property, then built a hydro turbine to power it. Now an environmental engineer at Enerbi, Andras develops and delivers innovative, cost effective and high-quality solutions to unique problems and makes him an excellent lead for our project delivery operations. Having worked on macadamia projects since 2013, Andras has developed drying systems and processing technology for the macadamia industry.



Graham Lancaster

Laboratory Director/Manager
Environmental Analysis Laboratory

Graham is the founding director/ manager of the Environmental Analysis Laboratory (EAL) at Southern Cross University. EAL is a commercial, research and teaching analytical laboratory operating for over 25 years now specialising in agricultural and environmental analysis of waters, soils, plants, composts and fertilisers. With involvement with the biological farming concepts for over 20 years EAL promotes soil and farm management to enhance soil quality, water quality and agricultural productivity and sustainability.



Adam Gibson

Venture Organics

Adam Gibson is the Founder of Venture Organic, a “profit for purpose” business incubator that supports startups creating exponential shifts towards a regenerative food system. The Venture Organic vision is to make organic, nutrient dense and regeneratively farmed food more affordable and available to the broader population. With an extensive background as a fitness industry entrepreneur and natural health industry business advisor, Adam is also well known as a performance coach to leading entrepreneurs and offers a unique blend of intuitive insight and practical strategic advice.



Belinda Neville

Program Manager Nuts for Life
Australian Nut Industry Council

Belinda Neville is the Nutrition Program Manager at Nuts for Life - the leading health education initiative of the Australian Nut Industry, responsible for raising the awareness of the health benefits of tree nuts. Belinda is an Accredited Practising Dietitian (APD) with over ten years' experience working in the food industry sector, specialising in regulatory affairs and in preparing relevant and effective nutrition and health communications.

Conference Registration

How much do you have to shell out?



We have worked hard provide a great value conference this year. You will notice we are charging a nominal fee for attendance. This is an unavoidable change from previous years because we want to provide a truly professional conference for our valued members, and of course at the end of the day, we have to charge cost fees for catering. Everything else has been supported by our very generous sponsors, to ensure you get great value from conference.

To get the most value from conference take advantage of our APA member & early bird discounted rates and value offerings for two or more people.

Full Registration - August 24th – 25th 2019

Includes Conference, AGM, Cocktail Event (including a welcome drink on arrival), Rustic Breakfast & Field Day.

APA discounted member rates:

\$164 (plus ticketing fees) **value deal for multiple bookings** - i.e. if booking for two or more people (early bird rates - registration by July 31st 2019)

\$178 / person (plus ticketing fees) **for single registration** (early bird rate - registration by July 31st 2019)

\$200 / person (plus ticketing fees) **for all standard registrations from August 1st 2019**

Non-members:

\$200 / person (plus ticketing fees) **early bird rate** (registration by July 31st 2019)

\$230 / person (plus ticketing fees) **for all standard registrations from August 1st 2019**

Day & Event Rates

If you have limited time, just want to go to either just the conference, breakfast or field day we have options for you as follows:

Day One: APA Conference, AGM & Cocktail Event

Day One Conference Only

Cost for the day including all catering
(coffee on arrival, morning & afternoon tea, lunch and cocktail event):

\$155 / person (plus ticketing fees) **for APA Members**

\$175 / person (plus ticketing fees) **for non-members**

Cocktail Event Only

Not able to attend the day conference or you would like to bring along additional guests to our cocktail evening? You can register for just the Cocktail Event, with rates as follows::

\$59 / person (plus ticketing fees) **for APA Members**

\$65 / person (plus ticketing fees) **for non-members**

Day Two: APA Rustic Pecan Industry Breakfast & Field Day at Telegraph Point

Rustic Breakfast & Field Day

Cost for the day including rustic breakfast and field day:

\$45 / person (plus ticketing fees) **for APA Members**

\$55 / person (plus ticketing fees) **for non-members**

Field Day Only

APA Members - Free!

\$35 / person (plus ticketing fees) **for non-members**

Tickets

Please read the following carefully:

All ticketing online via Eventbrite at this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/australian-pecan-association-conference-agm-field-day-august-24-25th-2019-tickets-63036061557>

Only current financial APA members can purchase tickets at APA member prices.

Please read the Terms and Conditions, on the Eventbrite ticket site, which include our Refund Policy.

Transportation:

You will need to organise your own transport for these events.

If this is an issue for you, please contact the APA office at admin@pecangrowers.org.au to see if car sharing may be an option for you.

Accommodation:

We recommend you make the most of your trip away! Port Macquarie offers a range of great accommodation to suit all budgets and tastes. If you would like assistance, please contact the Port Macquarie tourism office for ideas and suggestions to make the most of your time away: <https://portmacquarieinfo.com.au/>

Pricing and key dates:

Early bird rates apply to APA member conference registrations booked and paid in full up to July 31st 2019. If full payment is not received by the early bird closing date the standard registration fee will be applicable.

APA member standard rates apply to conference registrations booked and paid in full from August 1st 2019.

Non-member standard rates apply to all non-member registrations booked and paid in from August 1st 2019.

Registrations close at close of business 15th August 2019.

NO registrations will be processed after this date (note - as we need to confirm final numbers for catering etc.)



Conference Enquiries to:

Anne Briggs

Executive Officer
Australian Pecan Association

Phone: 0411 035 876

Email: admin@pecangrowers.org.au