



## HAL welcomes new directors

Three new directors were elected to the Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL) Board at the company's AGM held in Sydney on 27 November.

Professor Rob Clark AM, Ms Lisa Cork and Ms Jan Davis were elected to fill the three vacancies on the Board.

HAL chair, Dr Nigel Steele Scott, welcomed the valuable experience each of the new directors will bring to the Board.

"In establishing HAL, the members saw the importance of having the right mix of skills represented on its Board. Each of the new directors has experience and skills that will be very beneficial to the company," Dr Steele Scott said.

Professor Clark has a long and distinguished career in academia and is currently Emeritus Professor and Visiting Research Professor providing academic leadership to the Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research's value chain management theme. He is also the proprietor and Managing Partner of Lanoma Estate, a 400ha intensive agricultural property in the Derwent Valley, Tasmania.

"Australian horticulture is an industry with enormous potential. Focusing investment in research and development and marketing and promotion activities is extremely important for the industry to continue to grow," Professor Clark said.

Lisa Cork is a horticultural marketing specialist with more than 20 years experience. She has an extensive international trade background, having worked successfully in the United States, Europe, the Middle East, Australia and New Zealand.

"Horticulture has a bright future, but it's not without its challenges. After 15 years of being involved in Australasian produce marketing I'm really excited about contributing at the strategic level for the industry," Ms Cork said.

Jan Davis has a strong background in member-based organisations within Australian horticulture including Growcom, the Australian Mushroom Growers Association, and the Nursery Industry Association of Australia. She is currently a non-executive director of Plant Health Australia and chair of the Australian Agricultural Colleges Corporation.

"I have been involved in the work of R&D funded through levies since before HAL was established and I'm very much looking forward to playing an active role in the next stage of its growth. The possibilities for Australian horticulture are exciting and I want to play a part," Ms Davis said.

The vacancies on the Board were created after the retirement of Mr Terry Hill, Ms Sandra Hook and Mr Peter Walker, all directors since HAL's establishment in January 2001.

Following the AGM, the HAL Board met briefly to elect office bearers. Dr Nigel Steele Scott and Mr Robert Seldon were returned to the roles of chair and deputy chair respectively.

The HAL Board consists of nine directors: Dr Nigel Steele Scott (chair), Mr Robert Seldon (deputy chair), Mr Ken Boundy, Professor Rob Clark, Mr David Cliffe, Ms Lisa Cork, Ms Jan Davis, Mr Graeme Hargreaves and Mr John Webster (managing director).



Jan Davis



Rob Clark



Lisa Cork

# Australia's father of postharvest wins horticulture's top prize

Internationally recognised leader in horticultural postharvest research, Dr Barry McGlasson was named the 2008 Graham Gregory Award winner at the HAL Awards held in Sydney on 26 November.

Dr McGlasson, who currently holds a position as Adjunct Professor at the University of Western Sydney, has been an enthusiastic and tireless supporter of Australian horticulture for more than 50 years.

Despite his long and illustrious career, first with the South Australian Department of Agriculture, later the CSIRO and now the University of Western Sydney, Dr McGlasson was surprised to be given the Graham Gregory Award.

"It was very much out of the blue – I am extremely pleased to be so recognised – I thought I was past getting awards like this!" Dr McGlasson said.

On the contrary, Dr McGlasson's impressive body of work, carried out over a lifetime, is precisely what the Graham Gregory Award recognises. Named in honour of the inaugural chair of HAL's predecessor the Horticultural Research and Development Corporation, Graham Gregory, the award is Australian horticulture's highest accolade and carries with it a \$10,000 prize.

Dr McGlasson cites among his proudest achievements the recognition of postharvest research as a scientific discipline and seeing the knowledge gained through his work applied throughout the whole supply chain.

Perhaps it was his early experiences on orchards around his home town of Berri, South Australia, that influenced a young Barry McGlasson to venture into postharvest research.

"In vacations from high school I worked on orchards picking apricots, but I was a bit colour blind and picked them too green. So I was put into the cutting shed for drying apricots and managed the cutting shed and drying process," Dr McGlasson said.

Across his long career Dr McGlasson has worked with the summerfruit, apple and pear, citrus, table grape, banana, fresh



From left John Jeffs, Jenny Mercer, Nigel Steele Scott, Dr Barry McGlasson and Gaethan Cutri

tomato and vegetable industries.

Having started out with the South Australian Department of Agriculture in 1951 in a newly created postharvest role, Dr McGlasson transferred to the CSIRO Division of Food research in NSW in 1964.

The major outcome from Dr McGlasson's long research career has been his work around the role of ethylene in the genetic control of fruit ripening which has been the foundation of our understanding and management of fruit ripening.

Dr McGlasson was the co-author of a classic paper in *Nature* in 1972 in which the System 1/System 2 concept of the control of fruit ripening by ethylene was proposed. This concept has shaped thinking in this field to the present and has been affirmed by more recent research at the molecular level.

He is co-author of the foundation text, '*Postharvest. An Introduction to the Physiology and Handling of Fruit, Vegetables and Ornamentals*'. This book, now in its fifth edition (2007) has been translated into many languages (Spanish, Malay, Chinese and Farsi) and continues to be widely used in teaching and in industry.

Dr McGlasson has also been at the forefront of Australian and international agricultural and horticultural education. In 1988, he took a teaching and mentoring role at the University of Western Sydney (UWS) where he continues to have significant input into Australian postharvest and horticulture.

He is currently an Adjunct Professor at UWS and is collaborating on three HAL-funded projects as well as supervising two PhD students and mentoring three students from Thailand's King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi.

Dr McGlasson's supervision of numerous graduate students has been a major contributor to science education for Australian and international horticulture. He is proud of the work he has done fostering future generations of postharvest researchers, among them Jenny Jobling (University of Sydney) who was the first of his PhD students at UWS, Dr John Golding and Dr Jenny Eckman from the NSW Department of Primary Industries, and Dr Gordon Brown a horticultural consultant in Tasmania.

Dr McGlasson is concerned for the future of horticultural research.

"I would like to see the food and fibre aspect of horticulture regain its true status in the eyes of government and the public. I think it's slipping out of sight in many respects and as student numbers drop, the public service providers cut funding and staff and the programs wither away," Dr McGlasson said.

With the same passion that has driven his long and productive career, Dr McGlasson is doing what he can to reverse this trend as he continues to foster the next generation of horticultural researchers.

# Young Leader Award winners

## John Jeffs

Lenswood cherry and apple grower John Jeffs was honoured with a Young Leader Award at the HAL Awards held in Sydney on 26 November.

Mr Jeffs, 34, was recognised for his strong commitment to the horticulture industry and regional communities over the past seven years.

While relatively new to farming, Mr Jeffs has a strong agricultural background having worked as a pest consultant to the wine industry for the past 11 years.

"The whole time I was a pest scout I had a real desire to put my money where my mouth was," Mr Jeffs said.

"It's easier giving advice to farmers than doing it myself, but it's getting easier as the years go by. On my own block I tend to experiment and let things (pest populations) blow out a bit to see what happens."

The pest consultant turned grower is also using his knowledge to benefit his peers, mentoring and assisting them to implement, develop and expand their knowledge and skills particularly in the area of Environmental Management Systems (EMS) and NRM.

Since purchasing his orchard in 2001 Mr Jeffs has become an active participant in a wide range of community and industry-based programs. He is a voting member and primary producer representative on the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resource Management Board, which is responsible for prescribing and shaping policy for water use in the Mount Lofty Ranges.

John is also on the Water Resources Committee and the Northern NRM Group and is a member of the Cherry Growers Association of SA Inc, the Lenswood and Forest Range Agricultural Bureau, and the Lenswood Improvement Committee. In 2005 and 2007 Mr Jeffs represented the Australian cherry industry at the Australian Government/DAFF National Young Farmers Forums.

"In the future I'd like to be more involved with horticulture and NRM at a state and national level," Mr Jeffs said.

"I'd like to see all cherry growers working together to get our export marketing right, only sending premium produce, opening new markets and reopening old ones."

## Jenny Mercer

Jenny Mercer, from one of Western Australia's oldest fresh produce companies, Mercer Mooney, was the recipient of a HAL Young Leader Award.

Ms Mercer, who was made National Category Manager for Moraitis last year after the company merged with Mercer Mooney, has been involved in the fresh produce business from an early age and has a clear passion for horticulture.

"There's a great deal to be done in fresh produce. It's changing very quickly. Previously it has been very much a day to day business but now we have a much greater focus on planning. You need to be great at both planning and reacting to the very quick changes that occur," Ms Mercer said.

"My vision for the horticulture industry involves providing retail solutions such as a long-term plan for how we're going to continually improve the consumers' eating experience.

Ms Mercer was one of the founders of the WA Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industry's Industry Development Committee, for younger members of the WA produce industry. Through this group she was instrumental in establishing the WA Fresh Produce Retailer of the Year Awards in WA.

Ms Mercer was actively involved in starting WA Fresh, a group of producer groups and marketers in horticulture in WA who saw value in combining their individual marketing efforts to the broader community for greater impact.

For more than six years Ms Mercer has been a director of the industry-owned quality assurance company Freshcare. During 2008, Ms Mercer has been actively involved in the roll out of the Freshcare Environmental Code to grower groups in WA.

## Gaethan Cutri

Swan Hill summerfruit grower Gaethan Cutri, 32, was recognised with a Young Leader Award at the HAL Awards held in Sydney on 26 November.

Mr Cutri's progressive approach to farming and his contribution to the local community mark him as a future leader in the national horticulture industry.

Along with six other Victorian farmers earlier this year he was invited to sit on the Victorian Department of Primary Industries Future Farming Advisory Panel which provides industry feedback to the Minister for Agriculture and the Department of Primary Industries on specific issues. He also currently sits on the committee for the Swan Hill Summerfruits, and was the inaugural chair of the Swan Hill Young

Professionals Network.

Mr Cutri's focus has been on 'changing the family business from a great family farm to being a great business'. Among other things he has systemised aspects of the business to follow a more franchised-model of operations. This has freed up his time to work strategically on the business. He is also trialling latest growing techniques to increase fruit yield and quality and improve efficiencies.

"The systems created have simplified our business operations to allow others to be able to step into the everyday farming roles of the business, and allow the key players to be able to step into the higher roles of management and work more on the business, rather than in the business."

## Pink Lady Trademark labelled an Australian success story

Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL) would like to congratulate Pink Lady™ for winning the NAB Agribusiness Value Adding Award for the international development and Australian International success of the Pink Lady™ apple brand.

Daryl Ashton, chairman of APAL accepted the award along with John Cripps who originally developed the apple variety Cripps Pink in Western Australia as part of a breeding program administered by the Department of Agriculture Western Australia.

"We are very pleased to have the International Pink Lady™ business recognised by these prestigious awards. We still find it an exciting business, even though we have been close to it for more than 15 years," Mr Ashton said.

The Pink Lady™ brand has \$1.6 billion in global trade and has been an Australian International success story.

"The experience and expertise that has developed through the international commercialisation of the Pink Lady™ brand is rare," Mr Ashton continued.

"The global development of this brand is often quoted as being the most successful example of a fresh apple commercialisation in the world."

The Value Adding Award was sponsored by the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation and presented by Monash University.



## Horticulture takes first steps in measuring carbon footprint

### The vegetable industry leads the way

Measuring the carbon footprint of the vegetable industry is the subject of a series of discussion papers released on November 18 by HAL. The vegetable industry is the first of many fresh produce groups beginning to measure its environmental impact.

According HAL's Natural Resources and Climate Manager Alison Turnbull, there is increasing pressure for industry to be aware of the impacts from the production of its fresh produce.

"Horticulture is now considering its impact on carbon emissions and the actions and research that need to take place to deal with it," she says. "These very exciting industry developments will have positive business outcomes for our local growers and all Australians."

Horticulture is an \$8 billion dollar industry including fruit, vegetables, nuts, nursery, extractive crops, cut flowers and turf. It only accounts for an estimated 1 per cent of agricultural emissions. Agricultural emissions constitute 16 per cent of emissions across all industries.

According to Alison Turnbull, the industry's focus on measuring carbon footprints is a business and sustainability issue for the industry.

"Managing the impact of water availability, the increased incidence of pests, diseases and weeds and the threat of rising input costs such as energy, fertiliser and transport will be crucial to Australian growers to stay in business in the long term," she says.

"The rapid mainstreaming of the term known as 'carbon footprinting' has been driven by such activities as those undertaken by Tesco and other international retailers as a means to differentiate products by their environmental impacts."

UK supermarket chain Tesco has developed product-specific carbon footprints. This means products are labelled with their carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e). This way, Tesco is able

to benchmark its own labelled products against competitor labels.

"Domestically, there has not been such a strong and driven interest in labelling the footprint of products. But that does not mean that industry will not eventually need to account for and understand the impacts of its production on emissions and/or the environment," Ms Turnbull says.

In Australia, Tasmanian salad producer Houston's Farm is leading the way, developing a carbon footprinting tool for its business. A project funded by HAL with a voluntary contribution from Houston's Farm may be the pathway to industry standards on defining how to measure the horticulture industry's carbon footprint.

According to Allison Clark of Houston's Farm, the project is designed to develop a carbon footprint calculation tool and standard protocols for tailoring of the tool for the Australian vegetable industry by mid-2009. It is hoped from this project that the tool and protocol can be transferred to the rest of the horticulture industry.

"Houston's Farm has a fundamental philosophy to produce sustainable products. This has been built into our growing and processing functions over many years, and understanding our carbon (greenhouse gas) emissions, and where we can work to reduce these, is an important part of our strategic focus moving forward," Ms Clark said.

"Houston's Farm has developed the tool to ensure that industry can choose what level of involvement they want."

The vegetable industry carbon footprinting discussion papers were part of a project funded by HAL through the vegetable levy and matched funding from the Australian Government. They provide very useful information and an estimation of the carbon footprint of the Australian vegetable industry.

They are available at [http://www.horticulture.com.au/delivering\\_knowledge/Environment/ClimateChange.asp](http://www.horticulture.com.au/delivering_knowledge/Environment/ClimateChange.asp).

# Banana industry bands together to beat BBTV

With its levy now in place, the banana industry has been able to take a nationally coordinated approach to the eradication of banana bunchy top virus (BBTV).

BBTV is a widespread disease in the sub-tropical production areas of northern New South Wales and South East Queensland.

Banana plants that show symptoms rarely bear fruit and must be destroyed because they are reservoirs of the virus. This costs growers both time and money.

Eradicating BBTV would reduce costs of production in the sub-tropical industry and eliminate the threat of spread to the tropical industry where the disease would be far more difficult to control.

To date, the banana industry has dealt with the problem on a jurisdiction by jurisdiction basis.

A review of the management practices of the affected jurisdictions has been conducted and knowledge gaps have been identified with regard to the disease spread and control methods.

The Chief Executive of the Australian Banana Growers Council, Tony Heidrich, said a clear framework for the implementation of a national BBTV eradication plan has been created.

"We are confident that the eradication of BBTV from the Australian mainland is technically possible," Mr Heidrich said.

"BBTV attacks no other hosts except banana and its close relatives, there are specific, limited methods of spreading the disease and there is a significant period after infection when the plant is not infectious but the symptoms are evident. This provides us with a window of opportunity for eradicating the disease.

"The next step is to examine the science behind BBTV management before we implement the national eradication plan.

"I'm thrilled we now have a national banana levy and can therefore take a nationally coordinated approach to solving this problem with funding from HAL using the banana levy and matched contribution from the Australian Government."

## Background Banana Bunch Top Disease

BBTV is the pathogen which causes banana bunchy top disease of bananas. It is transmitted by the aphid vector, *Pentalonia nigronervosa* and is considered to be the most economically destructive of the virus diseases affecting bananas worldwide.

BBTV is one of the most serious diseases of banana. Once established, it is difficult to eradicate or manage without the cooperation of both producers and the general community. BBTV is widespread in Southeast Asia, the Philippines, Taiwan, most of the South Pacific islands and parts of India and Africa.

BBTV was first observed in Australia in 1914 and is now widely established in sub-tropical growing regions of Northern New South Wales and South East Queensland.

The initial symptoms of BBTV consist of dark green streaks in the veins of lower portions of the leaf midrib and the leaf stem. Also, dark green, hook-like extensions of the leaf lamina veins can be seen in the narrow, light-green zone between the midrib and the lamina.

On mature plants infected with BBTV, new leaves emerge with difficulty, are narrower than normal, are wavy rather than flat, and have yellow (chlorotic) leaf margins. They appear to be "bunched" at the top of the plant, the symptom for which this disease is named. Severely infected banana plants usually will not fruit, but if fruit is produced, the banana hands and fingers are likely to be distorted and twisted.

## Best managing water shortages

How best to manage low water allocations continues to be an issue across all horticultural industries whether they are urban or regional irrigators.

Identifying how the industry can deal with water shortages was the subject of much discussion at the recent Horticulture Water Initiative (HWI) steering committee meeting held in Sydney. The meeting focused on the recent activities of the HWI and where future efforts need to be directed.

The HWI is looking to develop a water position paper for horticulture industries in many urban regions (e.g. turf, nursery and garden, mushrooms) to support water management decision makers. Water shortages and policy decisions on

water restrictions are having significant impacts on their businesses.

This initiative follows on from the successful position paper that was developed for production horticulture ([www.horticulture.com.au/delivering\\_know-how/Environment/Water/Water\\_Information.asp](http://www.horticulture.com.au/delivering_know-how/Environment/Water/Water_Information.asp)) and has been used widely in responding to government discussion documents and informing policy makers about horticulture needs. The HWI is seeking interested industry members to be involved in contributing to the development a position paper for industries in urban regions. Please contact Anne-Maree Boland if you are interested.

Horticulture industries in the irrigation

regions continue to deal with the prospect of low water availability. The Crop Water Requirements Forum held in June focused on the latest knowledge on how much water crops require, when water is readily available and under limited conditions. The industries with particular interest in this area included apple and pear, citrus, dried fruit, table grape, almond and some vegetables.

Some of the key issues discussed included:

- Ensuring that sufficient water is provided early in the season.
- Understanding how much water can be saved by removing fruit if the

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## Final reports published September to December 2008

AH07031	Peri-urban horticulture and land use planning: Literature Review & 'Tool-kit'
AP03018	Pear variety and rootstock improvement
AP05005	Facilitating the development of the Queensland apple industry
AP06053	Development of FO2012 website and database
AP07021	FO2012 study tour (Europe) June 2008
AP07024	Apple and Pear Industry Biosecurity Plan implementation
AP07050	Improving shipment protocols for apples to Japan
AV04007	Rootstock improvement for the Australian avocado industry – Phase 2
AV04008	The development of canopy management strategies suited to the different growing environments across Australia for increased profitability
AV06001	Improving spraying and management of spotting bugs in avocados
AV07019	Online Consumer Quality Survey
BA07014	Developing a national Banana Bunchy Top Virus management strategy
BA08019	Development of a national BBTV management plan
CF05002	Towards a molecular breeding program for canning peaches
CT03015	Delivering postharvest decay, food safety and market access solutions for export citrus
CT07061	Investigating optimal structures to support the future strategic direction of the Australian citrus industry
CT07062	Verification trial for 3°C cold disinfestation of citrus against Queensland fruit fly for market access to Taiwan
CY04007	Facilitating cherry industry communications via the Tree Fruit magazine
CY07011	CY06005 Phase 2: New ways to disinfest and maintain cherry fruit quality
DG05001	Cordon bunch removal for trellis dried grapes
HG05005	Horticultural Pest Management Strategic Plan Review and on going support
HG07070	Australian Horticulture Conference, July 2008
HG07079	Future of Farming Project – Researching the development, planning and protection of agribusiness parks, Netherlands
HG07095	AIS Greenworks European Hydroponic Study Tour, June 2008
HG07107	5th International Congress of Nematology
HG08035	6th International Symposium on In Vitro Culture and Horticultural Breeding
HG08038	Review of proposal and projects relating to the Queensland pest management strategic plans
MC06030	Industry data collection system for macadamias
MG08017	Literature review to determine the options and solutions to postharvest disease management for the mango industry
MT06050	Meeting the ongoing European customer requirements for fruit exports
MT06053	Innovative approaches to adding value to vegetable waste – Phase II
MU07006	South Africa Study Tour, May 2008
MU07019	ISMS Congress/Diagnostic Workshop, South Africa, May 2008
NY07008	Growing nursery and garden industry training and recognition 2007/2008
NY07010	KidsGrow Development Project
NY07017	Business Skills Development
NY07020	International Plant Propagators Society Conference, Lilydale VIC, May 2008
OT04003	Australian hop breeding program
PI05002	Facilitating the development of the Queensland pineapple industry
PT05027	A potato crop management service to promote new technology in Tasmania
PT06003	Variety development for the fresh potato market in WA 2006/08
PT07003	Evaluation of processing potato cultivars and lines for Simplot in Tasmania 2007
PT07052	Fresh Potato Variety Evaluation Victoria 2007 2008
PT07059	2008 Seed Potato Industry Conference
TU07037	TGAA ACT 2008 Seminar
TU08003	Australian Turfgrass Conference
VG05008	Development of cultural control methods for pests of leafy vegetables
VG06029	Release, post-release evaluation and habitat management of the silverleaf whitefly parasitoid
VG06094	A scoping study of IPM compatible options for the management of key vegetable sucking pests
VG07058	Controlled traffic farming systems for the Tasmanian vegetable industry
VG07087	Vegetable biosecurity and quarantine gap analysis
WN08004	AWIA planning workshop: setting priorities for research and development

# Strategic plan, carbon emissions trading focus of industry forum

The HAL Forum was held on Wednesday 26 November and was attended by chairs and CEOs of member industries. Sessions were held on the horticulture industry's strategic plan, Future Focus, and on carbon footprints, sequestration and emissions trading.

The Future Focus session was presented by founder and chief analyst of the Centre for International Economics, Dr Andy Stoeckel.

Dr Stoeckel presented findings from the stage three report, including that, to reach the potential profit increase of \$2.45 billion per year by 2020, the horticulture industry needs to:

- Increase exports to 30 per cent (currently less than 10 per cent).
- Increase productivity by 15 per cent.
- Increase domestic market growth by 10–15 per cent.
- Increase production by 40 per cent.
- Increase price by 8 per cent.

The Forum heard that the industry needs to take an innovative approach to novel products, quality and commercial platforms. It needs to increase commercial demand and find more synergies through collaboration.

Dr Stoeckel said to achieve this, the industry needs to develop programs in three key areas: building consumer demand, market access and resource use. Sub-programs of building consumer demand include novel products, consumer satisfaction, clean/green, promotion, commercial platforms and productivity. Sub-programs of market access are export access and market intelligence and sub-programs of resource use include water, labour and climate change.

According to Dr Stoeckel an additional \$35 million in industry investment is required each year to fund collaborative research efforts. This additional funding needs to be invested in fewer, larger high pay-off projects. He said that more emphasis on demand, commercial platforms and more participation from the whole of the supply chain would lead to a bigger, more profitable industry.

A panel, chaired by the Future Focus Leadership Group chair, David Trebeck, fielded questions from the floor. The panel included the general manager of Fresh Foods Woolworths, Michael Batycki, the managing director of Austchilli, David De Paoli, the CEO of Citrus Australia Limited, Judith Damiani and Dr Stoeckel.

The next step in advancing the Future Focus is for industry leaders to engage their members in the process to drive change within their industries.

In the Forum's second session Executive Director of the Australian Farm Institute (AFI), Mick Keogh, presented the Institute's findings on agriculture and carbon emissions.

The emissions trading scheme (ETS) starts in 2010 and the largest 1000 direct emitters of carbon will be required to participate, however, agriculture will remain outside of the scheme until 2015 at the earliest, with a decision to be made about the nature of its inclusion in 2013.

The way the emissions trading scheme will work is that legislation will make it illegal for emitters to release greenhouse gases without carbon equivalent permits. The Government will decide how many permits it will release and they will be available on a quarterly basis for sale. Emitters will have six weeks to submit their permits.

The parts of agriculture that are dependent on energy for inputs will be affected first.

The AFI has done some economic modelling to determine how agriculture would be affected by an ETS. Because there are very few direct measures of emissions, standard methodologies were employed for calculations.

Under an ETS, based on emission permit prices modelled under a scenario that involves reducing national emissions by 15 per cent by 2020, projections are that by 2016:

- Fuel will cost 10c–20c extra on the price it costs at the bowser.
- Freight costs will be 10–15 per cent higher.

- Crop contracting costs will be 10–15 per cent higher.
- Electricity costs will be 50 per cent higher.
- Chemical costs will be 10–20 per cent higher.
- Nitrogen fertiliser costs will be substantially higher than they would have otherwise been without the ETS.

The modelling showed an overall impact on horticultural farm costs of 3–4 per cent by 2016.

Mr Keogh concluded that one of the most important ways for agricultural industries to keep ahead of these additional costs would be to increase productivity.

Following Mr Keogh's presentation, Allison Clark from Tasmania's Houston's Farm spoke about the HAL-funded work they are doing to establish the carbon footprint of their salad leaves, and Professor Graham Jones from Southern Cross University gave a presentation on his work measuring the carbon risks and opportunities for the macadamia industry.

## Best managing water shortages

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objective is tree/vine survival.

- Knowing what effect management practices such as pruning/thinning will have on water use.

Two new members have recently joined the Water Steering Committee (WSC) due to organisational changes – Chris Bennett is the new CEO of Irrigation Australia Limited replacing Jolyon Burnett and Scott Wallace is the Program Leader with Growcom replacing Jane Muller.

A summary of the HWI strategic plan and the WSC members and key findings from the Crop Water Requirements Forum are available on the website [www.horticulture.com.au/water](http://www.horticulture.com.au/water)

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# Horticulture for tomorrow launches new look

Horticultural growers can now digitally access the on-farm manual for environmental management, *Guidelines for Environmental Assurance (EA) in Australian Horticulture*, free of charge at the new-look Horticulture for Tomorrow website, [www.horticulturefortomorrow.com.au](http://www.horticulturefortomorrow.com.au).

The recently redesigned Horticulture for Tomorrow website provides access to the EA guidelines, as well as to a range of other useful resources. This includes the Horticulture Natural Resource Management Strategy, which enables horticultural industries to address environmental issues and communicate their successes.

In a new section of the site, titled "For Growers", visitors may download copies of the EA guidelines and the Freshcare Environmental Code of Practice, which complements the EA guidelines by providing a practical mechanism through which compliance against environmental elements can be demonstrated.

Visitors may also access grower case studies and follow links to catchment-



**Horticulture**  
for tomorrow

specific information from across Australia. An interactive map enables users to easily find their local catchment information.

The website provides vital information for the horticulture industry, as the industry manages a complex set of natural resource management and environmental issues including soil fertility, irrigation induced soil salinity, soil acidity, native vegetation conservation, weeds, greenhouse gas emissions, water use and water quality.

HAL's Natural Resources and Climate Manager, Alison Turnbull, said she hoped growers would access the site and make use of the tools provided free of charge.

"I hope the website will help growers start down the path towards greater understanding of the environmental assurance credentials on their farms," Ms Turnbull said.

"The documents are practical, user-friendly and have been designed so they are relevant whether you are new to environmental assurance or quite experienced."

The Horticulture for Tomorrow website

provides information for Government, growers, industry leaders, the general public and the environment community in regard to major environmental activities undertaken through Horticulture for Tomorrow since it was established in 2004.

Horticulture for Tomorrow is the foremost across-horticulture environmental management project. Managed by HAL on behalf of industry, Horticulture for Tomorrow was established with the aim to help growers link production targets to their care for the environment as an integral part of their daily business management.

While there is currently no regulatory requirement for growers to implement an environmental assurance system on-farm, HAL saw the need for the development of a comprehensive but flexible, across-commodity, voluntary approach to managing these environmental issues within horticulture. As a result the Guidelines for Environmental Assurance (EA) in Australian Horticulture were released in hard copy in 2006.

Support for the development of these resources and the Horticulture for Tomorrow program have been provided by the Australian Government, through the Natural Heritage Trust and the National Landcare Program.



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