

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

TINA MCPHERSON, BUNDABERG

Dear Readers,

The great dry winter that was... I suspect that is how we will all look back on Winter 2018... still with a quizzical eye for many of us who have not yet worked out why the fruit didn't quite come as and when expected! I hope your region fared more successfully than we did! As I write this I am a passionfruit farmer desperate for rain and a strawberry farmer keen for rain, but in the right quantities and only quickly so it dries out again and the berries don't suffer! Oh, what a contrary lot we are!!

AGM INNISFAIL

For those of you who were able to make it to the recent AGM at Innisfail in northern Queensland you will hopefully have noticed the change in energy in our Association. It was inspiring to meet so many growers that I hadn't had the pleasure of meeting before and to see so many completely new faces with a keen interest in joining both the industry and PAI.

A huge thank you goes out again to the generous sponsors who made our fabulous dinner at **The Queens Hotel** in Innisfail possible. It was also an informative and engaging meeting at South Johnstone with a crowd of more than 50 attendees. And a thank you goes out to Doug Phillips for allowing us all to explore his farm and learn all about his expansion plans.

INDUSTRY SERVICES MANAGER ROLE

Jane has worked tirelessly to streamline many of our procedures within the association and we are able to see the results now both as an executive and as an industry body. The membership management software that manages the Association membership renewals is being implemented this year and it will offer the option of payment via credit card as well as a simple on-line signup form. We hope everyone will find this easy to navigate and it certainly will make processes easier at the administration end!

Jane has also invested a lot of time as part of the Communication Programme, adding information and reference materials to the new industry website, and I hope that many of you have been able to access the website and resources it offers! She is always open to new ideas too so I would encourage you to give her a call with any suggestions you have.



SIAP

The passionfruit SIAP (the Strategic Investment Advisory Panel) still has vacancies that will be advertised soon. I urge you to consider filling a position on this panel. All costs and your time are paid for and the commitment is only for approximately two meetings a year and some input at occasional times via email. Now in their third year of operation, industry SIAPs have shown to be an effective model for engaging with industry and helping to advise on where, when and how levy monies and Australian Government contributions are invested.

The SIAP is looking in particular for input from growers in North Queensland and Northern NSW and any panama growers. It is important that this group is fully representative of the WHOLE industry. If you'd like to chat about what it involves feel free to call me or any of the other current panel members; Jane Richter, Ross Brindley, Brian Westwood or Melissa Smith.

REGIONAL FIELD DAYS

Another highly successful regional field day was held under the Passionfruit Communication Project. The details of the day are on page 18. The value of having growers and supply chain partners together in an informal learning environment is invaluable for all participants and the building of relationships is as important as the knowledge shared. Sometimes simply seeing that the challenges you face are shared by others is the boost that we all need. This year's Soil Health programme is planned to deliver one more day in NSW before the end of the year and then a new plan for more days - with IPDM as the likely topic - will be put in place for 2019.

I hope you enjoy this edition of The Passion Vine and that spring is kind to you and brings rain!

Best wishes,

Tina

Hort Innovation AGM | Friday 23 November 2018 — Brisbane

The week beginning 13 August, 2018, members would have received a hard copy letter as well as an email notification inviting all levy paying members of Hort Innovation to complete an Annual Levy Return, should they wish to obtain voting entitlements at the Annual General Meeting 2018.

There are two ways you can lodge your Annual Levy Return:

1. Complete the Annual Levy Return form online by Friday 28 September, 2018 by visiting: <https://events.miraql.com/HortInnovation> and using your unique member number and PIN that you have received via hard copy post and email (this is a two-step authorisation process to help enhance security and you need both the member number and PIN to log onto the online system)
2. Complete the hard copy annual levy return form, which members will receive by mail. The hard copy form must also be received by Friday 28 September, 2018.

If you have any questions about the process, your member number or PIN, please contact Link Market Service on 1800 660 083.