

PROJECT UPDATE

NATIONAL PASSIONFRUIT BREEDING PROGRAM (PF15000)

BY JANE RICHTER, PETER BUNDOCK (SCU) & TOBIAS KRETZSCHMAR (SCU)

In the WINTER edition of The Passion Vine, we provided a summary of the findings of the independent review of the project PF1500 National Passionfruit Breeding Program. As we indicated in that article, there are no levy funds available from the Passionfruit Fund to extend the current project and so a no-cost 1-year extension was proposed and has now been signed off by Hort Innovation and the project delivery partner, Southern Cross University.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN IN PRACTICE?

- The project will continue to its new end date of 30 June 2020 and the program will keep 'ticking over'.
- The recommendations from the review will be implemented as described in the article (WINTER 2019 Pages 14-15).
- Both Peter and Tobias and other SCU project staff will continue to work on the project, but at a reduced rate.
- There will be no new crossing activities in this year extension, but the project will focus on inbreeding existing lines; selfing Lacey for 3rd generation in-bred this spring or summer, selfing Sweetheart from scratch again as seedlings didn't survive without grafting so one years' work lost with this variety, attempting Toma's Special selfing again although problematic due to most 1st generation in-breds being self-incompatible.

As highlighted in the WINTER edition of The Passion Vine, financial support is being sought from industry to help fund a MSc student at Southern Cross University to research and produce a rapid generation advancement system for passionfruit breeding. This new breeding protocol would enable us to halve the time taken to produce a generation of any crosses or selfing, dramatically reducing the time taken to bring new varieties to commercial trialling and ultimately to market.

Passionfruit Australia has developed a range of support packages that are available to any industry or supply chain stakeholder who would like to support the development of this new breeding protocol. We have three tiers of support available and each tier will receive recognition for that support level.

GOLD SUPPORTER – ONE AVAILABLE \$5,000 • GST

- Company logo will feature in ALL our industry communications out to growers clearly recognising your support
- Will receive a FREE full-page advert in each edition of The Passion Vine in 2020
- Will receive 2 FREE tickets to the Passionfruit Association Industry Dinner in 2019 or 2020
- Company logo will feature as the GOLD supporter on the pull-up banner that we create which will be displayed at all industry events in 2020 & 2021

SILVER SUPPORTER – THREE AVAILABLE \$2,500 • GST

- Company logo will feature in selected industry communications out to growers recognising your support
- Will receive a FREE half-page advert in 2 editions of The Passion Vine in 2020
- Company logo will feature as a SILVER supporter on the pull-up banner that we create which will be displayed at all industry events in 2020 & 2021

INDUSTRY SUPPORTER – TEN AVAILABLE - \$1,000 • GST

- Will receive a FREE half-page advert in 1 edition of The Passion Vine in 2020 or 2021
- Company logo will feature as an INDUSTRY supporter on the pull-up banner that we create which will be displayed at all industry events in 2020 & 2021

Please contact Amanda Roy, Passionfruit Australia Inc on 0427 833 281 or admin@passionfruitaustralia.org.au to show your support for the future of the passionfruit industry.

HOW CAN GROWERS HELP?

Please have a discussion with your agent & emphasise the importance of this program to the future of the industry.

Please encourage them to contribute & know that no contribution is too small.

If you have any questions about the details of the MSc project or would like to discuss this further with a member of the Association management team, please call President Tina McPherson on 0428 415 930 or Vice-President Jane Richter on 07 5438 7662.

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