

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

TINA MCPHERSON, BUNDABERG

Dear Readers,

The mornings are cooler, and the days are certainly crisp and warm! Autumn is a delightful time of year in Queensland and in particular in Bundaberg. We are on the cusp of both our winter harvest for passionfruit and our strawberry season... I anticipate some fairly busy weeks ahead. We finally received rain (never enough! the dam remains empty and we are fortunate not to rely on it for our water security) and the green did everyone's heart and soul some good. We were even willing to forgo the flower set that week for some of the liquid gold! The vines certainly jumped away in response and the growth has been heartening. A bit of recent cloudy and drizzly weather has meant that we are dealing with brown spot/Alternaria, but the sunny days are assisting us with getting on top of it.

Our fruit peak may be a little later than anticipated and fingers are crossed that growers across all regions may have peaks at different times, allowing for a consistent supply into the markets across the winter.

The PAI committee has been bolstered significantly in numbers, with the addition of Dennis Chant and Cynthia Barbagallo to our ranks. We were certainly very excited to welcome them and value their input, their knowledge and their enthusiasm. Cynthia is from North Queensland and Dennis from Northern NSW so between them they represent regions that are very important to our industry. We were fortunate enough to be able to convene a face to face committee meeting in Brisbane in March for the purpose of updating the strategic plan for PAI. This is the plan that dictates our purpose as an industry representative body, objectives and action plan for the next 5 years and ultimately our mission which rests around **adding value to the industry through leadership.**



It is great as a committee of industry representatives to be able to prepare a plan that guides us and future committees with purpose and the future of the industry as the core focus. It is my hope that future issues of **The Passion Vine** will highlight areas of the **National Passionfruit Industry Strategic Plan** so that all the industry understand the vision for our industry and feel able and happy to contribute to help direct the industry moving forward.

As growers we urge you to remember that the representatives on the committee for your region or your area of interest are there to do just that... represent you... and it is important that you voice your opinions and views through them or directly to the committee as a whole. Ultimately, we are there to represent the industry and YOU are the industry!

Exciting plans are now in place for a both field day and the first **Research Roadshow** in North Queensland in June (SEE PAGE 3) and the AGM on the Sunshine Coast in October, amongst a series of other events. The Research Roadshow series this year is a critical opportunity for all growers to provide input into the next Strategic Agrichemical Review Process (SARP) for our industry. We strongly urge you to join in and ensure that your voice is heard.

We hope you are able to attend some of these events and look forward to meeting up with you there.

Warmest wishes for a great winter season. Remember...

*"without hard work, nothing grows but weeds!"*

Tina

## RESEARCH ROADSHOW

**Don't miss your chance to shape the priorities for the passionfruit industry!**

*A key part of the four year project, **PF16003 National Passionfruit Industry Communication Programme**, is to provide pathways for growers to share their needs to help shape the priorities for investment of R&D levy funds.*

*The current Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) for the industry runs until 2021 and can be accessed on the Hort Innovation website: <https://www.horticulture.com.au/growers/passionfruit-fund>*

On the page opposite, you can see the summarised version of our SIP. The RESEARCH ROADSHOW series being held this year is aiming to provide an opportunity for direct input from growers on three key areas:

1. Identifying by region and by variety the priority pest & disease issues that growers are currently facing, as an input that will be provided to Hort Innovation to form the basis for the next Strategic Agrichemical Review Process (SARP)
2. To collate your views on the current grading system for passionfruit as defined by the market agents and the Grading Guide in order to update the guide and produce new communication materials for growers including new posters by variety
3. To gather feedback about the outputs of the Communication Programme in the first two years of the project and make sure we are delivering what you need

All the dates, times & locations for each event will be available via the Events section of the website. Please use this to Register your attendance for any passionfruit event.

The first Research Roadshow will be held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June at Cairns City Library. Register 10.30am for a 11.00am start until 3.00pm. Lunch will be provided.

**For any questions, please contact:**  
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