

Field Days | *Passionfruit Style*

Wendy Morris

Over the last twelve months, Passionfruit Australia has hosted two field days – one at Woombye, and one in Atherton. These events were a welcome return to normality from the Covid lockdowns and gave growers and industry stakeholders an opportunity to catch up and make new connections.

These field days have been funded by Hort Innovation through the passionfruit research and development levy, and funds from the Australian Government.

Soil health continues to be a major area of concern for growers, and we were fortunate to host Paul Lindsay from Biohub Solutions at Woombye, Bruce Scott from Campbells Fertilisers and Dr Jay Anderson from SCU (the latter via pre-recorded presentation) at Atherton.

Our North Queensland attendees also took the opportunity to explore Alicia and Alex Bertola's farm at Kairi about 90 minutes south-west of Cairns.

Passionfruit Australia Inc has been successful in obtaining funding to run '**Resilient Passionfruit**' workshops on the Sunshine Coast and in Bundaberg in mid-August 2023. Later in the year, we also intend to run a field day in the Northern NSW region.

Funding for the Resilient Passionfruit workshops has been provided by the Queensland Government Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy.

We welcome suggestions from local growers on topics of interest, and look forward to catching up with you all in person.

Upcoming Workshops: *Resilient Passionfruit*

BUNDABERG: 15 AUGUST 2023

Neville Room, Regional Business HQ,
20B Quay Street, Bundaberg

SUNSHINE COAST: 17 AUGUST 2023

Meeting Space 2, Kawana Forest Meeting Place,
60 Woodlands Boulevard, Meridian Plains

PROGRAM FOR BOTH LOCATIONS:

- 10.00am** Registrations Open
- 10.15am** Welcome
- 10.20am** *Surviving a flood* - perspectives from a Passionfruit Grower
- 11.00am** Dr Mo Alam - Updates on *Passionfruit Breeding and the future of disease resistance*
- 11.45am** Graeme Sait, Nutritech *Preparing for a severe weather event*
- 1.00pm** Lunch
- 1.30pm** Graeme Sait, Nutritech *Recovering from a severe weather event*
- 3.30pm** Monica Talbot – Vietnamese Passionfruit Biosecurity Risk Assessment
- 4.00pm** Afternoon tea & networking

Nursery staff will also be in attendance to talk about variety selection. This field day is **FREE** for hobby and commercial passionfruit growers.

REGISTER to attend at: bit.ly/PAI-Event

Numbers are capped at 50 attendees (Bundaberg) and 30 (Sunshine Coast) so please RSVP to secure your place.



Field Day | *Atherton*



Atherton Field Day including a farm walk at Alex & Alicia Bertola's property south-west of Cairns.
Photo credit: Wendy Morris & Cynthia Barbagallo

Field Day | *Woombye*



Woombye Field Day including a talk from Arbour Grove Nursery owner Megan Crowhurst.
Photo credit: Wendy Morris & Megan Crowhurst