

TIA Vegetable Research Facility Field Day

Tuesday, 9 December, 2025

10:00am	Opening of the TIA Vegetable Research Facility Field Day Associate Professor Nigel Swarts, TIA
10:10am	Director's welcome Professor Mike Rose, TIA
10:15am	Growing value from irrigation for Tasmanian agriculture: economic update Associate Professor Dan Daugaard and Dr Richard Ahadzie, University of Tasmania
10:30am	Insects in agriculture Dr Jon Finch, TIA
10:45am	Developing fast and reliable disease detection for pyrethrum crops Dr Tamieka Pearce, TIA
11:00am	Australia's first dedicated zero-net emissions horticulture demonstration farm: presentation and field walk Dr Tory Clarke, TIA
11:30am	Morning tea and industry expo
11:50am	Potato mop top virus - update from Tas Seed Doug Clark, TIA
12:05pm	New research to understand and manage potato mop-top virus Professor Calum Wilson, TIA
12:20pm	Panel discussion: Let's talk biosecurity Alice Clayton - Biosecurity Tas Craig Elliott, Calum Wilson, Doug Clark - TIA
12:40pm	Lunch and industry expo
1:15pm - 2:30pm	Guided farm walk • Growing value from irrigation: Ana Avila • Fungicide resistance in pyrethrum crops: Pooja Poosarla • Arvensis research plot: Phil Frost • Sun Pharma research plot: Juan Briceno • Water Use Efficiency - Pinon Advisory: Jason Lynch • Heat stress during strawberry fruit ripening: Dr Nathan Tivendale

Speakers



Associate Professor Nigel Swarts - Centre Leader Horticulture, TIA

Nigel's research is in the field of tree physiology and specifically tree crop nutrition. He leads collaborative projects on orchard floor management to promote soil health and another on tree crop production systems.



Professor Mike Rose - Director, TIA

As Director of TIA, Mike leads the development and delivery of TIA's Strategic Plan in collaboration with staff, government, and industry stakeholders. He is an animal scientist and has conducted extensive research into the physiology and health of ruminants, particularly in relation to metabolic disease, mastitis and lameness.



Associate Professor Dan Daugaard, University of Tasmania

Dan is a researcher on the TIA-led Growing Value from Irrigation for Tasmanian Agriculture project examining the macro-economic contribution of irrigation to Tasmania's agricultural production. Dan collaborates with agronomists, economists, and environmental scientists evaluating the economic performance of major irrigation schemes and the factors enabling farmers to maximise returns from irrigation.



Dr Richard Ahadzie, University of Tasmania

Richard is a lecturer in finance and a researcher on the TIA-led Growing Value from Irrigation for Tasmanian Agriculture project. His work focuses on investigating the economic impact of irrigation in Tasmania, considering the influences of farm performance, regional productivity and long-term agricultural value.



Dr Jon Finch - Entomologist, TIA

Jon's research expertise relates to the beneficial role of insects in agroecosystems, such as providing pollination, pest control and nutrient cycling services.



Dr Tamiaka Pearce - Research Fellow, TIA

Tamiaka specialises in genetics and molecular plant pathology, and currently leads a pyrethrum flowering physiology research program aimed at reducing the crop growing season from 18 months to 10 months. Tamiaka focuses on plant disease research in crops including pyrethrum, poppies, cherries, and blueberries.



Dr Tory Clarke - Research Fellow, TIA

Tory is an experienced plant biologist whose expertise spans nitrogen and carbon nutrient acquisition, and stress responses on crop productivity, all with the goal of improving crop yields and sustainability.



Doug Clark - Vegetable Research Facility Farm Manager, TIA

As Farm Manager, Doug has overseen research trials and commercial crops since 2017. He took on the role because he recognised the importance of the farm and saw an opportunity to enhance its capacity to deliver current and emerging RD&E in a contemporary farming system.

Speakers continued



Professor Calum Wilson - Plant Pathologist, TIA

With over 30 years' experience in research and teaching, Calum actively works with a diverse range of plant diseases including those caused by viruses, bacteria, cercozoa and fungi with a current focus on development of novel management and understanding of soil-borne pathogens of potato and soil health more generally.



Craig Elliot - Biosecurity Lead, TIA and TAS Farm Innovation Hub

Craig leads TIA's engagement on biosecurity issues. He provides strategic advice, connects research, industry, and government, and coordinates research, training, and contingency planning to strengthen Tasmania's preparedness for emerging threats and support informed decision-making across agriculture.



Alice Clayton, Biosecurity Tasmania

Alice current role is Program Manager - Biosecurity Emergency Management at Biosecurity Tasmania. Alice most recently led Biosecurity Tasmania's recent response to the potato mop-top virus.



Ana Avila - Research Fellow, TIA

Ana is a soil scientist focused on soil physics and management. Currently undertaking postdoctoral research at TIA, focusing on irrigation efficiency and effectiveness, soil-water interactions, and innovative methods for assessing water use in irrigation systems.



Pooja Poosarla - PhD Candidate, TIA

Pooja is a current PhD student at UTAS Cradle Coast campus researching on the extent of fungicide resistance in pathogen populations affecting the Pyrethrum industry.



Phil Frost, Arvensis

Arvensis Research is a private sector research provider, conducting agronomic research and related services in Tasmania.



Juan Briceno, SunPharma

Juan is the R&D Lead at Sun Pharmaceutical and is responsible for the development of novel poppy varieties and the execution of agronomic research trials aimed at enhancing grower productivity and profitability.



Jason Lynch, Pinion Advisory

Jason Lynch is a senior consultant at Pinion Advisory, with over 25 years' experience in production agronomy, various aspects of cropping, grazing management and property development.



Dr Nathan Tivendale - Plant Biologist, TIA

Nathan is a plant biologist, biochemist and molecular biologist. Nathan received his PhD from the University of Tasmania and has spent the past 13 years investigating plant biology across Australia and the world.



Industry Expo

The Industry Expo brings together suppliers, innovators and service providers from across Tasmania's horticulture sector. Take the time to wander through the Veg Shed during the morning tea and lunch breaks to chat with exhibitors.

We appreciate the support of all participating companies and businesses, listed below. Please get in touch if you're interested in exhibiting at next year's event.



Grab your free coffee

Bombshell Espresso are serving coffee at morning tea and lunch, kindly sponsored by the TAS Farm Innovation Hub.

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