



AUSTRALIAN
MACADAMIA
SOCIETY

AusMac2024

29-31 October Gold Coast Queensland

EVENT PROGRAM



Conference Presentations



Trade/Machinery Expo



Innovation Lounge



Research Hub



Social Events

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AusMac2024 Program

Tuesday 29 October

12.00-5.00pm AusMac2024 Golf Day | Lakelands Golf Course

6.00-8.00pm **Welcome Reception** – proudly sponsored by 
Book Launch - The Macadamia - Australia's Gift to the World
(with author and industry legend Ian McConachie AM)

Wednesday 30 October

8.30-8.40am AusMac2024 Welcome | Arena 1B

8.40-9.25am **The Macro-Economic Perspective** | Arena 1B

With world economic stability impacted by so many concurrent events, the operating environment for businesses at every stage of the agribusiness supply chain is challenging. Primary producers are feeling these impacts acutely at all levels from cost and availability of inputs, through to on-farm productivity and market opportunities.

AusMac2024 will open with a focus on the influences on and impacts of the turmoil experienced over the last three years and an examination of factors likely to remain influential for the next three. The presentation will canvass both international and domestic perspectives, concluding with what the implications might be for the Australian macadamia industry.

Speakers

- Stefan Vogel, General Manager RaboResearch Australia & New Zealand, Rabobank
- Tristan Kitchener, Kitchener Partners

Session proudly sponsored by  **Stoller**
Together we grow.

9.25-10.20am **A Global Vision for Nuts and Macadamia Markets of the Future** | Arena 1B

This presentation will drill down into the crucial tasks of how we grow the nut category across the globe, develop markets and engage consumers. It will include insights from a global nut perspective, lessons in consumer engagement and an outline of the Australian Macadamias marketing plan (2024-29).

Speakers

- Michael Waring, Chairman, International Nut and Dried Fruit Council (INC)
- Dr Ian Cesa, President, Horizon Consumer Science
- Jacqui Price, Market Development Manager, Australian Macadamias

Session proudly sponsored by  **syngenta.**

Wednesday 30 October cont.

10.20-11.10am Morning Tea + Trade/Machinery Expo + Innovation Lounge + Research Hub

• **Innovation Lounge | Trade Expo (Hall 1)**

A showcase of new technology, ideas and innovation.

10.30am - From data to decisions: How remote sensing and AI are maximising efficiency in macadamia orchards: Success stories from Australia and South Africa

Dr Chris Cannizzaro, Macadamia Farm Management & Dr Yoav Yichie, Aerobotics

10.45am - Biochar: A circular economy solution for the nut industry

Emma Greenhatch, Pyrocal & Michelle Herbert, Stahmann Webster

Innovation Lounge proudly sponsored by



• **Research Hub - Production Systems | Trade Expo (Hall 1)**

Meet our macadamia researchers and learn about the latest scientific research.

- **Biodiversity in macadamia orchards**

Dr Darren Kriticos & Dr Tania Yonow, Cervantes Agritech

- **Developing a macadamia industry resilient to future flooding events**

Dr Suzy Rogiers, NSW DPIRD

- **Enhancing macadamia machine operational efficiency: harvesting and spraying**

Harry Goy, FieldIn

- **Integrated orchard management (IOM) versus non-IOM: a comparison of runoff**

Dr Mitch Call, Southern Cross University

- **Introducing the macadamia grower guide**

Jeremy Bright, NSW DPIRD & Stephanie Alt, Give Soil a Chance

- **Macadamia planting density has a strong effect on orchard productivity in a decade-long trial**

Dr Amnon Haberman, QDAF

- **Pest modelling for macadamia management**

Dr Darren Kriticos & Dr Tania Yonow, Cervantes Agritech

- **Potential use of triazole growth retardants as a tool for canopy management in macadamia**

Dr Amnon Haberman, QDAF

- **Quick unroll erosion control with flexible concrete mats: Protecting macadamia orchards and improving farm tracks and drainage**

Richard Mould & Alan Theron, Australian Concrete Mats

Research Hub proudly supported by **Hort Innovation**

11.10am-12.30pm Surviving and Thriving Macadamia Production: How to Achieve More with Less | Arena 1B

This important session will feature a panel of highly experienced growers, including a grower from South Africa, who will discuss the current realities of orchard management with a positive focus on how to not only survive in the current macadamia production environment, but also to thrive in it. Panel members, who have taken on orchard rejuvenation and/or made major structural changes to their businesses, will talk about practical ways they have been able to maintain productivity against a background of fluctuating prices, labour shortages, rising input costs, decreasing agrochemical options, changing technologies and greater quality requirements. Hear how they are managing these challenges, as well as commonsense advice about the day-to-day management of a macadamia orchard. They will share their predictions about what changes the macadamia industry is facing in the coming years.

Speakers

- Luke Dunstone, South African grower and Board member, Global Macadamias
- Kevin Quinlan, Grower and Leader Northern Horticulture, NSW DPIRD
- Scott Allcott, Managing Director, Macadamia Farm Management

Session proudly sponsored by



12.30-2.00pm Lunch + Trade/Machinery Expo + Innovation Lounge + Research Hub

• **Innovation Lounge | Trade Expo (Hall 1)**

A showcase of new technology, ideas and innovation.

1.00pm - Advanced irrigation and sensor technology in macadamia orchards

Dr Dan Manson, Rural Funds Management & Steve Lockyer, Inform Ag

1.15pm - The benefits of autonomous and robotic technology in permanent tree crops

Cam Clifford, GOTrack

1.30pm - Rapid nut quality assessment

Dr Michael Farrar & Associate Professor Shahla Hosseini Bai, Griffith University

Innovation Lounge proudly sponsored by



• **Research Hub - Pest & Disease | Trade Expo (Hall 1)**

Meet our macadamia researchers and learn about the latest scientific research.

- **An integrated systems-based approach for pest management in Australian macadamia: research update**

Dr Bishwo Mainali, Macquarie University & Dr Darren Kriticos, Cervantes Agritech

- **Generalist predators for pest control in macadamia orchards**

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- **Improving fruit and banana spotting bug control using pheromones**

Dr Andrew Hayes, USC and Kempsey Adams & Stefano De Faveri, QDAF

- **Insights into rachis tip dieback in macadamia**

Xiaoxue Xu, QAAFI, UQ

- **Modelling disease dynamics in macadamia**

Dr Mohamed Zakeell, CSIRO

- **On-farm crop losses and impacts of pests and diseases in a range of macadamia orchards**

Ziyu Shao, QAAFI, UQ

- **Pest control benefits of microbats in macadamia orchards**

Rani Davis, QAAFI, UQ

- **Pest READI: Co developing solutions to area-wide integrated pest management (AW-IPM)**

Dr Tracey Steinrucken, CSIRO Pest Readi

- **Phomopsis graft dieback disease in macadamia nurseries**

Jahangir Khan, QAAFI, UQ

- **Potential of simulation models for predicting husk rot severity in macadamia orchards**

Theophilus Mensah, QAAFI, UQ

- **Temperature dependent development and survival rates of *Leptocoris tagalicus***

Dr Bishwo Mainali & Dr Syed Z Rizvi, Macquarie University

- **What we know about Scolytid beetle activity in macadamia; extreme weather events can exacerbate the impact**

Dr Saleh Adnan, NSW DPIRD

Research Hub proudly supported by Hort Innovation

PRODUCTION | ARENA 1B

Macadamia Production Supported by Science

How we grow macadamias in Australia has changed significantly over the last two decades as growers overcome challenges, implement new practices and seek to remain competitive globally. Fundamental to the industry's competitiveness is its investment, with the Australian government, of more than \$4 million annually in research and development to support production challenges and identify opportunities. Find out about progress with current investment in three key areas of production in this interactive session, where presenters will share current knowledge, innovative practices and new research that is helping growers be more productive and profitable.

Facilitator

- Leoni Kojetin, Industry Development Manager, Australian Macadamia Society

Pests and Diseases – *What are the pests and diseases that cause the greatest loss for macadamia growers?*

If there is anything that keeps growers up at night, the threat of pests and diseases is high on the list. This session will delve into the top five pests and diseases that growers face, and how and why they are such a challenge to manage. Hear about seasonal susceptibilities and vulnerable orchard characteristics that make their management difficult and expensive. Importantly, the session will cover key management mistakes that growers often make and offer integrated strategies to minimise economic loss and consistently improve crop quality.

Speaker

- Chris Fuller, Grower Liaison, Nutworks

New Face of Nutrition – *What's proven, what's new and what's on the horizon in macadamia nutrition?*

Nutrition in macadamia orchards has come along in leaps and bounds. We have so many new management tools, nutrition options and application techniques, but how do we navigate this to best suit our orchard and budget? This session will discuss how nutrition can build a productive orchard biome from everything living and working in the soil to the needs of high yielding trees. The speaker will help growers develop a tailored approach for growing region, orchard age, cultivars and management styles to produce better quality crops and support long term orchard resilience.

Speaker

- Dr Theunis Smit, Horticulturalist, OmenAg

Orchard Intensification – *How do we produce better crops with more efficient orchard systems?*

To stay ahead of the pack globally and retain our premium positioning we need innovative orchard solutions. After years of research and grower trials, there are new growing systems that make macadamia orchards leaner and more productive. Learn about changes you can make to your orchard that have worked for other growers and those that haven't been as successful. This will include new cultivars, better tree architecture and canopy management, orchard floor management strategies and other innovative ways to manage the crop through the growing season for better long-term results.

Speaker

- Armand Smit, Senior Operations Manager, Macadamia Farm Management

Session proudly sponsored by  **Nutrien**
Ag Solutions

MARKET DEVELOPMENT | INNOVATION LOUNGE (TRADE EXPO), HALL 1

Building Strong Foundations for Growth

The Australian Macadamias marketing program is underpinned by fact-based analysis and data. Knowing the foundational elements of the program is key to understanding the program's strategic direction and operational deliverables. Join a diverse group of experts for critical insights into the foundations of the three-year Australian Macadamias marketing program 2024-2027.

Facilitator

- Jacqui Price, Market Development Manager, Australian Macadamias

Data and Science for Consumer Understanding

Hort IQ provides consumer and customer data and insights on Australian horticulture, and is a one-stop shop for powerful consumer insights designed to fuel growth. This overview of consumer and category insights for the macadamia industry will cover the Australian retail landscape, and what is driving consumer choices, their purchasing habits and how they view macadamias.

Speaker

- Felecia White, Head of Marketing Insights and Capability, Hort Innovation

Global Consumer Insights for Growth

Against the backdrop of significantly increasing global production, driving demand and origin preference in a highly competitive export market is imperative and having a deep understanding of the consumer in key markets is critical. The industry recently completed an update to its global quantitative consumer insights study. Surveying more than 6,000 people across six key markets, it took a deep dive into the minds of consumers around the world to uncover current perceptions, expectations and habits around macadamias.

Speaker

- Neil Moody, General Manager - Australia & New Zealand, Focus Insights

Driving Nut Consumption Through Health Professionals

The Nuts for Life program is a well-respected program that is focused on the collation, interpretation and dissemination of evidence-based research about nuts and their positive role in sustainable and healthy diets. Hear about the activities Nuts for Life is undertaking to drive nut consumption, with the aim of having 10 million Australians eating nuts daily by 2030.

Speaker

- Belinda Neville, Program Manager, Nuts for Life

New Tools to Stimulate Innovation with Macadamias

It is estimated that less than 35% of Australian macadamia kernel production is used as an ingredient. Hear from the Food Science team at DAF Qld about how they are creating a critical new marketing resource specifically aimed at food technologists to stimulate the development of new products containing macadamias.

Speaker

- Kerridyn Hooker, Product Development Lead, Queensland Government, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

3.45-6.00pm **Afternoon Tea + Trade/Machinery Expo + Innovation Lounge + Research Hub
+ Networking Session**

• **Innovation Lounge | Trade Expo (Hall 1)**

A showcase of new technology, ideas and innovation.

**4.05pm - How autonomous agriculture can improve precision, efficiency and sustainability
in macadamia**

Braden Hellmuth, Farm Concepts

4.20pm - Agricultural tools and climate projections that improve grower decision making

Jamieson Lowe, Bureau of Meteorology

4.35pm - Meeting the challenges of agriculture with vision-based autonomous farm operations

Brian Baumgartner, Bonsai Robotics

Innovation Lounge proudly sponsored by



• **Research Hub**

– **Breeding/Genetics, Novel Technologies, Nutrition & Pollination | Trade Expo (Hall 1)**

Meet our macadamia researchers and learn about the latest scientific research.

Breeding/Genetics

– **Vigour in macadamia: Genetic and physiological insights into rootstock and scion**

Pragya Dhakal Poudel, QAAFI, UQ

– **Finding genetic markers for the nut characteristics which predetermine macadamia resistance to
fruit spotting damage for use in an indirect selection strategy**

Shelley Gage, QAAFI, UQ

– **Novel propagation technology for Australian macadamia**

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Novel Technologies

– **Innovative cryopreservation technology for the Australian macadamia industry**

Xueying Li, QAAFI, UQ

– **Waterfind's water management application**

Nick Sayer & Sean Warren, Waterfind

– **Macadamia yield monitoring sensor trial**

Tom Flanagan, NSW DPIRD

– **Rapid nut quality assessment**

Dr Michael Farrer & Associate Professor Shahla Hosseini Bai, Griffith University

Nutrition

– **How macadamia roots 'farm' beneficial bacteria in Serenade**

Lore Saupp-Saunders, Bayer CropScience

– **Macadamia organic amendment project**

Jeremy Bright, NSW DPIRD

– **Using microalgae-based soil probiotics to improve nutrient retention in macadamia farms**

Dr Edoardo Bertone, Griffith University & Dr Juliane Wolf, University of Queensland

Pollination

– **Feeding the bees: Investing the impact of floral resources and supplementary feeding on the
health of stingless bee colonies in macadamia orchards**

Dr Claire Allison, Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, Western Sydney University

– **Pollination in macadamia: Knowledge gaps and opportunities**

Joshua Coates, ANU

– **Self-fertility in macadamia: Insights for macadamia breeding**

Palakdeep Kaur, QAAFI, UQ

Research Hub proudly supported by 

4.00-5.00pm **AMS AGM | Arena 1B**

5.00-6.00pm **Happy Hour | Trade Expo (Hall 1)**

Proudly sponsored by



PRODUCTION | ARENA 1B

Macadamia Production – Supported by Science

How we grow macadamias in Australia has changed significantly over the last two decades as growers overcome challenges, implement new practices and remain competitive globally. The Australian macadamia industry and government invest over \$4 million annually in research and development to support production challenges and identify opportunities. Three key production topics are covered in this interactive session sharing current knowledge, innovative practices and new research that is helping growers be more productive and profitable.

Facilitator

- Leoni Kojetin, Industry Development Manager, Australian Macadamia Society

Better Pollination for Better Crop – Can better pollination produce higher yielding and better quality macadamia crops?

The research says yes! Better pollination can increase yield, nut retention through to maturity, improve kernel recovery and kernel quality. What does this look like in practice, when many growers don't have the chance to redesign their orchard with better pollination in mind? This session will outline everything we know about macadamia pollination – what, how and when, through to practical strategies growers can implement to improve pollination outcomes on farm.

Speaker

- Dr Chris Cannizzaro, Horticulturist, Macadamia Farm Management

Benchmarking – The Benefit of Knowing Your Numbers – How does knowing your farm numbers make you more money?

We can only manage what we measure and record, and the starting point is having data about your farm. With every orchard budget under even more pressure than usual, this session will give you more information of where you could be getting more bang for your buck. Benchmarking helps you compare your farm and agronomic practices against other farms in your region and the wider industry. This session will discuss key metrics in the industry benchmarking data and provide grower case studies to help you make informed decisions about your orchard management and profitability.

Speakers

- Macadamia Benchmarking Project Team, NSW DPIRD and QDAF

The Nuts and Bolts of Orchard Machinery – Do you have the right machinery for your orchard management?

With technology advancing rapidly, there are many new machinery options but how do you know whether the investment is worth it or that it will work for you? While most macadamia farms overcapitalise on machinery, the opposite is also true, and in this case, relying on contractors can diminish management responsiveness. This session will look at orchard machinery, both old and new, the essential gear you need to have and how you can make that machinery on farm work best for you. From machinery modifications and adjusting equipment to your orchard setting to the business case for upgrading to new technology, you will hear lots of practical advice.

Speakers

- Chris Searle, MacAvo Consulting
- John Vaughan, Stahmann Webster
- Kerry Sparke, Consultant
- Graham Wessling, CL Macs

MARKET DEVELOPMENT | INNOVATION LOUNGE (TRADE EXPO), HALL 1

Demystifying Export and Market Development

With over 70% of Australian macadamias exported, the development of global markets is key to the ongoing growth of the industry. Over the last two decades the Australian Macadamias marketing program has led macadamia marketing across the globe. This session takes a closer look at the export process and showcases case studies across three key markets.

Facilitator

- Andrew Francey, General Manager, Industry Service & Delivery, Hort Innovation

Demystifying Exporting

The export process can be difficult to understand. With changing industry dynamics, new players across the supply chain are encountering the challenges of export marketing. This session provides a high-level guide to key steps, essential knowledge and helpful tools for navigating all aspects of the export market journey.

Speakers

- Ray Elson, National Manager/Director, Grain and Plant Products Exports, Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry
- Kevin Norman, Senior Global Engagement Manager (Agribusiness), Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade)

Developing New Markets for Macadamias

Using Hort Innovation's international marketing framework, Define - Develop – Drive, we take a close look at how macadamias are being positioned in the minds of both trade and consumer audiences across three markets (India, Korea and USA) in differing stages of development.

Speakers

- Yemee Fernandes, Executive Director, Four Pillars Trading Pty Ltd
- Jillian Laing, CEO, World Macadamia Organisation
- Jacqui Price, Market Development Manager, Australian Macadamias

10.30-11.15am Morning Tea + Trade/Machinery Expo + Innovation Lounge + Research Hub

• **Innovation Lounge | Trade Expo (Hall 1)**

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10.45am - Using microalgae-based soil probiotics to improve nutrient retention in macadamia

Dr Edoardo Bertone, Griffith University & Dr Juliane Wolf, University of Queensland

Innovation Lounge proudly sponsored by



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Dr Saleh Adnan, NSW DPIRD

Research Hub proudly supported by 

**11.15am-
12.00pm**

Orchards of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow | Arena 1B

Compared to many orchard crops, commercial macadamia production is only in its infancy, but it has progressed rapidly in the last 50 years. In this session industry experts will take you on a journey examining where macadamia production has come from and what managing an orchard looked like in the last century. From this history, the session will move to overview the essential features of a 21st century sustainable orchard, discussing core practices and orchard management critical to remain productive and profitable in the current environment. Finally, it will predict what an orchard of the future will look like and the key technologies, environmental challenges and market trends that will dictate new orchard management practices and systems.

Speakers

- Leoni Kojetin, Industry Development Manager, Australian Macadamia Society
- Dr Rohan Orford, Business Manager, Australian Premium Macadamias

Session proudly sponsored by 

12.00-1.00pm Tools to Future-proof Macadamia Production | Arena 1B

With the growth in global macadamia production and increasingly complex market demands, the ability to produce sustainable macadamias profitably is key to success. How can Australia position itself and use new technologies and innovation to future-proof our industry?

This panel discussion with industry experts will focus on the initiatives and technologies that we can take advantage of to help us stay ahead of the rest of the world, including new farm management technologies, mapping and crop forecasting, weather prediction tools, risk management, carbon accounting and sustainable technologies. Come along to hear how you can use these tools on your farm and be involved in initiatives that are keeping Australia ahead of the pack.

Speakers

- Dr Andy Clark, Senior Researcher Fellow, Applied Agricultural Remote Sensing Centre
- Emily Grieve, Industry Development Officer, Australian Macadamia Society
- Patrick McClelland, Managing Partner - Agribusiness Lead, Porter Novelli
- Dr Miriam Villen King, General Manager of Science and Sustainability, Stahmann Webster

Session proudly sponsored by 

1.00-3.00pm Lunch + Trade/Machinery Expo + Innovation Lounge + Research Hub

• **Innovation Lounge | Trade Expo (Hall 1)**

A showcase of new technology, ideas and innovation.

1.30pm - Innovative spraying and tractor solutions for nut growers

Erin Wagstaff, John Deere

1.45pm - How SwarmFarm Robotics can provide integrated autonomy in agriculture

Paul Brady, SwarmFarm

2.00pm - Generalist predators for pest control in macadamia orchards

Dr Bishwo Mainali, Macquarie University

2.15pm - Using aerial imagery in macadamia production

Dr Bramwell Morton & Dr Rajandeep Singh, Ceres Imaging

Innovation Lounge proudly sponsored by



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3.00-4.00pm

The Great Debate: Macadamia Future Focus | Arena 1B

AusMac concludes with a panel and open discussion, focussed on driving a profitable, sustainable future for the macadamia industry. Representatives from across the macadamia supply chain - from orchard to final market - will participate in a future focussed debate that promises to be a thought-provoking activity that is the perfect way to conclude our industry event.

4.00-4.30pm

Afternoon Tea | Foyer B

6.30-11.00pm

Gala Dinner | Arena 2 – proudly sponsored by 