

DAY 1 CONFERENCE PROGRAM – TUESDAY 13/10



GROWING FOR THE FUTURE

THEME: Taking Australian Almonds to the World

MC: Daniela Ritorto

11:00 – 11:15am	Welcome: ABA CEO (15mins)
11:15 – 12:00pm	Eating trends: Weight loss, protein & GLP-1s – Theo Konstanopoulos and Jemma O'Hanlon (45mins)

LUNCH (12:00pm – 12:30pm) 30mins

THEME: Maximising value and understanding consumers

MC: Daniela Ritorto

Trade Exhibit Stage – THEME: Interactive masterclass

Facilitated by Peter Jealous

12:30 – 1:15pm	ABA marketing showcase: Melissa Wyness, Sumit Saran, Joseph Yuan, Poh Ling Yeow, Kyle Chalmers (45mins)	1:15 – 2:45pm	Interactive Masterclass: pest and disease monitoring and detection (1 hour 30mins) - Brittany Oswald, Simone Kreidl (Agriculture Victoria) & Greg Browne (USDA) – Almond diseases and disorders, prunus replant disease. - Len Tesoriero – Monterey. - Sam Edley (Agriculture Victoria) – almond pests. - Narelle Borgmeyer (Fruit Doctors) – in-field monitoring. - ABA Josh Fielke & Peter Reynolds – spray considerations
1:15 – 2:00pm	Product Innovation: Consumption trends – Ashok Krishen, Sumit Saran, Melissa Wyness, Belinda Neville, Deane Hubball (45mins)		
2:00 – 2:45pm	Panel: Global market update/supply and demand snapshot – Australian marketers. Facilitated by Damien Houlahan (45mins)		
2:45 – 3:45pm	International Masterchef collaboration – maximising almonds featuring celebrity chefs Poh Ling Yeow and Sanjeev Kapoor (1 hour)		

AFTERNOON TEA (3:45 – 4:15pm) 30mins

THEME: Leadership – AGM

MC: Kellie Hollingworth

4:15 – 4:45pm	Growing Almond Leaders graduation: program highlights & presentation of certificates (30mins)
4:45 – 5:15pm	ABA Annual General Meeting (30mins)

CONFERENCE COCKTAIL WELCOME EVENT (5:15 – 7:15pm) 2 hours

DAY 2 CONFERENCE
PROGRAM – WEDNESDAY 14/10

GROWING FOR
THE FUTURE

7:00 – 8:15am	Women in Almonds networking breakfast: InterContinental Hotel, Banksia Room 2 (1 hour 15mins) Click HERE to Register
SESSION 4 (1 hour 30 mins)	
THEME: Almond Outlook MC: Daniela Ritorto	
8:45 – 9:00am	Welcome and setting the scene: Alan Hoppe, ABA Directors (15mins)
9:00 – 9:40am	State of the Industry: Tim Jackson, CEO ABA (40mins)
9:40 – 10:05am	Keynote address: Ashok Krishen, INC chair (25mins)
10:05 – 10:15am	A word from our major sponsor: HAIFA Australia CEO (10mins)
MORNING TEA (10:15 – 10:45am) 30mins	
SESSION 5 (2 hours)	
THEME: International Experts MC: Daniela Ritorto	
10:45 – 11:20am	Root architecture and maximising growth potential: Professor Astrid Volder, UC Davis (35mins)
11:20 – 11:55am	Carbohydrate storage: Maciej A Zwieniecki, UC Davis (35mins)
11:55 – 12:30pm	Tackling soil-borne disease and soil disinfestation: Prof Greg Browne, formerly USDA (35mins)
12:30 – 12:45pm	Q&A (15mins) Facilitated by Josh Fielke
LUNCH (12:45 – 1:45pm) 1 hour	
Poster Showcase (1:00pm – 1:30pm) 30mins	
SESSION 6 (1 hour 45 mins)	
THEME: Water & Bees MC: Daniela Ritorto	
1:45 – 2:15pm	Navigating a changing water market: Risks and Opportunities for Almond Growers: Benjamin Williams, Ricardo (30mins)
2:15 – 2:35pm	Water policy, basin plan and almonds: Tim Goodes, Murray Darling Basin Authority (20mins)
2:35 – 2:55pm	Honey bee industry dynamics: Danny Le Feuvre, AHBIC (20mins)
2:55 – 3:30pm	Panel: New technologies and pollination prospects: Clayton Hiskins, Bee Hero, Ray Kwon, Bee Star, Bee Wise (35mins)
AFTERNOON TEA (3:30 – 4:00pm) 30mins	
SESSION 7 (1 hour)	
THEME: Sustainability MC: Daniela Ritorto	
4:00 – 4:25pm	How sustainability can play a role in your finances: Carmel Onions, Commonwealth Bank (25mins)
4:25 – 4:40pm	Biosecurity strategy – what’s coming our way: Tim Jackson, ABA (15mins)
4:40 – 5:00pm	Maximising business by adopting innovation: a hundred right decisions, one wrong result: Matt Strmiska, (20mins)
GALA DINNER (HALL OF FAME & ENTERTAINMENT BY NOTED COMEDIAN PETER HELLIER) (6:30 - 10:30pm) 4 hours	

DAY 3 CONFERENCE
PROGRAM – THURSDAY 15/10

GROWING FOR
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8:30 – 9:00am	Trade exhibition open floor (30mins)
SESSION 8 (45 mins)	
THEME: Orchard Production MC: Daniela Ritorto	
9:00 – 9:15am	Learnings from the Almond Industry Study Tour – California 2026: Josh Moss and Gemma Jealous (15mins)
9:15 – 9:30am	Quality score card (Qcify data) and optimising returns: ABA (15mins)
9:30 – 9:45am	Plantings research – Shaping the future of efficient almond orchards: Tim Pitt, PIRSA (15mins)
MORNING TEA (9:45 – 10:15am) 30mins	
SESSION 9 (1 hour 45 mins)	
THEME: Global Shifts MC: Daniela Ritorto	
10:15 – 11:00am	A Californian perspective: Clarice Turner, CEO Almond Board of California (45mins)
11:00 – 11:25am	Mapping the Almond Industry - Results and Applications from Australian and California: Joel Kimmelshue, LandIQ (25mins)
11:25 – 11:50pm	Almond economics: Abran Padilla, California State University (25mins)
11:50 – 12:00pm	Q&A (10mins)
LUNCH (12:00 – 1:00pm) 1 hour	Poster Showcase (12:15pm – 12:45pm) 30mins
SESSION 10 (1 hour 30 mins)	
THEME: Redevelopment MC: Daniela Ritorto, Facilitated by Josh Fielke	
1:00 – 1:40pm	Growing for tomorrow – tree densities and new on-farm technology: Ben Brown, SHV, Louw Lourens, ofi, Matt Strmiska, Tyler Nyday, Bonsai (40mins)
1:40 – 2:20pm	Panel: Rootstocks and Varieties for the future: Nav Kaur Sarao (Agromillora), Jonathan Moss (Mossmont), Tim Millen (L&T), Lachie Mackenzie (Growtek), Cassandra Collins (Adelaide Uni), Graham Fleming (Graham’s Factree) (40mins)
2:20 – 2:30pm	Conference closing remarks: Alan Hoppe (10mins)
CLOSE – HAPPY HOUR + DRINKS (2:30 - 3:30pm) 1 hour	

EVENT SPONSORS:

