



**JANUARY &  
FEBRUARY  
2022**

# Ever lost sleep worrying about the water supply situation in your business?

## NEW - Drought preparedness grants

Provides a rebate to primary producers for on-farm capital improvements identified in their Farm Business Resilience Plan to improve the drought preparedness of their property. The Drought Preparedness Grant is up to 25 per cent of the cost of the infrastructure to a maximum of \$50,000. The program is co-funded through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the Queensland Government's Drought and Climate Adaptation Program. **See page 8 for details.**



# Sunsuper is joining QSuper.



# QSuper is joining Sunsuper.



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## Australian Retirement Trust

Jointly prepared by Sunsuper Pty Ltd (ABN 88 010 720 840) as trustee for Sunsuper Superannuation Fund (ABN 98 503 137 921) and QSuper Board (ABN 32 125 059 006) as trustee for QSuper (ABN 60 905 115 063). Consider the relevant product disclosure statement (PDS) and target market determination (TMD), available at [sunsuper.com.au](https://sunsuper.com.au) and [qsuper.qld.gov.au](https://qsuper.qld.gov.au), before deciding whether any product is right for you. The merger to create Australian Retirement Trust is scheduled to be completed on 28 February 2022, subject to outstanding conditions and approvals. Australian Retirement Trust PDSs and TMDs are expected to be available from completion at [australianretirementtrust.com.au](https://australianretirementtrust.com.au). Super Savings and QSuper products offered by Australian Retirement Trust will adopt the respective fee structure of the equivalent pre-merger Sunsuper and QSuper products. To find out about Sunsuper and QSuper's current fees, visit [sunsuper.com.au/lower-fees](https://sunsuper.com.au/lower-fees) and [qsuper.qld.gov.au/low-fees](https://qsuper.qld.gov.au/low-fees)



## President's Column

Elaine Duncan

### Welcome to Leaflet - our first edition for 2022

Have you considered contributing to Leaflet Magazine to promote your business? We would encourage you to share with members items of interest such as: significant milestones, infrastructure, and business improvements. New and interesting content would be most welcome. A big thank you to our regular contributors and the ongoing support of our advertisers and sponsors.

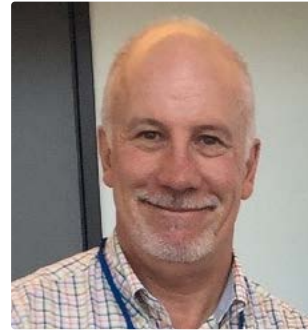
Sadly, Life Member Brian Hillier passed away recently. Brian was heavily involved with Industry at State and National level. Brian that was kind enough to collect me from the airport for board meetings, often in his old V8 Holden Ute. It needed a bit of stick, which Brian regularly gave it and dumped the clutch at the lights before the bloody thing stalled. Secretly I knew Brian loved it, still a lad at heart.

Brian always advocated that industry had been good to him and he wanted to give something back. He was very proud of his daughters with their ability to manage the businesses, and the success of the operation. With the business being looked after Brian was able to be on the road more and contribute to industry at the ground level.

One message that Brian was passionate about and regularly conveyed was: "Get of your butt and get involved with the Industry. Things don't just happen without engagement and without your contribution we are not an industry that will move forward." Sitting here I can still hear Brian's words and the constant question: Do you think you are making a difference? Well you can if you get involved!

Our sincere condolences to the Hillier family and apologies that we couldn't all be there to farewell this big hearted man due to the current difficult times with COVID-19 travel restrictions.

All the best everyone for 2022.



## CEO's Column

Ian Atkinson

Have you noticed that the State and Federal governments are trying hard to give your business money at the moment? I'm sure that as you do your BAS and PAYG it doesn't seem that way, but I can assure it's true. Admittedly the money is only for policies they think are important, but some align with where our industry, and many of you, need assistance. The best two examples at the moment are;

- a) 50% wage subsidy for year one apprentice (up to \$28k subsidy) and 10% for year two (up to \$6k subsidy). This can be existing staff or new appointments doing an eligible apprenticeship such as Cert III Nursery Operations, either production or retail. Check your NGIQ emails for details.
- b) Up to \$50,000 for one quarter of the cost of getting your primary production business better prepared for the next drought. Dams, bores, tanks, pipes, improved irrigation efficiency, and more can be funded. You can also do the work over several years.

NGIQ is heavily involved in keeping members informed about these initiatives and ensuring you have access to quality suppliers (eg training organisations). Thanks to a new contract we have signed I will be spending time visiting growers (primary producers) in SEQ to discuss at least the Drought Preparedness Grants, so why not call me if you want to take some of the government's money (which you worked so hard for in the first place). We haven't forgotten growers in the north and I hope to announce our arrangements to work with them shortly.

After some very direct lobbying by NGIQ I am pleased to report that TAFE QLD is back on track to deliver training to our industry. I felt they dropped the ball last year by withdrawing from Apprenticeships but they're back. On a more personal note, I recently completed a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment and learnt a lot that will help with our future efforts in this area.

All the best for the rest of 2020micron.

*A billion dollar industry and growing every day*



# Brisbane Trade Days 2022

**February**

Wednesday 16  
Redland Showgrounds

**March**

Wednesday 16  
Nambour Showground

**April**

Wednesday 6  
Redland Showgrounds

**April**

Wednesday 20  
Toowoomba TAFE

**May**

Wednesday 11  
Redland Showgrounds

**June**

Wednesday 8  
Redland Showgrounds

**August**

Wednesday 10  
Redland Showgrounds

**August**

Wednesday 24  
Toowoomba TAFE

**September**

Wednesday 14  
Nambour Showground

**October**

Wednesday 12  
Redland Showgrounds

**November**

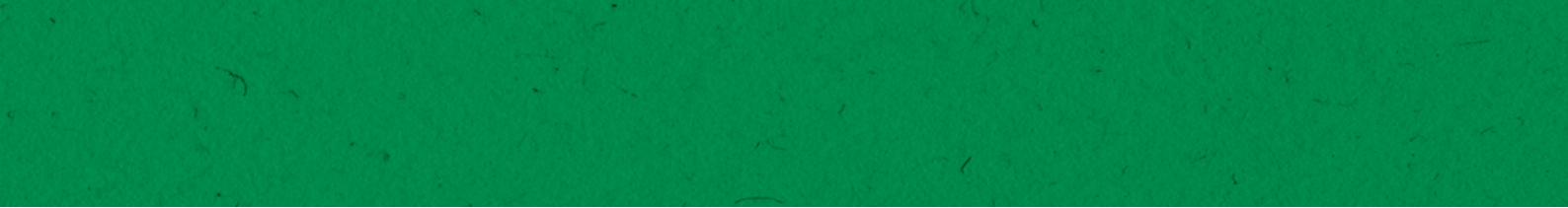
Wednesday 9  
Redland Showgrounds

**November**

Wednesday 30  
Redland Showgrounds

# Do you have a Workplace Bullying Policy?







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# GREEN EXPO

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*Bringing Industry Together*

*Presented by*



Nursery & Garden Industry  
Queensland



***26 - 27 July 2022***

***Gold Coast Turf Club***

***and Event Centre***

# Steps to accessing \$50,000 drought resilience grants



The Farm Business Resilience Program is jointly funded through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the Queensland Government's Drought and Climate Adaptation Program.

## STEP ONE (Optional)

Organise an on-site or conference call discussion with NGIQ to identify areas for investment and discuss process. You don't have to do this but we have funding from government to promote and assist this new program. We also have a lot of expertise in water efficiency, dams, and related water management that can assist. Send an email to [ceo@ngiq.asn.au](mailto:ceo@ngiq.asn.au)

## STEP TWO Prepare or review your primary producer business resilience plan

### Option A. Up to \$2,500 funding available

Engage a specialist to help you write up a plan that addresses the primary issues including identified risks in;

- climate variability (drought),
- weather/seasonal risk,
- biosecurity risk,
- family business risk,
- production risk,
- financial and market risks,
- workforce risks,
- personal risk and related risks.

### Option B. Do it yourself, or with NGIQ assistance

Use your own resources/people to write up a plan that addresses the primary issues including identified risks in;

- climate variability (drought),
- weather/seasonal risk,
- biosecurity risk,
- family business risk,
- production risk,
- financial and market risks,
- workforce risks,
- personal risk and related risks.

## STEP THREE Develop funding proposal for submission

Following the guidance provided by your Business Resilience Plan identify areas for capital expenditure that will help the business reduce the impacts of future droughts. For production nurseries these will primarily be capital spend that - makes more water available eg new bore, reduces your monthly water use eg changing to more efficient irrigation, or some combination of both.

## STEP FOUR Submit business resilience plan and funding application to QRIDA

Many of you are familiar with the work of the Queensland Rural Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) and have benefitted from their programs. We have an excellent relationship with QRIDA staff, they understand our industry and are keen to help. The detail of the Drought Preparedness Grants is available online <https://www.qrida.qld.gov.au/program/drought-preparedness-grants>.

## STEP FIVE If successful implement your plans

### FUTURE STEPS

Further funding is available as concessional loans if you have plans that require very large expenditures. Access to the Drought Ready and Recovery Loan will be available shortly.



# Changes to microclimate under canopy netting

## what can we learn from research and experience in orchards?

This article has been adapted from the booklet published by Qld DAF called, "To net or not to net" 3rd edition, by Peter Rigden which is available for download.

Permanent canopy netting changes the microclimate and environment under the net. Changes to the microclimate will be significantly greater where nets with small mesh sizes (such as a 12 mm quad hail net) are used than where nets with large mesh sizes (such as a 37 mm or 20 mm mesh flying fox exclusion net) are used. Net colour also influences the changes that occur. Two research projects have provided some data on the effect of orchard netting on the environment under the net.

**Project 1**—Research on hail-netted apple orchards in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria (Middleton & McWaters 1996, 2000) studied the changes to the under-net microclimate. It was found that:

- Light levels, assessed by measuring photosynthetically active radiation, were reduced by 20–27% under black net, 18% under grey net and by 12–15% under white net.
- Humidity was consistently increased by up to 10%. After rainfall the humidity under the net remains high and takes longer to fall than under non-netted trees.
- Hail net had a minimal effect on air, grass or soil temperature. On warm to hot days air temperatures under the net, measured in a Stevenson screen, were reduced by 1 °C to 3 °C when compared to recordings in a Stevenson screen outside the net. The Stevenson screen excludes radiation and restricts wind, permitting a 'true' measure of air temperature. The temperature under black hail net may 'feel' cooler because light levels are reduced. The temperature under white net may 'feel' higher on hot days because of reflected light off the net.
- Wind speed is reduced by up to 50% within the netting.
- Hail net has little effect on night time temperatures and does not offer frost protection.

**Project 2**—Research on insect exclusion netting at the Maroochy Research Station near Nambour in Queensland included measurement of the environmental conditions under the nets (Lloyd et al. 2003). The research involved using nets to exclude Queensland fruit fly and macadamia nut borer from stone fruit and lychee trees respectively. Pictures of the types of net referred to are shown below.



Black bird and bat diamond mesh net (15 mm)



White bird and bat diamond mesh net (25 mm)



White bird and bat diamond mesh net (15 mm)



12mm diamond mesh hail net with quadruple cross stitch (5 mm)



Translucent monofilament fibre exclusion netting with light-weave (2 mm)



Translucent monofilament fibre exclusion netting with heavy weave (2 mm)

**Table A. Orchard microclimate changes under two types of canopy net over stone fruit in relation to externally located Stevenson screen data**

Factor	Exclusion net*			Bird net**	
	Oct 2001	Jan 2002	June 2002	Jan–Feb 2002	July 2002
Daily maximum temperatures	+4.9 °C	+5.3 °C	+4.21 °C	–2.2 °C	–2.4 °C
Daily minimum temperatures	–0.23 °C	–0.33 °C	–0.19 °C	–0.3 °C	–0.62 °C
Average daily temperatures	+2.13 °C	+2.56 °C	+1.52 °C	n/a	n/a

\*Full canopy white Queensland fruit fly light weave exclusion net, hole size of 2 mm.

\*\*Full canopy black diamond mesh bird net, hole size of 15 mm.

**Table B. Light level measurements taken in direct sunlight over 2 m square frames of each net type (similar reductions in light levels were found when measurements were taken under these nets in netted orchards)**

Net type	Light reduction*
Translucent heavy weave exclusion net (2 mm)	–31.04%
Hail net 12 mm diamond mesh with quadruple cross-stitch (5 mm)	–21.9%
Translucent light weave exclusion net (2 mm)	–19.81%
Black bird and bat net diamond mesh net (15 mm)	–18.16%
White bird and bat net diamond mesh net (15 mm)	–15.39%
White bird and bat net diamond mesh (25 mm)	–3.87%

\*Photosynthetic photon flux density reduction compared to direct sun.

Relative humidity was increased and wind speed was reduced under the fruit fly exclusion nets. At a Bryon Bay lychee orchard the relative humidity was generally higher under permanent canopy nets used to exclude macadamia nut borer, birds and flying foxes than outside the net. Readings below 50% relative humidity were rarely recorded under the net, while outside

they were recorded on most days. Readings of 100% relative humidity were recorded almost daily both inside and outside the nets. Temperatures under the net were generally 1 °C or 2 °C cooler than the external temperature.



*The fruit fly (LHS) and bat (RHS) exclusion netting trial at Maroochy Research Station*

### **Changes to tree growth**

Changes to plant growth under nets are a result of the interaction of many variables including the type of net used, the prevailing climate, the plants and varieties grown and management. Information from research on netted orchards can provide an insight into potential changes.

Research on insect exclusion netting at the Maroochy Research Station compared the growth of stone fruit under fruit fly exclusion nets to those grown under black bird and bat exclusion nets (Lloyd et al. 2003). The following observations were made:

- Vegetative growth rates and photosynthesis was variable. Some varieties exhibited reduced height and increased girth under exclusion nets and for others there was very little change.
- Reduced shoot extension growth of between 15–20% occurred on trees under the fruit fly exclusion netting and this was reflected in reduced pruning weights.
- The higher daytime temperatures under exclusion nets did not appear to alter flowering dates significantly.
- Due to the greater heat units under the exclusion nets, fruit maturity and harvest dates were advanced by 7–10 days for all varieties grown

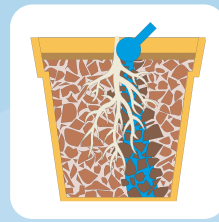
Other research has found that, under hail netting,

- Pan evaporation levels are reduced by 1 mm per day. Trees under hail netting would be less stressed in hot, dry weather and irrigation water can be used more efficiently.
- Higher humidity under the net increases the length of time leaves remain wet after rain or spraying.

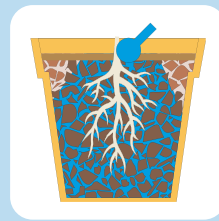
- Chemical efficacy under nets is greater due to higher humidity and reduced wind, resulting in slower drying times and more timely applications because wind does not disrupt spraying programs as much.

# Eliminate Dry Spots & Improve Wettability

- Available in Granular & Liquid Formulations
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Not treated with Hydraflo  
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# The Need for Wetting Agents All Year Round

It is a common misconception that only in periods or areas where moisture is limited, the need to conserve water through use of wetting agents is more important. In fact, there are some school of thoughts that wetting agents are necessary only for some substrates and not others. It is high time we addressed these questions and provided some clarity on the use of wetting agents in nursery production systems.

To truly appreciate and understand the benefits of wetting agents, we must first understand the dynamic characteristics of substrates used in nursery production systems. In most nurseries, the growing media comprises of organic materials such as composted pine bark, peat, or coir as sole constituents or in various combinations. When these organic materials containing waxes, alkanes and fatty acids dry out, a large number of nonpolar sites on the surface of the media particles are formed causing a reduction in substrate wettability (Abagandura, Park & Bridges Jr 2021; Zheng et al. 2016). Water repellence is used to describe the condition that causes a substrate or growing media to resist wetting due to the accumulation of water repellent and hydrophobic coatings on the media particle surfaces. Some of the direct consequences of repellence includes the inability to wet and retain water, increased runoff and preferential flow, reduced access to water for plants, reduced irrigation efficiency, increased requirement for water and other inputs.



*Image showing water channelling through the media (without wetting agents) and not wetting evenly. Photo credit: Dr Sam Stacey & Robert Megier ICL Specialty fertilizers.*

Therefore, wetting agents which are a class of surfactants are a management technology for reducing, and possibly avoiding development of, water repellence and associated preferential flow. They work by reducing the surface tension between two materials hence modifying the flow dynamics of irrigation water and improving wettability (Moore et al. 2010). Today, there are both liquid and granular formulations of wetting agents approved for use in nursery production systems. Common examples include Hydraflo 2 and Hydraflo L from ICL, Moisture aid from Yates, and the Earthcare wetting agents from Seasoil. Furthermore, a specialized wetting agent manufactured by ICL specialty fertilizers called H2COCO is available to improve the wettability of new and reused coir. These products are available at your nearest Garden City Plastics (GCP) offices nationwide.

The periods of dry weather are traditionally when many growers sense the need of including wetting agents in their growing media or top-dressing pots with wetting agents. However, recent studies in the turf industry and nursery production systems have identified that there's much to gain in including wetting agents in wet periods as well. For instance, in turf, researchers discovered that the use of wetting agents in winter months improved drainage, removed surface water, eliminated localised dry spots, reduced plant stress, improved spring green up and mitigated against winter injury related to crown tissue desiccation (DeBoer et al. 2020; Martin 2019). These enabled lawns maximize irrigation and fertilizer inputs and open for longer duration in the year. In the containerised production systems, water repellence is more severe in older stock which is detectable by visible dry spots existing all year round in the media and slower rate of infiltration. Ensuring that wetting agents are present in the media reduces the need for hand watering on dry spots, improves the efficiency of water use, prevents waterlogging, or encourages free draining of waterlogged media, thereby creating an ideal balance of air and water that results in healthier and higher quality plants. Wetting agents also encourages deeper, stronger roots since moisture and nutrients are uniformly available in the container. Moreover, some wetting agents have helped in inhibiting the growth of moss, algae and soil borne pathogens which are a common occurrence in winter months (ICL).

The benefits of wetting agents cannot be over emphasized, yet it remains one of the most neglected components of an effective growing substrate. Besides the benefits of improving irrigation efficiency through increasing water supply to plant roots thereby reducing plant stress, we estimate that wetting agents would help to improve plants' ability to absorb available nutrients from the growing media. For instance, if 20% of the media are dry spots, and 6g/L of controlled release fertilizer has been incorporated into the media, it is estimated that the plant will only have access to 4.8g/L of the fertilizer because plants cannot absorb nutrients from dry media. Moreover, the availability of moisture within media helps to eliminate temperature extremes from the root zones.

In conclusion, wetting agents are essential throughout the production schedule. The granular formulations of wetting agents e.g., Hydraflo 2, and Moisture aid provides growers with the option to easily topdress older stock or incorporate into the media prior to potting up. The liquid formulations provide the flexibility of applying wetting agents by spraying onto the media surface, applying as a drench, or injecting it through the irrigation lines. For lushier and healthier plants, give wetting agents a go.

**Elliott Akintola**  
**Agronomist and Category Manager – Plant Health and protection**  
**agronomyteam@gardencityplastics.com**  
**Garden City Plastics**

*References:*

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*Melaleuca 'Claret Top' Plant growth responses to Hydraflo 2 wetting agent in media (a) without wetting agents, (b) with wetting agents. Photo credit: Robert Megier & Dr Sam Stacey ICL Specialty fertilizers*



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# Membership Update

NGIQ welcomes new member:

## Guru Corporation Pty Ltd

Unit 2, Suite 2  
872 Pacific Highway  
Lisarow NSW 2250  
Nicholas Lowe  
**P:** 1300 852 646  
**E:** [nick@gurucorp.com.au](mailto:nick@gurucorp.com.au)  
**W:** [www.tytags.com.au](http://www.tytags.com.au)



## What is NGIQ's Role?

The principal objects for which Company is established are to facilitate the successful growth of the nursery and garden industry in Queensland by:

- Advancing opportunities for increased profitability of Members through promotion of their business activities;
- Offering networking opportunities for Members;
- Providing education and skills development training targeted towards the specific needs of the Industry;
- Providing a range of Member services and programs;
- Supporting Member and Industry development through communication and training on workplace health and safety and employment legislation;

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## + Grow your business with QRIDA

Looking to start or grow your nursery business?

QRIDA has a network of Regional Area Managers located across Queensland who are ready to guide you through our range of grants and low interest loans, including\*:

- **Sustainability Loans** of up to \$1.3 million to help you invest in new and emerging on-farm technologies, improve irrigation facilities, establish renewable energy systems, or purchase or upgrade plant and machinery
- **First Start Loans** of up to \$2 million to help you establish your first primary production enterprise
- **Drought Preparedness Grants** of up to \$50,000 (co-contribution) to assist in on-farm capital improvements that will improve the drought preparedness of your property
- **Farm Management Grants** of up to \$2,500 as a 50 per cent rebate on the cost of eligible professional advice to produce a Farm Business Resilience Plan for your property.

**Our team is ready to talk when you are.** Contact us on **1800 623 946** to speak with your local Regional Area Manager or visit [qrida.qld.gov.au](http://qrida.qld.gov.au)

*\*The information contained herein is for general information purposes only.*


*You should not rely upon this information as a basis for making any business, legal or any other decisions.*

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Government

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# NGIQ Industry Awards

NGIQ has a long history of awards that recognise individuals and businesses that demonstrate excellence, commitment and innovation within the Nursery and Garden Industry. NGIQ will once again award the next generation of industry leaders by presenting the Elizabeth Smith Award to the Trainee/apprentice of the year. Alongside this NGIQ will continue to recognise individuals that encompass all parts of the industry including wholesale/production nurseries, retail nurseries and allied trade.

Below is a list of awards however they will not be presented every year, as they are based on merit, long term commitment to industry affairs, the association and improvement of the industry in a meaningful way. Nominations for awards will open mid-year and further information will be provided to members throughout the year. Awards will be presented at the NGIQ Annual dinner 2022.

## Elizabeth Smith Award

Awarded to a trainee or apprentice that excels amongst their peers, demonstrates incredible passion and shows key attributes required to be successful in the industry. They will present a 300-500 word submission for judging that answers 3 to 5 questions and also the employer will provide examples of initiatives by their apprentice. The CEO and board will make a choice based on these two submissions.



## Certificate of Recognition

Awarded to someone who has made a commitment to NGIQ and its affairs for a number of years. Normally this involvement relates to NGIQ committee and other activities but could include Branch type involvement as part of the overall commitment.

## NGIQ President's Award

Awarded to a member, or one of their key staff members, who have made a long term and considerable contribution to a Branch and/or its activities. This was previously known as the 'Eric Sandle Award, he was NGIQ's first President over 85 years ago. Ideally this will be awarded every 1-2 years or as seen fit at the Presidents discretion.

## Nurseryperson of the year

Awarded to a member who has made a long-term commitment to NGIQ. Typically active in a Branch, however also active in a number of NGIQ/NGIA roles OR either a single role or multiple roles over a very long time, around a 25-year commitment.

## Life Membership

Awarded to a member who has made a serious commitment to NGIQ (or potentially GIA) beyond branch level over at least 20 years. Some existing and past Life Members have made considerable contribution in shorter times, others have made less yearly contribution, but have done so over 40 years. Most have had NGIQ Board and Management Committee involvement, others have been President amongst a raft of other roles (eg. Sheila Thompson/Russell Higginbotham), others active heavily in a single activity (eg. Don Fischle – Green Expo). This will probably be awarded every 3-5 years, however we could go many years before adding one, and then do one a year for 3 years, it is completely based on merit.





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- ABILITY** (Icon: person running)
- LEARN** (Icon: person reading)
- KNOWLEDGE** (Icon: brain with 'i')
- DEVELOPMENT** (Icon: person reading with arrow)
- SKILLS** (Icon: person with wrench)
- TEACHING** (Icon: person at presentation board)
- COACHING** (Icon: person with speech bubble and arrow)
- EXPERIENCE** (Icon: person with star)

## Membership Application 2022

**Membership category** (please tick boxes)

- Production Nursery   
  Garden Centre Retailer   
  Production and Retail Nursery

Membership rates for these categories are based on the number of owners, employers and employees, and include GST

Number of employees	Membership Fee
<input type="checkbox"/> Business owner, no employees	\$905
<input type="checkbox"/> 1-4 equivalent full time employers/employees	\$1,205
<input type="checkbox"/> 5-10 equivalent full time employers/employees	\$1,555
<input type="checkbox"/> 11-20 equivalent full time employers/employees	\$2,255
<input type="checkbox"/> 21-40 equivalent full time employers/employees	\$2,655
<input type="checkbox"/> 40+ equivalent full time employers/employees	\$2,985
<input type="checkbox"/> Allied Trade / Professional Service	
<input type="checkbox"/> Allied Trade / Professional Service	\$1,255
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate – educational institutions, associations and garden societies	
<input type="checkbox"/> Associates – institutions, associations, societies	\$795
<input type="checkbox"/> New member joining fee (includes re-joining fee where membership has expired)	\$55

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### Your business contact details

Name of business: \_\_\_\_\_

A.B.N. \_\_\_\_\_

Postal address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street location/s: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Owner/s: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: _____	Mobile: _____	Fax: _____
Email: _____	Website: _____	

### Tell us about your business

What year did you commence business? \_\_\_\_\_

Tell us about your business  
Approximately 25 words about your products, services, interests that we can use in the Trade Register and to promote your business.

### Which NGIQ programs are of interest to you? (tick multiple boxes)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Technical and Biosecurity advice     | <input type="checkbox"/> HR/employment advice                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industry Relevant Training           | <input type="checkbox"/> Nursery Industry Trade Register (National) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Green Expo                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Business strategy seminars                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trade Days                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Queensland Garden Expo (Nambour)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Networking with Branch Members | <input type="checkbox"/> Other.....                                 |

Your membership will be promoted in the next edition of our industry publication, *Leaflet* and is subject to approval by the NGIQ Board of Directors. We'll send you a New Member Kit containing information on your local branch activities, signage for your front gate and information on upcoming events, courses and programs.

Please note membership fees are reviewed annually and subject to increase.

# Vale – Bryan Hillier



Bryan's industry service included: QLD Expo Committee (15+ years), Representative of Queensland Trade Day Committee (10+ years), Many years on NGIQ Management Committee as Member-at-Large, including several years as NGIQ President. Member of NGIA Board and served as NGIA President, Chairman of the National Marketing and Communications Committee (approx 3 years), Member of the Industry Advisory Council (approx 3 years). He was awarded NGIQ Life Membership in 2019.

Yes, he was gruff at times, some would say bombastic. He wasn't always the easiest person to get along with at times. But on the other side of things, he was

Bryan left school early to earn money for his family, starting an apprenticeship in Building as a teenager and working his way up to Foreman by 20. Bryan married Sharon in 1969 at age 21 and went on to have 3 daughters – Kylie-Anne, Amanda and Bronwyn. Bryan had a love of fishing from an early age. Bryan and his younger Gerry learnt to fish on Christmas holidays at Maroochydore with a local man. This started his lifelong passion for fishing.

Bryan had over 40 years in the industry, first as a Landscaper (Able Landscapes), landscaping the gardens of the elite around the new developments of Hamilton before going on to purchase Dracaena Farm Nursery at Kuraby in 1988. Together he and Sharon worked hard to make the business a success and raise their girls.

10 years later they relocated Dracaena Farm Nursery to Beachmere after the original site was sold for development. Taking on a new direction, they looked at the product lines and branding and over the next few years built a name for themselves as a grower of quality products. Strong bonds were formed with Bunnings, and this is what forged Dracaena Farm ahead through the years. Along the way he also owned and developed Hillier's Horticulture, an in-ground cutting property in Bundaberg Qld (2004–2018)

a funny guy and passionate about the industry and the issues faced by his fellow nurseryman/woman. He always led with his heart when he worked for the Industry. He didn't participate for his own selfish reasons, he didn't do it for notoriety. He did it for members.

One of his biggest achievements was using his personal ties to Radio 4BC to enhance industry's political position. Dracaena Farm Nursery had a long-running advertising contract with Radio 4BC and the late, great Colin Campbell's weekend gardening program, which continued on with Clair Levander.

During that time, Bryan (with Colin's help and support) created a political voice and a media avenue for the Industry to communicate its biggest issues. It gave NGIQ a political platform to bring the industry concerns to the people and the government – to make sure our presence was felt and heard.

Bryan always believed that if you're going to be involved in an industry, then you need to participate in it – put your money and your mouth there and make your concerns known at the highest level – his motto was "be a part of the change you want to see". He will be missed by many, especially by his wife, children, grand-children and fishing buddies.

# Vale – Horst Dargel

In October last year, the nursery industry lost a true icon.

Born in Poland in 1929 and originally learning his horticultural craft in Europe, Horst came to Australia in 1952. He soon teamed up with Swiss immigrant Wilhelm (Bill) Von Allman and a third partner to start what eventually became Fitzroy Nurseries. He married Rockhampton local Margaret Edmestone in 1959, having four children, John, Bill, Jenny and Peter. Various ownership changes have occurred over the years, as has the acquisition of further land holdings. One thing has however remained constant, Horst Dargel.

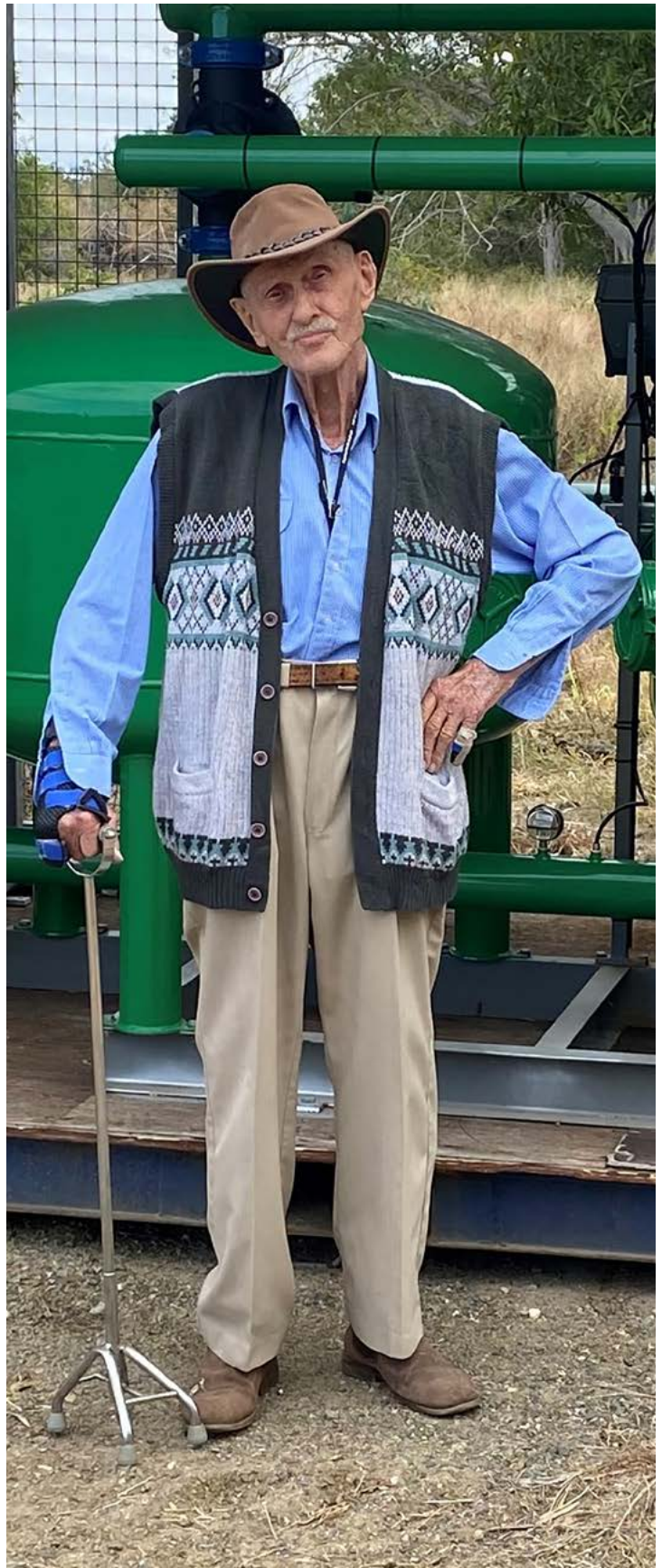
Horst brought with him a wealth of European grafting and propagation know how, using it to establish a reputation as a premier supplier of grafted fruit trees, and superior ornamentals. His knowledge has supported and encouraged many hundreds of industry members, many into establishing their own enterprises. For others, Fitzroy Nurseries was an inspiration, simply through its sheer size or its use of mechanisation long before it became commonplace in Australia. Horst was inventive, creating his own potting machines and other gadgets to make the nursery work more efficient. In the 1970's it was inspiring simply to visit and behold the plant factory that was Fitzroy, employing 40 people was virtually unheard of in Queensland. Horst was extremely generous with his sage like horticultural advice and was happy to share his wisdom with anyone who would listen.

It is hard to pinpoint exactly when Horst retired, probably because he never really stopped. Despite some saying it was 1996, many industry people who regularly call on the nursery still reported seeing Horst in the nursery or grafting something, or until recently, still riding his bike! He simply loved his plants, and he loved the nursery.

Sadly, Horst lost his life in a motor vehicle accident in Pink Lily in October 2021.

His legacy is enormous, as was his humility, generosity, and wisdom. Simply, Horst was a legend of this industry, he was 92.

*Submitted by Barry Naylor*



# Vale – Ian Heymink

Former NGIQ President Ian Heymink sadly passed away in August last year. Ian served as President from 2000-2002 and was active in industry affairs for many years.

One of Ian's first experiences in the industry was working for Deborah Law's Fuchsia Farm on Tamborine Mountain. It was during this time that Ian met Meredith Costello when she was doing regular tube-stock deliveries. They eventually married in 1995 and re-branded the business as Meridian Nursery.

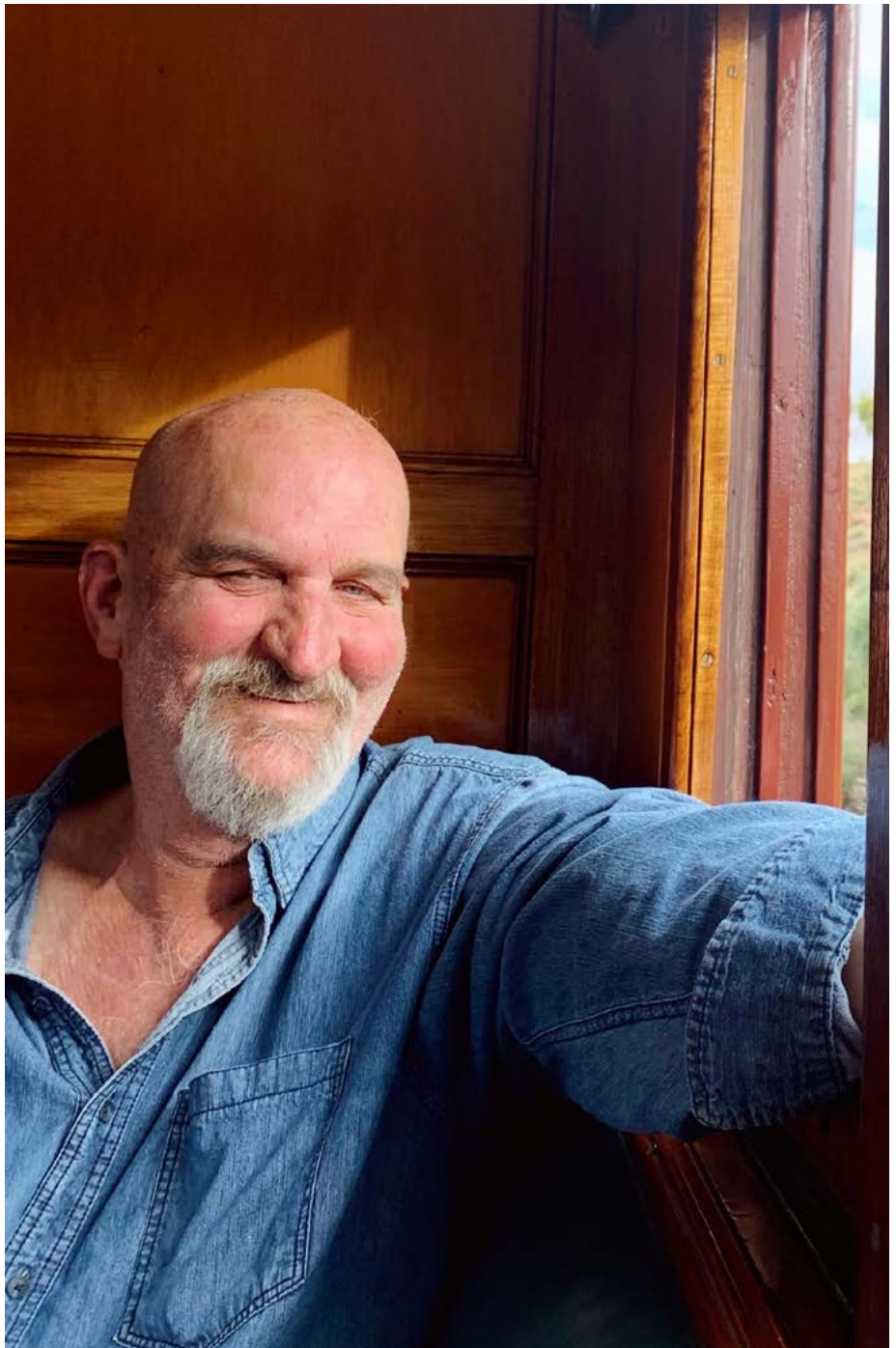
Ian and Meredith were strong supporters of NIASA and saw it as their duty to become accredited before Ian became President. Ian was active in the Gold Coast branch for many years and was the instigator of the branch newsletter referred to as 'The Cutting Edge'. He was an enthusiastic NGIQ Gold Coast member and held almost every branch committee position including President. Perhaps the role he was best suited for was the unofficial, yet still important 'social director'. Ian loved a good time and made it his business to ensure everyone else was being entertained and having a good time. He especially enjoyed any function requiring dressing up. There were many fancy-dress oriented events, and this is where Ian was in his element.

Despite his obvious love of humour, Ian also possessed a creative mind and a serious approach to industry affairs. He had qualifications in amenity horticulture and put this to good use in the business over the years. After winding back nursery operations, Ian spent much of the last decade driving trucks, something he had done in Europe in his 20's. He had a real passion for heavy transport and approached it with his usual enthusiasm.

Ian and Meredith had recently moved to South Australia to retire. Shortly after arriving, Ian received a positive cancer diagnosis and battled bravely for 18 months, with his sense of humour intact to the very end.

Ian will be truly missed by Meredith, Miranda and Jak, he was only 61.

*Submitted by Barry Naylor*



# Is your flood plan up to date?

Flood waters and the resulting transport disruption impacted production nurseries in NSW, Victoria and Queensland in early 2021. An interruption to a nursery business caused by a natural disaster such as bushfire, flood, hail or cyclone can have a multiplier effect on the business supply chain, impose significant cost to businesses and overall, decrease industry value of production.



A project led by Nursery & Garden Industry Queensland (NGIQ) has been funded by Hort Innovation, using the Nursery Industry research and development levy and contributions from the Australian Government.

Resources include a series of Nursery Preparation Checklists based on predominant natural hazards. There are Checklists for Bushfire, Flood, Frost, Heatwave, Hail and Storm, Severe Wind/Tropical Cyclone. Each checklist has examples of general activities for production nurseries based on a timeframe - general preparation of the nursery site, pre-season preparation and immediate onset tasks.



If your property is vulnerable to floods, the Flood Preparation Checklist <https://nurseryproductionfms.com.au/download/nursery-preparation-checklist-flood/> recommends nursery owners have a written emergency plan. Allocate priority tasks to your staff, keep communication open with staff, family and neighbours; and exercise your emergency management plan.

Bruce Williams, co-owner of Mt Nathan Nursery on the Gold Coast hinterland has experienced numerous flood events. "Our advice to other nurseries would be to plan early. To mitigate risk, it's important that you have a clear understanding of the disaster-prone areas of your nursery and manage this by implementing strategies that help you minimise losses and keep the business going. Once it's happening, it's often too late," Bruce said.

The efforts and experiences of businesses like Mt Nathan Nursery helps provide guidance for the development of robust risk mitigation plans and highlight the importance of planning for business continuity.

Download the Mt Nathan case study and watch the video:


<https://www.greenlifeindustry.com.au/communications-centre-content/case-studies/case-study-reducing-disaster-risk-through-strategic-planning-at-mt-nathan-nurser>

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# Is it time to update your storm season action plan?

An interruption to a nursery business caused by a natural disaster such as bushfire, flood, hail or cyclone can have a multiplier effect on the business supply chain, impose significant cost to businesses and overall, decrease industry value of production.

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Thunderstorms can occur with very short notice, producing large hailstones, damaging wind gusts, heavy rainfall and potential flash flooding. The Hail,



Storm and Severe Weather Preparation Checklist recommends nursery managers undertake pre-season activities such as:

- Identify shade houses, structures at risk of storm damage, repair as necessary.
- Assess gutters and clear debris from drainage channels to enable stormwater flow.
- Exercise your emergency natural disaster plan.
- Know your insurance cover for storm damage, contact your agent for clarification.
- Check and test your back-up generator.
- Raise all fertilisers and chemicals to areas above expected rain or flood zones.

Download your Hail, storm and severe weather Nursery Preparation Checklist:

<https://nurseryproductionfms.com.au/download/nursery-preparation-checklist-hail-storm/>



# TRAINING

## Building your workforce



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# About the Office of the Queensland Small Business Commissioner



## FEBRUARY

Wednesday 16	<b>Brisbane Trade Day</b> Redland Showgrounds
Wednesday 16	<b>Toowoomba Branch Meeting</b> Toowoomba

## MARCH

Wednesday 16	<b>Brisbane Trade Day</b> Nambour Showgrounds
Thursday 24	<b>Gold Coast and South Brisbane Branch Meeting</b> TBA
TBA	<b>North Brisbane Branch</b> Theo's Garden Centre
Wednesday 30	<b>Lean Leaders Program facilitated by MOSHIE</b> TBA

## APRIL

Wednesday 6	<b>Brisbane Trade Day</b> Redland Showgrounds
Thursday 7	<b>Sunshine Coast Branch Meeting</b> TBA
Friday 15	<b>Good Friday</b> Public Holiday
Monday 18	<b>Easter</b> Public Holiday
Wednesday 20	<b>Toowoomba Trade Day</b> TAFE Toowoomba
Monday 25	<b>Anzac Day</b> Public Holiday
TBA	<b>North Brisbane Branch</b> Caboolture Sports Central - Guest Speaker EE Muir

## MAY

Monday 2	<b>Labour Day</b> Public Holiday
Wednesday 11	<b>Brisbane Trade Day</b> Redland Showgrounds
TBA	<b>North Brisbane Branch</b> GCP warehouse visit
Wednesday 25	<b>Lean Leaders Program facilitated by MOSHIE</b> TBA
Thursday 26	<b>Gold Coast and South Brisbane Branch Meeting</b> TBA

## JUNE

Thursday 2	<b>Sunshine Coast Branch Meeting</b> TBA
Wednesday 8	<b>Brisbane Trade Day</b> Redland Showgrounds
TBA	<b>North Brisbane Branch</b> TBA - Birthday party Evergreen Connect
Wednesday 15	<b>Toowoomba Branch Meeting</b> Toowoomba

## JULY

Fri 8 - Sun 10	<b>Queensland Garden Expo</b> Nambour Showgrounds
Mon 25 - Wed 27	<b>Green Expo 2022</b>



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