

# Plant Biosecurity Research Symposium Program



PLANT BIOSECURITY  
RESEARCH INITIATIVE

# PBRI members



John Smith  
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Dr Jo Luck  
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Greg Fraser  
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Dr Harjeet Khanna  
*General Manager, Research  
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**Sugar Research Australia**



Dr Liz Waters  
*General Manager, RD&E*  
**Wine Australia**

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the inaugural Plant Biosecurity Research Symposium, a showcase of research, development and extension (RD&E) supported by the Plant Biosecurity Research Initiative (PBRI) member organisations.

A key purpose of the symposium is to identify areas for future investment in RD&E with cross-sectoral and trans-Tasman benefits.

A large range of presenters from Australia and New Zealand will provide their insights or latest research on pests, diseases and weeds affecting plant production systems and their surrounding environments.

Managing biosecurity is crucial to the productivity of Australia's agricultural sector and its access to valuable export markets. The Australian biosecurity system relies on strong partnerships between industry, the Australian Government, state and territory governments and regional communities. With significant cross-industry value of \$29 billion at stake, cross-sectoral collaboration is particularly important in effectively mitigating biosecurity risks.

RD&E is vital to supporting a strong biosecurity system into the future. Since June 2017, the PBRI has been coordinating funding for RD&E, delivering vital projects and attracting co-investment with a total portfolio value of approximately \$47 million. Our members are listed on the opposite page.

Another partnership is between the PBRI and Better Border Biosecurity (B3) New Zealand, acknowledging that Australia and New Zealand share common biosecurity threats. Combining resources and collaborating across the Tasman, to minimise these threats, will improve our ability to prevent them establishing in either country.

This symposium will bring to you a series of presentations around the six key PBRI focus areas: preparedness, diagnostics, surveillance, pest management, capability building and industry resilience.

There will be a dedicated session on future plant biosecurity leaders which includes presentations from up-and-coming leaders studying or working in the field of biosecurity.

After hearing from a rich program of speakers, the symposium will conclude with a session on future priorities for RD&E investment. We look forward to hearing your views in the final panel session on future RD&E priorities for plant biosecurity, which the PBRI will consider in the process of developing future investment plans.

The symposium is supported by the PBRI members and their staff who have all contributed to bringing this event to you.

We look forward to some excellent discussions.

Best regards,



Dr Jo Luck

PBRI Program Director  
(on behalf of PBRI members)



# Event information

## Venue

### State Library of Queensland, The Edge

Stanley Place, Cultural Centre, South  
Bank, South Brisbane, Queensland

## WiFi

Free WiFi is available throughout the venue. To access please log into the free WiFi called **slqwireless**

## Social media

We will be live tweeting during the symposium from the PBRI Twitter account and encourage you to share your thoughts!

Join the conversation by following **@BiosecurityRDE** and using the hashtag **#pbrisym2019**

Take a photo in front of our green wall at the registration desk and post it using the hashtag **#pbrisym2019**

## Session seating

Please ensure that you are seated five minutes before the start time for each session.

Musical chimes will play over the speakers to indicate when it is time to return to your seats.

## Breaks

Breaks will be held in the bay areas adjacent to the auditorium.

## Photography/recording

By registering for this event participants acknowledge and consent that during the symposium their image or voice may be recorded via video, photograph or any other means, which may be distributed or published at the discretion of the symposium organisers.

If you do not wish to be recorded please advise the organisers.

## Poll Everywhere

As part of the symposium, we will be using Poll Everywhere to collect questions for speakers from the audience and to engage participants in setting future research priorities.

Poll Everywhere uses your phone or internet enabled device as the mechanism to provide this feedback, using either a dedicated phone app or a web browser.

We recommend that you download the Poll Everywhere app to your iOS or Android phone through the link **[polleverywhere.com/mobile](http://polleverywhere.com/mobile)**



# Meet the guest speakers

## Doug Phillips

*9:40am 15 August 2019*

Doug Phillips is a mechanical engineer by profession and worked in the sugar, mineral processing and consulting industries before returning to the family farm in 2001.

Mr Phillips served as a director of the Australian Banana Growers' Council from 2010 to November 2016 and was chairman for the final fifth year of his term. During this time, he led the industry through two separate exotic disease incursions: banana freckle in the Northern Territory and Panama Tropical Race 4 in Tully, North Queensland.

He continues to farm in Innisfail, North Queensland, where he produces bananas, papaya and passionfruit, and serves as a director of Plant Health Australia.

He has received a number of awards including the Banana Industry Award of Honour in 2017 and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Queensland's Excellence in Industry Leadership Award in 2016, and was a finalist in the Peter Kenny Medal in 2016.

## Lois Ransom

*9:00am 16 August 2019*

Lois Ransom is a Senior Executive in the Australian Government Department of Agriculture. She is a plant pathologist by training and practice, who has worked for over thirty years in a wide range of roles across the spectrum of plant health and protection in Australia and overseas. She worked closely with plant industries in Tasmania before moving to Canberra and a number of senior roles at the national level including that of the Chief Plant Protection Officer.

In the last 20 years she has combined national leadership with international roles including as the Agriculture Counsellor in Japan and with global and regional plant protection organisations including the Pacific Plant Protection Organisation. For two years from April 2016, she was the Chair of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures of the International Plant Protection Convention, which is the world organisation for plant health and protection.

Mrs Ransom returned to New Zealand during 2012–14 to help establish the Government-Industry Agreement for Biosecurity Readiness and Response.

Mrs Ransom received a Biosecurity Award in 2018 and the Public Service Medal in 2019 for services to Australia's biosecurity system.

## Dr Baldiserra Giovani

*9:30am 16 August 2019*

Baldiserra Giovani holds a PhD in biochemistry and molecular biophysics and worked for a number of years as a researcher in world leading universities, governmental agencies and private companies.

In the last ten years Dr Giovani has been interested in research funding, international research cooperation and transnational public-public partnership.

In 2014 he was appointed coordinator of the Euphresco network and he is working on ensuring communication between research and policy and increasing the visibility of plant health research activities.

# Day 1 15 August 2019

Time	Session/topic	Presenter
8:30am Registration		
9:00am	Introduction	Dr Jo Luck   PBRI
	Welcome to Country	Tribal Experiences
	Performance	Gawurra
	Opening and welcome	Lyn O'Connell   DA
	Introduction to Poll Everywhere	Dr Stephen Dibley   PHA
<b>Session 1</b>	<b>Preparedness: Biosecurity threats and the risk to business – what have we learnt and are we prepared?</b>	<b>Chair: Dr Alison Anderson GM R&amp;D, Hort Innovation</b>
9:40–10:05am	<b>KEYNOTE:</b> Biosecurity lessons learnt – a grower's perspective	Doug Phillips   Past president, Australian Banana Growers' Council
10:05am	Preparedness for spotted wing drosophila: An integrated approach	Dr Jess Lye   cesar
10:15am	Grains Farm Biosecurity Program	Stuart Kearns   PHA
10:25am	Exercise Blue Print	Dr Stephen Dibley   PHA
10:35am Questions using Poll Everywhere		
10:45–11:05am <i>Morning tea</i>		
11:05am	Lockdown: Inside a phylloxera incursion	Inca Pearce   VineHealth Australia
11:15am	Are we prepared for the next exotic tree pest? Lessons from recent case studies	Dr Angus Carnegie   DPI NSW
11:25am	Shutting the gate before the horse bolts – what does this look like in the sugar industry?	Dr Robert Magarey   SRA
11:35am	Can we import honey bee germplasm for <i>Varroa</i> tolerance without introducing exotic viruses?	Dr John Roberts   CSIRO
11:45–11:55am Questions using Poll Everywhere		
<b>Session 2</b>	<b>Diagnostics: Identifying biosecurity threats</b>	<b>Chair: Jodie Mason Forest Research Manager, Forest and Wood Products Australia</b>
11:55am	<i>Phytophthora</i> – a common enemy?	Prof. Andre Dreth   UQ
12:05pm	Newly developed molecular tools overcome diagnostic complexities for <i>Verticillium dahliae</i>	Dr John Webster   NSW DPI
12:15pm	Chlorotic streak disease – the causal agent discovered	Dr Chuong Ngo   SRA
12:25pm	Working towards a sensitive and user-friendly diagnostic tool for Karnal bunt	Dr Mui Keng Tan   DPI NSW
12:35pm	In field diagnostics for cross-sectoral disease caused by <i>Xylella</i>	Dr Brendan Rodoni   AgVic
12:45pm Questions using Poll Everywhere		
12:55–1:40pm <i>Lunch</i>		

Time	Session/topic	Presenter
<b>Session 3</b>	<b>Surveillance: Monitoring for early detection and area freedom</b>	<b>Chair: Dr Ken Young Senior Manager Biosecurity and Regulation, GRDC</b>
1:40pm	Rapid pest/disease surveillance and monitoring using smart technology for crop protection and market access	Dr Dustin Severtson   DPIRD
1:50pm	iMapsPESTS Sentinel Surveillance for Agriculture	Jess Holliday   Hort Innovation
2:00pm	Northern Australian surveillance	Darren Peck   DA
2:10pm	Area freedom for sugarcane Fiji leaf gall in central Queensland	Dr Nicole Thompson   SRA
2:20pm Questions using Poll Everywhere		
2:30pm	Biosecurity surveillance – how well is our system working?	Prof. Simon McKirdy   Harry Butler Institute Murdoch University
2:40pm	Multi-stakeholder forests surveillance program	Paco Tovar   PHA
2:50pm	Surveillance and studies for exotic and endemic virus diseases of cotton	Dr Murray Sharman   QDAF
3:00pm	Alfalfa dwarf disease-associated viruses in Argentina and Australia	Assoc. Prof. Ralf Dietzgen   UQ
3:10pm Questions using Poll Everywhere		
3:20–3:40pm <i>Afternoon tea</i>		
<b>Session 4</b>	<b>Sustainable pest, disease and weed management</b>	<b>Chair: John Smith GM Research, AgriFutures Australia</b>
3:40pm	Threats to current control options in sugarcane	Peter Samson   SRA
3:50pm	The impact of <i>Pythium</i> on the ginger industry	Shane Templeton   Templeton Ginger
4:00pm	Be alert, be nimble: Maintaining effective pest management for long-lived forestry investments drawing on case studies	Dr Tim Wardlaw   UTas
4:10pm	Bioclay – solutions for endemic and exotic threats	Prof. Neena Mitter   UQ
4:20pm Questions using Poll Everywhere		
4:30pm	Incursion management of exotic grapevine foliar diseases angular leaf scorch and black rot	Dr Mark Sosnowski   SARDI
4:40pm	Weed biocontrol – current status and future options	Dr Raghu Sathyamurthy   CSIRO
4:50pm	Sustainability – community engagement and control options for vegetable leaf miner	Dr Elia Pirtle   cesar
5:00pm Questions using Poll Everywhere		
5:10pm Close of Day 1		
<b>5:30pm</b>	<b>Cocktail dinner at Queensland Terrace</b>	
<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Symposium address: 2020 – the International Year of Plant Health</b>	<b>Dr Gabrielle Vivian-Smith Acting Australian Chief Plant Protection Officer, DA</b>



## Day 2 16 August 2019

Time	Session/topic	Presenter
9:00–9:30am	<b>KEYNOTE:</b> Cross-sectoral plant biosecurity RD&E to support growers in safeguarding their future – insights from an illustrious career in plant biosecurity	Lois Ransom   DA
9:30–9:45am	<b>Invited Guest Speaker:</b> Euphresco – an opportunity for phytosanitary research coordination and funding in the EPPO region and abroad	Dr Baldissera Giovani   Euphresco
<b>Session 5</b>	<b>Trans-Tasman biosecurity – collaboration and opportunities</b>	<b>Chair: Dr James Buwalda Chair, B3 Council</b>
9:50am	Growing up with B3: Effective science, government and industry collaboration for plant border biosecurity outcomes	Dr David Teulon   B3
10:00am	A world first: What pre-emptive biocontrol might mean for BMSB?	Dr Gonzalo Avila   Plant and Food Research
10:10am	Using eDNA to detect new insects and pathogens in New Zealand	Dr Simon Bulman   Plant and Food Research
10:20am	Questions using Poll Everywhere	
10:30–10:50am	<i>Morning tea</i>	
10:50am	A co-innovative approach for assessing the biosecurity risks from pests and diseases of pastures	Dr Craig Phillips   AgResearch
11:00am	Leading and taking collaborative action towards biosecurity excellence – Tauranga Moana Biosecurity Capital	Penny Payne   AgResearch
11:10am	Bi-cultural partnerships to optimise biosecurity outcomes with respect to BMSB	Aleise Puketapu   Plant and Food Research
11:20am	Questions using Poll Everywhere	
<b>Session 6</b>	<b>Capability building: Future expertise in biosecurity across sectors – are we prepared?</b>	<b>Chair: Dr Harjeet Khanna GM Research, SRA</b>
11:30am	High School Students – 2019 ‘Pest Invaders’ DAF Hermitage Schools Plant Science Competition	Tate Doneathy, Connor Ferguson and Ebony King   Glasshouse Christian College
11:50am	Building bug capacity from PhD to post doc	Dr Dean Brooks   UQ
12:00pm	Sources of rust resistance from the Vavilov wheat collection	Dilani Jambuthenee   UQ
12:10pm	Redefining <i>Pachymetra</i> root rot management strategies	Alison Jenson   CQU
12:20pm	Questions using Poll Everywhere	
12:30–1:20pm	<i>Lunch</i>	



Time	Session/topic	Presenter
1:20pm	Climate and fruit fly in Australia – SITplus	Sabira Sultana   MQU
1:30pm	Giant pine scale biocontrol	Duncan Jaroslow   LTU
1:40pm	Optimising biosecurity investment and effort across the biosecurity continuum	Dr Melissa Welsh   SCION
1:50pm	Biosecurity research in the ‘research for development’ context	Dr Sarina Macfadyen   ACIAR
2:00pm Questions using Poll Everywhere		
<b>Session 7</b>	<b>Industry resilience: Coping with future shocks – business continuity</b>	<b>Chair: Dr Liz Waters GM R&amp;D, Wine Australia</b>
2:20pm	Lessons from recent incursions – citrus canker	Dr Anne Walters   DPIR NT
2:30pm	<i>Xylella</i> awareness and coordination of R&D	Craig Elliott   Wine Australia
2:40pm	Biosecurity and sugarcane growers	Matt Kealley   Canegrowers
2:50pm	Forest industry biosecurity	Islay Robertson   HQ Plantations Qld
3:00pm Questions using Poll Everywhere		
3:10–3:30pm <i>Afternoon tea</i>		
3:30pm	Biosecurity for grain producers	Andrew Weidemann   Grain Producers Australia
3:40pm	Industry meeting its shared responsibility	John McDonald   NGIA
3:50pm	Industry and government ‘partnerships in peacetime’	Dr Rosa Crnov   AgVIC
4:00pm	Learning from the bacterial blight outbreak in kiwi fruit and preparing for the future	Matt Dyck   Kiwi Vine Health
4:10pm Questions using Poll Everywhere		
<b>Session 8</b> 4:15–4:45pm	<b>Cross-sectoral RD&amp;E priorities for biosecurity panel with James Buwalda, David Teulon, Greg Fraser and Jo Luck</b> <i>Questions and suggestions from the floor and then Q&amp;A Audience Poll Everywhere</i>	<b>Chair: Susan Maas R&amp;D Investment &amp; Impact Manager, CRDC</b>
4:45pm	PBRI presentation prize	Awarded by Tim Lester   EO, Council of Rural RDCs
4:50pm	Closing remarks and acknowledgements	Greg Fraser   Executive Director & CEO PHA, Chair PBRI
5:00pm Close		





