

GROWING THE FUTURE, *Together*

There are conferences, and then there are mushroom conferences, put together specifically to meet the needs of the Australian industry.

In 2020 the mushroom industry will meet in Adelaide from 14-17 October with a conference currently being finalised under the theme – **Growing the Future - Together**.

Developed by the AMGA as a service to members and the wider industry, the conference promises to challenge and stimulate discussion, with the organising committee inviting a range of top international and Australian speakers to address delegates. The conference is funded by the AMGA with support from Hort Innovation and other industry sponsors.

Chair of the AMGA Organising Committee, Phil Rogers said the conference would be bigger and better than ever and focus on addressing critical issues facing the Australian industry.

Mr Rogers said the theme embraced the future of the industry in growing quality mushrooms in ever-greater quantity.

“The speakers we are looking to attract have many years of experience, and it is this experience that will deliver information to help us all build on the foundations that we have in place, in order to deliver a strong and vibrant industry going forward.”

The target list of speakers includes international compost experts (also covering recycled spent compost and the use of green waste in compost), a representative from the world's largest mushroom farm, a widely acclaimed Professor of Mushrooms, international mushroom consultants, experts in harvesting and in food safety and traceability, and local R&D project leaders.

Mr Rogers said he was confident the conference would deliver a

program of real interest to producers and the wider industry.

“I’m looking forward to finalising the program and outlining further topics that will be addressed by the influential international and Australian speakers. To progress as an industry, we need to access the best in the business, and that is our intention with this conference.”

“Things are hard at the moment in the industry, and we are facing a range of challenges to stay ahead. This conference is about providing a strong level of relevant information on how to address these challenges and help propel growers to the next stage and a profitable long-term future.”

The program is also expected to encompass reports on levy based investment in marketing and research and development covering a range of key projects including pest and disease management.

With farm visits being a well-regarded highlight of AMGA conferences, the committee is looking to finalise a multi-stop tour including visits to SA Mushrooms at Virginia, Revitalise Enterprises new compost facility at Port Wakefield (owned by Mr Rogers) and A1 Mushrooms (a Swiss Brown producer). The farm tour is likely to be scheduled on the first day of the program.

Mr Rogers said delegates attending the farm tour would have the opportunity of viewing state-of-the-art facilities using the latest technology.

“At Revitalise Enterprises, for example, they will see brand-new NIR analysing equipment used to track and plot differences in samples through phase 1, 2 and 3 compost. It has been in use for the past four months and is an exciting innovation that should be of interest to delegates.”

Mr Rogers said discussions were also

underway about the potential for a motorbike ride from Adelaide to Darwin.

“The mushroom industry has many very keen riders, and our previous rides [Sydney to Perth and Sydney to Mildura] have been an enjoyable part of the overall conference.”

“The suggestion at this stage is that the ride comprises a three-day trip immediately before the conference, with the return trip on the Ghan train, and with the bikes transported by truck back to Adelaide. At this stage we are just fleshing out the details, and ultimately it will depend on interest from conference participants,” he said.

Registrations for the conference will be open in early 2020. Updates on the conference programs will be made available through upcoming editions of the Journal, the Industry Update e-newsletters and special email conference Alerts.



Mushroom industry conferences are only held every two years, so take advantage of this chance to hear international experts address key topics of interest. Act now and:

- Check your diary now and block out the dates.
- Talk to your business associates, workers and others who you think may be interested and help spread the news.
- Stay informed by reading updates provided through this Journal, the Industry Update e-newsletter and special email conference Alerts.