



Flower Association of Queensland Inc.  
www.flowersqueensland.asn.au

## E-Bulletin February 2009

Welcome to the February edition of the E-Bulletin. **Stay informed** on upcoming events, industry news, services, new publications, and professional development opportunities. If you would like to comment on something you have received, send an email to [faq@flowersqueensland.asn.au](mailto:faq@flowersqueensland.asn.au)

### Why should I join FAQI?

As well as providing the services of representation, communication, industry development, marketing & promotion, industrial relations, education and training & research & development; your membership contributes towards the operational costs of FAQI. It's a small investment in your industry....

Equipping our members with knowledge, information and practical tools for success can only be accomplished with a strong member base willing to share their talents and skills for the mutual benefit of the industry.

### FAQI 2009 - 2010 Membership

*(All memberships include 1 subscription to AFI Magazine)*

For full membership subscription details download the subscription form from [www.flowersqueensland.asn.au](http://www.flowersqueensland.asn.au)

<b>A - Commercial Grower</b>	
i First year only	\$110.00
ii Up to 5 employee	\$285.00
iii 5 – 10 employees	\$355.00
iv 11+ employees	\$425.00
<i>Industrial Protection Levy is available at an additional cost</i>	
<b>B - Associate Membership</b>	
<i>No voting rights available with this membership type</i>	
<b>C - Allied Trader Membership</b>	
i Up to 5 employees	\$285.00
ii. 6+ employee	\$425.00
<i>Industrial Award Levy is not available to Allied Traders (eg exporters, wholesale distributors, florists, propagators, equipment and input suppliers etc.)</i>	
<b>D - Commercial Flower / Foliage Group</b>	
<i>One vote only per group</i>	
	\$425.00

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Have you ever entertained the idea of joining the **FAQI Executive Committee**? We need your input and are now calling for nominations for 2009. Please email [faq@flowersqueensland.asn.au](mailto:faq@flowersqueensland.asn.au) with your nominations. Self nominations are welcome.

### Notice of FAQI Annual General Meeting

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> March 2009 - Time: 2.00pm

Location: Conference Room, DPI&F Redlands Research Station, 25-40 Delancey Street, Cleveland Qld.

**FAQI News**

**Invitation to join us on the lawn at DPI&F Redlands to farewell long standing President Brian Shannon, and his wife Sue.**

Please join us at 4.00pm (after the AGM) on the 17th March to farewell Brian and Sue as Brian steps down from his 10 year term as President.



**Your association working for you ....**

We are already in to the 2nd month of 09 with great plans for another productive year.

- The development of the economic decision support tool is well under way. Growers have committed their time to provide input and assistance during the developmental stage. The tool will enable growers to accurately understand and record production costs leading to better decision making during the marketing of flower products.
- The first ChemCert training workshop was held this month with the second ChemCert workshop scheduled for Thursday, 2nd April. (details p7)
- The Native Flower Seminar will again be held in Gympie this coming July (12/13th). A great program has been planned.
- A Rose Workshop with Wim Van den Ende is in the planning stage (May). Contact us with expressions of interest.
- Sent submission on behalf of members, to AVPMA on the Draft Cost Recovery Impact Statement that was released to the public on the 3rd Dec08. Stakeholders were invited to comment on the review of current cost recovery arrangements and recommendations for revised arrangements.
- The first draft of the FAQI Farm Management System is nearing completion. Claire has been working with growers designing and perfecting the system so that it is relevant and user friendly. Thanks to all for your input into this project. Workshops to roll out the FMS will commence in the first half of the year. Watch the E-Bulletin for details.
- Another significant project is the national farmgate survey. Flowers Victoria has committed significant funds and resources to the success of this project which is supported by HAL and RIRDC. The results of the survey will provide valuable benchmarking information which will allow growers to obtain not only a comprehensive profile of the Australian floriculture industry but also insights to increased efficiency of production and marketing. The results will also be valuable in terms of future submissions for Government support for industry development.

**Farewell Barbecue**

**Date:** Tue. 17th March  
**Time:** 4.00pm  
**Where:** DPI&F Redlands  
25-40 Delancey St,  
Cleveland  
Food & Drinks provided  
**RSVP:** FAQI  
by 10/3/09

**.... in 09**

**Lobbying Government**

**Representation**

**Training**

**Communication**

**Research & Development**

**Industry Development**

**Marketing Opportunities**

**...and it s only  
February!**

The **FMS** is based on Production elements only at this stage. Including the suggested topics of business and marketing would, we believe, make it too cumbersome at this early stage. Once the system has been adopted by the growing community we will build on the initial framework and introduce new suggested elements.

## FAQI News

- We are also very pleased to report the ongoing success of the South east Queensland- Irrigation Futures (SEQ-IF) and Rural water Use Efficiency 3 (RWUE3) programs now into their 3rd and final year assisting irrigators manage a range of water issues on their properties.
- FAQI has supported the SEQ-IF & RWUE(3) programs with a range of other initiatives, including a research and development program, the collective purchase of irrigation scheduling and other necessary equipment, field demonstrations, irrigation system efficiency assessments, field trials and workshops, extension services and the development of information packages. Go to the website [www.flowersqueensland.asn.au](http://www.flowersqueensland.asn.au) to view all the reports and fact sheets from these projects.
- Research & Development: FAQI is dedicated to ongoing R&D and takes every opportunity to submit funding applications on your behalf to ensure the Queensland cut flower and foliage industry leads the way in research & development. Funding bodies including DPI&F look kindly on applications where industry members show strong support towards projects. **You can show your support by joining FAQI.** Go to the website and download an application form today!  
Currently FAQI & DPI&F are involved in projects examining water use efficiency and plant-water requirements. Projects under development include recycled water disinfection, energy efficiency, preparing for the Incandescent light bulb phase-out and integrated pest management.
- RIRDC funded Christmas Bush Growththrough Trial—A new trial is being set up to determine economic response to irrigation of Christmas Bush. The three treatments are:
  1. No irrigation
  2. Full irrigation — scheduling to be determined by enviroscan data and tensiometers
  3. Grower standardA Report will be available on completion of the trial.
- We are very pleased to advise that we now have Andrew Manners assisting us (supported by DPI&F) in the area of pest management (entomology). Do you have an insect problem with your plants? FAQI is looking for people with insect problems to contact us by phone or email so that we can determine industry needs and best management solutions to address the problems in this area.
- An application has also been submitted to DAFF this month to obtain funding to facilitate grower workshops to promote awareness of climate change and educate growers about adaptation and coping strategies.

## The Cut Flower and Foliage Industry Development Needs Assessment Process

### Background:

Horticulture Australia Ltd has approached FAQI to undertake this project on behalf of the cut flower & foliage industry in Australia. HAL is going to establish a set of goals for the cut flower industry (decided by the cut flower industry) and prioritise these goals as a future driver for industry development activities funded by HAL.

### Did you know ?....

**Plant development is dependent on the specific spectrums of the light source and the usable light energy?**

**Read Sam Plant's article in the next issue of the *Australian Flower Industry Magazine* "Understanding Light Energy for Plant Growth in Greenhouses"**

## FAQI News

- This month we have accepted a student (Brock Dembowski) from Griffith University studying Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Information Technology to work with us on a short term basis. Brock's project is to conduct a literature search and 'Review the use of artificial lighting in cut flower production'. On completion of the literature search, we will be in a position to apply for funds to commence a new project on this subject.
- A visit to IFEX 2009 (18-20<sup>th</sup> November) together with a floral industry study tour is once again being planned for 2009. If you would like to join this tour, please send your expressions of interest to [faq@flowersqueensland.asn.au](mailto:faq@flowersqueensland.asn.au). If you would like to see some of the reports from IFEX2008 go to the website [www.flowersqueensland.asn.au](http://www.flowersqueensland.asn.au).
- The **Australian Flower Industry** magazine: The magazine continues to be the voice of the Australian floricultural industry, providing members and subscribers with up-to date information on current industry issues, technical issues, floral design trends, R&D updates, coming events and news from State-based organizations and cut flower specific grower groups.



### Sneak Preview of Issue 22 ... in your mail box next week

#### Grower Focus

Understanding Light Energy in Greenhouses  
Australian Flower Industry Awards  
New Age Farming on the South Coast  
National FarmGate Survey

#### Florist Focus

National Floristry Competition  
Valentine's Day in Australia  
All about Mother's Day

### Magazine Subscription Price Increase commencing 1st June 2009

#### Australia

1 year—4 issues \$36.00 (AUD)  
2 years—8 issues \$68.00 (AUD)

#### Overseas

Please check the website

Do you like the  
magazine?

Send us your  
thoughts.

I am submitting a new application to Horticulture Australia Ltd to assist us in our efforts to continue publishing the magazine and to take it online, however, I need your support! Please write to me and tell me what you think of this publication and the benefits it provides to your business.

Thanks,  
Denyse  
([denyse.comer@dpi.qld.gov.au](mailto:denyse.comer@dpi.qld.gov.au))

## Industry information

Quite a few articles have appeared in the press post Valentine's Day. You can read the others on our website.

### **Cheap Imports Triggers War of the Roses** (*Kelly Burke Sydney Morning Herald 17/02/09*)

Love lies bleeding in a skip at Glenorie, NSW, where one of the largest producers of roses in the state expects to dump up to 9000 unsold red roses in the Valentine's Day mop-up.

The co-owner of Forest Glen Roses, Mark Grubski, said a flood of cheap, poor-quality roses from developing countries was killing the local industry.

The peak body charged with representing growers' interests, the Flower Growers Group of NSW, was dominated by operators who relied on imports in times of high demand, he said.

"Instead of working to develop the industry, they're killing the market by buying cheap and not giving the public value for money," Mr Grubski said.

Many of the imported roses for which consumers paid a premium for Valentine's Day would already be drooping and the buds were likely to die before they had even opened, flower growers in other states said. This was because the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service requires all imported cut flowers be dipped in a glyphosate herbicide (such as Monsanto's Roundup) in the country of origin, to prevent Australian rose enthusiasts from propagating the flowers and introducing any foreign diseases that may have arrived with them.

Some imported flowers were a biosecurity threat because they had not been treated according to the AQIS requirement, the Flower Association of Queensland and Flowers Victoria said.

Imported flowers come from countries including India, Columbia, Zimbabwe, Ecuador and China.

The flower organisations said the AQIS regulations were not being followed.

The Queensland body's president, Brian Shannon, said AQIS's drenching requirements were being widely flouted by its overseas accredited agencies. "Certification needs to come back to Australian shores," Mr Shannon said.

Both bodies said they had been in regular communication with AQIS over the biosecurity issue, but nothing has been done to address their concerns.

The president of the Flower Growers Group, Robert Giansante, said any suggestion that the NSW body was controlled by operators of the import market was offensive and inconsistent with the group's position over the past 15 years.

"The FGG has consistently criticized AQIS over its bio-security procedures on many occasions in the past," Mr Giansante said.

"The industry suffers from importers who wish to make a quick buck, who have nothing to do with the local industry other than to have connections in Third World countries and who sell their products direct to florists. "It is these importers who pose the greatest risk to our biosecurity."

### **Flower growers press AQIS on overseas flowers** (Weekly Times 19/2/09)

#### **CUT flower growers maintain overseas countries are not fulfilling their quarantine obligations, despite increased testing of imported flowers by the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service.**

Media reports have claimed AQIS is now inspecting every consignment of imported cut flowers following local industry figures growing plants that overseas countries claimed had been "devitalised" - dipped in a round up solution, rendering them lifeless.

AQIS also claimed the local flower industry had failed to supply verifiable details of the origin of the propagated flowers, or the propagation techniques used, in media reports.

Devitalisation is a quarantine tool meant to reduce the risk of pest plant, insect or disease introduction.

Flowers Victoria president Geoff McGuire said AQIS had told FV it would "lift its game".

"They've said they'd review all policies and procedures, we'll wait until next season (when flowers are imported, around May)," Mr McGuire said. "I guess we have to trust them."

FV executive committee member and Floriculture Australia owner Max Lynham said AQIS should show the results of all testing to the local industry.

"Most of the industry is aware of the fact that devitalisation is not happening correctly," Mr Lynham said.

"If they (AQIS) are not happy with our tests, then how do we demonstrate to them what's happening?"

The Weekly Times broke the issue in July 2008 when it revealed overseas countries had not been carrying out their quarantine obligations.

A source said at the time that Australia had lost control of the quarantine process when the Howard Government had entrusted the overseas countries with doing the devitalisation. Mr Lynham said there had been no problem with devitalisation when AQIS had carried out the procedure.

## Industry information

FAQI's sympathies go out to the victims, families and friends of the recent bushfires in Victoria and floods in North Queensland. We are shocked and saddened at the immense human loss and scale of destruction inflicted by these disastrous events.

*A message from Flowers Vic.— 9th Feb*

*Five members of Flowers Vic were located in the vicinity of the Victorian bush fires. Four of the families were unaffected with the fires coming to within a couple of hundred metres of their properties. However, Misty Mountain Protea were not so fortunate. The family are safe and their home is intact but their flower production has been wiped out. The shed is all that remains. Lorraine Daniels and family wish to thank all in the industry for the many calls of support and help. This was very much appreciated by the family.*

Later in the week we were heartened to hear of the joy flowers bought to the residents of Kinglake in Victoria.

**FRESH flowers, donated by Victoria's flower growers, have been distributed in the fire-ravaged town of Kinglake in memory of those tragically killed in the recent bushfires.**

Flowers Victoria president Geoff Maguire said the truck-load of flowers were distributed among survivors of the devastating fires and placed at sites where their loved ones lost their lives. "The flowers were delivered by Eddie Giacometti, a native flower grower in the Kinglake area who lost everything including his home and business in the fires," said Mr Maguire.

...and these heartfelt words are also worth reading

"The generosity of the people of Australia at times like this is so heart warming. It is a pity that it takes a disaster to bring out the best in people and make communities and neighbors come together. It is the simplest of things in our day to day lives that are the things remembered. The giving of those flowers represent colour, life and new beginnings and was a beautiful gesture in this time of great loss and sadness."

I recently heard the statement below and thought that now is an appropriate time to share it with you.. (Denyse)

**"It's not the 'receiving' of flowers that remains with us when the flowers have long passed their beauty — it's how you 'felt' when you received the flowers that remains with us forever!**

Our thoughts are with those in our own State suffering from the recent floods in North Queensland that have had a devastating effect on many of our primary industries. The damage so far is estimated at \$142 million and with 62 per cent - or one million square kilometres - of the state flood-affected.

Unfortunately some of our members were affected ..

Around the Ingham area crops suffered from the wet and windy weather – Basilisk Blooms expects that the crop will not recover until after winter and estimates they have lost ¼ of their production. The timing of the crop loss was magnified due to the importance of Valentine's Day.

We were also sorry to hear that the torrential rain and floods impacted on growers as it halted the transport of flowers and foliage in and out of tropical regions north of Ingham.

For information on Federal and State Government financial assistance, you can contact Smart Services Queensland on 1800 173 349.

## Industry information

### For Sale — Birds of Paradise "in ground" plants.

A plantation of plants numbering over a thousand were planted some years ago in a nursery area on a large wheat property at Dalby. The plants were used to cut and supply flowers on a commercial basis however, the new owner is not interested in doing this, given its specialized nature. The plants still produce flowers with little or no maintenance. Potential value is high. The owner would like them removed and is keen to talk to any interested parties.

Please contact Chris at 0400758605.

### APVMA Website Redevelopment

The APVMA wishes to advise that it has redeveloped its website and that the new site will go live on Thursday 26 February 2009.

The new site structure and design was developed last year following a lengthy consultation period with stakeholders. All existing content has been reviewed and new content has been added where gaps were identified by stakeholders.

[www.apvma.gov.au](http://www.apvma.gov.au)

New Permit—PER10900 – Endosulfan / cucumber, eggplant, pepper, ornamentals / Western flower thrips

Valid 8/10/08 to 31/10/09

Valid for all states (except Vic). Use is not allowed in Victoria under their Control-of-Use legislation

Full details of all permits are available on the APVMA website, <http://www.apvma.gov.au/permits/permits.shtml>

## Training Workshops

### ChemCert Certificate

Employers and employees who apply agrochemicals require certification. The ChemCert Certificate is valid for 5 years and requires updating upon expiry.

- Fulfill your duty of care under Workplace Health & Safety
- Learn the legal requirements in regard to chemicals
- Learn about chemical labels and MSDS
- Learn the most efficient means of chemical application
- Learn to calibrate & maintain spray equipment

### Nutri Tech Solutions (NTS) Certificate in Sustainable Agriculture

A four day course covering leading edge biological farming techniques and a field trip on the fifth day to local farms implementing these techniques. For further information or a Registration Form please visit our website [www.nutri-tech.com.au](http://www.nutri-tech.com.au). The next course is: 16 - 19 March 2009.

### ChemCert Certificate Training Course

#### Venue:

Apex Building (upstairs)  
Nambour Showgrounds  
Coronation Ave  
Nambour QLD 4560

#### Date:

Thursday 2 April 2009  
8.30am – 5.00pm  
(Lunch is not provided)

#### Cost:

Nursery & Garden  
Industry Queensland  
members - \$215.00  
(Incl. GST)  
Non – members -  
\$245.00 (Incl. GST)

Upon registration NGIQ will mail to each participant a Learning Guide and Assessment booklet. Compulsory pre-course assessments need to be completed by you.

To register Contact NGIQ (07) 3277 7109 or download form from the FAQI website.

Payment is required to reserve your booking.

Cancellation must be given in writing to NGIQ at least 7 days prior to course date or a cancellation fee will apply.

NTS are a FarmReady Training Provider  
Contact NTS for further information about reimbursement of course costs.  
(see pg8)

## Training Workshops



### FarmReady

Reimbursement Grants **Now Available!**

**Primary producers and Indigenous land managers can now apply to be reimbursed up to \$1500 per financial year to attend approved training courses.**

FarmReady Reimbursement Grants of up to \$1500 a year are available for eligible participants to attend approved training courses, with funding also available for travel, childcare and accommodation expenses.

The Australian Government has allocated \$26.5 million over four years to boost training opportunities for primary producers, and to enable industry, farming and natural resource management groups to develop strategies to adapt and respond to the impacts of climate change. To be eligible to receive the Reimbursement Grant, you must be a:

- primary producer (which includes farmers, fishers and foresters)
- immediate family member of a primary producer
- member of the management team of a primary production enterprise or
- Indigenous land manager.

Approved courses will cover topics such as:

- understanding the implications of climate variability and climate change
- integration of new techniques for sustainable production as a result of climate change
- natural resource planning and adaptive management as a result of climate change
- farm business management, risk assessment and identification of management options
- development of research and analytical skills to be applied in primary production enterprise
- strategic planning and thinking
- holistic 'whole farm' planning
- financial management, such as budget preparation
- human resource management / management of people.

To see which courses are currently available, apply for or learn more about the FarmReady Reimbursement Grants, visit [www.farmready.gov.au](http://www.farmready.gov.au) or phone 1800 087 670.

**Are you a training provider interested in registering with FarmReady?** Download the FarmReady Reimbursement Grants guidelines and registration form at [www.farmready.gov.au](http://www.farmready.gov.au).

**Have you heard? Round 1 of the FarmReady Industry Grants is now open!** If you're a group of primary producers, an industry organisation or natural resource management group, visit [www.daff.gov.au/farmready](http://www.daff.gov.au/farmready) to find out if your project qualifies for an \$80 000 grant. For more information about the FarmReady Industry Grants, or other elements of Australia's Farming Future, visit [www.daff.gov.au/farmingfuture](http://www.daff.gov.au/farmingfuture) or phone 1800 638 746.

**Pass this on!** FarmReady is a demand driven program available nationally. Tell your neighbour, industry group or members about it by forwarding this email, posting it on your website or asking them to subscribe to the [FarmReady subscription list](#).

## FMS Update

### FAQI Farm Management Systems (FMS) Update

Thank you, to growers who attended the introduction to FMS meeting in Toowoomba on the 6th Feb. I received valuable feedback from the group for further developing the system.

The next FMS meeting for the **In-ground Cut Flowers FMS session is planned for the Wax & Native Flower Grower Group at Toowoomba on the 6<sup>th</sup> March .**

Topics will include;

- Waste Management
- Native Vegetation, Animals & Ecosystems
- Efficient Energy Use

I have recently attended a Water Irrigation conference organised by the AWA. The main issues which I noted were:

- Measuring irrigation water use measurement
- Erosion and stream sediments in the Lockyer Valley catchment area

Both these issues are covered in the Farm Management System under irrigation and soil management topics.

New FMS Benefits Growers have identified:

- Help those who are new to industry or using new growing methods
- Organisation
- Chance to reflect and learn
- Framework for staff management/ training
- Access to Catchment Natural Resource Management grants

#### **Funding Grant available:**

This Grant might be good for anyone with native vegetation they would like to fence or pests and weed problems.

#### **Cash incentives for landholders**

NatureAssist is a competitive market-based incentive scheme that is offering landholders throughout rural Queensland the opportunity to tender for financial assistance to help them sustainably manage their property.

Landholders may tender for any tangible, on-ground activity that contributes to the protection and management of the conservation values on their property. Agency (EPA) and the Department of Natural Resources and Water (NRW), through the Blueprint for the Bush initiative. The EPA is aiming to open the expression of interest period for round three in late February.

For more details please visit the [EPA's NatureAssist webpage](#).

Grower trials of the FMS draft are underway. If you would like more information, or are interested in being involved and have 1 spare hour to sit down with Claire please contact her on

Mob: 0432002417.

#### **Cash incentives for landholders**

Past activities that have been funded through NatureAssist include:

- fencing to control stock access to creeks
- establishing alternative off-stream watering points for stock
- revegetating areas to stabilise soils and improve water quality
- identifying, protecting, and managing cultural heritage resources
- controlling weeds and pest animals.

NatureAssist is jointly resourced by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Natural Resources and Water (NRW), through the Blueprint for the Bush initiative. The EPA is aiming to open the expression of interest period for round three in late February.

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[denyse.corner@dpi.qld.gov.au](mailto:denyse.corner@dpi.qld.gov.au)