

BERRIES AUSTRALIA

# BerryQuest International 25–28 July 2022

Sea World Resort & Conference Centre  
Gold Coast, Queensland

**The much-anticipated national conference for the Australian berry industry, BerryQuest International, will take place this July at Sea World Resort and Conference Centre on the Gold Coast.**

BQI22 will feature two days of speaker presentations and a trade exhibition, followed by a day of field tours and plenty of family-friendly activities including networking and social functions.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS.



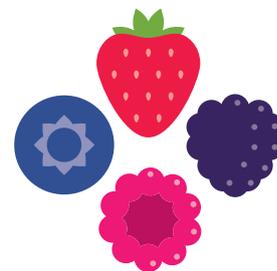
### PROF DAVID HUGHES (UK)

Emeritus Professor of Food Marketing at Imperial College London, and Visiting Professor at the Royal Agricultural University, U.K. "Dr. Food", is a world-renowned speaker on global food industry issues, particularly consumer and retail trends.



### ERIC SNODGRASS (USA)

Science Fellow and Principal Atmospheric Scientist for Nutrien Ag Solutions. Over 20 years, "weather wizard" Eric Snodgrass has predicted, and explained, complex weather patterns in a way that makes it digestible and actionable. His weekly in-depth ag weather forecasts provide invaluable information for thousands of growers across the world.



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## PROGRAM *highlights\**

### TUESDAY

- The Business of Berries — a Global View
- Berries & the Supply Chain
- Concurrent sessions:
  - Pest & Disease
  - Optimising Production
  - Emerging Leaders of the Australian Berry Industry
- Workforce Challenges & Opportunities

### WEDNESDAY

- Export Opportunities
- Concurrent sessions:
  - Pollination
  - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenges & Opportunities
  - Traceability & Food Safety
  - Pest & Disease
  - Breeding
  - Managing Off Farm Impacts
- The Future for Australian Berries

### THURSDAY

- Field Tours

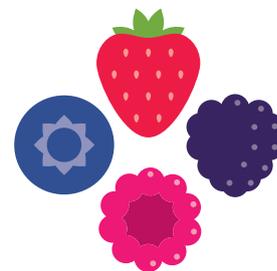
\* Subject to change.

REGISTER NOW AT [WWW.BERRIES.NET.AU/BQI2022](http://WWW.BERRIES.NET.AU/BQI2022)

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THE LARGEST CONFERENCE & TRADE EXHIBITION FOR  
THE AUSTRALIAN BERRY INDUSTRY IS NEXT MONTH!

**BQI22 delegates will hear from a plethora of local & international speakers over the 2 days of plenary sessions, covering a wide range of topics.**

Guests will also be invited to take part in thought-provoking workshops and offsite field days as well as catch up with industry colleagues at several networking functions.

The BQI22 program will focus on issues affecting the berry industry now and into the future. Topics will include innovations in breeding, pollination, research and production optimisation, sustainability and technology developments, biosecurity concerns, food safety, labour management and marketing.



Costa General Manager and **Berries Australia Chair, Peter McPherson** will be joined by the biggest movers & shakers in the berry industry including **Driscoll's of the Americas President, Soren Bjorn** and **Hortifrut S.A CEO, Juan Ignacio Allende** to provide a global perspective on the current state of the berry industry.

# SPEAKERS AT THE CONFERENCE.

## SOREN BJORN, PRESIDENT, DRISCOLL'S OF THE AMERICAS

In the ten-plus years Bjorn has worked at Driscoll's, he has successfully led several key business units. He was responsible for oversight of Driscoll's European, Middle Eastern, and African businesses; an Australia-based joint venture; and a new start-up venture in China. As well, Bjorn has led Driscoll's global research and breeding programs, which focus on developing proprietary seedlings in order to deliver consistently great-tasting berries to consumers around the globe.



©Araya Corvalán

## JUAN IGNACIO ALLENDE, CEO, HORTIFRUT SA

Hortifrut was founded in Chile in 1983. The company's business model is based on strategic alliances, putting together the best partners in the southern hemisphere with the best partners in the northern hemisphere, through commercial platforms, own brands, integrating the business from genetics to the end customer. Today the company has operations in 13 countries and a presence in 37 markets across the globe. Who better to talk about berries in the global context?

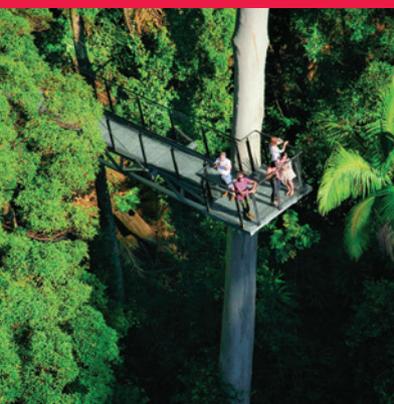
With the prospect of exporting their produce becoming a key priority for many growers, international trade specialist, **Jenny Van de Meeberg**, will lead a panel of export veterans, including **Jeff Scott, CEO of Australian Table Grape Association**, **Michael Coote, CEO of AUSVEG** and **Jamie Michael, Director of Ti Produce Marketing**, in an exciting and insightful discussion on the increasing export opportunities available to Australian berry growers.



With the environmental, health and economic challenges of the past few years still leaving a mark, BQI22 will end on a high note, focussing on the bright future of the berry industry. Delegates will hear from the **CEO of Harvest CROO Robotics, Joe McGee**, whose company prides itself on its environmentally friendly, automated harvesting techniques and **Fiona Turner, CEO of Bitwise Agronomy** whose goal is to merge modern technologies with horticulture to enable farm owners to make better management decisions. Receiving rave reviews after BerryQuest International 2018, respected agricultural and horticultural journalist (and comedian), **Ashley Walmsley**, makes a welcome return as Master of Ceremonies for BQI22.

The full BerryQuest International 2022 program can be found at [berries.net.au/bqi2022/program](https://berries.net.au/bqi2022/program) and tickets to the conference are still available with discounts offered for group bookings (3+ full-conference registrations) and for industry Association members.

Further information, including ticket prices, Sea World Resort accommodation options and FAQs, can be found at [berries.net.au/bqi2022](https://berries.net.au/bqi2022)



# EMERGING LEADERS BQI22 BURSARY PROGRAM.

**Berries Australia, in partnership with Raspberries and Blackberries Australia (RABA), Strawberries Australia Inc. (SAI) and Australian Blueberry Growers' Association (ABGA), are offering up-and-comers in the berry industry the opportunity to receive funding to attend Australia's largest berry industry conference.**

**In addition to the Bursaries there will be a Growing Leader's Workshop – sponsored by Costa – and a concurrent session focusing on leadership, which is open to all those who consider themselves emerging leaders. We particularly encourage those who participated in the RABA/ABGA leadership program in 2018 to participate in the program.**

The *BerryQuest* Emerging Leaders Bursaries will cover the cost of a full conference registration (including dinners and social activities) and three night's accommodation at Sea World Resort. There are 8 grants per berry category available.

#### **TO QUALIFY FOR THE FUNDING, NOMINEES MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:**

- Be aged 35 or under (at July 25, 2022)
- Currently work as an Australian berry grower or for a berry-growing business who is a member of either the ABGA, RABA, or a state based strawberry association
- Commit to attending the leadership sessions at BerryQuest

Individuals can nominate themselves or be nominated by another person, however the person making the nomination must be a paid member of RABA, ABGA or a State Strawberry Association. Each grant is valued at \$1,250 and is an opportunity for young growers, or those working for a growing business, to further develop their skills, knowledge and relationships in the berry industry.

Whilst there is an age limit for the bursaries there is no age limit on attending the other emerging leader activities throughout the program.

THE EMERGING LEADERS WORKSHOP  
IS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:



APPLY TODAY

**COMPLETE THE ONLINE FORM AT:**

**[berries.net.au/bqi2022/  
emerging-leaders-bursary](https://berries.net.au/bqi2022/emerging-leaders-bursary)**

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE MONDAY 13 JUNE AT 9AM AEST.**

**ALL APPLICANTS WILL BE ADVISED OF THE  
OUTCOME OF THEIR SUBMISSIONS BY 30 JUNE.**