Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Australian Biosecurity Awards 2021

Award recipients

The Dr David Banks Biosecurity Lifetime Achievement Award
Recognises individuals who have made an outstanding contribution beyond their normal responsibilities for Australian biosecurity over a sustained period of time.

The Dr Kim Ritman Award for Science and Innovation
Recognises an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to biosecurity science and innovation in Australia over a number of years.

Farm Biosecurity Producer of the Year Award
Recognises Australian primary producers, including individuals and organisations, that have demonstrated outstanding on-farm biosecurity practices.

Industry Award
Recognises individuals, groups or organisations that have demonstrated a significant contribution to maintaining Australia's biosecurity integrity.

Government Award
Recognises individuals, groups or organisations that have demonstrated a significant contribution to maintaining Australia's biosecurity integrity.

Environmental Biosecurity Award
Recognises individuals, groups or organisations that have demonstrated a significant contribution to maintaining Australia's environmental biosecurity integrity.

Education Award
Recognises individuals, groups or organisations within the community that have demonstrated a significant contribution to maintaining Australia's biosecurity integrity.

Community Award
Recognises individuals, groups or organisations in education that have demonstrated a significant contribution to promoting or raising biosecurity awareness.

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FROM THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

Welcome to the 2021 Australian Biosecurity Awards. These awards celebrate the dedication and hard work of Australians who work tirelessly to maintain and improve Australia's biosecurity.

Australia is facing increasing pest and disease risks that are becoming more complex and harder to manage. Pests and diseases continue to spread overseas, including African swine fever (ASF) and hitchhiker pests such as khapra beetle and the brown marmorated stink bug. These pests and diseases could have serious impacts on Australia's agricultural industries, unique environment and way of life. For example, if ASF reaches our shores, it could kill up to 80% of the pigs it infects, devastating Australia's pork industry.

Mail and cargo volumes are forecast to increase over the next decade despite COVID-19 disruptions, and through these pathways we will see a greater array of devastating pests and diseases moving closer to our shores.

Work is underway to build a more resilient, smarter biosecurity system. The Australian Government recently launched Commonwealth Biosecurity 2030, the latest step in responding to a rapidly changing environment to ensure we have the controls, partnerships, tools, processes and networks to manage current and future threats.

As we reflect on these challenges and opportunities, it is important we acknowledge the crucial and diverse work that individuals and organisations are doing every day to maintain Australia's biosecurity integrity. Collaboration between industry, government, organisations and individuals is crucial in managing new and emerging biosecurity risks.

This year's nominations ranged from those working on the front line to respond to outbreaks or eradicate and manage feral pests in the natural environment, to those innovating technologies and methods to improve biosecurity systems. Our winners have demonstrated the importance of collaboration in supporting our biosecurity system. Some have dedicated their careers to scientific research or educating the next generation of biosecurity-aware Australians through mentoring, communication activities and leadership.

Their work benefits all Australians.

Thank you to Animal Health Australia and Plant Health Australia for their continued support of the Farm Biosecurity Producer of the Year Award.

Congratulations to our 2021 winners and thank you for your valuable contributions to Australia's biosecurity.

Andrew Tongue PSM
Deputy Secretary, Biosecurity & Compliance Group

DR DAVID BANKS BIOSECURITY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Dr John Virtue

Dr John Virtue is a recognised expert across the biosecurity management field, initiating and leading interventions against pests and diseases through prevention, eradication, containment and strategic management measures. Dr Virtue developed weed and other pest risk management systems which enable a strategic approach to prioritising pests, based on risk and feasibility, to determine the most effective management actions.

His work has greatly influenced biosecurity science, policy development, monitoring, communication and on-ground management across Australia and internationally, particularly in the invasive plant field.

His contributions to biosecurity integrity include:

- developing and driving national approaches for established invasive species
- technical input to support national eradication programs
- overseeing biosecurity policy reforms
- leading applied biosecurity research programs.

Dr Virtue was South Australia's Senior Weed Ecologist (1995–2009) before progressing to Manager Invasive Species (2009–2016) and then to General Manager Strategy, Policy and Invasive Species (2016–2021), acting as Executive Director Biosecurity on multiple occasions. Dr Virtue has strongly advocated for a strategic, sustainable and multi-stakeholder approach to national biosecurity management through his contributions to multiple

intergovernmental biosecurity committees and as program leader for Weeds CRC and with the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions (CISS).

Dr Virtue has always acted to bridge the gap between research and policy. His eye for detail, political savvy, strategic outlook and positive working environments are all fundamental to his success. Dr Virtue's effective collaboration has reduced fragmentation of biosecurity expertise across state and federal agencies, industry, universities and natural resource managers, improving knowledge sharing.

Dr Virtue is driven by the desire for healthy ecosystems and productive landscapes, while also working to maintain biosecurity professionalism by continually helping colleagues to progress their careers. This is demonstrated by his recent career change, moving from a very senior government role to a private consultancy to work with industry and the community to influence the future of national weed management, and return to his area of greatest passion.

Dr Virtue was nominated by Dr Peter Turner from the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

The Biosecurity Lifetime Achievement Award is dedicated to the memory of Dr David Banks


CONTROL
NOXIOUS WEEDS
ITS
YOUR
RESPONSIBILITY


University of Wollongong
CSIRO
This Session
PREVENTION - Addendum
- 3 key tasks for NOW:
Phase 1
Phase 2
Phase 3

Ms Sarah Corcoran

Ms Sarah Corcoran is recognised for her outstanding contributions to biosecurity. Throughout her career, Ms Corcoran has delivered many significant eradication programs for agricultural and environmental pests. She has overseen investment in infrastructure and biosecurity research, including disease detection, management and response, which have enabled her to implement consistent approaches to biosecurity nationally.

As Director of the National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program and National Electric Ant Eradication Program from 2014 to 2016, Ms Corcoran guided the team through four rounds of treatment and surveillance of an incursion of red imported fire ants (RIFA) in Yarwun/Gladstone, Queensland. She engaged local media in a very successful community engagement campaign called 'Ant Hunt'. In mid-2016, Yarwun/Gladstone was declared free from RIFA.

Following the detection of browsing ants in Western Australia and the Northern Territory, Ms Corcoran saw the benefits of training RIFA detection dogs to detect other ant species. She sourced funding for the training of these dogs, which are now considered a vital surveillance tool by both the WA and NT departments and are still in service today.

Phase four of the National Banana Freckle Eradication Program became Ms Corcoran's responsibility on her appointment in 2016 as Chief Plant Health Officer with the NT government. In her new role as Executive Director Biosecurity

and Animal Welfare for the Northern Territory, she felt privileged to formally declare that banana freckle had been eradicated from Australia. The successful eradication of banana freckle sent a clear signal to markets locally and globally that Australia was free of the disease.

Ms Corcoran led the emergency response to the detection of citrus canker in the Northern Territory when the disease was reported to her in 2018. She was awarded the 2019 collaborative Industry/ Government Australian Biosecurity Award in 2019, recognising her significant contribution to biosecurity and response to citrus canker in the Northern Territory.

On commencing her term as Plant Health Australia (PHA) Chief Executive Officer in 2020, Ms Corcoran shared her vision for PHA to become the repository of knowledge for plant health in Australia, with government, industry, peak bodies and growers working together to achieve an integrated national plant biosecurity system. During her time in the role, she has worked with industry, government, research and development councils to draft a new five-year strategic plan that will position and support PHA to deliver on these focus areas.

Ms Corcoran was nominated by Jennifer Logan, who previously worked for Biosecurity Queensland.

The Dr Kim Ritman Award for Science and Innovation is dedicated to the memory of Dr Kim Ritman


Live fire ants
Caution
Fire ants
Join the ant hunt
National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program

Pohlmans Nursery

Pohlmans Nursery is recognised for its contribution to the development of BioSecure HACCP, a national industry on-farm biosecurity program developed by Greenlife Industry Australia (GIA) and Hort Innovation Australia. Pohlmans Nursery's contributions included the implementation of draft biosecurity procedures, testing the validity and value of the program and providing GIA with advice and results.

BioSecure HACCP is a set of protocols and procedures that enable a business to manage plant protection and biosecurity risks through effective internal controls.

Pohlmans Nursery has a complex and highly intensive production system covering more than 13 ha across five separate divisions. The nursery produces millions of flower and vegetable seedlings, herbs, potted colour, indoor foliage, trees and shrubs each year for retailers across eastern Australia.

As a large-scale plant producer, Pohlmans Nursery recognises its biosecurity obligations and is consistent in maintaining processes to mitigate its biosecurity risks. It signed up to the Nursery Production Best Management Practice Program over a decade ago and adopted the industry-based environmental management system – both independently audited – to assist in keeping the business on track.


floweressen
Calibrachoa
Mini
floweressen
Calibrachoa
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floweressen

In 2012, Pohlmans Nursery was approached by GIA to provide comment and feedback on BioSecure HACCP, which was under development. The business agreed and in 2013 became one of the first nurseries to achieve BioSecure HACCP certification.

Pohlmans Nursery tested the BioSecure HACCP program through various procedures and continues to provide feedback to GIA and test components of the evolving system. The nursery has elevated its system to the market access level, which allows it to use staff specifically trained under BioSecure HACCP and its robust biosecurity system to self-certify stock. This has removed the demand for government inspectors and gives the business greater flexibility in meeting market expectations.

BioSecure HACCP has benefited the business by improving production systems, reducing pesticide applications, improving crop quality and reducing crop losses, resulting in hundreds of thousands of dollars in productivity gains as well as sustainability and environmental benefits.

The Pohlmans Nursery team advocates biosecurity best practice to the industry by working with GIA, other nurseries and local grower groups. The team has participated in articles, blogs, videos and events to encourage production nurseries to implement on-farm biosecurity.

Pohlmans Nursery is driving change across nursery production by providing industry with clear financial benefits, which will promote a more robust horticulture sector and a stronger biosecurity system in Australia.

Pohlmans Nursery was nominated by
John McDonald, National Biosecurity Manager
at Greenlife Industry Australia.

INDUSTRY AWARD

Queensland Port Authorities and Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Since 2019, all five of Queensland's port authorities have partnered with the Queensland Government (Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF)) to voluntarily implement the Queensland Seaports Environmental DNA (eDNA) Surveillance program (Q-SEAS program) for early warning detection of invasive marine species (IMS).

The Queensland Ports Association is the peak industry body representing all Queensland port authorities, comprising Brisbane, Gladstone, North Queensland Bulk Ports, Townsville and Ports North. Queensland's port authorities have a strong incentive to mitigate the risk of potential incursion of IMS, with 16 trading ports along the entire Queensland coastline, 12 of which are located adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA).

IMS are marine species that are introduced, either intentionally or accidentally, into an area outside their natural distribution. Impacts from IMS often occur because of prolific population density increase, which can displace native species, alter marine ecosystems and water quality and, in some situations, impact on the stability of marine infrastructure. International vessel traffic (recreational and commercial) is considered the primary vector for marine pests from either biofouling or ballast water.


BULK PORTS

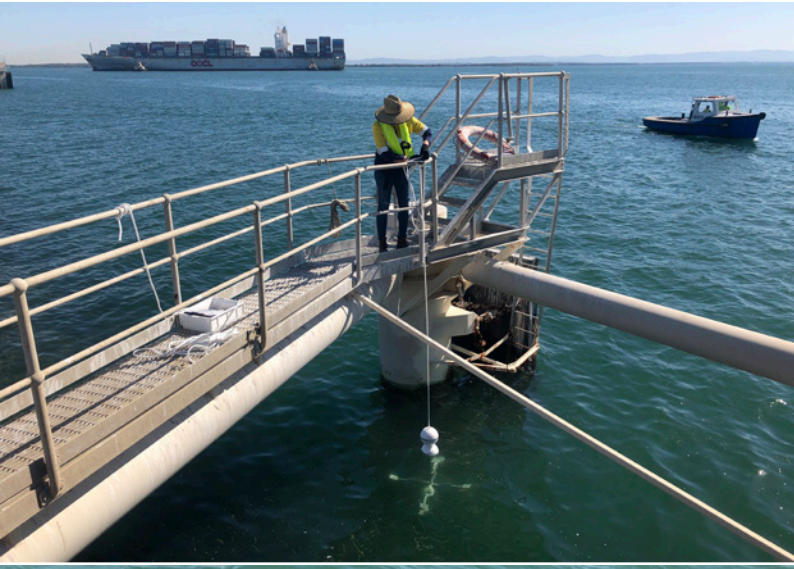
The Q-SEAS program uses world-leading molecular techniques across multiple sampling substrates to significantly enhance the detection capacity for small and cryptic marine taxa. This program provides for the first Australian statewide program to include plankton tows as well as settlement arrays and utilises eDNA technologies to protect Queensland's marine environment.

The program manages the balance between environmental protection of the GBRWHA and economic growth at priority ports. The alignment of methodologies and results across the state also significantly enhances capacity for early detection and coordinated response efforts, both of which have been shown to significantly improve eradication success potential.

This co-funded, voluntary program relies on significant support from all involved, with seven environment staff across the five port authorities and DAF dedicating an estimated 2,500 hours per year to implement the program. The program was also supported by marine pest incident response and awareness training events at the ports of Mackay and Gladstone.

Commencing in 2019 at five ports, Q-SEAS is expanding to new locations, with the Port of Lucinda introduced in 2021 and the Port of Weipa on the Western Cape of Queensland expected to join the program in 2022. The Q-SEAS program demonstrates successful collaboration across industry and government, ensuring national and state level strategic alignment.

The Queensland Port Authorities and the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries were nominated by Nicola Stokes from the Port of Mackay, North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation.



GOVERNMENT AWARD

Agriculture Victoria

Agriculture Victoria (Victorian Government – Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions) is recognised for its response to the 2020 avian influenza (AI) outbreak. The 2020 outbreak affected seven premises in egg-layer chickens, turkeys and emus, and was the largest biosecurity emergency response in Victoria for 20 years and the largest recorded outbreak in Australian history. The response was managed by the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions through Agriculture Victoria in parallel with the state's most severe COVID-19 restrictions.

Agriculture Victoria's response objective was to contain and prevent further spread of AI, eradicate the disease from known infected properties and prove country freedom from AI in domestic poultry. The AI response ran for nine months, with over 340 people deployed, and the total cost is estimated to be $22 million.

Victoria's response was highly unusual not only due to the detection of three separate strains in numerous bird species but also as the response coincided with the timing of COVID-19 restrictions and cases peaking. Staff worked under trying circumstances, with many working multiple rotations owing to a lack of interstate specialist replacement staff due to COVID-19 border restrictions.


Tyvek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Poultry?
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A300
Geelong
Lethbridge

Despite these challenges, response objectives were met, and several new policy areas and innovations were developed and implemented to minimise impact on affected business while supporting control and management of the disease.

Avian influenza was successfully eradicated from all the affected farms. From this, Australia officially regained freedom from the highly pathogenic disease in accordance with the World Organisation for Animal Health guidelines on 26 February 2021. This is an important milestone that will assist in re-establishing export markets for Australian producers of poultry and poultry products.

Agriculture Victoria was supported by the Commonwealth, other states and territories, Animal Health Australia and key industry groups, through national response and cost-sharing arrangements, and the provision of personnel and knowledge through interstate deployment arrangements. Further support was provided by the Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness and Wildlife Health Australia.

The successful eradication of AI from these farms shows the tremendous response effort, work ethic, professionalism and integrity of the staff of Agriculture Victoria.

Agriculture Victoria was nominated by Dr Mark Schipp, Australia's Chief Veterinary Officer.

GOVERNMENT AWARD

Social Platforms Regulatory Awareness and Engagement group

Biosecurity Queensland (Queensland Government - Department of Agriculture and Fisheries)

Biosecurity Queensland's Social Platforms Regulatory Awareness and Engagement (SPRAE) group was developed to address the illegal sale of cacti on social platforms such as eBay, Gumtree and Facebook Marketplace. The illegal sale of cacti poses a serious risk to Queensland's arid and semi-arid landscapes. In the early 1900s, prickly pear occupied 60 million acres of Queensland and northern New South Wales, and this is recognised as the worst weed invasion in Queensland's history.

Prior to the development of SPRAE, Biosecurity Queensland initiated a project to engage with sellers across online marketplaces to prevent the sale of cacti and, where possible, seize and destroy the plants. In its first year, 358 cacti were seized by biosecurity officers and many more by local councils. Although successful, the project showed that additional tools were required to address illegal selling, particularly on Facebook Marketplace. SPRAE was established to develop new tools for engagement while protecting people's rights and privacy.


3M 8210
Rigger

The group partnered biosecurity officers with digital communications experts and created the first regulatory Facebook profile, dubbed 'BQ Officer', which allowed officers to engage directly with sellers via an official government profile. A trial resulted in a 30% increased engagement rate and a significant decrease in online offending.

SPRAE's success led to expansion into other areas of biosecurity, including the sale of bananas across biosecurity zones and the sale of soil and fill infested with fire ants. Given its success, the program has attracted national interest and has been shared with other states and territories through the National Biosecurity Communications and Engagement Network. Other jurisdictions are now developing similar responses to illegal online sales.

In the first four years of operation, the group's activities have resulted in the seizure of more than 2,766 illegal cacti, along with hundreds of other invasive species illegally offered for sale.

This innovative and contemporary approach to a new biosecurity threat has significantly strengthened Queensland's biosecurity system and demonstrated how governments can collaborate to adapt to new technologies and achieve lasting biosecurity outcomes.

This project has been led by Duncan Swan, Chris Hollingdrake and Joanna McIntosh, with contributions from business groups across Biosecurity Queensland.

The SPRAE group was nominated by Malcolm Letts from the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

ENVIRONMENTAL BIOSECURITY AWARD

Anindilyakwa Land Council Land and Sea Rangers and South32 GEMCO

The Anindilyakwa Land Council and South32's Groote Eylandt Mining Company (GEMCO) collaborated to develop a quarantine and biosecurity program for the Anindilyakwa Indigenous Protected Area (IPA). The program plays a critical role in protecting Groote from existing and emerging biosecurity threats, such as the cane toad.

The Anindilyakwa IPA covers 10,000 km^2 of land and sea country of the Groote Archipelago, situated off the East Arnhem Land coast in the Gulf of Carpentaria in the Northern Territory. This island refuge is home to many threatened and endangered species, including the northern quoll, northern hopping mouse, ghost bat, masked owl and Mertens water monitor.

The Anindilyakwa IPA is relatively free from many pest species that are common on mainland Australia, including cane toads, feral pigs, water buffalo and gamba grass.

The eight-year program, which commenced in 2016, is fully funded by South32 GEMCO and sits within the Anindilyakwa Land Council's Land and Sea Ranger department. Now in its fifth year, the program's primary focus is cane toad biosecurity.

The program includes biosecurity inspections of all barge freight from the mainland using a specially trained cane toad odour-detection dog, as well as community and industry biosecurity training and cane toad awareness sessions.

It also includes proactive biosecurity work around cane toad management and reactive responses to cane toad sighting reports and incursions.

The program's scope has grown significantly and now has a broader focus on all invasive and introduced plants, animals and diseases. This is supported by the appointment of a full-time Quarantine and Biosecurity Coordinator and a cane toad odour-detection dog, the development of biosecurity champions within the Indigenous ranger program, weed management and spreading biosecurity awareness.

The Anindilyakwa Land Council Land and Sea Rangers and South32 GEMCO were nominated by Megan Lewis, who was previously involved in the program.

ENVIRONMENTAL BIOSECURITY AWARD

South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc.

South Coast National Resource Management (NRM) has led and supported a range of projects that have delivered significant biosecurity outcomes for the South Coast region of Western Australia.

Since 2005, South Coast NRM's Project Dieback has driven action across Western Australia to protect key natural assets and slow the spread of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* and other soil-borne Phytophthora species.

Phytophthora dieback, caused by the soil-borne pathogen *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, is a major threat to biodiversity in the South Coast region of Western Australia. Around 40% of native species are susceptible to the pathogen, which causes sudden death in vulnerable species and results in the devastation of large areas of natural habitat.

South Coast NRM has been the leading non-government agency managing Phytophthora dieback in Western Australia, helping deliver on-ground protection and developing mapping tools, planning handbooks and behaviour change resources.

The Western Australian Standard Dieback Signage System has been a broadly adopted resource produced by South Coast NRM, with hundreds of land managers in all areas of South West Western Australia adopting the universal symbology and wording. They also developed the


DIEBACK PROTECTION AREA
STOP
Clean on Entry
This area has special values threatened by Phytophthora Dieback.
Vehicles and footware should be clean and free of dirt before entering this property.
Your help preserves the native bushland and animals
www.dieback.net.au

Dieback Information Delivery and Management System (DIDMS), which provides online, statewide information for management and functions as an interactive planning tool.

South Coast NRM contributes knowledge and resources to multiple biosecurity panels and planning bodies and has led a range of other biosecurity-themed projects, including the highly successful common starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) eradication project. They are also responsible for the funding and coordination of broadscale pest control programs across the South Coast region. Examples include African boxthorn, bridal creeper, feral pigs, rabbits and feral cats.

South Coast NRM is currently contributing to preparedness for the surveillance and early detection of myrtle rust in Western Australia. This includes supporting the inclusion of myrtle rust information and images in Green Card training courses and the delivery of myrtle rust awareness content at the annual South Coast Dieback Information Forum.

Like all regional NRM groups, South Coast NRM possesses strong links to grassroots community groups and land managers, resulting in a broad network of 'eyes on the ground' in regional areas where the myrtle rust pathogen is likely to first present. It is leveraging this close network to initiate a community awareness program, increasing the likelihood of the early detection of myrtle rust incursions into Western Australia.

South Coast NRM will continue to advocate for collaborative, community-led solutions that address biosecurity threats on a whole-of-landscape scale.

South Coast NRM was nominated by Dr Kate Andrews, from NRM Regions Australia.

COMMUNITY AWARD

GMV Fruit Fly Area Wide Management Program

The GMV Fruit Fly Area Wide Management (FFAWM) Program plays a vital role in managing and reducing the impact of fruit fly on horticulture in the Goulburn Murray Valley (GMV) region. The program is funded by the Victorian Government through the Managing Fruit Fly in Victoria Regional Grants program and is under the auspices of the Moira Shire Council. The program involves creating awareness through education and engagement in the community, industry, research organisations and government.

The Queensland fruit fly (Qfly) is one of the world's most destructive horticultural pests, threatening Australia's $13 billion horticultural industry.

The FFAWM model developed by the governance group (chaired by Tony Siciliano) has been effective in reducing Qfly populations in the GMV through creating awareness, education and engagement across the whole community.

Real-time data is extracted from the project's regional trapping grids, then analysed and interpreted for delivery to the community, industry and government through print and other media. The grids comprise 441 monitoring traps that are installed and monitored in rural and urban areas across the region and are monitored weekly and fortnightly. The information gained from these traps is used to identify and eradicate 'hot spots' and educate industry, local government and the community in managing increased pest pressure as it occurs, and to reduce fruit fly populations before they become a problem.


VICTORIA
REGIONAL ACHIEVEMENT & COMMUNITY AWARDS 2019


Undera P.S.
IT'S A COMMUNITY EFFORT!
NO FLIES ON US!
Let's stop Queensland Fruit Fly

Education efforts such as the 'No Flies On Us!' and 'It's a Community Effort' branding, which is distributed through television, radio, print and social media, has encouraged people to seek best practice advice. Community and industry workshops and the Schools Education Program have generated over 27,000 participants to date.

Over 54,000 comprehensive information packs have been distributed and over 500 educational signs have been erected and maintained in the region. Community engagement has exceeded expectations and to date has generated a network of over 3,000 volunteers prepared to donate their time, effort and resources to further engage and assist with community workshops and the schools program. Over 44 schools are now supporting the fruit fly education program, together with Lions International, Rotary, welfare groups, plant nurseries, hardware stores and garden clubs.

The program offers free removal of unmanaged/unwanted fruit trees and has so far removed over 100,000 fruit trees that would otherwise be breeding grounds for fruit fly. GMV local government areas are also removing fruit fly host trees and replacing them with non-host species.

The program has facilitated six fruit fly research projects across 28 sites within the region, conducted by Victorian, interstate and international researchers.

The GMV Fruit Fly Area Wide Management Program was nominated by Lynn Haswell of the Moira Shire Council in Victoria.

COMMUNITY AWARD

Urban Plant Health Network

Agriculture Victoria (Victorian Government – Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions)

The Urban Plant Health Network (UPHN) pilot aimed to improve awareness of plant health and biosecurity risks in urban areas and to empower urban and community gardeners to take part in general surveillance in residential and community gardens, to support Australia's biosecurity system using the proven extensionAUS™ model.

The UPHN was launched in October 2019 and is funded by a joint investment between the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment and Agriculture Victoria.

The UPHN pilot has focused on urban and peri-urban areas in the Greater Melbourne region, connecting gardeners with industry and government experts specialising in plant health and biosecurity. Urban areas were targeted as they are known entry, establishment and spread pathways for horticulture pests and diseases due to increases in international trade, global travel, urbanisation and the increasing popularity of urban food production.


LOVE


Urban Plant Health Network
Urban Plant Health Network Presents
TOP SIX PESTS
PEST WARRIOR


Good food

The UPHN encourages Melbourne gardeners to learn about exotic pests and to get involved in general surveillance of high-priority pests. The UPHN has highlighted six high-priority target pests during its pilot phase, including the brown marmorated stink bug, red imported fire ants and exotic bees.

The UPHN was the first project to trial the use of the MyPestGuide™ Reporter app in Victoria before its national rollout. The trial's aim was to generate improvements both in the app design and in internal pest report management processes.

Agriculture Victoria, through the UPHN, led the way in the promotion and use of MyPestGuide™ Reporter by taking over diagnostic responsibility for all Victoria-based surveillance reports from May 2020. Victoria has received 377 reports as a direct result of the UPHN project for pest identification. MyPestGuide™ Reporter is now endorsed as a national reporting app for biosecurity surveillance and will continue to be promoted through the UPHN for surveillance. The UPHN also promotes the use of the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline.

As a pilot project, the UPHN demonstrated that urban biosecurity is a key risk pathway that can be addressed, and that backyard and community gardeners understand shared responsibility and are willing to take on a bigger role in managing biosecurity risks to complement targeted surveillance activities. The UPHN pilot has shown that success can be achieved with good engagement with the target audience and introducing the concept of urban biosecurity and shared responsibility together with information on general pest management and biology.

The Urban Plant Health Network was nominated by Sze Flett of Agriculture Victoria.


Queensland fruit fly
life cycle


OPERATIONS

EDUCATION AWARD

Associate Professor Kim Plummer

Associate Professor Kim Plummer is recognised for her long career as an educator, researcher and mentor in relation to strengthening Australian plant biosecurity systems and raising awareness. She has been an influential part of the Australian plant biosecurity landscape for over 30 years.

Associate Professor Plummer teaches plant pathology and biosecurity concepts at La Trobe University (LTU). She delivers innovative second-year and third-year subjects to improve students' knowledge and practical skills. She and LTU colleagues won a CSIRO OnPrime award for their microscope smartphone adaptor for student use. Her subjects include field visits and guest lecturers, such as Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) Plant Innovation Centre (PIC@PEQ) scientists, to give students 'real-life' awareness of the plant biosecurity continuum. Associate Professor Plummer has also supervised and mentored dozens of Honours, Masters and PhD students over her career, many of whom have entered careers in plant biosecurity with organisations such as AusVeg, DAWE, and national and international research institutions. Kim is also the academic co-supervisor for several DAWE plant biosecurity projects in a collaborative venture between PIC@PEQ and LTU.

With over 50 international refereed publications, Associate Professor Plummer has been a significant contributor to improving the understanding of

how plant pests and pathogens impact agricultural systems. Her research is focused on the interactions of pathogenic fungi and plants, using various 'omics' approaches to reveal pathogenicity factors used by fungi to infect crop plants.

During her time as President of the Australasian Plant Pathology Society (APPS), Associate Professor Plummer co-convened the 50th anniversary conference for the APPS. The conference had over 500 delegates from 27 countries and covered a range of critical plant biosecurity topics such as surveillance and monitoring, community and industry engagement, incursion response, disease management and diagnostics.

The conference also funded many students, plant biosecurity professionals and early-career plant pathologists from Australia and overseas to attend, present their work and network with leading plant biosecurity experts, industry representatives and policymakers.

Associate Professor Plummer, with colleagues from five Australian universities and the National Plant Biosecurity CRC, was instrumental in establishing, developing and delivering the Graduate Certificate in Plant Biosecurity. This course covers a range of key components of plant biosecurity, including risk analyses, quarantine, surveillance and emergency responses, and has improved awareness of the importance of plant biosecurity for a large cohort of potential and established biosecurity professionals. The course was developed in consultation with government representatives from Canada, the United States, New Zealand and Australia.

Associate Professor Plummer was nominated by Dr Adrian Dinsdale from the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment's Plant Innovation Centre.

Biosecurity Commendation Certificates

The Biosecurity Commendation Certificates are a new Australian Biosecurity Award category, added in 2020. The certificates recognise those who have contributed to supporting and promoting Australia's biosecurity on a local or regional scale.

2021 Biosecurity Commendation Certificate Winners

- **Dr Cherie Gambley.** For her outstanding scientific contribution and national leadership in improving Australia's capability and preparedness in plant health and biosecurity research.
- **Dr Satendra Kumar.** For national scientific leadership in plant biosecurity and mentoring and developing those who sit in key positions of leadership today.
- **EcoDNA Group.** For their work with eDNA to enable real-time detections in the field and develop novel sampling methods that can be applied at the border to protect Australia from harmful invasive species, including khapra beetle.
- **Tim Farry.** For his considerable contribution to enhanced environmental biosecurity outcomes in the invasive pest and disease space.
- **Idealview Diary.** For strong commitment to on-farm biosecurity and advocating biosecurity in the goat industry.
- **Hanneke Parish.** For her efforts in protecting and maintaining plant health.
- **Pam Kent.** For her efforts in protecting and maintaining plant health.

Australian Biosecurity Awards

Do you know an individual, group or organisation that has contributed to our biosecurity outcomes?

The Australian Biosecurity Awards are celebrated as part of the annual National Biosecurity Forum. These awards recognise individuals, groups and organisations in industry and government that show a commitment to working collaboratively with the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment to support and promote Australia's biosecurity and the systems that uphold it.

For more information, visit awe.gov.au/aba.

Biosecurity.gov.au

Your first stop for biosecurity information

The website brings together biosecurity resources from the Australian, state and territory governments, industry and non-government agencies.

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