



# The Australian Barley Industry – Pivoting to the future



17 - 20 August 2026 | Geelong, Victoria

## Draft Summary Program

<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2026</b>	
08.00 am – O/N	<b>Pre Conference Field Trip:</b>
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2026</b>	
O/N – 5.00pm	<b>Pre Conference Field Trip continued</b>
5.00-7.00pm	Student Forum with Industry Leaders
7.00-9.00pm	Welcome Reception – Novotel Geelong
<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2026</b>	
8.30am	Welcome including GRDC and Conference Opening
<b>Session 1: Framing the Opportunity</b>	
	Market update <b>Mary Raynes, Grains Australia</b>
	From pint to pellet: how shifting demand is redefining barley's markets <b>Vitor Pistoia, RaboBank</b>
	The International Barley Hub – Towards sustainable barley production at a global scale <b>Tim George, International Barley Hub</b>
	Abstracts
	Morning Tea
<b>Session 2: Feeding Global Demand</b>	
	Abstracts
	Lunch & Poster
<b>Session 3: Malting and brewing</b>	
	Abstracts

	Afternoon Tea
	<b>Session: Gibberellic Acid: Germination to Malting</b>
	“Hormonal control of barley grain germination” <b>Christoph Dockter, Carlsberg</b>
	Abstracts
6.00-8.30pm	Networking Function - Little Creatures
<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2026</b>	
8.30am	<b>Session: Unlocking Crop Performance</b>
	From research gaps to growth opportunities: Designing the future of Canadian barley agronomy through the GROW Barley Framework. <b>Hiroshi Kubota, AAFC</b>
	Abstracts
	Morning Tea
	<b>Session: Developmental Biology</b>
	Genetics of barley plant architecture <b>Laura Rossini, University of Milan</b>
	Barley developmental genetics <b>Sarah McKim, University of Dundee</b>
	Abstracts
	Lunch
	<b>Session: Designing Adaptive Crops</b>
	Adapting barley to extreme environments <b>Hrannar Smári Hilmarsson, Agricultural University of Iceland</b>
	Abstracts
	<b>Session: Next Generation Breeding Tools</b>
	A digital tools ecosystem to explore genotypic and genomic datasets among plant genetic resources <b>Gabriel Keeble-Gagnere, Agriculture Victoria</b>
	The BEST-CROP project <b>Paolo Pesaresi, University of Milan</b>
	Composition, function and host control of the barley microbiome <b>Davide Bulgarelli, University of Dundee</b>

	Abstracts
	Free Evening
<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2026</b>	
8.30 am	<b>Session: Biotic stress tolerance</b>
	Recent advances in managing scald in barley: lessons from epidemiology and integrated strategies in South America <b>Silvia Pereyra, National Institute for Agricultural Research</b>
	Abstracts
	Morning Tea
	<b>Session: Abiotic stress tolerance</b>
	The genetics underpinning micronutrient transport in barley, and the impact on plant physiology and grain composition <b>Kelly Houston, The James Hutton Institute</b>
	Assessing the Resilience of Barley and Malt to Heat Waves <b>Roxana Savin, University of Lleida</b>
	Abstracts
	Lunch
	<b>Session: Decoding Crop Genomes</b>
	Genome editing in Triticeae crops <b>Jochen Kumlehn, IPK</b>
	Expanding the Genomic Landscape of Wild Hordeum Species: Reference- and Pan-Genome Resources to Enable Barley Improvement <b>Jia-Wu Feng, IPK</b>
	Genetic basis of barley inflorescence architecture: structure of spikelet and floret <b>Shun Sakuma, Tottori University</b>
	Abstracts
	Afternoon Tea
	Session: Panel session
7.00-10.30pm	Conference Dinner: 1915
<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2026</b>	
	<b>Post Conference Workshop: Digital Tools to Unlock the Genetic Potential of the Australian Grains Genebank</b>