



The Australian Barley Industry – Pivoting to the future

17 - 20 August 2026 | Geelong, Victoria



ABTS 2026 PROGRAM

Venue: Novotel Geelong - 10/14 Eastern Beach Rd, Geelong VIC 3220

***Please note this program is subject to change ** All times are in AEST**

Sunday 16 – Monday 17 August 2026

Pre Symposium Field Trip
8.45am – departs Novotel Geelong
Returns Mon 17th approx. 4pm

Monday 17 August 2026

3.00pm – 6.30pm	Registration Open	Level 1, Pre-function foyer
4.30pm - 6.30pm	Student and Early Career Forum with Industry Leaders Bellarine Room, Level 1, Novotel Geelong	Sponsored by Meet Geelong and the Bellarine
7.00pm - 9.00pm	Welcome Reception Level 1, Novotel Geelong	Sponsored by GRDC

Tuesday 18 August 2026

7.30am – 5.00pm	Registration Open	Level 1, Pre-function foyer
ABTS Symposium Opening		Peninsula Room
8.30am - 8.40am	Acknowledgement of Country Sally Norton	
8.40am - 8.50am	Opening of Symposium Jessica Hyles, Grains Research and Development Corporation	
8.50am - 9.00am	Shaping the Future of Australian Barley: GRDC's Crop Improvement Priorities Jessica Hyles, Grains Research and Development Corporation	
9.00am - 10.00am	Session 1: Framing the Opportunity Chair: Sally Norton	Sponsored by Riordan
9.00am - 9.20am	To 2035 and beyond: Shaping a sustainable Australian barley industry through market diversification Mary Raynes, Grains Australia	

9.20am - 9.40am	Malt, Feed, and Food: Insights into how shifting demand is redefining barley markets Sean Hickey, Bendigo Bank Agribusiness	
9.40am - 10.00am	The International Barley Hub – Towards sustainable barley production at a global scale Tim George, James Hutton Institute	
10.00am - 10.30am	Morning Tea	Sponsored by GrainCorp
10.30am - 11.20am	Session 2: Feeding Global Demand Chair: Mary Raynes	Sponsored by Riordan
10.30am - 10.45am	Feed Barley and its place in the world Luke O'Connor, GrainCorp	
10.45am - 11.00am	Barley strategies for the brewing industry in 2030 Jack King, Riordan Group	
11.00am - 11.05am	HB23150: Canada's first black-coloured hulless barley for food Ana Badea, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	
11.05am - 11.20am	Next generation grain quality varietal assessment: Automation, AI and real-time decision making Ivan Pasmam, ZoomAgri	
11.20am - 12.25pm	Session 3: Malting, Brewing and Distilling 1 Chair: Trevor Perryman	Sponsored by Malteurop
11.20am - 11.35am	From glass to paddock: How global beer trends are shaping malting — and what they mean for Australian barley Vincent Lauwerier, Malteurop Australia & New Zealand	
11.35am - 11.50am	Australian brewing trends, sustainability requirements, and actions Dave Engel, Asahi	
11.50am - 12.05pm	Australian whisky industry update Sam Slaney, Starward Distilling	
12.05pm - 12.20pm	Regen4real: A sustainability program for the malt barley supply chain Brooke Sauer, Boolah	
12.20pm - 1.20pm	Lunch and Poster Session	Sponsored by Secobra Recherches SAS
1.20pm - 2:35pm	Session 4: Malting, Brewing and Distilling 2 Chair: Doug Stewart	Sponsored by Malteurop
1.20pm - 1.50pm	KEYNOTE: Barley grain germination Christoph Dockter, Carlsberg Research Laboratory	
1.50pm - 2.05pm	When good enough isn't good enough: The case for raising Australia's malting barley quality Marcus Williams, Malteurop Australia & New Zealand	
2.05pm - 2.20pm	Identification of the molecular drivers of malting performance in <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> Bryan Hau, The University of Western Australia	
2.20pm - 2.35pm	Increasing efficiency of malting by creating a digital twin of malting Infrastructure: Through machine learning and high throughput molecular analysis Owen Duncan, The University of Western Australia	

2:35pm - 3:15pm	Panel Session - Barley’s place within soft commodity markets: should we be happy where it sits or does it need to Pivot? Facilitator: Mary Raynes Panel members: Luke O’Connor, GrainCorp; Jack King, Riordan; Vincent Lauwerier, MEA; Dave Engel, Asahi; Paul Telfer, AGT		
3.15pm - 3.45pm	Afternoon Tea		Sponsored by Seednet
3.45pm – 5.00pm	Session 5: Unlocking Crop Performance Chair: Blakely Paynter		Sponsored by AGT
3.45pm - 4.05pm	From research gaps to growth opportunities: shaping the future of Canadian barley agronomy through the GROW barley Hiroshi Kubota, Agriculture and Agri-Food		
4.05pm - 4.25pm	Optimising canopy photosynthesis in barley: identifying optimal allelic variants within the BEST-CROP project Paolo Pesaresi, University of Milan		
4.25pm - 4.40pm	Advancing barley yields: insights from hyper-yielding trials in Tasmanian spring sowing conditions Darcy Warren, FAR Australia		
4.40pm - 4.55pm	Setting profitable yield frontiers for barley: yield upside, risk and quality trade-offs Kenton Porker, CSIRO		
4.55pm - 5.00pm	Mitigating climate risk in barley in the Canadian prairies through ultra-early seeding Ana Badea, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada		
5.00pm - 6:15pm	ABTS Inc. Annual General Meeting		
7.00pm - 9.00pm	Networking Function Little Creatures - 221 Swanston St, Geelong VIC 3220 Bus boarding: 6:30pm, Bus departs Novotel at 6:45pm		Sponsored by Lion
Wednesday 19th August 2026			
8.00am – 5.00pm	Registration Open		Level 1, Pre-function foyer
8.30am - 10.08am	Session 6: Next Generation Breeding Tools 1 Chair: Mathew Lewsey		Sponsored by Agriculture Victoria
8.30am - 8.45am	The Australian Grains Genebank – Next-gen genebank management for a food secure future Sally Norton, Agriculture Victoria		
8.45am – 9.15am	KEYNOTE: From genebanks to breeding: unlocking barley’s genetic diversity with data, AI and digital tools Gabriel Keeble-Gagnère, Agriculture Victoria		
9.15am – 9.30am	FastStack to accelerate multi-disease resistance breeding in Australian barley: where are we now? Eric Dinglasan, Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation		
9.30am – 9.40am	Digital phenotyping of barley foliar disease resistance: Quantitative trait capture across germplasm and mapping populations Eden Tongson, La Trobe University		
9.40am – 9.50am	A digital micro-phenotyping pipeline for dissecting net blotch resistance in barley Linda Brain, La Trobe University		
9.50am – 10.05am	Whole genebank comparison between two of the largest international barley genebank collections Luisa Teasdale, Agriculture Victoria		

10.05am - 10.35am	Morning Tea	Sponsored by Boortmalt
10.35am - 12.35pm	Session 7: Developmental Biology Chair: Matt Tucker	Sponsored by RAGT
10.35am - 11.05am	KEYNOTE: Unravelling the genetic control of barley shoot architecture traits Laura Rossini, University of Milan	
11.05am - 11.25am	Facing forwards: developmental genetics of the epidermis in barley Sarah McKim, University of Dundee	
11.25am - 11.40am	How a unique grain retention mechanism evolved in cereals Kelly Rodgers, The University of Melbourne	
11.40am - 11.50am	The effect of barley head morphologies on wind-induced stalk failure Muhammad Faizan, Adelaide University	
11.50am - 12.05pm	Barley head loss: a farmer's problem and a breeder's challenge Nirmal Rajendran, University of Melbourne / InterGrain	
12.05pm - 12.20pm	Towards the grain filling pathway in barley Xiujuan Yang, University of Adelaide	
12.20pm - 12.35pm	Identification of a novel plant height QTL on chromosome 6H and its agronomic effects in field-grown spring barley Hien Minh (Jean) Vu, Adelaide University	
12.35pm - 1.30pm	Lunch	Sponsored by Coopers
1.30pm - 2.45pm	Session 8: Biotic Stress Tolerance – Net Blotch Focus Chair: Peter Dracatos	Sponsored by AGT
1.30pm – 1.45pm	Pathogenic variation of <i>Pyrenophora teres</i> f. <i>teres</i> in Australia between 2020 – 2024 Xuechen Zhang, Queensland Government	
1.45pm – 2.00pm	High-resolution mapping and pyramiding of resistance QTLs to achieve durable net form net blotch resistance in barley Xuan Hoan Dinh, Curtin University	
2.00pm – 2.10pm	Haplotype-based insights into the genetic architecture of net blotch resistance in barley Dan Liu, The University of Queensland	
2.10pm – 2.25pm	Isoform-level resolution of barley and <i>Pyrenophora teres</i> f. <i>teres</i> transcriptomic landscapes during net blotch Jade Davis, Curtin University	
2.25pm – 2.35pm	Genome-wide association mapping reveals isolate-specific resistance to Australian pathotypes of <i>Pyrenophora teres</i> f. <i>teres</i> in barley Waleed Khan, University of Southern Queensland	
2.35pm – 2.45pm	Host resistance eliminates fungicide reliance for managing net form net blotch in barley Aruni Udugama Vithanage, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action	
2.45pm – 2.50pm	Gold Sponsor Update Paul Telfer - Australian Grain Technologies	
2.50pm - 3.15pm	Afternoon Tea	Sponsored by Barrett Burston

3.15pm - 5.10pm	Session 9: Designing Adaptive Crops Chair: Tress Walmsley	Sponsored by InterGrain
3.15pm – 3.35pm	Adapting barley to extreme environments of Iceland Hrannar Smári Hilmarsson, Agricultural University of Iceland	
3.35pm – 3.50pm	Strigolactones are targets for crop improvement Phil Brewer, La Trobe University	
3.50pm – 4.10pm	Rise and fall: a new phenotyping tool to assess canopy traits in barley Francisco Pinera, The Australian National University	
4.10pm – 4.25pm	From gene to grain: turning research into commercial impact David Moody, InterGrain	
4.25pm – 4.40pm	Barley breeding has contributed to increased resilience across the supply chain - Past wins and future opportunities Paul Telfer, Australian Grain Technologies	
4.40pm – 4.55pm	CAIGE barley project - 12 years of international collaboration Mark Dieters, Mark Dieters Consulting	
4.55pm – 5.05pm	Barley breeding adaptation in global warming climate Dominique Vequaud, SECOBRA Recherches	
5.05pm – 5.15pm	Quantifying the contribution of genetics, climate, and agronomy to malting barley yield gains in South America Maximiliano Verocai, Universidad de la República, Uruguay	
5:15pm - 6:15pm	Poster Session	Sponsored by GRDC
	Free Evening	
Thursday 20th August 2026		
8.00am – 5.00pm	Registration Open	Level 1, Pre-function foyer
8.30am - 10.10am	Session 10: Biotic Stress Tolerance Chair: Laura Ziems	Sponsored by GRDC
8.30am – 9.00am	KEYNOTE: Recent advances in managing Ramularia leaf spot in barley: lessons from epidemiology and integrated strategies in South America Silvia Pereyra, National Institute for Agricultural Research	
9.00am – 9.15am	RUST-E: a pathology-informed deep learning expert for foliar disease resistance phenotyping Matthew Ulrich, La Trobe University	
9.15am – 9.30am	From genebanks to the field: discovery and validation of barley leaf rust resistance loci Shiva Azizinia, Agriculture Victoria	
9.30am -9.45am	Leaf rust and stripe rust of barley: new tools to combat ever-changing pathogens Robert Park, The University of Sydney	
9.45am – 10.00am	<i>Rpg1</i> and beyond: Advancing inherited stem rust resistance in Canadian barley Ana Badea, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	
10.00am – 10.10am	Smart protection: linking barley genetics to fungicide performance Varthini Govindaraju Punithan, Centre for Crop and Disease Management	

10.10am - 10.45am	Morning Tea	Sponsored by Lion
10.45am -12.05pm	Session 11: Abiotic Stress Tolerance Chair: Kenton Porker	Sponsored by RAGT
10.45am - 11.00am	Variation in HvHMA5 impacts copper transport, photosynthesis and yield Kelly Houston, The James Hutton Institute	
11.00am - 11.15am	Assessing the resilience of barley and malt to heat waves Roxana Savin, University of Lleida	
11.15am - 11.25am	The SnRK2–SLAC1 module regulates stomatal traits for drought tolerance in barley Zhong-Hua Chen, Adelaide University	
11.25am - 11.40am	Envirotyping and historical trends of abiotic stresses affecting barley productivity across Australia Bita Heidariask, The University of Queensland	
11.40am - 11.50am	Expanding the pre-harvest sprouting window in barley: genotype × environment × harvest timing interactions under South African conditions Sandra Hull, Stellenbosch University	
11.50am - 12.05pm	Do PPD-H1 alleles affect yield sensitivity to a pre-flowering heat wave? Gustavo Slafer, ICREA and University of Lleida	
12.05pm – 12.08pm	Silver Sponsor Update Richard Prusa, RAGT	
12.08pm - 1.05pm	Lunch and Poster Session	Sponsored by Boolah Pure Network
1.05pm - 2.28pm	Session 12: Decoding Crop Genomes Chair: Chengdao Li	Sponsored by InterGrain
1.05pm – 1.35pm	KEYNOTE: Expanding the genomic landscape of barley breeding using wild <i>Hordeum</i> spp. Jia-Wu Feng, IPK	
1.35pm – 1.55pm	Genetic basis of barley inflorescence architecture: structure of spikelet and floret Shun Sakuma, Tottori University	
1.55pm – 2.10pm	Connecting genebank genomics to the barley pan-genome with Brioche James O'Dwyer, Agriculture Victoria	
2.10pm – 2.25pm	OzBarley: a public genome-to-phenome resource for trait discovery Bettina Berger, Adelaide University	
2.25pm – 2.28pm	Silver Sponsor Update David Moody, InterGrain	
2.28pm - 3.00pm	Afternoon Tea	Sponsored by Asahi Group

3.00pm - 4.25pm	Session 13: Next Generation Breeding Tools 2 Chair: Mohammad Pourkheirandish	Sponsored by Agriculture Victoria
3.00pm – 3.30pm	KEYNOTE: Genome editing in <i>Triticeae</i> crops Jochen Kumlehn, IPK	
3.30pm – 3.50pm	Composition, function and host control of the barley microbiome Davide Bulgarelli, University of Dundee	
3.50pm – 4.05pm	Using novel imputation strategies to integrate barley genebank collections genotyped with different technologies Irene Van Den Berg, Agriculture Victoria	
4.05pm – 4.10pm	Use of gene-editing to introduce agronomically desirable traits in barley Benjamin Kurya, Adelaide University	
4.10pm – 4.25pm	A spatial transcriptome atlas of barley caryopsis development and germination Mathew Lewsey, La Trobe University	
4.30pm - 5.15pm	Panel Session 2: Pivoting to the Future – What do we need to do differently? Facilitator: Trevor Perryman Panel Members: Tyson Vivian, Grower/SEABAC; Matthew Tucker, University of Adelaide; Tress Walmsley, InterGrain; Kenton Porker, CSIRO; Jessica Hyles, GRDC; Doug Stewart, Coopers Brewery	
5.15pm - 5.30pm	Conference Close Sally Norton	
7.00pm - 11.00pm	Gala Dinner 1915 - PH2, 33 ackey St, North Geelong VIC 3215 Bus boarding: 6:30pm, Bus departs Novotel at 6:45pm	Sponsored by Asahi Group
Friday 21st August 2026		
9.00am - 1.00pm	Post-Conference Digital Tools Workshop Novotel Geelong	Sponsored by Agriculture Victoria