

## Vitality newsletter

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Water analysis – rapid results every time.

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Pick the secret location and win a bottle of Tasmania's finest

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In this issue of **Vitality**, AgVita proudly supports Australian vegetable growers at the 2013 AusVeg National Convention. As the winter chill sets in, conferences and events become common and AgVita are excited to be participating in two other national events in coming weeks – 'WineTech' the 15<sup>th</sup> Australian Wine Industry Technical Conference in Sydney as well as the 2013 Protected Cropping Annual Conference & trade show in Melbourne.

The focus through this newsletter is on water analysis, so see below for information on the types of tests available at AgVita - we proudly offer the best turn-around times in Australia.

Finally, don't forget our popular competition where you can win an excellent bottle of Tasmanian wine by identifying the location of the AgVita staff members in the photos taken on our recent travels. This editions location is easy to identify if you've been there.....

### **AgVita supports Australian vegetable industry at AusVeg National Convention:**

AgVita has just returned from the annual AusVeg National Convention and Trade Show. This year the event was held on the Gold Coast, and attendances were at a record high. A mix of informative presentations and networking events makes this event one not to be missed each year.

The National Awards for Excellence form an important part of this Convention each year. Congratulations to all winners and a special mention to one of our own, John McKenna, who was awarded the 2013 Environmental Award for his work over several years trialling (amongst other things) controlled traffic farming.

For all information on the 2013 Convention, see [here](#)

## **15<sup>th</sup> Australian Wine Industry Technical Conference:**

AgVita is pleased to be invited to participate in a workshop at this prestigious event in Sydney in mid July. The topic of the workshop is 'How to interpret soil health tests to improve vineyard performance' and will examine the use of regular soil tests alongside complimentary tests such as petiole, berry and juice analyses. Information on the Conference can be found here [here](#), and details of the associated Trade Show 'WineTech' are available [here](#)

The AWIT only happens every three years, and AgVita have recognised the importance of the grape industry (both wine and table) to our business. We have considerable experience in both petiole and berry analysis, as well as regular soil and water quality analyses. Coupled to a fast turn-around for results, NU-test analysis of grape petioles allows real-time nutrient monitoring of vineyards. Remember, by the time you observe visual symptoms of a nutrient deficiency, it can already be affecting yield and quality. By using timely and accurate petiole analysis, deficiencies can be avoided, achieving the best outcomes for growers.

## **Water Analysis:**

AgVita Analytical offer fast turn-around analysis of water from various sources – irrigation, hydroponics, spray water, waste water and now soil solution samples.

All standard water tests are reported within 24 hours of us receiving the sample, and tests are conducted every working day of the week rather than being batched and ran once or twice a week.

Our water tests analyse a full set of nutrients, indicators and components without extra costs for additional elements – coupled to the fast turn-around times we offer, Aqua-Sure provides the complete solution for your water monitoring needs.

Sample bottles can be sent to clients on demand, and information on sampling techniques and volumes required for analysis is available on our website.

A variety of reporting templates, most with published guidelines, are available for use – see the link to our website [here](#) to view these example reports.

## **Protected Cropping Australia Conference:**

AgVita are proud to be a Gold Sponsor of this event being held in Melbourne in late July. The quality of presentations at this event is outstanding and the trade show promises to provide delegates with a large array of exhibitors covering all facets of

hydroponic and protected cropping. A mix of Australian and international delegates highlights the importance of this event.

The format of the PCA Conference delivers something for every delegate, with technical presentations and four specific crop sector workshops planned in the first two days of the Conference, and a choice of three tailored farm tours focusing on various crop/management practices.

AgVita will be promoting our fast turn-around water analysis AQUA-SURE at the Convention – a powerful tool for all protected cropping enterprises.

For more information, please see the link to the conference website [here](#)

## **AgVita staff member in profile:**

In this and subsequent newsletters, we would like to feature an AgVita staff member – focusing on their interests outside the work they do in the Lab Monday to Friday.

We shine the spotlight in this edition of Vitality onto Dan McCarthy. Dan joined the AgVita team as a graduate of the University of Tasmania, in the role of Laboratory Technician at the start of 2012. Dan graduated from the University of Tasmania with an Honours Degree in Biotechnology. His Honours thesis focused on the molecular genetics of plants, and this knowledge will only benefit AgVita as we continue to investigate new methods of analysis.

Dan has just been promoted to the role of Laboratory Supervisor, where his impressive skills at optimizing work flow and solving day-to-day issues will be put to the test!

Dan's interests outside of AgVita include martial arts and gaming (an odd mix – hopefully he doesn't get the two confused and destroy the computer...). He is also developing a keen palate for wine, and the viticulture season sees him showing way too much interest in the terroir of the samples!

Sadly, Dan is not a keen golfer (unlike some at AgVita) although he has had a few social rounds, where the hilarious and now signature startling outcry of "Boom!" was heard whenever a good drive connected. His interest in the annual pilgrimage to Barnbougle in November is disappointingly low.



## **Name that Location (...or “where’s AgVita been now?”):**

AgVita staff members have clocked up the kilometres over the last year or two, travelling to meet existing and new clients in every state and Territory. We bring you round 4 of the “**where is AgVita?**” competition!!!

Up for grabs is another quality bottle of Tasmanian wine, and in each newsletter we’ll have a new location and a new prize. Get your entries in before **JULY 22<sup>nd</sup>** by email at [info@agvita.com.au](mailto:info@agvita.com.au)

The picture for this edition of **Vitality** newsletter is possibly not quite as tough as the last, but remember the quality of entries that won the prize last newsletter.... See if you can identify the location shown below.



The winner will be the best correct identification of the location (as per instructions below) and the staff member in the second picture here:



No clues this time, but funny or embarrassing stories linked to the location may sway the judges opinion.....!

The fine print.....

- Competition is open to all clients (one entry per client/branch)
- Entrants who inadvertently live in the town/vicinity of the location may not be considered for the prize (unless no other correct entries are received!)
- Entries close 7 days after receipt of the newsletter
- Winner will be notified by email at the end of the 7 days, prize will be posted out the following day. Winners details will appear on the AgVita website soon after.
- We probably need to keep it to over-18's, but that shouldn't be a problem
- If multiple correct entries are received, additional "weight" will be given to entries that describe humorous/odd/interesting/embarrassing event which took place at the location (caution, details may appear in the next newsletter!!)
- The judges' decision is final, but we can be quite easily bribed .....