

Vitality newsletter

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In this long overdue issue of **Vitality**, AgVita is proud to announce the long-awaited launch of our new and improved LIMS Database. This has been a significant project over the last 18 months and the new system allows us considerably more flexibility and improved reporting capability.

As part of this considerable investment of time and money in the new LIMS, we have rolled out new and improved reporting templates for all test groups. These reports are different from what clients are used to seeing, and there are a few tips to get the most from these reports – see inside.

AgVita has also had a few staff changes over the preceding few months in some key business areas – please read more below to hear what has changed at the Lab.

There will be no rest for our team as we will remain open and operating at full capacity right through the Christmas-New Year period. The only days the Lab will be closed are gazette public holidays and Friday January 2nd 2015.

Another exciting announcement from the Lab has been our investment in new analytical equipment – we have significantly increased capacity and improved quality for all tests with several recent key purchases.

AgVita has been on the road attending several national industry event over the last 6 months or so – from the regular AusVeg Conference in Cairns, Almond Conference in Adelaide and Hydroponic Farmers Conference on the Murray, to the biannual Cotton Conference and trade show on the Gold Coast and the prestigious 2014 International Horticultural Congress in Brisbane where over 3200 delegates spent a week hearing about an incredibly diverse range of current global research.

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 member(s) in the photos taken on our recent travels. This location is a bit out of the way....

AgVita launches new LIMS Database:

AgVita is excited to announce that we have successfully commissioned our new and improved LIMS. This change has been prompted by the strain on our existing system and desire to allow more flexibility for all analytical tests. While clients won't see much change apart from the new reports (see below) the improvements behind the scenes at AgVita have allowed us to improve scheduling, modify existing test components and compile cross-product information.

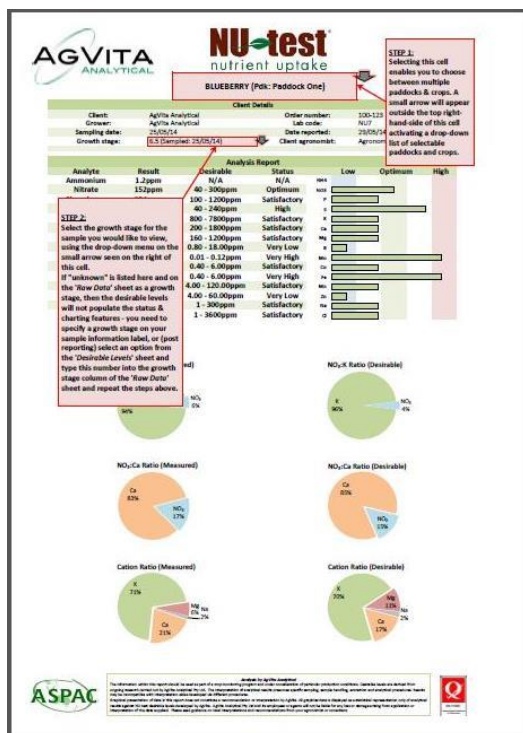
If you have any questions or concerns regarding our new system, please contact us through the normal channels.

AgVita's new reporting templates

As well as our new database, we have radically improved the type of reports we now issue to all clients. These new reports deliver analytical results loaded in to current report master templates, which is a big improvement from our previous system of reporting just raw data that needed to be loaded manually into client-managed templates. For NU-test, this means that the reporting template has the latest crop specific desirable levels every time. If any reviews of desirable levels are made to NU-test data, or improvements to the design of the reporting template implemented, these changes are immediately updated and any reports sent from that day carry the updates.

These new reports are quite different from our old system, and there have been several questions asked of us by clients unfamiliar with these new reports. To aid in the

implementation of these new reports, we have released some instructions (available on our website, and linked [here](#)). This document has several FAQ's and detailed instructions to help those unfamiliar with the new format.



iPads are causing some angst for users as our reports are often not fully compatible. We suggest running the Excel App (free, see link [here](#)) and anecdotally have heard that Office 365 is also preferred for full functionality. At this stage, the new reports are not compatible with iPhones, they can be viewed but with no scope to select between paddocks – an app will be developed at a later stage.

As always, the friendly AgVita staff are available to answer any questions you may have regarding these new reports.

AgVita staff changes:

There have been some key staff changes at AgVita recently.

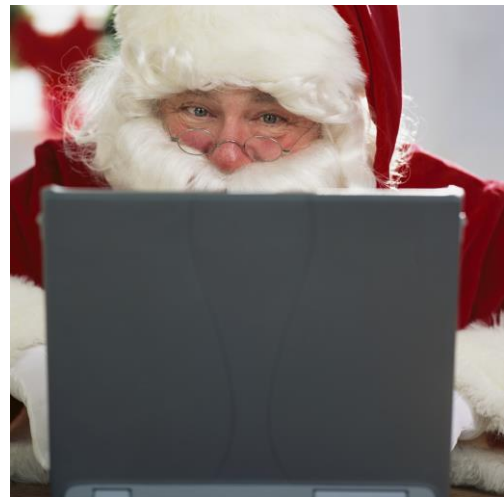
- We welcome to the role of LIMS/Data Officer, **John Lupus**. John is rapidly familiarizing himself with our new system and is the 'go-to' man for any queries regarding sample receipt through to reporting of all products. John comes to AgVita with a solid background in IT and customer service.
- **Derek Wiffen** has joined AgVita in the role of Lab Supervisor, to bring further experience to the analytical team. Derek has considerable experience managing analytical laboratories in several states of Australia.
- **Sam Briant** has assumed a more senior role in the Lab with the departure of Dan McCarthy (senior analyst).
- The analytical team has been further strengthened by the permanent move from sample prep to the Lab of both **Karlie Packett** and **Dean Durant**. Their positions have been more than adequately filled by AgVita newbies Alison and Ben.

Christmas trading hours:

AgVita Analytical will remain open for virtually all of the Christmas-New Year period at full capacity. We will be closed on gazette public holidays (25th, 26th December and 1st January 2105) as well as being closed on Friday 2nd January 2015.

Please be aware in the lead-up to Christmas that the post becomes a little less reliable and delivery times are occasionally longer than usual.

With appreciation for your business, we wish you and your loved ones warmest wishes for a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



Increased analytical capacity:

In our quest for continuous improvement, AgVita has recently completed the purchase of several key pieces of analytical equipment. This considerable expenditure has given us both increased capacity and increased redundancy for existing machines. We have also invested in an ultra-pure water purification system to further improve the quality of analyses.

Recent events:

Over the past 6 months or so, AgVita has attended several diverse national and international conferences and meetings, including:

- The 2014 AusVeg National Conference in Cairns, Qld where over 1000 delegates attended the conference and trade show.
- The Hydroponic Farmers Federation Biannual Conference, held in Mulwala on the Murray River this year, saw strong interest in AgVita's presence at the Trade Show.
- The Biannual Australian Cotton Conference was held in early August on the Gold Coast, showcasing a very strong industry with significant optimism (provided water storages are sufficient of course) for the coming season.
- A representative from AgVita was fortunate to be included in a large Horticulture Australia delegation attending the 2014 International Horticulture Congress held in Brisbane (this is only the second time the Congress has been held in the Southern Hemisphere). This week-long event showcased some incredible research aimed at every facet of horticulture and indeed agriculture in general. A grueling schedule of



presentations kept HAL delegates on their toes, with excellent teamwork and communication within the group helping with reporting each day. Over 3200 registered delegates enjoyed a Congress program that included 43 symposia covering a wide range of topics on all aspects of horticulture.

- The 2015 calendar year will commence for us in the same manner as 2014 has ended – very busy!. AgVita will be exhibiting at 3 GRDC Research Updates for Advisors throughout February 2015 in Adelaide, Wagga Wagga and Ballarat – please drop in to our booth and say hello if you're planning on attending.

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 6 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 Christmas** by email to info@agvita.com.au

The picture for this edition of **Vitality** newsletter shows that we can brave the heat.... see if you can identify the location shown in the picture (you know we love stopping at 'Big Things' for a picture!).

The winner will be the best correct identification of the location (as per instructions below). No clues this time, but any funny or embarrassing stories linked to the location may sway the judge's opinion....!

The fine print.....



- Competition is open to all clients and recipients of the Vitality newsletter.
- Entrants who inadvertently live in the town/vicinity of the location pictured 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. Winner's 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