

Macadamia Young Researchers Forum

Facilitator: Associate Professor Femi Akinsanmi, University of QLD

The Australian macadamia industry recognises the brilliance of early career researchers. They are catalysts for innovation to solve current and future production, marketing, postharvest and kernel quality challenges. A selection of early career researchers will provide new bite-size information addressing the impact of genetics, pollination services, genomics, pests and diseases on macadamia production. The fresh insights resulting from PhD studies of these young researchers from various universities are premium value that should not be missed.

Duration: 45 mins

	<p>Dr Rachele S. Wilson</p> <p>Title: Alternative forage for long term stingless bee hives in macadamia orchards.</p> <p>Rachele completed her PhD with Prof Hellen Wallace as a joint scholar at the University of the Sunshine Coast & Griffith University. A key highlight of the presentation is plants to support colony growth identified using pollen DNA metabarcoding.</p>
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	<p>Dr Anushika De Silva</p> <p>Title: Cross-pollination effects on macadamia nut size</p> <p>Anushika recently completed her PhD at Griffith University with Prof Stephen Trueman. A key highlight of the presentation is insights into effects of pollination and boron nutrition on macadamia yield and nut quality.</p>
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	<p>Ryan Newis</p> <p>Title: Stingless bees focus on hive repair and defence over pollen foraging after hive splitting</p> <p>Ryan is currently in the 3rd year of his PhD at Griffith University with Prof Hellen Wallace. Ryan is investigating how hive splitting affects the foraging behaviour of stingless bees and how long colonies take to recover after splitting.</p>
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	<p>Kirsten Ellis</p> <p>Title: Macadamia lace bugs</p> <p>Kirsten is a PhD scholar at Southern Cross University with Prof Terry Rose. A key highlight of the presentation is ecology of lace bug in macadamia.</p>
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	<p>Dr Zakeel Mohamed Casim</p> <p>Title: Genetic markers for resistant cultivar to abnormal vertical growth (AVG).</p> <p>Zakeel recently completed his PhD with Assoc. Prof Femi Akinsanmi at the University of Queensland. A key highlight of the presentation is the new genetic markers to detect and select for AVG resistance and the identity of the putative causal agent of AVG.</p>
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Vheena Mohankumar

Title: Botryosphaeria branch dieback in macadamia

Vheena is at the final stage of completing a PhD degree with Assoc. Prof Femi Akinsanmi at University of Queensland. A key highlight of the presentation is how soil moisture triggers Botryosphaeria dieback in macadamia.



Stephane Kern

Title: Incorporating stakeholder knowledge and preferences in multi-trait selection for macadamia

Stephane is a PhD scholar at the University of Queensland with Assoc. Prof Craig Hardner. A key highlight of the presentation is using choice analysis of growers' preferences to prioritize breeding traits in macadamia.



Jasmine Nunn

Advancements in husk spot resistance breeding

Jasmine is a PhD scholar at the University of Queensland with Prof Bruce Topp. A key highlight of the presentation is breeding for husk spot resistance: improving efficiency with genetic analysis.



Wei Hu

Title: Fatty acid profiling of diverse macadamia germplasm

Wei is a PhD scholar at the University of Queensland with Assoc Prof Tim O'Hare. A key highlight of the presentation is the oils in macadamia cultivars.



Priyanka Sharma

Title: Comparative macadamia genomics

Priyanka is a PhD scholar at the University of Queensland with Prof Robert Henry. A key highlight of the presentation is new insight into macadamia genomes.



Pragya Dhakal Poudel

Title: Towards high-density macadamia orchards

Pragya is a PhD scholar at the University of Queensland with Dr Mobashwer Alam. A key highlight of the presentation is new insights on the genetics and physiology of vigour control in macadamia.