

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Robotics in spotlight as high-tech Citrus Forum returns to Mildura

Adoption of new technology is essential for the growth of the local citrus industry and Australian packers and growers will be exposed to the latest technical innovation at the Citrus Technical 2017 Forum and Field Day next March.

Mildura will once again become the technical hub for the Australian citrus industry when it hosts the two-day event, to be held March 1-2. It is expected to attract around 350 citrus industry representatives.

The program will cover a broad range of topics covering technology improvements on farm and postharvest including the latest on R&D from Australia and around the world, including the use of robotics.

There will also be field visits to the Mildura Fruit Company, as well as to local orchards.

Keynote addresses will be given by two internationally renowned citrus specialists in Dr Tim Grout, manager of research at South Africa's Citrus Research International; and John Chavarria, general manager of Spanish consulting company, Nova Fruits.

Citrus Australia CEO, Judith Damiani, said the event will provide growers and packers with a glimpse into future technologies with practical applications and provide a platform for researchers to showcase their work.

"New technology is the lifeblood of any primary industry, and the citrus industry is no exception. Unless we continue to invest in better ways to grow, pack and market our products to the world, we will get left behind," she said.

"The format of the event will encourage growers to participate in a setting they feel comfortable in.

"It will also include displays of new equipment, products and services by commercial companies and provide a great opportunity to network."

The two-day event will take place at the Mildura Arts Centre in Mildura, Victoria. Attendees will include growers, packers, marketers, exporters, researchers, government representatives, commercial providers and Horticulture Innovation Australia.

Registration is now open. To register online through the Mildura Arts Centre website, please [click here](#). To download a PDF version of the registration form, please [click here](#).

For more information on the event, visit the Citrus Australia website [here](#).

**Ends**

*Citrus Australia Ltd is the national peak body for citrus growers. Citrus Australia represents the industry in policy and advocacy, biosecurity, market access, development and promotion, research, and communications. The citrus industry in Australia is worth \$550 million and represents the interests of around 1500 citrus growers. It is the largest fresh fruit exporter, with annual export earnings of around \$280 million. Go to [www.citrusaustralia.com.au](http://www.citrusaustralia.com.au)*

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