



# **TIAR Media Release**



TASMANIAN INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## **Hazelnuts a growing prospect for Tasmania**

An educational field day will be held in Hobart later this month for current and potential hazelnut growers to explore the expansion of the industry in Tasmania.

The Hazelnut Field Day on Sunday 17 February is a joint initiative of the University of Tasmania, Charles Sturt University, TIAR, the Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation (RIRDC) and Hazelnut Growers of Australia Inc.

It has been designed to update interested growers about recent research on suitable varieties, methods of production, marketing and the profitability of the crop.

The day is being coordinated by adjunct Senior Lecturer at Charles Sturt University, Basil Baldwin, whose 10 years of research on hazelnuts - funded by RIRDC - has shown that by using appropriate varieties and site selection, hazelnuts have the potential to grow as well in Australia as in other key production regions of the world.

“The field day will give people the opportunity to see our research and the varieties being evaluated with the current nut crop on the trees,” Mr Baldwin said.

The day includes a morning series of talks by researchers and growers, including Professor David McNeil, Chair of Agricultural Science at the University of Tasmania

and acting Director of TIAR, who has had experience with the hazelnut industry in New Zealand, and John Zito, a grower who value-adds to his hazelnuts and exports into the boutique US market. Mr Baldwin will also discuss the outcomes of the Tasmanian research.

The afternoon session includes an inspection of a commercial orchard and the research site.

Australia imports more than \$20 million worth of hazelnuts annually. Research indicates that there are opportunities for import substitution as well as the development of new value-added products for both the domestic and overseas markets.

- For more information, media interviews or to attend the Hazelnut Field Day, please contact Dr Sally Bound, TIAR, on (03) 6233 6857 or email [sally.bound@dpiw.tas.gov.au](mailto:sally.bound@dpiw.tas.gov.au)

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