

## ASF Seed Business 2019 Convention Report

*The ASF Seed Business 2019 Convention held from 20-22 August saw a strong attendance in having 7 exhibitors and 110 delegates with 59 companies represented. Delegates and Partners met at the Oaks Elan Darwin for two eventful days that included speaker sessions, networking, group meetings, social events and pre/post-convention agricultural and Northern Territory activities. It is the first time the ASF Convention has been held in Darwin where delegates could explore the Top End and learn about the industry in the Territory.*

The two-day ASF Seed Business event presented seed members the opportunity to discuss industry issues, debate hot topics and raise areas of mutual concern, as well as network and learn from each other.



Polesy Packaging & Textiles, Australia  
Tradefog Packaging, and AGCO Australia.

The 2019 program had a number of important speakers who presented on a variety of industry matters and updates allowing delegates to be informed and discuss issues within the industry.

### TUESDAY 20 AUGUST

The ASF and the NT Department of Primary Industry and Resources put together a pre-Convention Agriculture Field Day where delegates were able to learn about the aquaculture and horticulture in the Top End. Delegates visited Arnhem Produce - a mango farm followed by the Coastal Plains Research Farm, topped off with tasting some fresh watermelon at the Cormack Farm. A highlight of the day was the jumping crocodile cruise down the Adelaide River where delegates got up close and personal with some very large crocodiles who know how to jump!

Tuesday evening kicked off with the **ASF Welcome Reception** where delegates, partners and families were able to meet and mingle in a social setting at The O.A.K Bar and take in the lovely hot evening over some cold drinks and enjoy each other's company.

### WEDNESDAY 21 AUGUST

The Convention was officially opened by the **Hon Paul Kirky MLA**, NT Minister for Primary Industry and Resources who addressed delegates and spoke about the challenges the agriculture industry faces and the importance of the seed industry.

Speaker highlights of the program included Professor Ian Godwin from the University of Queensland who spoke about the next generation of GM crops and presented on Gene Editing 101. Delegates also got to hear from Dr Sally Norton who gave an interesting presentation on Armageddon is coming - Australia and the Svalbard Seed Vault. A good reminder to all seed companies came from Mick Keogh from the ACCC who spoke about the competition law and the seed industry.



Delegates were also welcomed by the opening of the Trade Show. This year's Trade show saw a sold out number of exhibitors including Colquhoun's (ASF Corporate Sponsor), DTS Seed Assurance (ASF Corporate Sponsor), AgEtal, Pope Packaging,

After lunch saw the 33rd Annual General Meeting where Osman Mewett, the new ASF General Manager gave his first address to the ASF membership. Michael Leader, ASF President also provided a report to the members with an update on the ASF strategies and initiatives aligned with the ASF Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

One of the main highlights of the ASF Convention is the Gala Dinner social event. Delegates ascended onto Pee Wee's at the Point where they were wined and dined taking in the views of Darwin and the NT's beautiful sunset. Delegates were welcomed by paying respect to the Larrakia Country followed by Mick Colliss who entertained the crowd with lots of laughter "Dreams can come true!".



## THURSDAY 22 AUGUST

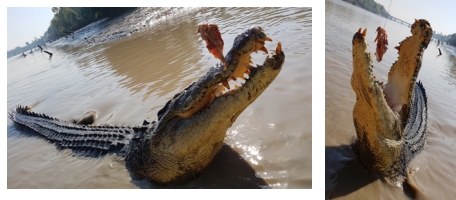
Thursday began with Arthur Cameron from the NT Department of Primary Industry and Resources providing an update on Pastures in the North followed by the Australian Seeds Authority Annual General Meeting.

The rest of the day saw ASF Group plenary sessions where delegates were informed of current issues and discussed policy. During the Horticulture Working Group meeting delegates there were plenty of presentations from expert speakers in the NT agriculture space.

The ASF Code of Practice Forum was held late afternoon where members discussed and voted upon changes and recommendations provided by the Code of Practice Administration committee. The day finished with delegates voting on two motions from the regions and saw the closing of the Trade Show.

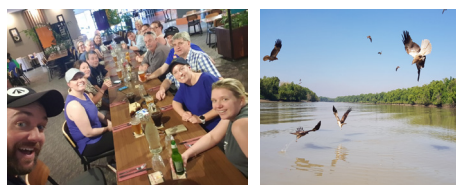
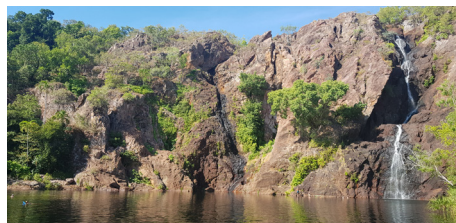
## FRIDAY 23 AUGUST

For those who stayed on, 20 delegates got to experience a Darwin and NT Adventure Tour of must see's and do's in the Top End. The tour group started the morning with an intimate jumping crocodile cruise down the Adelaide River and let's just say the crocs were quite close and certainly ready for a morning meal.



After the amazing crocodile experience and seeing the abundant bird life and flora and fauna the group stopped in at Window on the Wetlands Visitor Centre which is one of the highest points on the Adelaide River floodplain and where delegates took in the panoramic views of the beautiful and fragile wetlands of the NT.

The group then stopped in at the famous Humpty Doo Hotel and then onto the Tavern for a tasty lunch and then ended the day at Litchfield National Park where they saw the Termite Mounds, Wangi Water Falls and had a swim before relaxing and having a massage on the bus driving back to Darwin over some bumpy dirt roads.



We would like to thank all who attended the Convention. Thank you to all the Sponsors including AURORA - Delegate List Sponsor, BASF - Convention Handbook Sponsor, Seed Services Australia - Lanyard Sponsor and Colquhoun's - Guest Speaker Gift Satchel Sponsor.

It was great to see so many delegates, partners and families relax and take in the sights of NT.

**Alysha Lockley**  
Business Services Manager

ASF Gala Dinner 2019 - Pee Wee's at the Point, NT



Seed Business 2019 Convention Snaps



Osman Mewett,  
ASF General Manager



Michael Leader,  
ASF President

