

## **President's Report for Year Ended 31 July 2012**

The last year has been a successful year for ONZ. We have developed into a well run and efficient organisation that communicates well with its members, provides members with industry information, holds up-to-date membership data and has succeeded in achieving robust systems that can be maintained into the future.

Most of these gains can be attributed to the hard work, skill and many hours put in by our Executive Officer Gayle Sheridan. Gayle's appointment has brought significant benefits to members and to the executive.

Our conference in March 2012 was well attended and member feedback has been extremely positive. Presenters and exhibitors up-skilled members in current industry practice and tools to improve these. Thank you for your attendance and participation at this event.

As part of our ongoing education process we have already begun planning for another conference and field day in Auckland in March 2013. As with all industries members need to understand how to best achieve business goals, whatever they may be, despite restrictions and influences placed on them by the legislative, financial and natural environments. We see the conference and field day as being a suitable opportunity to assist members in achieving this.

2012 has seen a change in certification. The relocation of this procedure to Australia has prevented a loss in a year where numbers are down on our anticipated figures, due we believe, to a very difficult growing season and reduced volumes of oil. The financial benefits combined with 12 month availability for certification has provided significant benefits to members. We intend to review the certification process for 2013 to broaden the level of information relayed for individual oils.

We continue to improve the ONZ oil awards. This year we have included not only an international judge from Europe but also three judges from Australia as members of our judging panel. One of the Australian judges is a member of the Australian certification panel and the balance of the panel are New Zealanders. Using these two has provided continuity from last year's

competition. Our judges are unanimous in their support of our procedures and the transparency provided by our appointment of a professional facilitator.

To date ONZ has made significant investment in our awards. We continue to look at improving these. Unfortunately this year the awards have run at a loss due to a lower number of entries. We believe this is a direct result of the difficult growing season and the significant reduction in olive oil production that occurred as a consequence.

We are very appreciative of the ongoing support of GEA Westfalia. Their sponsorship and international contacts have given us access to last year's guests at our field day and this year's Head Judge.

Our Awards are seen at the most prestigious olive oil awards in New Zealand because all of the judges are trained to IOC standards and are internationally experienced. We also require that all oils entered into the competition are certified prior to entry. Higher cost – yes. However, without question we are judging Extra Virgin olive oils of the highest standard.

This year we have changes to the executive – in part due to the adoption of our new constitution and in part due to changes in personal circumstances. The Executive is now made up of regional chairs. Two of these positions have changed – Chris Moore is being replaced by Tony Millar for Canterbury and John Dunlop has replaced Roger Armstrong for Nelson. The positions held by David Walshaw and John Dunlop under the previous constitution have now been superseded by the new rules in the constitution. I would like to thank the retiring members of the executive for their contributions over their tenure. As an executive, I trust we will continue to work towards achieving significant benefits for members in 2013.

Andrew Taylor

President

29 September 2012