

Olives New Zealand
Synopsis Minutes of Executive Meeting
Thursday 21 April 2016
Teleconference 7.15pm – 8.30pm

1. Present

Andrew Taylor (President), Craig Leaf-Wright (Vice-President, Treasurer), Tricia Noble-Beasley, John Dunlop, Bob Marshall, Gayle Sheridan

2. Apologies

Niall Holland, John Dunlop (for lateness)

3. Financial Report

Craig spoke to the financial report which had been circulated. He noted that the majority of membership income had been received but there would be some ongoing income as new members joined during the year. The Processing Practices course had returned a conservative surplus. Craig said that while funds in the bank looked healthy the Executive needed to be aware that some \$25,000 related to the Focus Grove contributions.

The issue of membership categories and fees had been discussed in depth at the AGM and there was a commitment given to come back to the membership with some options or a proposal. There had also been a suggestion of funding for specific projects. The underlying message had been that larger groves should be paying more and the possibility of losing members needed to be allowed for if membership fees were increased.

The message had been that overall income should be increased by reviewing membership categories rather than just re-arranging the current fees paid.

There is potential to add another level of membership because currently Hobby Gove was less than 100 trees, Small Grove was 101 to less than 250 and Full Member was anything above 250. The spread of grove size based on the 2014 Grove Census was:

Less than 100 trees	9
101 – 500 trees	57
500 – 1,000 trees	80
1,001 – 2,000	41
2,001 – 5,000	17
More than 5,000	6.

It was suggested having Hobby Groves remain at less than 100 and then introducing 3 levels within the Full Member category of Small, Medium and Large.

The Constitution allows the Executive to set levels and fees for membership (*Clause 7.1 ... different classes or categories of members as determined by the Executive Committee.*)

There was substantial discussion around the suggestion with the overall feeling being that this was the best approach. However, scenarios were needed on fee increase options and taking into account the potential loss of some inactive members who might not accept a fee increase.

Craig will model some scenarios of introducing a new tier of membership (suggested 2,000 trees) with a higher fee than the current Full Member and also introducing modest increases (e.g. 5%) to the other tiers over subsequent years.

4. Executive Officer Report

Gayle spoke to her report which had been circulated.

Membership

Total financial membership is now 178.

Focus Grove Project

MPI has advised that the Focus Grove Project has been successful in receiving funding under the Sustainable Farming Fund. The amount requested was \$35,660. The next steps are to provide a more detailed Action Plan and other administrative requirements.

Pledges from members totalled approximately \$60,000 and the advance/additional funds already received had supported the preliminary visits and field days at the end of 2015. The additional funding would also mean that additional field days could be run outside the scope of the project, for example in Auckland/Northland.

Japan Export Pilot

One signed letter has been received but there are another at least two known to be coming. It would be ideal to have as many growing regions represented as possible.

There has already been interest from Japanese importers so the development of the brochure with pictures of the gift box and details of the oils included needed to be a priority for development as soon as possible in May.

A Japanese importer was due to visit Hawke's Bay in May and would be taken around several groves by the Executive Officer.

Processing Practices Seminar

Very good feedback had been received from participants and Pablo. The two day format had worked really well.

2016 Certification

The Certification documentation has been updated for 2016 and the documentation will be distributed to members and loaded to the website.

2016 Conference

Date and venue are confirmed and the programme of speakers is in progress. Details have been advised to members via the newsletter.

2016 EVOO Awards

Dates, venue and judging panel have been confirmed.

5. General Business

Branch Updates

Bob – Hawke's Bay has just had a Field Day at the Bate's grove looking at their coppiced trees and pruning plan. There was a good attendance of about 25 and was followed by a Branch meeting and social activity. There is a new secretary in place who is looking to be very efficient.

The next event planned will be a workshop on table olives at Telegraph Hill and there would be an invitation for Olives NZ members outside of Hawke's Bay to attend.

Craig – Wairarapa has two events coming up. The first was a workshop on the new Health and Safety Act and the liabilities especially with using contractors. The second was a tasting seminar with Rachel Priestley.

There had been an unexpected frost in the region with fruit ripening about 2 weeks behind 'normal'.

Tricia – Kapiti had a branch meeting and had appointed a new secretary. There was substantial discussion around the financial position of Olives NZ and the 2015 deficit. Post-harvest activities include a tasting seminar and field day. The branch noted the opportunity for attendance at field days associated with the Focus Grove Project.

John – Nelson also had a branch meeting and have a new committee member. Recent activities included a tasting seminar with Rachel Costello and consideration of proposals received from NMIT students for a regional website.

Niall had advised on Canterbury as follows.

Good progress is being made on securing pressing services though there are still some hurdles to cross. It has been very encouraging to have people so willing to work together to achieve this. Most people report excellent crops so far this year but there have already been frosts in some areas. Both the summer and autumn have been quite warm promising good oil quantity and quality so long as frosts do not intervene.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 8.30pm.

2016 Meeting Dates

16 June

18 August

14 October (James Cook Hotel, Wellington starting at 5.30pm)

17 November