

Olives New Zealand  
Executive Meeting  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017  
Teleconference  
7.10pm - 8.15pm

**1. Present**

Craig Leaf-Wright (Vice President, Treasurer), John Dunlop, Tricia Noble-Beasley, Niall Holland, Gayle Sheridan

In Andrew's absence Craig welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Apologies**

Andrew Taylor, Bob Marshall

**3. Financial Report**

Craig spoke to the October financial reports which had been circulated. Timely to reflect on the financial year to date, the Profit and Loss Report shows only a \$2,000 difference from budget which was excellent given that year was down in relation to Certifications and the Awards. With only two months to go to the end of the financial year there is nothing untoward to come. The major expense will be the Executive Officer remuneration which has been accounted for.

The Balance Sheet shows a reduction in funds as expected but still with a healthy balance. Project Funding shows a mismatch between expenses incurred and income due.

Craig spoke to the 2018 draft Budget which had been circulated. A similar outcome to 2017 has been budgeted for 2018, with a conservative increase in Certification and the Awards. Craig said it was disappointing not to allow provision for promotion but members seemed reluctant to accept any increase in membership fees. John commented that the best way to get this funding would be via a levy but members had also previously rejected this. Craig said he would raise this opportunity at the AGM. He noted members were appreciative of the great service and functions run by Olives NZ but seemed resistant to paying more for any additional activities.

It was commented that some people participate in free activities, for example the Focus Grove Field Days, but don't contribute towards these. Those members that do contribute carry those that don't.

It was also noted said some members focus on what they can get out of the organisation rather than what they can put in. Others, like the Executive and Focus Grove owners, make a significant contribution.

The draft 2018 Budget was approved.

**4. Executive Officer Report**

Gayle spoke to her report which had been circulated.

### Focus Grove Project

Three reports and the Pruning Fact Sheet were due for completion with associated funding from SFF. These should be completed in November. The Mid Project Review template had not been finalised by MPI and that was overdue. Information on a project extension is to be provided by the new SFF advisor. This will probably only extend the project for six months.

After discussions with Stuart Tustin a new project to achieve “the next 5kg” had been suggested. The timetable was usually that new applications opened around July/August with results announced around the middle of the following year. This suggestion was supported by the Executive. It was noted that this would require co-funding by Olives NZ members.

### 2017 Awards

There had been an excellent spread of the Awards post on Facebook and there had been good articles in the media, especially in the Wairarapa

Given the increase in costs for the Awards Dinner Gayle suggested that in future guests pay for their own beverages.

### Export Enquiries

The package of Gold oils had been received in Japan and now awaiting feedback on which the retailer might be interested in importing.

The enquiry from China had been deferred and another bulk enquiry had been received from Japan for 800-1600kg of EVOO for shipping in February 2018.

### Food Safety Act

Colin Hadley is to make some suggestions for the draft submission to MPI and this should be completed and submitted in November. However some members are already being asked for their NP registration by Farmers Markets and some specialist retailers.

Members need to be encouraged to move sooner rather than later on their documentation to avoid a bottleneck with evaluators. If their applications are not approved prior to harvest 2018 there could be an issue with selling oil if the process was not retrospective.

Businesses operating under National Programmes will transition to the new requirements between 1 July 2018 and 28 February 2019. People should apply by 30 November 2018 (at the very latest) to register their National Programme business. However they must check with their District Council on their timeframe.

Gayle asked the Regional Chairs if there was interest in their region to run workshops on completing the Olives NZ NP template(s) using Food and Health Standards. Craig said that he thought there would be good support in the Wairarapa as a similar course had been well attended in the past. John said he thought Assure Quality would be able to run a course in Nelson at a cheaper cost. Niall said there should be sufficient support in Canterbury for a workshop.

### 2017 Harvest Census

Gayle advised that 60% of groves had provided their 2017 harvest data and about 40% of these had been “no harvest”. None of the super groves have returned their census forms despite personal approaches and this was very disappointing.

### 2018 Conference and Awards Dinner

Gayle has yet to hear from the James Cook Hotel their room rates for October 2018 given that WOW has extended out into the preferred weekend for the Conference and Awards Dinner.

Craig suggested looking at the Masterton Copthorne as an alternative given that more than half the attendees were from the region plus there would be good potential for grove visits. Niall said if Masterton was considered then travel from Wellington airport needed to be arranged.

### 2018 AGM

There was discussion around putting together a weekend in Napier around the AGM in March. Friday afternoon could be a Field Day at Aquiferra (arguably the best olive grove in the country!), Saturday morning would be the AGM followed by a coach trip out to Mohaka to visit the second largest grove in New Zealand which was also following the Focus Grove principles. Coach and a packed lunch would cost about \$50pp. Saturday evening there could be a dinner with a presentation on marketing options for NZ EVOO. Probably looking at \$70pp for dinner plus drinks. On Sunday the attendees could enjoy their day in Hawke's Bay including a visit to the Farmers Market at Hastings. This would be on the weekend of Friday 24<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March. The other Field Days could be held prior to that, probably with Nelson on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>, Canterbury on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> and Wairarapa in the intervening week.

## **5. 2017 Executive Priorities**

Productivity – Focus Grove Project

Processing – still only 5 EOIs so looking unlikely to run

Marketing – Merchandise, Facebook (see Executive Officer Report)

2018 AGM – Executive positions to be advised in the newsletter

## **6. General Business**

### Branch Updates

#### Wairarapa

The field Day had been well attended with more than 30 people and the attendance of the two Italian judges well received.

Craig said Leafyridge has good looking bud development ahead of flowering. He noted the advice at the Focus Grove Field Days of adding Difference to the Manzate spray immediately on flowering and then weekly spraying with Manzate for the next three weeks. He asked for clarification if this was 500ml per 2,000l?

Niall noted this was the most significant development so far in the Focus Grove Project.

Craig said the key point of the Focus Grove Project is to identify best practice through the project and then to publish the findings and results.

#### Kapiti

Tricia said the poor showing of Kapiti at the Wairarapa Field Day was because 7 grove owners were overseas at that time but the Kapiti lunch and tasting session with the two Italian judges were well received.

Tricia said there had been a number of questions about the Food Safety requirements and she appreciated being able to advise the local groves accordingly. Tricia said that conflicting

advice had been given by the Kapiti council at markets and there had been quite a furore on Facebook groups with the public questioning the appropriateness of the process for Farmers Market stall holders. Niall agreed that the requirement is excessive but the bottom line is that people must comply to continue operating. Tricia said it was a shame that MPI did not apply the same principles to imported food items.

Tricia said Kapiti has decided not to have a Christmas function as people are too busy with other things. The next major activity will be the Branch AGM. Craig noted this was the same situation with Wairarapa.

#### Nelson

John said the Field Day and the visit by the two Judges had gone very well. There had been significant discussion on flowering. He said that flowering was notably much better on the Focus Grove block which had been well pruned. He said without this pruning the spraying would have been affected. The dinner with the judges had been particularly successful with attendees really impressed with their tasting palates.

John said Nelson may also not have a Christmas party.  
He also advised that Kakariki Olive Grove had been put on the market.

#### Canterbury

Niall said budding was looking to result in a heavy flowering in Waipara and Banks Peninsula. He said the Field Day followed by the workshop with the judges had been very successful and the latter doubled the value of the Field Day.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 8.15pm.

#### **Reminder:**

**Branch Financial Years end on 31 December and their AGMs need to be held within 60 days thereafter.**

### **NEXT MEETING – 15 February 2018**

#### **2018 Meeting Dates**

February 15<sup>th</sup>

March 24<sup>th</sup> (AGM)

April 19<sup>th</sup>

June 21<sup>st</sup>

August 16<sup>th</sup>

October 12<sup>th</sup> (Conference weekend)

November 15<sup>th</sup>