

Olives New Zealand  
Minutes of Executive Meeting  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019  
Teleconference  
7.06pm – 8.54pm

**1. Present**

Craig Leaf-Wright (President), Tricia Noble-Beasley (Vice President), John Dunlop, Andrew Priddle, Bob Marshall, John Dunlop, Niall Holland, Gayle Sheridan

**2. Apologies**

Charles Chinnaiyah

**3. Financial**

The draft 2018 Performance Report had been received from the auditors and circulated. The out-turn for the year had been a surplus of \$18,801.63. The report had been prepared using Xero so appeared slightly different from previous years. The report was approved and when the final version is received, this can be distributed to members.

**4. Executive Officer Report**

Gayle spoke to her report which had been circulated.

Membership

Financial membership is 192 compared with 196 in February 2018. There have been 23 resignations received, some because they have sold their groves, some because they have decided not to continue harvesting because of the National Programme registration requirements.

There are 32 memberships unpaid; 14 Full Members, 8 Small Groves, 8 Hobby Groves and 2 Associate Members.

Both the resignations and slow payers happens every year.

Harvesting 2019

Village Press has advised they have a harvester ordered from Spain which may be available to growers who process with them. Similarly TOP has advised they will have a harvester available. Growers in Central Otago are looking to buy a machine from Australia. However it still appears that there could still be a shortage of mechanical harvesting capacity in the North Island.

Focus Grove Project

The dates for the March Field Days were being promoted and it was hoped for a good attendance, given this was the last round for the project. Vera Sergeeva would come over from Australia for all but Hawke's Bay.

The absence of Manzate in the residue testing carried out byASUREQuality was pleasing.

The new project application had focussed on the change in demands with increased production, namely nutrition and canopy management, as well as the Anthracnose problem. The feedback from MPI on the unsuccessful project was that clear definition was required on the problem, the outcome, sharing and the change anticipated. The application had scored well on ability to deliver, community interest, risk identification and mitigation, adoption/dissemination, and value for money. It had not scored so well on contribution to sustainability, significance of the problem and innovation.

The project cost of \$106,800 was not seen as huge and the MPI Advisor had suggested looking at the Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures. This would be under the Grants Programme because of the proposed three year duration and would be subject to approval by an external panel process. However, MPI would only fund up to 40% of the project which would require Olives NZ to obtain \$64,080 from members.

It was agreed that Gayle should progress with checking out a new application under the Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures and if that was successful then the Executive would need to decide on how this would be co-funded. The new project would also include the potential for inclusion of groves with a more organic approach for comparative purposes.

#### Feedback from Esteban Santipolio

It was agreed that the feedback from Esteban was not specific and therefore no action was required.

#### 2019 AGM

Arrangements were in hand.

#### 2019 Certification

Gayle overviewed the background of the Olives NZ certification program and the options available for 2019. It was noted that DPI were working on addressing their capability and were optimistic that they would regain IOC accreditation for 2020. The Oil Testing Service was still accredited by the National Association of Testing Authorities (Australia) to IOC standard, as well as the American Oil Chemists Society.

The option of using an IOC panel in California for sensory and continue with the Oil Testing Service for chemical would require members to submit three bottles for certification plus there would be additional cost of \$117.50 per sample. There were also timing considerations and there would be changes required to the database system and other documentation.

After considering the options, the Executive agreed that the Oil Testing Service should continue to be used in 2019.

#### 2019 NZ EVOO Awards

It was anticipated that a recommendation could be made to the April meeting of the 2019 judging panel. At this stage Dr Augusti Romero from Spain had confirmed his availability as Head Judge.

Damian O'Connor's office had advised that the Awards Dinner could not be held at Parliament on a Saturday evening and had agreed to the Friday night. This could be an issue for those who had other business interests as they would need to travel on the Friday afternoon. The proposed tight timing would either need to be managed via shortening the presentations or extended the duration.

Branch Chairs were asked to canvas members at forthcoming AGMs if having the Awards Dinner on Friday night, if held at Parliament, would be an issue or whether they would prefer this to be on the Saturday night at a hotel.

New arrangements for the Head Judge excursion were needed which would involve more involvement by the Branch Chairs. Gayle to work with Andrew on a programme.

#### **Marketing**

Merchandise sales had been down by about one third in 2018 compared with 2017 and there was a good supply of stock.

It was noted that there was not much support for continuing with the marketing recommendations so this project would not be progressed.

### **Visit to NZ by EU Commissioner**

The visit by the delegation had gone very well and good contacts made. There had been two main areas of discussion. First was membership of the IOC and there were obvious benefits to this. It would be contingent on MPI funding and there was support for this. Second was 'geographic indications' where the EU people recognised the OliveMark as being an ideal way to protect NZ EVOO. Gayle would attend a seminar at MFAT next week to find out more.

### **Sponsorship**

Gayle said she was in discussion with several companies about potential to become sponsors, although these would be at the entry level.

## **5. 2019 Executive Priorities**

Productivity – see Executive Officer Report

Processing – Seminar 2020

Marketing – see Executive Officer Report

## **6. General Business**

### Sustainable Olive Oil and Olive Products

The Executive noted the paper from David Walshaw and the advice from Horticulture New Zealand that such a programme was already covered by NZGAP. It was agreed that any interested olive grower could use that existing programme.

### Branch Updates

Hawke's Bay – Bob said it has been an interesting summer with more than usual rain but also very hot. Where normally things go brown in December this is only just starting now but with rain predicted. The rain and temperatures have contributed to very good growing conditions.

The Branch AGM is on Friday but there has been a disappointing response. There are two key positions standing down – Branch Chair and Treasurer. Craig said he was sorry to see that Bob was not staying on as Branch Chair because he has made such a valuable contribution over his time in the role. Craig said when he became involved Marlborough had been the centre of the industry but this had changed over time to Hawke's Bay being a key region.

Bob said that this year would normally be the 'off-year' but those that had been spraying have reasonable crops while the others have a smaller crop.

Wairarapa – Andrew said some groves have good fruit set while others have scarce fruit. Craig said hearsay was that some Wairarapa crops were not looking good, especially Barnea. Andrew noted that those with good crops had been following the Focus Grove recommendations. Some trees had a good crop but the fruit was small. He said there has been huge growth in trees but the lack of rain and the heat was seeing stressed trees. There has been some rain tonight and more predicted over the weekend.

Andrew said the Branch AGM is on Sunday and it was looking like there will be a reasonable attendance.

Kapiti – Tricia said crops were variable; some very good but several rather light. In Tricia's own grove the crop is generally looking very good except for some heavily pruned trees.

The Branch AGM was this Sunday and the region had lost a few members with groves being sold. The Executive Officer will attend as a guest. The Branch has set their programme for the forthcoming year with a tasting/long lunch after harvest and a field day at Kapiti Olives in October.

Canterbury – Niall said the Branch AGM would be on Tuesday and will provide an opportunity for a region update. In Banks Peninsula and Waipara the crops were not looking particularly good because of the weather. Trees were looking stressed and people were looking forward to the predicted rain.

The McKenzie's have sold their property but have retained their share in the press and the harvester. The press lost its operator and is looking for a new one. The press has been all cleaned up and is ready to go.

Nelson – John said it has been a quiet year for the branch. Kakariki has heavy flowering. Using Protek saw little improvement with Frantoio but noticeable with Minerva and Leccino. The region certainly needs the predicted rain. At least three olive groves were evacuated with the fires and one has reported substantial damage to trees.

The Branch AGM is on Friday.

There being no further business Craig thanked all for their participation and declared the meeting closed at 8.54pm.

New Members:

Marie Dolman, Hawke's Bay  
Bryan and Vivien Christie, Kapiti

Re-joined

John McNaught, Waikato  
Robert Macey, Waikato

**2019 Meeting Dates**

21 February  
23 March (AGM)  
17 April (Wednesday)  
20 June  
15 August  
October ??? (Awards Dinner weekend)  
21 November