

Olives New Zealand  
Executive Meeting Minutes Synopsis  
Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2020  
ZOOM Conference Meeting  
7pm – 8.10pm

**1. Present**

Craig Leaf-Wright (President), Tricia Noble-Beasley (Vice President), Charles Chinnaiyah (Treasurer), Geoff Crawford, Niall Holland, Ray Gregory, Andrew Priddle, Gayle Sheridan

Craig welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Financial**

Charles spoke to the Financial Statements which had been circulated. There was nothing untoward to report. He noted that Awards income will come up over the next month as entries are received. Certification costs is under budget because invoices have not been received from DPI. A new Term Deposit was set up in July of \$30,000

Charles noted that budgets had been drafted with break-even points as follows:

Awards - 75 entries

Conference – 50 registrations

Awards Dinner – 65 registrations.

**3. Executive Officer Report**

Gayle spoke to her report which had been circulated along with attachments relating to the Awards marketing proposal and remote judging recommendation.

This workload at this time of year is demanding and will get worse before it gets better. Lots of different balls to be juggled with Certification, Awards, Awards Dinner, Conference, Focus Grove Field Days and Harvest Census.

Membership

There are two new memberships - Jeffery Miller, Wairarapa and James and Shelley Gething, Kapiti.

Focus Grove Project

Dates have been set for the Field Days in October. Gayle will not be able to attend any because of Awards administration so Branch Chairs will need to take notes and photos for the Field Day Report please. Ray will pick up Stuart in Nelson and Niall will pick him up in Christchurch.

Flights have been booked for Nelson and Christchurch but not Auckland because Air NZ is showing a restricted service at present. Stuart has suggested he fly into Auckland and on to Whangarei and drive to Mangawhai from there to avoid any ongoing travel restrictions in Auckland. That would work. Craig will attend this Field Day on behalf of the Executive.

Marketing

The marketing proposal for the Awards had been circulated with a total cost of \$3,372 plus GST. The proposal should get better media attention and profile raising than traditional efforts. Charles has spoken with Mike and Jacinda about KPIs and they are working on these.

**The marketing proposal was approved.**

### AGM – Table Olives

Members had been canvassed as to support for adding table olives to the Awards. Only three members were interested so this is not viable at this point.

### Certification 2020

Total samples received to date is 185 with results back for 118. DPI has provided a testing schedule for the balance of the 177 already received which shows all results for these should be received back by 3 September. The last 8 submitted have yet to be received. Entries can be submitted without receipt of results but cannot be processed until results are received.

While the number of submissions is looking very good, the total volume of oil represented is quite low.

### Harvest Census

Some 53 members have responded to the census request and this will be chased up.

### 2020 Awards

The paper on remote judging refers. Judging of the Awards in Auckland could be jeopardised because of COVID-19 travel restrictions. Given the volatile situation it was recommended that the decision was made now to judge remotely to enable appropriate arrangements and to advise members prior to them entering.

**It was agreed that remote judging be implemented for 2020 and members be advised accordingly.**

There would be cost savings with remote judging in no accommodation/meals for the judges and no venue hire but there would be some other costs with consumables required. The cost savings should be passed back to entrants but the amount would not be known until after entries closed. This could be managed by issuing credit notes to be used against future transactions.

**It was agreed that members be advised that a refund of any substantial cost savings with the Awards would be returned to entrants once the amount was known.**

### Conference 2020

Being mindful of COVID-19 Conference seating needs to ensure some distancing. This would change the seating capacity from 80 to probably 54. Members would be advised that there was a cap on numbers for Conference (and the Awards Dinner) and it would be first in first booked.

Tricia volunteered to do the registration desk for Conference, thank you.

### Pioneer Award

The Executive accepted a recommendation for a Pioneer Award, to be presented at the Awards Dinner.

### Export Enquiries

Following on from the NYIOOC marketing campaign there had been two export enquiries. The first was from a person who exports other New Zealand luxury food items to Vietnam. He had been provided with samples to send to his contacts but ongoing COVID-19 has seen this stall at present. The second enquiry was a person in the UK wanting to set up as a supplier of 'New world' olive oil. He had made contact with several NZ producers and had skype calls booked to advance this.

## **2020 Executive Priorities**

Productivity – see Executive Officer Report

Processing – the proposed 2021 Course would only proceed if Pablo was able to travel to New Zealand.

Marketing – see Executive Officer Report

## **4. General Business**

### Branch Updates

#### Wairarapa

Andrew said that the first branch activity post -harvest would be the Field Day.

Harvest as mentioned earlier has been patchy across the region. The slow ripening of fruit had been a major issue resulting in fruit not coming off. He noted that some varieties were more susceptible to frost but that green fruit did not seem to be as affected.

Craig commented that they had brought an ATRAX rake harvester and went through the grove after the main machine harvest and did trees which had a good amount of fruit remaining. Typically the Frantoio had continued to ripen and grown in size into August. The birds did not take as much of this fruit as usual and the frost did not particularly impact. Craig said they were pleasantly surprised at the quality of the olives recovered and the oil produced. He said with the Koroneiki they were able to recover another 15-20kg after the machine harvester. He said this experience demonstrated the value of using mechanical rakes.

Charles asked about the oil yield with the second harvest and Craig said this had been between 14 and 18%. Charles said he had seen Picual affected by frost but less so with Leccino.

#### Kapiti

Tricia said it was great to have another new member although that grove had been members in the past.

The branch has had a meeting and an activity planned for Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August. This will be at Waikawa Glen Grove and will start with a tasting of new season's oil followed by a shared lunch and then a grove walk and talk. Waikawa Glen was working towards organic registration.

Tricia said harvest across the region had been variable with some groves having an excellent harvest and others poor. Several groves had not bothered to harvest and the commercial grove was substantially down on 2019.

#### Canterbury

Niall said there is little branch activity at present.

It had been a poor season typically for most of Canterbury except for Terrace Edge and the Banks Peninsula groves. The former Bel-Hamed grove had been contracted by the McKenzie's but had been limited on the spraying permitted. This adversely impacted on the crop.

#### Nelson

Ray said the branch had a post-harvest dinner with 22 people attending.

Generally harvest had been down and there had been problems getting fruit off trees. They had tried to follow up the mechanical harvester with branch shakers but this proved too labour intensive.

Ray said most groves were well underway with pruning.  
The market closures impacted sales but retail and restaurants had picked up.

#### Hawke's Bay

Geoff said there has been little branch activity but the monthly tasting sessions continued to be offered with disappointing attendances.

Village Press had continued to process into mid-August and word was that Mohaka had an excellent harvest.

Geoff said he wished to record his thanks to Gayle for all the work she did for members.  
The next major branch activity will be the Field Day.

#### Other

Craig asked if there was anything the Executive could do to help Gayle further. Gayle said apart from the Focus Grove Conference Presentation which needed to be drafted for Stuart, there were three Fact Sheets that needed to be drafted for issue in March 2021. These were Nutritional Management, Canopy Management Update and Disease Management Update (with emphasis on Anthracnose). Offers to draft these would be appreciated!!

Craig said on relation to Fact Sheets there needed to be communication about the application of Copper. He had noted that the application of Copper in 2019 after harvest had resulted in the tips of leaves turning brown. On discussion with Gary Burlace of Horticulture he said that this could be caused by a subsequent frost. Craig had checked and this was the case. Craig said that members needed to be advised to check the weather forecast and not to apply Copper if frost was predicted over the next few days.

Tricia said they had an issue in getting advice on how to address deficiencies identified with soil tests. Charles said he had a good contact which he would pass on to Tricia.

There being no further business the meeting was declared close at 8.10pm and Craig thanked all for their participation.

#### **2020 Meeting and Other Key Dates**

October 10<sup>th</sup> – Conference, Awards Dinner

November 19<sup>th</sup> – Executive Meeting