

Olives New Zealand  
Executive Meeting Minutes Synopsis  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2021  
ZOOM Meeting  
7.05 pm – 8pm

**1. Present**

Craig Leaf-Wright (President), Tricia Noble-Beasley (Vice President), Charles Chinnaiyah (Treasurer), Geoff Crawford, Ray Gregory, Alan Blakemore, Gayle Sheridan

**2. Apologies**

Andrew Priddle

**3. Financial**

Charles spoke to the Financial Reports which had been circulated.

Budget Variance Report – some of the variances are due to timing, for example Certification Income and Expenditure and Awards income.

Sponsorship is under budget because Kiwi Labels has changed to an 'in-kind' contribution with the Awards medal stickers. Once Awards Income is up, a transfer will be arranged accordingly.

Software Maintenance is a new expense item and has incurred costs because of the database changes required for the Certification move to Modern Olives (documentation and emails generated) and an increase in Certification numbers per member.

Balance Sheet – Charles noted that there was more than \$50,000 in Term Deposits. The Business Saver Account also showed a healthy balance of more than \$58,000 but this would be reduced by \$25,500 to cover the creditors due for payment on Friday.

Profit and Loss – nothing untoward to report.

**4. Executive Officer Report**

Gayle spoke to her report which had been circulated.

Membership

Another new member had joined since the report – Nicola and Andrew Smith, Wairarapa. Total membership is now 180.

Focus Grove Project

Results have been received fromASUREQuality for the glyphosate residue testing. All five groves had received a score of <0.010 which is the lowest reading possible.

There have been variable harvests from the Focus Groves this year. Leafyridge and Terrace Edge have been very good. Ray said Kakariki had a late harvest because of problems with their harvester. While tonnage was down due to a loss of fruit that fell to the ground, the yield was pretty similar to other harvests. Geoff said there had been a light fruit set in Hawkes Bay because of poor weather. He said that trees that usually harvested 28kg for Telegraph Hill had only harvested 3kg in 2021.

Craig spoke about the trial to be undertaken at Leafyridge. This has been prompted by consumer comments about using Manzate. He initially talked with his neighbouring vineyards about alternatives and then spoke with Stuart Tustin and Garry Burlace (Horticulture). Craig said he would like to move to becoming more sustainable without

moving to becoming organic. Stuart had suggested alternating a copper/sulphur programme with the Manzate. The front block at Leafyridge would be ideal for a trial because of its size and now with healthy trees with good harvest yields. If the trial doesn't work then the solution to rectify is known (revert back to full Manzate spray programme). Time will tell. Craig said his next spray application would be Copper Hydroxide and Kumulus Sulphur.

#### Certification 2021

There have now been 218 samples sent to Modern Olives with results for 179 received. There are still only the four samples that have failed chemical analysis (FFA). All other samples have been EVOO.

Certification needs to close at the end of August so the retained samples can be put into cool storage, before the weather starts to warm up. This will be flagged to members in the newsletter.

#### 2021 Awards

Information packs have been emailed to all members who have submitted oils, whether or not they have received their results.

Kiwi Labels is working on a special design to mark the 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary.

Given the lockdown in New South Wales and pending elsewhere in Australia, there could be issues in getting the judging samples there. It was agreed that we move to a full New Zealand judging Panel to avoid jeopardising the Awards.

#### Future Projects

The suggestions received is updated as follows:

- marketing (several members)
- updating the Best Practice Management manual in line with the Focus Grove Project findings (several members)
- sustainable growing standard (David Walshaw)
- re-design of the OliveMark and Olives NZ logo (Nalini Baruch).

David had provided a brief on his proposal, and it was agreed that a scoping paper be required from other suggestions including why, who, how and cost estimate.

#### New Member Material

The material provided to new members, as circulated, was discussed. Note that typically it is Gayle who has been seeking out and approaching potential new members. However Ross Vintiner has advised that during olive consultancy work he has come across a number of non-members not even aware of Olives NZ. He has suggested a brochure would be good to hand out to potential members.

There were concerns about brochures becoming quickly out of date and difficult to update.

It was agreed that Gayle look at developing a post card about Olives NZ and aimed at potential new members. This could be produced via Vista Print relatively cheaply.

Tricia asked for an update on the environmental paper for the website. Gayle said she had drafted the outline but had been unable to find the information used by IOC at their presentation to MPI/MFAT in 2018. She has emailed the IOC asking for this. Tricia said she had found information and would be happy to meet with Gayle to discuss.

Craig said this was a topical matter and his discussions with consumers on the olive oil processing cycle were well received. He saw this as a good selling point.

## **5. 2021 Executive Priorities**

Productivity – see Executive Officer Report  
Processing – 2022 Course subject to presenter  
Marketing – nothing to report

## **6. General Business**

Branch Updates

### Wairarapa

In Andrew's absence Craig said 2021 appeared to be a good harvest with a wide time spread across the region, right through until August. He noted that the Polyphenols were much lower than 2020 and also lower FFAs. Craig said most groves were now onto pruning.

Geoff asked if there is any work done on the cause/effect of the variation in Polyphenols. Gayle said that the Harvest Data Report shows the range, mean and average for the chemical analysis criteria but there is no co-relation done. The 'expert' on Polyphenols is Ross Vintiner and Gayle can ask him if he is able and willing to do an analysis on the data.

### Kapiti

Tricia said 2021 harvest had been variable across Kapiti, some crops up and some down. The Branch had a new season oils tasting followed by a luncheon and grove walk planned for 5<sup>th</sup> September (COVID lockdown level permitting). This would be at the grove of a new member that had not been previously visited. Tricia said she had reports that PPs were down despite an early harvest and green fruit.

### Nelson

Ray said the Branch had a post-harvest dinner on the Agenda when this was possible. He said a number of groves had wet weather issues over the harvest period which precluded them from getting out into their groves. As a result harvest had spanned 3 months vs. the typical 1 month. Despite the later harvest the oil yields were quite low at 12-14%.

### Hawkes Bay

Geoff said there had been light crops across the region with typical oil yields of 13-14%. The weather has not been particularly winter like.

### Canterbury

Alan said there had been a very good flowering across Canterbury except for Banks Peninsula. This had been followed by a good fruit set but frost and birds posed an issue for some groves. Groves that had irrigation performed well in relation to harvest tonnage but the lack of rain has impacted others. The oil yield was typically around 15%. The Waipara press processed 63 tonnes, about double what it did in 2020. Plus the one on Banks Peninsula did about 10 tonnes and there was another press at Ohoka.

### Other Business

Alan said he had a question for Andrew from someone looking at buying the local machine harvester, which was "what the going harvest rate per tree". Geoff said in Hawke's Bay there was a \$300 gate charge and then \$6.50 per tree. Craig said in Wairarapa the charge was about \$7 per tree with a discount for large groves. Tricia said in Kapiti there was a different rate depending on the number of trees plus a travel charge.

Alan also said a new member had asked him for information on food safety registration and he would refer them to the Olives NZ National Programme documentation.

There being no further business, Craig thanked all for their participation and declared the meeting closed at 8pm.