

Olives New Zealand  
Executive Meeting Minutes  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022  
ZOOM Conference Meeting 7.06 pm – 8.30 pm

**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 reports that had been circulated.

2021 Performance Report

The report from auditors showed that the surplus for 2021 was \$10,000 down on 2020. Charles said that Depreciation has now become a larger item with the Software purchase plus Sponsorship income has almost halved. Unbudgeted items included the Trademark Renewal for the OliveMark and Software Maintenance required by the move to Modern Olives.

2022 Draft Budget

Charles said the draft budget showed a very conservative surplus of only \$1,015, subject to target income being met. He said we need to either increase income or reduce expenses. It was noted that the Processing Practices Course could not be run in March/April because of self-isolation requirements but Pablo would be available in September if that situation changed. Subject to olives being available, this could be run in either Wairarapa or Canterbury. However, this course typically only broke even.

Geoff suggested doing ½ day theory and ½ day practical on day one and repeat this on the second day.

The draft budget was accepted.

February Reports

Charles said that the P & L included outstanding membership fees of \$10,000 and this would be an issue if this income was not received. Apart from that the financial reports were on track.

**4. Executive Officer Report**

Gayle spoke to her report which had been circulated.

Workload has primarily been around the end of financial year requirements and membership renewals. The first draft of the sustainable practices paper was on the website and members advised via the newsletter. The new member post card was now available and Gayle would take a supply to the Field Days for each of the Branch Chairs.

Financial Systems

The 2021 Performance Report had already been received back from the Auditors and loaded to the website. Members would be advised in the newsletter as well as with the AGM Agenda. It was disappointing that Olives NZ had lost a sponsor plus two others had reduced their contribution.

### Membership

Membership renewal invoices were sent out the first week of January and 14 resignations received. Mainly these have been due to grove sales and have resulted in a couple of new members. It was disappointing that of the 8 groves/organisations that had attended Field Days and/or received the newsletter on a complementary basis in late 2021, only one has subsequently joined.

### AGM

Notice of AGM and call for remits had been sent to all members in January. This far there have been no remits received.

### Focus Grove Project

The dates for the March Field Days had been finalised and Nelson and Canterbury would include visits to other groves as well.

A draft programme is ready to send out to members and just waiting on lunch arrangements for Wairarapa.

All groves would be requested to have a COVID QR code and Branch Chairs would need to be vigilant to make sure these were scanned or people signed in.

In relation to Vaccine Passes, the Executive agreed that these be a requirement for all attendees. Once again Branch Chairs would be responsible for checking these except in Northland where this is no Branch Chair so Gayle would do this.

### Marketing

The press release for the Consumer NZ review of EVOOs had been run by quite a few newspapers. The press release had been emailed to all members and the link to the full report would be included in the newsletter. The Olive Press had done a press release supporting that olive oil be added to the new Country of Origin legislation. The link to this would be in the newsletter. Olives NZ has been lobbying for this for about 10 years.

The draft application for the High Value Nutrition Project had been submitted earlier in January. The Executive agreed to pay \$10 plus GST per litre for donations from members with a minimum requirement suggested as 40 litres. These payments could come from the OliveMark account and appear on the Balance Sheet rather than the P&L.

### Section 33 Exemption

MPI has noted the two groves who have failed to respond on whether they are packaging EVOO that has not been certified to use the OliveMark. This matter is now closed for 2021.

### Future Projects

No new suggestions.

### 2022 Conference

No new topics.

### 2022 NZ EVOO Awards

Gayle said she has contacted all of the NZ judges and the two Australian judges held over from 2020/2021 about proposed arrangements for 2022. These being:

- Continuation of remote judging
- Two judging panels of at least 4 judges in each
- Entry being split in half across the two panels to reduce the workload
- Potential to have two face to face meetings for final judging for NZ judges; one meeting in Auckland and one in Nelson.

- The final judging, whether remote or face to face, will see all judges judging at least all of the Best in Class winners to determine the major awards.

Gayle has also contacted Soumi about running a Judging EVOO course, probably in August and by Zoom meeting. In addition to the judges, members could also be invited to participate. There would be costs associated with this that would need to be recovered.

## 5. 2022 Executive Priorities

Productivity – see Executive Officer Report

Processing – 2022 Course may run in September subject to a change in self-isolation

Marketing – see Executive Officer Report

## 6. General Business

### Canterbury Branch AGM Discussion

Alan said that at the Canterbury AGM he had met several new members who were unaware that membership of Olives NZ gave them membership of the local Branch. He thought that if Olives NZ made a financial contribution per member to each Branch that could make new members feel more that they belonged. He wondered why Olives NZ no longer made any financial contribution to Branches and where the additional funding for the Focus Grove Project would be going when this project finished. He thought that a percentage of membership fees should be paid to each Branch.

Charles said the capitation payment to Branches was ceased when the organisation became almost insolvent (2010?) and this became unsustainable. The Branches at that time had said that capitation funding was not needed. He said that Olives NZ could provide funding for Branch activities if the organisation could afford and within limits.

There was discussion about the level of funds being held by Branches and how they run their activities.

Craig noted that Branches currently appear to have sufficient funds for activities and this could be seen as petty cash, where a Branch could request a top-up when/if needed. He pointed out that members are automatically members of their local Branch.

### Branch Updates

#### Wairarapa

Craig said that Andrew had asked him to report on Wairarapa. He said there had been lots of rain which is slowly draining away. Fruit set has been good and fruit is increasing in size. He said 2022 will be an ok but not exceptional year. Early November had been dry but from December onwards there has been good rain and he has not needed irrigation. Craig said he thinks it will be a wet processing season and is pleased he has a good supply of talc. The Branch AGM is next Sunday at the Greytown Hotel.

Charles added that the water table has risen which will carry groves through until May/June. He agreed that fruit is looking good.

#### Kapiti

Tricia said Kapiti had very good flowering but then heavy rain and strong winds has resulted in loss of olives. The commercial grove is looking very good but other groves are mixed. The crop is not looking as good as flowering had indicated.

The Branch AGM had been planned for Sunday but adverse weather had resulted in a tree blocking access to Kel-Burn Estate where it was to be held and the power was out across the region so the meeting could not be moved. The AGM will need to be rescheduled.

#### Nelson

Ray said their AGM had been the previous evening with a good turnout. The general feeling was that members would like the visits by Stuart to continue and for Olives NZ to also focus on marketing.

Three of the four judges from Nelson had attended and they were concerned at what succession planning was in place for the NZ judging panel. Tricia noted there was none at present. Ray said that they had also raised payment as an incentive for involvement and to reflect the time involved.

An Action Point to be raised for the Executive to consider how succession of the New Zealand judging panel will be managed.

Gayle to contact IOC to see if they have funding available to train people to IOC Panel level and also ask Kay McMath how she finds and trains people for other judging panels.

Ray said there had been poor flowering across Nelson and they were looking forward to discussing this with Stuart. He said he had blocks of trees with no fruit.

Craig said he had heard that Marlborough had a good crop with large fruit.

#### Hawke's Bay

Geoff said there was a fairly solid fruit set across the region and good amounts of rain was seeing the fruit growing to a good size. The Branch AGM was scheduled for next week and would also be held at a pub.

Apparently Mohaka Grove (27,500 trees) has been sold to an iwi and will be converted to an apple orchard. Tricia said it was a pity that a relationship could not be formed with the High Value Nutrition Project for the grove.

Craig said that Kal Thorman was leaving The Village Press and he would be missed.

#### Canterbury

Alan said there had been a good attendance and discussions at the Branch AGM. There was little interest in user-funded visits by Stuart Tustin. He said there had been poor flowering across the region because of rain and then fruit set had been disappointing. Overall it was not going to be a big harvest although fruit size might be good.

Tricia asked what people were doing in regards to tastings at markets, etc. in the current COVID conditions. Their grove does not do tastings but had noticed that others do. Prior to a Christmas market there had been clear instructions there were to be no tastings.

Craig said they were not doing tastings and Moore Wilson had stopped tastings.

Geoff said the Hastings market now had a policy of no tastings.

Ray said there were no tastings in Nelson either.

#### Succession Planning for Executive Officer

Gayle has advised that she wishes this to be her last year as Executive Officer. She is happy to continue through until audit is completed in 2023 but a new person needs to be in place and trained by then.

It was agreed a sub-committee be formed to manage the recruitment process. Ideally someone with the right skills with a background in horticulture but not someone currently involved in olives. This was because of access to confidential information that would be a conflict of interest. It was agreed that the sub-committee comprise the President, Vice President and Treasurer.

#### Other Business

It was agreed that a face to face meeting of the Executive be held on the Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October at Rydges Wellington Airport Hotel, the same venue as Conference and the Awards Dinner.

There being no further business, Craig thanked all for their participation and declared the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

#### New Members:

Michael Allpress, Waiheke Island

Jackie Breen and Nicola Jackson, Canterbury

David and Sonia Jackson, Wairarapa

Nik and Fiona Elbrecht, Nelson

Marie and Ola Höglund, Nelson

Trevor and Sandy Helm, Canterbury