

OLIVES NEW ZEALAND
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING
THURSDAY 18TH AUGUST 2022
ZOOM CONFERENCE MEETING
7.05PM – 8.04PM

1. Present

Tricia Noble-Beasley (Vice President), Charles Chinnaiyah (Treasurer), Geoff Crawford, Andrew Priddle, Ray Gregory, Alan Blakemore, Andrew Taylor, Gayle Sheridan, Emma Glover.

2. Apologies

Craig Leaf-Wright (President), Geoff Crawford, Ray Gregory.

3. Minutes of the April Meeting

Matters arising

No Matters arising

4. Executive Officer Report

Gayle spoke to her report which had been circulated.

Introduction

Emma started on Monday 8th August and spent the first two days with Gayle, having an orientation into the main activities of Olives NZ and the database. Emma has a list of administration tasks that need to be done as part of handover plus she has taken over responsibility for Xero reconciliation, invoicing the courses and Conference in due course, plus reproduction of the workbooks for Pablo's course and Conference. Emma will also do the Awards Power Point presentation.

Financial Systems

While there are no outstanding debtors, one member has an unpaid invoice of \$4,140 for Certification. Their results will be held pending payment and they have been advised accordingly.

Certification

A total of 179 submissions with only a few late submissions to come. The submissions represent 109,760 litres. One oil has failed chemical assessment with an FFA of 1.1.

High Value Nutritional Project

Nearly 1000 lt of oil has been sent, thanks to Bracu and The Village Press stepping up and supplying significant volumes. Bracu has not invoiced their oil, but all others have. The cost is an OliveMark promotion expense and funds will be transferred from OliveMark sales bank account to cover payments.

Courses

The Judging EVOO and Flavoured Oil Seminar was well received by members, though feedback was that Soumi's sensory presentation was a bit long, especially for the judging panel. A number of participants mentioned the course wasn't quite what they were expecting and there had been insufficient time spent on analysing the samples. The course ran at a loss of \$500 plus Soumi's costs. This is because Olives NZ had agreed to provide ongoing development for the judging panel when the Olives NZ IOC Panel was discontinued. So they did not pay to attend this course.

In the past Olives NZ has struggled to fill such seminars when they are held in person, however this zoom format worked well. If done again like this, next time the judges could join just for the tasting not the presentation.

The Processing Practices Course would be invoiced for payment in September.

Andrew Taylor joined the meeting.

NZ EVOO Awards

Entries are coming in well. This year the dates were brought forward a week due to remote judging with two Australian judges needing more time for shipping. This should not have caused much a problem with the timing between Certification and judging. This could mean next year if judging is centralised, the awards night could be brought forward, as per requests from members eager to get the awards stickers on their bottles. Alan said because of the harvest 2-week delay in Canterbury it was a tight turnaround from the end of pressing to getting the oil submitted for Certification. This was because of the lead time in racking off the oil and waiting for it to clear. Andrew T said it does not matter if oil is submitted cloudy as it will settle in the bottle and in the heating process for judging.

Harvest Data Report

The census took a few emails for Gayle to finally reach a 72% response rate. 26% of groves had reported no harvest. The national average tonnage was slightly more than 10 kg per tree. The report has been pretty much finished as the data was needed for the final Focus Grove Project Report for MPI and for Stuart's Conference presentation. Gayle will wait for final certification results before completing the report for members. A few late Harvest Census forms have since been received and while the data is added to the Grove record, it is not included in the completed report.

Craig and Andrew T will present the Focus Grove Project to the AOA Conference and use a modified the presentation.

Conference

Speakers confirmed, and the venue has confirmed the Awards Dinner menu. Registration information will go out in the newsletter tonight and will also be emailed to members next week. Some registrations have already been received.

Gayle has drafted Stuart's presentation and he will provide feedback on any changes required.

Andrew was concerned that due to the Executive's initial slow response and the general apathy of membership, the opportunity with High Value Nutrition Project was nearly missed. He said the many emails and proposals are received by the Executive Officer and evaluated,

with only those worthy of consideration being brought forward to the Executive. These opportunities need to be taken seriously by the Executive and a proper hard look at promptly, even if people are busy.

Tricia and Andrew P said that members had been busy which is why they had been a bit slow to respond.

Charles said that it had taken a while for members to understand the project and confirm their involvement. He noted that olivegrowers were by far the majority group that attended the formal project launch.

Tricia said that because the project was an external project not an Olives NZ project, the Executive perhaps did not have a proper understanding of the opportunity. However she said, it ended in a good result.

Tricia thanked Gayle for her report.

5. Financial

Charles spoke to the August Financial Report which had been circulated.

Budget Variance - the main variances in expenses were for Conference. Rydges required advance payment to confirm the venue and there was also an unbudgeted cost for Andrew T's flights to attend the conference. The break-even for Conference would be 50 paying delegates so there should be a small surplus generated. Other unbudgeted expense were the High Value Nutrition Project payments for oil and the cost of two Executive Officers over the next two months.

Balance Sheet - the Olive Mark bank account will require a transfer of funds to cover costs of High Value Nutritional Project. The Accounts Receivable was mainly made up of Awards invoices plus a couple of large Certification invoices. The large amount of Accounts Payable was mainly the payments due to Modern Olives for Certification.

6. 2022 Executive Priorities

Covered off in Executive Officer's Report.

7. General Business

Branch Updates

Wairarapa

Andrew P said the weather was not good over harvest and since then it has continued to be very wet. This has meant little spraying or pruning has been done. Many groves harvest volume were down, but for some the yield was up or on par with the previous year. Budding is looking good.

Waiheke

Andrew P said Waiheke have some plants flowering already. Allpress processed 120 tonne. There had been good yields of 20-30%.

Hawke's Bay

Emma said she had been to a grove meeting that day, organised by Geoff. There had been a disappointing turnout. There has been a lot of rain affecting spraying and pruning.

Gayle said Geoff has accordingly already used an eradicator and would be doing a second application to address disease break out. Andrew P noted the recommended eradicator was Score WG and this was added to the regular Manzate spray.

There are two major olive businesses on the market in HB. Matapiro are selling their groves and equipment but Geoff thought they were considering keeping their harvester. The Telegraph Hill business is also on the market.

Emma said The Village Press harvester is up for sale which is causing some consternation to local members.

Canterbury

Alan said there had also been a lot of rain in Canterbury; before, during and after harvest. The Waipara Press started 2 weeks later than usual, in mid-June rather than late May. Accordingly the season finished late. Fruit ripening had slowed down because of the weather. The earlier fruit harvested around Waipara had low yields. Low volumes had been harvested by some groves, but the Press had put through more fruit this year – 64 tonne. This was due to groves being opened up that previously haven't been harvested for a long time. Frost and bird damage to fruit were main reasons for lower volumes. He noted that there was a non-member grove where it was estimated that 40 tonnes had not been harvested.

There had been great service from Neil Smith; he was a very good harvester operator and also helped the press get through the harvest. He was now making a start on pruning.

Kapiti

Tricia said it has been wet, wet, wet. Harvest up and down, some groves didn't harvest, some did early. Kapiti Olives did really well, harvesting 46 tonne compared to 43 last year. Olivo have been really helpful to the new Kapiti owners. Several groves had also been frustrated at the late availability of the contract harvester. Tricia noted that since harvest there had only been one opportunity to spray due to rain.

South Australia

Andrew T said Australia had a worst year than New Zealand. The grove he managed had exceptional bloom, but a -3 frost on 9th Oct 21, lost their grove substantial hectares of fruit. He had harvested only 240 tonnes of what was planned to be a 500,000 tonne year. However there was good buds on trees at moment, and they were counting down the nights until end of frost season.

Andrew T commented it is really important after this rain to spray with an eradicate spray like Score with Manzate (not instead of). He had just had the 500ha grove sprayed by plane and it had taken just around 4 hours.

There being no further business, Tricia thanked all for their participation and declared the meeting closed at 8.04pm.

2022 Meeting and Other Key Dates

February 17th — Executive Meeting
March 20th — AGM
April 21st — Executive Meeting
June 16th — Executive Meeting

August 18th — Executive Meeting
October 7th — Executive Meeting (Wgton)
October 8th — Conference, Awards Dinner
November 17th — Executive Meeting

Action Points from August Meeting

Who	What	Status
Executive Officer	Monitor the research being done by Australian Olives in relation to plastic packaging and plastic storage. Approach Boundary Bend about their research into using plastic for storage.	No update No update
Executive	Be active in membership drive. Particularly at regional level. Regional Chairs to discuss with their committees if they wish to co-ordinate attendance at forthcoming food shows. Regional Chairs to discuss with their committees regional marketing initiatives. Advise EO of email addresses for potential new members so that she can send membership invitations. Consider how succession of the New Zealand judging panel will be managed.	Ongoing