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Committee

Chair: Clive Marsh, 03-325-6253
Secretary: Margaret Caldwell, 03-318-1373
Treasurer: Murray Dill, 03-544-9161
Newsletter editor: Heather North, 03-325-6253
Walnut manual editor: Ralph Brown, 03-347-9595
Events officer: Jenny Lawrence, 03-347-8103
SNGA representatives: Mike Caldwell, Paul Visser
Committee: John Mathews, Tony Sigmund, Ross Jamieson, Glenys Pluck, Craig Oliver, Russell Hurst

Membership

As at 14th October 2002, the New Zealand Walnut Industry Group, Inc. has 84 individual members at 56 addresses/properties. Of the present WIG membership, 44 properties are in the North-Mid Canterbury region, 8 in South Canterbury/Central Otago, 3 in the Nelson/Marlborough region, and 1 in the North Island.

"One membership – one vote"

At the inaugural AGM (25th May 2002) it was decided that "...memberships are personal (i.e., one subscription = one vote, rather than having a single subscription for a partnership but each partner voting separately)." However, at the EGM (24th August 2002) there remained some confusion over this concept – probably due to unclear wording in the constitution and in the subscription form.

Membership may be held only by an individual person (not a business or a partnership). Each individual membership entitles that member (but not their partner, or business associates) to vote at AGMs. There is no difference in status, rights or responsibilities between \$30 membership and \$50 membership. The only difference is that the \$30 membership will be sharing their copy of *Health in a Shell* with a \$50 membership at the same address.

WIG EGM, 24 August 2002, Rolleston Community Centre, Canterbury, 5pm

The EGM was attended by 37 members. Remits to the constitution were discussed and voted on as follows:

1. New wording agreed for section 9: "...The Committee members shall be elected for a two-year term with half retiring each year. Those retiring shall be eligible for re-election." This change safeguards continuity of experience on the committee by making it impossible for all committee members to be lost at one time.
2. New wording agreed for section 2 (e): "To promote and provide for members, conferences, field days, workshops and any other training methods to further members' knowledge about walnuts. This will include planning, selection, growing, processing and marketing of walnuts." This includes a broader definition of the training needs of walnut growers, encompassing knowledge about marketing, etc., in addition to orcharding skills.
3. The wording of section 2 (a) was simplified to read "To support the walnut industry in New Zealand."
4. Additional clauses suggested for section 2 (describing promotion and market development activities) were not accepted, since it was felt these activities were already covered in the existing wording.
5. Additional wording to be added to the end of section 7 (a): "Membership to be personal (not per business)" as clarification.
6. A second remit suggesting changes to committee term and retirement was not accepted, since this issue had already been covered in 1.
7. The Walnut Industry Group is to be re-named the New Zealand Walnut Industry Group.



Walnut Conference 2003

Friday 20th – Sunday 22nd June 2003

Canterbury Horticultural Centre, Hagley Park (off Riccarton Avenue), Christchurch.

Planning is underway – an exciting and informative programme will include a wide range of topics related to successful walnut ventures, interesting and knowledgeable speakers, site visits, static displays, machinery demonstrations, nutritional information and recipes for using walnut products, and the launch of the New Zealand Walnut Growers' Manual.

BE SURE TO MARK THIS EVENT ON YOUR CALENDAR

Details and registration forms to come out in future issues of the WIG newsletter

Conference organising committee:
Jenny Lawrence, John Mathews, Ngaire Sigmund, Paul Visser, Craig Oliver, Diane Leighton, Liz Ellis.

There will be a call for volunteers to help closer to the time

WIG sub-committee activities

Each sub-committee – Events, Research, and Manual – met at least once between the first WIG committee meeting (6th June 2002) and the second (12th August 2002). Each sub-committee discussed its role and began planning its activities. The respective Chairs then presented proposals to the main WIG committee on 12th August, spelling out directions and timetable for their sub-committee. Summaries for each sub-committee follow.



Events

A full year of field days and other gatherings has been planned, with approximately one every two to three months. These events tend to be full-day or full-weekend activities in order to make them worthwhile for members travelling from further away.

WIG has a strong commitment to organise and support field days and activities throughout the regions where members live. A weekend in Central Otago is currently being planned for February 2003, and we are hoping to visit Nelson/Marlborough in the not-too-distant future.

A highlight of the year's programme is the first New Zealand Walnut Conference, being organised by WIG and to be held in Canterbury in June 2003. The year's programme of field days and events appears on the next page. Details and confirmation of field days will be given closer to the time in the relevant Issue of this newsletter – the November/December and February events are described in this Issue.

Walnut manual

About 8 years ago, several members of the South Island Walnut Action Group got together and planned out a series of chapter topics for a manual on walnut growing. A number of these chapters were subsequently written (on a voluntary basis) by authors with expertise in the various areas. The manual was never completed, however.

The written material is potentially very useful to walnut growers and WIG would now like to pick it up and see the project completed. This would require updating some material, writing several further chapters, and general checking, editing and formatting. We would like to contact the original authors to ask whether they would be willing to provide further input in finalising their chapters.

In the meantime, tentative plans are to produce the manual in a folder (ring binder) format, so that each chapter could be added as it is completed. This format would also allow for updating of chapters or

pages as knowledge progresses. The highest priority chapters are "Getting Started", "Orchard design, preparation and planting", "Orchard management", and possibly "A photo essay on the life of a walnut". The Manual sub-committee would like to produce these chapters over the next 8 months, so that a first edition of the manual would be ready for launch at the Walnut Conference in June 2003.

Research

The Sustainable Farming Fund project on management of walnut blight will continue to be a major focus for WIG over the next two years. However, other, smaller projects are also planned, as described below. Further details will be provided about these projects as they develop.

- (1) Continuing cultivar improvement: Rex and Meyric are excellent cultivars, and could potentially produce useful crosses. There are several very large orchards of Rex and Meyric seedlings (planted from nuts pollinated, for the most part, by Rex, Meyric and other New Zealand selections). These trees will be assessed for nut quality – they must be at least as good as Rex and Meyric to be considered – and lateral fruitfulness. Any trees that look promising could be grafted and planted out for further observation.
- (2) Ross Jamieson is taking cores from the trunks of various walnut cultivars. He is assessing the heartwood to sapwood ratio to determine their suitability as timber trees.
- (3) Rootstock trials: English walnut (*Juglans regia*) is currently used as the main rootstock in New Zealand, but Californian black walnut (*J. hindsii*) and Paradox (*J. hindsii* pollinated by *J. regia*) are usually used in America where they produce vigorous growth and are more resistant to *Phytophthora* root rot. We would like to determine whether vigorous growth (to obtain earlier canopy cover and therefore earlier production) will also be seen in New Zealand. The performance of Paradox at Bernard Vavasour's property (Marlborough) looks promising.
- (4) In addition several topics were identified for information dissemination, preferably via the walnut manual. These are tree training, nutrition and irrigation.

Information pack

A brief introduction to walnut growing and to WIG is currently under preparation. This will be provided to all new members when they subscribe (and to current members who subscribed prior to completion of the Information Pack). So far an outline of planned contents has been drawn up.

Events

Events programme 2002-2003

(details of November/December and February events are included in this newsletter)

Past event

The first field day(s) organised by the events committee was held on 24th – 25th August, during the weekend of the EGM. Participants were introduced to the blight management research project, and given a tour around the walnut trial block at Lincoln University. Three contrasting properties were visited, each with a different take on shelter design. Andrew & Jo Horsbrugh are developing their 50 ha property into a walnut orchard and shared their experiences of planting thousands of shelter trees, choice of machinery, and time efficient methods. Joan Ray & Kevin Sargeant's property was designed with small crop blocks surrounded by beautiful mixed shelterbelts of native trees, alders and flax. Frank & Margaret Brenmuhl's 30 ha property has 1 – 3 year old walnut trees, and developing shelterbelts of primarily alder, with poplar, eucalypt and other species on the perimeter.

Future events

30 November – 1 December 2002

Walnut blight management research field day, "Christmas Nuts" Dinner Celebration, and field day on complementary production within the walnut orchard.

6 – 8 Feb 2003 (Waitangi weekend)

Excursion to Central Otago. "Waiting for Walnuts" weekend programme organised by Otto and Valda Muller.

6 April 2003

Visits to Peninsula Tree Nursery: propagators of walnuts and hazelnuts, and to the property of Bevan and Karen Clegg (a young walnut orchard) where tree training will be discussed.

20 – 22 June 2003

Walnut Conference 2003! AGM will be held immediately afterwards.

Walnut blight, "Christmas Nuts", complementary production

Saturday 30 November – Sunday 1 December

(please note: RSVP required!! – see below)

Saturday 30th November

3.00pm Meet at the Rolleston Community Centre for update on blight research so far for this year, given by Clive Marsh and Janaki Kandula.

4.15pm Visit property of Ray & Yvonne Morgan on Rattletrack Road, rapid number 072-0418, between the intersections of Springston-Rolleston Road and Selwyn Road, to see walnut trees involved in blight research trials.

6.30pm "CHRISTMAS NUTS" DINNER CELEBRATION

To be catered for at the Rolleston Community Centre by COUNTRY FEASTS – host Holder Frey. The dinner will be buffet style and will feature platters incorporating nuts in both entrée and main course. Holder will speak about various ways of using nuts in cooking and the recipes used at the dinner will be available to diners.



COST \$25 pp (includes hire of venue) – pay as you enter. *BYO drinks* (a charge will be added for corkage) or buy drinks at the bar. The Rolleston Community Centre is a licensed premises.

Christmas dessert or supper accompaniment competition:

This is not compulsory, but, for those who wish to enter, a Christmas prize will be given to the winner. The judge will be our chef for the evening, Holder Frey, and diners will be invited to taste entries of their choice with tea and coffee during supper.

For catering purposes, people wishing to attend "CHRISTMAS NUTS" will need to register with Glenys Pluck Ph 347 9109, or Jenny Lawrence Ph/fax 03 3478103, email crackernut@clear.net.nz **BEFORE TUESDAY 26 NOVEMBER**

Sunday 1st December

TOPIC: Complementary production within your orchard.

VENUE: Brailsford's Ltd., 414 Old Tai Tapu Road, Tai Tapu

TIME: 10.00am

INTRODUCTION: John Mathews, NZWIG Events Committee

INVITED SPEAKER: Alex Smith, NZ Horticultural Services

Alex is an Agribusiness Consultant, with over thirty years' experience in his field. A considerable part of his business is involved with the selection and development of sites for new businesses, crops and initiatives. He is currently involved in a wide range of crops from berryfruit, to orchards, nuts and kiwifruit through to extensive vegetables to hydroponics and flower culture.

After Alex has completed his presentation and answered questions we will have the opportunity to walk through the demonstration orchard areas with host Stephen Brailsford, and view some complementary crops being grown.

Lunch (**BYO**) on the lawn for those who wish to stay.