

News

New Website

NZWIG has its very own website.

Check it out: www.walnuts.org.nz

The site is kept up to date with latest information on field-days and other events, as well as providing useful information for both members and those interested in learning about walnuts and NZWIG. Information for the website can be sent to the web-master, Graeme Nicholas (graeme@nicholas.net.nz).

Email Discussion Group for Members

We also now have an email discussion group open to all NZWIG members. The way it works is that once you have joined it, you automatically receive all emails sent to the list. This will enable members to share information, questions and issues with others, and join in a group email discussion. To join the list, simply fill in the form on the website, or send an email to:

<majordomo@walnuts.org.nz> and make the main body of the message:

subscribe nzwig-discuss
end

Information Pack

Early in 2003, a 10-page Information Pack was written to aid decision-making by people considering walnuts as a commercial crop. Almost 70 copies of this have been sent out to new members and interested enquirers. The Information Pack will be kept current, and it is now undergoing its first update.

Membership database

An important function of NZWIG is to facilitate contact between growers for information sharing. To this end, NZWIG members' contact details are currently being sent to other members (unless they have indicated to the contrary on their subscription form). We would also like to keep growing information such as varieties of trees and date planted for each NZWIG member so that other members can see who it might be worth talking to when undertaking new activities.

Propagators scheme

NZWIG has recently taken on administration of the propagators scheme (from NZTCA Walnut Action Group). The scheme collects a small fee per grafted

tree, which goes to fund research and royalty payments for owners of parent trees. Six propagators have chosen to participate: Peninsula Tree Nursery, Quality Tree Nursery, River Terrace Nurseries, Fords Nursery, Harrison's Nursery, and Waimea Nurseries.

Annual member survey

42 walnut growers, propagators and processors returned questionnaire responses to last year's member survey. The responses have been very important to your committee in evaluating the progress of NZWIG, and planning its future directions. We would appreciate your feedback when the next survey comes out.

Quality manual

One resolve from the NZWIG committee's strategic planning day in April was to produce a manual defining quality management processes and nut characteristics recommended for walnut production in New Zealand. This year's task is to write a manual outline, and discussions around this are starting.

Member Profile

Tony and Ngaire Sigmund

In 1994 Ngaire and Tony Sigmund bought 33 acres near Oxford and planted it out in *Pinus Radiata* and *Macrocarpa*. Tony is still thinning and pruning these trees today under the guidance of Stephen Brailsford. This was the start of their interest in the Tree Crop Industry.

In 1996 Tony and Ngaire were sitting on a balcony at Waikiki thinking about their future and decided they needed another challenge. They came home and put their home in Avonhead on the market and bought 10 acres of bare land at West Melton. Tony had been to the Tree Crops Conference at Lincoln University and thought about growing olives, chestnuts and walnuts. After attending many field days and asking different people for advice they settled on walnuts. When they started on this new adventure they had three teenage children at home and thought they might show an interest in the development of the block.

Unfortunately the only time they got on the tractor or mower was to play and show off. When there was work to be done they were always in town.

With the help of Ross Jamieson they designed and planted their shelter belts in the first year. When the first norwester hit their new home they certainly learnt the importance of a good shelter belt. While the

shelter belts were growing they installed a well to the depth of 58 metres and laid the irrigation pipes and sprinklers. In 1999 the first walnut trees were planted.

At the end of this planting season (2003) they will have 400 walnut trees in the ground. The varieties being Rex, Meyric, BLE 300, G120, G139 and 157 purchased from Quality Tree Company.

In the future Ngaire and Tony see themselves sitting on the deck with a glass of good wine enjoying the vista of the walnut orchard and contemplating how they are going to spend their profits.



Committee

Chair: Paul Visser, 03-347-8568
Secretary: Ross Jamieson, 03-344-1977
Treasurer: Murray Dill, 03-544-9161
Walnut manual editor: Ralph Brown, 03-347-9595
Research Committee: Clive Marsh, 03-325-6253
Information officer: Heather North, 03-325-6253
Events Committee: Jenny Lawrence, 03-347-8103
SNGA representatives: Mike Caldwell, Paul Visser
Committee: Ad van der Tol, Stuart Trustrum, John Mathews, Tony Sigmund, Glenys Pluck, Craig Oliver, Russell Hurst

Newsletter editor: Graeme Nicholas, 03-337 2040
email: graeme@nicholas.net.nz

Events

30 November

2.00pm Gather at Lincoln University Walnut Trial block to review the effect of the recent pruning, and to get an update on the blight trials.

4.00pm Young walnut orchard – trees 1,2,3 & 4 years old.

Stuart & Glenys Pluck will be at home (Dunns Crossing Road, just south of Rolleston) and welcome all NZWIG and NZTCA Canterbury Branch members to visit and stay for a Christmas BBQ. Tea & coffee provided, BYO everything else.

Contact person: Glenys Pluck 03 347 9109

Nelson - Marlborough Excursion - Waitangi Weekend 2004

Friday February 6 – Sunday February 8

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 6	
2:30	Heartwood: Property of Donna Hiser and Murray Dill 135 River Road, Appleby, Richmond Afternoon tea and welcome
3:00-4:00	Roy Hart: Chairperson, Nelson branch of NZ Tree Crops Assn Roy will give an introduction to Nelson growing conditions and an update on the walnut trials being conducted in the North Island.
4:00-5:00	Seager Mason (Technical Director, Bio-Gro): What has to be done to attain Bio-Gro certification? What does it cost? How might the issues facing walnut growers (eg blight and orchard floor management) be dealt with?
5:00-6:00	Heartwood: View Donna Hiser and Murray Dill's 250 tree, 4 year-old orchard - Check how the walnuts have fared being interplanted with an existing apple orchard.

6:00 – late	<p>Barbeque, sports, dessert contest, dancing at Heartwood (attendance free to all those submitting an entry in the Great Walnut Dessert Hunt – well actually, its free to everyone)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work up a thirst in the first ever Walnut Industry Group golf challenge on the somewhat unconventional Heartwood links. Prize for the least appropriately dressed golfer. [All clubs and balls will be provided, and absolutely no skill required]. - Refresh yourselves with a selection of <u>BYO</u> beer and wine, spit roasted wild pig and other regional delicacies, prepared by some of Nelson’s most notorious chefs. - Judge the walnut desserts submitted for consideration by field-day attendees. Which region will take the supreme prize? - Dance till the early hours to the best music of the 50’s, 60’s, 70’s, and 80’s (probably mostly the 60’s and 70’s actually).
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	SATURDAY FEBRUARY 7
9:30-11:15	<p>River Terrace Nurseries: Property of Darrell and Karen Johnston, River Terrace Road, Brightwater.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - View the nursery where many of our grafted walnuts are grown. - Watch Darrell demonstrate budding, grafting and propagation techniques - Morning tea
11:30-12:30	<p>Janet and Ross Wood’s property, Livingstone Road, Waimea West</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - View Janet and Ross’s mixed orchard of walnuts, hazels, almonds, pecans and macadamias - Check out Ross and Janet’s portable nut cracking machine.
12:45-2:15	<p>Lunch at The Grape Escape, McShane’s Road, Appleby</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Check out the selection of Nelson crafts at the cluster of gift shops adjacent to the café.
2:30-4:00	<p>Rivendell: Property of Denis and Jocelyn Laird, 60 Golden Hills Road, Waimea West.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See the phenomenal growth these newly planted trees will have achieved in Nelson’s benevolent climate. - Hear how Jocelyn and Denis prepared their orchard for planting - Afternoon tea
4:15-5:15	<p>Bob and Ann Phillips – Woodturners, Coastal Highway, Mapua</p> <p>Visit the workshop of these award-winning artists who will explain the wood-turning process. Check out their beautiful finished work (there may even be some walnut pieces for sale)</p>
5:15 –7:30	<p>Either join a group for a walk on one of Nelson’s many beautiful beaches (Rabbit Island is wonderful and is on the way back to the restaurant), or retire to your accommodation to freshen up.</p>
7:30 - late	<p>Dinner at Appelman’s Restaurant, Queen Street, Richmond</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dine on a walnut extravaganza prepared for us personally by John Appelman.

	SUNDAY FEBRUARY 8
10:30-12:00	<p>Langley Dale Property of Simon and Lorraine Adams, North Bank, Marlborough</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - View this 30 year-old seedling walnut orchard. See what your grandchildren are likely to inherit.

12:00-1:30	Lunch at Montana Winery Restaurant (pay as you go), State Highway 1, at south entrance to Blenheim - Followed by a drive through the Redwood Pass
1:30	Toi Downs Property of Bernard Vavasour, Awatere Valley, Marlborough - View Bernard's mature orchard of grafted trees, predominantly of American heritage. - See Bernard's processing operation.

The cost for the weekend is \$80 per person. This includes the Friday night barbeque and the Saturday lunch and dinner (but not the Sunday lunch at Montana Winery, which is pay as you go). It includes morning and afternoon teas, but does not include drinks at mealtimes.

CONTACT DETAILS FOR NELSON ORGANISERS:

- Karen and Darrell Johnston, River Terrace Nurseries, River Terrace Road, Brightwater, phone 03 542 3317.
- Donna Hiser and Murray Dill, Heartwood, 135 River Road, Appleby, Richmond, phone 03 544 9161.
- Jocelyn and Denis Laird, Rivendell, Golden Hills Road, Waimea West, phone 03 544 1559.
- Janet and Ross Wood, Livingstone Road, Waimea West, phone 03 542 3886.
- Sue and Mike Farley, Main Road South, Wakefield, phone 03 541 8260.
- You can also email Murray Dill on mdill@ihug.co.nz.

ACCOMMODATION:

PLEASE book your accommodation as soon as possible as this is a very busy weekend in the Nelson region and some motels have been booked out since early September. We have provided lots of options, but should all of these be fully booked, contact one of the organisers and we will try to provide some more.

Most of the activities on Friday and Saturday are centred around Appleby, Waimea and Brightwater, and the accommodation options listed first are within 5-10 minutes drive:

Destiny Motels (new - opening October 2003)

Gladstone Road, Richmond (5 minutes walk to Appelman's Restaurant),
phone 03 543 9984. 12 Luxury units (studio, one and two bedrooms)

\$110 (studio)-\$150 (family/2 bedroom) per couple, \$20 per extra adult.

Parkside Motel (new - opened September 2003)

42 Gladstone Road, Richmond (10 minutes walk to Appelman's), phone 03 544 2264

12 units (studio, one and two bedrooms)

\$105 (studio)-\$150 (family/2 bedroom) per couple, \$20 per extra adult.

Oxford Court Motel

Gladstone Road, Richmond (5 minutes walk to Appelman's), phone 0800 351 352

10 units (studio, one and two bedrooms)

\$85-\$95 per couple, \$15 per extra adult.

Arthur Wakefield Motor Inn

294 Queen Street, Richmond (next door to Appelman's), phone 0800 427 848

20 Executive studio units sleep 2-5. \$95 per couple.

Brightwater Motor Inn

1 Lightband Road, Brightwater (close to River Terrace Nursery; 5 minutes drive to Appelman's), phone 03 542 3607. 12 units sleeping 2-6

\$70-\$95 per couple (depending on size of unit); \$10 per extra adult.

Richmond Holiday Park

29 Gladstone Road, Richmond (five minutes walk to Appelman's), phone 0800 250 218

Motels \$70-\$100 per couple, extras \$15; cabins \$35-\$50 per couple, extras \$15; tent sites \$11 per adult.

Other accommodation which is further away (15-20 minutes drive):

Treedimensions Organic Farmstay

Shaggery Road, off West Bank Road, Motueka, phone 03 528 8718

Two secluded suites in a timber cottage on a permaculture farm growing heritage apples and other tree crops. \$100 per couple.

Mapua Leisure Resort,

33 Toru Street, (adjacent to the beach at) Mapua, phone 03 540 2666.

Motels \$95-\$120 per couple, extras \$20; cabins \$38-\$65 per couple, extras \$15; tent sites \$25 per couple.

Flax House Retreat B&B, 275 Seaton Valley Road, Near Mapua, phone 03 540 3970.

BOOKING FORM FOR NELSON/MARLBOROUGH WEEKEND

FRIDAY FEBRUARY – SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9 2004

Name(s): _____

Postal address: _____

Email address: _____

Phone number: _____

Do you have any special dietary requirements? Please give details:

Please enclose payment with your booking - \$80 per person

Total enclosed: \$_____

Return this form, with your payment to:

Murray Dill
135 River Road
RD1 Richmond
Nelson

Please remember to send your registration and book your accommodation as quickly as possible.