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Well Done Those People!

The first national walnut conference was a true feast and a wonderful celebration of our new and growing industry.

The organising committee certainly did us proud with a stimulating programme well run. Our thanks and congratulations to the team: Jenny Lawrence, John Matthews, Ngaire Sigmund, Paul Visser, Craig Oliver, Diane Leighton and Liz Ellis.



Jenny Lawrence points the way

The conference provided both inspiration and information for all sectors of the industry. With 135 registrations representing enquirers, propagators, processors, seasoned growers and trade suppliers, the conference was a real snap shot of where walnut cropping is at, and an ideal opportunity to share experience and encouragement.

The opening address by the Honorable Jim Anderton set our industry in the wider context of innovation and new sectors.

Keynote speakers often challenged our thinking, but consistently looked to an exciting future. Notes from addresses will be published in Health in a Shell.

Valda Muller from Cromwell gave an impressive overview of global markets. The message was clear: we need to monitor closely what is happening around the world; even the local market is part of the global scene.

Saturday morning focussed on getting started and keeping growing. Issues covered included the importance of soil type and climate issues; questions of shelter and orchard planning; irrigation design and installation; set-up costs; cultivar selection and propagation; orchard floor management; and tree training.



A major milestone for the industry was the launch of the New Zealand Walnut Growers Manual. It was launched with style by Ralph Brown and Heather North who have been responsible for bringing this marvelous resource to birth. In introducing the manual Ralph and Heather acknowledged the contribution of many people's contribution. It is published by the NZ Walnut Industry Group in association with the NZTree Crop Association. In fact Heather and Ralph did such a good job of the launch that by the end of lunch time all the first printing had been sold. New copies are now available (see advertisement in this Newsletter).

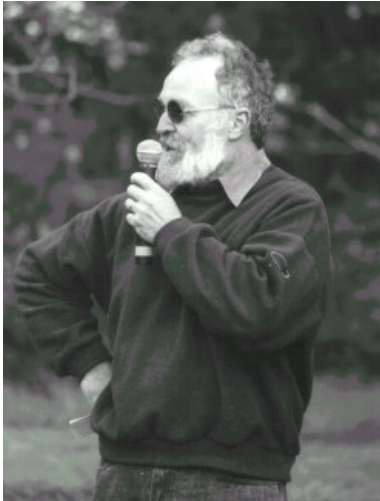


Stephen Brailsford scrubbed up well as MC

A field visits to see Lightfoot Walnuts (property of Heather North and Clive Marsh) gave a variety of well planned demonstrations.

The Conference Dinner combined the delight of good company with marvellous cuisine (with more creative walnut recipes) and a witty and inspirational address by Dr Geoffry Savage of Lincoln University on the nutritional benefits of NZ grown walnuts.

Sunday Morning at *A Cracker of a Nut* (property of Jenny and Malcolm Lawrence) gave us an opportunity to look at a fully producing orchard and the processing plant.



Malcolm Lawrence auditions for 'Stars in Their Eyes'

Sunday afternoon dealt with some important 'nitty gritty' issues, blight control, irrigation monitoring, harvesting and drying, financial returns and business planning.



Bernard Vavasour spoke on harvesting and drying. He was honoured as a pioneer in the industry.

The AGM of the Walnut Industry Group saw two new committee members and a new chairperson and secretary.

Our first national conference shows an industry full of innovative people keen to share knowledge and work together. One sign of the success of the conference is that more people have joined NZWIG.

Well done all!

Graeme Nicholas



Clive Marsh, who chaired the Walnut Industry Group through its first year.

New 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

Southern Nut Growers Association AGM

Tuesday 29 July @ 7.30pm

P.C. Browne Room – Canterbury Horticultural
Centre Riccarton Avenue, Christchurch

8.15pm Guest Speaker

Brent Rawstron of Rossendale Farms

Former winner of the 'Rabobank Lincoln University

Farmer of the Year' award for excellence in

innovation.

**Topic: 'The needs and desires of the market
place'**

WIG Events

The Walnut Industry Group sign will be at each property

31 August Lincoln University
Sunday 'Rex Baker Memorial' Walnut Trial Area
Tidying up day to be organised by NZTCA Canterbury Branch
Contact person: Mike Caldwell 03 318 1373

14 September 1.30pm Property and Orchard design for new growers
Sunday John & Christine Mathews, Hoskyns Road
[between Newtons & Main West Road] West Melton

3.30pm Research orchard – Blight Control programme
Des & Janet Fowler, 27 Guys Road, Yaldhurst

Followed by an evening meal @ Robbies Bar & Restaurant,
Yaldhurst, for those who wish – pay as you go.

Contact person: John Mathews 03 332 8839

30 November 4.00pm Young walnut orchard – trees 1,2,3 & 4 years old.
Sunday Stuart & Glenys Pluck will be at home and welcome all WIG
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

Walnut Excursion - Waitangi Weekend 2004

Friday 6 February – Sunday 8 February
Nelson / Marlborough region

Nelson area seminar – details later

Contact persons: Murray Dill and Donna Hiser 03 544 9161

On the way home / Sunday 8 February

10.30am Langley Dale - seedling walnut orchard – over 30 years old
Simon & Lorraine Adams, North Bank, Marlborough

Lunch: Montana Winery Restaurant [for those who wish – pay as you go]
followed by a drive through the Redwood Pass

1.30pm Toi Downs – mature orchard of grafted trees predominantly of
American heritage

Bernard Vavasour, Awatere Valley, Marlborough
Contact person: Jenny Lawrence 03 347 8103



Thanks

The Committee of The NZ Walnut Industry Group wishes to thank the following sponsors for their generous conference support:

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A Cracker of a Nut

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Quality Tree Company

River Terrace Nurseries

Southern Nut Growers Association

Southern Woods Tree Nursery

Water Dynamics Ltd

Westpac Bank

Notices

Orchards For Sale

Anyone wishing to buy or sell a walnut orchard can place an advertisement in the WIG Newsletter and Health in a Shell. There will be no charge for these advertisements. For more information please contact Tony Sigmund on 03 347-8711 or email sigmund@xtra.co.nz

For Sale

80 KBC Tree Shelters, 100 x 100 x 740mm, excellent condition \$120.00, phone 3478711



NZ Walnut Growers Manual

If you haven't bought your copy yet, contact Glenys Pluck, 03 347 9109. \$49.95

Newsletter Deadline

Please get any suggestions or material for the Newsletter to Graeme Nicholas by 30 September.

90 Malcolm Avenue, Christchurch, 8002

phone 03 337 2040;

email: graeme@nicholas.net.nz