



Australian Pecan Growers' Association

Winter 2010 Newsletter



Annual Conference and General Meeting – 28th & 29th August 2010

Saturday 28th August

- Annual Conference and AGM commences at 11am at Eltham Valley Pantry 713 Boat Harbour Road, Eltham, NSW. Lunch provided for members (please confirm attendance for catering purposes).
- Keynote speaker is Dr Ben Thomas an expert in plant nutrition with experience of pecan orchard nutrition – presentation commencing at 11am.
- Mark Hickey, Industry Leader (Tropical Horticulture) NSW Primary Industries. Irrigation theory – when to water and when enough is enough.
 - Dawn Thornton introduces the new APGA website.
 - Scott Clark talks about our success at Primex field days.
 - Presentation of the second Deane Stahmann Scholarship.
 - Nut judging competition and pecan cooking competition.
- AGM - APGA Committee Members elected – nomination form attached.
- Evening dinner 7.00pm at Eltham Valley Inn (numbers limited, book now!).

Confirm with Terry Bates on 02-6564 8747 (bellbowra@bordernet.com.au) for Saturday attendance for catering and for evening dinner bookings.

Sunday 29th August

- Field day commences at 9am. We are guests of James and Janet Russell at their highly productive 1500 mature pecan trees near Kyogle.
- At our second venue we will look at pecan tree training at the Kyogle orchard of Kerry Byrne where he has 5000 young pecan trees.

Nut Judging - Send your 450g of nuts to APGA PO Box 590 Lismore NSW 2480 by 24th August.

Pecan Cooking Competition – Bring your edible pecan delights for judging and eating on the day.



Keynote speaker – Dr Ben Thomas

Dr Ben Thomas has a Bachelor of Agricultural Science (Honours) (Soil Science) and PhD from the University of Adelaide. He is a Certified Practising Agriculturist (CPAg).

Dr Ben Thomas is an experienced consultant with expertise in plant nutrition, soil chemistry, soil biology and soil water. Ben provides expert independent advice on soil and plant tissue analyses and fertiliser recommendations, soil management issues and crop production for a wide range of perennial and annual crops. Ben has worked on many projects involving various aspects of crop production, soil management, natural resource management and irrigation. His other professional interests are in R&D project management, contract research, sustainable production and extension activities.

AGPA Website now live on-line

As you all know Dawn Thornton and Scott Clark have been working on a pecan growers website which is now live and can be found at www.pecangrowers.org.au

This website has been produced for around \$1000 and represents great value for money.

Get on-line and check it out!



The Australian Nut Industry

Extract from the Australian Nut Industry Council Submission to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into the Australian Government Research and Development Corporations Model

“The Australian tree nut industry is rapidly expanding. Current Australian nut production has a commercial value of about \$350 million. Additional production from new tree nut orchards will generate an industry value of more than \$1 billion within 8 years, leading to \$1 billion in exports by 2020; an export performance which will exceed the total Australian horticulture exports for 2008.

The nut industries receive little assistance from government. Import tariffs have long been zero or very low. Since the negotiation of the FTA with the US, there is effectively no tariff protection of Australian nut industries. However, nut industries often face significant tariff barriers in current and potential export markets.”



2009-2010 President's Report

I have decided after three years not to stand again for the role of President of the Australian Pecan Growers Association (APGA). We are expanding our certified organic garlic and hay production and I will be spending more time focussed on these in the next few years.

I feel that the APGA has turned the corner with finances in considerably better shape due to our sponsorship arrangement with Stahmann Farm Enterprises. The agreement with Stahmann Farm Enterprises was one of my first tasks as President and this turned around years of

declining finances. I have as President sought to build a financial buffer which will in time enable APGA to provide more services to members, first things first. We have built upon the great work of James Payne in development of our newsletter and continue to organise field days and machinery for sale/wanted notices, in future via the website.

Dawn Thornton has put a lot of energy into development of our first website and this is now live at www.pecangrowers.org.au. Given the large number of calls and e-mails I get from pecan buyers (China, Hong Kong, Singapore, USA, Europe, Turkey and the Middle East) we have included a pecan buyers list on the site and also a pecans for sale list for growers to take advantage of. This is free for members.

Scott Clark managed our participation at the Primex Field Days in June. Feedback has been very positive both in respect of Scott's efforts at presenting a professional organisation, and, the benefits of putting the pecan industry forward to the public, potential growers and consumers. Scott also assisted with website development.

Denise Kitchin has been a professional and safe pair of hands as Treasurer and has generously agreed to continue for a second year. Denise also deserves the credit for a successful field day at Gatton in February this year. Richard Genest will continue as the APGA representative on the ANIC board and will provide us with updates from time to time. James Payne has helped organise the annual conference and provided sound advice where called upon. I have continued to pester former committee members Geoff & Debbie Bugden with questions. These have been kindly answered with their usual enthusiasm for the pecan industry much evident.

As President I have represented Australian pecan growers as a board member of the Australian Nut Industry Council (ANIC). My key inputs during this time were involvement in the development of ANIC's strategic plan and rewriting the constitution for ANIC. ANIC provides many valuable services to nut growers although these are perhaps not obvious or appreciated as such. ANIC has an important role in the future of all Australian tree nut industries but faces challenges associated with the greatly differing scales of the various nut industries.

I have offered to continue on the APGA committee with the role of producing the newsletters.

I would like to thank the various committee members for their efforts over the last three years. Their work makes the job of President easier. The members of APGA are a great bunch of people and I have enjoyed interactions with you. Unselfish sharing of knowledge by members helps to make the pecan industry special.

Terry Bates



Oklahoma State University on-line pecan course

The course details below have been taken from the website of Oklahoma State University which can be found at: <http://pecan.okstate.edu/>

FUNDAMENTALS OF PECAN MANAGEMENT

“This online version of the Oklahoma Pecan Management Course is offered to help present or prospective pecan producers improve their pecan management program or make better informed decisions on future pecan investments.

This self study course is based on conditions common to Oklahoma's pecan production but principles and techniques discussed have application throughout much of the United States pecan production region. Likewise, it is geared toward commercial pecan producers of all sizes but can be easily applied to hobby orchards as well as back yard trees.

The course is organized into seven phases as follows:

1. Introduction: Characteristics of the Oklahoma Industry; Definitions; Botany of the pecan; Human dietary benefits of pecans; Author credits; Sponsorship.
2. Native pecan management: Assessing investment potential; Grove improvement; Management priorities; Orchard floor management; Pecans and livestock; Determining pecan tree value; Organic production
3. Improved variety management: Orchard site selection; Orchard establishment; Propagation; Variety selection; Nutrition; Training; Pruning; Irrigation; Crop load management; Weed control
4. Pest management: IPM concepts; Insect management; Disease management; Wildlife depredation management; Organic options.
5. Storage, Food Safety and Sanitation: Storage considerations; Food safety; Sanitation
6. Economics and marketing: Economics; Marketing
7. Equipment: Overview; Minimum equipment needs; Commonly used equipment; “

The course costs US\$75.00 and you will be provided a username and password that will allow unlimited access to the training course for one year.

To register, or, if you have any questions, please send e-mail to stephanie.larimer@okstate.edu or call USA +405-744-5404.

Equipment for Sale

Used elevating work platforms (hydraladas) are available from Woodchuck Landscape Systems on 1800 655 542 or e-mail: joe@woochuck.com.au. New hydraladas, bin tippers and megabins are available through AIM sales on 02-6964 4688.

Committee:

President: Terry Bates 02 6564 8747 bellbowra@bordnet.com.au

Secretary: Dawn Thornton 02 6564 8747

Treasurer: Denise Kitchin 07 5462 9129

Committee members: James Payne 02 66291418 Scott Clark 02 66243378

Richard Genest 07-4699 9452

Australian Pecan Growers Association: PO Box 590 Lismore, NSW 2480