



Australian Pecan Growers' Association

Winter 2011 Newsletter



Annual Conference and General Meeting – 27th & 28th August 2011

Saturday 27th August

- Annual Conference and AGM commences at 11am at the Lismore Workers Club, Keen Street, Lismore, NSW
 - Lunch subsidised for members (please confirm attendance for catering).
 - Keynote speaker is Lisa Yates an expert in nutrition with experience of pecan nutrition – presentation commencing at 11am.
 - Richard Genest – Pecan market and ANIC update, views on the Chinese market.
 - Scott Clark gives the President's address.
 - Boyd Johnston winner of the second Deane Stahmann Scholarship discusses latest Texas pecan short course training and lessons that could be applied here.
 - Nut judging competition and pecan cooking competition.
 - AGM - APGA Committee Members elected – nomination form attached.
 - Evening dinner 7.00pm at Banzai Japanese Restaurant 34 Molesworth St Lismore (numbers limited, book now!).

Confirm with Scott Clark – lagoongrass.pecans@gmail.com (0438-243378) for Saturday attendance for catering and for evening dinner bookings. If you have already replied to Terry Bates you do not need to rebook.

Sunday 28th August - Look for the APGA banner on the fence.

- Field day commences at 9am at Scott Clark's orchard and tree nursery at RMB 475 Bangalow Road, Lagoon Grass, Bangalow Road only a few km east of Lismore. Scott is building an orchard of 5,500 pecan trees.
- At our second venue we will look at the pecan processing operations of Wilson River Pecans. Here pecans from many growers are dried, sorted and graded for export. The commercial pecan tree nursery is also on our tour.

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 – Lisa Yates

Keynote speaker for our annual conference is Lisa Yates who will teach us about the nutritional and health benefits of pecans and trees nuts in general. Lisa is a trained dietician and Manager of the Nuts for Life programme (nutsforlife.com.au).



2010-2011 President's Report

Hi all.

I attended a briefing with Plant health Australia (PHA) on Biosecurity, in particular the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD) (they love their acronyms).

Basically the EPPRD is a formal, legally binding agreement between Plant Health Australia, the federal government, all state governments and plant industries, covering the management and funding of responses to emergency plant pest incidents.

This will allow us in the event of a new pest or disease affecting pecans to get funding from the government, in the form of a no interest loan, to deal with the threat.

We will get, and I feel this is the most important part, representation in the committees and decision making process in how threats are dealt with.

The major thing we have to do to be part of an EPPRD is to have a levy system setup to repay the loan (they don't actually refer to it as a loan but that is what it is). There is also an annual fee for membership to PHA which is currently paid by Stahmann Farm Enterprises on behalf of APGA.

If we don't sign up to this agreement and a pest or disease comes in the government will decide and act with no consultation or compensation.

If we are part of the agreement we will also need to have security measures in place to stop the spread of disease from farm to farm.

Matthew Durack believes we as an industry should seek to adopt a Bio-Security Plan:

- Firstly in order to demonstrate our seriousness toward exotic disease management – and by extension hopefully government support if we were to have an incursion prior to having established a levy; and
- Secondly as a means of raising the profile of the issue across the industry – in order to actively diminish the chances of an incursion in the first place.

Not much detail here I know, just a heads-up so you can think about it before the AGM where I will do a presentation and we can discuss it further. If you want to look into it more PHA website is www.planthealthaustralia.com.au it is quite hard to navigate but all the info is there.

On a different note, I don't know how many of you are members of the NSW Farmers Association, but there was a motion at their AGM this year to disassociate from Westfarmers

Insurance due to them being owned by Coles who have endangered the dairy industry by their selling milk at \$1/ltr. I'm from a dairying family so this hits a nerve with me. I don't know the result of the motion as yet but I would encourage everyone to take this into consideration when they purchase their insurance.

The AGM is on the 27th of August at the Lismore workers club. Dinner on Saturday night is at Banzai Japanese restaurant 34 Molesworth St Lismore. This is an excellent restaurant that I eat at a lot, it is not all raw fish and sushi! It is really excellent food.

Could I have RSVP to the AGM and dinner by the 19th of August please you can email me at lagoongrass.pecans@gmail.com

Lastly I am looking for grafting wood for Choctaw, if anyone has any Choctaw trees I would really like to hear from you in regards of getting some wood.

Hope to see you all there

Cheers

Scott



AGPA Website www.pecangrowers.org.au

The website provides a professional window on the association and is generating 2 or 3 inquiries a month from people who have pecans or are interested in growing or buying them. One of the practical advantages of the website is the ability to point potential growers of pecans to the basic information on the website about climatic, soil, capital and other requirements – this saves many long phone calls!

If any members have ideas for content or would like to add their business details to the suppliers section then please contact me.

Dawn Thornton, Secretary APGA



Grower Profile – Rose Nowland and Mark Nowland

Orara Valley Organic Pecans

Prepared for the Australian Pecan Growers Association Newsletter by Kaye McNaught

Mark and Rose own this pecan enterprise, based on 685 pecan trees approximately 20 years old. Mark and Ken Nowland (now deceased) planted the trees initially, on a variety of soils on the banks of the Orara River. The orchard has been fully organic certified since September 2010.

In March, Mark attended the Nutritech 5 day course and is a convert to organic nutrients and sustainable agriculture. He uses a variety of fertilizers, including guano, soft rock, lime and a compost tea including fulvic acid. Mark and Rose have annual leaf analysis and soil analysis to

guide their program of orchard management. Mark is creative in building spraying equipment and drying areas using recycled materials whenever possible.

The Nowlands have a thriving business marketing pecan kernel. They sell at the local farmers market and to food businesses. Recently Mark has invested in a pecan sheller which is proving very good: e.g. from 10kg of nuts in shell, it will crack and separate out the kernel producing 4kg of halves and less than 1 kg of pieces. This takes about an hour.

Usually the orchard produces about 5-6 tonnes of pecans. Unfortunately the 2011 harvest was very much reduced: wet weather in spring reduced pollination, continued rains over summer made the orchard floor too boggy, and at harvest time the lowest part of the orchard suffered from a flood which swept away part of the crop.

Like all fellow pecan growers, Mark and Rose remain eternally optimistic about the next crop! They welcome any enquiries from fellow growers.

Ph: 02 – 6654 3502 or email: rnowl354@aapt.net.au

For Sale

Trees sleeves – Details from Geoff & Debbie Bugden 02 – 6624 3085

2010-2011 Committee:

President: Scott Clark 02 66243378 lagoongrass.pecans@gmail.com

Vice-President: Terry Bates 02 6564 8747

Secretary: Dawn Thornton 02 6564 8747 bellbowra@bordernet.com.au

Treasurer: Denise Kitchin 07 4125 2280

Committee members:

James Payne 02 66291418

Richard Genest 07 4699 9452 (ANIC Representative)

Kaye McNaught 02 66721483

Geoff Bugden 02 6624 3085

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