

President's Report for the New Zealand Macadamia Society 2019 AGM.

I apologize for not attending the AGM but my Niue holiday included a medevac flight home. I'm told I will recover completely, but I can't travel yet.

Several years ago we held a small AGM on these premises. We almost closed down the Society, but we considered the bank balance gathered by former Execs. We knew and respected those people and decided to elect officers and spend the money, as it had been accumulated, for the benefit of the industry.

We supported Guava Moth research, as Asha described.

We supported Green Vegie Bug research by Dr Jenny Dymock. The parasitic wasp, *Aridelus*, was self introduced into New Zealand. It lays its eggs into a living GVB. *Aridelus* is spreading widely, but is hindered by its legal status. Jenny's project has been stalled for over a year while the relevant government body decides whether to change the wasp's legal status so that it can be bred in captivity and spread intentionally.

At last year's AGM I admitted I did not have a vision for macadamias, but Vanessa did. She still does, and she has organized this exceptional AGM.

Vanessa has produced macadamia cultivars which I have seen growing excellent crops of quality nuts. She has major plans in motion to propagate and plant large numbers of trees and produce massive quantities of nuts. I support the goal of greater nut production because it will lift us to a level where we can act as an industry. I firmly believe our failure over the past decades is due to producing so few nuts that we cannot guarantee supply.

The GVB situation is unpredictable. Vanessa believes her varieties are more resistant to GVB than older varieties. My impression is that lack of winter frosts to kill overwintering adult GVB is the major reason those of us with orchards in warmer areas suffer GVB damage regardless of cultivar. I think we must support Jenny if the government responds positively to her documentation.

I love macadamias and I love orcharding. I'm in it for the day to day pleasure of it. I'd like to make money, but it hasn't happened yet. I wish all new members the pleasure I have, plus ten times the profit. Just don't bank on it.

I thank the people who shared the Exec with me over the years. They did the work. I did very little, but with the best of intentions. The way we handled matters over recent years is called 'masterly inactivity'. Whether because of that inactivity, or in spite of it, the Society is on the move. It's also in need of a new Exec willing to work towards a brighter industry future. I request you to seriously consider standing for office and moving our Society, and our industry, optimistically forward.

Thank you