

**Before the AGM the meeting heard two interesting and relevant presentations. We include summaries of these with the minutes of the AGM because of their current and ongoing significance to the macadamia industry.**

**Dr Jenny Dymock, Entomologist** presented an update on the two major pests threatening the Macadamia industry. Green Vege Bug and Guava Moth.

Green Vege Bug.

Jenny discussed the natural spread of the wasp *Aridelus rufotestaceus* which parasitizes and kills both the juvenile instars and adult GVB.

This wasp is self-introduced to New Zealand, first identified in 2010 in Auckland. Adult wasps have recently been found in Whangarei and Te Puke. The Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, regard it as a new organism. As such it cannot be distributed through-out the country until the EPA are reassured it poses no threat to our native flora and fauna. It is hoped the EPA will soon call for submissions with regard to 'denewing' it.

As GVB effects many fruits and nuts many industries will be interested in this tiny wasp.

Guava Moth:

This moth lays its eggs on the husk of the macadamia nut just as the fruit is beginning to swell in January/ February. The larvae burrow through the husk, rarely into the kernel but cause premature nut fall.

It has many hosts mostly fruit and nuts but has also recently been found by Jenny in Karaka berries.

It has been present in Northland for decades but as of 2018 has been found on the Eastern Coromandel peninsula, Matangi in the Waikato and possibly in Katikati. Models predict it will go as far south as Nelson. A surveillance programme is being undertaken using the 'four component' pheromone traps.

There is no insecticide registered for use against this moth.

Current research for control of this moth is focussed on biocontrol agents and pheromone mating disruption

Biocontrol.

This moth is native to Australia and Papua New Guinea.

Jenny undertook research in Australia to identify wasps that may be able to parasitise this moth. None of the wasps she found were 'described' so need to be identified/ described before work can be progressed.

Asha Chhagan of Plant and Food will continue this investigation and plans to grow the wasps in quarantine in NZ.

Mating disruption.

The pheromone of the Asian Peach moth [also of the *carposinia* genus] closely resembles that of the Guava Moth.

Two orchards have used blanket pheromone clouds using Asian Peach moth pheromone, which is commercially available, to disrupt mating. Jenny's research on Jeff Cleghorn's orchard in Kerikeri reduced nut loss by 50% and the Clee's have found virtually no guava moth affected fruit in their orchard for last season or this whilst using the blanket pheromone approach.

This approach involves attaching pheromone infused twist ties to all trees. The ties emit the female pheromone over a number of months and create a cloud of attractant to the male moths who become so confused by the multi directional streams of scent that they fail to find actual females to mate with. The females therefore cannot lay fertilised eggs on the fruit.

Jenny's observations suggest the total infestation period for a moth is about 45 days and occurs mostly in January in Northland.

President's comment: The Society is financially supportive of the ongoing research into both of these pests.

### **Vanessa Hayes Torere Macadamias**

Vanessa outlined the history of Macadamias in NZ and then introduced their company Torere Macadamias Limited and their various operations which include production and processing nuts and other macadamia products, growing and grafting macadamia seedlings ready for purchase by growers, varietal research and selection of varieties suitable for NZ conditions, collaboration with NZ Plant and Food Research and their association with Chinese investigators interested in the various uses of macadamias especially phytochemicals of use in skincare products.

They are training orchard managers in partnership with EIT.

Vanessa has been involved in the Macadamia industry since the 1980's so knows its history well and is excited about its future prospects. Their nursery has experienced an exponential increase in orders for trees and she sees with increased production a concomitant increase in demand and interest in the NZ product.

She also outlined plans for a grower co operative which would reduce processing and marketing costs and decrease competition between growers. She is seeking expressions of interest in creating a co operative.

President's comment: If you were not at the meeting and do not have an 'expression of interest' form, her contact email is [info@macnz.co.nz](mailto:info@macnz.co.nz). Filling in that form does NOT commit you to being in a co-op but it will give you ongoing information to help in your decision on the matter of whether to join a co-op. The Society does not have a declared position on the matter of the proposed co-op. Such decisions are up to individual members.

# NZ Macadamia Society AGM 2018

Held at Warkworth RSA 20/05/18 at 1300 hrs.

## **Present:**

Sue Bearsley, John Brokx, David Clee, Christina Clee, Dr Jenny, Dymock, Nikolai Gordon, Donna Hardie, Vanessa Hayes, Mark and Beryl Huang, Rod Husband, Nick King, Jan King, Gavin Laurich, Colin MacLeod, Ilko Scheepens, Elle Scheepens, Virginia Warren, Stephanie Adams, David Allen, Arthur Dixon, Karn Dhaliwal, Briar Kaye, Shane and Heidi Dickey, Jan Ferguson, Joe Henley, Jillian and Doug Johnston, Toby and Charle Klopper, Don and Karen Knight, Robert Mannes, Roger Mathews, Keith Hahipene, Zahn Goldsmith, Leslie and Makie Bell, Jesse Hughes, Jason Stanbury, Eric Corner, Deirdre Lawton.

## **Apologies:**

Gwen Bush, Al Dunn, John Findlay John and Maggie Hillock, Ming Lin Pollard, Nicki Searanche, Dr Alvaro Vidiella, Cliff Waaka

## **Minutes of the last meeting:**

These were emailed to those on the member list in May 2017.

They were accepted by the 2018 meeting as a true and correct record.

Moved: Virginia/ Nick

## **Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising.

## **Correspondence:**

All correspondence of significance has been notified to members via email during the year.

## **Presidents report:**

David read his report to the meeting. Report attached to Minutes

Accepted by the meeting.

Moved Virginia/ Donna

## **Treasurer's Report:**

Presented to the meeting by Nick King.

Accepted by the meeting.

Moved David/ Virginia

Copy attached.

## **General Business:**

Privacy within the Macadamia Society.

David raised the issue of whether we should have a publicly available list of Society members. Is it the role of the Society to collect acreage and tree numbers and to whom should this be available? Discussion ensued.

Concern was raised that if names and addresses of orchards were to be publically available it could invite pilfering of crops or orchard machinery thefts, as has happened in the avocado industry.

The topic of a members only section on the website was raised but Ilko explained this would cost a lot to set up and someone would need to be appointed to redirect questions etc. Instead he and Virginia proposed a Closed Group Facebook page. This is free to set up, open to members only and members do not need to be part of the wider Facebook platform to be able to access the page. Ilko has used an identical set up in relation to a surf life saving group and feels it works extremely well.

The meeting was asked for a show of hands if they supported this idea and there was majority support.

Moved that Ilko will set up a private Facebook page with access limited to paid up members of the Society. Moved Ilko, seconded Virginia

Ilko will email members to notify of the page once it is set up.

The society will ask growers for acreage and tree numbers but no members will be obliged to provide this information if they do not wish to.

### **Processors present at the meeting were introduced.**

*John Brokx, Whynut. Waitakere.*

John accepts NIS from orchards at 27% moisture content and dries them down to moisture content suitable for cracking. They mostly return nuts to the grower but also purchase NIS. They are certified organic.

*Gavin Laurich. Waikato*

Gavin and his wife Famke van Laren have purchased Top Notch, Patetonga. They took over in January, the Top Notch staff have stayed on and the company will continue the same service as previously. As Top Notch produce valued added macadamia products they will purchase NIS from growers.

*Doug and Jillian Johnston, Cathedral Cove*

Doug has been growing macadamias for many years on Mahia Peninsula. They purchased Cathedral Cove last year and are now resident there. They are reluctant to do outside processing. Their orchard is affected by GVB which they have had success controlling with the use of oil spray [30% damage decreased to 10% damage]. They use Neem oil to destroy guava moth.

*Beryl and Mark Huang* Nature and Fresh, Pukekohe

Beryl and Mark have the property that previously belonged to Robert Jan. They help lifestyle growers to dehusk, and crack their crop - mostly for private consumption. Growers provide their own containers.

*Arthur Dixon*

Arthur offered to dehusk for other growers in the Katikati area.

### **Nurserymen**

The owners of both Macadamia nurseries were introduced.

*Nikolai Gordon*. GT Macadamias Titirangi

Nikolai has been involved with macadamias all his life having been taught by his father, Ian Gordon, who introduced and propagated macadamias from the very beginning of the industry.

Nikolai stressed the need to get the right variety for your site. He explained that some varieties require pollinators and will not produce a good crop without.

When considering planting he noted that when and how you harvest needs to direct your choice of variety. He has a long history of providing orchard management advice and assistance with pruning as well as propagating trees. He has about 2000 trees in stock at present.

*Vanessa Hayes and Rod Husband*. Torere Macadamias Torere Bay, Opotiki

Vanessa had outlined their nursery operation earlier in the meeting. They have a steady workforce grafting trees and are capable of keeping up with the increased demand. Their varieties are predominantly 'A's. They have much experience and have collated their own data with regard to nut characteristics, favoured conditions, maturity timing and yield, on their orchards, for each variety they sell.

### **Subscription for membership in the society:**

Nick proposed an increase in the annual subscription to ensure that recurring annual costs to the society are covered. He put a motion that the annual website advertisement fee be increased to \$150 but this is to include membership of the society. i.e advertisers will not be required to pay a subscription as well as pay for advertising. Moved Nick, seconded Donna, Accepted by the meeting .

A further motion was tabled; that a decreased deduction for early payment will bring the annual subscription up to \$50 effective immediately 01 April 2019.

Accepted by the meeting. Moved Nick/ Virginia.

Meeting closed 1510hrs