

HORTICULTURE COMMITTEE

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Riverina District

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HORTICULTURE UPDATE AUGUST 2007 – ISSUE NO.43

AGM Report

The Association held its Horticulture AGM at Olympic Park Novotel on July 16th. The key note speaker at the meeting was John Martin ACCC Commissioner who specializes in small business issues. Implementation of the Horticulture Code was top of mind for delegates, with problematic contract clauses and reports of continued intimidation from traders. Scott Gregson also from the ACCC gave delegates some food for thought regarding the potential for collective bargaining with traders, especially with regards to terms of trade. Nick Moraitis Chairman and CEO of the Moraitis Fresh business, who attended at the invitation of the Association President Jock Laurie, offered to act as a type of 'trader envoy' to facilitate relations between wholesalers and growers as the industry struggles to come to grips with the new Code. Kris Newton CEO of Horticulture Australia Council (HAC) also presented, giving an outline of the Council's work as the peak agri-political body for horticulture.



Kris Newton HAC CEO



John Martin ACCC



*2007-08 Horticulture Committee**

Election of Office Bearers

Two (2) Horticultural Executive Councillors

Geoff Moar and Peter Darley

One (1) Horticulture Representative on the Agricultural Chemicals Committee

Peter Darley

Two NSW Directors on AUSVEG Board

Jeff McSpedden (vegetables) Geoff Moar (potatoes)

One Horticulture Representative to the NSWFA Exotic Disease, Quarantine, Plant and Animal Health Committee - David Cameron

One Horticulture Section Nominee for the Conservation and Resource Management Committee - Jeff McSpedden

“Together we're a force to be reckoned with”

Peter Darley was re-elected as chairman and the Committee is now as listed in the contact details listed in this Update. *Note: John Rogers was re-elected to the Committee but chose to step aside for John Cade in order to carry out his responsibilities as a P&A Executive Councilor, Region Chair and Board Member more effectively.

National Apple and Pear Conference 24-26th August – still time to register!

With only weeks until this exciting conference kicks off in Darling Harbour NSW growers are encouraged to take advantage of this top flight event being held in their back yard. Aside from keynote speakers such as Minister McGauran, John Hey (Asia Fruit Magazine); technical experts such as Shane Hetherington (fire blight) and Ross Wilson (Future Orchards 2012); and some inspiration from Sam Bailey (as per Australian Story) – there will be opportunity to discuss industry issues at the members forum and then have a knees up at the dinner cruising Sydney Harbour and to cap it off on a great orchard tour looking at intensive orchards in the Bilpin area.

Call the Association on 02 8251 1838 to confirm your booking and get a registration form.



The Sydney Ballroom – venue for Conference dinner!

NSW Food Authority wants to hear about labeling problems in fresh produce

Association representatives met with the NSW Food Authority recently seeking an audit of compliance by retailers to Country of Origin Labeling (CoOL) requirements under the Food Standards Code. The Authority will not normally conduct a full audit of retailers (as was the case with the NSW seafood industry) until it has a significant record of complaints received from consumers and industry. Therefore it is critical that members report any incidents where retailers are failing to identify the country the produce was imported from or alternatively if it is a 'product of Australia' – both need to be clearly labeled. The hotline number is 1300 552 406 or email contact@foodauthority.nsw.gov.au. For more information on the labeling requirements of the Code see the Authority's website:

http://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/industry/pdf/labelling_country%20origin.pdf

New permits

PER9666 – Acrobat (dimethomorph) + mancozeb / spring onions & shallots / Downy mildew & Purple blotch

Valid 22/06/07 to 1/01/10

PER10095 – Ridomil Gold 25G (metalaxyl-M) / lettuce / Damping off

Valid 22/6/07 to 30/6/09

PER9904 – Tribunil or Juggler (methabenzthiazuron) / leeks / broadleaf weeds

Valid 1/08/07 to 31/07/12

Full details of the permits are available on the APVMA website,

<http://www.apvma.gov.au/permits/permits.shtml>