

SUMMARY

AUSTRALIAN LYCHEE GROWERS ASSOCIATION
LYCHEE GROWERS MEETING
Monday 8th October 2018 @ 2.45pm



Electra Farmlands
Bundaberg Qld 4670

Meeting commenced: 3.15pm

Welcome: Derek Foley – ALGA President

Attendees:

Derek Foley	Scott Sturgess	Rob & Karen Martin
Frank Bosnic	Guglielmo & Angelica Micieli	Steve Pearce (KW Engineering)
Ted Knoblock	Paul & Krystal Caton	Charles & Hester Barbagallo
Chris Salta	Ben & Kylie Jarvis	Paul & John Kajewski
Tibby Dixon	Craig Van Rooyen	Shannon Adolphs (J E Tipper)
Jill Houser	Brian Pocock	Stephan Vorster
Yan Diczbalis (QDAF)	Brian Cutting (Plant & Food Research)	John & Debbie Trimboli (Romeos Marketing Qld)
Chad Simpson (E E Muir)	Lee Duffy (E E Muir)	Maria Walker (Martin Walker Marketing)
Stanley Walker (Martin Walker Marketing)	Eva Paull	Hans & Gaylene Koberg
Bruce & Betty Canniford	Henrik Petersen (E E Muir)	David Towner (Lindsay Rural)
Ben Bartlett	Karen Jones	Val Jones
Neil Innes (Lindsay Rural)		

Apologies:

Ian & Sandy Groves	David Groves	Kerry & John Pool
Gavin & Julie Macdonald	Jack & Rae Cowie	Mal & Jan Everett
Chris Searle	Helen Dixon	Quintieri Family
Marcello & Katrina Avolio	Paul Koy	John & Karen Francis
Marianne Vorster	Rod & Sheila McDermid	Liz Knoblock
Mahen Prasad (Martin Walker Marketing– Associate Member)	Ashley Flegler (LaManna – Associate Member)	Daniel Lutman (J E Tipper – Associate Member)

ALGA Life & Honorary Life Membership:

The ALGA Executive has agreed to introduce Life & Honorary Life Membership of the Association. Guidelines have been established for nominating a Member and Life or Honorary Membership will be conferred by the Executive of the Australian Lychee Growers Association. **(refer to attached Guidelines)**

Derek Foley announced the ALGA inaugural Life Membership at the growers meeting by presenting a Life Membership Certificate to **Tibby & Helen Dixon** of Sarina Beach.

“These Life Memberships are in recognition of Tibby’s tireless efforts as President of ALGA and both he and Helens dedicated service and contribution to the development of the Lychee Industry”

As Derek explained, Tibby & Helen were foundation members growing lychee commercially in Australia and over 40 years of growing lychee Tibby’s contributions to industry have been long and sustained with many high points. As ALGA President for 6 years, he diligently set about convincing all lychee growers that a compulsory levy was essential to move the industry forward. Both Tibby & Helen travelled to China many times to bring back new lychee varieties, and many of these varieties have been planted by Australian growers and are achieving good yields and good prices.

- PP Presentation:** Yan Diczbalis (QDAF)
- LY16002-Mite disinfestation for export fruit
- PP Presentation:** Brian Cutting (Plant & Food Research Australia)
- Strengthening & Enabling Effective Pollination
- PP Presentation:** Lee Duffy (E E Muir)
- Post-harvest products & technology
- Presentation:** Derek Foley & Craig Van Rooyen (ALGA & lychee growers)
- Agitator & Fertilizer Injection system
 - High Pressure fruit wash & brush system

General discussion: The ALGA Executive would like to apologise to meeting attendees, as due to a full afternoon program & time constraints the following agenda items were not covered at the growers meeting.

2018 China Business Conference: (excerpt Derek Foley's AGM President's report)

A trip to China for the International Lychee Conference in Guangzhou came about after ALGA received an invitation to attend.

While this is not unusual, reference was made regarding, 'discussions about possible Australian Lychee trade with China. This of course grabbed our attention from a trade perspective and the possibility to further emphasise our desire to use irradiation as the protocol of choice. The invitation was also seen as an opportunity to determine what interest there might be from industry to attend as we had not attended anything in numbers since the 2008 World Conference in Fuzhou.

The reaction from Industry was very positive with 20 participants; there were 13 growers, six people affiliated with our industry and one person from QDAF. The conference was of course the main focus; however, 10 of us did a tour of Beijing and Xian prior to the conference.

From a conference perspective it was very successful. Yan Diczbalis (QDAF) and I gave addresses and the Round Table meeting provided an opportunity for delegates to talk frankly about our desire to trade with China and use Irradiation. While no great commitment was given by chairman, Professor Houbin Chen, he did say "In a couple of years". We all know it is not quite as simple as that as there are other Australian industries lining up for China Access.

However, the Australian Lychee industry has a long history of cooperation with the Lychee industry in China. If we were to be singled out as their preferred choice over a bigger Australian Industry and Irradiation was to become the preferred protocol then it would be prudent to allow Lychee to break the Irradiation ground. Our success would then allow other industries to follow.

Industry Production & tree survey:

ALGA would appreciate it if all lychee growers could take part in the upcoming Production survey and tree census. The survey/census will become an annual request, similar to other horticulture industries.

The results will benefit the lychee industry in future planning of Research & Development, Marketing, Export markets & Domestic markets supply. ALGA will maintain this information on behalf of growers and only use or disclose the combined overall result. No individual information will ever be disclosed or released.

There will be forms included in the October Living Lychee which can be completed and either emailed or posted back to ALGA. At the same time, a Survey Monkey will be emailed out to growers to give them the option of completing the survey in this way.

Horticultural Award:

On 5th July 2017 the Fair Work Commission (FWC) published a decision regarding ordinary hours of work and overtime for casual employees under the Horticulture Award 2010 (the Award). This decision stated that casual workers under the Award should receive overtime, and expressed provisional views regarding the circumstances when that overtime should be payable. On 30 August 2018 the Commission published a draft determination which would put the proposal into effect but allowed interested parties 21 days to make further submissions in relation to it. On 17 September 2018 the Commission granted the NFF an extension until 11 October 2018 to make its submissions. The NFF submission was on behalf of: NFF membership, and the members of the NFF Horticulture Council: NFF, Northern Territory Farmers, Australian Blueberry

Growers' Association, AUSVEG, Growcom, Apple and Pear Australia Ltd, Dried Fruits Australia, NSW Farmers Association, Victorian Farmers Federation, the Voice of Horticulture, Summerfruit Australia Limited, and Vegetables WA.

The Australian Lychee Growers Association is a member of both Growcom and Voice of Horticulture. No final determination has been issued by FWC as yet; ALGA will forward this out to growers asap.

A copy of the NFF submission is attached for your information.

Exporting to the USA – Year 4: (excerpt Derek Foley's AGM President's report)

2017/18 season was the last year in the three Year Pilot Program. Congratulations to industry pioneers the Avolio Family from the Tablelands and the Salta/ Houser Family Sunshine Coast for once again ensuring this program remains alive.

This Program is vital to the forward planning of the Lychee Industry, as we now go into the next phase the rules remain the same but we need to up the volume. At this moment the US protocol for Irradiation is 400 Gry min and 1000 Gry max. ALGA will be exploring the possibility of getting the minimum raised to 500 Grys this could take some time as past experiences have demonstrated. In the meantime the important work of Yan Diczbalis and the control of small pests is proceeding.

Leadership Exploration and Development Program - LEAD:

The LEAD program is aimed at developing leadership capacity in potential and existing leaders of the Australian Lychee Industry as well as 8 other horticultural industries: melon, pineapple, banana, avocado, passionfruit, strawberry, persimmon and mango.

The leadership program includes two x 3 day residential workshops; webinars and mentoring development over a twelve month period. The first group of participants have completed their workshops and 3 webinars. Krystal Caton from Lush Lychees in Central Qld took part in the Group 1 activities and the ALGA Executive would like to congratulate and thank Krystal for her participation. Krystal and other graduates of the LEAD program are eligible to enrol in the Hort Innovation leadership alumni program.

The Horticulture Alumni is a community of like-minded industry leaders, who share a common desire to lift the bar for Australia's horticulture sector. Further information on the Alumni can be obtained from the Hort Innovation website <https://horticulture.com.au/co-investment-project/horticulture-alumni>

HIA review of Performance by GHD:

ALGA took part in the review of HIA by way of teleconference interviews, a joint Tropical Horticulture Group submission and an individual Lychee industry submission.

The outcome resulted in GHD submitting 14 recommendations to HIA. The following recommendation will be voted on at the Hort Innovation AGM and all industries will be encouraging their members who have voting rights at the AGM to approve the resolution.

Industry Representative Body (IRB):

○ **Recommendation 8:** Hort Innovation in consultation with IRBs and the Commonwealth, to put a resolution for member vote removing the exclusion of IRBs from being members of the company. Industry's had until Friday 14th September 2018 to show support of this recommendation to allow time for a resolution to be put to Voting Members for Constitutional change which will require 75% of voting members in favour of the resolution for the change to be achieved. ALGA did respond by 14th September 2018.

The 14 recommendations have been attached for grower's information. The full HIA review of Performance by GHD is available on the ALGA website or by contacting ALGA @ algaeo@australianlychee.com.au

2018 Chinese researchers & agronomists visit:

A delegation of approx 13 Chinese researchers will visit Qld between 23rd Nov & 2nd Dec 2018. The final agenda is still pending although there will be visits to several lychee orchards and meetings with ALGA and QDAF.

When & where: The 2019 Growers Meeting will be at Sarina Beach on Wednesday 9th September.

Meeting closed: 6.15pm