Around the Orchard

Newsletter of the Apple and Pear Growers Association of South Australia Inc.
in conjunction with the Cherry Growers Association of South Australia Inc
5 Plummers Road, Lenswood, S.A. 5240
Ph: 08 8389 8453
Website www.apgasa.com
Editor: Susie Green

Vol.11 No 5. December 2019

Latest Industry News

Page 2 - Net Gains for Fruit Growers in SA, APGASA AGM & Dinner

Page 3 - Cherry Growers Map Participant Workshop and Pre Harvest Meeting

Page 5 - Labour Hire Licensing Update and Pay Rates

Page 6 - Hailstorm Heroes & IDPM Monitoring in Apples & Pears

Pages 7 & 8 - APAL Grower R&D Update

E.E. Muir & Sons
AUSTRALIAN OWNED • SINCE 1927

EE Muir & Sons Lenswood would like to thank you for your business in 2019

Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Holiday Trading Hours

Please note, the store will be:
CLOSED on ALL Public Holidays
CLOSED on Saturday the 25th January, 2020.

Otherwise normal trading hours apply throughout the holiday period:
Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm
Saturdays 8am to 11:30am

Key Dates

21 - 23 Jan 2020 - APAL Future Business Workshop, Post-Harvest Seminar and Orchard Tour, Shepparton Victoria

5-7 Feb 2020 - Fruit Logistica, Berlin

24 - 25 Feb - WoTL Thriving Women Conference, Hahndorf

24 March 2020 - APAL Future Business Workshop, Adelaide Hills

4 -5 June 2020 - APAL Industry Forum, Melbourne

23 June 2020 - Future Orchards Orchard Walk, Adelaide Hills

Rainfall

(*Rainfall for the month - 30 Nov 2019, source BOM*)
Ashton - 21.6 mm (*avg 55.5 mm*)
Birdwood - 15.6 mm (avg 38.0 mm)
Cudlee Creek, Milbrook Reservoir - 23.0 mm (*avg 44.2 mm*)
Lenswood - 22.2 mm (avg 44.9 mm)
Loxton - 22.4 mm (*avg 22.5 mm*)
Nangwarry - 70.0 mm (*avg 43.6 mm*)
Prospect Hill - 25.8 mm (*avg 41.9 mm*)
Uraidla - 41.4 mm (*avg 54.1 mm*)
Woodside, Inverbrackie - 15.8 mm

Around the Orchard is published by the Apple & Pear Growers Association of South Australia and the Cherry Growers Association of South Australia

Publication of any information contained in this Newsletter either wholly or in part is not permitted without approval.

From the Office

Net Gains for Fruit Growers in SA

Senator the Hon. Bridget McKenzie, Federal Minister for Agriculture officially announced on 22nd November a new funding scheme to support orchardists to install new or replace damaged netting in South Australia.

Of the $14.6 million allocated to South Australia, $7.3 million will be available to help apple, pear and cherry growers in Mayo future-proof their orchards.

The dollar-for-dollar scheme will allow orchardists to apply for up to $300,000 in funding to offset the cost of netting. The scheme is a trial program commencing in 2020 and operating until 31 December 2021 or until funds are fully committed.

Delivery arrangements are still being finalised and will be available shortly.

After several years of jointly advocating for netting funding support, the Apple & Pear Growers Association of SA and Cherry Growers Association of SA acknowledge the federal government for backing this initiative to build industry resilience and thank Rebekha Sharkie, member for Mayo for her advocacy and role in securing this funding.

Rebekha Sharkie MP with Matthew Flavell, Susie Green and Jody Schultz discussing the importance of netting funding. Photo supplied by Rebekha Sharkie's office.

Ashtonco-op

- Horticultural and Viticultural Chemicals.
- Organic and Mineral Fertilisers.
- Hardware for the home & garden.
- Pruning equipment sales and service.
- Rainwater tanks and stock troughs.
- Irrigation and fertigation equipment.
- Rural Fencing – pine posts, droppers, steel fence rails, gates and more.
- Great prices on galvanised water pipe – from ½" to 2"
- Wide range of general hardware and homewares.

and don't forget...

- Wine and self-storage facilities available – talk to Peter about your particular needs.

ASHTON CO-OP
WOODS HILL ROAD,
ASHTON
83903211

Apple & Pear Growers AGM & Dinner

The Apple & Pear Growers Association of SA held their Annual General Meeting and dinner at Lot 100 on Thursday 10th October. There was a strong turnout to the dinner with more than 60 in attendance, including local members of Parliament Rebekha Sharkie and Dan Cregan.

President Ashley Green and CEO Susie Green reported on the work of the Apple & Pear Growers Association of SA over the past 12 months, in what was a very busy period. This included some of the following highlights:

- Industry support and advocacy following on from the 2018 hailstorm
- Coordinating the hail recovery working group
- Securing funding for and managing a project to capture key industry learnings from the hailstorms
- Running another season of Hailstorm Heroes
- Securing $800,000 of funding for solar pumping
- Industry promotional activities including Pick a Pink Lady Weekend, the very successful new event Pome Fest, with support from the Adelaide Hills Council, and the Adelaide Show
- Advocating for industry on a suite of issues, including netting, overabundant species (birds, bats & kangaroos), the proposed Bird in Hand Mine, state government regional development strategy and growth agenda
- Industry communications, including on changes to labour laws
- Leading the development of a regional strategy for horticulture in the Adelaide Hills
- Progressing merger discussions with Cherry Growers SA to strenthen future propsects for the two associations.

Tamara Rohrlach from PIRSA gave a brief rundown on the activities of the hail recovery working group and also acknowledged the success of the Association in securing a range of grant funding, highlighting the importance of having projects in the pipeline.

Thanks were passed on to all the association sponsors and supporters and to the Ceravolo family for their sponsorship of the dinner.

Congratulations to Ashley Green, Tony Ceravolo, Tim Vickers and Jody Schultz, who were all re-elected to the committee, with Joyce Ceravolo, Michael Stafford and Matthew Flavell continuing their terms.

Cherry Growers Map Participants Workshop

On Thursday 7th November a workshop was held in Uraidla for cherry map participants to enable them to share ideas and knowledge in the lead up to the season. There were also presentations from Sally Smith of Adelaide Hills Tourism on some of the opportunities to link in with AHT and from Melissa Bright of the Adelaide Hills Council on what businesses need to be mindful of from a compliance perspective.

During the information sharing session between growers, it was clear that most growers are facing similar issues and challenges, which also allowed for an opportunity to share ideas on how to overcome the challenges. Some of the top tips shared on the day included:

- Be friendly, know your story and answer your questions
- Know your ideal customer
- Ensure clear communication
- Love your product, find your own niche and provide a good experience
- Have patience and good humour, and be friendly

There was also some discussion regarding traffic management and signage, particularly near property entrances. The Adelaide Hills Council is working with Cherry Growers SA on the provision of some temporary signage on council road verges at some locations to warn traffic of cars exiting during cherry season. Contact Susie Green for further details if this is of interest for your property.

HILLS
IRRIGATION SERVICES
MAIN ROAD LENSWOOD SA 5240
Planning Irrigation?
See us for the best deals and service
• Professional staff available to provide irrigation advice
• Distributors for all major irrigation suppliers
• Design, supply & installation
• Moisture monitoring equipment
• Comprehensive range of irrigation equipment in stock
to service your immediate needs
Servicing the Adelaide Hills for 20 Years
Phone: (08) 8389 8400 · Fax (08) 8389 8599
Email:hillsirrigation@ashton.coop

Increasing Your Marketing Impact Through Adelaide Hills Tourism

At the Cherry Map workshop Sally Smith from Adelaide Hills Tourims shared some recommended marketing activities that will help to spread the word about the cherry season.

ATDW LISTING
The Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW) is the national government-owned and managed database of tourism products that tourism websites use for business listings – including the South Australian Tourism Commission (www.southaustralia.com), Tourism Australia (www.australia.com) and the Adelaide Hills (www.adelaidehills.org.au – new site under development and will be at www.visitadelaidehills.com.au). It's free to be on the ATDW and also to have listings on the sites mentioned.

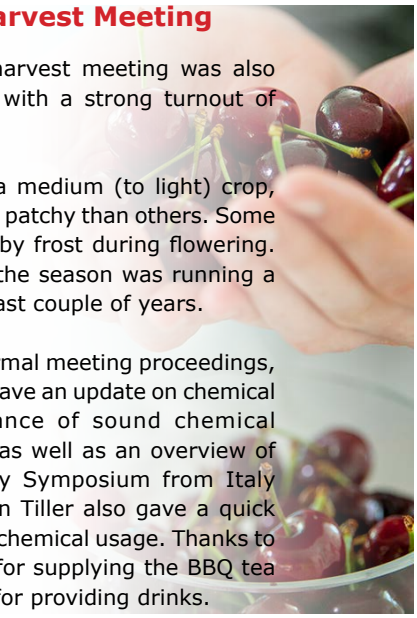
To set up a listing go to https://oauth.atdw-online.com.au/login Click the LOGIN button if you have an existing listing or REGISTER NOW to create a new one. For pick your own and shed sales, choose the ATTRACTION category and then select the most relevant sub-categories (Sally recommends both Shopping/ Markets and Agri, Mining and Industry). If you have food sales you can set up a second listing in the FOOD AND DRINK category then select relevant sub-categories such as café and produce.

AHT COMMUNICATIONS
If you would like to receive the Adelaide Hills Tourism newsletter please drop Sally an email at Sally@visitadelaidehills.com.au. You can also find their closed Facebook industry group called Adelaide Hills Tourism Network – you can join as individuals and also as your business. You can find some more information on the industry page of the AHT website - https://www.adelaidehills.org.au/media-industry.

SOCIAL MEDIA
Don't forget to tag other accounts that might then share your post, and use relevant hashtags in Instagram.
Instagram: Visit Adelaide Hills (@visitadelaidehills), South Australia (@southaustralia) + hashtags #adelaidehills #visitadelaidehills #seesouthaustralia #southaustralia #sacherries
Facebook: Visit Adelaide Hills (@visitadelaidehills), South Australia (@SeeSouthAustraliaAU) and of course Cherries SA (@cherrygrowerssa)

Tip: Don't forget to give people other reasons to visit – occasionally share posts about things to do in your area!

Cherry Pre Harvest Meeting



This year's cherry pre-harvest meeting was also held on 7th November, with a strong turnout of growers.

Most growers reported a medium (to light) crop, with some varieties more patchy than others. Some growers were impacted by frost during flowering. Generally at that stage the season was running a little bit later than the past couple of years.

Following on from the formal meeting proceedings, Tom Eastlake from CGA gave an update on chemical MRLs and the importance of sound chemical management practices, as well as an overview of the International Cherry Symposium from Italy earlier in the year. Justin Tiller also gave a quick rundown on appropriate chemical usage. Thanks to Syngenta and EE Muirs for supplying the BBQ tea and OJI Fibre Solutions for providing drinks.

Post-harvest Seminar and Orchard Tour

Explore how to manage production and packing for optimal post-harvest quality.

21–23 January 2020
Shepparton Victoria

Tuesday – Future Business Workshop - Discretionary Mutual Fund

Wednesday– Seminar Sessions & BBQ Dinner

Thursday – Orchard Tour

Connect with fresh produce supply chain members from across Australia and hear the latest from local and international post-harvest experts in the Goulburn Valley in January 2020.

Our high calibre agenda will challenge thinking on post-harvest management techniques and will provide first-hand perspectives that will drive change in the way they manage fruit storage.

Enjoy unparalleled networking over the three days. Wind down at the end of the first day with a summer BBQ dinner.

The Orchard Tour will explore state-of-the-art packing and coolstore facilities while hearing from owners and managers of some of the most progressive apple and pear orchards in Australia.

Register now.
www.apal.org.au/events/post-harvest-seminar-2020

Proudly supported by:

Isolcell

Hort Innovation
Strategic levy investment

APPLE AND PEAR FUND

APAL Support for growth

SA Labour Hire Licensing - Update

Article by Mark McAllister, MADEC

As the 1 November deadline has past, which was the due date for all contractors to have their SA Labour Hire Licence, we now wish to assist all with some refresher items in relation to this, plus provide you with a link to a hints and tips guide to managing your labour contracting.

SA Labour Hire Licence:

- For those growers who utilise a contractor supplying labour, the contractor is required to have had a SA Labour Hire Licence by 1 November 2019.
- Once issued with a licence, contractors are then required within 12 months to complete two courses set down by this legislation.
- Your contractor is required to supply you with a copy of their SA Labour Hire Licence. If a contractor sub-contracts the same rules apply.
- As of 1 November 2019 if you provide Labour Hire Services without being licenced, or engage an unlicensed labour hire provider, penalties may apply.

Information about labour hire licences, including applying for a license and other responsibilities of labour hire providers is available on the Labour Hire licence page of the South Australian Government website via the following link
www.sa.gov.au/topics/business-and-trade/licensing/labour-hire-licence

Guide To Managing Labour Contracting:
The following are important extracts from the Fair Work Ombudsman document, 'Guide To Labour Contracting':

It is important that you engage contractors who do the right thing by their employees by following workplace laws, which covers things like minimum wages, leave and other entitlements. This helps to protect your business against a number of significant risks including:

- *Damage to reputation of your business - your bottom line may be affected if customers leave because your contractor broke the law.*
- *Being held legally responsible for your contractor's actions - this is known as 'accessorial liability' and can result in your business facing financial penalties in court.*

You can help to minimise your risks when engaging contractors by following these five easy steps:

1. *Know the pay rate and conditions that apply*
2. *Ask contractors about their workplace practices*
3. *Check the contract price to make sure it's enough to cover wages*
4. *Set clear expectations*
5. *Make sure you know of subcontracting arrangements*

For the complete informative step by step guide please visit the following link:
www.fairwork.gov.au/supplychain

Please contact Mark McAllister (MADEC Harvest Officer) if you require assistance on 0400 938 311.

Pay Rates and Public Holidays

As we head into a busy period with a number of public holidays, growers are reminded of pay rates relating to public holidays. Under the Horticulture Award, Employees must get public holiday pay rates for all time worked on a public holiday. Labour hire companies are also required to pay employees public holiday pay rates.

Full-time and part-time employees get paid 200% of their ordinary rate for hours worked on a public holiday.

Casual employees get paid 225% of their minimum hourly wage (this includes their 25% casual loading) for hours worked on a public holiday. They get this rate whether they're working overtime hours or normal hours.

The public holiday rate for full-time and part-time pieceworkers is calculated by multiplying the worker's piecework earnings for that day by the public holiday rate of 200%.

For more information about hours of work and overtime, go to the Horticulture Showcase section of the Fairwork Ombudsman website at https://www.fairwork.gov.au/horticulture-showcase/hours-of-work-overtime

Hailstorm Heroes

A range of activities have been undertaken to support the promotion of Hailstorm Heroes through the past few months. Following on from the Adelaide Show, tastings were held in Rundle Mall over 2 consecutive weekends. We then had a dedicated Hailstorm Heroes stand at CheeseFest & Ferment 2019 over two days in Rymill Park in October. This was followed on by a site at the Uraidla Show, where we promoted and sold Hailstorm Heroes apples. A very big thank you to Sandra Ceravolo for her help in coordinating many of these activities and to Casey and Matt who did a great job with the tastings.

We are also drawing to a close a significant social media campaign through the SA Apple & Pear Social media channels, where the story of Hailstorm Heroes has been woven into numerous posts that have also highlighted our local growers and more broadly showcased South Australian apples and pears. A very big thank you to all the growers who have willingly been involved in this campaign and have featured in videos and stories. We aim to continue the increased reach and momentum from this campaign into the new year and the new season.

IPDM Monitoring in Apples & Pears

Entomologist and Integrated Pest and Disease Management specialist David Williams from Agriculture Victoria, in conjunction with Paul James, led an orchard walk at Ceravolo Orchards Ashton orchard on 4th December, running through monitoring strategies, local pest and disease issues and a practical session on monitoring techinques. Some of the key information covered is outlined below.

The first decision for monitoring is deciding where to sample in your orchard. It is recommended that each discrete block is monitored separately. Within each block it is preferable to select trees at random each time you conduct monitoring. Monitoring should also be conducted in alignment with the monitoring calendar, which highlights key timings for different pest of concern.

There are four general categories of sampling based on the use of five trees selected at random within a block. These have been designed to allow monitoring of multiple pests or diseases within the one sample and are:

- 20 flower clusters (four clusters x five locations on the tree) per tree
- One-minute inspections per tree
- 10 randomly selected leaves per tree
- 100 randomly inspected fruit per tree

You can use different categories at different times; for example, flower clusters are only inpsected from pink bud to petal fall and 100 fruit inspections are only conducted from mid January onwards.

In addition to the above, traps can be used to detect and attempt to quantify adult insect populations. All information should be recorded onto an IPDM monitoring sheet. The data and trends that are recorded over time should be used to inform decision making on control options, based on thresholds that are set to suit your situation. It was suggested the adjust thresholds over time as you become more comfortable with the outcomes.

If you have any questions on IPDM you can direct them to a community of experts at https://extensionaus.com.au/ozapplepearipdm/ask-an-expert/q-a/

The booklet "Pests of Pome and Stone Fruit and their Predators and Parasitoids" is also a useful tool to help with in-field identifications and can be downloaded from https://extensionaus.com.au/ozapplepearipdm/draft_useful-tool-pests-pocket-guide/

For more details on the project and other useful resources go to https://extensionaus.com.au/ozapplepearipdm/home

APAL Grower R&D Update

Source: Apple & Pear Australia Limited

APAL held an R&D Update for growers in Melbourne on Wed 13th December at the MCG. Presentations and panel sessions were organised into 5 broad themes.

Orchard irrigation in a time of drought

Agriculture Victoria's Dr Mark O'Connell started the day with a session titled Transforming your orchard irrigation with sensors and monitoring. After a brief summary of water scarcity issues and an explanation of crop water requirements, O'Connell ran through a number of emerging technologies and sensors for irrigation, touching on solutions for measuring evaporative demand, canopy size, under irrigation and over irrigation. Noteworthy solutions include a closed-loop irrigation system, artificial intelligence irrigation, weather-based irrigation scheduling, canopy temperature sensing, and multispectral imagery captured via fixed-wing aircraft.

This session was followed by the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture's Dr Nigel Swarts, who updated delegates on the soil characterisation component of the fertigation project, with new data on soil water availability within each soil profile.

Pollination

Dr Katja Hogendoorn sounded the alarm in her presentation on pollinators. At present, the bulk of pollination in Australia is done for free by feral honey bees, with a comparatively small percentage of managed hives in use. Hogendoorn expects this feral population to be wiped out with the imminent arrival of Varroa destructor. If this occurs, growers will have to turn to managed hives, and could prices for those services could rise by more than 300%. Hogendoorn provided delegates with information that will help curb pollinator declines, including research on the density of feral honey bees, the 15 species of native bees visiting apple orchards, the ideal amount of vegetation around an orchard that will support a native population, and plants to support bees in the crop.

The behaviour of honey bees can be affected by conditions under nets. Dr Lisa Evans presented findings from a study of New Zealand kiwifruit orchards and the effect of their netting on hive populations. She found that 71% of bees failed to return to their colony after visiting a covered orchard, while only 37% failed to return with open orchards. Foraging trips per day and average days spent foraging also decreased dramatically. Research is ongoing, but it appears that netting interferes with the bees' ability to navigate. Populations are also impacted by residual insecticides and fungicides under netting.

With hives under netting coming out significantly weaker than when they were put in, this is likely to lead to beekeepers either increasing their fees or refusing to put their bees in netted orchards altogether. Evans took delegates through some of the experiments her team undertook to see if this problem could be resolved, including putting holes in covers, providing visual landmarks for bees, and decreasing colony sizes.

Agritech and Smart Farming

Agriculture Victoria has recently established a unique row orientation and tree size experiment called a "sundial orchard". Its objectives are to study the effects of lights on yield, fruit quality and ecophysiology, evaluate sensors and sensing platforms, robotics and automation, explore techniques for traceability of fruit, and demonstrate best practice IPDM. Dr Ian Goodwin outlined the research themes that are intended to be investigated in the experimental orchard.

SwarmFarm Robotics' Angus Hogan updated delegates on a trial where SwarmFarm is using robotics to measure tree canopy and flower density to deliver a more precise variable spray solution for apple flower thinning.

Tie Up Farming's Roei Yaakobi explored the role of data science, AI, and machine learning in day-to-day orchard management, with an emphasis on the importance of end-to-end systems (growing, harvesting, packing shed and marketing) instead of fragmented tech solutions.

The first of two guest speakers from the USA, Rob Blakey (R&D Manager of Stemlit Growers) talked about how machines and systems can be used to (at first) optimise and eventually replace human pickers to remain competitive in a consolidating industry.

Blakey's vision of harvesting technology progress begins with manual (human) labour and ends with flying robots working 24/7. Blakey's presentation was peppered with video footage of robotic harvesters at various stages of development, from claw-like machines that identify and pick apples, to vacuum-tube-like machines that sucked the apples of the tree, to a prototype-stage flying robot picker.

Netting

A panel discussion on netting discussed:

- Purposes of netting: excluding cockatoos and other birds, netting for sunburn, hail netting and water retention.
- Pros and cons of permanent versus drape netting.
- Chemical application under netting.
- Pest management under netting.
- Netting management to respond to the concerns raised in the pollination session about nets harming bee populations.

Biosecurity

The final session of the day began with the second guest from the USA, Bill Mackintosh. Speaking via a video link, Mackintosh talked about his experience with the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) and provided growers with practical solutions for dealing with the pest including management of vegetation that attracts BMSB, trapping, measuring population numbers, and the effectiveness of various chemical applications.

The R&D Update finished with a presentation from David Williams (Agriculture Victoria) on the effectiveness of the introduced parasitoid wasp Mastrus ridens in combating codling moths, followed by a discussion of cold treatments for fruit fly disinfestation for access to quarantine markets, led by Dr Franics De Lima of AgHort Solutions.

To keep you abreast of the latest developments in post harvest management, APAL are holding their annual post harvest seminar in Shepparton on January 22-23. For further details see https://apal.org.au/post-harvest-2020-just-around-corner/

Sun Protection in the Workplace

As we come into the peak of summer it is timely to consider sun exposure for outdoor workers. People who work outdoors receive up to 10 times more sun exposure than indoor workers. Outdoor workers and those working outdoors periodically will be exposed to the sun and the two main hazards this presents: over exposure to UV radiation and heat stress.

The Cancer Council provides the following content on its website:

Duty of care

State Occupational Health and Safety Acts require employers to provide and maintain safe working environments. Employers must ensure their employees can work safely and without risk to their health - this includes exposure to UV radiation. In turn, employees have a responsibility for their own safety and health and must follow UV protection policies and use sun protective measures provided.

Cancer Council Australia recommends that all workplaces that require employees to work outdoors for some or all of the day have a comprehensive sun protection program in place. This includes an assessment of the risks, implementing sun protection control measures, providing education and training for all outdoor personnel and having a sun protection policy in place.

A combination of five sun protection behaviours should be used in the workplace.

1. Slip on sun protective clothing
2. Slop on SPF 30 or higher sunscreen
3. Slap on a hat (broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket-style hat provides good protection for the face, nose, neck and ears)
4. Seek shade
5. Slide on some sunglasses