

The Good Oil

November 2007

Newsletter of the Mudgee Olives Association

2008 Calendar

Members meetings – At 2pm at “Stables” on following dates:

- Saturday 9th Feb
- Saturday 10th May
- Saturday 9th August
- AGM 8th Saturday Nov

Pickling Workshop
Pruning Workshop/field day
Pests & Diseases workshop
Marketing Workshop
“Made in Mudgee”/MSFFD
“Fresh from the Press”
Oil & Products Awards
Organised International Olive Tour

MOA Annual General Meeting

The recent AGM saw a few changes in the ranks of the Executive of the MOA. Robert Colquhoun was elected President and Mike Sweeney his deputy. As well we now have three new executive members in Graeme Elliott, Michael Hewitt and Roger Barnes.

The Minutes Secretary is Jan Kenworthy and the treasurer is June Ritar. I remain as Ops Manager.

There are challenging times ahead with increasing crop yields and the need to find new markets for these increased yields.

A full calendar of events for the year is being organised. Final dates and venues will be publicised later.

To get the best out of this organisation, members need to become more involved, especially with the running of and participation in events. If you have expertise that you think may help your fellow growers, then come forward and tell us about it. Its to everybody’s advantage. WIN WIN WIN .

Karl

NEWS FROM MUDGEE REGIONAL TOURISM

The MRTI recently amended its Constitution to reduce Board size. A total of 4 positions were removed, i.e. two Mid Western Regional Councillors, and one each (there used to be two) from the Mudgee Wine and Grape-growers Association (MWGGA), and the Hospitality Assoc. One extra Community member position was added.

In addition a stakeholder template was adopted, to test the credentials of any organization to hold a position. The MOA met the criteria and hence maintains a position on MRTI Board. At present the representative is Michael Sweeney.

Over the next twelve months the “Made in Mudgee” project will be progressed by MRTI to attain a Regional Brand. The major other players include the MWGGA, Mudgee Fine Foods Group and our MOA.

MOA Membership Fees for 2008

It was resolved at the AGM that membership fees remain as for 2007. Earlybird discounts will apply.

Membership renewal notices have been mailed out to all members together with Loyalty Vouchers, hence enabling members to renew at the discounted rate.

This means that if you pay your membership fees before the 31st December 2007 you only need to pay \$80 instead of \$120.

Mudgee Olive Oil and Olive Product Awards.

The executive, at their October meeting, decided to recommend to the AGM that the procedures for the judging of the Oil and Product Awards be clearly defined and tightened so that there is no chance, as far as humanly possible, of mistakes being made in such matters as pouring of the oils, adding scores etc. At no stage was there any criticism of the quality of the Judges or the judging at the executive meeting or the AGM.

In the past, no clear guidelines existed for the formation of a team of stewards (and their duties) that would oversee and conduct the pouring of the oil, proofing the results etc. The result has been that basically just one person was responsible for and privy to the collection of oils, distribution of tasting samples, addition of scores etc. Hence members and people outside the MOA could be of the view that mistakes **could** be made. This has meant that the credibility of the Awards and of the MOA, could be put into question.

One suggested set of protocols is shown below. This will be further discussed and fine tuned at the next executive meeting and recommendations will be made to the next general meeting to be held in February 2008. The executive will welcome any constructive suggestions from any member so please email us or contact us by phone.

Template to be applied to both shows.

1. The positions of "moderator" and "coordinator" be abolished.
2. Judges with limited or no experience be considered as "associate judges" with their scores not included in results.
3. Those invited to judge accept, on condition that they attend at least one pre show exercise.
4. The pre show(s) administration ,arranging venues ,entries ,payment despatch for tests, physical collection of entries, confirming that judges and stewards are going to turn up etc ,etc, be conducted by the Operations Manager.
5. **Judging day operations** to be served by a team of 3 stewards one of which appointed as "chief steward" whose role will be to supervise the serving of samples by the team, and collection and collation of the scores and comments.
Both assistant stewards to proof read the results and hence ensure there are no transposition or dislocation errors in the serving and collation.
A protocol for pouring and delivering the samples to the judges be developed.
6. **Judging** to be performed by 3 or more panels of official judges with the associates as previously mentioned on a separate panel, not contributing to results.
One of the judges be deemed as "Chief Judge" to give assistance to the process if and where needed.
7. Following collation and proofing of results, they be passed to the Ops Manager for processing and administration.
8. Members of the executive have access to all information regarding the Awards on a needs basis and in confidence, prior to public issue.

Tapenade Recipe

(Black olive paste)

200g stoned black olives
100g anchovy fillets, drained and desalted
2 tablespoons capers
1 teaspoon French Dijoon mustard
Ground black pepper
6 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil

Work all ingredients, except the oil, in an electric blender or pound with a mortar and pestle. Add the olive oil a little at a time until a thick paste is formed.

Serve cold on toast

Enjoy

DESIGNING WATER INTO LANDSCAPE

Earthworks for landholders - 3 day course - 18-20 Dec 2007 - Mudgee

- * Site assesment
- * Soil analysis
- * Planning and surveying
- * Dam construction
- * Water harvesting
- * Dealing with contractors
- ... and much more

Water is the major issue on every Australian farm. Water harvesting and storage earthworks need to be intelligently designed and well implemented in order to meet their primary objective - sustainably drought-proofing your property, building soil and improving fertility.

This three day on-site course taught by Geoff Lawton will give you the knowledge to design and construct earthworks that will act as an insurance policy against drought and increase the value of your property.

**Three dams and over a kilometre of swales
will be laid out during the course.
Construction will be occurring on all days.**

For more info visit:

MilkwoodPermaculture.com.au

**or call Kirsten on
02 6373 7763**

Equipment supplied by
Andersons Dozer Hire



Geoff Lawton is world renowned for designing effective water solutions in the ecological "badlands". His practical experience is immense, designing and managing hundreds of complex projects in such diverse places as Mexico, Tanzania, Iraq, Vietnam, Europe and Australia.

Geoff's relaxed and informal teaching style ensures you won't be overwhelmed by the theory, but his 20 years of experience teaching sustainable farming practices in 21 countries ensures you will get the full picture.



Minutes of the MOA AGM

MUDGEES OLIVES ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - SATURDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2007

STABLES COMPLEX.. MARKET ST., MUDGEES 2:00 PM

PRESENT: June & Karl Ritar, Neil & Sue Clubb, Graham & Caroline Elliott, Mary Lester, Robert Colquhoun, Tracey Wigg, Marilyn Ramage, Mr & Mrs Anderson, Leonard Morrison, Clarrie Beckingham, Michael Hewitt, Roger Barnes, Iain & Cath Stevenson, Michael Sweeney, Jan Kenworthy. **APOLOGIES:** Verell Barnes, Marcus Cornish, John Natoli, Pam Colquhoun, and David Lester M: apologies be accepted Mary Lester S: Robert Colquhoun carried

MINUTES 2006 AGM M: Michael Hewitt S: June Ritar carried

CHAIR'S REPORT: Presented by Chair... outlined in detail. Questions and comments made during the report. There was criticism of Executive and Chair. Chair called for a motion "No confidence in the outgoing Executive" M; Iain Stevenson S: Neil Clubb Discussion, Robert Colquhoun suggested motion to be left on table until reports are complete. Chair agreed and the motion was put aside, later during the report, Cath and Iain Stevenson left the meeting..

AUDITOR'S REPORT: Read by Karl Ritar and tabled M: Karl Ritar S: Robert Colquhoun accepted and carried

OPERATIONS MANAGER'S REPORT: Karl tabled and discussed his report. Robert Colquhoun thanked Karl for his dedicated work.

TREASURER'S REPORT: June Ritar, detailed the financial position of MOA. M: June Ritar S: Mary Lester carried

CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION: Recommendation – "Membership criteria - one Grove - one member one vote" M: Michael Hewitt S: Roger Barnes carried The Olive Nest requested vote against be recorded. Recommendation – "That the MOA be incorporated as a Co-Operative" M: Graham Elliott Could MOA incorporate as an Association, and the Executive to explore progress to a Co-Operative S: Michael Hewitt carried

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS 2008 All positions declared vacant. Caroline Elliott acted as Returning Officer

CHAIR:	Robert Colquhoun	Nominated - Karl Ritar	elected unopposed
VICE CHAIR:	Michael Sweeney	Nominated - Karl Ritar	elected unopposed
MIN SEC:	Jan Kenworthy	Nominated - Mary Lester	elected unopposed
TREASURER:	June Ritar	Nominated - Michael Sweeney	elected unopposed
OPERATIONS MGR.	Karl Ritar	Nominated - Michael Sweeney	elected unopposed
OIL SHOW CHIEF JUDGE:	Sue Clubb	Nominated - Caroline Elliott	declined
	No further nominations executive to seek and appoint a suitable Judge		
SHOW AWARDS CHIEF STEWARD:	Jan Kenworthy	Nominated – Michael Sweeney	elected unopposed
PRODUCT SHOW CHIEF JUDGE:	Russell Holden	to be contacted	no further nominations
EXECUTIVE MEMBERS:	Michael Hewitt offered		
	Graham Elliott	Nominated by Karl Ritar	accepted
	No further nominations both elected		

GENERAL MEETING

2008 MEMBERSHIP FEES: \$120 per member \$80 - early bird before Dec 31 2007 M: Karl Ritar S: June Ritar carried

TEMPLATE FOR OIL AND PRODUCT SHOW: To be distributed in details to members M: Michael Sweeney that this be adopted for a trial period of one year S: Michael Hewitt carried

EVENTS '08: Show Awards Judging Dates...change to earlier date.....August 2/3 2008 Trophy Dinner change to Friday August 8 2008 M: Robert Colquhoun S: Michael Hewitt carried. All other events dates as presented in Chair's Report

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP: Clarrie Beckingham to be given Hon. Membership M: Karl Ritar S: Michael Hewitt carried Clarrie thanked the MOA and happily accepted.

GENERAL BUSINESS: Neil Club expressed concern over an olive oil being sold under the label "Frog Rock" Robert C, Michael S will investigate the problem. This issue has been raised before by members of the Farmers Market

Robert Colquhoun thanked the previous Executive

Item to be tabled for next General meeting in February "Increase the honorarium for Operations Mgr."

Meeting closed 4:30 pm

Afternoon tea was provided for members.....

Wanted: Expressions of interest

Bulk olive oil – If you expect to have bulk olive oil for sale from the 2008 harvest, please forward details to me. I may have a market for you.

I need estimates of quantities of varieties and your expectation of \$/lt. Chemical analysis will need to be provided.



Phone: 0407 744 296 or 0417 206 347

Email: info@proharvesting.com.au

Pro Harvesting

- Olive harvesting
- Bin hire
- Forklift hire available
- Transportation of fruit
- Competitive Rates
- Interstate bookings
- OH&S Compliant



Remember, you can advertise in the "Good Oil" for just \$25 per issue for advertising space, call Karl on 6373 7793

Here's a great idea for a holiday

**THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE OLIVE
INDUSTRY AND RECREATIONAL
TOUR...OCTOBER 2008**



This tour is to offer our members a fully booked and organized tour, but NOT escorted, to visit the harvest and processing of Olives in Tuscany and Crete, as well as some recreational side trips.

Expressions of interest will need to be made by March 2008, to arrange and allow for the best prices on hotels and travel.

The Schedule

Oct 9	DEP SYDNEY	Oct 21	At leisure, Porsche or Mercedes museums, side trips
Oct 10	ARR ROME		
Oct 11	ROME at leisure		
Oct 12	Rail to FLORENCE	Oct 22	to Black Forest, Heidelberg
Oct 13	Industry Visits	Oct 23	Flight to CRETE (Heraklion)
Oct 14	Industry Visits		
Oct 15	Industry Visits	Oct 24	Industry visits
Oct 15	Scenic Rail journey through Switzerland - overnight in BERN	Oct 25	Industry visits
		Oct 26	Flight to ATHENS
Oct 17	Rail to Burgundy Region, Dijon	Oct 27	at leisure
		Oct 28	at leisure
Oct 18	at leisure	Oct 29	Flight to ROME
Oct 19	at leisure	Oct 30	at leisure
Oct 20	Rail to Stuttgart	Oct 31	at leisure
	Automotive Capital of Europe	Nov 1	DEP ROME
		Nov 2	ARR SYDNEY

Any of the segments may be omitted to suit. Hotels will be carefully researched and will be within walking distance from the Railway stations. All hotels will be not less than three stars, and with advanced bookings sometimes offer promotional prices, may be four stars. Air travel from Australia and within Europe will be Economy Class. Rail travel will be 1st Class, by Special pass and will include travel on most legs by TGV and ICE trains, which travel up to 300kph. Estimated prices for all travel and accommodation, **not including insurance, meals**, (other than Hotels which offer b/kfasts) **or out of pocket expenses**, \$5900 per person on twin share basis. Single supplement an extra \$2000.

This tour is not subject to minimum numbers, so will definitely run.

Give it some thought!



MUDGEE OLIVES ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS:

CHAIR: Robert Colquhoun: T: 9252 7477
F: 9252 4877
E: rob_colquhoun@bigpond.com

DEPUTY CHAIR: Michael Sweeney: T: 6373 1248
F: 6373 1248
E: organic@martinshillwines.com.au

MINUTES SECRETARY: Jan Kenworthy T: 6373 1248
F: 6373 1248
E: organic@martinshillwines.com.au

TREASURER: June Ritar T: 6373 7793
F: 6373 7792
E: june@greenmountainolives.com

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS: Graeme Elliott: T: 6374 4296
E: graeme.elliott@bigpond.com

Michael Hewitt T: 6372-6510
E: karilla@bigpond.net.au

Roger Barnes T: 6373 1230
F: 6373 1430

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY
Product Awards Co-ordinator
Michael Hewitt T: 63726510
E: karilla@winsoft.net.au

PRINCIPAL POINT OF CONTACT

MOA OPERATIONS MANAGER

Karl Ritar T: 6373 7793
F: 6373 7792
E: karl@greenmountainolives.com

“Kirwin”
1466 Campbells Creek Road
Mudgee NSW 2850