

Continued Facilitation of the Development of the Tasmanian Apple, Pear, Cherry & Stone Fruit Industries

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Fruit Growers Tasmania Inc

Project Number: MT09047

MT09047

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Know-how for Horticulture™



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The project aim was to continue to improve communication within the Tasmanian apple, pear, cherry and stonefruit industries and the national industry network ensuring that growers are well informed to enable them to take full advantage of the latest developments and technology in their pursuit of sustainable profitability and growth into the future.



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APAL	Apple & Pear Australia Ltd
CGA	Cherry Growers Australia Inc
FGT	Fruit Growers Tasmania Inc
UTAS	University of Tasmania

Summary

The focus of this project was to maintain and improve communication within the Tasmanian apple, pear, cherry and stonefruit industries and the national industry network. In addition, to provide dissemination of information and resources for growers in line with the State & National Industry Strategic Plans and also to facilitate the pursuit of export development, market access and international competitiveness.

The positive outcomes from HAL Project MT09047 can be measured in part by the recognition FGT has earned as an effective regional industry representative body. This in turn is beneficial to industry in creating a positive industry profile with recognition of a well informed, proactive industry.

There are clear indications that industry sectors, particularly cherries will experience even further growth over the coming years. Over the past 5 years, cherry production both in Tasmania and nationally has increased significantly and is likely to increase even further over the next 3-4 years, particularly if there are no adverse weather events such as untimely frosts or rain, as has happened in the past couple of seasons.

The apple industry has seen a rationalisation with new plantings, work undertaken on club varieties and less commercially viable varieties being replaced with more popular varieties such as royal gala. Success in the industry can however create increased vulnerability in relation to issues such as maintaining area freedom status from fruit fly for exports, increasing competitiveness in markets and the need to pursue new markets. FGT continues to address these issues using a proactive approach and development of appropriate resources to meet these challenges.

The Project Officer and Management Committee for Project MT09047 recognised the need to be lateral in its approach to carrying out the stated activities by being aware of the ever changing circumstances and priorities within industry and adapting accordingly. Therefore Project MT09047 has been successful in providing vital strategic support for activities in response to the industry's needs.

Key activities:

Communication:

- Information – Distributed to growers by way of web site, newsletter, email, postal mail. Maintenance of grower database and inclusion of cherry, stone fruit and berry growers. Further development of the website, production of members' contact booklet. Promotion of industry events to growers.

Copy of FGT Newsletter Appendix 1.

- Affiliation and information exchange with Apple & Pear Australia Limited (APAL) and Cherry Growers Australia Inc (CGA).
- Public Information – General industry background and information posted on web site and provided as requested.
- Attendance at industry events both locally and nationally.

- Contribution to State Roundup in national apple and cherry industry magazines.

Example of State report in APAL newsletter Appendix 4

- Media liaison for industry events including writing and distribution of media advices and releases in order to promote the industry and its activities.

Management of –

- National industry conferences on behalf of both APAL and CGA.
- State Promotion Program (apples & pears and cherries).
Example of report to APAL Appendix 5
- Ensure ongoing provision of professional support to growers utilising FGT resources.
- Development and submission of Approved Body Application under the Export Market Development Scheme on behalf of CGA. Successful application and continue to manage EMDG on behalf of CGA.
- Following changes to legislation, which allow regional industry organisations to apply for EMDG Approved Body Status, development and submission of application for Approved Body Status on behalf of FGT. Successful application and continue to manage EMDG on behalf of FGT.
- Development of a “pickers register”, allowing people looking for seasonal work to submit online applications, which are then made available to FGT Members requiring workers via the FGT Website.

Facilitation of –

- Seminars, grower meetings, Annual General Meeting including production of FGT Annual Report.
Example of Seminar flyer Appendix 2 & Annual Report Appendix 3.
- Export Development activity – Inspection visits from Japan, Taiwan, Korea and China.
- Development/coordination of annual grower training program.
- FGT Scholarship in partnership with the University of Tasmania (UTAS). – Administration and management of Scholarship processes and applications between UTAS and FGT’s Executive.
- Facilitated change to FGT’s constitution at the 2010 FGT AGM to allow grower membership to be extended to berry producers, plus a position to be made available on the FGT Executive for a berry representative.

Support/Input to –

- FGT Executive Members & Tasmania's APAL and CGA Directors. Creation of relevant Agendas, distribution of papers.
- Administration and liaison with University of Tasmania and Fruit Growers Tasmania Executive regarding FGT Scholarship.
- Combined FGT/CGA Industry Development Officer.
- FGT Business Development Manager.
- Annual FGT Conference
- Grower services – MRL bulk testing program; bulk supply protocol items, Export Registrations, various training courses.
- Discussions with Tasmanian berry industry which has led to berry members being able to become members of FGT since 2010, plus have a representative on FGT's Executive since.
- Visiting Expert presentation tours including interstate regions.

Introduction

The project “*Continued Facilitation of the Development of the Tasmanian Apple & Pear Industry*” commenced as AP0502 and operated from 25/10/05 to 30/4/06. There was then a continuation of this project under AP06018, which ran from 1/7/06 to 30/5/09. This project, MT09047, which commenced 1/10/09 continues on from AP0502 and AP06018 and was entitled “*Continued Facilitation of the Development of the Tasmanian Apple, Pear, Cherry & Stone Fruit Industries*” to reflect the evolving operations of Fruit Growers Tasmania, whose membership is made up of growers from all of these industries. Fruit Growers Tasmania is also affiliated with both Apples & Pears Australia Ltd (APAL) as well as Cherry Growers Australia Inc (CGA).

In 2008, during the course of AP06018, The Project Officer worked very closely with grower members, APAL and CGA in order to facilitate the successful outcome of the restructure of FGT to a single management body, instead of having separate Stone Fruit and Pome Fruit Councils. This was a positive development for industry with a streamlined industry body and direct benefit to growers with cost savings in relation to services provided and access to increased resources.

The combining of the industry sectors also resulted in the Project Officer providing support and input to activities undertaken by the FGT/CGA Industry Development Officer and the recently appointed Business Development Manager, which is why MT09047 become an across industries project.

The FGT Project Officer undertook Project MT09047 to further develop the Tasmanian industry resources in order to provide ongoing support to Tasmanian apple, pear, cherry and stone fruit growers. Over the course of this project, these activities expanded to also include berry growers. At the 2010 FGT AGM the Project Officer facilitated a change to FGT’s constitution allowing grower membership to be extended to berry producers, plus a position to be made available on the FGT Executive for a berry representative.

As was the case with AP06018, communication continued to be the focus of the Project MT09047 with FGT’s Project Officer providing a central contact point on behalf of Tasmanian growers.

The Project Officer utilising FGT resources, provides ready access to information on new developments in production, training, current industry issues, export protocol requirements and other information. This information assists growers with their need for best practice and sustainable production.

FGT also provides an important link for growers to the national industry network through its affiliations with the national industry organisations and HAL as well as maintaining good relations with Government and commercial groups on behalf of growers.

Method/Strategy

It is important to maintain close association with the national peak industry bodies to gain an awareness of activities and issues across the whole of industry. The Project Officer responded to this by participating in specific activities such as State Association meetings, national conferences and other APAL and CGA events.

Another effective way of keeping growers informed is by attracting national conferences and visiting experts to the State for the purpose of providing direct access to current production and development information. The Project Officer and other FGT staff have been successful in securing national conferences to be held in Hobart as well as organising the 2011 National CGA and APAL Conferences in Adelaide. FGT also run a very successful and well attended annual Conference in May every year, featuring highly regarded presenters from both Australia and overseas.

Reviewing the methods of communication resulted in improvements in the website presentation, direct management of content providing more immediate information for growers to use. The members contact booklet content was expanded to promote networking within industry and included additional contacts for Government Agencies, Exporters and other associated groups. Grower members have been encouraged to increase their use of email communication by the Project Officer through FGT providing regular email updates on activity, advice on events and other information.

Training programs are developed for the year ahead and advertised to growers so they can plan attendance for themselves and/or staff. Additional training options and courses are frequently investigated.

The Project Officer maintains contact with the State Departments of Primary Industries, Environment and Economic Development and other groups to ensure industry has the opportunity for input into changes in regulatory requirements and also to distribute any new information to growers.

It is important for the Project Officer to consistently promote a positive profile for the industry and FGT in order to provide professional management of industry services and for representing the industry on growers' behalf.

Management of the Project

Regular Executive meetings and an Annual General Meeting are facilitated by the Project Officer. A report of activities is provided to the Executive meetings and an Annual Report is produced and distributed to all members at the AGM. Discussion with Project Management Committee members in relation to activities is undertaken regularly. Other activity undertaken to manage the project include -

- Taking the opportunity of seeking feedback and input from industry participants as often as possible, eg by making telephone/email contact, at industry events etc.

Method/Strategy (*continued*)

- Production of an annual diary of events for FGT grower activities at the commencement of each year to facilitate better planning.
- Completion of 6 months work plans in conjunction with Milestone Reports and in consultation with Project Management Committee.
- Ongoing evaluation of cost effectiveness of all activities planned and undertaken.
- Consultation with other state industry organisations and the national industry organisations.

Evaluation

Beneficial outcomes of significance for growers through work conducted under Project MT09047 include –

- Communication of information to growers and other key industry stakeholders

Information communicated to growers on various topics of importance, to assist growers with their need for best practice and sustainable production, such as new developments in production, training, current industry issues, export protocol requirements and other information. This information is communicated via a variety of media, including workshops, seminars, the FGT newsletter, mailouts, email and FGT's website

A member's contact book is also generated and sent to all members, making it easier for them to communicate directly with each other. This booklet also contains key contact details other associated groups such as Government Agencies and Exporters.

- Development of a training program

Training courses such as chemical handling, forklift, first aid, chainsaw, tractor handling etc arranged for growers to assist with gaining and/or maintaining required qualifications for orchard and packing shed staff. Funding is sought where available which can significantly subsidise the cost of these courses.

- Creation of a Members area on the FGT Website

The members area, created for the benefit of growers enables them to log in and access information and forms regarding items such as:

- Spray programs
- MRL Testing information
- Cherry Export Manual
- Apple & Pear Coolstore stock reports
- Industrial Relations information

Also, a Pickers Register was developed by the Project Officer, whereby people looking for seasonal work can now register their details online at the FGT website. This information comes directly back to FGT office where it is collated into a spreadsheet and posted on the members' page of the website. This has provided a much improved method for dealing with the numerous enquiries that are received during peak times of the year by phone and email, whilst giving growers and packers in need of seasonal workers a readily accessible list of available workers.

- Export Information and Registration

Hosting an annual export information day for growers and packing sheds and co-ordinating the export registrations of orchards and packing facilities with Quarantine. This ensures growers and packing sheds receive all of the information regarding the requirements of the countries they intend to export fruit to. Also, the processes required to be properly registered for these countries are simplified for growers, whilst for Quarantine, it is far easier for them to receive registration information from a single source, instead of individually from every grower.

- MRL testing

Assisting with the co-ordination and collection of fruit samples from growers for MRL testing in order to assist growers to meet their QA requirements. Samples are sent off to a laboratory and the results forwarded to the grower as soon as they are received. This helps make the process of getting MRL results easier for growers during their busiest times of the year, whilst also minimising costs, as FGT are able to achieve discounted testing rates due to the high volume of samples provided over the year.

- Export tapes/labels

Co-ordinating orders of export tapes and labels also assists growers with their preparations for exporting and combining orders results in cost savings due to bulk purchasing.

- FGT Annual May Conference

FGT run a very successful and well attended annual Conference in May every year. The aim of the Conference is to address some of the many issues that the industry has identified as priorities. From past conferences we have learned that a mix of local, national and international presenters addressing topics from a grower, researcher and consultant's perspective is a popular and successful formula.

- State Promotion

Organising and participating in promotional activities and events to put forward a positive image of the Tasmanian fruit industry and heighten awareness of fruit to the general public, ultimately aiming to increase consumption of fresh fruit.

- Assistance with post-season workshops for both cherry and apple growers

These workshops bring key industry stakeholders such as Quarantine, exporters, transport companies and buyers together with growers and packers to provide an open forum for exchanging of information regarding the outcome of the season from each stakeholders point of view and what can be done to achieve even better outcomes for the following season.

Communication Outcomes

Communication continues to be identified as crucial to achieving a well informed industry which is equipped to be globally competitive, sustainable and profitable into the future. This project has significantly contributed to that by providing the following outcomes from activities undertaken –

- Processes for the receipt and dissemination of information to growers have been improved through the project's activities, now producing a regular quarterly newsletter which contains information articles relating to production and/or research outcomes as well as being a vehicle for promotion of training opportunities for growers, FGT initiated workshops and seminars are also included in this publication. A drive to increase the number of growers with email has resulted in a large percentage of growers now being able to access emails, which has resulted in the ability to send more frequent and timely information, with considerable time and cost savings compared with postal mailouts.

- Skills – acquiring new skills and maintenance of current accreditations through training programs, seminars, field days, UTAS Scholarship and discussion with local education organisations on additional training options. Access to training has been made available through an annual FGT training program which is then promoted to growers allowing them to plan ahead for their staff and themselves in relation to training commitments.

State Promotion

Combining the healthy eating message with the promotion of fresh fruit assists in conveying a positive public profile for the industry and increasing awareness to consumers of the benefits of purchasing fresh fruit. State Promotion activity produced positive outcomes, particularly for apples and pears and a heightened awareness of the fruit to consumers, ultimately aiming to increase consumption of fresh fruit. FGT also sourced a large supply of apple corers/peelers from overseas, buying a bulk quantity in order to keep the per unit cost low. These are now sold either at cost or used as giveaways. These corer/peelers can help making apples and pears more appealing and fun for children, plus having them sitting in the kitchen at home serves as a reminder of the need to purchase apples or pears.

The distribution of the apple peeler/corers at school events has encouraged teachers to engage in creative classroom activities such as measuring apple peels, guessing weight of fruit, identification of varieties etc.

FGT has also regularly run a state promotional event at the annual Rotary Apple and Salmon Race. This is a very well known event held on the foreshore of the Huon River located in the growing regions of the Huon and Channel. It is very much a family day with numerous activities, exhibitors, food stalls and entertainment for all ages. Industry support of the event promotes good community relations and support for the apple industry. The apple stall as a regular event also provides the opportunity for distribution of promotional material and tasting of fruit. A highlight of the day is when Rotarians release approximately 200 pre-sold numbered artificial salmon into the river and the excitement is on, as the tide carries the salmon to the finishing line where the judges await the winner. Shortly afterwards numbered red and green artificial apples are released in the same way.

Industry Alliances

Development of industry communication, training and education activities and other support services to growers through this Project, has assisted the Tasmanian apple, pear, cherry and stone fruit industries in gaining recognition as professionally managed industries with a proactive and progressive culture and a sound representative organisation. This recognition has resulted in other horticulture industries (berries and nuts) beginning to seek participation in FGT events such as conferences, seminars, training and so on, and a number of berry growers now becoming members of FGT. There has also been a specifically berry focussed session in the past 3 FGT May Conferences, which have seen an increase in attendance each year.

National industry networks play an important role in overall industry development and Project MT09047 has provided the opportunity for sound alliances to be maintained with APAL and CGA. An updated Tasmanian grower database is provided to both peak bodies to enable them to maintain an up to date national grower database for distribution of national information.

Support for APAL and CGA activities is promoted to the local industry including national conferences, AGM's and levy payers meetings.

Implications

The direction FGT has taken by combining the Pome Fruit, Stone Fruit and Berry industries has provided direct benefits to industry and reinforced the need to be working together for strong and effective industry management and representation. The utilisation of combined resources and taking advantage of synergies across like industries has also been a positive outcome. The result has also provided cost effective industry representation and activities by combining the membership base and eliminating duplication of tasks. A reduction in administrative expenditure of grower/levy funds and matched government R&D funding has been achieved.

These outcomes provide clear evidence that a combined industry organisation has the potential to provide more effective services to industry than several smaller organisations. It has been demonstrated that much of the success of combining the industries and the ongoing developments were enhanced by the activities undertaken through Project MT09047. It is also most likely that other Australian horticulture industries may enjoy similar success and benefits for their growers through united representation. The FGT model has demonstrated the positive outcomes that can be achieved.

It has become clear during the life of the project that there are industry issues requiring dedicated resources at sufficient levels to ensure successful and tangible outcomes are achieved.

A key issue identified is Market Access/Development and specifically the pursuit of new market access, whilst maintaining access to existing markets. The global industry is becoming more competitive and there will be the added challenges ahead of competing with imports into Australia and the need for growers to have an increased focus on exporting, in order to prevent oversupply and therefore maintain a viable return for their product on the Australian Domestic market.

If the Australian pome and stone fruit industries are to experience sustainability with this growth, then more focus has to be placed on export market development.

Market development requires ongoing, persistent activity, working closely with Governments and includes market maintenance by consistent presence in the market and at international industry events as well seeking access to new markets.

In 2008 The FGT Project Management Committee in discussion with FGT Executive and the Project Officer facilitated the appointment of a Business Development Manager to take on this important task. The Business Development Manager is now operating under a HAL Market Development project with very positive outcomes. The Project Officer provides assistance and support on an ongoing basis to the Business Development Manager.

Recommendations

This project has clearly demonstrated the importance of communication for the industry, both locally and nationally. The importance of providing access to education and training for growers through courses, conferences, workshops etc has also been identified as necessary for the whole industry's growth and development.

The activities undertaken have produced improvement and enhancement of communication to growers and other success in relation to providing access to industry specific education and training.

FGT resources under Project MT09047 have provided a significant contribution in linking the Tasmanian industry with the national network. Market development/access, promotion and other industry development has also been addressed through the key project activities producing benefits that flow across the national industry.

All of these activities need to be ongoing and consistent in order to continue to provide beneficial outcomes across the industry sectors.

There needs to be the scope to continually review and develop activities in order to provide improved output. There also should be sufficient flexibility to address the changes and/or challenges in the industry as appropriate and as they arise.

Summary of Key Outcomes

- Sustained communication systems within the regional industry, national network and with associated organisations and groups and further development to improve those systems.
- Skilled industry participants by provision of training/education to sustain current skills and acquire new skills.
- Informed industry participants as to new technology and production developments to equip them to undertake best practice and achieve sustainability and profitability into the future.
- Industry relevant R&D outcomes through ongoing facilitation of the UTAS/FGT scholarship program.
- Maintenance of the Tasmanian industry Strategic Plan & Development Action Plan as a guide for industry development activities.
- Input to ongoing progress of Market Development activities on behalf of industry.

APPENDICES

Example copies of the following -

1. FGT Newsletter – December 2011
2. FGT 2010 Annual Report
3. Seminar Flyer (Cherry Night Seminar November 2011)
4. APAL Newsletter Article
5. State Promotion Report to APAL



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Summer Newsletter December 2011

Annual Golf Day & Christmas BBQ

Inside this issue:

- FGT Annual Golf Day
- Launch of 2011-2012 Farm Gate Guide
- **'Stopping the Rot'**
Wayne Boucher
- China World Fruit & Vegetable Fair
- Preparing for Rain, Penny Measham
- Goji Berry Workshop
- Workplace Induction DVD Launch
- Mastrus: Parasitoid of Codling Moth, David Williams
- Cherish the Moment
- Rural Alive and Well
- Chemical Residue Testing Dates for 2011
- Advertising Rates FGT newsletter
- Calendar of events

After many years, the sun finally shined on the FGT Annual Golf Day but as usual a great time was had by all. About 50 players hit the course and enjoyed the not-so-serious 9 holes of golf although with some great prizes on offer there was plenty of competition between teams.



Advertisers—

- Colin Campbell Chemicals
- National Harvest Labour Information Service
- Agricultural Netting Services





2011 Golf Day Prizes

Best Nett Score: Testing Times Team

Best Gross Score: Amcor Box Heads Team

Worst Nett Score: The Apple Ciders Team

Worst Gross Score: Money Tree Team

Longest Drive (Hole 2): M Pearce

Nearest the Pin (Hole 3): N Griggs

Nearest the Pin (Hole 4): M Ruffels

Longest Drive (Hole 5): R Goodwin

Longest Sunk Putt (Hole 7): P Giffard

Longest Sunk Putt (Hole 8): B Vanderkop

Nearest the Pin 2nd Shot (Hole 9): Rick Eisenkoeck

Lucky Team Draw: Derwent Devils Team (Reid Fruits 2)

Lucky Draw Prizes: D Crossin, D Murphy, A Stevenson, P Johnson, R Bowden, T Pearce, T Strong, K Strong, S Griggs, M Murphy, O Connelly, S Sigley, H Hansen, G Mycroft, N Zreikat, D Hope, D Cowle, Lennox, M Turner, V Cowle





Thanks to all our great Golf Day Sponsors !!!

Golf Day BBQ Sponsor



Golf Day Drinks Sponsor



Golf Day Prize Sponsors





2011 Tasmanian Fruits Farm

Gate Guide Launch

The 2011-2012 Farm Gate Guide was launched at D'Entrecasteaux Cherries, Birchs Bay, by acclaimed cook and author Sally Wise. The launch was also attended by Senator Christine Milne, Matthew Groom MP, Jacqui Petrusma MP as well representatives from DEDTA, TCCI, Kingborough Council and Huon Council.

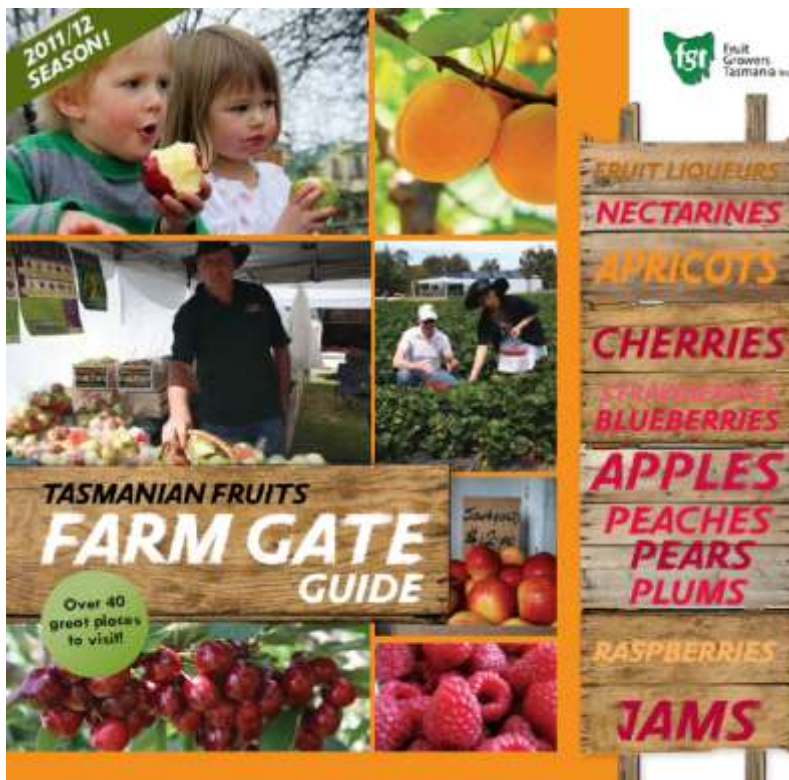
Sally spoke with passion about the fantastic Tasmanian fruit available and how important it is to her recipe development and interest in cooking.

The Farm Gate Guide, in its 4th year of production, has once again attracted over 40 participants from across all areas of the state. The release of the Guide was much anticipated by tourist operators who have inundated the office with requests to stock the Guide for several weeks.

The Guide will once again be distributed through the Spirit of Tasmania, Hobart Airport, Launceston Airport and tourism information centres across the state.

This year DEDTA supported the Guide through the Economic Development Plan by contributing \$3000 to the costs of production.

Thanks to Ross and Judy Kile for hosting the launch on their property.



Stopping the Rot

CONTROLLING CHERRY ROTS IN THE ORCHARD

WAYNE BOUCHER

Topics to be covered

- The causes of fruit rot
- Critical infection periods
- Why do rots develop?
- How do rots spread
- Critical control points
- A model for predicting fruit rots
- Chemical control of fruit rots
- Potential of bio-controls for controlling rots

Major causes of cherry fruit rotting

Disease	Fungal species	Critical disease causing factors	Control
Brown Rot	<i>Monilia fructicola</i>	-Inoculum level -Weather	-Inoculum control -Spray program
Grey Mould	<i>Botrytis cinerea</i>	-Inoculum level -Weather	-Inoculum control -Spray program
Common Bunch Mould	<i>Botrytis cinerea</i>	-Pre-harvest wounds -Post harvest practices	-Post harvest handling -Post harvest temperatures < 7°C -Solar (R), Protona (R)
Black Mould	<i>Alternaria</i> species	-Pre and post harvest wounds -Aborted fruit	-Post harvest handling -Solar (R)
	<i>Mucor</i> species	-Post harvest wounds	-Water during sanitation
	<i>Cladosporium</i> species	-Post harvest wounds	-Post harvest handling
Black Mould Green Mould Black Mould	<i>Penicillium</i> species <i>Aspergillus</i> species	-Pre and post harvest wounds -High rainfall	-Post harvest handling

The two major causes of fruit rots

Brown Rot infected cherries



Grey Mould infected cherries



Host range of the two major causes of fruit rots

Brown Rot

Host range restricted to *Prunus* species

Grey Mould

A very wide host range and a major disease of

- Grapes
- Berry fruits
- Kiwi fruits
- Cut flowers
- Vegetables

Importance of accurate diagnosis

Conidia of Brown Rot



Conidia of Grey Mould

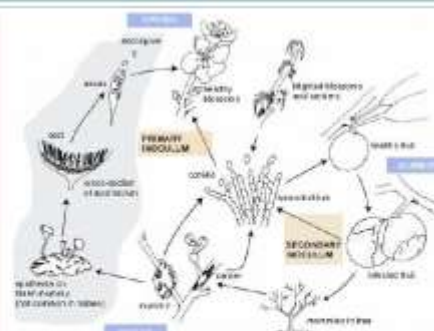


The development of a fruit rot

Brown Rot and Grey Mould rots develop in similar ways

- Entry via wounds and natural openings (micro fissures in fruit skin, insect damage, flower injury).
- Both fungi secrete chemicals that kill tissue. Fungi then invades the dying and dead tissue.
- Colonise decaying tissue (especially Grey Mould) – floral parts, leaves, fruit stalks.
- Infections develop in ripening fruit (note, green fruits contain natural chemical inhibitors that disappear as fruit ripens).

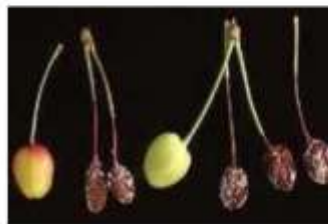
Note, with cherries the sexual spore stages on the left has not been found in the field. Infections come from the asexual conidia.



Brown Rot infection cycle

[illegible]

Grape Cycle	Brown Rot	Gray Mold
Flowering	Latent blossom infection can occur but is not a significant cause of pre and post harvest rot (USA prone research). Blossom infection usually results in Blossom blight.	Latent blossom infection occurs and is the primary cause of pre and post harvest rot.
Fruit Drop	Latent infection of aborted fruit; primary cause of pre and post harvest rot (USA prone research). Infected aborted fruit retained in clusters a primary source of infection of fruit clusters.	Latent infections can occur which result in pre and post harvest rot. Infected aborted fruit retained in clusters a primary source of infection of fruit clusters.
Fruit ripening (post stone hardening)	Latent infections develop into fruit rot. Last opportunity for effective chemical control before cluster closure.	Latent infections develop into fruit rot. Last opportunity for effective chemical control before cluster closure.
Cluster (Bunch) disease	Effective chemical control difficult due to poor spray penetration into fruit clusters.	Effective chemical control difficult due to poor spray penetration into fruit clusters.



3. Latent infections
4. Dense tree canopies
5. Fruit variety
6. Nutrition
7. How appropriate and effective is the chemical control program?

Medium disease risk	High disease risk
1-10 mummied fruits per tree	10-20 mummied fruits per tree

Previous season	Current season
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prunings • Discarded fruits and infected fruits • Fruit stems • Leaf litter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flower parts • Aborted fruits (Fruit drop) • Rotting fruit (within the canopy and on the ground)

- **Free water on plant surfaces is essential for germination of fungal spores.**
- If inoculum is present, Brown Rot and Grey Mould will develop during a wet season.
- If conditions remain dry through out the growing season, fruit rots will not develop, even if inoculum is present.

Relationship between duration of "wetness" and temperature for spore germination

Temperature	Hours of Wet Required For Blossom Infection
26 C	2
21 C	3
16 C	4
7 C	6-7
4 C	11-12

Other weather interactions on fruit rots

- Frosts – create injury sites.
- High humidity – results in water condensation on plant parts, a condition necessary for spore germination.
- High humidity (97%+ RH) is necessary for germination of both Brown Rot and Grey Mould infectious spores.
- Heavy rain events – wash off protectant fungicides.
- Persistent rain events – disrupt timely application of spray program.
- Excessive soil moisture – linked to increased incidence of Grey Mould.
- Wind and rain – aid in fungal spore dispersal.

3. Latent infections

- An infection of flowers and green fruits is initiated but development of rots is inhibited by naturally occurring anti fungal chemicals.
- Fungal growth resumes during fruit ripening – corresponds to breakdown of natural anti fungal chemicals.
- Aborted fruitlets (fruit drop) and fruit thinnings behave like ripening fruits.

4. Dense tree canopies

Dense tree canopies favour high humidity, a condition necessary for development of fruit rots.

Dense canopies are usually associated with:

- High tree densities
- Excessive number of limbs per tree
- Excessive tree vigour

Note: Both bird netting and rain covers reduce air movement in orchards and can contribute to higher humidity.

Variety

Varieties differ in their susceptibility to fruit rots.

Differences in fruiting behaviour between varieties is probably the biggest contributing factor.

Varieties which tend to bear fruits in tight clusters (Van, Lapins, Simcoe, Sweetheart) are more vulnerable to developing fruit rots than varieties with a more open fruiting behaviour (Regina).



6. Nutrition

- High nitrogen – soft fruit (more easily invaded by fungal rots, excessive vigour (increased humidity within tree canopy).
- High potassium – generally favours disease resistance.
- Low calcium – weak cell walls and weakened barrier to fungal penetration.

Note: Calcium uptake is "passive", that is, it is taken up only when water is taken up by the tree. Under conditions of persistent rain and/or high humidity, very little water is taken up by the tree. These conditions will result in low fruit calcium levels.

7. Chemical control program

- Use a program appropriate to the disease being controlled.
- Spray timing to coincide with critical infection periods.
- Effective spray coverage and frequency (weather dependent).

How do rots spread?

- Wind and rain splashing of conidia spores.
- Insect transfer of spores between fruits and fruit clusters (LBAM, earwigs, carpophilus beetles, etc).
- Fruit – fruit contact in tight clusters

Critical control points

1. Identify the fungal species
2. Reduce inoculum
3. Minimise latent infections
4. Limit fungal regrowth from latent infections
5. Limit spread when symptoms occur

Reduce inoculum (spore load)

- Remove infected fruits and litter from trees
- Reduce inoculum on orchard floor
- Post harvest sprays

Reduce inoculum on orchard floor

Mulching

- Mulches form a barrier to the release of spores from infected material (NZ research with Kiwi fruit).
- Mulches aid in decomposition of plant debris.

Compost/compost teas to aid aerobic decomposition:

- 2.5 cm layer compost
- Aerobic compost teas

Post harvest sprays

Post harvest sprays to reduce inoculum in trees.

- "mummy" fruits may be difficult to wet.
- Post harvest sprays may be more effective after removal of infected fruits and litter.
- Post harvest spray program could include:
 - Sulphur
 - Quarternary ammonium compounds (eg Spore Kill)
 - Hydrogen peroxide based compounds

Note: hydrogen peroxide and quarternary ammonium compounds may be more effective the longer they remain wet on the tree.

Minimise latent flower and fruit infections

- Spray program to address critical infection periods - (flowering - fruit drop).
- Spray frequency related to weather events (rain, fog, overnight dews, etc).
- Reduce excessive vigour (nitrogen, remove water shoots and excess laterals).
- Post harvest pruning to address limb numbers and tight bud clusters.
- Control insects that damage fruits.

Limit fungal regrowth from latent infections

The two critical factors are soil moisture and humidity.

- Prevent excessive soil moisture (soil drainage, irrigation scheduling, orchard floor management – compacted soils, etc).
- Reduce humidity in the fruit zone (pruning, water in wheel ruts).

Limit spread when symptoms occur

- Reduce compactness of fruit clusters (blossom/fruit thinning, pruning).
- Control insect pests.
- Appropriate and effective use of chemicals.

Developing a spray program for controlling fruit rots

- Chemicals for controlling Brown Rot.
- Chemicals for controlling Grey Mould.
- The potential of biocontrols for controlling fruit rots.

Chemicals for controlling Brown Rot

Generally chemicals fall into two groups:

- **Protectants** – prevent infections becoming established (inhibit spore germination and/or fungal development. Protectants do not enter plant tissue and their effectiveness is only as good as the cover achieved).
- **Eradicants** – kill or suppress rots:
 - Systemic (enter plant tissue and can be translocated to adjacent tissues (eg propiconazole – Tilt). Note, benomyl, a systemic fungicide, is no longer registered for use on cherries.
 - Sanitisers (quarternary ammonium compounds (eg Spore Kill), hydrogen peroxide based compounds (eg Peritec), hypochlorites).
- A third group of chemicals, **translamina**, have both protectant and eradicant activity. Iprodione (Rovral) can move into tissue but not between tissues.

Need for new chemistry – especially for Grey Mould control

Current chemical control programs are heavily dependent on **protectant** fungicides.

- **One systemic** chemical for Brown Rot control (propiconazole).
- **One translamina** chemical for Brown rot control (iprodione).
- **No systemic** chemicals for Grey Mould control.
- **One translamina** chemical for Grey Mould control.

Registration currently being applied for Pristine (R).

Pristine is registered for use overseas on a wide range of crops for control of powdery and downy mildews, black spot, Grey Mould, Brown Rot.

The components of Pristine (boscalid, pyraclostrobin) have **translamina** action and are registered for use in the wine grape industry and apple and pear industries.

Potential of biocontrols for controlling fruit rots

The following bio-controls have given positive results against Grey Mould and Brown Rot:

- *Trichoderma* species (eg *T. viride* - reduced Grey Mould infection of grapes at flowering and pre-harvest stage).
- *Bacillus subtilis* (Serenade). As effective as benomyl as a post harvest treatment against Brown Rot.
- Compost teas (a positive result in Tasmania using a particular "starting" compost).
- *Pseudomonas* species (eg *Ps fluorescens* applied as a root drench induced natural inhibitors within the grape vine, reducing the incidence of Grey Mould).
- chitosan (registered in NZ as ARMOUR-Zen® and available in Australia as Amino Gro) – has given very good control of Grey Mould in NZ when used in combination with *Ulocladium oudemansii* (BOTRY-Zen®).

Note, under field conditions results with biocontrols can be inconsistent and dependent on weather conditions at the time of application.

Take Home Message

- Fruit rots will **not occur** in the **absence** of inoculum.
- If inoculum levels in the orchard are moderate to high, favourable weather conditions for Brown Rot and Grey Mould can undo your best efforts.
- If fruit rots are a problem, know what micro organisms are involved.
- Fruit rot risk is highest in varieties with compact fruit clusters in humid canopies carrying high crop loads.
- Monitor, Analyse, Plan, Act for:
 - inoculum levels in the orchard
 - disease progress
 - strategic fungicide use and market access

China World Fruit & Vegetable Trade Fair

Nanning , China, November 2011



Fruit Growers Tasmania attended the China World Fruit and Vegetable Trade Fair in Nanning, China in November (4th –6th). The fair, which is held every year, showcases produce from around China and the Asian region. Along with a strong Australian contingent (APAL, Summerfruit Aust, ATGA and CGA), Thailand and the Philippines also had large trade displays.

The CWFVTF is largely organised by AQSIQ (Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China) and CIQA (China Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Association). Whilst in Nanning the peak bodies were able to have some discussion with representatives from both AQSIQ and CIQA in relation to market access issues including Australian cherry access to China.

Held concurrently with the Trade Show was the 2011 Fruit Inspection and Quarantine International Trade Symposium. Andrew Smith (CGA President) and Tim Reid (CGA Past President) both spoke about the Australian Cherry Industry.

PREPARING FOR RAIN

Penny Measham, TIA



The possibility of late season rainfall is a constant concern for growers all around the state, and the unpredictable level of damage resulting can be a significant stress. While the Bureau of Meteorology predicts only a 35-40% likelihood of exceeding the median rainfall for the months of December 2011 to January 2012, this does not necessarily mean the risk of rain-induced cracking is reduced. Damage from cracking can occur in low rainfall seasons; many will be familiar with the situation of a single rainfall event causing considerable yield losses. However, by understanding the typical responses of the varieties grown in your region and the crack-types likely to be induced, and combining this with the knowledge of crack development and mode of water uptake, there are a number of measures that be trialled to build resilience to this problem.

The primary thing to focus on is reducing the demand, or 'pull', for water that the fruit experiences during rainfall events. Whole tree transpiration 'pulls' water through the tree acting as a cooling mechanism, and water supplied to the fruit provides nutrients, sugars and enables growth. So water supply to the fruit is essential, but rapid supply of excess water is a problem, and this occurs when the fruit out-competes other parts of the tree in the 'pull' for available water. Fruit and leaves often behave differently, and also compete for water at different parts of the day, and under different climatic conditions. The integrity and elasticity of the fruit skin at times of excess water supply are equally important in withstanding pressures. Below are a number of strategies that should better prepare fruit for late season rainfall.

Long term planning – over the entire growing season

Irrigation

Regular and adequate irrigation is important in relation to building resilience to cracking. This allows a more even and uniform growth pattern, which reduces the magnitude of shrinking and swelling of individual fruit. During the middle of the day fruit can lose water and shrink if the whole tree has a large evaporative demand. Loss of fruit skin and cuticular integrity can occur in this situation increasing the risk of skin fracture during excess water supply after rainfall. Irrigation scheduling can help by reducing water stress (see A) and levelling out fluxes to and from the fruit; note - as fruit starts to colour and size later in the season water use tends to be more rapid and matching irrigation to demand even more important. Tensiometers and/or evapotranspiration calculations can be used, and nothing beats a walk through the orchard with a spade.

Calcium

Calcium is an important element for a number of plant functions however it is essential for plant cell division and elongation. Furthermore, as it is a structural component of cell walls, calcium is an important factor in determining tissue strength, and firmness of fruit. Calcium acquisition by fruit cells is therefore another step to building resilience to cracking in cherry fruit, but this is not always easy. Calcium is only xylem mobile (moving into plants from roots) making uptake dependant on adequate water supply, and transpiration. Cherry fruit not only have low transpiration rates compared to other fruit, and other plant tissue, but are also suspected of losing xylem functionality in the pedicel as fruit matures. Therefore early uptake is needed in order to move calcium into the fruit; calcium will need to be available as soon as the tree starts to transpire or move water through the tree. Later in fruit development, due to the low mobility of calcium in a plant, direct or foliar applications of calcium may be more useful, but it is not yet known how effective calcium movement across the cherry fruit surface can be.



A. Leaf curling appearing on a water stressed tree

Crop load

Trials (HAL project 09002) undertaken in Tasmania, and the mainland, have shown that crop load has an influence on the development of cracks following rainfall. In all trials, fruit from low cropping trees incurred the highest levels of cracking. The theory behind this result is founded on allocation of available water. For side cracks, there is more available internal water to share around each individual fruit. For cuticular cracks, there is also more water falling on each fruit, but additionally, there is more canopy cover relative to higher cropping trees, making it more difficult to dry fruit due to impeded air flow. Reducing fruit numbers is often associated with increasing fruit size however there seems to be a large middle range to play with; below which cracking will increase, and above which size will diminish. On standard Spanish bush trained trees (of 35 cm trunk girths) at 1000 trees/hectare this middle range is about equivalent to yields of 13 to 26t/ha.

Sprays

There are several sprays available to use in commercial practice which claim a reduction in cracking following rainfall. Trials undertaken last season showed this to be correct, at least for that particular season. Further confirmation is still needed however reductions were seen in all sprays assessed, and were particularly effective in reducing cuticular (stem or nose) cracks. Make sure sprays are registered for use, and applied accordingly to **manufacturer's instructions. Generally early and repeated applications are recommended. Good coverage is essential**, so be careful to check the spray rate and volume, and the time required to be rainfast.

Shorter term measures, closer to harvest

Irrigation

Again, even when rain approaches, preventing trees from becoming water-stressed should aid in reducing rapid internal water uptake. The rate of uptake seems to be just as important as volume. This may sound counter-intuitive but water-stressed trees and **therefore fruit, will develop a greater 'pull' for water** when stressed, and therefore create a situation of rapid uptake of rain supplied water. For example, higher numbers of cracks have developed with afternoon rainfall, following sunny mornings. On a sunny day, **the fruit will create the greatest 'pull' for water** by early afternoon, out-competing leaves. During a succession of overcast, drizzly days, cracks may still develop even though fruit will not exceed leaves in the demand for water as much as on a sunny day. In this situation, the rate of uptake is not as great but is instead a slower uptake of internal water due to an osmotic gradient.

Drainage

Ensuring adequate drainage, not only of soils within the row, but also of the inter-row will help move excess water from rainfall away from the root zone. Sloped rows without impediments are good. In addition, be aware that the root zone may not always be confined to the expected dripper or micro-sprinkler zones, and that any rainfall water falling on the ground may be picked up. Looking for rootstock suckers (See B) is a good indication of how far the root zone extends.



B. Rootstock suckers appearing in the inter-row

Drying of fruit

The drying of fruit following rainfall can be effective. This has two purposes. Firstly, the amount of water sitting on the fruit surface is reduced, and the time it remains on the fruit is reduced. Water movement across the fruit skin has shown to increase cuticular (stem and nose) cracks. It is commonly observed that water following rainfall can become trapped in the crevices at the stem and nose ends of the fruit (See C), so it is important to be particularly thorough in this regard. Secondly, drying stimulates air movement, which reduces humidity, and has the potential to initiate transpiration. When leaves are transpiring water is moved through the tree into the atmosphere, and favours water entry into the leaves rather than the fruit.

Understanding these options and using as appropriate to each orchard, variety and season may make a difference to the level of damage sustained with late season rainfall. Most strategies are ineffective with large amounts of rainfall, or prolonged periods of rain. Research undertaken in Tasmania and South Australia in 2010/11 showed that irrigation, crop load, sprays and pruning reduced cracking levels, even in a high rainfall season. Research is being continued, and any new information will be made available to growers following the 2011/12 season trials.

For further information please contact:

Penny Measham

Tree Physiology Research Fellow

Perennial Horticulture Centre

Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture

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www.tiar.tas.edu.au



C. Fruit with trapped droplet of water



Nicholas Featherstone has commenced working with Fruit Growers Tasmania. Nick was previously employed with Top-Qual Pty Ltd and is currently working alongside Sally Tennant as part of the transition into that position prior to Sally departing to warmer climes!

Nick's work with Top-Qual provides him with a good background knowledge of the fruit industry in Tasmania and he is already known to several growers and other stakeholders associated within the industry.

GOJI BERRY WORKSHOP



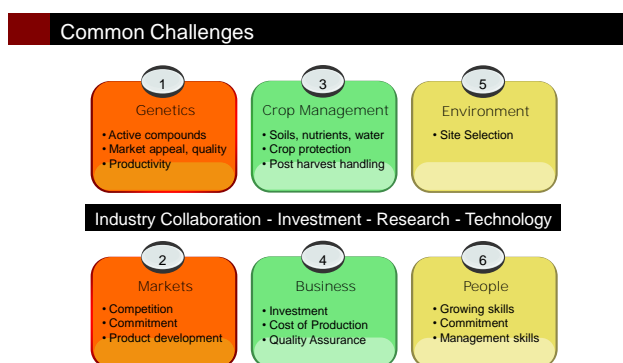
Doris Blaesing from RMCG presented her latest research on Goji Berries at a workshop held at Longford Berries in November. Doris has been exploring the commercial potential of Goji Berries in Australia and explained to the group the opportunities for the berry in its various formats ie. juice, fresh, dried etc.

Goji plants are related to potato and tobacco as they part of the Solanacea Family. The major barriers for commercial production at this point in time are potentially the lack of suitable plant material and agronomic best-practice.

Doris also showed the group the commercial viability of Goji berry production through various gross margin scenarios.

Many of the growers that attended the workshop were keen to explore the potential for starting commercial Goji Berry operations and further discussions are continuing between RMCG, FGT and other parties to see what the various parties can do to progress the industry.

For further information contact FGT or Doris Blaesing. (Slides below courtesy D Blaesing).





The quick and
easy way to find
harvest workers



1800 062 332
www.harvesttrail.gov.au



December signals the commencement of the fruit picking season in Tasmania and there is little doubt that good harvest management is crucial when producing cherries, apples and berries for market. The hectic harvest schedule presents many challenges including the task of recruitment. Fortunately, help is at hand from the National Harvest Labour Information Service (NHLIS).

The service has been assisting Australian growers to source workers since 2003 and during this time has developed quite a loyal following in Tasmania. Enthusiasts include David Jennings from Cygnet who comments *"The NHLIS is a vital service for us to find labour for our fruit farm"*.

At peak harvest times the NHLIS call centre receives over 2000 calls per week from itinerant workers who are actively seeking work on Australian horticultural properties. The Francis family from Dover explains *"This service is an excellent way of attracting and sourcing large numbers of labour when needed"*. Workers include Australian citizens, grey nomads and international backpackers who offer a diverse range of skills and industry experience.

It costs nothing to register your vacancies with the NHLIS and there are many benefits with vacancies being filled almost immediately.

To contact the Service call **1800 062 332** or visit www.harvesttrail.gov.au

2011/12 Member Contact Booklet Amendments & Additions



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Associate Members

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J-Tech Systems Pty Ltd - Kim-Lee Mildren | E: kimlee@jtechsystems.com.au

Berry Members

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Pome Fruit Members

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M: 0438 921 669 | E: dombros2@clearmail.com.au

Mark Allanby - "The Ragged Tier Cherry Garden" | T: 6253 5114

Pome & Stone Members

Mike Oakley - JW Kirkwood Pty Ltd | F: 6260 4455 | M: 0438 271 848 | E: mike@jwkirkwood.com.au
PO Box 42 Campania TAS 7026

Nominations for Fruit Growers Tasmania Annual Awards

FGT Annual Awards Committee will meet early in 2012 to select the Award Winners for the 2012 Awards which will be presented at the May Conference in Launceston on Saturday 19th May.

If you would like to nominate a person for either the Young Grower Award or the Award for Excellence, or would like further information, then please phone the FGT office.

Nominations are carried over each year.

Workplace Safety Induction DVD

Official Launch

Fruit Growers Tasmania officially launched the Induction DVD's for Casual Pickers and Packers on the 23rd November. The project was funded through a grant from Montague Fresh through an enforceable undertaking with Workplace Standards Tasmania. Donna Paxton and Tim Montague, from Montague Fresh in Melbourne, attended the launch in Hobart and spoke about the importance of **keeping the workplace safe. The DVD's are subtitled in 5 different languages and run for approximately 10 minutes each.** Fruit Growers Tasmania would like to thank Montague Fresh for the grant which will greatly assist in reducing workplace accidents, especially within the casual and itinerant workforce. FGT would also like to thank JW Kirkwood, Vmac, Work Cover Tasmania and the many growers who assisted in producing the DVD.



Don' t forget that Chinese New Year will be celebrated on 23rd January 2012 and is the Year of the Dragon: a very auspicious year.



Mastrus: Parasitoid of Codling Moth

David Williams, DPI Victoria



The HAL and APAL national flagship program PIPS; productivity, irrigation, pests and soils is a collaboration between TIAR, Plant and food Research New Zealand, DPI Victoria, and DEEDI Qld designed to integrate research effort to improve productivity and provide a dynamic interface with industry.

PIPS has 3 sub-projects: Tree Structure; soils, water and nutrients; and IPDM (integrated pest and disease management).

The PIPS IPDM sub project is trying to achieve sustainable IPDM in orchards. To do this the research team is working to introduce a biocontrol agent of codling moth to supplement pheromone-mediated mating disruption; characterize the biotypes of woolly apple aphid present in Australia and then introduce a predator to supplement control exerted by the parasitoid wasp *Aphelinus mali*; improve scab management programs; and understand the interactions between various control measures, pests and disease, and agronomic practices in the orchard.

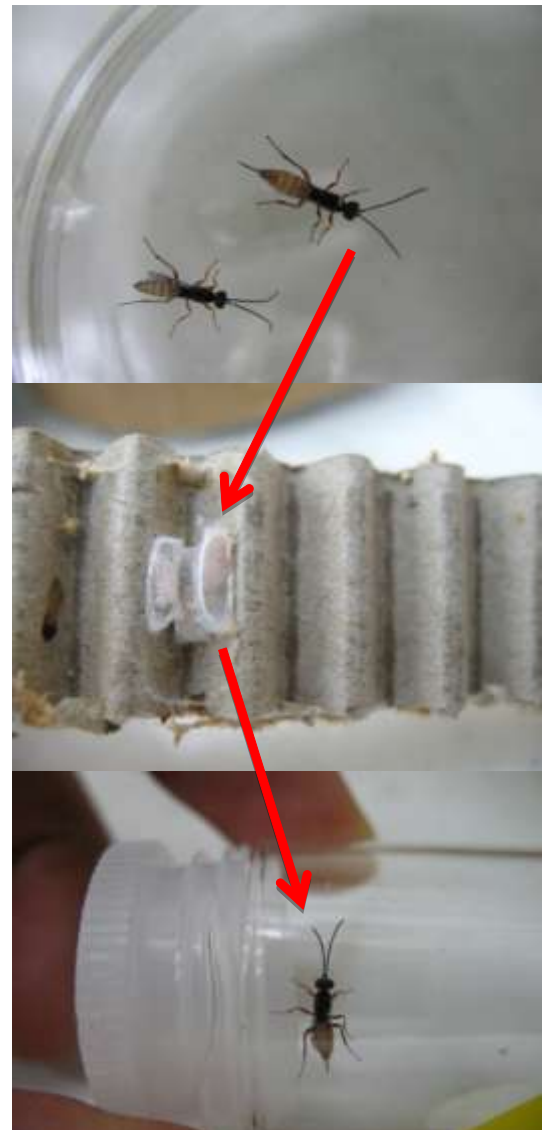
So far the IPDM research team, involving entomologists and plant pathologists from Australia and New Zealand, have imported into quarantine a parasitoid wasp called Mastrus so that it can be tested to see how specific it is to codling moth.

Mastrus a key parasitoid of codling moth in Kazakhstan, was imported into the USA where it gave very good control of codling moth in walnuts, and then from the USA was imported into Argentina for control of codling moth in apples. John Charles from Plant and Food Research New Zealand imported Mastrus from a colony in **Argentina, and DPI Victoria obtained Mastrus from John's colony.** Detailed host-specificity studies are required before any imported biocontrol agent can be released from quarantine in Australia and New Zealand.

A number of native and introduced insect species have been proposed as test subjects. The ability of Mastrus to find the proposed host, accept it as a suitable host, lay eggs and develop to maturity on the proposed host has to be tested in the quarantine laboratories.

This requires the test insects to be cultured in the lab to provide sufficient numbers for testing and, of course, Mastrus has also to be reared in the lab on a diet of codling moth larvae.

The host-specificity testing is almost complete and the researchers have also learnt some very interesting things about how Mastrus determines the suitability of candidate hosts. The parasitoid uses chemical cues given off by the codling moth cocoon to find the overwintering sites of the larvae. It then uses other receptors on its antennae to confirm that a live codling moth larva is inside the cocoon, before it injects an anaesthetic into the larva and then lays one or more eggs on the larvae.



Top: Mastrus male and female (with ovipositor)

Middle: Codling moth larvae in cocoons

Bottom: Mastrus adult female in vial, with human finger tip in background as reference for size

The anaesthetic prevents the codling moth larva from developing any further and allows the **Mastrus larvae time to develop to maturity while consuming the live 'fresh' food.**

Another component of the project involves studying the feeding behaviour of woolly apple aphid to determine if there are differences in preference between aphids collected at various sites across Australia. There appear to be at least 2 biotypes and work is underway to understand the implications of this finding before an application to import a predatory syrphid fly is submitted to AQIS.

A considerable amount of work has been conducted in Australia and other countries to model disease development caused by apple scab. The PIPS IPDM team has reviewed this work and is working towards an improved predictive model that accounts for spore release, infection period duration, inoculum load, and presence of susceptible tissue.

Every action taken in fruit production has an impact on some other component in the system. To better understand the interactions between components a detailed literature review is underway. The findings from this review will then help guide future directions of research not only in the IPDM sub-project but also in the other sub-projects.

One of the great advantages of the PIPS program is that the 3 teams come together regularly to share results and discuss implications from the work of each other team. This will result in a better integration of research effort across all disciplines and lead to much better outcomes for growers.

For further information please contact:

David Williams, DPI Victoria (david.williams@dpi.vic.gov.au)

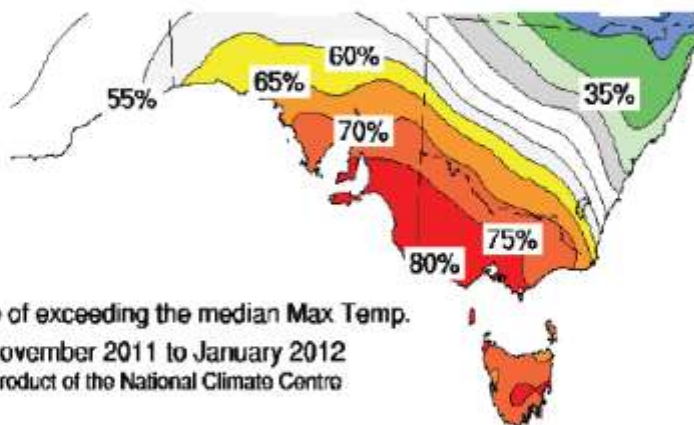


Sunburn protection coating that's *clear not white!*



A HOT Season Ahead

The 2011/12 season is forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology to be hotter than average. The image below is their forecast and you can easily see that for all of Australia there is a very good chance that the median maximum temperature will be exceeded over the summer months.



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Cherry Growers Australia have released their new look campaign “Cherish the Moment” in place of “Love Summer, Love Cherries” which ran for 3 years. The 2011-2012 Cherry Ambassador is Jessica Watson who will competing in the 2011 Sydney to Hobart yacht race this year. The new campaign has been well received with great press already on the mainland.

Some promotional material is in stock in the Hobart Office including:

A2 doubled sided posters—\$33 for lots of 20 posters

6m Bunting (as pictured below) - \$15

T-Shirts (limited sizes still available) - \$12

Please contact the FGT Office if you like any material.



REFRACTOMETERS FOR SALE

0-32 Brix \$89.95 plus postage

0-80 Brix Jam Refractometers \$134.00 plus postage

Now in stock—phone FGT to place and order

DON'T GUESS—TEST !



Rural Alive & Well Inc. (RAW) is a local not-for-profit men's wellbeing and suicide prevention agency funded by the Australian Government's Department of Health & Ageing, National Suicide Prevention Strategy, and the Tasmanian Government's Departments of Health & Human Services; Infrastructure, Energy & Resources; and Primary Industries, Parks, Water & Environment.

OUR AIM:

To help build the resilience and capacity of individuals, families and the community to react to challenging life experiences including mental health issues with a specific focus on suicide prevention by:

Providing support and assistance to individuals and families with a team of professional, compassionate and experienced outreach workers.

Establishing structures and networks to assist people, their families and communities to deal with stressful life events or suicide.

Providing counselling for individuals and their families at risk of mental health problems and suicide.

Developing and implementing strategies to reduce isolation and loneliness and to promote social inclusion across communities.

To provide accessible and responsive support services to all rural communities.

WHAT WE DO:

COLD CALLING: We simply drop in and chat to people with a confidential and friendly approach.

BE AVAILABLE: We are available 24/7 for suicide response or urgent assistance.

CONNECT PEOPLE: We are able to connect people with all the services in their area and usually able to make appointments on the spot.

PROVIDE SUPPORT: We provide ongoing support for individuals and families to help manage challenging problems or simply to get through tough times.

SUICIDE PREVENTION: We respond to those at risk of suicide at any time and provide supportive strategies to help keep people safe.

PROVIDE COUNSELLING: We provide personal counselling for individuals.

LINK PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT AGENCIES: We can link people in need with support agencies such as Lifeline, Uniting Care, the Salvation Army and Relationships Australia

You can access our services by contacting (03) 62593014 and further information about RAW can be obtained from our website- www.rawtas.com.au



AGRICULTURAL NETTING SERVICES

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MRL's/Chemical Residue Testing for 2011-2012 Season

Chemical Residue Testing (MRL's) will start on the 13th December 2011 and the format for testing will be similar to previous years. Cherry and stonefruit growers will need to have their fruit samples collected by an 'FGT Authorised Officer' and will need to return their "Sample Request Form" at **least 24hrs before sample testing dates**.

Sampling can either be 6 day turnaround or 11 day turn around however 24hr testing can be conducted on request.

Sample testing dates for cherries and stonefruit for this season are:

13th December 2011, 28th December 2011, 3rd January 2012, 9th January 2012, 16th January 2012, 23rd January 2012

For further information please contact Fruit Growers Tasmania .

Pome fruit MRL testing dates will be forwarded in the next newsletter.



Fruit
Growers
Tasmania Inc

FGT Newsletter Advertising 2011-12



Quarterly Newsletter (June, September, December, March)

- Full Page Colour Advertisement \$220.00
- Half Page Colour Advertisement \$ 140.00
- Quarter Page Colour Advertisement \$ 85.00
- Business card size advertisements \$45

Annual Advertising:

- Quarter Page (at least 1 issue upgraded to a Half Page) \$300.00
- Half Page (at least 1 issue upgraded to a Full page) \$500
- Full Page \$750.00

All prices inclusive GST

Newsletter Inserts

A4 sized flyer/leaflet or smaller inserted into mail-out or Newsletter \$100 inc GST (Copies provided by advertiser)

*Mail-outs (additional to Newsletter) generally occur 4-8 times a year—ask FGT staff for further information and dates

** Standard mail-out distribution is 220 copies

2012 FGT Annual May Conference

Hotel Grand Chancellor, Launceston, 17-20 May 2012

Proposed Schedule:

Thursday 17th May: Berry Field Day

Friday 18th May: ½ Day Berry Conference & ½ Day Marketing Conference

Friday 18th May: Network Drinks

Saturday 19th May: Cherry & Stonefruit Conference

Saturday 19th May: Conference Dinner & FGT Annual Awards

Sunday 20th May: Tree Fruit Field Day

Friday 18th & Saturday 19th May: Trade Exhibition

For sponsorship and trade enquiries please email bdm@fruitgrowersta.com.au

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'Apple Peeling Machines'

Available for sale - great for Farm
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Contact FGT Office—62 311 944

**Postage/freight will apply if not collected*



Calendar of Events

DECEMBER	13th: MRL Collection 28th: MRL Collection
JANUARY	3rd: MRL Collection 9th: MRL Collection 16th: MRL Collection 23rd: MRL Collection
FEBRUARY	Pome fruit night seminar—date to be advised
MARCH	
APRIL	26th: Global Berry Congress, London 17th-20th: Food & Hotel Asia, Singapore
MAY	3rd-5th: Agfest 17th-20th: FGT May Conference, Hotel Grand Chancellor, Launceston

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FRUIT GROWERS TASMANIA INC

ANNUAL REPORT 2010/11

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EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

President	Jos Driessen
Vice President	Howard Hansen
Treasurer	Keith Drew
Committee Members:	Jim Cusato Andrew Scott John Evans Tim Reid
Public Officer	Sally Tennant

TASMANIAN APPLE & PEAR INDUSTRY RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT TRUST MANAGEMENT BOARD (APIRD)

Chairman	Jos Driessen
Secretary/Treasurer	Andrew Scott
Board Members:	Peter Valentine Robert Heazlewood
Board Member (Govt Representative)	Hugh Griffiths

FGT Awards Selection Committee

Carl Hansen (Chairman)
Max Burslem (Cascade)
Scott Price
Ted Domeney
Lucy Gregg

**Ministerial Taskforce – Quarantine
Fees & Services**

Lucy Gregg

**Primary Employers Tasmania
Executive Committee**

Carl Hansen

**BOM Primary Industry
Consultative Committee**

Lucy Gregg

**Primary Industry Biosecurity
Action Alliance (PIBAA)**

Lucy Gregg

Apple & Pear Australia Ltd

Tasmanian Representative

Jos Driessen retiring August 2010
Ken Bell elected

Export Committee

Lucy Gregg
Ken Bell

State Association Representative

Sally Tennant
Lucy Gregg

FGT R&D Committee

Karen Watson
Nigel Bartels
Peter Smith
Brad Ashlin
Nic Hansen
Jim Cusato
Ryan Hankin

FGT Conference Committee

(May Conference & National Conferences)
Lucy Gregg
Sally Tennant
Kelsie Linnell

Eatwell Tasmania Board

Lucy Gregg - Chairwoman

**Office of Horticultural Market Access
(OHMA)**

Tim Reid

Cherry Growers Australia Inc

President – Tim Reid

Marketing & Promotions Committee

Lucy Gregg

Export Committee

Tim Reid
Lucy Gregg

CGA Secretariat/Admin Management

Sally Tennant
Kelsie Linnell

National Industry Development Officer

Karen Watson (until April 2011)

CONTACT

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FGT Office Assistant
Kelsie Linnell
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office@fruitgrowerstas.com.au

FGT PRESIDENT

The 2010/11 season has certainly been a challenge for many growers with weather having a major impact on crops. The Australian dollar has added to the challenge.

Apple growers are also now facing imports from New Zealand, perhaps as early as next season and the likelihood of more countries following on and seeking access to Australia for their fruit.



Fruit Growers Tasmania has provided various seminars throughout the year providing growers with the opportunity to hear presentations on a range of production topics. The post-season session also provided cherry and stone fruit growers with the opportunity to discuss the season and the difficulties they encountered.

The Business Development Manager continues to work with the Primary Industry Biosecurity Action Alliance in an endeavour to consult with Government in relation to Biosecurity matters at the state level.

FGT were well represented at Fruit Logistica in September 2010. A report is provided later in this Annual Report.

Karen Watson, IEO resigned in March and other FGT staff are taking on some of the roles of the position, with some specific tasks being outsourced. The position has been operating under a HAL project in partnership with CGA due to complete in August 2011. FGT and CGA have made the decision to extend the project until June 2012 providing the opportunity for both organizations to assess the ongoing requirements and how best to structure this into the future.

FGT have provided a submission on the NZ apple access proposal from Biosecurity Australia on behalf of Tasmanian growers and in support of the extensive work APAL has been undertaking on this issue.

The review of Spray Regulations has also been dealt with by FGT on behalf of industry. FGT are very appreciative of the efforts from Ross Kile and Andrew Hall in developing the FGT submission. We also thank those growers that provided responses to the surveys undertaken to gather information for the submission. It is always important to have credible data to include in submissions such as this.

2011 saw another very successful Annual May Conference, this year held in Hobart. Participation from commercial sponsors was very much appreciated and assists in providing a high caliber program for grower attendees. A full report is provided within this Annual Report.

FGT have also been busy working on the management of yet another combined National Conference for apple, pear, and cherry growers. The 2011 event will be held in Adelaide in August.

Scott Price has taken on the role of Tasmanian Director for APAL and with his extensive experience in the apple industry will be a real asset to the Board.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the FGT Executive members for the support and commitment throughout the 2010/11 year and look forward to working with them in the coming year.

The staff at FGT provide good support to the Executive and continue to work diligently on behalf of grower members and their efforts are certainly appreciated.

In summary, a very busy year for everyone at FGT and a challenging season for growers. I wish you all a great 2012 season and look forward to working with you through 2012/13.

Regards,

Jos Driessen

The APIRD Board again met each quarter over the last twelve months.

APIRD continues to operate under the current arrangements while awaiting the outcome of FGT's request to amend the legislation governing APIRD to replace references to "apple and pear" with "fruit and nuts".

This recommended change was submitted after discussion among growers and the realization that many apple and pear growers now produce a combination of fruits. It was agreed that applications for funding to APIRD should allow for consideration of applications on individual merit and better reflect the future needs of the industry, therefore research applications should include those relating to the broader fruit industry in Tasmania.

The required consultation process has been completed and we understand that the amendments are progressing through the legislative system but are yet to be tabled in Parliament.

FGT's Strategic & Development Plan is due for review in early 2012 and development of industry R & D priorities will also be addressed in this process. This will then provide APIRD with an update document of industry's focus for R & D into the future.

APIRD funds have been allocated throughout the year for Voluntary Contribution payments against HAL projects managed by FGT and involving the work undertaken by the Business Development Manager, Executive Officer and Industry Extension Officer.

Fruit Growers Tasmania attended Asia Fruit Logistica in Hong Kong and the Chinese International Small Medium Enterprise Fair (CISMEF) in Guangzhou in September 2010. Asia Fruit Logistica (AFL) is the largest fruit trade show in Asia and this year attracted over 4000 trade visitors from over 60 different countries to see over 300 trade exhibitors. AFL was being held in Hong Kong again for the 3rd consecutive year and continues to grow in significance in the greater Asian region. CISMEF in Guangzhou is co-hosted this year by Australia and there is a large contingent of Australian companies being represented with one large pavilion dedicated purely to Australian businesses.



Fruit Growers Tasmania attended Asia Fruit Logistica for the 3rd year as an exhibitor as part of its commitment to significantly expand exports over the next five years. FGT is attending CISMEF for the first time after gaining formal access to China for fresh apples. Guangzhou is an important centre for fruit trade in China with one of the largest wholesale fruit markets in China.

Tasmania's cherry and stonefruit exports have increased over the last 5 years however with increasing production it is important that our export markets expand at a similar rate as production to relieve pressure off the domestic market. Due to our export strategy and the increasing profile Tasmanian exports have on the global stage the Tasmanian cherry exports last season increased by 20%. It is hoped that with the increasing focus on apple export opportunities and increased



market access into China Tasmanian apple exports will also increase however the high value of the Australian dollar makes exporting challenging in the very competitive apple commodity market.

Participation in overseas events and trade shows is critical for the industry to maintain its profile in a competitive market, with southern hemisphere competitors such as Chile and New Zealand strongly focussed on developing export trade and with many of our competitors accessing significant government support and promotion for their industries.

FARM GATE GUIDE

Fruit Growers Tasmania launched the 3rd edition of the Tasmanian Fruits Farm Gate Guide on Monday 29th November at Perfecta Cherries in Ulverstone. The launch was attended by about 20 people with the Guide officially launched by Senator Richard Colbeck.

The Farm Gate Guide has been designed for locals and visitors alike to source some of the freshest fruit direct from the grower. This year the Guide has 45 participants with 10 new additions across different regions in the state including the Tamar, Channel and East Coast. The number of pages has grown from 12 to 20 with separate sections introduced for the Channel as well as for the Central & East Coast.

The Guide will generate consumer awareness as well as brand recognition of Tasmanian produce. With many mainland visitors seeking out Tasmanian-grown produce once they return home. The mail-order service also offered by some of the participants has also been popular for those consumers wanting to enjoy the optimum taste sensation of Tasmanian fruit.



The brochure will be distributed through various tourism outlets including the Spirit of Tasmania vessels and major airports. It will also be available to download from the Fruit Growers Tasmania website: www.fruitgrowerstas.com.au



Key Benefits of the Farm Gate Guide:

Tourism

- Promotes Tasmanian produce locally, nationally and globally through various distribution systems
- Increases Tasmanian Brand awareness in national markets – specific marketing of the Tasmanian brand
- Provides a unique Tasmanian food experience for tourists, especially at pick-your-own establishments
- Provides an agri-tourism experience which is ideally suited for Tasmania

Employment

- Links backpackers with regional work opportunities as pickers and packers
- Increases employment in rural and regional towns/districts through working in cafes, shops, value adding
- Stabilises regional work force and in some cases allows all year round employment or provides the mechanism to move staff from casual wages to full time employment training – i.e retail, catering, service etc

Regional and Rural Development

- Meets the increasing demand for consumers to purchase “farm gate”
- Meets the demand for linking consumers with producers – understand food production systems
- Provides a value-adding opportunity to convert waste fruit into jams, juices etc
- Allows for increased on-farm diversity - agri tourism opportunities, mail-order etc
- Allows individual brand awareness driven by the producer
- Reduces on-farm risk due to diversification
- Provides an opportunity to market small fruit lines (not otherwise commercially feasible via supermarkets)
- Provides an opportunity to market second grade and jam grade fruit – reducing waste, increasing income

FARM GATE GUIDE

- Diversifies exposure to markets – reduces risk by not only having retail or export outlets
- Guide is used extensively by local providores, restaurants and retail outlets to seek local produce for sale and incorporation into menus etc.

Health

The connection between consumer and producer and understanding the food supply chain has been linked to increased awareness of consumers and increased consumption. Anecdotal evidence from our participants has linked increased fruit consumption with the ability to pick and taste fresh product. Some of our participants also encourage school groups to tour and visit their establishments.

Food security for regional and rural areas – especially for fruit and vegetables. In some instances the local Farm Gate supplier is the most accessible point in rural and regional areas for people to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables. Without the Farm Gate Supplier some people would not be able to access fresh fruit and vegetables.



PRIMARY INDUSTRY BIOSECURITY ACTION ALLIANCE

PIBAA was formed in 2010 through the amalgamation of 15 primary industry peak bodies that were united in protecting the biosecurity status of Tasmania.

The group has met with key stakeholders and all sides of politics and have successfully lobbied the state government to maintain biosecurity funding, as was announced in the last state budget.

The group continues to monitor quarantine and biosecurity functions within the state and is closely watching federal government developments in relation to regional harmonisation of quarantine and biosecurity.

Importantly, the united voice of PIBAA, continues to ensure that the issue of biosecurity is front and centre of relevant government discussions whether it be the Economic Development Plan (EDP) or Food Bowl or other key policy.

PIBAA Member organisations -

Wine Industry Tasmania (WIT)
Tasmanian Abalone Council (TAC)
Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (TFGA)
Agricultural Contractors of Tasmania (AGT)
Tasmanian Island Pork Alliance Inc (TIPA)
Tasmanian Crop Pollination Association (TCPA)
Primary Employers Tasmania (PET)
Poppy Growers Tasmania Inc (PGT)
Fruit Growers Tasmania (FGT)
Tasmanian Salmonid Growers Association (TSGA)
Nursery and Garden Industry TAS
Tasracing Pty Ltd
Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council (TSIC)
Tasmanian Agricultural Productivity Group (TAPG)
Hop Products Australia
Huon Valley Council

The Fruit Growers Tasmania Annual May Conference was held at Wrest Point in Hobart on Friday 13th May & Saturday 14th May with a field day on Sunday 15th. Registrations for the event exceeded expectations. Given the difficult and challenging season that growers have endured it would not have been a surprise if numbers for the annual conference were down due to financial constraints but growers supported the event proving that Tasmanian fruit growers are resilient, and optimistic about the future of their industry.

Once again the conference featured a ½ day berry program, ½ day perennial fruit program and a full day cherry and stonefruit program, followed by a field trip to the Coal River Valley. Over 200 registrations were received for the conference and growers attending the event have come from all regions of Tasmania, from the mainland, as well as from New Zealand.



There were two international speakers at the event: David Geen from British Columbia in Canada and Ingrid Hofma from New Zealand. David's family company, Jealous Fruits, is a vertically integrated cherry business which has expanded successfully in recent years. David gave two presentations at the conference: one on the family business model and the second one on the production of premium quality cherries.

Ingrid Hofma is the Managing Director of Le Fresh International which is an export company based in Auckland. Le Fresh export apricots and cherries and they compete head to head with Tasmanian produce in many international markets including Taiwan and Hong Kong.

The berry program featured two Victorian speakers: Phil Rowe an organic berry grower and marketer and Eddie Pang a researcher from RMIT. Phil, also President of the Australian Rubus Growers, spoke about the family berry business and his strategies for success.

The Official Welcome on Saturday morning was delivered by Tony Scherer from Frogmore Creek Vineyard who spoke about the opportunities and advantages that Tasmania has to offer premium primary producers. Growers visited Frogmore Creek Vineyard during the field trip on Sunday.

2011 National Cherry Conference and the National Apple & Pear Conference have been specifically tailored to meet the demands of Australian pome fruit and cherry growers. The program is specifically focussed on production issues which have strong “take home” messages for growers. It is hoped the program will inspire growers with new concepts and methodologies which they can implement on their own properties. With increasing pressures to reduce costs and become globally competitive it is important for growers to be aware of the latest information on new and future production techniques.

There were over 350 on the registration list with all events being well attended. The networking events included Taste of SA held at the National Wine Centre and the Conference dinner held at the conference venue, the Adelaide Convention Centre.

The HortExpo was a feature of the conference again following on from the successful inaugural

HortExpo in 2009. The event combines field day, workshop, seminar, and trade show and very well supported by sponsors. The event was held at Plummers Shed in the Adelaide Hills and was a great success.



Growing Smarter, Growing Stronger

The theme of the this years event was “Growing Smart, Growing Stronger” and reflects the necessity for the modern orchardist to be abreast of modern production trends to ensure that their business is economically viable and sustainable.

And Going Greener....

The was a greener conference with some “green” initiatives including a paperless program and a reusable USB card.

FGT took the lead in managing the conference in consultation with CGA, APAL, Apple & Pear South Australia and with assistance from Cherry Growers South Australia. The conference was held at the Adelaide Convention Centre 1st-5th August 2011.

The last day and half included a Rubus conference and was attended by around 30 Rubus growers from around Australia.

Presentations from the technical days will be circulated to all delegates in coming weeks.

Cherry Growers Australia underwent a restructure late in 2010 and as part of that process they advertised for proposals to manage their operations and also for employment of a CEO.

Fruit Growers Tasmania Inc were successful in lodging a proposal to undertake these tasks from the FGT Office on a fee for service basis and governed under an MOU between the two organizations.

Part of FGT's proposal included the employment by CGA of Simon Boughey as the incoming CEO. FGT Executive Officer provides operations/administration management with the assistance of FGT's Administrative Assistant, Kelsie Linnell.

The arrangement has now been in place since January 2011 and is working very well for both organizations.

STATE PROMOTION

FGT maintained its involvement in community and school events throughout the year with a focus on promoting healthy eating among children focussing on Apples and incorporating the national promotional message where appropriate.

Oneadaysuperfood

A link was created from FGT's website to promote the one a day superfood concept. Information was provided to HAL to be included in the Tasmanian state section of the site. FGT also supported the Schools Competition by circulating information to Schools and organising for the event to be advertised in the Tasmanian Schools Canteen Association newsletter.



Aussie Apples campaign

The new campaign has now been released and promotional material including balloons, bunting, t-shirts are all available to order. Some of this material has already been distributed to various local fruit & veg stores.

Apple peeler/corers

FGT has sourced a supply of apple/peeler corers and has them for sale at \$10 each as well as for use in various promotional events.



School and Community Activities

Orford Primary School – Spring Carnival Fair. Orford is located on the east coast of Tasmania and is actively promoting healthy eating with the children.

Qantas Reservations Call Centre Safety Week

Safety week in Hobart included visual displays and information relating to bushfires and safety, depression, parenting, eating well, learn to swim. The Heart Foundation and Men's Health groups also participated.

A barbeque lunch with healthy salads and fresh apples to finish off with was enjoyed by everyone and Fruit Growers Tasmania had the opportunity to display some of the national promotional material which created positive interest amongst the Qantas staff.



Waimea Heights School Fair

Dear Fruit Growers Tasmania Inc,

Thank you for your kind donation of apples for the produce stall at our school fair. Attached are some photos of the stall.

The day was a great success, with monies raised going towards our goal of installing a set of swings in the playground.

Your generosity is much appreciated.

Regards

Jo-Anna Pook

Fair Committee

Waimea Heights



STATE PROMOTION

Thank you Fruit Growers Tasmania!

On October 2, Fruit Growers Tasmania sponsored an apple stall at the South Hobart Primary School. Once the school discovered Tasmanian Fruit Growers was the place to approach for such an activity, this stall was one of the easiest stalls to prepare. Apple produce included apple tastings (an 'apple' made up of a slice of six varieties), apples, apple juice, apples coring, and toffee apples.

The stall raised the better part of \$1000 profit for the school, and has received many positive comments since the fair. The apple suit was a particular success with the children.



Particular thanks to the growers (Lucaston Park and Duggan Orchards), who went out of their way to help with dropping off produce etc. Other groups who assisted with the stall's success were: McDonalds and Scouts Australia (juice containers), Salad Bowl (overnight refrigeration), parents of South Hobart (staffing the stall, especial thanks to Gary Gooley), and Weathering Change (preparing toffee apples and stall management).

We look forward to a fruit stall being an annual part of the South Hobart Primary School Fair. Thanks again to Fruit Growers Tasmania for making it possible.



Apple & Salmon Race – Huon Rotary

This is a very well known event held on the foreshore of the Huon River located in the growing regions of the Huon and Channel. It is very much a family day with numerous activities, exhibitors, food stalls and entertainment for all ages. The FGT apple stall was located adjacent to the Huon Health Centre which was most appropriate given the national promotional message on the oneadaysuperfood posters and prescription pads. Industry support of the event promotes good community relations and support for the apple industry. The apple stall as a regular event also provides the opportunity for distribution of promotional material and tasting of fruit. The apple corer/peeler was going constantly and attracted children and their parents to the stall to taste apples and take some home in a bag provided with promotional material. Over 200 bags were distributed on the day.



APPLE STALL AT AGFEST - FEATURES THE AUSSIE APPLE 2011/12 PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL



FINANCIALS

The audited Fruit Growers Tasmania financials for year ended 30 June 2011 are attached.

Fruit Growers Tasmania continues to maintain a stable financial operating position while also developing adequate provision of reserves to ensure commitments can be met and ongoing operations can continue into the future.

Any enquiries from members regarding the financials are welcome.

Keith Drew
Treasurer

CHERRY NIGHT SEMINAR

*Fruit Growers Tasmania are
pleased to present the next
Cherry Night Seminar on
Wednesday 2nd November
@ 5.30pm for 5.45pm start*

Venue: FGT Office,

262 Argyle Street

RSVP: 31st October , 6231 1944

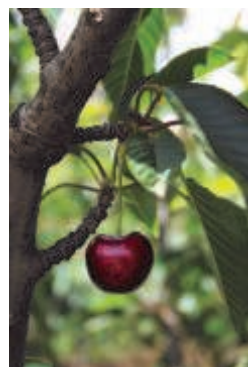
Cost (Inc Dinner):

FGT Members \$15.00

Non-Members \$25.00



- | | |
|--------|---|
| 5.45pm | <i>Optimising Cherry Fruit Set, Crop Load, Fruit Nutrition & Size</i>
<i>Dr Dugald Close, TIAR</i> |
| 6.15pm | <i>New Electronic Age for Cherry Grading</i> <i>Valerio Pollini, UNITEC, Italy</i> |
| 6.45pm | <i>Stopping the Rot: All you need to know about Cherry Rots</i>
<i>Dr Wayne Boucher</i> |
| 7.15pm | <i>DINNER</i> |
| 7.45pm | <i>Summer Weather Forecast and Using the New BOM weather system</i>
<i>Simon Mc Culloch, BOM</i> |
| 8.15pm | <i>ProGib (GA) - Using Granular GA</i> <i>Dr Andrew Rath, Valent BioSciences</i> |
| 8.45pm | <i>CLOSE</i> |





"A submission is being prepared in response to revised spray drift regulations (State Government)"

Tasmania

▶ Tasmanian growers continue to support FGT with their annual membership which runs from 1 July to 30 June. Associate membership is increasing every year and we encourage all those companies – suppliers – carton, chemicals, transporters, agri-services etc to again support the industry by joining FGT. Membership means that you can keep informed of industry events, issues and information.

FGT's June newsletter was distributed and included the 2011-12 membership forms, together with a full report on the May conference. FGT has been working on a submission to Biosecurity Australia – on behalf of Tasmanian growers and in support of the work APAL is

doing – on the New Zealand apple access proposed protocols. In addition; a submission is being prepared in response to revised spray regulations (state Government).

National conference programs (on USB) have been distributed and we are beginning to receive a steady flow of registrations. If you have not already done so, you should get your registration completed and lodged and organise your accommodation. The program information includes a list of accommodation options, all in close proximity to the conference venue – Adelaide Convention Centre. APAL will be hosting a levy payers' breakfast on the Thursday

morning, 4 August which is free of charge to apple and pear levy payers and supporters/associates of the industry.

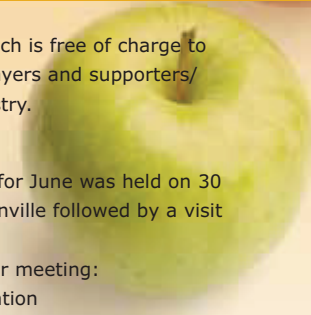
Events :

Future Orchards Walk for June was held on 30 June at Serve Ag, Huonville followed by a visit to Hansen Orchards.

- 7 July: APAL Grower meeting: Grove Research Station
- 26 August: Export registration and training day,
- 18-20 May 2012: FGT Annual General Meeting, Annual May conference – Launceston

Sally Tennant

Fruit Growers Tasmania



New South Wales

All regions in New South Wales are now moving into the serious winter weather – even Bilpin has experienced 11 continual days of cold, wet and strong winds. Most growers have used their imagination and found something to do inside or else go on holidays to somewhere warmer. With the harvest completed thoughts are now turning to pruning and preparing blocks for new trees.

Fruit prices have remained reasonably strong although the memories of January-February red prices are quickly fading away – also the money. There was a very good response by growers to the "breakfast with politicians" in Canberra with many politicians now being more

"We will have to have a yield 'of 40 tonnes per hectare with a packout of at least 72 per cent to remain viable"

aware of the threat of fire blight the real issue of growers concern and the poor protocols that are being put up by Biosecurity Australia regarding the import of fruit from New Zealand. The lack of concern with regard to New Zealand's use of antibiotic sprays is also of great concern to both Australian growers and consumers.

It was of interest at the last Future Orchards – 'Orchard Profitability' session held in Orange that the predicted effect of imports will be a fall of around 13 per cent on current prices.

When this figure is factored into the program that averages the nett return of 18 Australian orchards we will have to have a yield of 40 tonnes per hectare with a packout of at least 72 per cent to remain viable. I wonder just how many orchards will achieve this over the next year. Great to see that NSW have four nominations for the position on the APAL Board – they are Greg Mouat, Barnett Hyems, Guy Gaeta and Peter McClymont – please make sure that you make your vote count. Until next month.

David Gartrell

Western Australia

The Western Australian harvest is drawing to a close and prices have eased slightly, with the market still reporting good supply and adequate demand.

I was recently asked to comment if high banana prices meant that banana consumers were turning to apples and pears. A quick market report comparison to 2010 and it becomes very clear that we really should be comparing apples with apples. Variations in the way prices are reported in regard to variety, quality and package sizes make that even that difficult. Prices may be up on last year, however, how you crunch the numbers can make this a dangerous exercise.

"Many growers 'turned off' less favoured varieties to maintain yield and quality in the more popular lines"

Our long dry summer has allowed sugars to build up nicely, so eating quality is good. The impact of the dry has also meant that many growers in the south west 'turned off' less favoured varieties so they could maintain yield and quality in the more popular lines. Good for consumers and a strategy that has probably made the most of the season.

Another dry spell this month has allowed growers to get some serious pruning done and make preparations for another potentially dry season ahead. Meanwhile, ethyl formate fumigation for the control of eucalyptus weevil

is becoming a commercial reality. The advantage in using ethyl formate as a fumigant is that it occurs naturally in brassica vegetables and food grains and has no harmful effect on the environment.

We are also looking forward to the national conference at Adelaide in August, an important event for us all. On a personal note, it will be a great chance to catch up with a few old friends while building on relationships that I have begun over the phone and in emails in the past three months.

Gavin Foord

Fruit West





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Email: office@fruitgrowerstas.com.au
www.fruitgrowerstas.com.au

State Promotion Activity January to December 2010

FGT maintained its involvement in community and school events throughout the year with a focus on promoting healthy eating among children focussing on Apples and incorporating the national promotional message where appropriate.

One a day superfood

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Safety week in Hobart included visual displays and information relating to bushfires and safety, depression, parenting, eating well, learn to swim. The Heart Foundation and Men's Health groups also participated.



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Thank you for your kind donation of apples for the produce stall at our school fair. Attached are some photos of the stall.

The day was a great success, with monies raised going towards our goal of installing a set of swings in the playground.

Your generosity is much appreciated.

Regards

Jo-Anna Pook

Fair Committee

Waimea Heights





Farm Gate Guide 2010/11

Report by Lucy Gregg – Business Development Manager - FGT

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The brochure was distributed through various tourism outlets including the Spirit of Tasmania vessels and major airports. It is also available to download from the Fruit Growers Tasmania website: www.fruitgrowerstas.com.au

Key Benefits of the Farm Gate Guide:

Health

The connection between consumer and producer and understanding the food supply chain has been linked to increased awareness of consumers and increased consumption. Anecdotal evidence from our participants has linked increased fruit consumption with the ability to pick and taste fresh product. Some of our participants also encourage school groups to tour and visit their establishments.

Regional and Rural Development

- Meets the increasing demand for consumers to purchase “farm gate”
- Meets the demand for linking consumers with producers – understand food production systems
- Guide is used extensively by local providers, restaurants and retail outlets to seek local produce for sale and incorporation into menus etc. Provides a value-adding opportunity to convert waste fruit into jams, juices etc
- Allows for increased on-farm diversity - agri tourism opportunities, mail-order etc
- Allows individual brand awareness driven by the producer
- Reduces on-farm risk due to diversification
- Diversifies exposure to markets – reduces risk by not only having retail or export outlets

Food security for regional and rural areas – especially for fruit and vegetables. In some instances the local Farm Gate supplier is the most accessible point in rural and regional areas for people to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables. Without the Farm Gate Supplier some people would not be able to access fresh fruit and vegetables. Also of course there are benefits for tourism and

Thank you Fruit Growers Tasmania!

On October 2, Fruit Growers Tasmania sponsored an apple stall at the South Hobart Primary School. Once the school discovered Tasmanian Fruit Growers was the place to approach for such an activity, this stall was one of the easiest stalls to prepare. Apple produce included apple tastings (an 'apple' made up of a slice of six varieties), apples, apple juice, apples coring, and toffee apples.

The stall raised the better part of \$1000 profit for the school, and has received many positive comments since the fair. The apple suit was a particular success with the children.



Particular thanks to the growers (Lucaston Park and Duggan Orchards), who went out of their way to help with dropping off produce etc. Other groups who assisted with the stall's success were: McDonalds and Scouts Australia (juice containers), Salad Bowl (overnight refrigeration), parents of South Hobart (staffing the stall, especial thanks to Gary Gooley), and Weathering Change (preparing toffee apples and stall management).

We look forward to a fruit stall being an annual part of the South Hobart Primary School Fair. Thanks again to Fruit Growers

Tasmania for making it possible.



Apple & Salmon Race – Huon Rotary

This is a very well known event held on the foreshore of the Huon River located in the growing regions of the Huon and Channel. It is very much a family day with numerous activities, exhibitors, food stalls and entertainment for all ages. The FGT apple stall was located adjacent to the Huon Health Centre which was most appropriate given the national promotional message on the oneaday superfood posters and prescription pads. Industry support of the event promotes good community relations and support for the apple industry. The apple stall as a regular event also provides the opportunity for distribution of promotional material and tasting of fruit. The apple corer/peeler was going constantly and attracted children and their parents to the stall to taste apples and take some home in a bag provided with promotional material. Over 200 bags were distributed on the day.

The event attracts a number of interstate consumers who are travelling around Tasmania

Rotarians release approximately 200 pre-sold numbered artificial salmon into the river and the excitement is on, as the tide carries the salmon to the finishing line where the judges await the winner. Shortly afterwards numbered red and green artificial apples are released in the same way.

