

Technology transfer in the Goulburn Murray pome fruit industries

John Wilson
Fruit Growers Victoria

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MT06067

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**Technology transfer in the Goulburn Murray
pome fruit industries**

1st July 2007 – 30th June 2010

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HAL Project MT06067

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This final report provides an overview and summary of the Fruit Growers Victoria Technology Transfer project from July 2007 – June 2010.

The FGVL Technology transfer project was facilitated by HAL in partnership with FGVL and was funded by FGVL voluntary contributions and matched HAL funding.

Thank you to the Goulburn Murray pome fruit growers for their support of the FGVL Technology transfer project.



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Abbreviations

FGVL	Fruit Growers Victoria Ltd
VIC DPI	Victorian Department of Primary Industries
IPDM	Integrated Pest and Disease Management
IDO	Industry Development Officer
HAL	Horticulture Australia Limited
APAL	Apple and Pear Australia Limited
HIN	Horticulture Industry Networks
FO 2012	Future Orchards 2012
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
EINTO	Ears in the Orchard

Summary

The following final report details how technology transfer and industry development priorities were delivered to pome fruit growers in the Goulburn Murray region of Victoria. This project commenced in July 2007 and will be completed in June 2010 and was managed by Fruit Growers Victoria Ltd, the peak industry body representing pome fruit growers in Victoria. The project was funded by voluntary contributions from FGVL and matched HAL funding.

Key purposes of the project were for the IDO to deliver the latest technology in both Integrated Pest and Disease Management and a changeover of orchard production techniques to higher density plantings. Promoting the latest orchard practices from around Australia and from around the world to the Goulburn Murray region is imperative for the sustainability of growers and the industry.

Benefits to the public include delivery of a safer end product (pome fruit) and of higher shelf quality fruit delivered to consumers. The benefits to the industry for successful IPDM and high density production systems include reduced pesticide usage and increased production per hectare of land.

Having an IDO available to growers to assist and pass on the latest production techniques is key for the industry to make the correct development decisions such as varietal choices and production system choices. Growers are beginning to change from older production systems to more modern higher planting density systems as a result of technology transfer through varying projects and study tours co - managed or in delivery partnership.

Introduction

This project was undertaken because fruit growers in the Goulburn Murray region are currently facing key challenges in regard to the profitability of their orchards. High production costs are not reflected in the farm gate prices that growers are currently receiving. A real need to increase profitable production for growers is imperative for their survival. Increasing the average pome fruit tonnes per hectare is a key criteria but one that cannot be measured in the short term.

The current project MT06067 replaced the previous project FR05005 that was a co funded by Australian Nashi Growers Association, Summerfruits Australia and Fruit Growers Victoria Limited. The current project was funded solely by FGVL and HAL matched funding.

Technology transfer is the key component for the IDO with the target audience being pome fruit growers, extension providers and consultants. Information exchange to the target audience includes articles in technical publications, contributions to relevant industry newsletters, organising grower group meetings, orchard walks, field days and workshop demonstrations.

The ability to demonstrate orchard best practice in orchard management by organising study tours and assisting with the initial management of the APAL Future Orchards 2012 project has been the preferred way to demonstrate and implement change on orchard. Orchard walks and outdoor demonstrations have been hands on for growers to see benefits in changing their orchard practices.

Method and activities

The Industry development officer role in the Goulburn Murray region has been defined as 2 days per week equivalent with the majority of IDO time being allocated in the winter months while during the spring and summer months the IDO changed roles to be Cropwatch area manager for a commercial business managed by FGVL in the Goulburn Valley.

Many occasions these roles have overlapped with the majority of the technology transfer grower group meetings being held in autumn and winter periods from April through to August. Cropwatch commitments have commenced from September through to April.

The methods used to organise, advertise and promote grower meetings have been to utilise FGVL membership base and contacts through media, faxes, emails and sms text messaging to notify and remind growers of upcoming meetings, demonstrations or orchard walks. It has been the IDO's responsibility to organise speakers, presenters and venues for meetings, orchard walks or demonstrations. For study tours arranging travel and accommodation is also an important part of the role.

The following programs whether it be in partnership or as a facilitator have been delivered or promoted to Goulburn Murray pome fruit growers by the IDO utilising FGVL's grower membership base.

- APAL FO2012/FGVL Orchard Walks, Tree Measurements, Data Collection, Technical Presentations.
- DPI VIC/FGVL Ears in the Orchard BBQ's, meetings, demonstrations and workshops.
- DPI VIC/FGVL Young Growers Network meetings and study tours.
- DPI VIC Winter Pear School 2009.
- DAFF/FGVL Next Gen Farmers study tours to Adelaide Hills and New Zealand.
- Landcare Network/Woolworths/FGVL Southern Victoria Grower Bus Tour.
- Gippsland Fruit Growers/FGVL Lenswood Study Tour

The activities carried out by the IDO Michael Crisera since January 2008 has been the following:

Activities

January 2008 – April 2008:

APAL Future Orchards 2012, tree measurements and facilitating the Northern loop Orchard walks and presentations. –

? Vic	Block	Variety	Density (trees /ha)	Age (years)	TRV	Rootstock	Replant	Latest Profit Year	Profit \$/ha	Gross Kg/ha
North	VC09	Cripps Pink	2222	5	2667	M26	Yes	2006	-7173	12350
North	VC12	Gala	3150	8	2588	MM106	No	2006	14395	40347
North	VC13	Gala	2857	1	-	M26	Yes	-	-	-
North	VC14	WBC	2222	5	4555	D6	-	2006	-12736	3106
North	VC15	Cripps Pink	2200	7	2000	M26	No	2006	27052	45055
North	VC17	Cripps Pink	2200	7	2421	MM106	No	2006	12633	29941
North	VC18	Corella	2200	7	3578	BP1	Yes	2006	10155	31517
North	VC19	Packham	2083	6	1350	D6	Yes	2006	199	31181
North	VC20	Cripps Pink	1666	7	3278	M26	Yes	2006	12559	33684
North	VC21	Cripps Pink	1829	12	2300	Northern Spy	Yes	-	-	-
North	VC22	WBC	1818	5	2454	D6	Yes	2006	-12222	3546
North	VC23	Cripps Pink	1481	9	2889	M26	No	2006	13353	37297
North	VC26	Cripps Pink	1234	15	3666	Undefined	Yes	-	-	-
North	VC27	Cripps Pink	1666	8	4375	M26	No	-	-	-
North	VC28	Gala	1111	4	4444	MM106	Yes	2006	-12726	1625
North	VC29	Cripps Pink	2514	8	4222	MM106	Yes	2006	31159	60211
North	VC30	WBC	393	5	3451	D6	Yes	-	-	-
North	VC31	Packham	555	21	3240	D6	Yes	-	-	-
North	VC33	Gala	1000	5	3368	M26	No	2006	-5652	8750
North	VC34	Gala	1666	1	-	M26	No	-	-	-
North	VC37	Gala	1923	3	1829	M26	Yes	-	-	-
North	VC38	WBC	1000	4	545	BP1	Yes	-	-	-
North	VC41	Cripps Pink	2857	1	-	M26	Yes	-	-	-

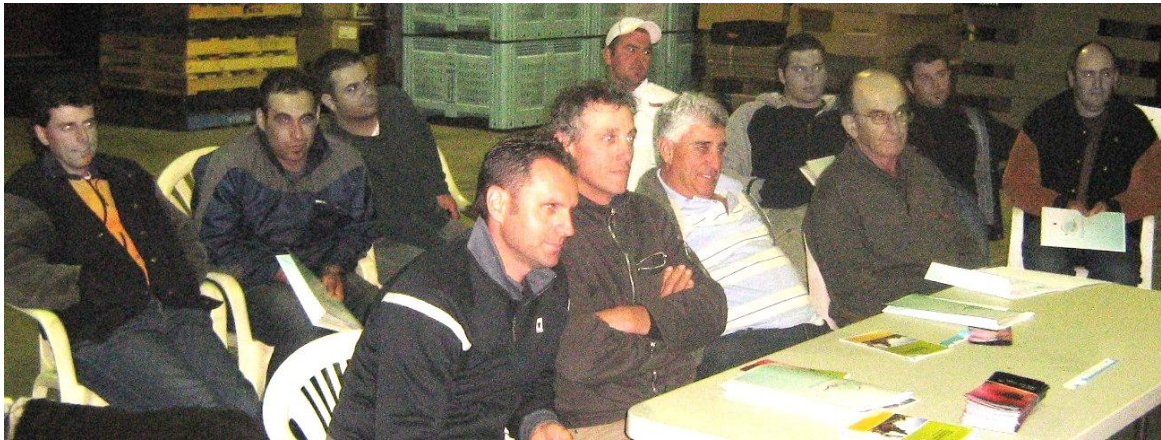
Above: the Northern loop FO 2012 monitoring blocks.



Above: example of FO2012 photo points used to evaluate crop performance.

May 2008 – August 2008

DPI VIC & FGVL Ears in the Orchard program with local Goulburn Murray growers.



Above: EINTO meeting at Bill Sali's packing shed with growers from Shepparton East.



Above: EINTO BBQ at Dean Pullar's property in Cobram.



Above: photo taken with High Country Fruits in Victoria's Nth East.



Above: photo taken at Pear pruning demonstration at Lenne's in Ardmona.



Above: FGVL Trailer BBQ used for grower presentations, BBQ's and orchard walks.

May 2009 – September 2009



Above: Southern Victoria Bus tour for Goulburn Valley orchardists.



Above: Goulburn Valley and Harcourt tour for Gippsland Fruit Growers.



Above: DAFF Next Gen/ Goulburn Valley Young Growers study tour to Lenswood/Adelaide Hills.



Above: DAFF Next Gen young grower study tour to New Zealand for Goulburn Valley orchardists.

January 2010 – June 2010




Above: HAL milestone funded trip to Lenswood in February 2010.

Publications

Publications of technical bulletins on pome fruit growing are an important aspect of technology transfer from industry to growers. In the current pome fruit growing industry there are 2 predominant fruit growing journals or magazines that growers in the Goulburn Murray access for technology transfer. Australian Fruitgrower, produced by Apple and Pear Australia Limited and Tree Fruit, produced by Nick Morenos. Both are produced monthly. Fruit Growers Victoria Limited previously published 2 quarterly journals, Top Grower and Growing Wiser. Top Grower was intended to be a more hands on orchard technical bulletin while Growing Wiser was intended to cover more industrial and political issues of fruit growing.

Top Grower



The above pictures demonstrate the adjustment of mature tree limbs as well as implementing high density orchard systems. Inside this issue please read about how pruning and creating the right framework are key to balancing the tree to produce the desired fruit.

To succeed as editor of this publication and in my Fruit Industry Development Officer role, my challenge is to provide the best resources and tools possible to assist growers increase profit per hectare of orchard and minimise risk.


A key objective for the HAL project as an IDO is technology transfer, the quarterly publishing of Top Grower and re-establishing FGVL Grub Groups. These are important components of technology transfer, as is communicating with growers at group meetings and on-farm visits. The key issues that growers have consistently raised with me so far have been: increasing on-farm costs, fruit fly, codling moth (last season), orchard re-development choices, new research, and FGVL communications.

Through this technical bulletin and increased grower visits, I will provide articles and resources to assist growers on the various orchard/packing activities. I encourage growers to contact me about any orchard/packing activities whether you are in the North or South of the state.

I am looking forward to meeting as many growers as possible over the coming weeks, months and seasons. Many growers have impressed me with their attention to detail, whether it be on their orchard or with their packing systems.

All have been very welcoming and I look forward to the challenge ahead as I am passionate about contributing as much to the industry as possible.

Michael Crisera
Fruit Industry Development Officer
Fruit Growers Victoria Ltd.



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Growing Wiser

and you will appreciate the changes we are making.

Perhaps the most important change we have made is to ensure that we have the necessary resources. We have changed Gwyn Kitchener's role in our southern office and appointed her as our Publications Officer. Gwyn will work from home and cease all administrative work and dedicate her time to the production of our four publications; Core Facts, Growing Wiser, Top Grower and CropWatch Update.

Gwyn's office workload has diminished as we have adopted more efficient systems and this move is timely. Southern office administrative calls will now be directed to head office.

Gwyn will continue to produce **Core Facts** as our weekly email bulletin. You will see changes to its layout and content over the next few weeks and it will be also faxed out so that the information reaches more levels in our member organizations.

Core Facts will contain current information including: weekly market prices, events to remember, and notices and releases from government and other bodies. It will provide you with a quick reference point for current events.

Another change is that **Growing Wiser** will be published quarterly and will contain reports and commentary on industry events and issues, marketing and an update on FGVL activities. You will receive a hard copy in the mail. It will provide you more in depth information and will be a better quality production than previously. Growing Wiser will only be available to financial FGVL members.

Top Grower is the quarterly technical news bulletin produced for the fruit growing industry by Michael Crisera (Fruit Industry Development Officer). Gwyn will publish it as an insert in Growing Wiser for FGVL members. Top Grower will contain technical information about fruit production and processing.

Gwyn will also publish the fortnightly electronic **Cropwatch Update** during the season with content prepared by CropWatch manager, Bill Rye.

Growing Wiser will now be a bigger, have more content and be printed in higher quality. We aim to develop it to be the leading fruit publication in Victoria. It will link closely with the new FGVL WEB site which is the final part and key part of the FGVL communication strategy.

Finally, we will welcome member feedback. Please feel free to email or write to us and we will endeavour to publish member comments in future editions.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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FGVL WEBSITE...
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GROWER MEETINGS...

In the past 18 months FGVL has changed its format for grower communications, including publications with more focus for technology transfer to be used in the weekly FGVL newsletter 'Core Facts' and the FGVL website. In the need to provide current technology transfer, which is needed at different periods of the growing season, the IDO has included grower relevant technical data in 'Core Facts' on a weekly as needed approach.

The snippets below detail examples of technology transfer to growers for current access each week, weekly apple and pear maturity testing carried out in the Goulburn Valley as well as fruit sizing on Pink Lady™ apples which are important statistics for growers as they near harvest.

With 2 monthly journals available to growers (Australian Fruitgrower, Tree Fruit) FGVL's Core Facts offers a different benefit as a more current to the week form of technology transfer.

Market Report.....

Core Facts

APPLES 12kg Cartons	LOW \$	HIGH \$	AVERAGE \$
Granny Smith	25	30	27.50
Fuji	25	45	33.85
Red Delicious	20	30	25.00
Jonathan	30	35	32.50
Royal Gala	25	40	27.61
Jonagold	25	30	27.50
Pink Lady	50	60	55.00
Gold Delicious	25	30	27.50

Pink Lady™ Maturity Testing.....

Maturity sampling of fruit (above) is from the Goulburn Valley. The larger more coloured fruit for first colour pick were chosen for sampling this week.

PINK LADY APPLES Maturity Test

SAMPLE	DATE	SHEPPARTON EAST				ARDMONA					
		DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE			
1	6/9	8.4	8.8	3.7	14.6	1	73.0	8.9	9.3	3.4	18.4
2	7/9	8.7	8.8	4.4	18.0	2	70.8	8.8	8.9	3.7	14.7
3	8/9	8.6	8.8	4.3	14.9	3	73.3	9.4	9.4	3.0	14.6
4	8/9	8.9	9.2	4.0	15.8	4	71.3	9.3	9.2	4.1	14.8
5	7/9	8.5	8.7	4.3	15.0	5	73.4	9.0	9.2	3.6	14.6
6	7/9	8.3	8.1	3.9	14.7	6	73.0	9.1	9.2	3.6	15.0
7	7/9	8.2	8.6	3.6	14.8	7	71.6	9.1	8.7	3.6	14.8
8	7/9	8.8	9.2	4.1	16.1	8	73.5	9.4	9.2	2.9	15.2
9	7/9	8.4	8.8	3.9	14.9	9	72.2	9.2	9.1	3.3	14.8
10	6/9	9.3	8.9	3.9	18.0	10	71.7	9.3	9.6	3.6	16.1
AVG		79.2	8.7	4.0	16.1	AVG	72.4	8.1	8.4	14.9	

PINK LADY™ MATURITY PARAMETERS

1ST PICK LONG TERM CA TO NOVEMBER:
2-3 STARCH PLATE. >14.5 BRIX, 7.5KG - 9.5KG PRESSURE

MEDIUM TERM CA TO SEPTEMBER:
3-4 STARCH PLATE. >14.5 BRIX, 7.5KG - 9.5KG PRESSURE

SHORT TERM CA TO JULY:
4-5 STARCH PLATE. >14.5 - 15.5 BRIX, <7.5KG PRESSURE

The above parameters sourced from Apple and Pear Maturity assessment. Revised edition 1995, Colin R. Little.

Market prices provided by the Melbourne Market as of 15 April 2009.

IN THIS ISSUE: Market report..... Dates to Remember..... OFF Donation..... Rural Press Club..... Bendigo Bank Scholarship..... Women on Farm Gathering..... A Pear-est Fest..... Free financial/grocery advice for horticulturists..... Southern Growers Gathering..... Maturity Testing..... Fruit Sizing..... Classifieds

Core Facts 5.15 - 14/04/2009

Fruit Growers Victoria Limited Head Office: 2 Rumbold Road (PO Box 412) Mooroolbarn 3629 Phone: (03) 5923 3700 Fax: (03) 5925 5029 Email: office@fgv.com.au

www.fgv.com.au

Fruit Sizing.....

PINK LADY FRUIT SIZING(MM)	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5	
ARDMONA AVERAGE	65.67	66.83	67.74	0	0	70MM
TATURA EAST AVERAGE	67.26	68.58	69.25	0	0	70MM
UNDERA AVERAGE	67.17	68.43	69.00	0	0	70MM
SHEPPARTON EAST AVERAGE	64.93	65.93	66.78	0	0	70MM

24/03/2009 31/03/2009 7/04/2009 14/04/2009 21/04/2009

The above table will be updated weekly with Pink Lady™ sizing from varying districts and rootstocks.
20 fruit per block are being measured on random trees in 21 sites across the Goulburn Valley as a fee for service.
If there are growers from the southern region who would like to measure fruit size please contact Bill Rye or Michael Crisera. growwatch@fgv.com.au or fidc@fgv.com.au

Media Coverage

The IDO and media have played an important role in getting the message out about any urgent on orchard precautions or warnings for growers in the Goulburn Murray. Any media by the IDO would only have relevance to orchard specific matters or technology transfer and not of a political nature. The varying issues which may or may not include technology transfer include:

- Frost Damage warnings
- Water allocation information
- Storage of heat damaged fruit information

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- FO 2012 promotions
- FGVL events, promotions or reminders

The newspaper snippets below are just some examples.



Vitamin packed . . . Not only are they red, ripe and juicy they are also much healthier than many people had thought. Fruit industry development officer Michael Crisera casts his eye over fresh Pink Lady apples being harvested at John Portinger's Orvale orchard. A new report pulling together published research has found apples have more antioxidant power than a mega dose of vitamin C. Further stories, see page 2.

Picture: Christina Prochazka

Help is available for growers affected by frost damage



EXAMINING THE DAMAGE... Fruit Growers Australia Field Officer Michael Crisera shows a pear with dimpling of the skin which is an obvious sign of frost damage.

THE impact of the frost that hit the Goulburn Valley recently will continue to become more apparent as growers calculate the extent of the damage to crops.

Free information sessions are currently being offered to assist with the assessment of options for the rest of the season.

The frost was patchy - not just through the region but even hitting some blocks harder than others on the same orchard due to differing soil moisture levels. Through timely, free, one-on-one confidential sessions held on-farm, growers can access financial and agronomic information as well as some direction on what to do next.

The sessions are being offered through a project running for a limited time in the region for all horticulture irrigators. The project is being run by Horticulture

Australia Limited in partnership with industry and supported by the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and is being managed locally by Fruit Growers Victoria.

General Manager of Fruit Growers Victoria, John Wilson, said "Drought conditions have meant that soil is dry and there is less protective heatbank from moist soil, so crops are more prone to frost at this time of year, when fruitlets are at their most vulnerable.

"The computer tools available during the one-on-one sessions include modelling which can help to determine whether the amount of damage will simply save the cost of thinning, or will cut yield to extent that growers will need to seriously consider abandonment.

"Manage Today, Plan for Tomorrow Extension Providers can help growers make critical decisions on their management, including orchard maintenance and how to manage trees that have been hit by frost, and whether it might be of benefit to bring forward some crop rotations.

"With many growers now facing a loss of farm income, the sessions can also help to point them in the direction of assistance that may be available from government and other agencies."

The free information sessions are only available for a limited time, so growers are urged to act now to find out more, by contacting Fruit Growers Victoria on 03 5825 3700 or email admin@fgv.com.au



Fruit bodies: growers ripened apple trees at the Future Orchard's demonstration block at Tatura.

Pome growers eye the future

By SANDRA GOSWAMI

A REVOLUTION in water use with greater changes to how pome growers manage their orchards. The industry's Future Orchard 2012 project seeks to help growers manage their orchards better, using the latest technology and research to improve productivity and sustainability.

Apple and Pear Australia have been working with growers to develop a vision for the future of the industry. This vision is based on the need to improve the efficiency of production, to ensure the industry is sustainable and profitable for the future.

The Future Orchard project is a collaborative effort between the industry, government and research institutions. It aims to develop a vision for the future of the industry, based on the need to improve the efficiency of production, to ensure the industry is sustainable and profitable for the future.

Evaluation

IDO Evaluation by FGVL Board and Management.

An evaluation on the IDO position was discussed at an FGVL planning meeting with Directors and FGVL staff on Wednesday the 27th of May 2009. The following table details the priority list for each topic covered on the planning day and will be reviewed again on Wednesday the 23rd of June 2010 at FGVL's next planning day.

TOPIC	Priority
COMMUNICATION	1
APPLES	2
CROP WATCH	3
ADMINISTRATION	4
MEMBERSHIP	5
FIDO	6
GOVERNANCE	7
PROMOTIONS	8
CORPORATE	9
WATER	9
DOMESTIC MARKETS	9
ENVIRONMENT	12
PUBLIC RELATIONS	13
CANNING	14
INDUSTRY	
DEVELOPMENT	15
PEARS	16
EXPORTS	17
AUDIT COMMITTEE	18
STONE FRUIT	19

The comments that were most frequently put forward at the meeting were as follows:

- State-wide workload increasing.
- IDO position was seen by many members as too Goulburn Murray focussed.
- Not enough regular grower steering committee meetings.
- More grower visits required.
- Need to access more funds for the position.
- Growers need to be explained the benefits of FGVL membership by the IDO.

The position was again defined at the meeting as a position of Fruit Industry Development Officer funded through voluntary contributions from FGVL and matched HAL funding. A 2 day per week position is actioned as 100 days per year with the majority of the work being completed in the winter months, while Cropwatch takes priority during the summer months.

IDO Evaluation by FGVL grower members.

An interview meeting was held with 2 grower steering committee members based in the Goulburn Murray region; John Pottenger (Shepparton East orchardist) and Ian Bolitho (Ardmona orchardist) and the relevant points were noted for this evaluation report.

- IDO communications should include regular phone calls to grower members.
- Most times a grower will only call on an IDO when a problem is need of awareness or action.
- Growers will only call an IDO for clarification on issues.
- Chemical resellers are a common contact point for growers.
- IDO position is important for transfer of independent information to growers.
- Information has been passed to growers but there is never enough information, IDO to keep information flow happening.
- Study tours have been great, need to cater for both older and younger growers.
- FO 2012 orchard walks have been great.
- Have regular grower meetings on topical on orchard issues at the time. Aim to have 4 meetings per annum.
- Expand and increase the Young Growers Group.

Implications

The key learning's from this project is the need for best practice on orchard demonstrations for growers to take back to their own orchard situation. Whether it is FGVL activities such as grower meetings or study tours, APAL's FO 2012 orchard walks, the best way to get growers to learn are to use the simplest methods. To see best practice 'hands on' has been most successful.

Technology transfer through publications is as important also, the information provided needs to be in an easy to read format. The most important aspect of technology transfer through technical bulletins is how current the information is. If the information is not current then growers tend to overlook it.

The gap between Research and Development and growers is widening and needs to be bought back into a working relationship.

The industry goal is to successfully change grower orchard management to higher density, higher profitable orchards. The biggest challenge to industry is convincing growers to change. This is especially difficult when growers do not have the capital to redevelop because they are currently non profitable. Current high production costs and the drought in Victoria have had a major impact. Recent drought has kept water purchase prices high thus affecting grower's bottom line. We are seeing a decrease in grower numbers throughout the state as a result of the high production costs and the lower farm gate fruit (bin) prices.

The industry's biggest weaknesses in the Goulburn Murray region is the low average tonnes per hectare produced compared to the rest of the world and the reliance on privatised water right. With the threat of imports looming growers in the Goulburn Murray need to become globally competitive.

The Goulburn Murray's strength is the availability of new land, not previously used for orchards, for new orchard development.

Recommendations

Regular study tours to areas of similar climate to the Goulburn Murray are most important to assist with changing grower's management practices to move towards higher density planting systems, with the latest soil, irrigation and tree management technologies.

The need for a grower manual on every aspect of pome fruit growing best practice and IPDM that a grower can access in his shed that is weather, chemical and dust proof would prove to be the most valuable tool to growers in the industry.

For growers that are more technologically advanced industry needs to develop a website that is specific for pome fruit growers and their orchard best practice. The website would have a range of downloadable forms that growers can access free of charge.

R&D findings from Australian and overseas researchers in the pome fruit industry need to be transitioned into grower's orchards through programs managed by the IDO. The PIPS project findings need to be transitioned into orchard practices.

The IDO should facilitate more grower meetings that are specific to certain production challenges on orchard and increase IPDM uptake by Goulburn Murray orchardists.

Technological advances from overseas need to be relayed to local orchardists through the technical bulletin and from study tours.

A demonstration block that is owned by the industry could be used to demonstrate how an orchard can be profitable; a demonstration block that is owned by industry could be used to trial different production techniques.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank all Fruit Growers Victoria Limited management, staff, directors and grower members for their friendship and support over the life of this project. I would like to thank Horticulture Australia Limited project manager Richard Stephens and his support staff. I would like to also acknowledge and thank the relevant pome fruit industry and research staff across Australia who have assisted me in any aspect of pome fruit and IPDM.

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Nil.

Appendices

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Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry



GOULBURN VALLEY YOUNG
GROWERS STUDY TOUR
OCTOBER 2009.

DAY 1 OCTOBER 9 2009

In October 2009 a group of young fruit growers, mostly apple and pear growers, from the Goulburn Valley in Victoria participated in a study tour funded by DAFF to Lenswood as part of the Goulburn Valley young growers study tour. 14 participants from the Goulburn Valley participated in the study tour.

Day 1 was a visit to the Lenswood Research centre where we were greeted by Paul James from Rural Solutions SA and Trevor Ranford, Manager of Fruit Growers South Australia.

Both gave an overview of local industry and how the water catchments were privately owned and supply Adelaide with 60% of its water.

The environmental concerns with commercial orchards being in the middle of these catchments are also a challenge. There is no possibility of new development of orchards on new ground, the only way growers can expand is to redevelop within the current growing hectares and hence the increased re-planting of high density orchards. Re-plant disease is a major hurdle when redeveloping orchards. Local environmental authorities are proving to be difficult to deal with especially after installing hail netting.



A lot of research has been driven from the local Lenswood research centre (35 Years) and the trial blocks. In South Australia there are 1800 hectares of pome fruit in comparison to 5000 hectares of wine grapes.



The next stop for day 1 was to the Lenswood Co-operative. The Lenswood Co-operative is a cost recovery company owned and governed by its fruit suppliers. The group was greeted by the General Manager Michael Cox. Michael detailed to the group the importance of quality of supply and the involvement of growers in the planning of the development of the shed. Michael also detailed the recent expansion investments to be undertaken in early 2010. Joyson's, Plummer's and Hillview growing enterprises were committing extra volumes of fruit to the packing shed to increase bin volumes from 18,000 bins to 35-45000 bins in 2010.

The high costs associated with running a shed and employing high numbers of staff to present perfect boxes of fruit to wholesalers are proving to be a challenge and beginning to affect their ability to remain competitive.

Lenswood currently handle 18,000 bins with a staff of 30 and the forecast is that they can do 40,000 bins with 22 employees under a pre-size setup. The plan is not to employ any additional staff until the volumes increase to 60,000 bins. The newly installed water flume pre-sizer is to be operational in February 2010. By installing the pre-sizer and increasing the throughput, Lenswood Co-op is aiming to reduce bin charges by \$50.00 per bin. The Lenswood Co-op has 35 grower suppliers.



After taste sampling some of the local Fuji's in the Co-op the young growers arrived at Robert Green's constant redeveloping orchard. Here Robert grows 15 hectares of Cripps Pink, Gala, Sundowners and Fuji apples. 60-70% of his plantings are on M9 rootstocks (tree dwarfing) with the common spacing being 3.5 metre X 1 metre. The average age of the trees within the orchard is 8 year old. Robert aims to have 80% of the crop to pack in Class 1 boxes with 75% of this in three target sizes.

Robert's aim is to grow 60 tonne to the hectare of Cripps Pink as he does not have enough water to produce greater yields and maintain quality. Rob is also aiming to grow Gala apples at 40 tonnes to the hectare and Fuji apples somewhere in between 30 and 60 tonnes to the hectare.



Michael Stafford's was the next stop for the group where we saw Cripps Pink on M9 (lower vigour rootstock) and recently redeveloped parts of the orchard. In some areas of the orchard Michael is having problems with return bloom this season. He is not sure if it is one single reason for the issue or whether last season's summer pruning had contributed to the poor return bloom (too much stress for M9 rootstock).

The next stop for the afternoon was to Flavell's orchard and packing shed where we saw double row plantings of Granny Smiths and the beginning of installation of hail netting. The Flavell family is now planting Kanzi and Greenstar varieties of apples this season. They have 30 hectares of orchard in total.

At Mason's orchard the young growers saw varying blocks at high density and the tying down of limbs to hold the vigour within the close plantings. The aim is to avoid crossing over of limbs and shading. Open V trellis systems are preferred with concentrated labour on tying down larger limbs closer to the main plumbing of the tree. M9 rootstock is the preferred choice for the Mason's. The Mason's orchard is where the Rosy Glow sport of Cripps Pink apple originated. Attention to detail and immaculate orchard hygiene is what stands out on this orchard.

Ian and Gavin Plummer's orchards were also very impressive consistent cropping high density planted orchards. Ian admitted to being a high density orchard sceptic at first but now is glad he has changed from the old spacing's to increase production. The local landscape (steep hills) kept the flat footed Goulburn Valley growers on their toes. The Plummer family owns a number of orchards in the Lenswood area with predominately Cripps Pink and Fuji grown. Family succession is important with his son Gavin having a major input into the orchard business decisions.

The day finished with a bbq and beers with local Lenswood orchardists as the group listened to a presentation from a Sth Tyrol grower from Northern Italy describe their industry and varietal choices and planting systems in Sth Tyrol.





DAY 2 OCTOBER 10 2009

The young growers first port of call on day 2 was at Kym Greene's orchard where the group looked at the KGB (Kym Greene Bush) cherries which are double planted rows managed similar to the Spanish bush but kept at a manageable height (pedestrian). Kym likes to constantly regenerate wood by removing too strong or too weak limbs.

Kym works hard to build soil organic content and soil fungi. Kym is trying to improve organic content in his weed strip by allowing weeds to grow there for part of the season before burning them down with spray seed. The top part of the weed breaks down slowly on the surface but the root system of the weed which is 50% of the organic content of the plant remains in the soil profile to decompose more quickly where it is most needed.

Kym is using Potassium Silicate, composted chook manure, soft phosphate rock, Magnesium, and lime. All amendments go into compost. He applies 3 tonne per hectare to his apples and 5 tonne per hectare on his cherry varieties. His favourite cover crops in the row centres are Cocks foot grass, Fava bean, and Vetch.

The penultimate stop was back at the Lenswood research centre where the group viewed the high density apple planting trial blocks that Paul James has worked on for many years (10) and he detailed the cropping potential and results of the varying rootstocks and trellis and orchard systems. The final stop was at Uraidla on the way back to Adelaide on the Saturday afternoon at Michael and Damien Nichol's orchard. The group viewed Fuji on MM106 rootstock as a new planting block in preparation for hail netting. The Nichol's were having trouble getting the desired height up in the

trees with the lower available water and the poor water quality of recent seasons as well as re-plant issues. Many in the group discussed the options with the Nicholls to help them achieve height in the tree early.

In conclusion the trip was very worthwhile and many thanks to DAFF for funding the trip and to the Lenswood orchardists, Lenswood Co-op and Fruit Growers SA for giving us their time and especially Paul James from Rural Solutions SA for co-ordinating a great itinerary. I would also like to thank Chris Peters, Shaun Witchell, and Jason Shields for assisting by passing on their pome fruit knowledge and assisting within the group. Thanks also to Angie Grills for initially helping to organise this trip.

Many of the young growers that took part in the trip have since taken back the same practices on orchard that they viewed on this trip and many feel more confident to plant high density apple orchards.

The key learning's from the study tour were:

- **The importance of getting the initial setup right when planting high density orchards.**
- **Getting the trees to the correct height as quickly as possible.**
- **Getting the open v trellis angle right when planting coloured varieties of apples.**
- **A poorly positioned limb is a poor cropping limb, remove it.**



Market Report.....



Core Facts



APPLES 12kg Cartons	LOW \$\$	HIGH \$\$	AVERAGE \$\$
Granny Smith	25	30	27.50
Fuji	25	45	33.85
Red Delicious	20	30	25.00
Jonathan	30	35	32.50
Royal Gala	25	40	27.61
Jonagold	25	30	27.50
Pink Lady	50	60	55.00
Gold Delicious	25	30	27.50

PEARS		\$\$	\$\$	\$\$
B.bosc	13kg Ctn	20	25	22.50
Red Sensation	DI Tray	16	25	18.05
Corella	SL Tray	10	20	16.27
Williams	13kg Ctn	20	25	22.50
Red D'Anjou	SL Tray	16	18	17.00
Packham	13kg Ctn	20	30	25.00

PEACHES	Qld	\$\$	\$\$	\$\$
Yellow Flesh	10Kg Tray	12	25	18.50
White Flesh	5kg tray	10	20	14.00

NECTARINES	Qld	\$\$	\$\$	\$\$
White satin	10kg tray	12	20	16.00
Yellow flesh small	10kg tray	10	20	15.00

Market prices provided by the Melbourne Market as of 15 April 2009.

IN THIS ISSUE Market Report.....Dates to Remember.....QFF Detection.....Rural Press Club.....Bendigo Bank Scholarship.....Women on Farms Gathering.....A Pear-feet Fest.....Free financial & agronomic advice for horticulturists.....Southern Growers Gathering.....Maturity Testing.....Fruit Sizing.....Classifieds

Core Facts 5.15 — 14/04/2009



Dates to Remember.....

Wednesday April 22

Rural Press Club at Hilton Hotel on the Park, 192 Wellington Parade. East Melbourne, Victoria. (Visit our website www.ruralpressclub.com or please contact Lynda Lawson directly (llawson@tpg.com.au.)

Friday May 1 to Sunday May 3

20th Annual Women on Farms Gathering (For more info please contact Lyn Link on 03 5629 2202)

Sunday May 3 to Tuesday May 5

8th Annual Produce Executive Program at Mt Eliza Centre, Victoria. Kunyung Road, Mt Eliza VIC 3930
(For more info please contact Anita Pike on 03 9904 4172)

Thursday May 21 to Thursday January 22

Sustainable Farming Families Workshop in the Yarra Valley.

Thursday May 28 to Friday May 29

Sustainable Farming Families Health Checks at Parklake Shepparton (For those who attended the Health Checks in 2008, this is a follow up.)



QFF Outbreak.....



Department of
Primary Industries

An outbreak of Queensland fruit fly has been declared in Shepparton, Victoria.

The Victorian Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has declared a 15-kilometre suspension zone around the detection point for the movement of host fruit to Melbourne and sensitive interstate markets including South Australia and Western Australia.

All host fruit must be certified under a DPI arrangement prior to leaving the 15km suspension zone.

Any host produce harvested prior to the 7th of April 2009 can move to fruit fly sensitive markets under area freedom certification providing that it has been stored separately from produce harvested after this date, is labelled and its status is verified by an officer of the Department of Primary Industries.

For further information on movement and treatment requirements contact the DPI on Ph: 03 5833 5222.

RURAL PRESS CLUB

Rural Press Club – US Consul General Michael Thurston

VFF Public Affairs Manager Brendan Rowswell has organised for US Consul General Michael Thurston to address next month's meeting of the Rural Press Club of Victoria. Lunch will be held on Wednesday, April 22 at the Hilton on the Park. Mr. Thurston is a graduate of the University of Washington in Seattle, as well as the University of Washington School of Law and is a 20 year veteran of the U.S. Foreign Service. He will speak broadly about the Australia – US relationship especially in relation to trade. There will be an opportunity to ask questions.

Date: Wednesday, 22 April 2009.

Time: 12.15pm registration for 12.30pm sit-down.

Venue: Hilton Hotel on the Park, 192 Wellington Parade.
East Melbourne, Victoria.

Parking: Underground parking is available onsite at an additional cost.

Dress Code: Business attire.

Moderator: Ed Gannon, President of the Rural Press Club of Victoria.

Cost: \$65 per head RPCV members, \$75 per head non-RPCV members.

**Special dietary requirements to be advised on booking.*

Further details: Visit our website www.ruralpressclub.com or please contact Lynda Lawson directly (llawson@tpg.com.au).

The feature article within the [Winter Edition of the Victorian Farmer](#) addresses specifically the likely impact of Barack Obama's Presidency on Australian agriculture and trade.



Bendigo Bank Scholarship...

The Bendigo Bank Scholarship will be awarded to outstanding but disadvantaged students, usually from a rural or regional area, who have been offered a full-time place at an Australian university or college campus.

The scholarship enables selected students to commence tertiary education at a centre of excellence by providing financial support in the early years of their transition from secondary to tertiary education.

The scholarship will signal that the successful applicants are students of a high calibre in study, leadership and individual character.

Grants under the scholarship may be applied to cover the costs of residency at a University college or other accommodation (and resource materials) of successful applicants.

Purpose: To provide support to selected students who otherwise, due to particular social or financial circumstances, would not have been able to undertake tertiary education.

Who can apply: The institution must be appropriately accredited and a nationally recognised tertiary institution. The student's residency must be in any Australian university or college or other institution.

Grant: Bendigo Bank Scholarship

Provider: Bendigo Bank

Funding: Max per grant: \$25,000

Additional info: Various

Closes: Ongoing

Further Information: Website:

http://www.bendigobank.com.au/public/community/bendigo_bank_scholarship.asp#application

WOMEN ON FARMS GATHERING

There are still places to attend the 20th Year celebration of Women on Farms in Warragul on 1st—3rd May 2009. If anyone is interested and would like to travel down with the ladies from the North East or for further details regarding registration, program, accommodation, costs, travel etc. please contact Rien Silverstein on 5829 2307.

A Pear-fect Fest.....

PearFest

The Goulburn Valley Pear Fest held on Easter Saturday was a success by all concerned. Over 700 people attended and evaluation data collected indicates that they all enjoyed themselves and the best thing is the majority stated that they would buy pears more often as they had learnt more about pears and how to cook with them.

FGVL Directors were involved in many aspects of the day, such as donating fruit, entering pear cooking competitions (and coming 3rd!), helping with the FGVL stall, demonstrating apple peelers and attending on the day with their families. It was also good to see some growers there, please provide feedback to Kath Boast (admin@fgv.com.au).

The Celebrity Chef (Janelle Bloom from Ready Stead Cook) was the highlight of the day with up to 70 people in attendance at each of the sessions. She was excellent at promoting pears and delicious ways to cook with them. Janelle's cook book is available from the FGVL office at a discounted price.



Taking notes: Kim Banfield of Goulburn Owens Institute of TAFE judges a cooking entry.

The stall holders were very busy on the day, particularly DPI with their timely info on fruit fly, the giant fruit fly and the contained swarm of sterile fruit flies had to be seen. The new pear varieties from DPI were also well sampled on the day. FGVL staff were run off their feet with the success of our stand, this is encouraging for future promotional activities from FGVL. The stalls selling fruit value added products such as wine, juice and chocolate apples never stopped, their samples were particularly popular.

The orchard/cannery heritage photo display also had a lot of interest, with many comments that participants would like to see tools, equipment, and machinery next time. There were many other successful activities on the day, please contact the FGVL office if you would like to find out more about the event.

Hopefully next year we will be able to do more of the same but only bigger.



Free Financial & Agronomic Advice for Horticulturists.....

Fruit Growers Victoria Limited has been contracted to help horticulture irrigators in the Goulburn Valley and Swan Hill access the financial and agronomic information they need to make business decisions in the face of reduced water availability.

The project is being run by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI). Through the project, growers are able to access one-on-one, free, confidential sessions with local Extension Providers who have a background in horticulture or finance.

Call Fruit Growers Victoria on 03 5825 3700, email admin@fgv.com.au, or contact the following Extension Providers to set up an appointment:

Ann Young	0409 503 711	hdc2@iinet.net.au (Swan Hill)
Liz Mann	0427 857 578	lizmann@aptrc.asn.au (GV)

There is also the opportunity to hold group sessions with small or large groups of growers. These new sessions will include tools that will assist growers to determine how much their business can afford to spend on purchasing water. Please contact any of the extension providers above if you would like to attend group sessions or workshops.

PLEASE NOTE: This program is only available until the end of April 2009, and also applications for the professional planning grant must be in by 12th June 2009 and irrigation management grant must be in by 31st March 2009. (Liz or Ann can help you with these applications.)

SOUTHERN GROWERS GATHERING

Southern Growers Gathering at Knoxfield

Thursday 7 May commencing with coffee at 2.30pm

Gary D'Arcy, Plant Standards, DPI will speak on *Qld Fruit Fly*.
Patricia Murdock will bring us up to date with the new Industrial Awards.

There will be time for some input into Fruit Growers Victoria

Planning for the next 12 months.

The afternoon will conclude with Dinner at 7.00pm.

For enquiries contact Helene Armour on 56 261237.

Pink Lady™ Maturity Testing.....



Maturity sampling of fruit (above) is from the Goulburn Valley. The larger more coloured fruit for first colour pick were chosen for sampling this week.

PINK LADY APPLES Maturity Test

DISTRICT		SAMPLE		DATE	
SHEPPARTON EAST				14/4/09	
SAMPLE	SIZE			PLATE	SUGAR
	(Circ. mm)	(side a)	(side b)	(1-6)	(oBrix)
1	69.8	8.4	8.8	3.7	14.6
2	72.8	8.7	8.8	4.4	15.0
3	69.0	8.6	8.8	4.3	14.9
4	68.6	8.9	9.2	4.0	15.8
5	70.8	8.3	8.1	3.9	14.7
6	70.8	8.6	8.7	4.3	15.0
7	70.4	8.2	8.6	3.6	14.8
8	70.0	8.8	9.2	4.1	15.1
9	70.8	8.4	8.8	3.9	14.9
10	69.4	9.3	8.9	3.9	16.0
AVG	70.2	8.7		4.0	15.1

PINK LADY APPLES Maturity Test

DISTRICT		SAMPLE		DATE	
ARDMONA				14/4/09	
SAMPLE	SIZE			PLATE	SUGAR
	(Circ. mm)	(side a)	(side b)	(1-6)	(oBrix)
1	73.0	8.9	9.3	3.4	15.4
2	70.8	8.8	8.9	3.7	14.7
3	73.3	9.4	9.4	3.0	14.6
4	71.3	9.3	9.2	4.1	14.8
5	73.4	9.0	9.2	3.5	14.6
6	73.0	9.1	9.2	3.5	15.0
7	71.6	9.1	8.7	3.5	14.8
8	73.5	9.4	9.2	2.9	15.2
9	72.2	9.2	9.1	3.3	14.8
10	71.7	9.3	9.5	3.6	15.1
AVG	72.4	9.1		3.4	14.9

PINK LADY™ MATURITY PARAMETERS

1ST PICK LONG TERM CA TO NOVEMBER:

2-3 STARCH PLATE, >14 BRUX, 7.5KG -9.5KG PRESSURE

MEDIUM TERM CA TO SEPTEMBER

3-4 STARCH PLATE, >14.5 BRUX, 7.5KG-9KG PRESSURE

SHORT TERM CA TO JULY

4-5 STARCH PLATE, >14.5—15.5 BRUX, <7.5KG PRESSURE

The above parameters sourced from Apple and Pear Maturity assessment, Revised edition 1995, Colin R. Little.



Fruit Sizing.....

PINK LADY FRUIT SIZING(MM)	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5	
ARDMONA AVERAGE	65.67	66.83	67.74	0	0	70MM
TATURA EAST AVERAGE	67.26	68.58	69.25	0	0	70MM
UNDERA AVERAGE	67.17	68.43	69.00	0	0	70MM
SHEPPARTON EAST AVERAGE	64.93	65.93	66.78	0	0	70MM

24/03/2009 31/03/2009 7/04/2009 14/04/2009 21/04/2009

The above table will be updated weekly with Pink Lady™ sizing from varying districts and rootstocks.

20 fruit per block are being measured on random trees in 21 sites across the Goulburn Valley as a fee for service.

If there are growers from the southern region who would like to measure fruit size please contact Bill Rye or Michael Crisera. cropwatch@fgv.com.au or fido@fgv.com.au.



classifieds.....

Are you a fruit grower?
Do you operate your own farm in the Mildura or Shepparton area?

Would you like to share your insights about farm work and employment?

The Workplace Research Centre have been commissioned to do a study of the primary industries workforce in Victoria and want to hear from farming people about their work and how they manage their farm labour needs.

If you are interested in attending one of the discussion groups being held on the following dates please contact WRC researchers on **1800 260 864**.
Shepparton, evening of May 4
Mildura, evening of May 7

Supper provided and travel costs can be covered.

www.wrc.org.au

FOR SALE

Hydraulic ladder.
Crendon "squirrel" 3.55
metre orchard type.
VGC. 470 Hrs.
Serial number 97689.
\$15400 incl GST.
Phone 03 57217297.

Behind the scenes.....

Growing Wiser

Welcome to the new format of Growing Wiser and new era of communication for FGVL. Many of you have noticed that it has been quite a while since Growing Wiser was last published. FGVL has not been idle during that time. During this hiatus we have reviewed our communications plan. We apologise if you have missed it but we trust that you will appreciate the changes we are making.

Perhaps the most important change we have made is to ensure that we have the necessary resources. We have changed Gwyn Kitchener's role in our southern office and appointed her as our Publications Officer. Gwyn will work from home and cease all administrative work and dedicate her time to the production of our four publications; Core Facts, Growing Wiser, Top Grower and CropWatch Update.

Gwyn's office workload has diminished as we have adopted more efficient systems and this move is timely. Southern office administrative calls will now be directed to head office.

Gwyn will continue to produce **Core Facts** as our weekly email bulletin. You will see changes to its layout and content over the next few weeks and it will be also faxed out so that the information reaches more levels in our member organizations.

Core Facts will contain current information including; weekly market prices, events to remember, and notices and releases from government and other bodies. It will provide you with a quick reference point for current events.

Another change is that **Growing Wiser** will be published quarterly and will contain reports and commentary on industry events and issues, marketing and an update on FGVL activities. You will receive a hard copy in the mail. It will provide you more in depth information and will be a better quality production than previously. Growing Wiser will only be available to financial FGVL members.

Top Grower is the quarterly technical news bulletin produced for the fruit growing industry by Michael Crisera (Fruit Industry Development Officer). Gwyn will publish it as an insert in Growing Wiser for FGVL members. Top Grower will contain technical information about fruit production and processing.

Gwyn will also publish the fortnightly electronic **Cropwatch Update** during the season with content prepared by CropWatch manager, Bill Rye.

Growing Wiser will now be a bigger, have more content and be printed in higher quality. We aim to develop it to be the leading fruit publication in Victoria. It will link closely with the new FGVL WEB site which is the final part and key part of the FGVL communication strategy.

Finally, we will welcome member feedback. Please feel free to email or write to us and we will endeavour to publish member comments in future editions.

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WINTER 2008 EDITION

This Edition.....

will focus closely on some of the outcomes of a recent planning day that was held in June. This was facilitated by FGVL General Manager, John Wilson and attended by FGVL Directors and management staff. The result was a Business Plan that will set directions and major priorities for this financial year. The final version of the Business Plan will be available online via the FGVL website once it has been ratified by the FGVL Board of Directors.

This business plan calls for the sustainable development of the organisation to;

- increase its value proposition to members,
- provide a wider ranges of services to fruit growing Industries;
- provide effective representation for fruit growers to government and other bodies, and
- act as the industry voice

It recognises a need for better communication and a stronger interface with members.

Key projects will include;

- The completion of the Transition Period under the FGVL constitution which will involve the formalization of the merger of Orchardists and Fruit Cool Stores Association and the Northern Victoria Fruitgrowers Association, and
- The expansion of the CropWatch business.

Apples

The control and eradication of pest and disease threats are viewed as high priorities. In particular the management of the current escalation of the Queensland fruit fly outbreaks is crucial. FGVL will participate in the Victorian DPI technical review and will lobby government to allocate the necessary resources to effect an outcome that protects Victorian fruit growing industries.

FGVL will maintain opposition to the importation of fruit from fireblight host countries.

Stone Fruit

FGVL works cooperatively with the Victoria Peach and Apricot Growers Association (VPAGA). Together these organisations form the Goulburn Valley Industrial Council which meets annually to set the piecework rates for the next harvest.

FGVL will represent its members on stone fruit issues when requested on an issue by issue basis as a member of the Grower Consultative Committee with SPC Ardmora.

Pears

Pear growing as an industry is moving into a renewal phase as it adjusts to cope with change. The big issues are; the development of simple training systems, new varieties & rootstocks, reduction in cannery quotas and limited labour resources.

FGVL will participate as a member of the APAL Pear Advisory Group.

CropWatch

The CropWatch entomology monitoring business broke even in FY2008 following a significant loss in FY2007. Project income generated a modest profit. A new business model was introduced. Administrative tasks were centralised with three previous processes consolidated. This eliminated the triplication of costs, sped up processes and released field staff to concentrate more fully on field activities. An area manager was recruited for the Goulburn Valley to service the five-member Integrity Group. As a result a basis for an expansion of CropWatch has established in northern Victoria that will complement a larger business in southern Victoria.



Growers at recent FO2012 Orchard Walk.

The CropWatch business will expand to service a total of between 48 and 60 orchards in FY2009. This will necessitate the recruitment and training of new seasonal staff.

CropWatch will offer new or expanded services including the monitoring of Western Flower Thrip and maturity testing. Also, new technologies in portable data management and infrared mapping will be explored and implemented.

FGVL's WEEKLY NEWSLETTER –COREFACTS

If you are not receiving our weekly newsletter either electronically or by fax, please contact the FGVL office to be included on the distribution list.

Corefacts contains current information including; weekly market prices, events to remember, and notices and releases from government and other bodies. It provides a quick reference point for current events.



Business Plan.....

Promotions

FGVL will continue to support various schools programs and will seek a closer relationship with the delivery organisers including the Vicfruit School Program (7th year) and Kids'n'Fruit.

The Vicfruit School Program promotional model will be demonstrated to growers in the Bairnsdale and Shepparton (Euroa) regions and they will be encouraged to join the program. If the program is adopted by Shepparton growers the northern kit will be maintained at the FGVL Mooroopna office and the target in the first year will be to cover six schools in three days.

The southern program will seek to involve younger growers and a feasibility study will be done to establish the viability of a paid coordinator.

FGVL will support regional events including the Harcourt Apple Fest and the HiCountry Fruit Promotion, through funding and the The project objective is technology transfer to fruit growers in the Goulburn Valley and northern Victoria. The key milestones are the continuation of "grub groups", the production of the "Top Grower" quarterly technology bulleting and grower meetings.

Domestic Markets

FGVL will continue to pursue and support avenues for the distribution of Victorian grown fruit domestically. This will include the development of marketing club varieties, linking growers to marketing plans, promoting the sale of Australian produce, supplying advertising aids to growers and branding.

FGVL as a member of the Melbourne Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Markets' Strategic Alliance will continue to exert an active influence on the relocation planning for the new market at Epsom.

Industry, Development & Training

FGVL has the status of a state-wide horticulture branch of the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF). FGVL has representatives on the VFF Horticulture Group Policy Council which meets each quarter. FGVL works cooperatively with the VFF and contributes to VFF submissions and policy. FGVL staff and members sit on VFF representative delegations from time to time.

FGVL works cooperatively with the Victoria Peach and Apricot Growers Association (VPAGA). Together these organisations form the Goulburn Valley Industrial Council which meets annually to set the piecework rates for the next harvest.

FGVL will support industry training initiatives including: training schemes, lectures, research projects, study tours, personnel exchanges and orchard walks.

Portfolios

Portfolios and responsibilities have been consolidated to seven portfolios with individual directors and/or executive staff responsible and where appropriate portfolio holders may recruit other members to assist. The portfolios are;

<i>Fruit Portfolio</i>	<i>Neil Collins</i>	<i>(DIRECTOR)</i>
(Apples)		

<i>Fruit Portfolio</i>	<i>Matthew Lenne</i>	<i>(DIRECTOR)</i>
(Pears)		

<i>Fruit Portfolio</i>	<i>Andrew Plunkett</i>	<i>(DIRECTOR)</i>
(Stone Fruit)		

<i>Markets Portfolio</i>	<i>Mark Paganoni</i>	<i>(DIRECTOR)</i>
(Domestic)		

<i>Markets Portfolio</i>	<i>Andrew Plunkett</i>	<i>(DIRECTOR)</i>
(Export/Import)		

<i>Markets Portfolio</i>	<i>Matthew Lenne</i>	<i>(DIRECTOR)</i>
(Canning)		

Water	<i>Merv Prossor</i>	<i>(DIRECTOR)</i>
	<i>Jamie Craig</i>	<i>(DIRECTOR)</i>

Environment	<i>Brad Fankhauser</i>	<i>(DIRECTOR)</i>
	<i>Merv Prossor</i>	<i>(DIRECTOR)</i>

Promotions	<i>Helene Armour</i>	<i>(DIRECTOR)</i>
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Industry & Development	<i>Chris Turnbull</i>	<i>(DIRECTOR)</i>
	<i>Rien Silverstein</i>	<i>(MEMBER)</i>

Public Relations	<i>John Wilson</i>	<i>(GENERAL MANAGER)</i>
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Membership	<i><<VACANT>></i>
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The Industry & Development includes industrial relations, research and development, education and training and VFF representation.



Business Plan/Information

Public Relations

FGVL will avail to local state and national media to act as a voice for Victoria Fruit Growers. FGVL will present co-ordinated, consistent and accurate comment to the media so that FGVL maintains and enhances a positive public profile.

FGVL will represent the fruit growing industry on such committees and boards as may occur from time to time. Current representation includes;

- Melbourne Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Markets'
- Strategic Alliance
- HAC Murray Darling Basin Crisis Task Force
- Victorian DSE Lorikeet Working Group
- Victorian DPI Fruit Fly Strategy Review
- Northern Region Sustainable Water Strategy Consultative Committee
- VFF Horticulture Group Council
- APAL Pear Advisory Group
- DAFF Information for Horticulturists Project Steering Industry Committee
- APAL Future Orchards 2012 Project Committee

Canning Industry

FGVL works cooperatively with the Canning Fruit Industry Council of Australia (CFICA) and has common board members. FGVL is a member of the SPC Ardmona Grower Consultative Committee and represents its members on pear issues with the cannery.

Issues facing cannery growers are; the impact of the high Australian dollar on quotas, foreign competition, insufficient notice of intake volumes by the cannery and fruit prices.

FGVL views the grower-cannery relationship as symbiotic. However the cannery has at times taken a dictatorial approach rather than a partnering approach. This has been particularly relevant with the introduction of its preferred supplier scheme and quotas.

FGVL has urged SPC Ardmona to provide early notice of its ongoing requirements so that growers may take restructuring decisions. FGVL will work with the cannery to develop an equitable relationship with fruit growers.

CFICA will host the Ninth Deciduous Fruits World Canning Conference in March 2009. FGVL will be the event manager.

WORKING HOLIDAY VISAS

UNDER amendments to the Working Holiday Maker Visa workers must now satisfy criteria that they have carried out 'specified work', rather than 'seasonal work', in regional Australia for at least three months before applying for a second Working Holiday Visa.

This is aimed at expanding the concession to include work in the construction industry, and may be a concern for farmers. However, applicants are able to combine experience on farms, and in mines or on construction sites, to meet the 88-day requirement. Farmers are encouraged to provide feedback on whether the changes may negatively impact on their ability to attract and retain working holiday employees. A full definition of 'specified work' is online at: <http://www.immi.gov.au/visitors/working-holiday/417/specified-work.htm>.

For more information contact: Fiona Clarke at VFF on 1300 882 833 to check that an employee has work rights in Australia.

INDUSTRY BASED TRAINING

FGVL has been working closely with Goulburn Ovens TAFE in developing and promoting relevant training courses for the fruit industry. The most recent have been;

- ForkLift Licensing
- Farm Chemical Refresher Course
- Scout Pre Employment Course

GO TAFE is able to offer a discount to FGVL members for most courses. If you have a need or an idea for training please contact the FGVL office – courses can be conducted throughout Victoria as long as there are sufficient participants.

VISA CHECKS

Fruit growers and other users of casual labour will be able to check the visa status of backpackers and other workers through a simple website or fax back service.

The Visa Entitlement Verification Online Service, allows employers to check the work entitlements of a visa holder online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week at no charge. www.immi.gov.au/evo

There is also a toll-free Visa Entitlement Verification Faxback service that provides written confirmation of a visa holder's entitlement to work in Australia. Fax 1800 505 550.

Or contact Fiona for a form on Ph: 1800 040 070

You have 48 hours from the time that employees start work to check their employment status.

It is a criminal offence to knowingly or recklessly employ a person who is either illegally in Australia or is working in breach of their visa conditions.

Details about the law are available on the department's website at www.immi.gov.au/employers or phone the Employer's Immigration Hotline on 1800 040 070.

FGVL Website (www.fgv.com.au)

Recently FGVL launched its new, improved website. The revised website has been a huge success with an increase in usage as well as generating a lot of enquiries.

The restricted members area has access to

FGVL corporate documents which includes –

- Annual Report
- Submissions
- Constitution
- Organisational chart

Grower info which includes –

- Industrial
- Pest and Diseases
- Orchard Management
- Grants/Funding

FGVL publications and news items are also in the members area. Please contact the FGVL office if you do not have access to the website.

The public access also has a lot of information useful to growers including; events calendar, promotional materials and industry developed training courses.

CropWatch members have additional access which includes copies of CropWatch Newsletters . Next season CropWatch members will be able to view their own monitoring and prediction results via the website.



Good people to know for rural & business insurance.

Wesfarmers Federation Insurance Limited (WFI) has a long and proud history of looking after the insurance requirements of fruit growers.

WFI operates with a simple philosophy of striving for excellence in claims and service. We offer our clients a high level of personal service, delivered face to face on-site.

For more information or an obligation-free quote contact your local Area Manager on **1300 934 934** or visit **www.wfi.com.au**.

Call 1300 934 934 or visit www.wfi.com.au

Wesfarmers Federation Insurance Limited (WFI) ABN 18 008 027 221 AFSL 298181 is the issuer of this policy. Contact WFI for the Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) to help decide if this policy is right for you.



Good people to know.



AGM/Information.....

FGVL 2008 Annual General Meeting

Grower members are advised that the 4th Annual General Meeting of Fruit Growers Victoria Ltd will be held on Friday, 10 October, 2008 in Shepparton.

Directors

In accordance with the FGVL Constitution two Group B directorships will become vacant by rotation. There are also two [2] casual vacancies, one of which has been filled and will be confirmed at the Annual meeting.

Incumbent directors may stand for re-election and eligible members may nominate for election.

Nominations for the position of FGVL Director close at 5:00pm on Friday, 22 August 2008. An official nomination form has been posted to all financial members.

Notice of Resolution

Any Notice(s) of Resolution to be put before the Annual General Meeting must be submitted to the FGVL General Manager by 5:00pm, 22 August 2008.

Please note that any Notice of Resolution must:

- be in writing; and
- set out the wording of the proposed resolution; and

be signed by the member(s) proposing to move the resolution.

Meeting Papers

Documentation relevant to the Annual General Meeting will be forwarded to members no later than 21 days prior to the date of the meeting [10 October 2008] and will include:

- Time and place of the meeting
- Agenda
- Minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting
- Nominations for the positions(s) of Director
- Notice of Resolution

Please note that fully financial grower members of Fruit Growers Victoria Limited are eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting.

2008 Fruit Growers Victoria Ltd Annual Dinner

Following the Annual General Meeting, the FGVL annual dinner will be held commencing with pre-dinner drinks at 6:00pm. The venue for the dinner will be the Parkview Room at the Country Comfort Motor in Shepparton.

More information will be provided to members in the near future.

Garnaut Climate Change Report

The Garnaut Climate Change Review has been commissioned by Australia's Commonwealth, State and Territory governments to examine the impacts, challenges and opportunities of climate change for Australia. A draft report was released on 4 July 2008, and the Final Report is due by 30 September 2008. A Supplementary Draft Report will also be released in late August 2008.

All materials released by the review to date, including reports, papers and transcripts from public addresses are

Available at: www.garnautreview.org.au

Fruit for Promotions

FGVL is often requested to provide fruit for promotional activities throughout Victoria. We usually source the fruit from a few growers that we know will provide quality fruit and who live close to the events.

We would like to offer more growers the opportunity to provide fruit for these functions. If you would like to be involved in this please forward your details to the FGVL office. Note that growers are reimbursed for the cost of fruit.

Green Paper on Emissions Trading

The Australian Government released a Green Paper on Emissions Trading on the 16th July, 2008. This Green Paper outlines options for the design of an emissions trading scheme including the Government's preferred approach.

Copies of the Green Paper are available at the following website: www.climatechange.gov.au/greenpaper/index.html

Local experts appointed to help horticulture irrigators with decision making

Fruit Growers Victoria has been contracted to help horticulture irrigators in the Goulburn Valley and Swan Hill access the financial and agronomic information they need to make business decisions in the face of reduced water availability

The project is being run by Horticulture Australia Limited in partnership with industry and supported by the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Through the project, growers are able to access one-on-one, free, confidential sessions with local Extension Providers who have a background in horticulture or finance.

Call 03 58 253700, email admin@fgv.com.au, logon to www.fgv.com.au and click the link on the front page, or contact the following Extension Providers to set up an appointment.

Ann Young 0409 503 711 hdc2@iinet.net.au
(Swan Hill)

David Bell 0417501503 david.j.bell@telstra.com
(GV)

Henry Schneider 0417 091 679 flhawk@hotmail.com
(Cobram)

Liz Mann 0427 857 578 lizmann@aptrc.asn.au
(GV)

Russell Fox 0428 570 394 russellf@ikc.com.au
(Cobram)

Drought Forums

AS part of the Australian Government's National Review of Drought Policy, 25 public forums are being held across the country, examining the social impacts of the drought on farm families, rural communities, and the types of social support needed, irrespective of whether they are eligible for Exceptional Circumstances assistance. Of particular interest is drought's impact on:

- Individual's mental and physical health;
- Family relationships; and
- The cohesion, provision of services and the functioning of local communities.

Those who cannot attend forums are urged to lodge a written submission. An issues paper is available online at: <http://www.daff.gov.au/droughtpolicyreview>.

Submissions close 8 August 2008.

Victorian Towns and Dates

- Shepparton, VIC– Mon 4 August
- Birchip, VIC– Tues 5 August
- Colac, VIC– Mon 25 August
- Mildura, VIC– Tues 26 August

Harvest Labour

CVGT would like to thank all Growers for their patronage during the 2008 season.

We look forward to assisting you with your labour needs next season.
Mike and the Team at the Harvest Labour Office.



Harvest Labour Services

AN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE

Australia Government Drought Assistance

In addition to the existing drought assistance packages, Centrelink is now administering [further measures](#) that include a mix of payments and new rural grants. Centrelink is also expanding its social work and Rural Services Officer network to assist with the increased demand for services in drought affected regions.

These new measures will provide direct assistance to irrigators, make it easier for farmers and small businesses to access assistance and help with social pressures facing families across rural and regional Australia.

The major changes involving Centrelink delivered drought assistance include:

- an increase to the off-farm income exemption from \$10 000 to \$20 000 when claiming Exceptional Circumstances Relief Payment or Interim Income Support.
- immediate access to the \$5500 Professional Advice and Planning Grant (GST included) for farmers in Exceptional Circumstances (EC) declared areas.
- an extension of the eligibility requirements of small businesses access to EC assistance, to include small businesses located in towns that are substantially reliant on farm income, have a population of 10 000 or less, and are in an EC area (including prima facie and interim assistance areas) .
- a grant of up to \$20 000 to irrigators in the Murray-Darling Basin to implement water management strategies in response to significantly reduced water allocations.
- an exit grant of up to \$150 000 for farmers who have decided to leave the land, and an increase in the assets limit to access this grant to \$575 000 (maximum grant payable if assets below \$350 000), and
- a further \$10 000 is available for advice and re-training, and up to \$10 000 for relocation expenses is also available to those who take up the Exceptional Circumstances Exit Grant.

For further information call into your local Centrelink Office or go to their webpage www.centrelink.gov.au

ROPS Rebate Support for Victorian Orchardists

Victorian orchardists can now receive a rebate to help cover the cost of tractor rollover protection structures (ROPS) after the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) successfully argued that the interpretation of occupational health and safety regulations had changed.

WorkSafe Executive Director, John Merritt and VFF Horticulture Group President, Peter Cochrane said that the rebate of up to \$400 per machine would help orchardists to install ROPS on up to three tractors per farm business.

"Safety improvements evolve over time. With safer fold-down ROPS now readily available, there's no reason why all tractors cannot be fitted with rollover protection," Mr Merritt said.

"The VFF has worked closely with worksafe to introduce this rebate. This rebate will allow farmers to maximise safety for themselves and their workers at a relatively low cost," Mr Cochrane said.

The rebate is available for ROPS installed after 1 July 2007 until the end of June 2009.

The new rebate program is being administered by the Victorian Farmers Federation on behalf of WorkSafe and is available to all Victorian orchardists.

"WorkSafe has worked closely with farming communities across Victoria to make the point that being badly hurt at work is never part of the job," Mr Merritt said.

"The next stage of reducing risk on farms is to ensure that tractors used in orchards have rollover protection and this subsidy should go some way towards delivering that goal," Mr Cochrane concluded.

A list of Eligibility Criteria together with an application form can be obtained from the VFF Workplace Relations Department on (03) 9207 5512.

Farmers can now register direct with the NFF

THE National Farmers' Federation (NFF) has created a new online facility so Australian farmers can register directly with the peak national body and be kept up-to-date on NFF activity.

"We are extremely keen to ensure that NFF has strong communication links to farmers so we can demonstrate the tangible value of the work we do on behalf of our members and all Australian farmers," NFF President David Crombie said.

"As of today, all Australian farmers can register online with the NFF, so we can keep them fully briefed and up-to-date on NFF activities... not only what we're doing but, just as importantly, why and what the imperatives being faced at the national level mean for farmers.

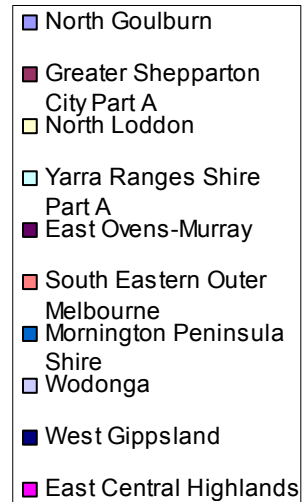
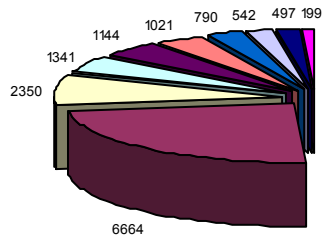
"This is a positive and exciting initiative. With so many issues today, and into the future, being national in nature, a direct communications conduit between farmers and the NFF is imperative. We're committed to making those bonds stronger and more worthwhile than ever before.

"Overwhelmingly, farmers support and see tangible value in the NFF but, of course, for farmers to have a genuine say on what the NFF does they need to join one of the NFF's member organisations. I urge all farmers to become a member of their state or commodity organisation – and ensure that organisation is a member of the NFF.

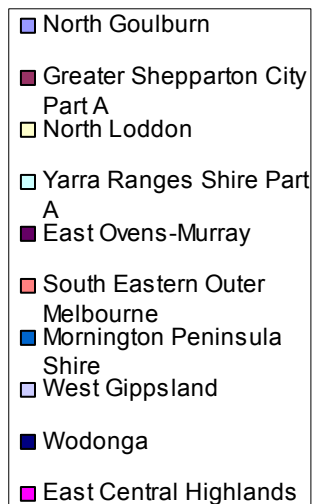
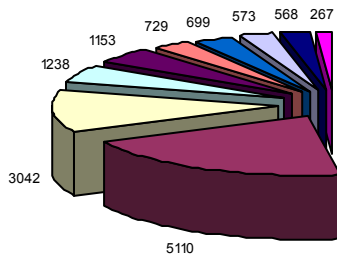
"Only by working together we can get results that benefit agriculture and deliver value to farm businesses and local communities."

Farmers can register with the NFF at: <http://www.nff.org.au/individual-farmers.html>

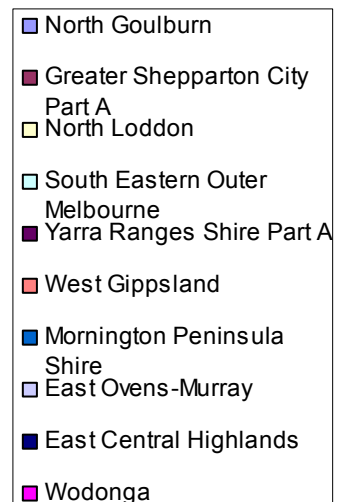
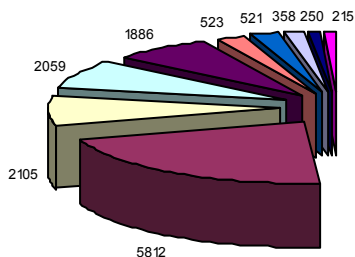
**Cripps Pink(Pink Lady™) Production(Tonnes) VIC 2005
Top 10 Sub Districts**



**Cripps Pink(Pink Lady™) Production (Tonnes) VIC 2006
Top 10 Sub Districts**



**Cripps Pink(Pink Lady™) Production (Tonnes) VIC 2007
Top 10 Sub Districts**





Riverview Citrus & Stonefruit Pty Ltd and GD Prepack Fruits Pty Ltd are progressive fruit packing companies located in Cobram, Victoria alongside the majestic Murray River.

Riverview Citrus & Stonefruit specialises in the packing and distribution of medium to large size fruit. GD Prepack Fruits packs small fruit, ready for distribution.

We are looking to purchase good quality Pears and Apples at any time of the year, beginning as soon as possible. We can purchase by the bin, or contract pack. We require all sizes and all varieties to enable distribution to all the major supermarket chains. Payment terms can be negotiated.

For more details and information, please contact:

Charlie Gattuso

03 – 5872 2535

PO Box 70

COBRAM VIC 3644

Email: riverviewcitrus@bigpond.com

GREEN PAPER AND AGRICULTURE

(NFF “Inside Briefs” edition 18 July 2008)

OUTLINING its preferred Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS), the Australian Government’s Green Paper recognises the unique complexities that impede agriculture’s coverage – in doing so, addressing and taking on board many NFF concerns.

It does not impose an arbitrary date for covering agriculture. Instead, it identifies a target date of 2015 – pending the need to first overcome practical impediments of measuring, monitoring and verification of carbon emissions – with a decision on inclusion, or exclusion, to be considered in 2013. That analysis is consistent with both Professor Ross Garnaut’s and the Productivity Commission’s findings.

But pivotal issues of concern remain unresolved and must be dealt with ahead of agriculture’s possible inclusion.

- Firstly, the current Kyoto rules fail to fully account for agriculture’s ability to store carbon in soil, crops and pastures. Further, that agriculture’s emission profile under Kyoto is detrimentally linked to things beyond anyone’s control, like bushfires and drought. The Green Paper accepts the need for ‘Kyoto II’ to change to better reflect Australia’s unique circumstances and the potential opportunities based on science.
- Secondly, the Green Paper also highlights limited commercially-viable carbon abatement opportunities for farmers. That is, sensible cost-effective ways to further reduce emissions across all agricultural sectors simply do not exist at this time. This is a clear signal that a new stream of research and development must be in place – and delivering workable solutions – before agriculture can be considered for inclusion in any scheme. Importantly, we must avoid cannibalising productivity-based research and development in the process.
- Thirdly, and importantly, the Government has emphasised the essential need to work in close consultation with agriculture to overcome these problems and to develop appropriate responses.

Meanwhile, the potential increase in major farming costs – namely through fuel – will be offset for agriculture. This takes account of the cost pressures already being felt at the pump, and will alleviate farm costs, pressure on food security and prices at the checkout.

Farmers maintain that we are willing to play our part in meeting Australia’s, and the world’s, climate challenge. We are committed to finding workable new solutions to reduce our carbon footprint, to build on our already leading contribution to cutting emissions, on an equitable basis.

We must pursue these opportunities, in partnership with Government, to be able to achieve this in a measured and sustainable way – ensuring that food production, and our national economy, are not threatened. The NFF’s media release on the Green Paper is online at: <http://www.nff.org.au/read/2454862494.html>



Grower Meetings.....

FGVL Members Discount!

Mobile Trailer BBQ – for hire

This trailer BBQ has been engineered to cater for functions of up to 30 people.

Package includes:

8 x 5 Trailer with BBQ

24 Plastic Chairs

2 Trestle Tables

Awning

Gas Bottle

Ice Chest (lge capacity)

All of this packed in the trailer ready to drive away.

FGVL Members have access to this trailer at greatly reduced rates. Contact the FGVL office for more information.



GROWER MEETINGS

Fruit Growers Victoria has been conducting a series of The “Ears in the Orchard” barbeques on local growers’ properties. The program is a community building project and is funded by a DPI grant. It provides orchard neighbours with the opportunity to get together, relax and get away from the day-to-day pressures of running an orchard. It also gives growers a opportunity to talk one on one with Fruit Growers Victoria

Fruit Growers Victoria provides everything for the barbeques. All hosts have to do is invite their guests and Fruit Growers Victoria will bring the tables chairs, plates, crockery, food, drinks and even cook the barbeque.

Recent barbeques have been held at Shepparton East, Tatura, Mooroopna, Ovens, and Mornington Peninsula

The issues raised by growers include
the piping project in Shepparton East,
SPC/ Ardmona’s future plans and the
impact on growers,
Fruit Fly, ACCC inquiry on Supermarket
pricing, Tractor Roll over protection and
Free Health checks.

Guest Speakers have included

Henry Schneider from DPI,

Richard Anderson (Chair VFF Water Committee),

Brad Smith from Wintersun Fruit and

Bill Rye (CropWAtch Manager).



Michael Crisera (FIDO), Bill Rye (Cropwatch) with High Country Fruit Growers.

The barbeques are organized by Michael Crisera who is the Fruit Industry Development Officer for the Goulburn Valley. Michael intends to run one or two barbeques each fortnight and he is always on the look out for hosts who want to have a relaxing and informative evening with their neighbours.

Any who would like more information about Ears in the Orchard can contact Michael on 03 5825 3700.

Grower Websites

FGVL is in a position to design and develop websites for growers at a minimal cost. A discount is available for FGVL members.

If you would like to have your own website to promote your business please contact the FGVL office for further information

Wanted to Buy Nursery Trees

Budded to 204 or 215
up to 700 trees

Phone: Doug Brown
58655207
0419329868

Pink Lady Day

The inaugural Pink Lady Day was held at FGV's Northern Office at Mooroopna on 22 May, 2008, this date was chosen to coincide with Australia Biggest Morning Tea. As well as raising funds for the Cancer Council, the event was part of the Ears in the Orchard Program funded by DPI. These events have been aimed at small groups of industry people getting together to discuss current issues that are affecting the fruit industry.

The Pink Lady Day was attended by women in the fruit industry, FGV staff, Greater Shepparton City Council staff, television & print media and parliamentarian representatives.

John Wilson (General Manager, FGV) addressed the group on recent industry developments which included; water update, Murray Darling Basin Drought Information Officers as well as displaying the new FGV BBQ trailer.

Liz Mann (MDB Drought Officer) was able to expand on the role of the Drought Information Officers as well as discussing Exceptional Circumstances (EC) funding and the use and availability of the Cobram Food Bank.

Jeanette Powell MP (National Party Member for Shepparton District) spoke to the group urging them to seek assistance through various sources mentioned on the day or to contact the FGV office for agency referral. Jeanette also encouraged women to pass this information on to families who may need assistance during the tough times brought on by the drought.

FGV Information kits were made available to all as well as brochures on WorkSafe Tractor ROPs regulations, VISA requirements for overseas workers, latest edition of CoreFacts, information and training options on new ForkLift Licensing requirements, FGV's Annual Report, Apple & Pear statistics. AFFCO Expo, BioChemical Training.

Then the fun began, many complimentary vouchers and gifts were handed out to all participants; the sponsors of the gifts and vouchers were as follows:

Fairleys IGA, Shepparton
The Victoria Hotel
The Terminus Hotel
The Sherbourne Hotel
Pentals
Renatos Florist
The Taco Den
Billys Bakehouse
SPC Ardmona
SPC Ardmona Factory Sales
John Anderson Pharmacy



Jeanette Powell MP, John Wilson (FGV General Manager) and Michael Crisera (FIDO) at Pink Lady Day.

guest took home a delicious chocolate apple beautifully keeping within the pink lady theme.

Fruit Growers Victoria sincerely thanks and applauds the above business's for continuing to support the fruit industry.

The highlight of the day would have to be the chocolate apples from

Vera Fleming's, Spirit of the Valley enterprise. Every

When all things are equal.....

please support the following businesses

They support you through their affiliated membership of Fruit Growers Victoria Limited.

Agrisearch Services Pty Ltd
Ajax Fertilisers
Ampcor Fibre Packaging
Atlas Pacific
Atmosphere Control Systems
Bayer Cropscience Pty Ltd
CHEP Australia
Dupont
Elders VP Ltd
Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE
G.V. Crop Protection
Hip Pocket Workwear & Safety
I.K. Caldwell & Co.
M B + M Business Solutions

National Australia Bank
Pellenc
Rabobank
Rural Finance Corporation
Shepparton Distilleries
Silvan Pumps & Sprayers
Stubbs Wallace & Partners
Visy Board
Water Dynamics
Wayne Skinner Rural Supplies Pty Ltd
Wesfarmers Federation Insurance
Westpac Banking
Wintersunfruit (BK & MA Smith)

DISCLAIMER Every effort is taken to interpret and report accurately on information and events but no responsibility is taken for the source or accuracy of either the information or the interpretation placed upon it in this publication. Similarly the authors do not accept any responsibility for any action that may be taken by an individual following their interpretation of statements made in this report.

SETTING THE FRAMEWORK....

It is the time of year when growers are faced with setting the framework for the next growing season. Pruning and financial planning go hand in hand. During difficult drought and financial periods growers are faced with reduced profits. The ability to produce more profitable fruit per hectare is more important now than ever before. It is important that growers remain passionate and focussed on farm activities that they can control and avoid being consumed by what they cannot.



The above pictures demonstrate the adjustment of mature tree limbs as well as implementing high density orchard systems. Inside this issue please read about how pruning and creating the right framework are key to balancing the tree to produce the desired fruit. To succeed as editor of this publication and in my Fruit Industry Development Officer role, my challenge is to provide the best resources and tools possible to assist growers increase profit per hectare of orchard and minimise risk.

A key objective for the HAL project as an IDO is technology transfer, the quarterly publishing of Top Grower and re-establishing FGVL Grub Groups. These are important components of technology transfer, as is communicating with growers at group meetings and on-farm visits. The key issues that growers have consistently raised with me so far have been: **increasing on-farm costs, fruit fly, codling moth (last season), orchard re-development choices, new research, and FGVL communications.**

Through this technical bulletin and increased grower visits, I will provide articles and resources to assist growers on the various orchard/packing activities. I encourage growers to contact me about any orchard/ packing activities whether you are in the North or South of the state.

I am looking forward to meeting as many growers as possible over the coming weeks, months and seasons. Many growers have impressed me with their attention to detail, whether it be on their orchard or with their packing systems.

All have been very welcoming and I look forward to the challenge ahead as I am passionate about contributing as much to the industry as possible.

Michael Crisera
Fruit Industry Development Officer
Fruit Growers Victoria Ltd.



Know-how for Horticulture™



About FIDO and this publication

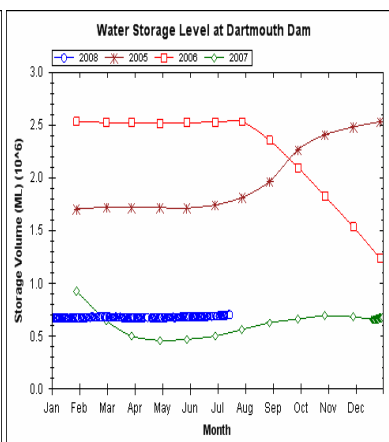
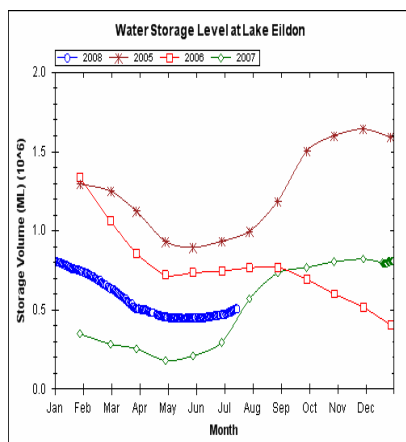
Editor: Michael Crisera, Fruit Industry Development Officer - FIDO project has been funded by Horticulture Australia Ltd (HAL) using voluntary contribution funds from Fruit Growers Victoria Ltd and matched funding from the Australian Government.

Sources of information for this publication include milestone and research reports for projects funded by industry and Commonwealth funds through HAL. Other sources include websites of overseas research agencies, newsletters and magazines. Every effort is taken to interpret and report accurately on information. However no responsibility is taken for the source or accuracy of either the information or the interpretation placed upon it in this publication.

It is recommended that before incorporating change management practices, individuals and/or organizations seek guidance from the relevant researcher and/or professional consultant. FGVL and HAL does not accept any responsibility for any action, which may be taken by an individual or organization following their interpretation of statements made in this publication.

IN THIS ISSUE: Water... Pruning... Chemical use...
Pest & Disease... Opinion... Information...

Top Grower — Winter 2008



DAM LEVELS				
Storage	ML	%	ML Change	Last Year
Buffalo	13,213	56.60	-44	13,391
Cairn Curran	7,171	4.9	-27	3,646
Dartmouth	686,582	17.6	-899	493,549
Eildon	456,124	13.7	3,383	268,155
Eppalock	19,979	6.6	-18	2,529
Hume	427,908	14.1	29,616	294,751
Mokoan	14,767	4	464	36,738
Nillahcootie	9,380	23.2	-109	11,150
Tullaroop	3,661	5	0	6,520
Warranga Basin	50,645	11.7	-1,259	63,825
William Hovell	9,148	67.8	353	13,535

www.g-mwater.com.au

"Murray-Darling Basin drought is getting worse..... with June inflows the lowest on record and autumn inflows only just above the record lows of 2007."

That was the grim news in the Murray-Darling Basin Commission's (MDBC's) latest Drought Update on 10 July.

Chief Executive Dr Wendy Craik AM said inflows in June were 95 GL, lower than the previous record low of 106 GL in June 2006. In June 2007 inflows were 220 GL. The long-term average is 680 GL.

Inflows during autumn this year were 200 GL, just above the record low of 195 GL in autumn 2007. The long-term average is 806 GL.

"This is very disappointing, and the likelihood of upper Murray inflows being above average for the remainder of winter and spring is very low," Dr Craik said. "Until there is significant rain and run-off, the prospects for irrigation and the environment in 2008-09 remain grim.

"2008-09 is shaping up to be a very tough year for water availability, and there is likely to be continuing pressure on the riverine environment. The new water year is also likely to pose operational challenges, with low river flows and varying weir pool levels.

"The most recent seasonal climate outlook issued by the Bureau of Meteorology shows a shift in the odds towards drier than average conditions across the Murray-Darling Basin from July to September, including the high-yielding catchments of the upper Murray and its tributaries."

For the year ending June 2008, total inflows to the Murray River System — excluding Darling inflows and Snowy Scheme releases — was 2,220 GL, the 6th lowest in 117 years of records and only 25 % of the long-term average of 8,900 GL.

"Critical water for human needs (including stock and domestic) for 2008-09 is reasonably assured for those who draw their water from the main stem of the Murray. However, we need inflows that are higher than the minimum used for planning to ensure water is available from anabranches or major channel systems."

Dr Craik said headwater storage levels were slightly higher than the record low levels of this time last year (due to higher levels of carryover) but were still well below average.

"The water level in the Lower Lakes has temporarily stabilised, but unless there is a significant improvement in water availability for South Australia, the outlook for the next 12 months is extremely poor.

"Pumping water from Lake Alexandrina, which began in early May, is maintaining Lake Albert at its current level and preventing further exposure of sulfidic sediments. However, we are also looking at further management options for the Lower Lakes for the 2008-09 season and beyond," Dr Craik said.

Dr Craik said the MDBC's river operations would continue to maximise water availability by reducing evaporation and transmission losses along the river system.

The above information was sourced from GMW e newsletter and www.g-mwater.com.au

CROWDING OF LIMBS

Bas van den Ende
Consultant in Fruit Production
 Shepparton

Crowding of limbs is a major problem in many orchards. It is not uncommon to find large free-standing trees with 12 to 15 limbs each. Crowding causes shading and leads quickly to loss of production. Crowding is often created when the trees are young and headed in winter. Each heading cut forms two shoots which become limbs. Trees end up with too many limbs and too many forks. Forks, especially in the upper part of the trees, create enormous shading problems. As a result of shading, the cropping zone moves up to where it is expensive to harvest the fruit. Pruning and thinning also become more expensive when the majority of the fruiting wood and fruit are in the upper parts of the trees.

You can remedy over-crowding by first singulating the forks, especially in the tops of the trees. Then, remove limbs that are too thick. Select limbs that are straight. Limbs that have been headed in the past give you trouble. Limbs do not like to change direction and will fight you each summer with bunches of strong watershoots. Before you send your pruners into your orchard, sharpen your chainsaw and let your trees see the light. Always paint the wounds with a protective sealer to avoid infection by wood-rotting fungi.

As a guide, if your trees have 12 to 15 limbs, you should end up with about seven good straight limbs and no forks.



Forks belong on your dining table, not in your orchard. When you have done a good job, you will soon notice that fruit quality and fruit size improve. New shoots will develop in the lower parts of the trees and more fruit buds will form, because sunlight can penetrate through the canopies of the trees. This type of pruning is LIGHT work.



PRUNE BEST FRUIT BLOCKS FIRST !

Henry Schneider
FruitCheque Officer
 DPI, Cobram

Before pruning the next fruit tree, orchardists should make sure they are working in the most productive blocks on their orchards – just in case the seasonal predictions of a dry season do eventuate.

It might be time to set aside a major planning day with all the key people involved in the business and determine where the most important effort and money is directed in the next few weeks heading into spring.

There is no point working hard doing the common routines in the orchard and finding later in the winter or early spring that the available water is so limited that it would be impossible to get all your varieties through to harvest. It's better not to spend the money on pruning if you will not be able to harvest a crop. If not already mapped out, ensure all work done and money spent is on the most 'lucrative prospects' for your business in the coming season! Work on the 'best blocks' first.

If rainfall conditions change during July and August, there is still time to do all the pruning. But at this stage it's the priority in which pruning and weed control are done.

Priorities for winter and spring

Prune the highest returning blocks with the best budwood first!

If the winter is dry again this year, decide before pruning is finished, if all trees will be productive enough to spend money on pruning them at all this season. If water is very short in the worst case scenario, save the money on pruning less profitable blocks and sacrifice those blocks to buy extra water for your more profitable blocks.

Target all weeds in the orchard now to conserve any rainfall in the soil for early root growth in late winter.

Delay replanting new trees if a decision needs to be made to conserve irrigation resources. They can be planted into your own nursery rows on drip tape. If planting out in the orchard is the only option, drippers may be an alternative to micro-jets or sprinklers for one or two seasons.

The very difficult decisions of which fruit blocks to take through to harvest can be made as the seasonal rainfall pattern unfolds

over the next 2 months through to the start of the irrigation season.

It will then be clearer what winter rainfall has occurred and will give some idea of irrigation inflows into the Murray and Goulburn storage systems. This will help make decisions on which blocks to continue to prune, or which blocks to pull out as more up-to-date information on irrigation allocations becomes available later in winter and early spring. The aim is to get the most productive trees through to commercial fruit harvest next summer.

The important message is to 'Prune Your Best Blocks First'.

More drought management strategies for your orchard can be found on www.dpi.vic.gov.au/fruitcheque



INSECTICIDES REGISTERED FOR WESTERN FLOWER THRIPS CONTROL - POMEFRUIT/STONEFRUIT MAY 2008

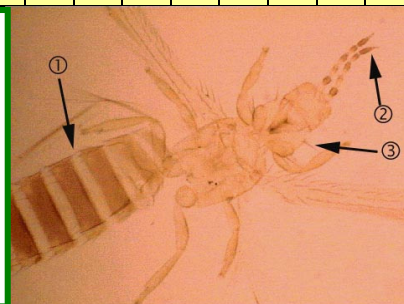
Trade Name	Crops	Active ingredient	Product name/valid	Insecticide chemical group	States registered/permitted							
					NT	Qld	NSW	Vic	Tas	WA	SA	ACT
SUCCESS2	brassicac, cucurbits, fruiting vegetables, leafy vegetables, legume vegetables, ornamentals, berryfruit, pome fruit, stone fruit	spinosad (240 g/L)	DOW	Group 5A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
ENTRUST NATURALYTE	brassicac, cucurbits, tomato, leafy vegetables, legume vegetables, ornamentals, berryfruit, pome fruit, stone fruit	spinosad (800 g/kg)	DOW	Group 5A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

WESTERN FLOWER THRIPS

There is much discussion about this pest in horticulture at the moment and the damage that it is causing to vegetable and greenhouse crops during flowering. There is little data about WFT presence in Victoria and its effect on local produce. It is critical that before deciding to control this pest that you properly identify the thrips that are found in your orchard. Right is a pic of a female WFT however please consult an expert prior to making control decisions.

WFT colour varies from pale yellow to light brown

1. Females have light coloured edge on abdomen
2. Banded antennae
3. Hairs on pronotum



The above information was sourced from www.sardi.sa.gov.au and www.apvma.gov.au

Getting caught out with off label chemical use

Steven Field, DPI Chemical Standards Officer

A number of traceback investigations were conducted by DPI throughout the 07/08 season in the Goulburn Valley related to unacceptable levels of chemicals in produce. When conducting the traceback investigations it came to light that a rain event in early January had resulted in some producers using multiple applications of the fungicide propiconazole.

Group C fungicides, of which propiconazole is a member, can be susceptible to the build up of resistance in fungal populations if used inappropriately. This is recognised by the chemical manufacturer, and the label usually contains information related the repeated applications of the chemical. For example the label for *TILT 250 EC Systemic Fungicide* clearly states:

'DO NOT apply more than two applications of *TILT* (or any other Group C fungicide) in any one season on the same paddock. Applications of *TILT* should be alternated with a fungicide containing a different mode of action.'

Under the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1992*, specific label statements such as **'DO NOT'** statements are enforceable. Therefore, it would be illegal to use this fungicide more than twice in a season on the same paddock, regardless of whether an unforeseen rain event occurred. In this context the word paddock is also equally applicable to an orchard block, vineyard, etc.

Apart from the illegality of the use of this chemical in the scenario, the likelihood of resistance building in the fungal population is increased. This means there is an increased chance of having to use more alternative chemical control options in the future, with an associated increase in control costs to the grower. This is not a good scenario for anyone, and there are numerous examples around of where this has occurred.

If an unforeseen event ie: rain, frost, etc. occurs that requires the application of a chemical, it is important that growers think about what they should use rather than grabbing the same product out of the shed they've used all season. As is frequently the case, residue problems can usually be avoided by growers reading and understanding the entire label and taking the time to work through various solutions to the problem at hand.

Further information regarding the use of agricultural chemicals can be found at www.dpi.vic.gov.au/chemicalstandards or by contacting Steven Field, DPI Chemical Standards Officer on 03 5824 5532.

Pest and Disease Reminders:

Michael Crisera, Cropwatch Area Manager GV, Fruit Growers Vic Ltd

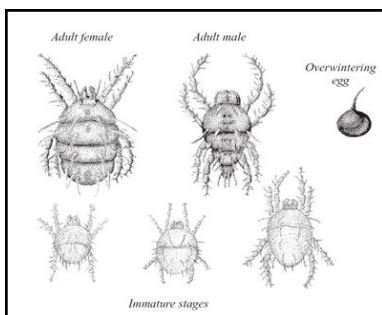
After 6 months in my role as CropWatch Area Manager for the Goulburn Valley and my continuing education in the world of IPM, the following is a management reminder for growers leading into the coming season. I will continually offer my experiences in IPM to assist growers with managing Pest and Disease problems.



Winter Oil applications (European Red Mite, Bryobia mite)

The exposed over wintering eggs of ERM and BM on the spurs of the tree are vulnerable to sprays, unlike the over wintering females of two spotted mite. Winter oil is very effective against winter eggs, provided 100% coverage is achieved.

Timing is also important. During the middle of winter the eggs are dormant, and sprays are not very effective. As temperatures increase in spring, development within the egg commences, and it becomes more susceptible to suffocation by oil. In fact, it has been shown that the closer the egg is to hatching, the easier it is to kill with oil. The recommendation is to use winter oil, at green tip. The oil spray will also control San Jose scale.



Applying oils at green tip can help save thousands on miticides later in the season. The previous season's mite's pressure can determine whether or not a green tip oil control is necessary. Try and recall the problem mite patches from the previous season and monitor limbs for eggs.

Orchard Hygiene

Orchard hygiene during the autumn months can have an effect on the next spring's pest and disease pressure. So growers need to remember which patches had high numbers of fruit left on the trees especially during seasons of poor returns.

Mating Disruption

For growers that are looking to use mating disruption ties this season, now is the time to plan for ties to be put in their orchard. If growers had problems with Codling or OFM toward the end of last season then putting the ties out earlier would be recommended. Controlling the spring generation of Codling moth and OFM is critical to helping decreasing pressure throughout the season.

Season Review

A good way to see if your current pest control program is working well without costing you a fortune is to take a look back over last season's spray records and record the number of controls that had to be applied. When planning for this season please consider how many organophosphates, carbamates, miticides and synthetic pesticides have been applied previously. Whether it is to control Codling moth, mites, thrips, and mealybug or for crop thinning all pesticides have differing effects on different beneficial species. Some fungicides are toxic to beneficials also. I am not suggesting to stop using pesticides all together but to slowly decrease the amounts of pesticides applied in one season. Too many pesticides applied during the spring will decrease beneficial species for the remainder of the season, hence more pest problems and the beginning of the pesticide cycle.

Summary

Many growers may well think that I am crazy for stating the obvious, but some of the worst pest problems in orchards can be caused from the over use of pesticides. This is not a negative judgement of growers. In my time as an IPM consultant I have realised that the only reason growers may go overboard in their pest control is to minimise the risk of losses on their orchard and for piece of mind. Every fruit lost to pests is \$\$\$. Over the coming seasons it is my goal to gradually decrease the use of pesticides and also give growers the correct tools when making a decision to control a pest. I will encourage growers to take more risks so 2% or 5% damage in some cases can prevent 20% damage and save thousands of \$\$\$ in chemicals.

KEY IPM POINT FOR JULY:

Identify problem patches from last season and prepare for the next season.



The tree-fruit industry needs a coordinated Research & Development program

Bas van den Ende
Consultant in Fruit Production,
Shepparton Vic

Aside from water security, the greatest challenge facing the tree-fruit industry is for fruit growers to operate their orchards profitably. Efficient and innovative management drive profit. Fruit growers need to keep an eye on the future and not assume that things will stay the same.

Global competitiveness, increasing costs of production, and increasing demand by retailers and consumers for fruit of high quality, all need research and development (R&D) that is relevant and aligned to industry needs. Technology is continually evolving. Our challenge is to understand the technology and identify the impacts it will have on our industry. To survive, the tree-fruit industry needs good coordinated R&D. The challenges that face the tree-fruit industry today need solutions based on research.

There have been no major technical improvements in pome and stone fruit R&D in Australia for over 20 years. The decline in horticultural research, extension and teaching has been obvious for years, but nobody has done anything about it. Since the late 1980s, Victorian and Australian governments slashed funding, restructured departments, and did not replace managerial staff and scientists who left. This caused many institutes of horticultural research to close or to degenerate to where they were (and still are) of little value to the "men on the land".

Leadership was lacking, and staff became demoralised - there was no direction or vision for the future. Career development with industry funding is now basically a lottery. Current research in tree-fruit production by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is mostly short-term, piecemeal and insufficiently flexible to enable research to adapt to emerging needs. R&D is no longer part of a coordinated approach to solve major problems of the tree-fruit industry in the 21st century.

The vacuum left by the then Department of Agriculture of Victoria (now DPI) has been partially filled with projects such as

Future Orchards 2012
AFFCO IHD Seminars
Field days and orchard nights run by grower organizations
Rootstock and variety evaluations on private properties by APFIB
Demonstration orchards on private properties funded by the tree-fruit industry and HAL

These provide excellent technical information but are no substitutes for a world-class research orchard that provides valuable cutting-edge research relevant to the modern tree-fruit industry.

In the 1970s and 1980s a team of researchers at the Tatura Research Institute identified some of the major problems facing the tree-fruit industry.

A coordinated research program was undertaken to improve the efficiency of fruit production two or three times the then current level. This required the knowledge of various disciplines to integrate tree management, soil management, irrigation, tree propagation and mechanization.

This type of research, known as "systems research", resulted in the development of an orchard system that became a blueprint for fruit growers to follow throughout the life of a planting. The Tatura Trellis and the Tatura System of Soil Management were R&D models which revolutionised fruit growing in the Goulburn Valley and placed Tatura amongst world leaders in horticultural research. If we had continued this work and replicated these models to other branches of the tree-fruit industry,

We probably would have been as internationally competitive and efficient as fruit growers in Chile, New Zealand and South Africa are now. Unfortunately, the Victorian government and the tree-fruit industry did not keep the momentum going, forcing the region's fruit growers to rely on research carried out more than 20 years ago, and on generic research results generated in overseas countries with different climates, growing conditions, and costs of production, varieties and rootstocks.

Conducting coordinated R&D is like a team of researchers working on a jigsaw puzzle. To see the big picture, all the pieces of the puzzle must fit together. The big picture of an orchard system is one that is continuously improved, one appropriately called The Orchard of the 21st Century. Such an orchard has the following features:

Trees are closely planted at a density of around 2200 trees per hectare (4.50 m x 1.00 m).

Early and high yields are obtained because the trees intercept 60 to 70 per cent of sunlight less than 3 years after the orchard was planted.

Fruit of high internal and external quality and good taste are consistently produced because the entire canopy is exposed to more than 30 percent of sunlight in summer.

The trees are permanently supported by a trellis which

- allows trees to grow and develop canopies and root systems quickly, and.
- supports crops from young trees onwards.

The trellis is

- a) suitable for growing pome and stone fruit with different varieties and rootstocks
- b) Versatile to combine different methods of tree training with same canopy configuration, and
- c) Compatible with traditional orchard equipment and allows a transitional period for change.

To fill their spaces quickly and for ease of management, the trees are kept small and can be reached from the ground. The canopy is thin, uniform and continuous to

- a) enable sprays to be efficiently applied
- b) economise on sprays by calculation of the tree row volume (TRV)
- c) Facilitate hand-thinning and harvesting
- d) Allow development of over-the-row spray, pruning and harvesting equipment, and
- e) Allow accurate crop forecasting

The trees produce more fruit with less water. Water consumption is reduced by at least 50 per cent – from 150 litres per kilogram fruit to 70 litres per kilogram fruit produced, by use of drip line irrigation, regulated deficit irrigation and surface mulch and monitoring effective canopy shade, evapotranspiration, fruit growth and soil water.

Analyses of nutrients in leaves, sap and soil, along with fertigation, mean that less fertilisers are needed.

The orchard is in positive cash flow in less than 6 years after the trees were planted. This includes capital costs and applies to a re-planted orchard. It does not include cost of land, irrigation pump, filters and mains, netting, frost control and management fees.

The concept of the Orchard of the 21st Century needs the following new research:

- Climate control – protection from hail, wind, sun, birds and spring frost.
- Do-it-yourself trellis construction – special steel posts, wires and anchors.
- Sub-surface drip irrigation.
- Fruit tree propagation – produce a cheaper nursery tree.
- Pollination and fruit set with or without bees.
- An “Instant Orchard” – Plant a canopy; don’t grow a canopy.
- A cost & return model that fruit growers can use.
- Prevention of re-plant disease.
- Ways to effectively transfer information.
- New spray technology – spray without air blast; reduce and save on chemicals.
- Harvesting aids – do away with the picking bag.
- Use the concept of the tomato harvester and adapt the tomato harvester to harvest tree fruit and for summer and winter pruning and thinning fruit.

Australia lags behind many of its international competitors in education. This starts right from orchard employees through to managers and owners. The perception among farming families is that there is no future in horticulture. Doom and gloom stories have deterred many young people away from orcharding and into careers in the cities, holding onto the belief that off-orchard employment will provide a more satisfying, fulfilling and secure livelihood. A new partnership in research is needed to change this perception and promote the courses offered by the universities, colleges or TAFE that would lead to diverse employment.

Australia has some of the best environments for fruit production. There are not many places in the world where one can grow a wide variety of pome and stone fruit and harvest these over 8 months of the year as happens in some areas of Australia, including the Goulburn Valley. But unless the tree-fruit industry and Victorian and Australian governments invest more in horticultural R&D and training, our overseas competitors will take a greater share of our domestic and export markets.

Bas van den Ende
Consultant in Fruit Production,



Bas van den Ende and Jef DeCoster at a recent pruning demonstration.

This article from Bas is welcomed by the editor and FGVL, so whether you are a grower, consultant, industry representative, or a packer/marketer please feel free to have an opinion. I will publish constructive opinions that make valid points.....

Michael Crisera
Fruit Industry Development Officer
Fruit Growers Victoria Ltd.
Email: fido@fgv.com.au
Ph: 0418 379 746

DPI -Tatura.

Fruitcheque Project Management—Cathy Mansfield.

Cathy's role is the project leader for Fruitcheque and manages a range of other projects lead by Fruitcheque staff members including industry development projects in Blueberries, Raspberries and Walnuts and the Adoption of Intensive Pear Production project.

Fruitcheque (Tatura and Cobram)-Angie Grills, Henry Schnieder, Hein Van Kralingen, Harold Adem

Intensive pear, Walnut industry development, extension in best practice eg irrigation, nutrition, Industry leadership development, drought response and outbreaks of established pests and disease, co-operate consultancies for a fee, extension connected to particular research projects eg woolly aphid. internal reporting to government about industry situation and impact of events.

Chemical standards - Steven Field

Assists growers with residue issues eg. will help work out what is wrong.
Alerts industry and growers to improper use of chemicals
Can prosecute members of the public if they wilfully break the law in relation to chemical issues.

Plant Standards- Bill Ascroft, Tony Carbone, Ingrid Stava

Monitor the Fruit Fly and release sterile flies to prevent population development and spread.
Manage pest incursions from exotic pests.
Investigate abandoned orchards.

Irrigation technology in orchards-Ian Goodwin, Mark O'Connell, Rebecca Bruce

Has a number of projects going on at the moment including deficit irrigation demonstration trials in Shepparton and Toolamba.

Insect pest research - David Williams, Mofakhar Hossain and Alex Illichev

The focus of has been carpophilus beetle , oriental fruit moth and codling moth
in addition Kevin Powell (DPI Rutherglen) is working on woolly apple aphid.

Orchard diseases- Chin Gouk

Specialist in bacterial diseases.

Whole Farm Planning - John Read and Melly Pander

They also work specifically with growers who have english as a second language.

Landlearn - Sheree Burke

who provides classes for school students throughout the state on agriculture.

Salinity - Chris Nicholson and Rabbie Maskey

There is also an environment section which works with the CMA this include Landcare people and community drains.

DPI - Knoxfield

Diagnostics - Coordinated by Con Skylas

Crop Health services, both soil and plant analysis.

Post Harvest Research - Robert Holmes (DPI Knoxfield)

Rob does work on ripening and storage.

FGV GRUB GROUPS

FGVL is beginning the Goulburn Valley grower Grub Groups as of the 20th of August 2008. The first Grub group for Shepparton and surrounding areas will be on Wednesday the 20th of August. The following Wednesday the 27th will be the Ardmona Grower Grub Groups first meeting. If you are a grower or involved in fruit industry Pest and Disease control and would like to be involved in the monthly meetings during the growing season from August until April 2009, please contact **Michael Crisera on 0418 379 746 or email fido@fgv.com.au** to register.
These meetings will give growers, consultants and agronomists the opportunity to cross over information and assist with decision-making on Pest and Disease control relevant at that time of the year.

CHILL ACCUMULATION MODELS

It is important to note that some people refer to chill units as chill hours. With the simple models this could be correct, as 1 hour under 7.22°C is the equivalent to 1 chill unit.

However, as the complexity and accuracy of the calculations below increases, the above statement is not necessarily correct.

A chill unit is a measurement allocated when temperatures are in between certain parameters.

7.22°C and Under Model

1 hour under 7.22°C=1 chill unit (CU).

In this model anything over 7.22°C = 0 chill unit (CU).

0-7.22°C Model

1 hour between 0 and 7.22°C=1 chill unit (CU).

In this model less than 0°C = 0 chill unit (CU).

Whilst chilling is important for satisfactory fruit set in deciduous tree fruits, some cultivars are naturally precocious and will set a commercial crop even when the chill factor is lower than considered necessary. The reverse of this can also be true. The amount of accumulated chill units and the heat unit requirement of a particular cultivar determines its bloom time.

USE CHILL UNIT INFORMATION WITH CAUTION.