Hi everyone,

HGA has had a busy 2014 so far with Farm walks in Tasmania and NSW—we had great numbers at both locations with the Tassie walk involving Government and suppliers and in NSW, we managed to pick the first weekend of snow!

It was also terrific to meet new people looking to plant hazelnuts because they can see the potential that we can. The Bio-Security workshops that we have run with these Farm walks are very important and although it’s a dry subject, HGA will continue to work on communicating the Bio-Security issues with our members. If you have any questions, Trevor Ranford, our Communication Officer would be more than happy to answer them for you.

Darren Baguley, on HGA behalf, attended the International Nut Congress in Melbourne alongside the other ANIC Directors and has written a terrific report for everyone to read… it’s been reproduced in full on page 7 and 8 and makes for great reading. Thanks Darren.

HGA also held an R, D & E workshop in May and invited a number of researchers along to discuss the R & D future for Hazelnuts in Australia. We will be coming out with a priority listing shortly for all our members to have some input. The NSW DPI is in the throes of employing a Temperate Nut Officer who, we are hoping, will be able to work with us to assist growers realize the potential in hazelnut growing, along with other nuts.

In the last few weeks, we have been Conference planning—the weekend of 18th and 19th October is looking really exciting as we are on the verge of booking a conference venue, finalising farm walks in an older and a younger grove and including visits to processing plants and orchards where growers are successfully selling their produce. Save the date now in your diaries—the best part of our HGA conferences is getting together with everyone each year whilst learning more and more…2014 in South Australia will not be any different.

As this newsletter enters your in-box, the long serving editor of ANIC The Nutgrower, Jennifer Wilkinson is putting the finishing touches to her last magazine. Jennifer’s insight and investigations into the nut industries in Australia and abroad have been valuable to us all and we express our sincere thanks to her for her service to our industry. In 18 years, I am told that she hadn’t missed an edition—that’s quite a feat. Jennifer always managed to include our small industry alongside others and we are very appreciative. Best wishes in your retirement Jennifer, you deserve it!

Finally, I had an interesting call from a mum this week whose daughter has allergies but not to peanuts or hazelnuts. She has been advised to slowly start feeding her daughter hazelnuts, and peanuts, that have not been in contact with any other nuts. We will put her contact details on our website if you would like to contact her with supply details. This is just one of the benefits of being a member of HGA Inc.

As we head into the 2014/15 financial year, you should see your renewal in the mail in the coming weeks.

Cheers, Sallianne

Rabbits were here Nov 2013 when the only food source was inside the grove fenceline

But we did grow back!
The HAZELNUT LOG

**Pollination of Hazelnut Trees**

By Basil Baldwin

This year, very high yields were recorded for Barcelona crops in the Orange district. Our 20 year-old trees produced 8 – 9 kg of nuts per tree, which is over 4 tonnes/ha.

Many people have asked why the Barcelona trees have yielded so well this year. There are many factors influencing nut yield. Firstly, there is a need for many female flowers per tree. These female flowers are borne on the new shoot growth of the previous year. Last year we had very good shoot growth in our orchard. Secondly, these female flowers need to be pollinated and then subsequently fertilised, so we need to consider the factors affecting pollination.

At this time of year, in late autumn and early winter, catkins are beginning to extend and shed pollen. There is a need for a certain amount of chilling before pollen shed can commence. The catkins start to develop in early summer but they do not shed pollen until winter when the leaves have fallen from the trees. This is an ideal time for the pollen to be dispersed through the bare branches of the trees. What triggers pollen shed and the opening of the female flowers? Temperature has a major influence on these matters.

There appear to be two trig-
Table 1 – Average dates for the commencement of pollen shed and female bloom for eight varieties, averaged over eight years (Baldwin B. 2010 RIRDC Publication 09/0178)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Start of pollen shed</th>
<th>Duration of pollen shed – days</th>
<th>Start of female bloom</th>
<th>Duration of female bloom – days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tonda di Giffoni</td>
<td>20 June</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>7 July</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barcelona</td>
<td>20 June</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>15 July</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ennis</td>
<td>29 June</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>14 August</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis</td>
<td>11 July</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>24 July</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>11 July</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29 July</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casina</td>
<td>14 July</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>16 August</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hall’s Giant</td>
<td>6 August</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17 August</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jemtegaard 5</td>
<td>8 August</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>26 August</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On average, the female flowers of Barcelona were visible in mid-July, when both TBC and Lewis were starting to shed pollen. However, some of the female flowers of Barcelona were still opening one month later, when Hall’s Giant, being late in pollen shed, was starting to shed pollen. We know that the pollen of the varieties TBC, Lewis and Hall’s Giant are all genetically compatible with Barcelona so that when these four varieties are grown together in an orchard, Barcelona receives an abundance of viable and compatible pollen.

However, when the female flowers of TBC start to open, Barcelona is nearing the end of its pollen shed. The timing of the pollen shed of Lewis matches the female bloom of TBC and these two varieties are genetically compatible, meaning that Lewis is a very good polliniser for TBC. The variety Turkish Cosford, which is an Australian selection, also sheds pollen at a similar time to Lewis and is commonly used as a polliniser for TBC.

2014 Hazelnut Growers of Australia
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

So much to think about… here’s a calendar of events for 2014. Perhaps pop them onto your calendar and stay tuned for more details as they come to hand

OCTOBER

18th & 19th HGA ANNUAL CONFERENCE—South Australia...save the date!
Report on HGA Hazelnut Field Day at Meander, Tasmania on Saturday 12th April

Around 40 people attended the Field Day held at the farm of Wayne and Lisa Johnston, Cheshunt Rd, Meander. The day included a chance to inspect and discuss a 1500 tree commercial hazelnut grove (planted 2006 to 2009), together with presentations from a range of guest speakers. After a shared lunch, a smaller group stayed on to attend a HGA Biosecurity workshop, led by Trevor Ranford, Communications Officer for the HGA.

The day provided a diverse range of information on hazelnut growing, with a special focus on issues related to the establishment and conduct of larger scale hazelnut orchards. The strong attendance was testimony to the ongoing interest in growing hazelnuts in Tasmania.

Special thanks are extended to Wayne and Lisa Johnston, for generously hosting the event, and sharing their experiences of growing and processing hazelnuts. An also to our Tassie Rep, Greg Taylor for his efforts in organising this day.

If you get a chance, click on these links to see and hear what the Tasmania press added...


Some photos of hazelnut products on our shelves

STOP PRESS
Queen Victoria Market, Melbourne
PRICE CHECK—Hazelnuts
♦ Shelled.....$22.00 per kg
♦ In Shell.....$5.00 per kg

HORTICULTURE AUSTRALIA LIMITED UPDATE

The Federal Government via DAFF requested an independent review of HAL in hand with the next signing of the Statutory Funding Agreement. The review has now been tabled and HGA, as members of HAL, have been attending the meetings around Australia to stay on top of the information and any suggested changes that may affect us. There has been an Extra-Ordinary Meeting called, to be held in Cairns on 20 June, to put a motion to the members “That the Members of HAL endorse Recommendation 1 of the HAL Review Report, namely: ‘Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL) should over a transition period move to become a grower-owned rural Research and Development Corporation’”. We are seeking, along with other small, non-levy paying industries, an understanding of what “grower-owned” means and if in fact it means levy paying growers, it leaves many industries, like ours, out in the cold.

If you would like to discuss this further, or like further information, please call Sallianne on M. 0419 474 623.

Any and all ideas and suggestions to be emailed to
secretary@hazelnuts.org.au for publication in next Newsletter
Management of the orchard in winter for nut production
By Basil Baldwin

Assuming that you have suitable pollinisers for your main crop varieties, let us consider some winter management practices that will have a positive effect on nut yields in the forthcoming year.

Winter is a good time to remove any unwanted suckers. The earlier that this is done, before the weather gets too cold, the better, from an operator’s point of view.

Pruning is generally best done in winter, as the branch structure of the tree is easier to see when the branches are bare. We leave our pruning until quite late in winter so that we do not cut off too many catkins and lose valuable pollen. Make sure that pruning is completed before bud burst when the sap will be rising to nourish the buds for the new season’s growth. Generally pruning is done to shape young trees and to produce an open vase shape of 5-6 main branches. Winter is also a time to remove damaged and low branches that can hinder orchard operations.

Fertilisers applied in late winter to early spring will hopefully be washed into the soil by the winter and spring rains, ready for uptake by the roots for new growth that generally starts after bud burst in September and October.

Retaining moisture from the winter and spring rainfall is very important. Mulching of young trees is very beneficial to achieve this. It is common to let some grass and weeds grow through winter to stabilise the soil but this weed growth needs to be controlled by spraying in late August to early September, while the trees are still dormant, in order to preserve the moisture in the soil. Grass, in particular, will remove a lot of this stored moisture if left in the tree rows. Glyphosate (Roundup®) is commonly used to band-spray down the rows, out to the edge of the tree canopy, which is where the tree roots will grow to. There will be no damage to the trees by spraying at this time before the new leaves start to grow. A strip of grass and clover is best left down the centre, between the tree rows. The clover will fix a lot of nitrogen for the hazelnut trees to use.

Keep records of what you do in the orchard and when you do it. Observe the timing of pollen shed and female bloom for the different varieties. All of this will help to improve your orchard management.

BUY, SWAP AND SELL
AKA HAZELNUT EBAY OR HAZELTREE

If you have anything you would like to sell, buy or swap, email salliannef@optusnet.com.au

Hazelnut Whips from Fourjay Farms

Main crop - Barcelona and TBC
Pollinisers – Lewis, Jemtegaard 5 and Hall’s Giant
Available for planting this winter from July to September
$10 each plus GST
Fourjay Farms, Forest Reefs NSW, 02 63665131 hazelnuts@fourjayfarms.com.au
The HAZELNUT LOG

NSW FARM WALK AND BIO-SECURITY WORKSHOP ... we couldn’t have planned it on a colder weekend, but what a success! 3 & 4 May

In NSW, we witnessed the first fall of snow in Orange for 2014.

Following the Biosecurity workshop held at the Orange Institute of Agriculture, with thanks to Lester Snare, around 20 growers and potential growers, headed to Fourjay Farms, the grove of Basil and Jean Baldwin and family.

With the fire stoked, we swapped stories of irrigation and harvest during lunch, until it was time to head to the grove itself, that’s when the heavens opened.

Although damp, Basil’s talk through the grove was enlightening and encouraging, with a terrific harvest behind them.

Thank you to Basil and Jean Baldwin for their hospitality.

2013/14 Hazelnut Growers Of Australia Inc
Management Committee

President | Sallianne Faulkner 0419474625
Vice President & ANIC Director | Darren Baguley
Secretary | Mattia Ringe
Treasurer | Nathan Bracken
Chemicals Chair | Sam Perna
Communications Chair | Carol Bracken
Committee member | Peter Beggs

Thank you to this band of people who have volunteered their time and efforts for the 2013/14 year. We meet via teleconferencing bi-monthly at present so if you have anything you would like discussed please just let us know. We look forward to working together for the good of our industry and our growers.

Communication Project Officer | Trevor Ranford

PLEASE LIKE US ON FACEBOOK—it’s just one way we can keep you informed
Simply type in Hazelnut Growers into the search bar once you are logged into Facebook
It’s hard to believe that the INC was nearly a month ago but time sure does fly. Attending the INC was a great experience but I suspect I won’t be going to the 2015 INC in Turkey.

It was a busy three days between attending sessions and helping out on the ANIC stall occasionally and sitting on the editorial committee which was engaged in choosing Jennifer Wilkinson’s successor as Nutgrower Editor.

Unfortunately, this commitment scuppered my plans to update the HGA website with my doings at the INC as I barely had enough time to get back to my hotel and change for the evening events let alone sit down and write a blog. Nevertheless, while there are no plans to make major changes to The Nutgrower, a new editor represents a fresh start and I think it was useful that a member of your association was heavily involved in making this decision.

Long time attendees such as Chris Joyce (Pistachios) and Jolyon Burnett (Macadamias) said to me that I’ve probably never seen anything like the INC and that it would give me a good understanding of Australia’s place in the nut world. They were wrong on the first count but right on the second. Having spent years in the IT industry in the nut world. That understanding is both disappointing and exhilarating for reasons that will be clear later.

As the HGA’s ANIC representative I attended as many sessions as my schedule allowed, however, the most interesting to me as a grower were no doubt the hazelnut sessions, in particular the presentations by Turkey and the US. Turkey is the biggest producer of hazelnut produce in the world as we well know and it is determined to stay there if the ambitious industry program it outlined is anything to go by. Turkey already produces around 750,000 tonnes annually and its grand plan is to produce 1,000,000 tonnes per year in the 2022-23 season. To achieve this goal it has embarked upon an ambitious reform program.

As many hazelnut growers may already know, the Turkish government ended its price support scheme in 2009. Under this scheme, the Turkish Government bought up a portion of the hazelnut crop to try to maintain a price floor. While it has ended this scheme, which lead to hazelnuts being stockpiled and effectively released onto the world market stale, the government is providing income support to assist growers to modernise their operations.

Interestingly enough, due to increased demand for hazelnut driven by the success of various tree nut marketing campaigns; the price for Turkish hazelnut has remained steady despite the removal of government price support.

While not as developed as the Northern European economies, Turkey’s economy is growing rapidly and labour has become more expensive which is leading to a push to mechanise. While mechanisation alone will lead to an increase in production, the Turkish hazelnut industry has also embarked upon an ambitious plant breeding program with a view to developing higher yielding varieties. This it has successfully done with the development of two new varieties.

Other reforms include more testing laboratories able to do soil tests, tests for pathogens such as aflatoxin etc. this has led to more efficient use of fertiliser and pesticides and a higher quality final product in general.

The final plank in this reform program is a change in Turkish inheritance taxes which no longer provide an incentive for Turkish hazelnut farmers to split up their farm among all their children. It is hoped this will lead to larger farms in the future rather than the current trend for orchards to become smaller and smaller as they are passed on from generation to generation.

Another interesting presentation was the representative from Oregon. As you know, Oregon has long had a major problem with Eastern Filbert Blight. In recent years the industry has moved to deal with this problem by breeding a range of new species which are resistant to Eastern Filbert Blight. These new varieties – ‘Jefferson’, ‘Yamhill’, ‘Dorris’ and ‘Sacajawea’ - are in the process of replacing such EFB prone varieties such as Ennis and Barcelona. Indeed, it’s being predicted that Ennis will have disappeared from Oregon orchards within the next few years and that Barcelona will have disappeared within a decade. Again, growers have received support to make this transition. The benefits, however, are many. EFB will be greatly reduced if not completely eliminated in commercial hazelnut plantations. The new varieties are also ‘meatier’ with a higher percentage of nut meat to shell and skin compared to the superseded varieties.

Other learnings of interest are that despite China lanting a large number of hazelnuts, demand still far outstrips supply and will do so for the foreseeable future. Additionally, if the Chilean representative at the INC is representative of his industry then the Chilean horticultural industry is totally in denial about climate change. Given that Chile is reliant on glacier melt for much of its water, it will most likely not be a rival to any country’s industry in the next couple of decades.
On a more global scale it was interesting to note that while Macadamias continue to be an Australian success story, South Africa is threatening to surpass us quite soon – if it hasn’t already - in terms of production and acreage planted. Australia may also be the world’s second biggest almond producer but really there’s daylight second, third and fourth. The rest of Australia’s tree nut industries; hazelnuts, walnuts, pistachios, chestnuts and pecans barely register on the production graphs that accompanied every session.

The good news is that there is a lot of growth potential for all the tree nut industries in Australia. Indeed, the positive message that I took away from the INC is truly exhilarating. As nut growers, we’re part of one of the most dynamic agricultural industries in the world. While other horticultural industries such as apples and pears, citrus and sub-tropical bananas are focused on surviving in a world of declining demand, stagnant prices and cutthroat competition; the constant refrain is: demand is rising faster than production, prices remain strong and the world’s consumers are going nuts for tree nuts. Chris Joyce summed it up best during his all too brief presentation at the pistachio round table, “every year for the last three years pistachio prices have gone up and I’ve thought ‘this is the year we have a correction’. It hasn’t happened and it doesn’t look likely to happen, although prices are rising, so is consumption.”

Campaigns similar to Australia’s own spectacularly successful Nuts For Life, are succeeding in Europe, Asia and the US in driving home the message to GPs, dieticians and nutritionists that tree nuts are a healthy snack alternative that promotes wellbeing in a number of important areas such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes and weight control.

Lastly, one of the common themes is that in so many of the countries that are competing with Australian growers for markets, government support is not a dirty word. Instead it’s seen as an investment in an industry that gets paid back.

As a relatively new grower from an emerging industry, attending the INC gave me a great level of insight into the workings of mature nut industries. I found it interesting and it has inspired me to work harder than ever towards fulfilling the vision the HGA executive has of a thriving and mature industry. I also discovered that even very well established industries such as Turkey and Oregon are incredibly dynamic, they don’t sit on their laurels; they’re continually seeking to improve their cultivars, their production and their processes.

As the HGA’s ANIC Director, attending the INC have me greater insight into the global market for tree nuts. As I’ve been in the position for less than a year, I found attending all the different industry sessions very useful. A further insight was gained from the keynote speech by one of the demigods of Australian sport, John Bertrand. While Bertrand’s speech lacked a coherent narrative, it was basically a collection of interesting, amusing and inspiring anecdotes, one thing he said has stayed with me. He talked about how right at the very beginning of the America’s Cup campaign he had taken a principle of the now Australian Olympic Sailing Team coach, Victor Kovalenko. Kovalenko, Bertrand said, realized that it was pointless to train for where your opposition is now because they’re training as well and will be at a different point by the time you get to where you are now. What you need to do is work out where you need to be to succeed in whatever endeavour you engaged in – whether it’s training for the America’s Cup or running a successful business - and work towards that.

That simple statement really resonated with me because it has a great bearing on what the HGA is trying to do right now as an association. While hazelnuts are a small industry now we know that just the new plantings of our members will lead to the annual crop doubling and doubling again within the next decade. Hazelnuts have shown that they’re very financially viable so know that new growers will plant groves and join the industry over the next few years. The trend is also for these groves to be larger than previous. I’m not talking about Ferrero large but whereas it was not that long ago that people would plant 50 or 100 trees and maybe go up to 300 or 500, more and more new growers are putting in 500 trees to test the viability of hazelnuts in the local conditions and then they’re rapidly expanding to 1000, 1500, 2000, 3000 trees. We know this is happening as an association so to follow John Bertrand’s idea; we need to decide what the industry should look like in the next couple of decades and work hard to make that vision a reality.

Lastly, as a representative of a small but growing nut industry, I greatly appreciate the support from HAL to attend the INC. As the smallest of the PIBs there is no way we could have afforded to attend otherwise. I also greatly appreciate the initiative of the two largest PIBs - Almonds and Macadamias – who gave up some of their funding allocation from HAL to increase the level of funding available for the five smaller industries.