



pomewest
Serving WA Pome Growers

pomewest



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APC—Pomewest FFS Income 2017–18

Project	\$
General Account Budget	450,000
Biosecurity Account Budget	60,000

APC—Pomewest major projects 2017–18

Project	\$
Commercialisation for WA (FW Co-operative Ltd)	120,000
<small>Note less 50% salary reimbursed for professional services of Nardia Stacy as executive officer as in 16–17 financial year.</small>	
New Technology Project (Susie Murphy White)	52,000
Study Tour to NZ	31,000
Flavonoid Project	40,000
Market Access Project	50,000
Annual Meetings & Communications	14,500
Medfly Surveillance Trapping Network (Ashmere Consulting)	60,000
Codling Moth (DPIRD)	35,000
Maturity Standards Legislation and Compliance	45,000
Industry Sponsorships and Association Memberships	12,500
Promotion & Publicity Local Project (Fresh Finesse)	24,000
Administration	148,060
APC Administration Charge	45,000

APC fee for service charge

POME FRUIT effective from 1 January 2015

Type of fruit	\$/kg
Fresh fruit — apples, pears, Nashi, other	0.015
Processing fruit	0.005
Biosecurity FFS for fresh fruit	0.002
Biosecurity FFS for processing fruit	0.001

From the Pomewest

Executive Manager



BY NARDIA STACY
EXECUTIVE MANAGER,
POMEWEST

Harvest for 2018 is well and truly done, and I know growers that are hoping for better results in the retail market this year are reliant on the excitement of local, high quality, new season fruit being available.

On reflection, the industry has been fortunate with no eventful weather conditions affecting the crop. Other regions of the country have encountered extreme heat or storm events which have been quite devastating. Here in the West we have seen fairly decently sized apples harvested with sound colour development. That means there is quite a high volume of fruit available on the local market. Unfortunately, the returns prior to this season have not been matching the costs to produce so developing new markets is necessary to stay in front. As we get better at increasing production, as an industry we need to look further than the local market and export development is necessary.

Looking forward and positively, on the wish list I am sure this winter is some solid precipitation and chill over the next few months to nicely set up the 2019 season.

The Pomewest committee will continue to support projects this coming financial year that create opportunities for WA growers and industry.

New projects

Market access focused projects

1. Medfly Surveillance Network — Donnybrook to Bridgetown

Ashmere Consulting will continue the high quality pest surveillance data collection for a further two years which will be a useful tool and insurance policy to gain, maintain and improve market access for the WA industry.

2. Apple disinfestation for market access

Two projects managed by Francis DeLima including 50% support of an application for an Export Competitiveness Grant for Cold Chain disinfestation and quality management of BRAVO™ apples market access. These projects will give the apple industry a scientific basis for pursuing quarantine market access negotiations with our current pest status.

3. Systems approach for market access

Project managed by Kim James, Pomewest are proud to be a contributor to the recently announced Horticulture Innovation-funded project between the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and CSIRO looking at systematic pest management and monitoring to access new export markets.



POMEWEST

Harvest done and dusted.



Photos: Newton Orchards, Manjimup

This project means that orchards in Manjimup and Pemberton are now part of a new four-year research project aiming to boost exports of Western Australian apples to valuable northern Asian markets. The WA case study is part of a broader national collaboration between industry, researchers and regulators to help Australian horticultural businesses realise export market opportunities by developing a systems approach. Systems approaches consider the combined effect of monitoring programs, good in-field management, grading in the packinghouse and other steps that are part of good agricultural practice.

The Innovative Orchardist Project

Susie Murphy White will run a new project which builds on the enthusiasm and momentum gained from the success of the recent NZ Study Tour. The outcome is to encourage positivity for the future of the WA industry. This will provide opportunities to connect with like-minded growers, by feeding conversations and changing practices. It also includes involvement in State and National conferences. The rationale being that up and coming orchardists need to be upskilled and encouraged to ensure a vibrant industry for the future.

Baseline fungicide resistance to levels of WA isolates of apple scab project

Andrew Taylor of DPIRD will manage this new project for the industry, which aims to understand the level of fungicides with the WA population of apple scab. This will provide growers with the knowledge about the efficacy of their current management programs.

Continuing projects

Adoption of New Technologies Project

Susie Murphy White continues with her technical industry development based role with Pomewest.

This project aims to ensure growers see the benefit of national levied funds returned to on ground adoption activities.

This includes:

- Crop estimates
- Value Add — Future Orchards
- Communications
- Integrated Pest, Disease and Weed Management Program
- Healthy Soils

As such the Future Orchards walk on 7th June at Newton's Starkie Road Orchard with Pruning for Fruit Quality theme will be reported in the next spring edition of *WA Grower*.

Apple and Pear Promotion

Noelene Swain of Fresh Finesse will continue to run promotional activities focused at raising the profile and increasing demand for pome fruit to improve produce profitability. Activities will incorporate target groups and themes including, School programs, Media and PR support, events like the Royal Show and running industry based social media.

Markers, Markets and Validated Nutritional Qualities of WA bred Australian Apples

There is retention of the key research momentum that has been established over the past eight years. The underlying goal of both lines of research is to increase consumption and value of WA-bred and grown apples. The program focuses on two lines of research primarily validation of the dietary effects of WA-bred apples on cardiovascular health and developing metabolic and genetic markers to identify WA-bred apples with elite levels of quercetin, and underpin marker-assisted breeding.

Recently media report to consumers includes a Today Tonight story — WA Researchers discover apple skins hidden benefits report with Catherine and Nicola Bondonno March 2018 Ref: <https://thewest.com.au/news/today-tonight/wa-researchers-discover-apple-skins-hidden-benefits-bc-5747469478001>

Maturity Standards

Legislation has been questioned by the State Government's Regulatory Gatekeeping Unit (RGU). It has queried what impact would be made by regulations and questioned their necessity. Rohan Prince, Director of Irrigated Agriculture at DPIRD has recommended research and reporting to be provided before the industry can continue.

Rohan reported that the main issues which would be a motivator for the legislation were health and safety concerns, issues with immature fruit — is there enough evidence to show that a problem exists and would the cost of setting standards outweigh the benefits to consumers. Rohan has indicated that DPIRD are happy to continue to support industry to be better prepared to provide more evidence to the RGU for the need of the legislation.

The committee are committed to this project and are budgeting to resource the implementation of self-regulation in the first instance. This is necessary to collect more data to verify the necessity for quality assurance for consumers which will impact increased demand and repeat buying. Further actions include:

- voluntary sign up for WA and Eastern State growers and suppliers
- looking to other industries and global case studies to support the advantages of consumer preference for good tasting fruit and relevance to sales
- engagement of policy officer to assist us with re-writing our submission for legislation
- look at point of retail — defining quality markers for both WA and imported fruit
- production of an information pack and booklet to assist growers to self-test to the proposed standards
- incorporate the Future Orchards program for sensory evaluation and consumer preferences
- look at a preliminary impact statement for growers to assess and manage the implementation of standards
- Continue testing programs for local and imported fruit for maturity and quality at retail including looking at storage and handling
- Look to HIA to leverage funding of this project as a pilot program.

Biosecurity

With the recent QFly detections in Como and Fremantle and the Marmorated Stink bug in Jandakot, biosecurity remains a high priority for all horticultural industries. The Committee is committed to protect the industry and endeavours to work with DPIRD to build on strategies to decrease incidents. Our biosecurity fund is growing with approximately \$270,000 of FFS funds already collected with budgets of \$60,000 forecast for collection in the new financial year. Pomewest are planning to develop further a strategy on how these funds will be expended based on a strategic risk analysis on a pest by pest and disease basis, and the impact to the future of the industry. We are also in discussion to appoint a biosecurity officer to assist us prepare for the future with the possibility of additional funding offered by DPIRD.



Biosecurity remains a high priority for all horticultural industries.

Industry Sponsorships in 2018

Pomewest will continue their commitment to promote regional events on behalf of the Apple and Pear industry, provided that reporting of impact and outcomes of the funding are observed.

News and events

Changes to the Horticulture Award

Pomewest will assist growers with information as it comes to hand about the implications of the proposed changes. Communications have already been distributed on this subject. APAL will continue to talk with key stakeholders and politicians about how the proposed changes will impact growers and the industry. The Fair Work Commission will make a public statement if and when these changes occur. APAL will keep industry informed and assist growers to understand these changes. APAL encourages businesses that are concerned to ask expert advice and will help facilitate these connections.

Hort Connections 2018 Brisbane 18–20 June

We are very much looking forward to this event. Wayne Ghilarducci along with Susie Murphy White and myself will be there representing the Pomewest Committee and the WA industry. We will be engaging in APAL events including the Industry speed updates and engagement with other State Industry bodies to discuss mutual priorities and develop more strategies to better working relationships. Terry Martella (WA Grower) and Susie Murphy White (Pomewest) have been nominated at the Conferences Gala Dinner for awards for Innovation and Women in Horticulture respectively. We are very proud to have these WA representatives recognised for these awards and we wish them the best of luck.

The 64th Donnybrook Easter Apple Festival Easter 31 March – 1 April.

Thanks to Susie Murphy White for organising the industry's presence at this event. It was well supported by the local community and many visitors from the 'big smoke' made their way down to have some fun over the Easter weekend. See full report on page 84 of this edition.

Sam Kerr — WA grown Ambassador for BRAVO™

The BRAVO™ branded apple has partnered with Soccer Superstar Samantha Kerr as the ambassador for 2018. More on this announcement on page 81.

Finally, we are always looking to improve our communications and services to you. This includes how we can better engage with all growing regions.

I encourage you to contact myself, staff or committee members at any time. This way, we can provide better engagement with you. We will take on board any feedback or suggestions on how we can improve your FFS benefits and look to you to assist us to choose projects relevant to build and progress the industry. 🍏

MORE INFORMATION ►

Contact Nardia Stacy on (08) 9368 3869 or nardia@pomewest.net.au

bravo™ Sam Kerr!

Westfield Matilda's, Perth Glory and Chicago Red striker, Samantha Kerr has announced an Ambassador role for Australia's new apple, the Bravo™ Apple.

BRAVO™ are an exciting and unique Western Australian bred apple that has a distinct sweetness, moderate to high crisp and crunch, and a striking burgundy colour. Grown, graded and packed in Australia, Bravo™ Apples are the result of more than two decades of research and development with an impressive tree pedigree.

Jenny Mercer from Bravo™ Apples said, "we are thrilled to have Sam on board as our Ambassador. As an elite athlete Sam values nutrition and sustenance and the Bravo™ Apple provides Australian's with just that. Partnering with a global athlete like Sam is extremely exciting and together, we look forward to engaging local Australian communities and letting them experience the unique benefits of Bravo™ Apples."

Sam Kerr is thrilled with the partnership and said, "I love that this new apple has been grown in Australia by our rural communities. Not only do Bravo™ Apples taste amazing, the skin is full of incredible anti-oxidants that make them the perfect healthy snack choice.

"I've been lucky to have parents who really encouraged us to eat lots of fruit and vegetables, but I know not all kids have that. I'd especially like to encourage kids dreaming of playing for Australia to start crunching on lots of fruits and vegetables, especially Bravo™ Apples!" 🍏🍏🍏

MORE INFORMATION ▶

Contact Nardia Stacy, Executive Officer on [08] 9368 3869 or go to: www.bravoapples.com.au



Sam's records and notable awards include:

- Young Australian of the Year
- Fox Sports Performer of the Year
- International Federation of Football History World Women's Team of The Year
- ABC Sports Personality of the Year
- Asian Football Confederation Women's Player of the Year
- Women's Health Sportsperson of the Year
- Julie Dolan Medal Winner 2018
- W-League Golden Boot Award

bravoapples.com.au

Pre-planting treatments for apples on old apple ground



BY SUSIE MURPHY WHITE
PROJECT MANAGER,
POMEWEST

A Future Orchards demonstration site was set up in 2017, testing the effectiveness of different pre-planting treatments when planting onto old apple ground at Trevor and Carmel Fontanini's Orchard in Manjimup.

Old apple ground can harbour apple replant disease (ARD) which reduces new tree growth and production by around 20% per annum for the whole trees life. The demonstration site tested biofumigant plants as two different mixes of Mustard, Rocket and Ethiopian Cabbage, a product containing beneficial bacteria, the chemical fumigant chloropicrin against the standard practice treatment of metham sodium.

This demonstration site came about through the interest of the grower Joe Fontanini and the Future Orchards Community Orchard Group in biofumigation and to see if it would have any positive effects for apple tree growth after seeing their neighbouring vegetable grower's trial the practice. There was also interest in applying beneficial bacteria to the trees to support the growth and development of the trees by improving the soil health.

But Steve Spark experienced AgFirst consultant impressed upon us how well chloropicrin could work for apples and couldn't understand why WA apple growers were not using the product in all new plantings. As in New Zealand,

applying chloropicrin before planting has been standard practice for many years. While in Manjimup it was considered too expensive to get an accredited contractor to apply the product.

It was expected that all these treatments would improve tree survival rates when planting new varieties of apples into old apple ground. But it was thought that the beneficial bacteria and biofumigation options would be better for soil health.

Biofumigants

Biofumigation is the practice of using plants from the Brassicaceae family that produce toxic chemicals to suppress soil borne pathogens and break the life cycle of pests and diseases.

The Brassica crop is mulched at early flowering stage and Glucosinolate gas is released and macerated within hours of mulching.

The demonstration site tested two different biofumigation seed mixes:

- David Grays Green Fume which consisted of 90% Mustard and 10% Rocket planted at 20kg/ha on 22nd May 2017.
- PGG Wrightson Seeds BQ Mulch which consisted of 75% Ethiopian Cabbage and 25% Mustard planted at 10kg/ha on 22nd May 2017.

Both mustard mixes were cut, mulched and ploughed in after reaching flowering stage then left for three weeks so that the biofumigation activity could occur and the plant material could break down.



▶ **TOP:** On the day of mulching and ploughing to incorporate the biofumigant plants (17th September 2017).

▶ **ABOVE:** The Green Fume treatment block, Joe Fontanini shows how well the biofumes had grown.

Beneficial bacteria

Serenade® Prime from Bayer was applied via a soil drench to each tree at a rate of 35mL per tree at the time of planting. Serenade® Prime contains viable spores of the highly active QST 713 strain of *Bacillus subtilis*. These beneficial bacteria live on the plant root surfaces and in the soil around the plant roots. The beneficial relationship between the plant roots and the bacteria can enhance plant growth and productivity. If applied at planting and during root flushes it can play a role in improved nutrient exchange, crop vigour and uniformity.

- ▶ CHLOROPICRIN being applied by licensed contractor (25th August 2017).
- ▶ INSET: Growth of Chloropicrin trees March 2018.

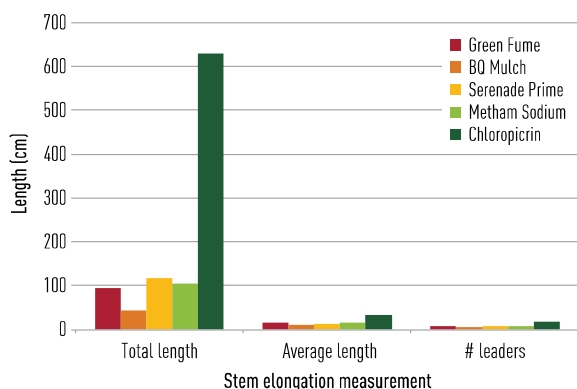


FIGURE 1 Stem elongation of each treatment showing the total length of leaders, average length of leaders and the average number of leaders per tree

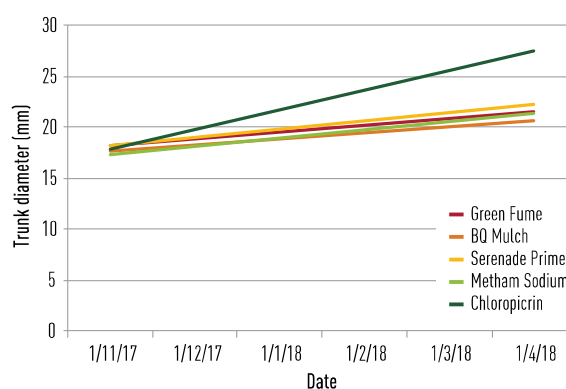


FIGURE 2 Average trunk diameter growth between November and April for the different pre-planting treatments

Chloropicrin

Rural Telone C-60 has a high chloropicrin content and is better for use in heavier, wetter, colder soils where rapid volatilising will allow for quicker release of the product from the soil to prevent the need for extended plant-back periods. It targets soil-borne disease as well as helping to control Parasitic Nematodes, and suppression of weed.

An accredited contractor (A-Gas® Rural) applied the Rural Telone C-60 at a rate of 300L/ha. This needed to be applied at least three weeks prior to planting to avoid any phytotoxic effects. The trees were planted six weeks after treatment.

A block of Fiero® Fuji was planted on 12th October 2017 onto ground that in the previous years had grown Fuji apples at 5m row spacing and 3m tree spacing on MM105 rootstock. The new planting was planted at 3.5m row spacing and 0.8m tree spacing on MM106 rootstock under sprinkler irrigation. Planting was delayed until the Brassicas reached flowering to ensure that there was plenty of gas to be released into the soil profile.

All fumigant practices required at least three weeks and rainfall before planting could commence. The block received

at least 100mm of rainfall from mid-September to mid-October, before planting.

In each treatment five trees are being monitored for their growth rate using trunk diameter and stem elongation until the end of the Future Orchards project (2021) (see Figure 1).

The initial growth rates after the first leaf have shown the Chloropicrin treated trees to be amazing with the stem elongation six times longer and more than double the amount of leaders on each tree.

The Chloropicrin treated trees had trunk diameters that were greater by more than 5mm compared with the trees treated with the other products, and only small differences between the other treatments (see Figure 2). Grower Joe Fontanini was 'surprised by the growth results of the chloropicrin treatment. There is very noticeable shoot growth compared to the other four treatment areas. Other treatment areas are very similar at this point, it will be interesting to see next seasons growth.'

The survival rate of trees in the Chloropicrin treatment has not been as good, with eight trees having died at the

time of the first monitoring. 'Trees on MM106 rootstock planted into old ground are prone to root disease and M26 would have been a better option' said Joe at the time of investigating the tree deaths.

While the Chloropicrin treatment has given the trees a good start by reducing the effect of possible ARD, the Biofumigation and beneficial bacteria have the potential to improve soil health by improving organic matter, soil biology, nutrient cycling and holding capacity, water infiltration and holding capacity and overall microbial activity. Time will tell if the benefits of improved soil health will enable to the trees to become good producers of quality Fiero® Fuji apples. 🍏🍏

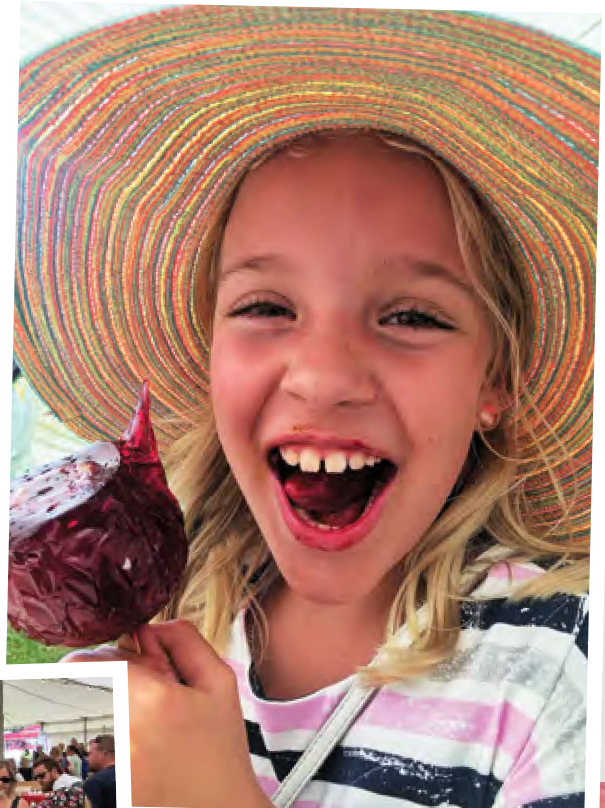
MORE INFORMATION ▶

Thank you to our suppliers of the products used in this demonstration; David Grays, PGG Wrightson Seeds, Bayer and A-Gas Rural. Thank you to Pomewest for funding the soil and nematode tests. APAL's Future Orchards Project and Steve Spark, AgFirst NZ. Growers Trevor, Carmel, Joe and Lucy Fontanini are thanked for implementing the trial in their orchard.



LiveLighter Donnybrook Apple Festival Harvest & Arts

BY JESS DILLEY¹ & SUSIE MURPHY WHITE²
¹ SECRETARY APPLE FESTIVAL
² POMEWEST



PRODUCE tent fruit sales.



TOFFEE apple delight



Our colouring competition winners.



The Easter week end was again alive with festival goers tasting locally grown apples, pears and plums in the produce tent.

There was an estimated 8000 people who attended the event over the week end. People had the chance to try some of the newer varieties of apples and pears, then purchase a box of fresh fruit to take home. The fruit sales were extremely busy over the week end selling over 250 boxes of fruit raising \$5,079. Thanks to local sponsors ERCEG Holdings and Kingwood Heights Orchard for the supply of Kanzi, Greenstar, Fuji and Gala Supreme apples, Josephine, Packham, Corella and Beurre Bosc pears and two plum varieties.

Outside the produce tent apple slinkies and apple smoothie bowls were being made for everyone to snack on while at the festival. Plus you couldn't go home without trying an old fashioned toffee apple made by the CWA ladies, Yum!

We saw four happy children go home with Aussie Apple footballs after completing the Pomewest Colouring Competition, while waiting to get their faces painted.

The weather was just perfect, the entertainment was amazing, and the produce tent worked really well this year. Thank you Pomewest, for supporting the LiveLighter Donnybrook Apple Festival Harvest and Arts. 🍏🍏🍏