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APC—Pomewest FFS Income 2019–20

Project	\$
General Account Budget including FFS, Project Grant Funding APAL, HIA and DPIRD and Fruit West Co-operative	588,710
Biosecurity Account Budget (FFS)	60,000

APC—Pomewest expenditure general account 2019–20

Project	\$
New technology project (Susie Murphy White)	90,000
Maturity standards legislation & compliance	40,000
Medfly surveillance trapping network (Ashmere Consulting)	61,557
Systems approach to market access	40,000
Disinfestation & quality management of BRAVO apples in the cold chain for market access (DPIRD & Fruit West Co-operative are co-funders)	229,280
Other projects	15,000
Annual meetings and communications	15,000
Industry sponsorships & association memberships	4,800
Promotion & publicity local project (Fresh Finesse)	37,500
Administration including salary and office costs	165,567
APC charge @10% of FFS income	45,000
Total	743,704

APC - Pomewest expenditure biosecurity account 2019–20

Project	\$
Codling moth (DPIRD)	35,000
Biosecurity Liaison Officer	15,000
APC charge @10% of FFS income	6,000
Total	56,000

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

Season update



BY NARDIA STACY
 EXECUTIVE MANAGER,
 POMEWEST

Committee news and industry engagement

This time of the year marks the commencement of the 2020 season. Before the orchard activity really ramps up, Pomewest hit the road to visit the State's three major growing areas.

The grower dinner meetings were held as part of our 2019 engagement activity between the dates of the 19–26 August in Donnybrook, Manjimup and Perth Hills. The dinners' attracted over 60 pome fruit producers.

Participants were encouraged to contribute to discussion promoting consultancy, communication and networking for the WA pome industry. Each event gave us a valuable insight to providing future services to our growers. In particular to gather an understanding of state industry goals for the next five years. We will share our findings and progress of the strategies going forward in future editions of the WA Grower.

August Committee Meeting

A Pomewest Committee Meeting was held on 19 August prior to the Donnybrook dinner held at Blue Moon Packshed, Kirup. The meeting followed an agenda consisting of seasonal updates in the regions, acceptance of the



► GROWER dinner meetings held during August.



"Spring is the time of plans and projects."

Leo Tolstoy, Anna Karenina.



► APAL Award winners John Hearman, Bec Whittaker and Harvey Giblett.

financial statements for 2019–20, ratifying resolutions of business and project final updates and reports, and discussion on strategic planning for 2020–25. Pome growers were invited to contact committee members to add any industry comment for discussion. The minutes of the meeting are available to our growers and can be circulated on request.

The Hort Connections and APAL Industry Forum

Myself, Susie and around 15 growers including three committee members attended this event. The APAL Forum program was well organised, each of the forum speakers were relevant and all focused on solutions to build the sector.

We learnt that increasing demand by the delivery and maintenance of quality is the single most influential factor, along with finding innovative ways to invigorate excitement to the category.

Diversity by securing market access and building global trading relationships for the future is critical for industry expansion. Gathering marketing and promotional learnings from other fresh food sectors and exporting regions is also key.

There was plenty of opportunity for the attendees to network with the horticulture industry as a whole, and whilst we are WA focused there are many benefits of being involved in a national coalition. The networks between the States means we have access to first hand learnings from experiences and landscapes — particularly recent incidences of climatic trauma and food safety.

Other memorable points:

- 1 Are farmers professional gamblers? There is value in knowing more about your business by embracing benchmarking for the collection and analysis of data to measure efficiencies and minimise risk.
- 2 Globally, factors such as the demand of food is increasing, global warming is a reality, health — the longing of the majority to stay forever young, and technology advances are changing rapidly.
- 3 Finding better ways to the consumer, then utilising these mindsets to create innovative stories to inspire. Never forgetting the value of locally grown and promoting provenance.
- 4 Export, demanding and recognising that better quality will equate to better prices. Finding purposeful markets and the ability to take

Pomewest continues to work with Worksafe to ensure safe workplaces.

learning from other sectors who have had success in the field.

- 5 Acceptance of new global trends such as the shift to plant based diets/anti-plastic packaging and being reactive and proactive to the opportunities they generate.

APAL award winners

WA excelled at the APAL Awards Breakfast this year with three award winners, an outcome that recognised each person's unique passion and dedication to our industry. It was wonderful to see them all recognised nationally for their contributions. Details on page 66.

Work Safe

Pomewest continues to work with Worksafe to ensure safe workplaces for the Industry's orchards and workers. We will be working for the industry to assist growers and update you with the outcomes as soon as they come to hand.

Biosecurity Liaison officer

The Banana, Pome, Citrus and Stone Fruit APC Committees are collaborating together with supporting funding from DPIRD to engage Horticulture Liaison Officer/s for a project that will provide industry biosecurity representation, contact points, preparedness for biosecurity incidents, pest lists, guidelines and grower interaction and communication sessions and publications. The Pome component of the funding \$15,000 will be an expense item from the biosecurity account.

This edition

We continue to report on some of key learnings and grower feedback on the national Hort Connections conference, particularly the APAL Industry Forum. We have an outcome report article by Andrew (DPIRD) on his finding of the baseline fungicide resistance for apple scab, Susie reports details on the June Future Orchard Walk.

MORE INFORMATION ►

In closing this report, I again welcome you to contact myself, Susie or Committee members at any time to discuss any industry matters. Nardia Stacy on (08) 9368 3869 or nardia@pomewest.net.au

Hort Connections 2019 Growing Our Food Future

This year's APAL Industry forum at the Melbourne Convention Centre started with a focus on the big picture with futurist Dr Stefan Hajkovicz from CSIRO looking at the mega trends impacting on the Australian consumers. This strategic thinking then took us through a wide-ranging agenda, from AgriTech and SmartFarming to export readiness and risk management.

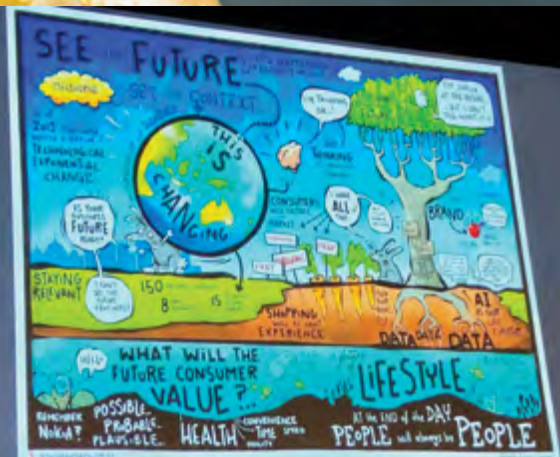
The launch of the new Future Business program started with a panel discussion exploring the idea of 'Discretionary Mutual Funds'. This topic was a result of insurance premiums rocketing. Could the industry come together to investigate alternative risk-management structures that could benefit growers and replace traditional insurances? Richelle Zeally from APAL will follow this project through in the new Future Business program.

The state associations formed a panel with the discussion focusing on the theme of 'Stronger Together'. Climatic challenges and extreme weather events including record temperature highs, bushfires, hailstorms and related bird infestations were discussed, along with valuable tips on systems and processes. WA led the way with the successes of the maturity standards project highlighted by Nardia Stacy.

"I learnt a lot about the growing and production of apples and pears, I had the pleasure of meeting plenty of people in the industry from all different sectors. This was a massive positive of the trip for me as I was able to make connections with people that hopefully can benefit me for years to come."

WA Young Grower Network attendee

The industry forum was attended by 180 members from across Australia.



► L-R: APAL Industry forum, State Associations panel discussion. Plenary session at Hort Connections 2019.

Grower highlights from the conference

"The highlight of the trip was the Corteva networking evening at the Aquarium."

"I really enjoyed the motivational speakers. The Tradeshow was good to network with businesses and consultants freely."

"This being my first experience of this type of event, it was interesting to see the amount of farmers that attend the conference and the various industry around the farm."

"The importance of prepare now for the future, thinking of the shape of the orchard to be ready for future innovation like robotic picking."



► L-R: Mario Cassotti, Karragullen Cool Store, congratulating Bec Whittaker, Ladycroft Orchard, on her award for Women in Horticulture Apples and Pears. Sheree and John Hearman at the Horticulture awards dinner.

The day concluded with the thought provoking 'Finding Something' presentation from Cameron Schwab former AFL club CEO of Melbourne and Fremantle, who made us all reflect on how we can be leaders to make change happen.

The industry forum was attended by 180 members from across Australia. This year WA had 15 representatives at the forum with three young growers represented on the APAL young member network, three growers nominated for the APAL awards plus representatives from Pomewest and APAL board. I'm sure they have all brought back some great new ideas to share in their orchard and within the industry.

The Hort Connections conference began with the trade show, which was definitely a highlight with over 300 exhibitors at the Melbourne convention centre.

The conference brought together growers, wholesalers, researchers, marketers and many others connected with the fresh produce horticulture industry in all about 3500 people attended this year.

The plenary sessions set to inspire the audience on 'How to Grow our Food Future'. How will we feed 10 billion people a healthy diet by 2050?

Dr Sandro Demaio from ABC Ask the Doctor set the goal even higher with his aim 'To feed 9.6 billion people a healthy diet AND have a healthy

planet'. His message was that diets have to shift to fruit, vegetables, nuts, whole grains and seeds being the main course and our plate needs to be half the size. All speakers in the morning's plenary session definitely were focused on making sure plants were the new main course.



After two full days of talks and trade show the conference wrapped up with the horticulture awards for excellence dinner at the Crown Palladium.

Congratulations to our APAL award winners!

Always so exciting to go to industry events and have our growers recognised for the great work that they are doing here in WA. Well done to Harvey Giblett, Bec Whittaker and John Hearman who received APAL awards at breakfast before the APAL Industry forum and were nominated for the Awards for Excellence in Horticulture.

Bec Whittaker Women Horticulture Award Apples and Pears

Bec Whittaker is the Orchard Manager of Ladycroft Orchard in Manjimup WA. It is her passion for growing and empowering her staff that makes her a worthy candidate for Grower of the Year but as most of her fulltime staff (seven out of 10) are also women she is well placed to be Women in Horticulture winner. Her leadership as Orchard Manager empowers her team to take pride in their work and to achieve higher yields per hectare, more uniform colour and size reducing the number of picks while moving towards a more two-dimensional intensive apple orchard.

Her enthusiasm spreads throughout the orchard empowering her staff of mainly women to take on the challenges of producing great apples.

John Hearman Rising Star Award

John Hearman is a young grower who has taken on the lead role at Hearman Ag, a family owned business located on Charleys Creek Road in Donnybrook. John has been heavily involved in the business for over 16 years since finishing school in 2003. He now takes on the manager's role in the orchard business. The last few years have seen John diversify into growing his own apple trees. Setting up a nursery on their property and now being able to supply other growers with high quality apple trees.

John's nursery is special as he is growing bench graft apple trees within a year in bags that can be transplanted without the shock that goes along with uplifting bare root trees.

The establishment of these trees into new orchards or as fillers into recent plantings at anytime of the year see's John's innovative thinking paying off as trees are fast tracked and established much quicker than bare root trees.





▶ **APPLE** scab fruit infection during the 2018–19 season.

Growers need to be vigilant and monitor for scab lesions in spring.



Fungicides still a key weapon against apple scab in WA

BY ANDREW TAYLOR¹, LINCOLN HARPER² AND FRAN LOPEZ RUIZ²

¹ DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DPIRD)

² CENTRE FOR CROP AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT, CURTIN UNIVERSITY

New research from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and Curtin University's Centre for Crop and Disease Management, funded by APC Pomewest, has confirmed that fungicides are still an effective tool in the fight against apple scab.

Apple scab, caused by the fungus *Venturia inaequalis*, has been present in WA for several years after WA lost its area freedom in 2009.

The distribution of *V. inaequalis* in WA is restricted, partially due to regular application of fungicides, slowing the spread of the disease within the state.

However, the reliance on fungicides for control from the same mode of action group increases the likelihood of resistance developing. This is of concern because *V. inaequalis* is considered by world authorities to be a high-risk organism for developing fungicide resistance¹.

The research

As we do not know the origin of the apple scab in WA, a collaborative project between DPIRD and the Centre for Crop and Disease Management (CCDM) at Curtin University was funded by APC Pomewest to investigate and develop an understanding of the baseline levels of key fungicides within the WA population. During the 2018–19 season, orchards were surveyed for the presence of apple scab and isolates were cultured and sent to CCDM for testing. CCDM tested each isolate for both phenotypic (field) and genotypic (mutations) resistance within the populations of *V. inaequalis*. Pear scab (*V. pirina*) was also included in the survey as a comparison, as this pathogen has been in WA for many years.



▶ **APPLE** scab infection showing olive-green lesions on the surface of the leaf.

Image © Andrew Taylor

¹ FRAC Fungicide Resistance Action Committee.

A total of seventeen isolates of *V. inaequalis* and nine isolates of *V. pirina* were successfully cultured from fourteen apple and pear orchards in WA. Apple scab was isolated from commercial orchards in the Perth Hills and Donnybrook growing regions as well as from a retail store in Bunbury. Infected apple cultivars included: Cripps pink, Granny Smith, Sundowner, Gala and ANABP 01^ϕ (BRAVO™).

All isolates were tested against fungicides from four modes of action: DMI's (Group 3), QoI (Group 11), AP (Group 9) and SDHI's (Group 7).

With respect to apple scab, a range of sensitivities were found amongst the isolates for the DMI and SDHI groups, but field control is still achievable.

Each of the tested QoI fungicides were still effective and no mutations were found in the genetic region known for resistance development.

Two isolates showed significant sensitivity shifts with AP fungicides, but remained below the effective level of control. All isolates have been lodged in the DPIRD culture collection to compare isolates for resistance in later years.

What does this mean for industry?

- Apple scab is now established in WA, although not widespread in all commercial production areas
- Growers in the Perth Hills should include scab control as part of their disease management plans
- All growers need to be vigilant and monitor for scab lesions in spring, paying particular attention to new plantings. New growth is highly susceptible to infection

- ANABP 01^ϕ (BRAVO™) is susceptible to apple scab
- All currently registered fungicide groups are still effective against apple scab in WA but ranges of sensitivities occur
- The Croplife Australia website (www.croplife.org.au) has the current fungicide resistance management guidelines for apple scab and these should be followed to reduce resistance risk
- A report on the project is available from Pomewest. 🍏

MORE INFORMATION ►

For more information, contact Pomewest executive manager Nardia Stacy on (08) 9368 3869 or nardia@fruitwest.org.au

Growers should include scab control as part of their disease management plans.



Harvey Giblett

Thank you & congratulations

We thank you, Harvey Giblett for your contribution to the WA Pome industry and community over your working life, which has been nothing short of exceptional. It would be difficult to find an equal in any other sector. This year, as Harvey retires from his position of Chair of Pomewest, he will be stepping away from his esteemed industry leadership role for the time being. Not lost to us forever, it is likely he will remain as a member of the Pomewest Committee so his expertise and experience will still be there to draw on in the future.





► **FAMILY** business — Harvey with daughters Lucinda and Nicole, and grandchildren, Sacha and Jasper.

“Harvey is a dedicated man and WA’s own apple industry’s living legend, it was excellent to see him recognised on the national stage.”

MARK SCOTT, CHAIR POMEWEST

It was extremely pleasing to see Harvey being publicly recognised for his contributions in the presence of the entire Australian apple industry at the recent APAL Awards Breakfast on June 24 in Melbourne. Along with fellow esteemed nominee Jon Durham (former APAL CEO), the Lifetime Achievement award was presented to both men in appreciation of their work and commitment to the industry over many years. Harvey was very unaware of his nomination, so the accolade came as a complete surprise, which was truly fantastic for a small number of WA growers and representatives, who were in the room, to witness and celebrate.

As most of our readers are aware, Harvey is the owner and manager of a prominent Western Australian pome fruit production, packaging and marketing company — Newton Orchards of Manjimup.

The business was established in 1929 by Harvey’s father in law George Newton and George’s brother Harold, young English migrants. Over 80 years, Newton Orchards has built a strong reputation for trusted and progressive fruit growing, storage, packing and marketing with integrity, to supply primarily Western Australia, but also eastern seaboard and international markets.

Overseeing a team including some of the country’s best orchard managers, Harvey’s five Manjimup properties together produce the second largest fruit tonnage in WA, approximately 7000t across a number of varieties, supplying fruit to WA, eastern states and export markets through major retailers, independent retailers and wholesale markets.

In particular, Newtons has strong direct relationships with Coles (30 years) and Woolworths (10 years) which are pivotal to West Australia’s year-round apple supply.

The business is still family-owned and operated, with an underpinning philosophy of innovation and excellence — the vast majority of this progress and reputation can be attributed to Harvey’s tenure at the helm. With anywhere up to around 300 itinerant staff working for Newton Orchards at certain times during the year, to produce around six million kilos of apples, Harvey’s career

has entailed highly successful staff management and duty of care.

In recent years’ he has inspired the next generations to join him in the business — his three children, Nicole, Michael and Lucinda, son-in-law Paul Good, and his young grandchildren Jasper, Sacha, Riley and Anna are the fourth generation now growing up on the orchard.

Harvey’s five Manjimup properties together produce approximately 7000t.

Harvey has driven constant revision and improvement of orchard techniques and is always at the forefront of trialing and assisting development of new technologies, including the locally developed Cripps Pink and ANABP 01[®] varieties (marketed as Pink Lady and BRAVO™ respectively).

He has championed efforts to lift the quality standards of apples though the current WA industry-led Apple Maturity Project and is keen to re-establish an export market for WA grown apples.

Harvey remains extremely well-respected for his expertise, knowledge and altruism. He is known for his willingness to disseminate and share valuable information among both local growers and competitors within the industry for the “greater good” of Western Australian pome fruit production.

On behalf of the apple and pear community in Western Australia — a much deserved win, well done Harvey and thank you! 🍏

Future Orchards

Spring Orchard Walk



BY SUSIE MURPHY WHITE
PROJECT MANAGER,
POMEWEST/FRONT LINE
ADVISOR FOR FUTURE
ORCHARDS

Future Orchards Project has been going now for 13 years and is the most successful tech transfer project that Hort Innovation have funded.

In the past five years since I have been involved in the FLA we have had 13 orchard walks at 11 different orchards, eight trials on seven different orchards, two focus orchards, six growers each year involved in the Orchard Business Analysis and 10 or more growers recording fruit sizes each year. There are also five growers on the Community Orchard Group who give input into the trial selection and project outcomes. In the last part of the project it's time to



► **WINTER** Orchard walk in orchard discussion at T & C Fontanini.

consider what the next round of future orchards may look like so talk to your local APAL representative (or myself) to ensure the next project reflects what growers need to improve production, quality, profitability and sustainability.

The current theme has been about climate change and climate change mitigation. The next Orchard Walk will move into the next theme of the 'Future

Orchard' and will cover the bigger picture of what the orchard of the future will look like and how growers need to position themselves to take advantage of all that this includes.

The Spring Future Orchards Walk will be at our focus orchard — Michael, Kaye and Mat Fox of Pemberton on Monday 18th November.

Here we will view and discuss the following trials in the orchard; pruning the tops under nets, pollination under netting and outside the net. This year we are set to investigate the benefits of SNAP pruning on V trellis vs Click pruning on single leader and grafting over poor coloured Rosy Glow to a high colour strain using bench and step grafts.

Make sure you come along in November and discuss the orchard of the future. 🍎

MORE INFORMATION ►

Contact Susie Murphy White: (08) 9777 0151 or susan.murphy-white@dpird.wa.gov.au



► **POLLINATION** under nets trial site at Foxes.

Spring Future Orchard Walk
18th November 2019
Pemberton

