

Olives New Zealand  
Synopsis Minutes of Executive Meeting  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023  
7pm, Zoom

**1. Present**

Craig Leaf-Wright (President), Tricia Noble-Beasley (Vice President), Charles Chinnaiyah (Treasurer)  
Geoff Crawford, Chris Moore, Hamilton McConachy, Neil Smith, Ray Gregory, Emma Glover

**2. Apologies**

**3. Previous Meeting Minutes**

Read as true and correct. All matters arising covered in agenda items.

**4. Financials – November 23**

Presented by Charles.

Budget Variance - Since the last report the Awards have been completed with all income and expenses loaded. There is a variance of 15% from income received to budget. Both the Awards Event Income and Awards Sponsorship are also both significantly down. However the reduction in the Awards costs has resulted in just under a \$1000 loss. This is not as bad as we thought it was going to be.

P&L Project Breakdown shows ONZ making a profit of \$7,100 to date. Emma's costs and a few other smaller expenses for December to still come out before the EOY.

The Balance Sheet shows the General Bank account has more money in the account than the end of 2022. The end of 2022 ONZ had to pay two months of Emma and Gayle overlap, which significantly lowered the funds.

2024 Draft Budget. This is based off 2023 expenses and checked against the last four years. It is showing a low profit of \$8,380.

- There has been \$3k allocated to assisting with the website rebuild (if needed).
- A \$2k budget has been set aside for OliveMark merchandise. The OM bags have sold out. It is whether more are purchased or they are replaced with something else.
- The ONZ activities i.e. Certification, Awards, Conference etc, will all have individual budgets reviewed as work is done on the activities. Each of these will have EO time budgeted into their costs.
- The proposed new membership structure is taken into account for the budgeted Membership income.

Not allocated in the budget, but needs to be accounted for is a new ONZ laptop. The current laptop does not turn unless the power cord is plugged in. It has no depreciation value left on ONZ books. Charles suggests because of specs required for a laptop that \$3-\$4k needs to be budgeted towards a replacement. This purchase is to be done soon.

**5. Executive Officer Report**

Emma presented her report which included the final certification, awards and tasting course numbers for 2023. These were all down on the budgeted numbers, mostly due to the season. Costs had managed to be reduced to prevent the potential losses.

2024 Processors Course will be held in April. Pablo Canamasas will hold it in conjunction with his Australian course. He will confirm the date in late December, once his date for Australia is confirmed. A venue will be confirmed in Auckland, Waiheke or Northland.

#### 2024 Awards / Conference / Tastings Training Course

- Emma to confirm Muge Nebioglu from Turkey as the Head Judge for 2024, with her running a Tastings Training Course for those interested in becoming a qualified judge, and speaking at the Conference.
- Discuss venue options with Kay McMath for the judging, to see if there is a more suitable cost effective venue that suits ONZ judging needs.
- Hosting the judge with a tour of NZ regions, though nice for the regions it takes a lot of resources and adds little value. Consider alternative options for 2024.
- The most central suitable location for the Awards evening is Wellington, due to the largest membership in Wairarapa and Kapiti. Historically when moved elsewhere attendance numbers are lower. The Executive decided the Awards and conference will be moved back to Wellington for 2024. Looking at the dates around September/October the Exec agree to Awards evening being held Sat 12 October, with the following dates:
  - o Awards Entries – Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Aug- Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Sept (1 week later than 2023)
  - o Awards Judging – Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> to Wed 25<sup>th</sup> September
  - o Tasting Training Course – TBC, Mon 30<sup>th</sup> Sept to Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> October or Tue 8<sup>th</sup> Oct to Thur 10<sup>th</sup> Oct.
  - o General Membership Tasting – afternoon Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October
  - o ONZ Conference – Sat 11<sup>th</sup> October
  - o NZ EVOO Awards – Sat 11<sup>th</sup> October
  - o Field Day in Kapiti – morning Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October.

Arataki Road Field day – was the best Field Day most had attended. It was good having Stuart Tustin and Garry Burlace there to initiate the conversations and add their knowledge, but having passionate and experienced growers from all around NZ to contribute to the discussions with personal insight made a huge difference. It is beneficial to bring regions together for these discussions and people should be prepared to travel.

2024 Field Days – need to continue to focus of pruning of trees that have had regrowth after major limbs have been removed. Grove Project used to hold 2 field days a year, in March and October.

## **6. Grove Management – Spray program communication**

If your trees are flowering or about to flower, it is time to consider the annual spraying of Protec or Serenade combined with Boron.

A grove in Mangawhai has only just dried out to get their first spray on in over a year.

It is important to keep a diary for reference when planning. Craig's records show his flowering first started in 2022 on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 the 21<sup>st</sup> November and in 2020 on the 16<sup>th</sup> November.

## **7. General Business**

### **a. Branch Updates**

- Wairarapa – No quite flowering yet. Trees are showing lots of buds. Leaf loss at the top of trees could have been the wind, leaves have regrown. Some Leccino trees don't seem to have many buds.
- Kapiti – Around Rangitikei there is plenty of buds, not flowering. A grove has just sold for 2<sup>nd</sup> time this year, another 2 on the market. Hopefully new owners will be prepared to look after

the trees and prune, the trees were planted in a 3m matrix, so will need to be thinned. Trees in Rata's groves look well with massive buds. In the general Kapiti area, buds are breaking. On Noble Estate the Frantoio has already finished flowering, Mission is breaking. Everyone has good amount of buds and hopeful for a good year.

- Hawke's Bay – the budding is a bit mixed. Those that don't spray have little or no buds. Those that spray look to have a good season with lots of bud and flowers. Peak flowering season is usually end November.
- Canterbury – Massive winds 3 weeks ago, caused a lot of tree damage 4-12 trees in most established groves. The trees are 3 weeks off flowering. A few places, the younger leaves are lighter, curled and looking burnt. Neil thinks it is caused by cold (frosts) and wind burn.
- Nelson – Similar to Hawke's Bay, after such a big 2023 season, groves that do not spray or prune are going to be bi-annual, groves that are spraying are looking good. A couple of weeks away from flowering.

b. ONZ Membership

Emma presented the proposed Membership restructure. The intention to encourage more members and create a user pays system, not to increase ONZ income. The increase in income needs to be achieved by growing the membership.

The existing membership have been categorised based on their uses of ONZ activities in 2023. The pricing set to keep the Membership Income set as per 2023.

The Membership price for each is:

Hobby Members \$99, Commercial \$285, Full Member \$570, Associate Member \$285. Based on the categorisation of current members the budgeted income from Membership is \$52,100.

Changes to proposal:

- Hobby Grow – renamed Hobby Member, remove the Best Practices Manual from Hobby Grow activities.
- Members in lesser categories, need to pay to upgrade membership if they want to access activities.

The Exec approved the new Membership Proposal to take effect for the 2024 Membership.

- Emma to see what changes are needed in the database and to start communicating changes to the membership through the Newsletter. The current members will be invoiced for the 2024 Membership based on the categories they have been aligned to.
- Once marketing material is created for the new membership structure, ONZ Branch committees will need to then reach out to past members, new grove owners and do a membership drive. Processors will have a contact list of non-members they press for.

c. Grove Project Revisited 10 years on – Craig suggested holding field days to visit the initial groves 10 years later to see the results of what was done. Field days around Grove Project used to be every March and October. Summary and update could be a conference topic.

d. Olive Trees as Carbon Credits – A conversation about getting olive trees included as carbon credits has been raised a few times over the past month. We need to wait until a new Government, then can look at who we need to talk to. In the past fruit trees have been disregarded because they are deciduous, however Olive trees aren't, so need to be treated separately.

e. Testing for Pesticides – On ONZ member has been asked by their new NP3 Auditor why it is not an ONZ requirement for oils to be tested for pesticides. Pesticides are not used as part of a routine grove spray program, unless a grove was to spray for Scale. It is the responsibility of the individual groves to ensure and prove, through testing, that their products are free of residue of any products they use on their groves. Tests have been done by members for Manzate and Glyphosate as part of the Grove Project and these tested negative each times.