

Murray Valley Citrus Board Newsletter



21 August 2012

Operational Plan and Papers

There are many challenges to be addressed for Murray Valley citrus growers and the citrus industry in general in 2012/13. Export market challenges, high exchange rates and the consequent expected increase in volumes of citrus in domestic markets all pose issues, not to underestimate the huge challenge of eradicating the recent infestation of Queensland Fruit Fly (Qfly).

The Board has given careful consideration to your direct input at the recent consultative meeting and individual phone calls. The Board has taken this feedback into consideration and as a result the operational plan and budget has been amended accordingly.

Voting papers have been mailed with details of how your vote may be cast. A voting meeting will be held in Mildura on Tuesday 11th September 2012 at 3.00pm at the MVCB office. Your vote can be cast in person or by allocating a proxy. The Agricultural Industry Development Act 1990 terms require that a meeting be conducted for voting purposes with each registered citrus producer casting one vote. Ensure your vote is counted - if you know you will not be able to attend the voting meeting complete your proxy form and intentions and return to the Board ASAP.

Growers can vote in one of three ways.

- **In person** – By voting at a meeting in Mildura at the MVCB office on 11/9/2012 at 3.00pm.
- **Nominate another eligible levy paying grower** – attending the Mildura meeting as a proxy and giving that person your original ballot paper to vote on your behalf; or
- **Nominate the Chairman** – as your Proxy, who will vote on your behalf in accordance with the Board's recommendations.

Wentworth Show Society Innovative Agriculture Award

The innovative Agriculture Award is an initiative for the Wentworth Show Society, which is to be held Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th August.

The Award, sponsored by Neil and Anne Inall of Sydney and valued at \$150, is to encourage and highlight innovation, either large or small, that has made improvement in any agricultural production.

This improvement can be on farm or value adding. It can be improved product, yield, varieties or breeds, cost savings or improved farm machinery, plant, tools or handling methods. It can also include benefits to the environment.

This award also covers all crops or varieties or different livestock or seeds or other primary production, such as fish farming or forestry.

A description of the innovation or improvement should be printed in a readable form and supported with a sample, display, photographs, diagrams or drawings.

Enquiries or advice of entry should be sent to the Wentworth Show Society Steward, Michael Keenan (ph: 5027 4702) or Show Secretary, Sue McKenzie (ph. 5027 6304).

Entries need to be advised by Thursday, 23rd August to allow for space in the Food and Wine Marquee or near the Animal Nursery (for Livestock) at the Show grounds.

Judging by a panel will be at 10am on Saturday, 25th August.

MVCB Supports Local Community Event

MVCB was in attendance at the Merbein Great Australian Vanilla Slice Triumph on Saturday 18th August supporting what was a fantastic local community event. MVCB Industry Development Officer, Mary Cannard, manned the stand, giving away free tastings of orange and blood orange juice as well as free tastings of a variety of citrus lines. Navel oranges, Imperial and Afourer mandarins, Tangelos, blood oranges and Cara Cara Navels were all on offer to the 10,000 plus crowd.

It was surprising the amount of people there who were from interstate, Mary spoke to many people from as far away as Tasmania, Queensland and Western Australia, who were all interested to learn about the variety of citrus lines available. Cara Cara Navels were a stand out as the most popular taste on the day. She also answered plenty of questions from travelers on the movement of fruit into Mildura and interstate. It was pleasing to note that many travelers were taking note of the Qfly warning signs they had seen when travelling into the Sunraysia district.

The Board would like to thank Amanda Beevers from Curlwaa Fresh, David Bailey from EJT Packers, Marcus Scott from Mildura Fruit Company and John Keam for supplying fruit and juice for the event.

Nominations for the 2012 HAL Awards

Nominations are now open for the annual HAL awards, which recognise outstanding contributions to the horticultural industry. The Graham Gregory Award, which includes a \$10,000 cash prize and commemorative bronze medal, is presented to the candidate that has demonstrated excellence in horticulture from any point along the supply chain, including research and development, education, training, technology transfer and advertising and promotion.

The Young Leader Award recognises leadership in any discipline of the horticulture industry by those 35 years of age and under.

Nominations for the Graham Gregory and Young Leader Awards will close on Friday 21 September 2012. For more information contact Katja Phegan, by phone on 02 8295 2379 or email katja.phegan@horticulture.com.au.

National Citrus Conference

The National Citrus Conference this year will be held at the Leeton Soldiers Club, Leeton from 21st to 24th October. Mike Irej, from Florida will be speaking on The Florida approach to Citrus Greening and Professor Andrew Beattie from University of Western Sydney will also be speaking on whether the citrus industry in Australia is prepared for an incursion of citrus greening.

Interactive trade exhibits and technical/R&D sessions are also incorporated in the program.