



# MVCB Weekly News

23rd July 2013

[www.mvcitrus.org.au](http://www.mvcitrus.org.au)

## Murray Valley Citrus Board

58 Pine Av  
Mildura VIC  
3500

Po Box 1384  
Mildura VIC  
3502

Ph: 03 5051 0500

Fax: 03 5021 1905

Diary Dates:

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July  
Cittgroup – Crop  
Regulation  
Sausage Sizzle

3rd – 10<sup>th</sup> August

### R&D Suggestions for the Citrus Industry



At the recent MVCB/SCG Field Days, Dr Pat Barkley gave an opening address where she put forward three suggestions for R&D for the citrus industry. Many of the attendees have asked for a copy of Pat's opening address, so we have decided to print the suggestions for you in the newsletter. Below is her first suggestion, number two and three will be printed in future copies of the newsletter.

#### QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY (QFF)<sup>1</sup>

A recent review (Clarke et al 2010) of the ecology of QFF states: “*much knowledge of QFF's general biology and ecology, particularly that pertinent to developing sustainable pest management options is largely lacking*”. “*Targeted behavioural, physiological and ecological research is needed to progress QFF control*”.

Three factors that determine the suitability of a region for QFF survival and reproduction are temperature, moisture and availability of suitable larval host fruits. So for Sunraysia or the Riverina, we need to know:

- effects of sudden falls in temperature, spring and summer rainfall, cold winters?
- overwintering sites? wooded areas along creeks? behaviour when no fruits are present?
- host range – any native plants in inland areas, what hosts outside commercial/backyard areas?

When Area Freedom fails and we have to establish Areas of Low Pest Prevalence for Fruit Flies, the IPPC<sup>2</sup> requires that we establish “*the number of FF generations per year, host range, temperature thresholds, behaviour, reproduction and dispersion capacity....host diversity and abundance, host preference and host sequence*”.

- how does the pest move within districts? between districts?
- establishment over short vs large distances?
- immigration into a citrus orchard? When? From where? Nearby wooded area? Emergence from ground?

***Resolution of the flight distance impacts on quarantine distances and trade.***

***These are fundamental questions to resolve if we are to control fruit fly especially if we are forced to move to a systems approach to control if area freedom fails.***

<sup>1</sup> Clarke, A.R., Powell, K.S., Weldon, C.W. and Taylor, P.W. (2010). The ecology of *Bactrocera tryoni* (Diptera: Tephritidae) what do we know to assist pest management? *Annals of Applied Biology* **158**, 26-54.

<sup>2</sup> International Plant Protection Convention

#### **Cittgroup: Crop Regulation for the 2014/15 Season & Sausage Sizzle**

MVCB in conjunction with NSW Industry and Investment are holding a Cittgroup and farm walk to help growers make decisions to smooth out the biennial bearing pattern of citrus by

managing next season's crop load and therefore, increase fruit size.

The CITTgroup will be held on Thursday, 25 July, starting at 9:00am, at Cottrell's Property, Mondall Road (runs off Brownsport Road), Iraak.

Topics will include:

- Industry impact of crop load and fruit size
- Crop regulation decision making
- Winter GA<sub>3</sub> flower manipulation
- Hand thinning and Ralex trials on Cottrell's property
- Potassium application trials

Ring the MVCB's office on 03 5051 0500 to register.

### **Zest Fest 3 to 10 August**



MVCB is proud to be part of the organising team for 'Zest Fest' a celebration of all things citrus.

Kicking off on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August at the Sunraysia Farmers' Market, visitors will be treated to free citrus tastings and a cooking demonstration using citrus.

Throughout the week, Mildura City Heart shop fronts will be decorated with citrus themed displays with real fruit and colourful bunting, while the restaurants, cafes and bars of Feast Street offer their guests a myriad of tempting dishes and drinks at very reasonable prices.

The week-long festival will culminate with a breakfast in the Mall, hosted by Mildura City Heart on Saturday 10 August.

Mildura City Heart will be running a marmalade competition with entries to be delivered to Mildura City Heart office no later than Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August. All entries will be judged in two categories, the Marmalade Masters Award and People's Choice Award. The Masters award will be judged by Lyndall Vandenberg from Cook See Taste and Ryan Casey proprietor of Stefano's Preserves. People's Choice Award will take place at the Marmalade Breakfast on August 10<sup>th</sup>.

For more information please contact Mildura City Heart on (03) 5023 8010.