



“Working for the Grower”



**Newsletter
June 2014**

From the Office

A reminder—all reports are sent out with a read-receipt; please send this back. This helps us to know that your reports are getting to you.

Latest AvoGreen News

Recently David, Jojette and Cathy attended a meeting at the AIC office to discuss AvoGreen and how we felt it was working.



1. An AvoGreen requirement on the calendar we send to you every year, is the number of monitorings you expect to complete over the year. This is now being audited to see that the number of monitorings you have committed to has been carried out. Marise and Cathy will now be going through all the calendars and checking back to the database. We will contact you if you have not completed enough monitorings without a good reason; valid excuses such as picking, pruning, can be found on the Calendar.
2. We discussed the thresholds and commented that we felt the threshold on Leafroller is correct at the moment, but did raise discussion about thrip on leaves and whether they should be included in a threshold, particularly when most fruit is up the top.

Packhouse News

Due to the heavy crop expected this season, Packhouses could favour the orchards that are regularly monitoring and looking after the trees. If your orchard is signed up for monitoring and you have not monitored at least 4 times in the last year and looked after your fruit, you could find you are picked last, or sadly, not picked at all if your fruit is poor quality. Our advice, look after your trees. That is not saying that you must spray. If you want to be organic or spray free, then look at feeding your trees; a healthy tree produces better fruit and discourages pests.



Leafroller Levels

There are some Leafroller eggrafts out there with low numbers of live caterpillars. These will increase again as the Spring flush occurs.



Six-spotted mite

Mites are increasing in numbers now, though are mostly still present in low numbers. Our advice is that you check the number of Mite eggs (ME) on your reports. The higher these are, the more likely you are to have an explosion of mites. There are few beneficials being seen that will feed on the mites yet to help control numbers.

Greenhouse Thrip

Thrip are dropping in numbers at last, though we are still seeing juveniles on some orchards. The orchards that have had high numbers and have sprayed regularly, have much cleaner fruit.

Scale

We have noticed that Scale numbers have been increasing in the last few months. There are some rumours out there that some export markets will become stricter on Scale in the near future. There are a couple of markets, such as Korea, with nil tolerance for scale now.

Owner Operator

The Auditors are now visiting a larger number of Owner Operators. We are aware that there are some very enthusiastic Owner Operators, doing a wonderful job monitoring their orchards. AvoGreen is a great tool to help you manage your orchard better; ask other orchardists how they are using the system to help improve the quality of their fruit. In general, pack-outs have increased from an average of about 65% to nearer 85% since AvoGreen became compulsory.



Recipe

In Cathy and David's new house, they have installed a Reyburn Wood Cooker. As Cathy has never used one before, it has taken a little bit of time to get it going properly, but now they wouldn't be without it. Cathy is starting to use some of her grandmother's recipes, which are cooking so beautifully in the cooker. Here are two of them:

St George's Hall Cake

1/2 lb butter 1/2 lb sugar
4 eggs 10 oz flour (about)
1 tsp baking powder 1 dsp milk
1/2 lb dried fruit (any type)



Cream butter and sugar, beat in eggs one at a time, gradually sift in dry ingredients. Add milk last. Well line 8 inch cake tin, cook for about 1hr 10mins.

This is a nice moist, light cake. Be careful to not overcook it.

Grandma's Fudge

2 cups sugar 1/4 lb butter
1/2 cup milk 2 dsp cocoa



Put all ingredients into a saucepan and bring to boil. Boil for 6 minutes, stirring continuously.

Remove from heat and beat until very stiff. Place in greased tin and cut before cold.

- * Often handy to beat with the pot in a sink of cold water as this cools the fudge quicker.

Reminder—Payment of Accounts

There are still a number of clients not putting your invoice and PPIN numbers with your payments. This slows down our invoicing a lot!

5 digit numbers only (PPIN) - CODE
5 digit *CURRENT* invoice no. - REFERENCE



New Staff

Boy the time has flown so quickly! I was looking at what I wrote in the last newsletter about staff and thinking that the last staff changes were only recent. We do have one more staff change and that should be the last for sometime.

When we took on Natasja we knew she was studying and would only be with us for a year. That year is now up and she is going on full-time placement in her field of study. So we have now appointed a lovely lady who lives in Athenree and works on her father's avocado orchard. Rochelle Kean will take over all of Natasja's blocks plus help

Jojetta with some of hers. Jojetta is her supervisor, so for any queries regarding Rochelle, please contact Jojetta on 549-2479 or 027-246-6303.



Marise Stuart-Menzies

Just before Christmas, we realised we needed a hand in the office and Cathy phoned the Stuart-Menzies family to enquire whether there was one of the girls available for some part-time work. That was when we had the delight of meeting Marise. She comes from a home-schooled family and is very bubbly, outgoing and an absolute delight to work with. The only worry Cathy has, is that Marise will kick her out of her job as she is picking up things so quickly.

Marise has now finished her schooling and is trying to decide what she wants to do for the future.



ENQUIRE NOW



Monitoring: *Avocado*
 Tamarillo
 Flowers
 Citrus
 Other Crops
 AvoGreen Training
Soil Testing & Leaf Tests



Congratulations to Ross & Jojetta. They have a brand new granddaughter to love and fuss over. Have you got out the knitting needles or sewing machine Jo?



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