

### Summer Field Days:

#### Tasman, 15-16 February 2020

Our 2020 Summer Field Days are planned for the weekend of 15-16 February, and will be based around the Nelson/Tasman area. The weekend will visit several hazelnut orchards in the area, some with on-site processing.

To help with meal reservations, please email Rose McDermott to confirm your attendance: Friday and Saturday dinner, Saturday and Sunday lunch.

#### Friday night

Casual drinks and meal (time/venue to be confirmed)

#### Saturday

- 09.00 - Clive & Margaret Richards. Bearcroft Organic Orchard, **151 River Road, Appleby.**

Clive and Margaret have 12 hazelnuts (Barcelona and Tonda Romana) but the main focus of the visit will be their organic apple orchard, and a discussion about how their organic management programme helps the apples grow.

- 10.00 - Sandra and Terry Westbury & Grace McGowan, **70 Malling Rd, Redwood Valley, Richmond.**

Sandra, Terry and Grace will show us their dryer, new shed, kitchen, harvester, washer, and talk about the local market. Their varieties are: Tonda Romana, Tonda di Giffoni, Barcelona, Whiteheart, MDB, Lansing and Alex. They also have two and three year old Jefferson, which are now producing nuts.

- 12.00 - lunch. **Abbey Road Burgers, 107 Appleby Highway, Hope.**

A wide selection of gourmet burgers:

<https://www.abbeyroadburgers.com/menu>

- 1.30 - Louise Busby. Puhipi Hazelnuts, **247 Coastal Highway, Appleby.**

Seven hectare lifestyle block in Appleby. Hazelnuts were first planted in 2007 (Lansing and Barcelona). Later plantings (now 1-2 years old) have included only Barcelona and MDB.

The orchard has a modest processing facility (most work is done by hand) and is NP2 registered. Raw and roasted kernel is sold mainly through local specialty retail shops.

The property also has 500 Holm oaks inoculated with Perigord black truffle (not yet in production).

- 2.30 - Teena Jelsma. **88 Neudorf Road, Upper Moutere.**

Teena and her partner took over an established but neglected orchard and for the last 3 years have worked hard to rejuvenate the orchard with a pruning programme. There are around 70 trees of uncertain age, probably Barcelona. They're keen to hear suggestions from other growers with more experience or who may have faced similar challenges.

- 3.30 - Stefan Hajszan. **60 Martin Rd, Upper Moutere.**

A new vineyard still in development. Stefan previously had vineyards in Austria with understorey planting and although there isn't much underplanting yet, he will discuss his plans to improve the vineyard's biodiversity.

- 6.00 - Brainstorming session - understorey management trial. At the dinner venue: McCashin's Brewery, **660 Main Road, Stoke.**

Over pre-dinner drinks, we'd like to gather ideas and gauge interest in a planned research project into the effect that different understorey management practices have on orchard health and yield. See details on the next page.

- 7.00 - Dinner. McCashin's Brewery, **660 Main Road, Stoke.**

Mains include twice cooked pork belly, sticky pork ribs, slow cooked lamb, and a selection of lighter choices. Download their menu from <https://www.mkb.co.nz/menus>

#### Sunday

- 9.00 - Karen and Daryll Johnston. River Terrace Nurseries, **183 River Terrace Rd, Brightwater.**

A long established supplier of good quality trees. Their orchard plantings include Whiteheart, Barcelona, Tonda Romana and MDB, as well as a 20 year old macadamia block.

- 11.00 - Chris and Vanessa Beard, **Mt Heslington Road.**

A 10 year old Whiteheart orchard, with MDB and Alex pollenisers. A light morning tea will be provided.

This visit concludes the field day programme. For anyone wanting a quick meal before driving home, Headquarters Cafe is conveniently located in Brightwater.

## New research initiative —

### Understorey management practices

During the weekend we will also have a session to discuss an understorey orchard management trial, inspired by Charles Merfield presentation at last winter's Field Days.

The purpose of this trial is to gather data about the way different understorey management practices affect soil health and biodiversity in hazelnut orchards. We're hoping for as many people to participate as possible, from locations throughout the country. The wider the geographic spread and the more different soil/climate types involved, the better the data we will gain. In order to gain meaningful data, we intend this to be a long-term trial. The commitment would be for a minimum of 5 years, and preferably 10 years.

The first step is to understand what issues participants think are most important to focus on. Possible issues to investigate include soil health and pest control, but we'd like to know more about what matters to YOU the most.

Once we determine the research focus and the questions, then we can identify a small number of options to test (ie specific combinations of plant species or management techniques).

We also need to decide how we will measure results. We're open to suggestions, but something simple will keep the project manageable and will minimise costs. Possible metrics are yield, pest levels, and basic soil tests especially for soil carbon and/or soil visual appearance.

Please contact Rose McDermott for further details if you'd like to participate or just to know more.

## 2020 AGM & Winter Field Days

The next HGANZ Annual General Meeting will be held in North Canterbury (Hurunui/Amberley area) in late June 2020. Details to follow closer to the time.

## Survey results - Harvest 2019

Thank-you to everyone who answered this year's harvest survey. We plan to repeat these surveys annually so we can build a deeper understanding of the challenges facing members, and how the industry is changing over time. We received 37 responses this year.

- Many growers commented on the high yield levels in the 2019 season, but others experienced a noticeable drop compared with 2018.
- Mean average yield per tree was 1.6 kg.
- Sprayed strips are the most common method of understorey management (22 responses, compared with canopy cover (8) or organic (4).
- Some growers manage a very efficient harvest (kg per hour) even if the yield (kg per tree) is low.
- Small-scale equipment (Bag-a-nut, Nut Wizard, TurboVac ) is much more common than larger, tractor-driven or self-propelled solutions.

## Hazelnuts in the news

### Georgian hazelnut harvest recovers after stink bug control programme

<http://georgiatoday.ge/news/16623/Good-Signs-for-Georgia%E2%80%99s-2019-Hazelnut-Harvest>

<https://agenda.ge/en/news/2019/1947>

<https://agenda.ge/en/news/2019/3533>

<https://agenda.ge/en/news/2019/2190>

<https://www.cnfa.org/program/georgia-hazelnut-improvement-project/>

After several years of severe damage from brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB), the Georgian Hazelnut Growers Association expects the 2019 harvest to recover to pre-BMSB levels. Georgia's harvest peaked at 39,700 tonnes in 2013 but fell to 17,000 tonnes in 2018, a drop mainly attributed to damage from BMSB. The Georgian government believes the pest is now mainly under control, and 2019's harvest is forecast to exceed 40,000 tons (sic). Control measures include active monitoring and biocontrols, and has been funded at least in part by USD6.5 million in USAID in 2017-2018, plus USD1.6 million from the Georgian government in 2018.

According to the Association, demand for Georgian hazelnuts is high, particularly in Europe. By November 2019, the annual export volume had reached 10,879.4 tonnes worth USD54.76 million (combined total for kernel and in-shell).

In addition to BMSB control, Georgia has received substantial international aid funding through a five-year program to improve the quality, processing infrastructure, and market identity of its hazelnut crop.