

Hazelnut Growers Association of New Zealand (HGANZ)

Minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting

held at via Zoom

7pm, Wednesday, 18th June 2025

Attendees

1. Peter Barrowclough - President
2. Paul Rollin – Secretary
3. Michael Petherick - Treasurer
4. Murray Redpath - Committee
5. Alison Bentley - Committee
6. Shane McKenzie - Committee
7. Kasia Henderson - Committee
8. Roy Johnstone
9. Ann Joseph
10. Les McCracken
11. Malcolm Shore
12. Allen Theunissen
13. Robin ?
14. Christine Robinson

Quorum present (minimum 10% of financial members): Yes

Proceedings

1. Introductions

The President, Peter (Pete) Barrowclough, opened the meeting at 7.00 pm. He welcomed attendees, introduced the Executive Assistant, Christine Robinson. Members were encouraged to ask questions during the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Lyn and Ross Smith, Jason McLauchlan and Kimberlee Woods, Janine and Roger Southby

Acceptance of apologies: moved by Paul Rollin, seconded by Michael Petherick, carried.

3. Minutes of HGANZ AGM 2024 for approval

The minutes of the 2024 AGM were available by email from 4th June 2025.

Confirmation of the minutes: moved by Michael Petherick, seconded by Paul Rollin, carried.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. President's Report*

Peter read his report. There were no matters arising.

Adoption of the President's report: moved by Alison Bentley, seconded by Murray Redpath, carried.

6. Financial Report*

The summary of accounts was circulated by email on 11th June 2025. The Treasurer, Michael Petherick, briefly spoke to the content. Main discussion points were:

- The opening balance was \$51,548.54.
- Interest rates are lower so net interest was down this year, at \$537.24.
- Membership is also down at 53 financial members, although membership has always fluctuated (previous 7 years shown).
- Total expenditure was \$4,291.01, consisting of costs for Website registration, Field Days, Exec Support, Legal Services (Constitution) and Zoom subscription.
- The surplus was \$941.23.
- The closing balance of the combined accounts was \$52,489.77.

Peter Barrowclough added that the cost of Executive support is to increase in the next year as various projects are underway. Dr Clive Kaiser quoted \$270,000 to support a student through a PhD (stipend and project costs) which the HGANZ clearly cannot fund. In the event a student is secured, the HGANZ might contribute \$15,000 per annum, in addition to applying for grants on their behalf.

Adoption of the Financial Report: moved by Alison Bentley, seconded by Murray Redpath, carried.

7. Executive Report*

Christine Robinson read her report.

8. Changes to the constitution

The Deputy Chair, Paul Rollin, explained that legislation governing Incorporated Societies changed and HGANZ must re-register by April 2026 or be struck off. The Companies Office provided an online tool for Societies to use to build in the new requirements. Paul noted that there was not much difference from the original 2002 Constitution. There were changes to the definition of what constitutes a member, the roles and responsibilities of Chair and goals of the Association. There were no questions for Paul Rollin.

Peter Barrowclough and Paul Rollin had been through the new Constitution 7-8 times, it was reviewed by a lawyer and the Committee had debated it. There were no questions from the AGM attendees.

Chair Peter Barrowclough moved that the Constitution be approved as circulated, carried by all. Peter declared the Constitution passed.

9. R&D Plan*

Pete referred to the HGANZ Research and Extension Plan 2024 document. Pete tried to establish priorities for research and ranked projects from high to low priority, along with timeframes and comments. There was no feedback from members so this is now for the R&D SubCommittee to determine which of the priorities can be met given the availability of time, money and people.

10. Harvest Survey 2024

Christine presented the results of the 2024 Harvest Survey. The survey consisted of 17 questions, and 19 members responded. Anonymity was requested by some members, and some data points are removed from some results to maintain anonymity.

The data was presented as charts, tables or summaries, as appropriate. Most respondents were from the South Island, and the majority cultivar is Whiteheart. Most orchards have 1000 or fewer trees, although there is one with 7000 trees. When charted by year(s) the orchard was established, most South Island orchards contain mature trees (some as far back as the 1980's) while the most recent plantings are in the North Island. As growers know, the yield for Whiteheart is a disappointing <1kg/tree over the 3 years. Growers identified their priorities for research and issues that irked them.

These survey results will be presented in the June Newsletter.

Election of the Committee

Pete named the current committee members and advised that:

- a. Mike Petherick to continue as Treasurer, not as a committee member;
- b. Grace McGowan is unsure whether she will continue;
- c. Rose McDermott and Shane McKenzie are standing down;
- d. Peter Barrowclough and Paul Rollin are happy to stand again for those Officer roles, unless someone else would like to stand;
- e. which makes seven 'committed', and we can have up to 15 members.

Les McCracken volunteered to join the Committee. Nominations closed. A bulk vote was suggested by Murray Redpath.

Election of committee members: Les McCracken, Alison Bentley, Deb Whiteside, Grace McGowan (perhaps), Kasia Henderson, Murray Redpath, Paul Rollin, Peter Barrowclough.; moved by Murray Redpath, seconded by Roy Johnstone, carried.

Paul Rollin ran the election of Chair. No other nominations were made.
Election of Chair: Peter Barrowclough was elected, carried.

11. Alison Bentley's Hazelnut Field Trial

Alison presented "Growing Hazelnuts New Zealand Field Trial", a Low Nitrogen Land Use Fund Project (LNLUF), funded by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council. This trial was previously reported in the December 2024 HGANZ Newsletter (link below).

She advised members to watch for the release of Julio Botero's PhD, which will have relevance to the hazelnut industry. One area of his research concerns applying the practices and experiences of commercially successful industries (think kiwifruit and apples) to third tier crops like hazelnuts. In addition, she referred attendees to the Future Use of Land and How to Fund report (link below).

<https://www.rotorualakes.co.nz/vdb/document/1978>

<https://www.asb.co.nz/content/dam/asb/documents/business-banking/2025/future-use-of-land-and-how-to-fund-it-report-may-2025-v4.pdf>

Shane McKenzie asked Alison if she had any data on the shell density of the different cultivars in the trial. Alison did not measure shell density. As a processor of nuts, Shane commented that Whiteheart has a thin shell and is easier to crack, and that the shell density of other cultivars may affect their yield.

Ann Joseph was interested in the puriri moth damage shown to the trunks of some trial trees, and Alison's efforts to combat them. The moth also causes a lot of damage at Murray's orchard in the Bay of Plenty. He said they come in at night from the surrounding native bush. Paul, in Taupo, has not seen this damage. Puriri moths are limited to the North Island, typically burrowing into pūriri trees and other native species, but also happy to utilise exotic species.

Kasia Henderson asked about the type of soil moisture sensor in the trial. Although Alison was not certain, questions from members elucidated that it was probably an Aquaflex.

12. Any special resolutions

None.

13. General business

Murray Redpath and Michael Petherick are working with Caleb Butcher from NZTCA on a grafting trial. Michael is providing the orchard: 50 trees, trunk cut at

~90cm above ground. Murray is providing scion wood of Jefferson, Eta and Theta varieties. Grafts to be done in three different sets, at three times of year.

Les McCracken suggested that Pic's Peanut Butter may be a source of industry funding.

14. Meeting close

Pete thanked the attendees, and those who volunteered for the Committee. The meeting closed at 8.36 pm.

*Copies of the President's, Executive and Financial Reports and R&D Plan will be attached to the draft Minutes 2025 and be available via the HGANZ website. All members to be emailed a link to these documents.

Draft