

## APIA Conference and dinner update

The Australian Prune Industry Association (APIA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Annual Conference was held on Tuesday 15 October at the Zecca Restaurant, Griffith.

The new format introduced in 2018, and continued in 2019, appears to be a success. APIA Secretary Phil Chidgzey said industry attendance was good, the menu was delicious, and members enjoyed the opportunity to hear the latest industry news and catch up with peers.

He said thanks must go to Zecca for preparing a prune-inspired menu to tantalise guest's tastebuds, and a special thanks to the strong sponsorship support received from Angas Park Fruit Company, Yenda Producers Co-op and Verity Fruit Company which helps make this type of event possible.

### 2019 APIA AGM

Mr Chidgzey said the AGM dealt with the normal business items. The audited financial statements for 2018/19 were accepted and Kelly Nulty appointed as independent auditor for 2019/20.

Tony Toscan, Michael Zalunardo and Peter Raccanello were re-elected as Producer members of the National Executive Committee.

The meeting ratified the nominations of David Swain (Angas Park Fruit Company), Chris Brooke-Kelly (Verity Fruits) and Jeff Granger (JC Granger & Sons) as Processor/marketer members of the National Executive Committee.

### APIA membership:

Mr Chidgzey said each of APIA's membership levies was considered separately by members at the AGM. As a result, the APIA administration levy of \$10/t and the IPA levy of \$5/t will remain unchanged in 2020/21, while the promotion levy will increase by \$8/t to \$30/t.

"Growers are pleased with the generic promotion

### Season 2020 (2020/21 financial year)

#### APIA membership:

##### Grower membership

(prune grade fruit receipts counting up to 90 pieces/454g):

APIA administration: \$10 per tonne (plus GST)

IPA membership and expenses: \$5/t (plus GST)

APIA Prune Promotion Fund: \$30/t (plus GST)

##### Processor/marketer membership:

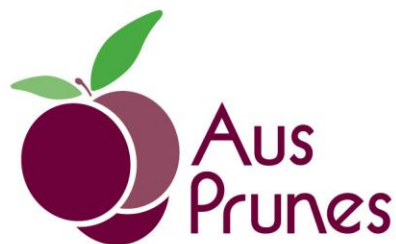
Processing or marketing less than 500t/annum: \$100/annum

Processing or marketing more than 500t/annum: \$300/annum

#### 2020 statutory levies:

Statutory research levy: \$13/t on all prune deliveries

# e-news



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activities that APIA and Promotions Co-ordinator, Jane McCorkell, have implemented in recent years," Mr Chidzey said.

"A discussion arising from the floor indicated that members were keen to build on these foundations to keep prunes in the spotlight, hence the move to increase the promotion levy next season.

"As is normal practice, the APIA Chairman, Grant Delves has requested Ms McCorkell to prepare a prioritised list of possible new generic promotion activities to be undertaken in 2020/21, along with proposed budgets, for consideration by the Executive at its next meeting."

Members will be provided with more information on the extended promotional activities in a follow-up E-news once they have been discussed by the Executive.

In other AGM news, members endorsed an unchanged statutory research levy of \$13.00 per tonne on all prune deliveries in 2020.

## APIA Annual Conference

Following the AGM, Mr Delves continued his role as Master of Ceremonies, managing the conference program between courses.

Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Principal Horticulturist John Wilkie presented his work with the Australian macadamia industry. Mr Chidzey said growers were interested in this research and its implications for prunes. "We hope to have an in-depth article in E-news shortly for those growers who missed the presentation," he said.

Sabrands Chief Executive Officer, Michael Bartholomew, and Senior Brand Manager, Andre Estrella, spoke of their branded products and their approach in different markets.

Angas Park Fruit Company's Grant Leyden completed the guest speaker presentations and ended the night on a positive note. He spoke of the continued downward trend in dried fruit sales, with few exceptions – although one major exception is prunes. Bucking the trend, data from the last 13, 26 and 52 weeks indicates that prune sales have increased for the first time in some years.

### Upcoming events

#### **Herbicide application workshop - Sprayseed and Gramoxone**

**Date:** Tuesday 5 November 2019

**Venue:** Paul Carver's property, Carver Road, Yenda

**Time:** 8.00am – 11.30am

#### **National Renewables in Agriculture Conference and Expo**

**Date:** 14 November 2019

**Venue:** The Range Function Centre, 308 Copeland street, Wagga Wagga

**Time:** 9.00am -4.30pm; Networking drinks 4.30-6.00pm

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