



AOA Update

Australian Olive Association news and events

AOA Update is a new e-newsletter to keep members informed of the latest AOA news, including marketing and promotion matters, industry events, advocacy and representation activities, policy and Board action. AOA Update will be distributed to members quarterly.

AOA News

New AOA President and Vice President Appointed

The new President and Vice President roles took effect from 21st of November 2018.

Michael Thomsett, President

AOA NSW Director, Michael Thomsett was elected President by the Board. Michael replaced Peter O'Meara who retired following the completion of his three year term.



Michael Thomsett

Andrew Burgess - Vice President

AOA Large Enterprises Group Director, Andrew Burgess, was elected Vice President by the Board.



Andrew Burgess

The following were appointed by the Board as new Directors of the AOA in October:

Mick Ryan, Western Australian Director
Rita Bikins, Victorian Director
Kent Hallett, South Australian Director

PRESIDENT CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



2018 has been a year that many growers and producers would like to forget. We had drought prevailing over large parts of the nation that resulted in heatwaves, dry winds, and frosts at flowering 2017. These environmental events all compounded to produce low harvest volumes in most growing regions. Our national production of 55,000 tonnes was only 42% of the previous year. Many brands have had to scramble to obtain enough EVOO to satisfy their customer demand.

High quality oils were still coming through the competitions inspire of the difficult season showing us that Australian growers are able to manage their groves and mills to continue to produce quality EVOO when the chips are down. This season has enhanced our industry's reputation of consistently producing high quality oils even when

weather is against us.

As the end of 2018 approaches, some patchy rain and some positive relief. Flowering and fruit set that I have seen is profuse and in abundance at many locations.

Strategic watering and nurturing will assist with the obligatory contributions from Mother Nature towards a potentially substantial increase in the nation's olive production for 2019.

So on that positive note and as the new president of the AOA, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all olive producers, and our allied members around the nation and overseas - all the very best for the festive season and I personally look forward to working with you towards productive, profitable, quality focused success in the new year.

Kind Regards
Michael Thomsett
President A.O.A.

CEO CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Its hard to believe Christmas has arrived so soon. 2018 has been a jam-packed year for the AOA. We've made some changes and have worked hard to deliver some positive outcomes for our members and the industry. The good news is that we are already planning to build on the successes of this year and fix up the areas that need attention. I trust the remainder of the growing season is kind to you so that 2019 is fabulous year to remember for all AOA members. On behalf of the AOA team and my family have a safe and joyful festive season and may the new year bring the rewards you deserve for the hard work invested.



CEO, Greg Seymour

OFFICE CLOSURE DATES



The AOA office will be officially closed from 5:00pm Friday 14 December 2018 and will reopen again at 9am Tuesday 29 January 2019.

The AOA Board and management thank you for your ongoing support and wish you and your families a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

AOA Activities and Initiatives

2018 National Olive Industry Conference & Trade Exhibition

A well balanced program of: local and international speakers that delivered on a range of olive industry relevant topics; field tours; and optional Saturday activities, proved a winning formula for this year's conference attendees. The feedback was very positive on both content and location.



Conference highlights, presentation videos and PowerPoints can be found [here](#).

The December 2018 issue of *Olivegrower & Processor* will also feature full coverage of the Conference. AOA membership attracts special member *Olivegrower & Subscription* subscription rates. Click [here](#) to subscribe.

The AOA thanks the generous support and contributions of sponsors, exhibitors, Hort Innovation and DNSW for making this year's event a success.

SAVE THE DATE

Next year's conference will be held at Albury, NSW on 16 - 18 October.

"Good balance between oil and olive sessions. Most speakers top class and topics very relevant. Production, processing and marketing well covered."



"Grove DPI tours were excellent. Speakers were all good."

"Invaluable information and networking - hard to put a value on it."



Gold Medal Winners awarded at the AIOA Gala Presentation Dinner

2018 Australian International Olive Awards

The 2018 AIOA attracted 174 extra virgin and flavoured oil entries from 80 exhibitors and 29 table olive entries from 10 exhibitors.

96% of EVOO and flavoured oil entries were awarded a medal which is up from 87.4% in 2017. The average score across all oils was 78.67 points out of 100 which equates to a solid silver medal. The result continues the trend of continued improvement in quality across the industry from a medium bronze medal a decade ago to a high silver in 2018.

Best of Show winners:

Table Olives: Gooramadda Olives Kalamata

Flavoured Olive Oil of Show: Bylands Estate T/A Kyneton Olive Oil Basil Agrumato

Best Extra Virgin Olive Oil of Show: Cradle Coast Olives Essence of the Cradle

The AOA would like to thank Competition Convenor and Chief Steward (EVOO and flavoured oils), Trudie Michels, for her tireless efforts in ensuring a smooth, running show; Table Olive Steward, Peter McFarlane, Chief Judge's Michelle Wirthensohn and Shane Cummins and all other judges and back room staff for their time, expertise and enthusiasm.

Thank you from sponsors Rapak and NSW DPI for their generous contributions which assisted in producing a highly professional world class competition.

Click [here](#) to view the 2018 AIOA Gala Presentation highlights video.

2019 AIOA:

Next year's judging will take place 12 – 14 September 2018. Entries will be open from early August 2018. More details to follow.

Click [here](#) for more results.

Export Register

The AOA Export Register has been set up to facilitate a targeted means of communication for those interested in specific export markets.

If that's you, email your name, business name, email address, phone number and specific export market interest (eg China, India)

to secretariat@australianolives.com.au and you will be notified when the AOA receives specific information about these markets and any associated inquiries.

Freshness Testing

The concept of freshness testing to determine more accurate Best-Before Dates for EVOO was strongly endorsed by a wide range of delegates at the National Conference at Wagga Wagga. Research by NSW DPI is continuing on the development of a NIR test for PPPs and DAGs to reduce the cost of testing. Hopefully in the first half of 2019 all producers will have access to cost-effective testing that will increase the level of certainty that EVOO will be EVOO when a consumer buys it.

Advocacy and Representation

CODEX Review of Olive Industry Standard

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) is the international food standards setting body recognised by the World Trade Agreements on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) as being the reference point for food standards applied in international trade with the objectives of protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade.

Two years ago Codex started a review olive industry standard. That process is being led by Spain as part of European union. With the AOA's involvement, Australia has had a strong input in the review.

Comments on the final draft of the Standard are being compiled. If the final draft adopted is close to the current Australian Standard, it would be seen as lifting the bar and benefiting Australian producers.

AOA Director, Paul Miller, will be attending the next Codex meeting which is being held in Malaysia in February 2019. Paul will be supporting Australian Government officials with technical advice as the proposed changes are

AOA provides submission on Australian olive industry for AU-EU FTA Negotiations

Australia has started negotiating a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the European Union. The AOA has been approached by various agencies of the Federal Government seeking input.

The objectives of the proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that are relevant to both parties are:

1. To improve market access
2. Reduce or remove barriers to trade
3. Address the protection of geographic indications in a mutually acceptable way.

Three relevant matters have been put forward by the AOA that are of particular significance to the olive industry:

1. Recognition of AU Product Standards that apply for supply of extra virgin olive oil (EVOO) and other related oils in Australia
2. The imposition of geographical indicators by the EU that are at variance with generally accepted descriptions for olive varieties used throughout the world
3. Removal of specific tariff charges that are imposed by EU for exports

debated by the Codex signatories.

of EVOO and other grades of olive oil to the EU.

Agrichemicals Update

There are a number of chemical registrations / permits that the Agrichemicals Committee is progressing through Hort Innovation. One is Mancozeb for control of anthracnose - work on this is due for completion in June 2019.

The following trials funded by Commonwealth grants are due for conclusion in 2020: Bayer Luna Privilege, Bayer Luna Sensation and Bayer Luna Experience which are various combinations of fungicide group's 7, 11 and 3. These are being trialled for control anthracnose and extend resistance management options.

Other trials progressing are for Bayer DC-163 for control of curculio beetle, Bayer Sivanto for control of olive lace bug, Adams Trivor for control of olive lace bug and scale pests.

Some of the chemicals that are currently being used are under review in Australia and overseas, including Chlorpyrifos, Metiram, Clothianidin and Diquat. If withdrawn overseas, this may have a flow-on effect into Australia. If exporting, consideration also needs to be given regarding specific chemical MRLs and any bans.

Industry News

Backpacker VISA changes

Working Holiday Maker and Seasonal Worker programs have been amended as follows:

- Backpackers will no longer need to leave their jobs every six months and will be able to triple the length of their stay in Australia if they do extra agricultural work.
- The age limit for working holiday visas has also be raised to 35 for people from some countries
- The number of places available for Visas 462 will be increased.
- The number of Seasonal Worker Visas granted to Pacific Island workers increases from nearly 8500 (2017-18) to 14,000, with an extended timeframe for labour market testing validity from three to six months. And, reduce the out-of-pocket costs for employers, who will be responsible for \$300 rather than \$500 of travel costs for workers.

Click [here](#) for more details.

Olive Wellness Institute Seeks Your Feedback

After a successful launch period, the Olive Wellness Institute (OWI) is planning for the next phase of activity and is keen to hear your feedback on the initiative to date.

If you have not already completed the survey which takes seconds to complete, please do so [here](#).

