

May 2022



AUSTRALIAN OLIVE  
ASSOCIATION<sub>LTD</sub>

# AOA Update

Australian Olive Association news and events

The "AOA Update" is a periodic e-newsletter from the AOA Board to keep AOA members and the wider olive industry up-to-date with the strategic and operational aspects of the Association. Feedback is encouraged via email to [secretariat@australianolives.com.au](mailto:secretariat@australianolives.com.au).

## President's Message



Growers will be busy as expected at this time of year – I would like to wish you all the best of luck with a smooth harvest and processing season. Some lower yields are noted after last years increased yields, enabling some to commence the pruning and maintenance of their groves for future productivity.

The AOA field days and workshop programs are continuing to be well received by participants contributing to lifting the industry with healthy productive groves and technical expertise for quality products.

CEO Michael Southan and the team continue to do a great job with communications and OliveCare, while coordinating our activities and running the business for the industry.

AIOA judge training is ensuring our competition is backed by expert panels to give exhibitors and the consumers the confidence that an awarded product has truly earned the accolade of a medal. We look forward to the highest quality from the 2022 harvest to contribute to the success of Australia's largest and premier international competition.

The Board of Directors have continued to meet online and are keen to get together in-person in June. It has been over two years since we last met face-to-face, and while online meetings have been effective, the dialogue can be somewhat constrained compared with the dynamics that being in the same room provides.

Our director from NSW Peter Herborn, while still an active director, is looking to step back. Peter is highly valued by the Board and his contributions are commendable. He has agreed to remain an active board member until we have a replacement director from NSW. If you or somebody you know from the industry has the skills that would benefit the industry, please let us know. Details and prerequisites for the role can be obtained from Michael Southan.

The continuing success and positive feedback of the field day programs, and webinars has given the AOA Board confidence that the coming AOA conference program will be relevant and worthwhile as it continues to improve in showcasing the industry. I'm looking forward to seeing you in Devonport Tasmania this October.

Regards,  
Michael Thomsett

## CEO's Message

What a first quarter to 2022 we have had!

Parts of NSW and Qld have experienced unprecedented rain and flooding and summer never really appeared. None of this impacted the Riverina Healthy Soils Field Day at the end of March nor the Olive Oil Processing Workshop prior to Easter. Both events were fantastic learning opportunities for new growers and those who have been in the industry for a long time. I was amazed to hear that some participants at the Boort Olive Oil Processing workshop had returned for a third or fourth time and were still learning new things from the course.



These courses are not possible unless we have growers willing to donate their time and show their business to the industry. For this reason, I would like to make special mention of Margie Carter from Parafield Olives for opening up her grove for the Riverina Healthy Soils Field Day and Peter and Marlies Eicher from Salut  Oliva for making their grove and processing plant available for the Boort Olive Oil Processing workshop. Thanks also to Cobram Estate Olives for accommodating a grove and plant tour at short notice and to the numerous other presenters. It is clear that growers find much value in these practical events, and we will keep them happening into the future.

For those who have started harvest or are preparing to start, I wish you all a smooth and bountiful harvest and look forward to seeing (and tasting) the fruits of your labour.

Cheers  
Michael Southan

## Advocacy and Representation

### IOC

AOA has written to the IOC supporting Australia's involvement in the IOC accreditation process for olive oil testing by both the NSW DPI and Modern Olives testing laboratories.

### PHA

As a member of the Consultative Committee for Emergency Plant Pests (CCEPP), AOA continues to engage with numerous horticulture industries and government on the Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer found in WA. Information on this new pest can be found at <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/borer>.

Also, as a CCEPP member, the AOA has endorsed the Approval of Variation to Provisions which is a set of amendments to the EPPRD that enhance the operation, clarity and accuracy of various clauses and schedules of the EPPRD.

### Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

AOA has provided advice to DAWE regarding the status of potential olive pests and diseases in Australia.

### R D & E

AOA has:

- provided HIA with feedback on the Olive Impact Assessment Report
- participated as an observer at the Strategic Investment Advisory Panel meeting, and
- convened a Project Review Group meeting for the Communications and Extension Project

## AOA Activities and Initiatives



The  
**AUSTRALIAN  
INTERNATIONAL**  
Olive Awards

## Australian International Olive Awards Update

This year **entries will be open from the 1<sup>st</sup> of June**, giving entrants plenty of time to organise their submissions.

**New categories will apply for 2022**, providing producers even more opportunities to showcase the quality of their products. The new categories are as follows:

- Best Flavoured Olive Oil Of Show – Commercial Volume
- Best Flavoured Olive Oil Of Show – Boutique Volume
- Best Table Olive Of Show – Commercial Volume
- Best Table Olive Of Show – Boutique Volume
- Champion EVOO New Entrant Award Southern Hemisphere
- Champion EVOO New Entrant Award Northern Hemisphere
- Champion Table Olive New Entrant Award
- Champion Flavoured Olive Oil New Entrant Award

Be on the look-out for more details regarding these new categories in the coming weeks.



## 2022 National Olive Industry Conference & Exhibition Update

The 2022 National Olive Industry Conference & Trade Exhibition is only six months away. We're busy compiling a program of topics ranging from the grove to market. We're pleased to confirm **Professor Jonathan West** as a speaker who will be presenting on the all-important economic outlook.



Prior to founding the Australian Innovation Research Centre, Jonathan spent 18 years at Harvard University, where he was Associate Professor in the Graduate School of Business Administration. He gained his Doctoral and Master's degrees in Economics at Harvard University, following a Bachelor of Arts majoring in history and philosophy of science at the University of Sydney, and most recently gained a PhD in Ancient Greek Philology.

Jonathan has served as consultant to, and a board member of, major corporations around the world and as an advisor to several governments, particularly in the fields of agribusiness, innovation policy, and economic development. He currently serves as a board member and Chairman of ASX-listed Gowing Brothers Investment Fund; a board member of Hydralyte; and a board member of the Three Valleys Food Company in Tasmania.

Jonathan has been involved with Cobram Estate Olives since joining the Board in 2008

## Healthy Soils Field Day and Olive Oil Processing Workshop Wrap-Up

Following two year's of COVID-19 disruptions to the AOA Field Day and Workshop program, the AOA held a Healthy Soils Field Day in March and Olive Oil Processing Workshop in April.

The **Riverina Healthy Soils Field Day** was the last in the highly popular national program, focussed on the importance of healthy soils for healthy trees and productive groves. Over 30 attendees were taken through pruning and soil management demonstrations from Andrew Taylor and John Barton at Parafield Olives in Yarragundry, NSW. An introduction to bio-security grove management was also presented by Michael Southan.

Following cancellation of the event for the past two years due to COVID-19, it was a case of third time lucky for this year's **Olive Oil Processing workshop**.

Despite a last minute scheduling change on day one to accommodate Pablo Canamasas's delayed arrival from Argentina, it was positive feedback all-round of this jam-packed workshop.

*"I found this course so very valuable. I have come away motivated, excited and better educated around olives and the olive industry. Thank you so much for putting on a great program. I will definitely be doing this again!"*

*"I am immensely grateful to Pablo and the AOA for doing this workshop."*

As well as the theory and practical sessions on olive oil processing, attendees were also treated to grove tours of Cobram Estate and Salute Oliva.

The workshop included a review of comparison results of two batch trials, showcasing the impact that processing adjustments can have on olive oil yields.

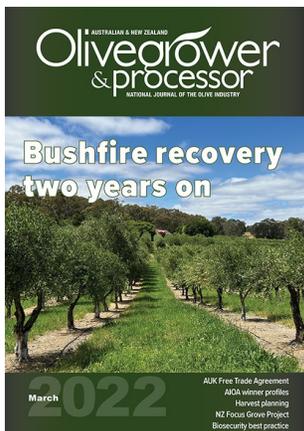
### Soil care and pruning demonstrations in the grove



# On-site olive oil processing education



## March 2022 *Olivegrower & Processor* – do you have a subscription?



The March edition of *Olivegrower & Processor* is the latest issue to hit mailboxes.

### Highlights include:

- Bushfire recovery two years on
- AUS-UK Free Trade agreement
- 2021 AIOA winner profiles
- Harvest planning
- NZ Focus Grove Project
- Biosecurity Best Practice

Along with updates on levy R&D projects, tips to ensure product quality and more, it's a cover-to-cover read to support your olive business.

If you don't have a subscription (\$40/year for AOA members) click [here](#) or contact Liz [secretariat@australianolives.com.au](mailto:secretariat@australianolives.com.au) or 0478 606 145.

