



Tauranga 6-8 April 2018  
Venue: Tauranga Racecourse, Tauranga

## ***How does your garden grow?***

The conference aims to broaden participants' understanding of how plants interact with some elements of their environment. This hopefully will lead to the production of more rewarding crops for growers. Speakers will present current New Zealand research and practice on pollination, disease control and nutrition.

Climate change and the increasing pressure on the environment means traditional agriculture ventures will have to change. Speakers will address how this may open opportunities for tree cropping and we will get an insight into the development of the manuka industry and all its facets as an example of this.

Field trips feature a range of tree crops grown in the Bay of Plenty, the "silver bells and cockle shells" of the future.

## **Speakers**



### ***Alistair Mowat***

Director, Thought Strategy Limited.

*The changing role of tree crops in agriculture.*

Mr Mowat's Mission Statement at Thought Strategy Ltd is to provide innovation support for a range of organisations within the primary industries, including sustainable land use options and product quality within value chains.

Alistair started his research career at Ruakura Research Centre working on persimmon as an export crop. This was followed by a role as an Innovation Leader at Zespri working on the production and measurement of fruit on the basis of taste, as well as environmental footprinting.

He also contributes to the National Science Challenge for "Our Land and Water" as an industry Theme Leader for the value chain component.

Alistair has been a member of The Tree Crops Association since 1985.

*Keywords: climate change; innovation; NZ tree crops*



### ***Dr David Pattemore***

Team Leader, Pollination & Apiculture, Plant & Food Research, Ruakura

#### *Insect pollinators*

Dr David Pattemore leads Plant & Food Research's Pollination & Apiculture team, with a diverse portfolio of research projects covering honey bee health, bee behaviour, alternative pollinators (including bumble bees, native bees and flies) and the pollination of fruit, nut and vegetable seed crops. David has particular research interests in how the interaction between flowers & insect behaviour affects pollination, and in the use of radio telemetry for studying insect behaviour. He has been at Plant & Food Research for the last six years since completing his PhD at Princeton University.

*Keywords: pollination; insect.*



### ***Dr Stephen Hoyte***

Research Scientist, Plant and Food Research, Ruakura.

#### *Plant diseases*

Dr Stephen Hoyte's research is focussed on developing biological control products for major diseases of horticultural crops, such as Psa (bacterial canker) and Sclerotinia (flower and fruit blight) in kiwifruit. Stephen works with kiwifruit breeders and molecular scientists to test the resistance of kiwifruit plants to Psa infection. He is also leading a new Sustainable Farming Fund project (commencing July 2018) investigating cultural and biological control options for Sclerotinia in kiwifruit.

Stephen has worked at the Ruakura Research Centre for 30 years, mostly on developing biological control agents and phenotyping kiwifruit for their resistance to a range of plant pathogens. He has strong interests in conservation and sustainability, as well as tramping in the New Zealand bush.

*Keywords: disease resistance; plant response; micro organisms.*



### ***Glyn Douglas***

Orchard Agronomist, Hortigro

#### *Plant nutrition and seasonal requirements*

Glyn has a BSc (Agriculture) majoring in Horticulture. He is currently an orchard agronomist for Hortigro providing nutrition programmes for a variety of orchard crops. Glyn has previously been involved in cut flower and vegetable

operations in Africa and has worked in the native nursery, vegetable seed and fertilizer industries since immigrating to New Zealand.

*Keywords: hormones; nutrients; carbohydrates; balance; season*



### **Murray Redpath**

BSc, Assistant Plantation Manager, NZ Mānuka Group

The Mānuka industry in the Bay of Plenty.

Working in partnership with the landowners, New Zealand Mānuka Group shares a percentage of the income gained from the Mānuka honey and oil sourced from their property. This fair and open return for the use of the land is a unique arrangement established by NZ Mānuka Group. Murray's main task for the past three years has been the development of New Zealand's first significant Mānuka plantation for oil production. This has involved trials to determine the best cultural practice and the best plant genetics. Murray is a Past President of the NZTCA, a recipient of the Dr Don McKenzie award, and current Chairman of the NZ Hazel growers Association. He also runs Wairata Hazels with his wife Anne.

*Keywords: mānuka; honey; oil; tea tree.*

## **Field Trips**

**Saturday 12:30 – 5:00**

### **Field Trip A** *Fully booked*

McLaren Falls Park is an arboretum developed on land originally purchased for a hydro-electric power scheme. Planting commenced in the 1960s and is ongoing with natives, exotics and more recently, fruit and nut trees. We will eat lunch here followed by a drive through the park accompanied by the ranger. On the way to the McLaren Falls Park we will pass Trustpower's Kaimai Hydro-electric Power Station at Ruahihi. The McLaren Falls dam, which we will see as we enter the park, stores and diverts water for this station. As well, water is released from the dam every second Sunday to provide for recreational activity in the rapids below the dam.

Ginkgo Nuts. Graham and Mavis Dyer have the only commercial ginkgo orchard in the Southern Hemisphere growing and processing ginkgo nuts. There is also a grove of Araucaria agathis from the Pacific region and the very rare and ancient, critically endangered, Wollemia nobilis.

Mossops is a honey producer. This visit includes their educational displays, which have a focus on bee friendly plants, as well their retail outlet. The shop can only accommodate half a bus load at a time. While you are in the other half, try the ice cream – the lemongrass and ginger is incredible.

### **Field Trip B** *Fully booked*

Lunch will be at the Katikati Kindergarten, which is an Enviroschool that has recently received a More than Gold Award for its activities.

McGillivray Avocado Orchard. Ian and Elizabeth have a large avocado orchard in Katikati producing export quality fruit. They will explain the pruning and cultural techniques needed to keep their trees in production and to a manageable size.

Copperfields Nursery is run by Tree Crops member Grant Tennet (his twin brother Brent runs a plum nursery, just down the road). Bill Rae will walk us through the nursery blocks and talk about the process of producing citrus trees.

### **Field Trip C**

Leveret Estate Winery was established in the Bay of Plenty as Morton Estate, but these days sources all of its fruit from Hawkes Bay and Marlborough. The Katikati winery, in addition to making wine, bottles all of the company's wine and also produces Methode Traditionnelle (Champagne), on which this presentation will focus. We will have lunch at the winery.

Kati KaiWay is a cooperative project between Tree Crops, Council, a local kindergarten and Katikati Lions. It consists of fruit tree plantings on a council reserve with the intention of encouraging locals to grow their own. We will walk through the Kai Way and hear a short presentation.

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### **Sunday 12:00 – 4:00**

### **Field Trip D**

This field trip is the same as Field Trip A: McLaren Falls Park, Myers' Ginkgo nuts and araucaria collection, and Mossop's honey.

### **Field Trip E** *Fully booked*

Peden's Passionfruit is run by Tree Crop members Rob and Rosaleen Peden. They have converted most of their production to gold passionfruit, the bulk of which is exported to the USA. They have their own facilities for grading and packing their production.

Harbourside Macadamias is run by Tree Crop members Chris and Wynn Daniel. They grow kiwifruit, avocados and citrus but their focus is macadamias. Wynn is an engineer and of equal interest to the macadamia growing is his inventiveness in creating equipment for processing the nuts.

## **Field Trip F**

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### ***Further Information***

The Conference Convenor is available to receive your phone call.

**Thelma Williams, 07 549 1016.**