



Friday 23 March 2018

In this issue...

- [NZ Market weekly update](#)
- [Market Data](#)
- [Free workshop for Central Otago employers](#)
- [CEO musings](#)
- [Meetings](#)

NZ Market weekly update

The market update is available to read online now. [Read more.](#)

Market Data

Week 11 sales information for both the export and New Zealand markets is online. [Read more.](#)

Free workshop for Central Otago employers

Growers who employ seasonal labour are invited to attend a free workshop in Alexandra on 3 April or Cromwell on 4 April to learn more about immigration requirements and labour compliance. The practical workshops will cover the essentials for meeting immigration requirements, record keeping, zero-hour contracts piece rates, and more. Those attending the workshop will receive copies of the templates and supporting documents. [Read more.](#)

CEO musings

As always, it's been a busy time in the office:

- We are well advanced on the business case for our PGP application. Shaped around five project areas, we believe this PGP will set a bold growth path for the industry. Whilst bold, the project can be achieved within our existing funding (i.e. no increase in the levy will be required). Once we have finished this phase we plan to start coming out and talking to the industry about our vision on growing this industry to \$500m by 2035.
- Interest in the new selections coming out of our breeding programme with PFR has increased to the point where we are ready to reinvigorate Apricot Co. An interim Board is being created to finalise the Apricot Co structure for launch, hopefully within the year. Though there are still quite a lot of technical issues to work through, so I shouldn't make any promises. It's my view that these varieties have real promise to lead our apricot industry out of the slump it is currently facing.

- It's also good to have some new faces in the office. Richard Mills has been with us since early January, taking over Trisha Aitken's work. Amongst other activities, he's looking into new tools for growers that can be made available via the portal. And Juan Rosales has taken on the Biosecurity-Export role. As the workload around biosecurity grows it's great to have someone take on this work. This role was highlighted during the GIA mandate discussions when growers asked how we handle the extra workload. Richard and Juan bring the number of staff employed by Summerfruit NZ to six, though only Juan and I are full time. This also means that two men are now employed by Summerfruit NZ for the first time. So, we are addressing that vexing question of gender diversity.
- Speaking of gender diversity, I note with interest that there are two women standing for the Hort NZ Board this year. It's unusual to have one women standing, so two is noteworthy. And both are experienced and extremely capable women who would bring a lot to the Hort NZ Board. As one of a small group of senior women in this industry I do hope you will consider this when you come to vote in the elections this year.

Meetings

3 April	Employer workshop	Alexandra	7-9pm	Dunstan Hills Packhouse 253 Strode Road, Earnscliffe
4 April	Employer workshop	Cromwell	1.30-3.30pm	45 South Packhouse 3 Ord Road, Cromwell
30-31 May	Conference	Napier	9am	Various venues

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