



# Newsletter

New Zealand Grain & Seed Trade Association Inc.

NZGSTA Newsletter October/November 2017

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## NZGSTA NEWSLETTER OCT NOV 2017

This newsletter covers the following items of interest:

### 2017 NZGSTA CONFERENCE – WRAP UP



More than 112 delegates gathered at the Rydges Hotel in Wellington for the NZGSTA's 2017 annual conference.

The Conference heard from 16 speakers on a range of issues affecting the industry. There were presentations on forecasting for the future, grow and protect strategy and a presentation from our 2017 scholar. On the first day of Conference the AGM was held. The gala dinner was held on the last night and delegates were entertained by Andre and Company. Post-conference delegates had a great trip to Weta Workshop.

<b>President:</b>	George Gerard 03 372 0864
<b>Vice President:</b>	
<b>Past President:</b>	Barry McCarter 09 307 0000
<b>Chair: Forage &amp; Turf Section</b>	Callum Davidson 03 347 7950
<b>Chair: Vegetable Seed Section</b>	Mark Johnson 04 972 1613
<b>Chair: Grains Section</b>	Peter Burton 03 308 1265
<b>General Councillors:</b>	
Craig Graham	03 307 6979
Evan Johnston	03 344 1690
Damian Lynch	03 372 0864
<b>General Manager:</b>	
Thomas Chin	03 349 8430
<b>Administration:</b>	
Tricia Radford	03 349 8430

NZGSTA:

P.O. Box 23-143, Templeton, Christchurch, NZ 8445  
Email: thomas.chin@seedindustry.co.nz

Phone 03 349 8430

And for their support, we acknowledge and thank you to our 19 sponsors;

**Principal Sponsors and Presenters –**

AsureQuality, BNZ Partners, Mainfreight/Owens, Bayer NZ Ltd, CB Norwood Distributors Ltd

**Major Sponsors & Exhibitors:-**

Textile Bag & Sack Co. Ltd, Empak, BASF, Aurora, Jarvis, Rimfire, SGS

**Associate Sponsors**

Monsanto, GVI Logistics, NZ Agriseeds, FNZC, PGG Wrightson Seeds, Staples Rodway and Mediterranean Shipping Co who helped sponsor the Cocktail Function

This year we had 112 delegates, 13 partners, 125 Cocktail party, 112 for the dinner and 51 on field trip.

**Executive Council**



Bk Left Craig Graham, Evan Johnston, Mark Johnson  
Callum Davidson, Peter Burton  
Fnt Left Damian Lynch, George Gerard (President), Barry McCarter  
(Past President) and Thomas Chin (General Manager)

At the Conference AGM it was announced the Executive Council for the coming term would comprised of:

- George Gerard – President
- Barry McCarter – Immediate Past President
- Evan Johnston – General Councillor (Section Chair - Services to Seed)
- Peter Burton (Section Chair – Grains)
- Callum Davidson (Section Chair – Forage & Turf)
- Mark Johnson (Section Chair – Vegetable)
- Craig Graham – General Councillor
- Damian Lynch – General Councillor

**ISF World Seed Congress 2022 hosting bid**

Following an invitation, the Association formally lodged a bid to host the ISF World Seed Congress 2022 in Auckland. The bid was assisted by Tourism NZ and endorsed by the mayor of Auckland.

The ISF Executive Committee and the Board of Directors will consider bid proposals at their next meeting in Montreal, Canada, on 19-20 October 2017. The final decision as to the naming of the successful host country will be made by the ISF General Assembly in Brisbane in June 2018.

**Arable GIA**

A secure pathway forward for the Arable Government Industry Agreement on Biosecurity Readiness and Response (GIA) has been confirmed with agreement in principle to form Seed and Grain Readiness and Response New Zealand Inc. (SGRR) that will become the GIA Deed signatory on behalf of the arable industry.

Federated Farmers Arable Industry Group, Foundation for Arable Research, New Zealand Flour Millers Association, United Wheatgrowers and the New Zealand Grain and Seed Trade Association, are the five member groups of SGRR.

With the structure of the entity secure, SGRR will soon begin consulting with growers of arable crops and members of the post/pre harvest sector on the decision to join GIA. If you have any comments or questions, please contact Thomas Chin ([thomas.chin@seedindustry.co.nz](mailto:thomas.chin@seedindustry.co.nz)).

**Pea weevil response**

The seed trade is entering the second year of response to the pea weevil incursion. During this current pea growing season there will be ongoing surveillance for the pest, both within the Wairarapa control area and other regions. Paddocks will be swept netted during the flowering period as well as soak testing of the harvested dried peas.

All relevant industry members, especially seed merchants and processing stores are urged to

maintain their vigilance for the pest and to assist with all surveillance and monitoring activities.

It is expected that after two seasons of zero detection of pea weevil the ban can be lifted.

**Pelleted beet and vegetable seed requirements**

After many months of consultation with industry members MPI has advised NEW border inspection and sampling requirements on all pelleted beet (*beta vulgaris*) seed and pelleted vegetable seed (including lettuce and tomato). On the former, there are differing test requirements for seedlots imported from Italy versus other countries. And on the latter, vegetable species including: onions, leek, celery, canola, broccoli, chicory, carrots, fennel, parsnip and spinach require inspection on all seed lots whilst vegetable seed lots including lettuce and tomato require sampling and testing at the ratio of 1:10.

**Brassica seed exports to China**

Brassica seed exporters have completed a further round of discussions with MPI officials in a bid to reinstate market access to China. In August the export group provided feedback to MPI on a draft official assurance protocol which among other things referenced pre-harvest targeted testing and sampling methodologies for the black leg pest.

The Association has been advised that the draft risk management framework has been submitted to China for their reconsideration (and hopefully, approval and sign-off) at a November bilateral meeting between NZ and Chinese officials to be held in Wellington.

**2017 Grains forum**



The NZGSTA hosted a free half day Grains Forum last month. The event, the third of its kind, was well attended with over 100 attendees.

There was a diverse range of speakers who covered topics and perspectives spanning

different end users, trader perspectives through to shipping and transport opportunities for grain.

Special thanks to Plant and Food Research for hosting the forum and Mainfreight, who put on a great luncheon for the forum participants.

**2017 Export workshop**



The Association ran its 2017 Exporting workshop in August. The educational workshop was presented by Mark Clibborn from AsureQuality and Evan Johnson (Chair of the Services to Seed section). They covered off the responsibilities and recent

issues in seed exporting. Specifically, Mark addressed regulator and certifier roles and outlined the export processes working through the seed pathway from post-harvest through to the loading of the seed into the container. There was a good interactive exchange between the presenters and attendees with plenty of questions thrown in to test their exporting knowledge.

The free half-day workshop was held at the Ashburton Hotel and attended by more than 50 seed trade members.

**Maize hybrid trials data**

Latest maize hybrid trials data has been published. See:

[www.far.org.nz/resources/publications/maize\\_hybrid\\_evaluation\\_booklets](http://www.far.org.nz/resources/publications/maize_hybrid_evaluation_booklets)

The national Maize Hybrid Performance Trials (MPT) evaluates dozens of grain and silage hybrids and how they perform in different growing environments.

The independently verified hybrid information will help growers as the 2017-18 planting season kicks off from October.

The trials were planted at research stations and on-farm in six different locations and results are

given as averages from three different seasons, and from up to eight separate trials.

Regarding the 2017 crop harvest the recent Arable Industry Marketing Initiative (AIMI) survey shows the industry achieved average yields of maize grain (10.2 t/ha) and maize silage (18.9 t dry matter (DM)/ha) were down on last season (at 11.7 t/ha and 21.1 t DM/ha respectively).

The maize silage harvest had an estimated total tonnage of 913,000 tonnes DM which was down 7% compared to last season's harvest, as the result of a lower yield (10% down) from a slightly increased harvest area (3% up).

### Grains Review

MPI has advised the Association that they will progress over the next year updates of the current standards for maize grain, wheat grain and canola seed for processing and consumption.

As part of that process, MPI will be consulting on proposed changes to the import requirements. For those members who wish to be directly involved please indicate your name and contact details to the Seed Office at:

[tricia.radford@seedindustrynz.co.nz](mailto:tricia.radford@seedindustrynz.co.nz) and we will be in contact on the consultation on any proposed changes.

### FAR referendum

In August cropping farmers voted under the Commodity Levies Act to renew levy orders to ensure the continuation of the Foundation for Arable Research for their research and extension for the industry.

The FAR referendum covered three separate levy orders. The results were: Arable crops, 90% support; Maize, 78% support and Cereal silage, 66% support.

The referendum did not have any impact on levy rates.

The next levy vote will occur in 2023.

### FAR Levy rates

FAR has advised their Arable Crops Levy and Cereal Silage Levy Rates for 1 January 2018 – 31 December 2018. Both of which remain unchanged.

#### Arable Crops Levy

- Herbage and amenity seed – 0.9% of sale value.
- All other grain and seed crops (cereals, pulses etc) – 0.9% of sale value.
- Open pollinated vegetable seed crops – 0.9% of sale value.
- Hybrid vegetable seed crops – 0.6% of sale value.
- Onion seed crops will be zero rated.

#### Cereal Silage Levy

- \$10.00 per hectare harvested.

### Biosecurity – BMSB operational agreement

Earlier in the year a group of primary sector producers signed an agreement under the Government Industry Agreement for Biosecurity readiness and response (GIA) to reduce the damaging impact of Brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) incursion.

The bug has the potential to cause billions of dollars worth of damage to the New Zealand economy. They attack a wide range of New Zealand crops such as grapes, kiwifruit, apples, and stone fruit, corn and many other valuable crops”

The arable sector is an industry potentially affected by the BMSB threat.

The arable sector's entity, the Seed & Grain Readiness and response (SGRR) will likely sign the operational agreement in the future once they have joined the GIA partnership.

### Seed Industry Research Centre

The Seed Industry Research Centre (SIRC), a world class centre responsible for long term seed research in New Zealand, has held recently

convened its first board of management and technical committee.

The SIRC is a virtual office using existing administration facilities of FAR and the Seed Industry Office and become operational on 1 July 2017.

### **Centennial book**

The Association is pleased to report that the manuscript for the book will be finalized by the end of the year. Currently a small working group is tasked to collate the wealth of photographic resource and a designer and publisher has been confirmed.

The book provides an account of the first 100 years of what is now the New Zealand Grain & Seed Trade Association will be launched at Conference 2018.

Early in the New Year the Association will issue an order form for the book.

### **ICPR changes Thailand**

MPI has been reformatting its Importing Countries Phytosanitary Requirements (ICPR) database. When the Thailand ICPR was updated the reformatting accidentally omitted the Thai agreement related to inert matter in brassica seed (which also included quarantine weed seeds) which meant that some brassica seed exporters were NOT able to export to Thailand.

The ICPR has been updated and reinstates the applicable wording:

*Thailand's Department of Agriculture (DOA) has set an allowable tolerance level of no more than 2% of inert matters in imported consignments of Brassica seeds from New Zealand. The 2% tolerance level includes quarantine weed seeds (see Section 2.4).*

*Where inert matter exceeds 2%, the consignment will be rejected even if quarantine weed seeds are not found.*

*Where inert matter does not exceed 2%, but quarantine weed seeds are detected, the consignment will be held for further cleaning by a Thai DOA-approved seed cleaning company, under supervision by Thai plant quarantine officials.*

### **NEW NZGSTA MEMBERS**

The Association is the national trade body comprising around 80 member companies. Its members are involved in a range of activities including: research and development, seed production, seed multiplication, seed processing and sales and marketing.

The Association is working to foster the best business environment for our grain and seed industry members.

We are advising you here of the following members who have been approved by the Executive as members.

**KWS NZ** are a plant breeding R&D and commercial seed sales business. Located in Edgware, Christchurch the company was formed in 1856 and operated by Simon Witheford who is the NZ Manager.

**SGS New Zealand Ltd** whose general activities are testing, inspection, verification and certification. Located in Auckland SGS was formed in 1968 and is managed by Phil Schunk.

**Dahuti International** is an industrial/soft commodity trading company. Formed in 2007 and located in Hastings. Dean Smith, trader is our contact.

**Germinal New Zealand Ltd** is a development, production and marketer of forage seed and was formed in August 2017. This company is managed by Sarah Gard in Christchurch.

All members are being notified about these new members here in this newsletter.

**DIRECTIONS TO SEED INDUSTRY OFFICE,  
185 KIRK ROAD, TEMPLETON**

**SEED INDUSTRY OFFICE –**

**Available for members' use**

The Seed Industry Office is located at:

**185 Kirk Road, Innovation Park,  
Templeton, CHRISTCHURCH**

The office is handily located on the southern outskirts of Christchurch, just off State Highway 1. We are only 10minutes from the airport.

Our boardroom is available for meetings, and members are welcome to call in and re-charge a cell phone, make a fax, or just stop in for a coffee

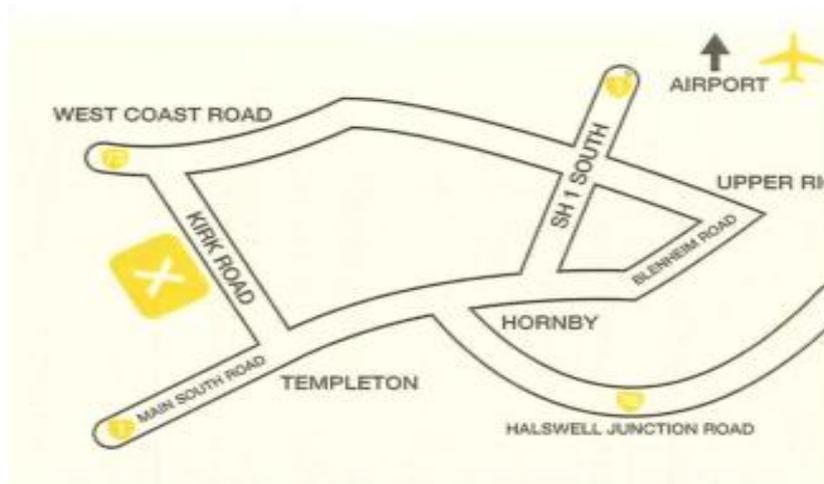
break when passing through Christchurch. Please let Tricia know if you wish to book the boardroom.

**PLEASE NOTE OUR CONTACT DETAILS:**

**PO Box 23143, Templeton 8445**

Ph: (03) 349-8430

Fax: (03) 349 8436



**Meeting Schedule of NZGSTA Executive Council  
for 2017**

- **24<sup>th</sup> November – Seed Industry Office -  
TBC**

Please advise Thomas Chin of any matters you wish to have discussed at a meeting.