

SPONSOR SUPPORT



L-R: Bruce Waltisbuhl and Stacey Watson
Image courtesy of GROWCOM

Before lunch we gave our key sponsors a chance to provide us with an update. Stacey Watson from AustSafe Super noted how their fund is solely focused on supporting rural and regional Australia. It can help growers meet their employee and their own superannuation needs, including reporting tools to meet government requirements.

www.austsafe.com.au



John Robinson and Rowan Carnes from Perma-Log Timbers were noted for their interest in all the information being presented on the day. John said he welcomed the chance to support the industry at this annual event and asked growers to talk with them about their needs regarding their renewable plantation timber products.

www.permalogtimbers.com.au

PASSIONFRUIT AUSTRALIAN INC (PAI) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

President Tina McPherson opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance. She noted that although there were not as many growers present as hoped, she was heartened that this was not from disinterest, as we had received many noted apologies for missing the event. Tina stated that the committee would look to find a better time for growers to attend next year.

Tina presented her Presidents report. Major items covered were:

- A thank you to the Committee for their work and support over the past year
- She believes the new communication project will be a game changer for the industry
- Discussion on the Commercialisation Plan as part of the Breeding Program. Please read the article by Peter Bundock on this topic on PAGE 11
- The cessation of the collection of plant royalties on plant varieties
- An update on the Supply Chain and Data Collection project being managed by Hort Innovation
- A thank you to Jane Richter who has successfully applied for and gained support for projects outside the traditional levy funded activities
- Thank you to retiring members of the Committee Keith Paxton and Sean Russell who have given great service to the industry
- A great thank you to members for their continued support in driving the industry forward

Treasurer Sean Russell then presented the Financial Report. The meeting also confirmed the appointment of current auditor Jennifer P Muenzel for the coming financial year.

Copies of the Financial Report are available on request for any member of Passionfruit Australia Inc. from:
admin@passionfruitaustralia.org.au

Open discussion was then held on the following topics:

- Keith Paxton gave an update on chemicals and some new permit registrations. He also noted some areas that new registrations are being sought – pull out & keep the current **CHEMICAL PERMITS FOR PASSIONFRUIT** on PAGES 12 & 13.
- Research into Rutherglen Bug and how to handle could be addressed at the regional field days and research forums
- Robotics is another project proposal that Jane is working on with the University of the Sunshine Coast and Professor Helen Fairweather. Discussion also held on the use of drones for pest control and to provide better crop surveying capability.

Election of Office Bearers then took place and the new management committee comprises:

- Tina McPherson – President
- Jane Richter – Vice-President
- Jim Gordon – Committee
- Aidan Hutton – Committee
- Anton Stretch – Committee
- Ian Constable – Committee.

Election for the positions of Secretary and Treasurer will take place at the first meeting of the new Management Committee being held on 22nd November 2017 in Brisbane

Tina McPherson. Image courtesy of GROWCOM

