

SUMMER CONTACT AND PACKHOUSE CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

The Packhouse will be closed for a Christmas Break on 16 December 2016 and reopening on 16 January 2017. Our Hort Management and Technical Teams will continue operating during this time. Additionally there will be a Grower Services Rep on call during this break. Just contact your Grower Services Rep as usual (you may be redirected to another rep to allow everyone to have some time off).

Friday 16 December 2016	Aongatete Main Road Facility Closes for Summer Break— Hort and Tech Divisions still operating from Sharp Road Facility
Monday 16 January 2017	Aongatete Main Road Facility Reopens



Aongatete Orchard and Grower Services Teams



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AONGATETE NEWS



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GLOBALG.A.P.

IMPORTANT—GAP COMPLIANCE MUST BE COMPLETED BY 31 JANUARY 2017!

Thank you to those who have completed their GAP inspections this year. Inspections for this year are now fully booked and are taking on average 3 – 4 hours with the extra control points this year.

If you haven't already booked your inspection, please book it urgently. Bookings are currently available between 11 January and 26 January but being taken up fast. We may have to use an external auditor to complete the late comers if there are double ups which will be at a cost to the grower.

Janice Whitehead Aongatete GAP Auditor
027 511 4443

2016 REVIEW

Recalling Queen Elizabeth's quotation, 2016 will go down as "annus horribilis" for Aongatete and many associated families.

The lack of autumn sunshine and low dry matter fruit; the very late start to harvest and the pressure of dealing with a big crop; the China issue, where every fruit in every tray had to be checked; and then the big blow, the Tongan Tragedy – this hit like a bolt from the blue and heaped pressure, sadness and distress on us for the rest of the year! The men we lost were part of the "Aongatete family", loved and highly respected - no one in Aongatete was immune or spared from the devastating consequences. Grower and public response was humbling and overwhelming and the Tongan people themselves have rallied to show their great spirit and care. Our Tongan Trust fund will support educational and other opportunities for the bereaved families – We will honour the promise these men made to their families when they came to work at Aongatete under the RSE scheme. ("support my family and educate my Children")

To continue with another quotation – "In every cloud there is a silver lining" and so it is at Aongatete. We have reviewed and resourced our key competitive advantages and are reassured of our competitive and strategic capability. We can add value and deliver strong OGRs from a boutique business model which supports our grower base. We are continually improving our service delivery and have properly resourced this capability. We know our technology and expertise works and provides a competitive edge. In this regard we note: NIR, the Sinclair IQ tapper technology, ozone, plastic bins and our skilled staff. We are regrouping, renewing our focus and are absolutely confident that next season will again be exceptional. We are looking forward to 2017 and are confident we will exceed your expectation of service and performance.

I sincerely thank you all for your continued support and wish you and your family an enjoyable and safe Christmas. We have many things to be grateful for – a great country, a great way of life and hopefully great relationships.

Kind regards
Allan Dawson



Katikati Concert Band including members of the Aongatete family playing Christmas Songs for the Community Santa Parade

SUMMER CANOPY MANAGEMENT

Our next newsletter is not due out until February so just a note to let you know what we will be doing with our canopy work until then.

December

G3 – Weather permitting work should be done urgently as we are about to enter the fruit sensitive stage where the skin becomes extremely susceptible to marking. Following earlier rounds of crush tipping we are completing our leader management removing unwanted high and heavy vertical shoots, including hook canes. Heavy end shoots are being zero leaf pruned and unwanted blanks removed while crush tipping any non-terminated shoots to maintain an open canopy.

Following pollination we are also doing a cosmetic thin on orchards focussing on missed trebles, stars and the flats that have shown up more this year. Additionally on any orchards that decided to wait until post pollination to set target numbers we are tightening up on those targets urgently.

HW – Males are being spur pruned after pollination with an aim to maintain open flat structures for box males. Canopy and leader work progressing as for GA with again the focus on open canopy.

January

G3- late January when the fruit has hardened off again we will be in crushtipping as needed and removing late growths. We will summer prune the males by crush-tipping laterals and vertical shoots and button cut to maintain open males.

HW – we will be continuing the canopy management for light and look to do a cosmetic thin for any misshapen fruit, flats and trebles.

Have a Great Christmas one and all.

Graeme Philp

AONGATETE AND MATAHUI CONFISCATED LAND—THE HISTORY AND EARLY SETTLERS

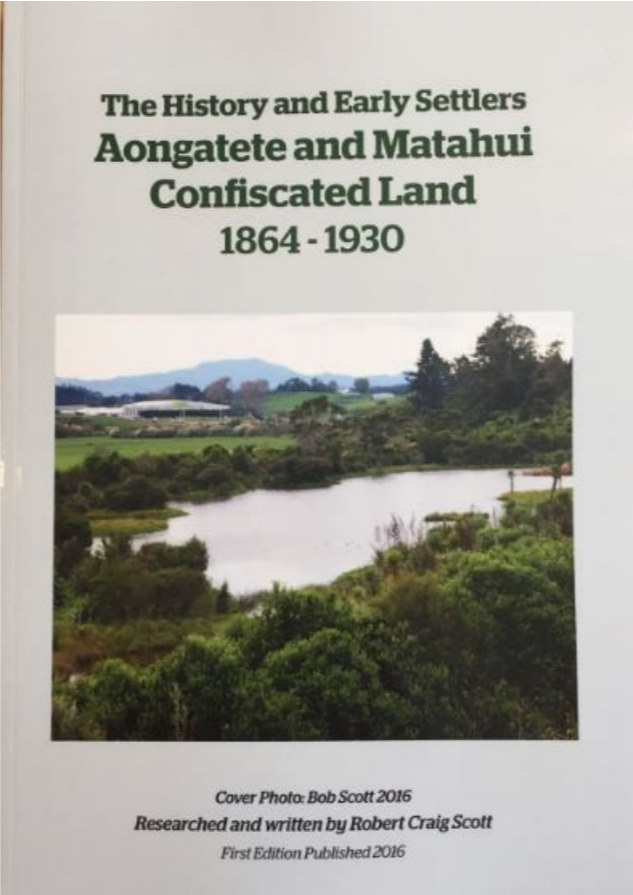
By now many of you may already have seen or read about this book (Katikati Advertiser or on display at our recent Grower function) which was written by Bob Scott, a descendent of Stephen Earl who arrived in New Zealand in 1852.

The book which has just been published in very limited copy is an enthralling history of the area embracing the lineage of many local names.

While the title indicates that the book describes the history of the Confiscated land in the 1864 – 1930 it goes on to trace the families, the inter marriage and the land acquisitions virtually up to the current generations. There are photos and information that some of the locals have commented on as having “not seen that before!” Bob has done a great job!

If you are an Aongatete Grower and didn’t pick up a copy of this book at our Christmas Function and would like one then you are welcome to request one – we still have a limited number of copies available for distribution – please ask at the office or your Grower Services Rep.

I think the book would also make a great Christmas gift for family members or others interested in their local history – and it’s a strange thing – once you start into this stuff you really do become fascinated by it all!



WATER QUALITY TESTING

Water testing is now a compulsory task to be undertaken for GAP this season by all growers. It is to ensure the water applied to kiwifruit crops, via crop sprays and irrigation, is fit for human consumption with no traces of E.coli and other faecal coliforms. Aongatete have offered to help our growers by taking the water sample for you and sending it to Hills Laboratories for analysis. We would expect the results three days after sample arrives at Hills, then back to you as soon as received. A letter has been sent to growers offering this service. **We plan to start testing early in the New Year.**

GAP also requires water quality results from town supply if water used on the canopy when fruit is present. We are working with the council to see if we find an easy way to obtain this information for you and will update you in the February newsletter.

Ethan England

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EUROFINS HAZARD IDENTIFICATION LIST

Eurofins Bay of Plenty (ex Agfirst BOP) have released their Health & Safety Requirements which include additional information needed before a sample will be collected. Owner contact details need to be available in case assistance is needed on orchard, Hazards are to be listed as well as present on the map which allows for maps that are difficult to see clearly where each hazard is. These are required by Eurofins on the 23rd December. Upon request of sampling, the Aongatete Maturity team will be asked if any additional hazards that have been identified since the previous list so it is important that we are kept up to date of any new hazards.

Eurofins have also clarified existing policies, such as orchards with long grass could be deemed unsafe by the sampler who will cease to take sample, collapsed structures will be avoided, and if spraying is occurring in nearby blocks the sampler again may deem it unsafe and cease sampling.

Our recent letter to you will cover these new requirement in more detail as well as an offer to create the electronic lists for you.

Ethan England

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