



## Groups Pistachio Information and Technology Groups.

### **PISTACHIO SPRAY TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017**

The 5<sup>th</sup> (August 2017) round of PIT groups meetings were held in incredibly wet conditions. The PIT Group meeting was held in a marquee set up at CMV Farms south of Robinvale. The spray demonstration meeting was intended to have a talk by Geoff Furness on calibration and spray application followed by a spray plant demonstration with fluorescent dye. After dinner – it was a late afternoon meeting – the growers would assess the application with black lights. The outside part of the meeting had to be cancelled as the torrential rain precluded any spraying. Geoff's presentation however, highlighted the importance of spray coverage of all the bunches within the canopy with oil to achieved the desired results.

Geoff Furness is a scientist with 44 years' experience with research interests in entomology, especially in citrus and viticulture, (IPM, ecology, and control) and spray application technology (air assisted sprayer design and evaluation in both horticulture and field crops).

Geoff Retired from a 42 year career as a senior research scientist with the South Australian Research and Development Institute in Primary Industries and Resources, SA in 2010. He now works part time as a consulting scientist.



**Geoff Furness describing correct calibration to the growers.**

Although 31 growers had indicated attendance at the meeting, 20 braved the incredibly wet conditions to hear Geoff and hope the rain held off long enough for the spray demonstration to take place. Unfortunately wet trees couldn't be sprayed so that part of the meeting had to be cancelled. The growers however, took advantage of Geoff's knowledge and asked many questions.

I sincerely thank the Geoff for the great knowledge and input he contributed to the meeting

James Simpfendorfer has kindly videotaped the proceedings and these will be available to the growers via the PGAI website in the very near future. Website: <http://www.pgai.com.au/industry-videos>



**Growers at the meeting listening to Geoff Furness.**

The sausage sizzle provided proved popular again and will be continued for the late August 2017 round of PIT Group meetings.



The next round of PITgroup meetings will be held during the last week (beginning 28<sup>th</sup>) of August 2017.

There will be three meetings, Swan Hill, Sunraysia and Riverland. These meetings will have a range of speakers covering Chill for the season and other topics..

Please spread the word regarding the next meetings and give my contact details to anyone who is not receiving these emails.

For more information please ring Craig Feutrill on 0437 307 590 or Trevor Ranford on 0417 809 172.