

# July 2018 PIT Group Report – Project PS17002

## Pistachio Information and Technology Groups. **WINTER SESSIONS 2**

### **PISTACHIO PRUNING DEMONSTRATIONS**

#### **July 2018 - Meeting Dates and Venues**

This round of PIT Group meetings is a response to requests from growers at the last round of meetings for a field demonstration of pistachio tree pruning. We are lucky to have Andrew Bowring from Kyalite Pistachios and Phil Hewett from CMV Farms providing the pruning demonstrations.

#### **Robinvale: Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> of July, 12 Noon sharp**

Address: **Peter Holt's property**, 76 Zara Lane,  
Lake Powell, Victoria, 3597 - **cancelled**

#### **Waikerie: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> of July, 11am sharp**

Address: **Richard Isaacson's Property**, 152 Dunstan Road,  
Waikerie, SA 5330

#### **TOPICS:**

- **Pruning demonstrations of mature and young trees  
Andrew Bowring and Phil Hewett**
- **Orchard sanitation – Craig Feutrill/Trevor Ranford**

Unfortunately, the Robinvale meeting had to be cancelled due to a lack of response from growers but that was more than made up for by the 23 growers attending, 26 including PGAI representatives Craig Feutrill, Ben Thomas and Trevor Ranford.

This PIT Group meeting was a direct response to the feedback received by growers at the June 2018 meeting and was timed to fit in before the pruning season had ended. We were lucky enough to get Andrew Bowring from Kyalite Pistachios and Phil Hewett from CMV Farms near Robinvale to make the trip across from Victoria to demonstrate pruning of mature and young trees on Richard Isaacson's farm at Waikerie in South Australia's Riverland. The growers indicated they could have stayed in the orchard longer (after 2 hours!) to learn more from Andrew and Phil. Andrew and Phil, with input from Ben Thomas went through all types of pruning on both young and mature trees thoroughly explaining why and how (for each pruning method) and what they were trying to achieve in the long term with the trees with regard to growth and harvestability of the crop.

Pictures overleaf.



Andrew Bowring (Kyalite Pistachios) demonstrating pruning of young trees to the South Australian growers.



Phil Hewett (CMV Farms) discussing rootstocks and budding of pistachios and subsequent management of central leader pruning.



South Australia's pistachio growers enjoying the early afternoon sun and barbeque.