

Ian Gold retires from Skeltons

Ian Gold, Skeltons General Manager retires at the end of August after 10 years leading the horticulture crop production business that became part of Farmlands in 2008. Luke Hansen has been appointed to the replacement position of National Horticulture Manager and starts work on 1 August. Looking to the future, Ian is taking stock over the next six months' to reassess his goals and to plan what comes next. We will introduce Luke Hansen next month.



Ian Gold

Bird vine net recycling

Skeltons will be recycling bird vine netting again this year in conjunction with Agpac Ltd. We can only accept monofilament nets, that is Vineside, Ten Net and over the row vine nets. These must be free of plastic or wooden cores, etc. Products that cannot be accepted are bale side netting and polytape netting.

All vine net for recycling must be packed into wool fadges and a collection fee of \$15 plus GST per fadge applies. However, there is no limit to the weight, so pack tightly. Fadges need to be packed and tied for cost effective transport and storage. The fee will be charged on delivery to Skeltons yard in Ruahapia Road, Hastings.

Growers should register with Skeltons so they can be sent a recycling certificate. Collection will run for four weeks starting 11 July until 12 August.

New Pellenc battery powered tool range

Skeltons and Farmlands now stock the latest Pellenc handheld battery powered pruners including:

- Pellenc pruner Lixion – 35 mm cutting capacity / Ultra Lithium battery
- Pellenc pruner Treelion 45 mm cutting capacity / Ultra Lithium battery (popular in pipfruit pruning).

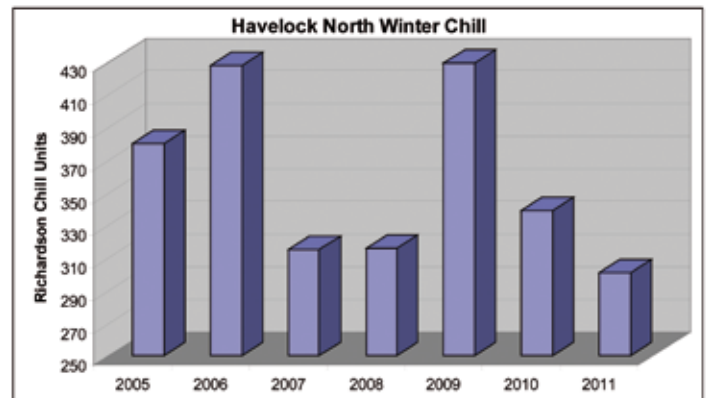
For more information, ask your Skeltons Technical Advisor or Daniel in the Skeltons Hastings store.



Winter Chill 2011

Winter Chill is the term used when we talk about deciduous fruit crops and the amount of chilling buds required to give the crop an even, uniform bud break. In a year with a high level of winter chilling, bud break is even and flowering is uniform over a short period. In low chill years, flowering occurs over a longer period. This increases the risk of some diseases like Fireblight, Brownrot or Sclerotinia.

Autumn has been amazingly warm with ground temperatures well above normal and winter chill is behind the 10 year average. The expectation now is for a low winter chill year for the Hawke's Bay region. Dormancy Breakers (Cyan™, Waiken™, Erger®) are products that can assist in overriding low winter chill years and help compact the flowering period. Contact your Skeltons Technical Advisor for recommendations.



Weather watch

Weather summary for June at Trotter Road:

	2009	2010	2011	10 year average
Rainfall (mm)	111.6	121.7	49.3	78.05
Average temp °C	7.5	8.7	9.8	8.9
Average max temp °C	12.3	13.8	14.85	14.4
Average min temp °C	3	3.6	5.1	3.7
Chill hours	436	334	335	330
Rain since 1 Jan (mm)	347.6	588	589	395.5



Young fruitgrowers put through paces

Skeltons Hawke's Bay technical team helped organise the 2011 Young Fruitgrower of the Year competition held in June in conjunction with an industry ICE Expo (Innovation, Celebration, Education).

Dave Llewellyn, Skeltons Technical Advisor tested entrants on their weed identification ability and sprayer calibration knowledge. Pictured below with Dave is Kelsie Draper from Mr Apple. We congratulate overall winner, Chris Treneman of JM Bostock Ltd, who will be representing the region at the national fruitgrower competition held in conjunction with the HortNZ Conference in Rotorua later this month.

Viticulture technical advisors also helped with the 2011 Markhams Young Viticulturist competition held on 1 July. More details next month.



Need new spray gear?

With spring around the corner, now's the time to check your spray gear is ready for use.

Skeltons stocks both AH50 Recal and Kasco helmets, both proven out in the field. We have a full range of filters, capes, batteries etc, to suit both helmet designs. The new Kasko helmet is available as :

- K80S T5 – a six volt battery pack and motor / fan pack – rechargeable battery
- K80S T1 – motor fan pack incorporates a built-in rechargeable battery that draws from the tractor. 12 volt system plugs through a dashboard plug.

Also we have access to a full range of Silvan spraying machinery (air-blast sprayers). Just ask one of the technical team regarding your requirements.

Skeltons also stocks a comprehensive range of spray suits, spray gloves, gumboots, spray nozzles and accessories to suit all your agrochemical application needs.

Thought about sprayer calibration and servicing?

With the ever-increasing need for low residue produce, it is imperative that chemical applications are as accurate as possible. For us to achieve this it is vital that sprayers are correctly calibrated and serviced. Winter is the perfect opportunity to get these jobs done.

In Hawke's Bay, we have service providers Kittow Ag Hort Systems and AgFirst both offering calibration, and Calnan Spray Quip and Agtech offering servicing and repairs.

Final days!! The Skeltons Great Big Tool Box Giveaway

Purchase pruning gear, Excel Organic Oil or Excel Spring Oil, and be in the draw to win a Great Big Tool Box. Competition runs until 31 July.

See our website for terms and conditions for full product list.

www.skeltons.co.nz

(Exclusive to Skeltons Farmlands shareholders)



Events

HortNZ Conference

When: 26-27 July
 Where: Rotorua Energy Events Centre
 Contact: info@hortnz.co.nz

Pipfruit NZ Conference

When: 3-4 August
 Where: Riverbend Centre, Te Aute Road, Havelock North
 Contact: Catherine Scott on 873 7089

Skeltons pipfruit technical seminar

When: 25 August
 Where: To be advised
 Contact: Chris Herries or Lachlan McKay

Skeltons grape technical seminar

When: September – details next month

Want more information?

Should you require further information on any articles in this newsletter, or on any other matter relating to horticulture, please contact us.

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