

Welcome to Luke Hansen

Skeltons welcomes Luke Hansen to the role of National Manager Horticulture. With a solid background in horticulture, Luke was the perfect choice to replace Ian Gold, who will retire as Skeltons General Manager at the end of this month. Here's a little from Luke:

"For the last 13 years I have been working for a number of Australasia's leading horticulture, viticulture and agriculture companies, so I come to the role at Skeltons with a wide range of industry and crop experience under my belt.

"There are challenges ahead in our industry but with the strength of the great team at Skeltons we will meet them head on. And I welcome your input – my phone is on and my door is always open. I look forward to delivering excellent service and value by listening to you, identifying opportunities and finding solutions to maximise the potential of your land."

Check out the August issue of the Shareholder magazine for more info on Luke.



Luke Hansen

Early season Brownrot control

Brownrot is a fungal disease that can severely affect crop yield so this makes early season control very important. All fruit mummies and wood cankers should be removed during pruning to reduce disease pressure in spring.

There are a number of chemical control methods that may be used such as DMI fungicides; Chorus®, Thiram®, Pristine® and Flint®. These products should be used before anticipated weather events and be focused over the flowering to petal-fall period to prevent blossom blight.

Check out details for our upcoming Skeltons technical seminars overleaf.

Early season control is critical for cryptic pests

Orchard and vineyard inspections over recent seasons have revealed a noticeable increase in cryptic pests (Scale and Mealy bug). Some export markets are sensitive to these pests, so it is prudent to review your on-orchard strategy for control.

In order to maintain control all season it is imperative to tackle the overwintering population early. For both orchards and vineyards, high water rates are critical for penetration into cracks and crevices in the bark where this overwintering population is hiding. Mixing these applications with either spraying oil or a penetrating surfactant, will maximise penetration.

Pipfruit

Spraying oil applied at green-tip is still the foundation to early season Scale control. To increase this control plus target Mealy Bug, an application of Buprofezin (Mortar™ / Pilan®) close to flowering (pre-pink) applied with an organo silicone (Penatra™) should be made. If the orchard has a high-risk profile from the previous season, an additional application of Buprofezin should be made mixed with the green-tip oil application.

Grapes

Mealy bug is a dangerous pest in vineyards, not only because it is a vector for spreading Leafroll Type 3 Virus but high infestations can also taint the flavour qualities of the wine.

For the most effective control, Tokuthion® and oil at budburst and two Buprofezin applications approximately 10 days apart just prior to the start of flowering, is the best approach. Tokuthion® is designed to kill the overwintering population living above ground and the Buprofezin targets the Mealy bug moving up into the canopy from below ground as temperatures warm.

Weather watch

Weather summary for July at Trotter Road:

	2009	2010	2011	10 year average
Rainfall (mm)	84.3	86.5	88.3	112.7
Average temp °C	7.86	8.1	8.69	8.43
Average max temp °C	12.75	12.83	13.29	13.44
Average min temp °C	2.95	3.76	4.21	3.61
Chill hours	465.5	473.5	340.5	413
Rain since 1 Jan (mm)	432	673	678	507



Young Viticulturist of the Year

The 2011 Markhams Young Viticulturist competition was held on 1 July at Mission Estate Winery. Six contestants from Hawke's Bay competed for the title, pitting their theoretical and practical skills in a range of viticultural events held throughout the day. Skeltons Technical Advisors judged the vineyard management section, testing contestants' ability to plan and outline necessary tasks for effective vineyard management. Johnny La Trobe, Sacred Hill Wines, won this Skeltons section.

Congratulations to defending champion Paul Robinson, Villa Maria Estate, who took out the overall title again. Paul goes on to compete against other regional winners at the national final being held in August in conjunction with the annual Romeo Bragato conference.



Blake Herbison, Skeltons Technical Advisor judging Jeffrey Farrell in the Effective Vineyard Management section.



Paul Robinson, Markhams Young Viticulturist Hawke's Bay winner, in action during the competition.

What's in store?

Check out the stock clearance table in store for great bargains on old stock lines.

With spraying season just around the corner, Skeltons has a full range of safety equipment including Vent X Spraysuits, Coverall Spraysuits and Nitrile spraying gloves, earplugs, goggles and respirators.

We also stock all the accessories required for AH50, and Kasco spray helmets, including main filters, clear and tinted visors, shoulder capes, and filters. For Air Blast boom sprayers, we have a good range of brass, albus, tx and ceramic nozzles.

For grafting we have tapes, andywrap, staples and tapener guns, and wound sealants including grafting wax.

Seasonal store hours

Skeltons seasonal hours for our Hastings store starting 3 September 2011 until March 2012 will be:

Monday to Friday	7.30am to 5.00pm
Saturday	8.00am to 12.00pm

Events

Skeltons pipfruit technical seminar

When: 25 August
 Time: 2.30pm
 Where: HRS Club Rooms, Otene Road
 Contact: Chris Herries or Lachlan McKay
 Phone: 06 876 8029

Skeltons grape technical seminar

When: 7 September
 Time: 3.00pm
 Where: The Green Shed, Ruahapia Road
 Contact: James Cropper or Blake Herbison
 Phone: 06 876 8029

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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World Respect Winner 2010

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