



Braidwood Garlic Growers Co-operative Ltd

## **BraidGarlic Board Buzz**

**April 2019**

### **Dear Members**

Your new board, elected January 2019, has decided to respect the decision of the previous board not to publish the minutes of Board meetings. However, we recognise that members have a desire to know what the board is doing on their behalf, hence this newsletter.

Having had 3 meetings the current board has decided this year to prioritise:

1. Establishing the BraidGarlic brand in the marketplace – this means we have to be seen to provide superior garlic to our customers
2. Re-establish the 'Co-op Garlic Plot'
3. Examine closely our compliance with legislation and the requirements of Fair Trade NSW and governance
4. Establish a budget for the financial year 2019-2020 with reference to BraidGarlic Business Plan and rationalise it for actual performance
5. Communications
6. Availability of seed garlic for members
7. Maintain links with advisory organisations: Co-ops NSW, AGIA, Landcare, Farming Together
8. Continue our connection with our community through our Festival and other events

### **1. Establishing the BraidGarlic brand**

The Marketing Committee, headed by David Dawes, will send members questionnaires to find out how much garlic the Co-op is likely to have to market after the 18-19 and harvest what varieties members will have.

This will allow the Marketing Committee to estimate how much garlic the Co-op will have to sell to our existing clients and how many new clients can also be supplied

### **2. The Garlic Plot in Braidwood**

The Church Plot last year was very successful. Not only was it a good venue for members to meet and compare notes, but also for new members to get hands on experience of garlic growing. On top of that, the garlic from the plot netted a tidy income for the co-op – why we need income is covered below.

We cannot use the Church Plot this year and will grow next door at the Lodge Plot.

Using a member's garlic plot was deemed unacceptable because of the potential bio-hazard for the member.

We will need members to assist with planting and caring of our plot on a regular basis. We have purchased new seed and will acquire the compost, mulch etc for it.

The plot will be prepared for planting on Sunday the 28th April, 2pm to 5pm, we will circulate other dates when assistance will be needed when known.

### **3. It is imperative that the BraidGarlic Co-op be in compliance with all aspects of legislation, particularly if we are to apply for funding from various available grants which are available.**

### **4. After nearly 2 full seasons of operation, the board now have a better understanding of how the original business plan needs to be revised to reflect a realistic operational budget. We will use the Business Plan as a base to develop a budget and plan for the 2019-20 financial year.**

We need a budget or plan to know where we are financially.

Your co-op needs fund to allow it to build the infrastructure which will be vital to its success.

Members expect us to have storage facilities and other such infrastructure and we can only supply this

if we are financially successful

5. **Communications:** the board is attempting to ensure all members feel informed of what is happening within our broader community: BraidGarlic Gazette; what your board is doing for you: BraidGarlic Board Buzz; and what is happening in our immediate community: a project to expand our website to include a Members Only section. This project includes a review of our website with a view to expanding its scope.
6. The board recognises that members, particularly new members, can struggle to find sufficient supplies of seed garlic. The problem will not go away. It is anticipated that the problem will be at least partially addressed in the proposed Members Only section of our website, where members can share with each other the availability of seed stocks.
7. **Maintain links with advisory organisations:** Co-ops NSW, AGIA, Landcare, Farming Together: various directors have taken responsibility for maintaining links with each of these organisations
8. **Festival:**  
We will continue to support the Braidwood Garlic Festival  
We are supporting the Bungendore Festival on the 27th May 2019  
We will sponsor garlic categories at the Braidwood Show in 2020

Your Board 2019