



Braidwood Garlic Growers Co-operative Ltd

## **BraidGarlic Board Buzz**

**May 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 4 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. Improve communications with members
6. Seek a forum for 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

See notes below:

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

The Marketing Committee will send members questionnaires in August/September to find out how much garlic the Co-op is likely to have to market to our existing clients and how many new clients can also be supplied.

To effectively supply existing and new clients the board needs to ascertain how much garlic members intend to market through our co-op. To this end the board will be sending out an expanded questionnaire to members which will assist us to market co-op garlic. It is our hope that members will place more garlic with our co-op so that we can assure clients of supply.

#### **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 have planted in Little River Road.

Using a member's garlic plot was deemed unacceptable because of the potential bio-hazard for the member and consequent liability of your co-op.

We will need members to continue to assist with caring of our plot on a regular basis. The plot was planted on Sunday the 28th April, 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 the various 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 and into the future.**

We need a budget or plan to know where we are financially and to plot future directions.  
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. **Improve 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.** This problem will not go away. It is anticipated that we will partially, at least, address this in the proposed Members Only section of our website, where members will have an opportunity 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 Festival  
We have dunganski from the Church plot last year which we plan to preserve to sell at the Braidwood Festival  
We supported the Bungendore Festival on the 27th May 2019  
We will sponsor garlic categories at the Braidwood Show in 2020

Your Board 2019:

|               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| Phil Shoemark | -- Chair     |
| Cliff Burton  | -- Director  |
| Dave Ellis    | -- Treasurer |
| David Dawes   | -- Director  |
| Liz Peschler  | -- Director  |
| Wendy Hutton  | -- Director  |