

ANFIL

Australian Native Food Industry Limited

Information Bulletin No 1 December 2006

This Information Bulletin is issued by the Board of Directors of ANFIL to inform individuals and industry groups of developments related to ANFIL's charter.

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A Message from the Chair...

To all Australians with a passion for our indigenous foods,

GREAT NEWS!!!!

It's been quite some time coming, but I am delighted to announce that the industry so many of us have believed in for so long, is truly gaining some increased momentum and most importantly, a formal national presence.

On Friday 15 December 2006, Australian Native Food Industries Limited (ANFIL) was incorporated as a National Body to represent participants in the industry. This really is a landmark event for our fledgling industry for many reasons and is the culmination of a great deal of work by a handful of very dedicated and special people.

For the past 2 years or so, an interim board, the ANFI Working Group, has been steadily working towards forming this entity, quite an achievement, as there have been unsuccessful attempts in the past. A big thank you must go to the Rural Industry Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) and Coles Indigenous Food Fund who have supported the working group financially through this formative period and also the Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Research Organisation (CSIRO), who has supported us by hosting our first national meeting back in February 2005 and continues to support us with the Native Foods website, an interim web site facility. You can find it at <http://www.cse.csiro.au/research/nativefoods/development/>

There are many other people to thank, some, who for varied reasons have discontinued their involvement. I would like to acknowledge and thank them for their contributions:

- Maartin Ryder
- Eve Fesl
- Wayne Street
- Chris Mara
- John Collyer
- Carolyn Briggs

- Gil Freeman
- Yvonne Latham
- John Faragher
- Gina Smith
- Ron Newchurch
- Max Bourke
- The Victorian Bush Food Association

The Founding Board members guiding ANFIL to our first Annual General Meeting in 2007 are:

- Andrew Fielke (Interim Chair) SA
- Sibylla Hess-Buschmann NSW
- Chris Read (Interim Treasurer) Tas
- Doug Brownlow (Interim Communications Officer) Qld
- Lindsay Boyd NSW
- Mike Quarmby SA

There is an incredible amount of work to be done to really see our industry achieve some of the potential and recognition it so justly deserves. ANFIL has already made an impact in a number of areas, as outlined below, but we will need a great deal of input, support, drive and feedback from you, the industry stakeholders. The first way you can make a real difference is by joining as a financial member and actively encouraging new members & participants in the industry. A membership application form is included in this Bulletin.

The words of Paul Kelly, a great Aussie singer, "from little things, big things grow" are especially relevant to us and with genuine co-operation, commitment and passion, lets see what we can achieve together!!!!

Wishing you all a safe and blessed festive season and a prosperous New Year

Yours sincerely
Andrew Fielke
(Interim Chair – ANFIL)

RIRDC Research Project...Results Mean More Good News

The RIRDC Research Project

Several members of the ANFI Working Group have been involved in an ongoing research project, funded by RIRDC and in-kind contributions by native food industry representatives. The title of the project is 'Preparing the Native food Industry for National and Global Challenges'.

The two main themes to be developed are the establishment of a consistent policy for naming native food products and the presentation of commercially traded species to the Novel Food Reference Group for advice on their status and listing of native foods in the Codex Alimentarius.

Both of these initiatives will go towards establishing a strong and professional position for the Australian industry as we seek export markets for our own native products.

Food Standards Review

The commercial native food industry has been hindered by a lack of recognition from regulatory bodies. This research aims to clarify the food status of some of our species as 'novel', 'non-traditional' or 'traditional' as they have not been part of the diet of the broad community in Australia and New Zealand. This means foods from other parts of the world, traditional native foods or new foods produced from traditional breeding techniques.

Consideration of a product as 'novel' raises considerable difficulties for food products, not least of which is a more stringent regime for food safety and nutritional testing which for many markets simply rules the products out of contention. Recognition by FSANZ of traditional use of a product may expedite inclusion in international codes on similar basis.

The first part of this project was to thoroughly research and document the historic and current use of the main commercially traded native food products, both in Australia and internationally and to collate the scientific, toxicity and nutritional data available.

The data for the first five native foods was to be submitted to FSANZ in December 2006 for evaluation. However due to international regulatory timelines and pressure to achieve

advice, Lemon Myrtle was submitted in early September and advice received that the Novel Food Reference Group views Lemon Myrtle as a traditional Australian food.

Commercially traded wattle seed (various species), Native Pepper (berry and leaf), Bush Tomato and Aniseed Myrtle were also submitted to the Novel Food Reference Group for review.

Results of these reviews will be published in ANFIL's Information Bulletin number 2, due in May and available to members.

The listing of those species in the Codex Alimentarius is scheduled for 2007 and the necessary documentation will be completed before the due date.

The next species to be reviewed and a case for their inclusion prepared for FSANZ will be Kakadu Plum, Davidson Plum and Riberry. Expression of interest is sought from the industry to include significant other native food produce.

"The Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) is an agency of the Commonwealth Government, and was established in 1990 to facilitate industry and government investment in industry-directed and market-focused R&D. Our Mission is to enhance the sustained economic contribution of agricultural industries to the national economy. We do this through the organisation and funding of R&D in priority areas to improve the productivity and profitability of the industries within our charter."
Eva Hickman RIRDC 1995

Native Food Nomenclature

Following the posting on the Native Foods website last year of a draft set of names for some 20 native food products, a number of industry practitioners and researchers provided thoughtful and appropriate contributions to the question of how to establish consensus in cases where regionally specific, hard to spell or confusing names have been used to label native plant food products.

Copies of the ANFIL Constitution and Membership Application Forms are available from the Native Foods website at <http://www.cse.csiro.au/research/nativefoods/development/>

All this material has been collated and included in a paper which will serve as the first draft of an industry wide policy on native food names, and which will replace the current proposals on the website. Industry participants will be invited to comment once more, and to propose further products for inclusion in future rounds of the nomenclature process.

A secondary aspect of this work will be to suggest methods for characterisation of each of the products where potential for confusion or ambiguity exists. These methods might include chemical assays, germination tests and other quality assessment procedures.

The policy will be finalised mid-2007 and a working group established to deal with further additions to the list and any disputes or disagreements with the policy and to contribute to setting Research and Development policy in the future.

RIRDC – Research Projects

In September this year RIRDC invited input from the ANFI Working Group on a number of two page preliminary research proposals for funding in the forthcoming year. This is the first round of a selection process common to all RIRDC research programs, in which submissions are examined by an Advisory Committee and successful proponents are invited to submit full research proposals for consideration in the New Year.

As the New Plants Program presently has no native food industry representatives in its advisory committee, the research manager

On 15 December 2006, ANFIL was registered as a company with ASIC. The initial Board of Directors is now establishing the organisation's infrastructure.

This includes obtaining appropriate tax office registrations, opening a bank account and setting up corporate governance related infrastructure such as ANFIL by-laws, operating procedures and registers.

requested some informal input from the Working Group on the content, priority and structure of the first round proposals. Comment from four industry representatives was collated and provided to the research manager to assist in the selection process.

This exercise highlights two pressing issues: first, the need for a clearly articulated research plan for the native plant food industry and secondly, a mechanism for formal contribution by practitioners or industry representatives to the assessment process.

ANFIL, now established as an incorporated body, will press for participation in both these areas: a review of research priorities including the development of a five year plan for native foods at the earliest opportunity and representation on the Advisory Committee of a native foods sub group of the New Plant Products Program.

Join ANFIL Today....Help shape our industry !

Become a Member of Australia's first national body created to foster the Bush Food industry !

Join ANFIL now and participate in the next stage of shaping the body at the first Annual General Meeting in 2007.

A one-off Joining Fee: \$150 Annual Subscription: \$100

Complete the Membership Application Form and forward it, with cheque or a money order for \$150 to :

ANFIL Membership Officer
3 Lookout Court
Camp Mountain Qld 4520

Please note: failure to submit the correct payment with the application form will delay your registration.

Note: these rates have been set by the Founding Directors. The first Annual General Meeting may consider reviewing them.

You may wish to register your details to be included on an email list and receive general ANFIL information for an interim period while you make a decision about applying for membership. Email your name with your request to the Membership Officer at membership@anfil.org.au

