

# High Performance Manuka Plantations *PGP Programme*

**Quarterly Progress Report**

**January to March 2014 (Quarter 3 2013/14)**

**Executive Summary**

There are four objectives in the High Performance Manuka Plantations PGP Programme.

Work was progressed in the following areas during Quarter 3 2013/14:

*Objective 1: Determine the key environmental factors which influence plant growth, flowering, nectar yield and nectar quality through controlled greenhouse trials*

Trials assessing effects of soils, latitude and light levels on a range of Manuka clones are nearing completion. Soil and plant genetics have had major effects on most variables of interest but light levels have minor effects. New trials have been established to assess effects of soil salinity and of mycorrhizae.

*Objective 2: Determine the effects of site, microsite and stocking rate on growth, flowering, nectar yield and quality*

Monitoring of the established Manuka variety and clone trial plots and broad acre Manuka plantings continued at four sites in eastern, lower and central North Island. Monitoring this quarter concentrated on maintenance, health and pest and weed control within the micro-sites. Considerable variability is visible in the field between plant varieties/clones and between sites. Progress is being made on establishment techniques.

*Objective 3: Determine further the effects of environmental and genetic variables on nectar yield and quality.*

PhD student commenced studies in February 2014.

*Objective 4: To develop predictive tools for plantation management.*

No work was scheduled for Objective 4 during this period.