



## **THE NUTS**

### **HISTORY & DISTRIBUTION**

#### Origins of the Macadamia Nut

Deservedly acclaimed as the 'world's finest nut', the irresistibly delicious macadamia is Australia's only indigenous, commercially grown food crop. According to legend, long before European explorers arrived in Australia, Aboriginal people would congregate during the months of Autumn and winter on the eastern slopes of Australia's Great Dividing Range to feed on the seeds of two evergreen trees, one of which they called the 'Kindal Kindal' (*Macadamia Integrifolia*).

It was not until the 1850's, when two British botanists, Ferdinand Von Mueller and Walter Hill, were struck by the majestic beauty of the two species growing in the rainforests of Queensland that the recorded history of macadamias began.

In 1858 Muller established a new genus, 'macadamia', naming it in honor of Dr John Macadam, MD, Secretary of the Philosophical Institute of Victoria. A distinction was then made between the two different species - '*Macadamia Integrifolia*' (smooth shelled) and '*Macadamia Tetraphylla*' (rough shelled). Consisting of a genus of at least ten species, it is only these two species that produce edible nuts. Although edible, the quality of kernel produced by *Macadamia Tetraphylla* is a lot more variable than the favored and widely grown, *Macadamia Integrifolia*.

### **Current distribution and export figures**

The unique crisp texture and delicate flavour of Australia's native nut - the 'macadamia' - is now enjoyed by people all over the world. With a reputation for producing the finest macadamia nuts in the world, in excess of 60% of Australia's estimated 30,000 tonnes of macadamia nuts produced each year will travel overseas to 30 different foreign markets. Countries such as Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong and the USA buy large quantities of Australian macadamias every year making it one of Australia's largest horticultural industries. It is estimated that the current value of the Australian crop on the domestic and export market is about A\$80m (Farmgate).

Despite these impressive export figures, it is only recently that attention has been turned to the Australian domestic market. This is now expanding significantly with many new high quality value added products becoming available. As the only processor in Western Australia, we at MacNuts WA already purchase nuts in shell from many of the state's growers. We anticipate receiving larger quantities of product every season from the growers we already deal with and we also hope to do business with more and more new growers as the industry in WA evolves. For more information on current season's prices, dehusking and delivery of nut in shell to our premises please do not hesitate to E-Mail us at [info@macnuts.com.au](mailto:info@macnuts.com.au). We look forward to you joining us in our growth towards a bright and tasty future!