

THE ORGANICS NETWORKER

Far North Organic Growers & Producers Society (Inc)

Issue 53 – Autumn 2014



Field Day

Details for the next FNOG Field Day:

Sunday, 25 May 2014

**@ Elfy & Erwin's property in
Pakaraka**

Address:

267 Ludbrook Road, Lakeland

Please bring some chairs!!

and lunch to share.

See you there! ☺

Agenda:

10:00am Cuppa

10:30am Guest Speaker – Ruth March's topic:

"Managing our Waterways."

Discussions

Lunch (Shared)

Tour Of Property

Guest Speaker Details

Our speaker will be Ruth March. She is the Chair of Livingwaters Bay of Islands

www.livingwatersboi.org.nz

also her own website is

www.ourcommonfuture.co.nz

Discussion Points to Ponder

"Erwin Czutta would like to talk about organic growers becoming certified to work together to increase regional production.

Growing the same products to establish a brand for selling as a group.

Looking at value added with processing & sourcing someone with processing facilities.

Who is growing what?

Could they produce an ingredient required?"

Directions to the property:

If you come from the NORTH, SH1, until Pakaraka, pass the hall (left hand side), pass the old church (right hand side) slow down, about 100 m before the Pakaraka junction (where you turn left for the BOI and straight on to Kawakawa), make a "U-turn" to the right and follow Ludbrook Road until 267 with a few letter boxes and a wooden sign "LAKELAND" turn left, pass the lake and first house (brown) on the left is us.

If you come from the BOI, SH10, go to Pakaraka junction, turn right, direction Kaikohe about 100m and then left into Ludbrook Road, rest see above, if you pass the church you have gone too far.

If you come from the south, go to Pakaraka junction, straight ahead direction Kaikohe about 100 m then turn left into Ludbrook Road, rest see above, if you pass the church you have gone too far.

If you get lost, Elfy 021 1056108 or Erwin 021 1056109

About the Host Property

We have had our Lifestyle Block since 2000 and have planted many different varieties of fruit trees the first two years, to find out which trees would suit our property. As Macadamias did very well, we planted about 600 Macadamia trees over the next 3 years. This is our main crop, but we also have a little apple, pear and orange orchard, just planted over the last few years. Macadamias start to crop so do the apples. There is also an area with tropical and unusual trees e.g. fruiting Lucuma. Our goal is to have mainly edible plants or otherwise useful plants (bee fodder, timber for fire wood, ...). We are always on the search for more unusual plants.

See you all on 25th of May. ☺ Elfy & Erwin



Lucuma



Pomegranate and Inga's cream bean



Announcement

On the 6th May Grace Swales, one of our founding members of FNOG, passed on at home. She will be sadly missed by a large number of folk in the Far North.



Classifieds - Wanted to Buy

Orchard ladder approx 3m high

Please contact Gijis Tel: 4051336



*Autumn Season Recipe
(shared by Krissie)*

PUMPKIN LOAF



*1 cup light muscovado sugar or
brown sugar
1/3 cup veg oil
2 eggs
150 gms grated raw pumpkin
Finely grated zest 1 orange
1 ½ cups plain flour (I use spelt)
½ tsp sea salt
1 tsp baking pdr
¼ tsp baking soda
2 tsp mixed spice*

Preheat oven to 180degC

*Lightly grease and line base of loaf
tin.*

*Whisk sugar, oil & eggs together in
a large bowl & stir in the pumpkin
& orange zest.*

*Combine the dry ingredients & fold
into pumpkin mixture.*

Bake 1 hour until firm, use skewer.

Enjoy!

*Proposed FNOG Virtual Seed
Bank & Discussion Forum*

Further to discussions at the FNOG meeting in Taipa some time ago, we have taken the initiative and created an online place (Forum) where members can exchange info about swapping seeds, plants or anything of interest.

The online group forum also allows members to communicate with each other by creating their own topics for discussion, reply to each other etc. and receive email notifications.

Have a look for yourself - here is a link to it:
<http://www.near2u.net.nz/groups/far-north-organic-growers/forum/>

There is yet a choice to be made whether it is deemed useful to the FNOG society and whether the forum is to be public or private.

A public forum allows other members of the public to join the group, ask questions etc, which could be beneficial in increasing membership numbers. For instance should someone wish to start a topic offering information about joining the FNOG society, certification or even things such as organic ways to combat local pests etc. Alternately the forum could be made private, allowing only current members to participate.

Should the FNOG committee & members deem it useful and agree to it, we can send out an email to members with easy login information on how to join.

The committee will determine what the consensus opinion is and gauge if people are bothered to use it at all.

This is a free service we are offering, hosted on our own site and we encourage members to take an active role in the FNOG Society, which you could do from the comfort of your own home.

Hope you find it useful. Kind Regards,
Paul and Viv

discussion forum definition

An Internet forum, or message board, is an online discussion site where people can hold conversations in the form of posted messages. .. read more here
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Discussion_forum

Certification Manager, Secretary, Wai Wurri Update for April 2014

Our certified producer numbers remain stable, and communication between regions is still happening, interesting queries arising that can be resolved.

I shall remind the producers that if you are not sure of what to write into your Property Management Plan or not sure if your inputs are acceptable, first go back to reading the Standards, then ask the Certification Committee if still unsure.

I would also like to ask the full membership to consider helping out with producing the Net-worker for us. Anyone with reasonable computer skills and a bit of spare time could assemble this newsletter for us, as this is the last one put so beautifully together by Viv., and we thank her very much for all her effort.

As for us here at Wai Wurri – it has been a busy season with visitors and firewood and harvesting for the market., and for the first time in so long we actually made it to a friend's party last week & caught up with friends.

The pigs still remind us they are in the valley, the hawks continue to accidentally trap themselves in the pig trap and must feel so utterly relieved to be released! I think the last one I let out was the same one I saw eating a possum in the middle of the road – so I stopped, biffed the possum to the side & hawk was still there later on, staring, now safely, as I passed! They really are a magnificent looking bird, and do a great job of keeping the scavenging little birds out of the persimmons by eating the possums left in that orchard. Pity the rats don't have a positive reason to hang around, they just seem to keep multiplying and pouring in here, menacing the native tree seed, the birds, the native insects and lately the baby quails, some of which have survived a second hatching after hours and hours of rat eradication. We just wouldn't have birds at all without trapping and baiting, so thankfully the birds make it all worthwhile.

Since December we have trapped 35 possums (the boys at the back of us are doing fur, so voila, not many) 8 rats, 8 stoats and 1 weasel, proving that all the baiting I have done for rats is working. We had no idea how much time we would be spending since 1987 on eradicating vermin to try to have some sort of a balanced environment, but, the native bush is stunning and we're proud of it.

Next is to find solutions for all the bugs we now have wrecking our fruit trees, it never ends!!!!

See you at the fieldday..... *Krissie*



Wai Wurri's
safe &
secure
vegetable
garden

FNOG COMMITTEE 2013

Chairman

Terry Higginson

Vice Chair

Elfriede Patek

Secretary

Kris Khaine

Minutes Secretary

Wendy MacPherson

Treasurer

Jan Arie Kamsteeg

Financial Auditor

Peter Brake

Networker Publisher

Viv Rockach

Committee Members

Terry, Jan Arie, Kris, Wendy, Trish and Gijs Veling, Tony
Achtzehner, Inge Bremer, Jim Valley.

Certification Manager

Kris

Certification Auditors

Terry & Jan Arie

Certification Committee

Jan Arie, Terry, Kris, Jim.

100% Natural Soil Enhancer - FODDA

FODDA feeds the earth and is a totally natural and eco-friendly new product for busy gardeners that feeds the earth, repels slugs and snails and even diverts waste from landfill.

We produce an organic certified Soil Enhancer and General Fertilizer. These products come in retail bags (2kg and 4kg). We can also blend larger orders from 25kg to 1 ton or more if required. We also have 25kg bags of ROK Solid and 25kg bags of calcium carbonates.

Size: 4kg General Fertiliser is \$16.50 incl GST 25kg bags are \$40.50 incl GST. The larger quantities we will advise on price. The products are a mix of organic cert (Fair Trade) coffee Grounds, charcoal, sawdust, marine products & phosphate rock.

Delivery, \$8 - Up to 10 Bags
Andreas or Dianne

Tuturu Products Ltd Kerikeri
Phone 021 402 084
Website: www.tuturu.co.nz

MISSION STATEMENT OF FAR NORTH ORGANICS & PRODUCERS

- To gather and seek information pertinent to the organics movement
- To publish this information for the benefit of growers and producers of organic food and related products
- To be a forum, a community and a marketplace for organic growers and producers and their supporters
- To present this knowledge and information in a professional and impartial manner

The Organics Networker is usually published four times a year. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information, neither The Organics Networker nor the Far North Organic Growers and Producers Association accepts any responsibility for errors or omissions or for any consequences arising from reliance on information published. The opinions expressed in The Organics Networker are not necessarily the opinions of, or endorsed by, the editor or the publisher unless otherwise specified. The author(s) of articles hold the copyright for their articles and should be approached for any other intended publishing.

SENDER: Far North Organic Growers & Producers Society Inc PO Box 157, Kaitiaki, Far North, 0441