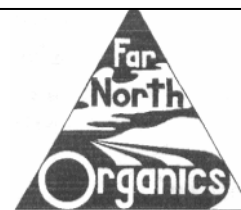


# The Organics Networker

**No. 33 Winter 2007**



*Greetings to our members and readers*

By the time you receive this, the Winter Solstice will have passed and the days will be growing longer....and colder!

Whilst most of us live here in Northland for the lifestyle, or because we grew up here, there may also be the sense that not just the garden, but also our bodies need to rest over the winter.

I well remember putting the garden to bed in the north of Scotland, covering the empty vegetable beds with straw, grass clippings, anything I could find, for it to be mulched into the soil by the rain and snow. By late November, the soil was cold to work in – woollen gloves were worn under normal garden gloves but still not enough to stop my fingers numbing with cold.

And then the winter and the snows – only seven or eight falls that lasted a few days at the most, if we were lucky. But enough to make us rest inside, to ponder the coming year's programme, to enjoy hot winter meals together and a roaring fire. Reading books, listening to self-improvement tapes whilst completing a piece of needlework. Romantic early morning glimpses of a doe and her fawn on the front lawn covered by snow; rabbits' footprints in the snow. Walks in the clear, crisp air after the snow had stopped falling and the sky turned azure blue.

What hope have we up here in the North, of relaxing like this? Honouring the seasons within our bodies? Our gardens and lawns continue to grow, to demand we cut and trim, weed and mulch.

Perhaps we ought to remember that old method of resting part of our productive land each year, to give us some respite? Force part of the garden to rest as we need to do. And rest our bodies more than we usually do.

Read books, listen to music, communicate with old friends (not through emails!), enjoy meals of home-grown produce together. Oh, the thoughts of the possibilities just flow....

This is an extra newsletter to bring you up to date with happenings within FNOG. There are important items, and a precis of Ken Shirley's talk. We look forward to feedback on any issue herein, and any others you may wish to raise.

As you can appreciate, the committee are "older" rather than younger, except that their brains are still "younger".(we believe). However – we would dearly love "young things" to help us with the year's programming and any new ideas that young families need to explore. New places to visit on Field Days, for example. Can we use your property to demonstrate something or a process? Think about it. And younger folk, we want you to get into the committee next year. After all, you are the future of organics, and the way we get to the general public changes with each new generation. Would you like to work in a sub-committee with us? Is there something you can see that needs attention through FNOG or OANZ? Do contact us with even the smallest thoughts.

*Helen Guthrie*

## **OANZ (Organic Aotearoa NZ)**

is gaining momentum throughout NZ, and we in the FNOG committee are doing our best to bring it's benefits to Northland. This year will seem relatively quiet as we set up a new web site, support Rob Downing at Mahinga Oranga in Waimate North with his first series of workshops, set up the Library, and explore other possible links.

Northland is known for its traditional support for organic production and GE Free produce. Sustaining that belief with actual practice is hard work in itself, and convincing conventional producers to change over is another challenge we seek to attempt. This is what OANZ is about. Confrontation and "you ought to convert" tactics won't work. Quiet discussion and support will - from those who have done it or are in the process.

### **FIELD DAY AT MAHINGA ORANGA**

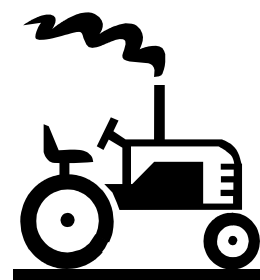
We had an excellent Field day at Mahinga Oranga, Waimate North in May. A large attendance in the morning to our meeting and then to hear Ken Shirley from OANZ update us on their activities, and clarify any items raised. A precis of his speech is under a separate heading in this newsletter.

After a lovely shared lunch, Rob Downing walked us over his property and explained his systems with the land to us. He has fallow land rotating each year, and also crop rotating to make the most of mineral content and soil health. The reality and hard work of producing vegetables for a market was very apparent.

Then he and Tony Henderson, also an OFNZ certificated producer, shared with us, in brief, the highs and lows of living and working this choice of career. Mistakes they had made, and how they recovered, along with challenges and successes. This is no dream material, aside from any vision they held for their respective properties. This was hard work; physical, mental and emotional.

Farming sheep or cattle organically must present a different set of challenges, but it is probably less physically taxing on the body.

Field days are always a challenge for the committee to set up. Where, a speaker, a topic? Official meeting section in the morning or the afternoon? Are members willing to take part in a 10am till 2 or 3pm day? Or do you want half days? Do you want less meeting protocols / procedure in the meeting section? These are all things we wonder about, with a changing membership. So please give your feedback to the chairman or secretary – emails, addresses on the back of the newsletter.

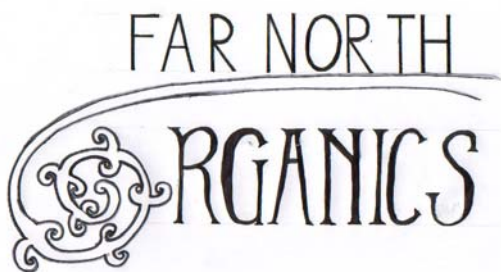


### **OFNZ representative**

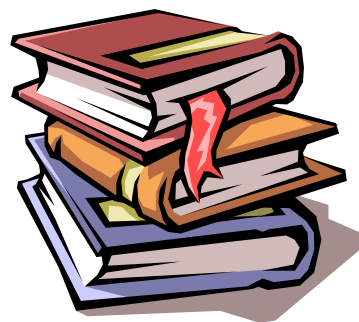
Terry Higginson has been our very able representative to the NZ committee for many years. He is stepping down, and OFNZ members who returned their vote elected Tony Henderson as their new representative.

## FNOG LOGO STICKERS

You will see in the May and June minutes that we have been exploring a new logo for the society, as the old one was seen to be 'old-fashioned'. Also, those involved with the energies of shapes saw it as not applicable to the age we now live in. Below, we have reproduced the committee's choice from a selection, and another newly received suggestion. The idea is to offer a sticker to all members to put on their property letterboxes / gates / or wherever, to promote FNOG and the fact that your property is organic / chemical free, whether or not you are organically certificated. It could be reproduced in varying sizes.



*We would like your feedback. If no adverse feedback is received (by a majority) before or on the next field day, or even other suggestions, the committee will choose our new logo.*



## LIBRARY

This has been set up with the OANZ funding. So far, we have two books and several booklets. These latter are available on-line, yet sometimes it is easier to have the written word in hard copy, rather than trawling through a computer screen. It also saves you computer ink and paper by borrowing a book from the library.

Books will be available for perusal at Field Days, and listed on-line on our new web site so that you can contact us between times.

Postage will be incurred when needed. We hope to be able to offer direct ordering facilities on the web site.

<http://www.farnorthorganics.co.nz/>

In the meantime, please contact the secretary. See page 5 for our books.

We have set library fees as follows:

FNOG Members     \$ 5 per book

Non-Members     \$15 or the value of the books, which are more expensive.

Borrowing time is one (1) month.

If any of you have more suggestions for books / pamphlets / leaflets etc, please inform us.

**PLEASE LET THE SECRETARY  
KNOW IF YOU HAVE BORROWED  
BOOKS / MANUALS FROM THE  
FIELD DAY !!!**

**FIVE HAVE BEEN BORROWED  
WITHOUT TELLING US.**

**KEN SHIRLEY, OANZ**  
**Speaking at the FNOG Field Day,**  
**May 20th 2007**

*Ken has been with OANZ since its inception in March 2006.*

OANZ covers not only farming, food and beverages, but also Fibre, health products, Aqua-culture, eco-tourism. Its target is \$1 billion output of organic products by 2013. NZ is currently at \$200 million. Internationally, there is an organic phenomenon worth \$60 billion / \$30 billion Euros.

Europe and North America have a 20% annual growth rate. If organic standards are observed, the sector is poised to grow significantly.

Fonterra are needing a six-fold increase to meet the demand for certified produce. They have 70 suppliers and need 200 by 2012, along with supply and demand co-ordination.

OANZ has government funding for 3 years to set up the organization. Membership is all certifiers, producer groups, special interest groups (e.g. Maori Organics, Soil & Health). All have 2 reps on the board.

Functional Task groups.

- 1) Communication and Advocacy / Commerce. Web Site – has a virtual library. Should be able to get an answer or a pathway to one.
- 2) Marketing and market access. Growing the domestic market. Sorting out supply and demand glitches.
- 3) Extension, Education & Research. Under Extension, there is the Organic Advisory programme. Section administrators – Gill Bacchus, Holger Karl, Colin Walker, and Hinga Marsh (Maori Organics)

The Organic Advisory Programme (OAP) has government funding for 2.5 years. Coordinators – Gill Bacchus, Holger Kahl, Colin Walker, and Hinga Marsh (Maori Organics)

Under one of the OAP programmes, User defined packages (now called Community and Industry defined packages) have been allocated to:

- Sector groups like apples, avocados, dairy etc
- Regional groups like FNOG, Auckland, Coromandel, Gisborne, / East Cape, Wairarapa, Central Otago, Southland
- Special interest groups - BHU at Lincoln, Bio Dynamics

Retailers and Merchants are in the process of setting up their own groups to address issues such as labelling, presentation. Ceres and Chantal are on the steering committee. The jury is “still out” on setting a legislative standard.

### **Smart Start Programme**

Encouragement to converters, support in transition, support / advice to those starting certified production.

Consultants are available for one half day visit to help at \$650 + GST. Farmer / producer \$250, OANZ will subsidize \$40 + GST. A report will follow the consultancy. At the South Island meetings their overwhelming support was very encouraging. Prices for organic lamb meat were so much higher, that many sheep farmers were looking at conversion.

### **Research.**

\$100 million will go into all publicly funded research for NZ. \$60 million to Biological Sciences. OANZ could get \$6 million for Organic research in which the emphasis will be on validation of existing farmer knowledge. The mineral content of food is decreasing. Research at a high level is needed. Govt talks about environmental issues - farming methods need to change to support the outcome. OANZ is collaborating with the Crown Research Institute to focus on our needs. E.g. As an apple grower, what answers do I need? Link the farmer to the industry.

Link a focus farm and research with the farmer, an advisor and feedback.

Include field days with a scientist. Disseminate the information and outcomes.

The lead-up is massive, progress is good. September 2008 will be a 'go'.

The term "organic".

Using this term is not illegal. OANZ is set up to sort out this organic certification challenge, and will get going on this issue.

August 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>.

National Organics Conference at Lincoln, Christchurch. [www.oanz.org.nz](http://www.oanz.org.nz)

Mystery Creek Field Days.

OANZ will have a major display 17m x 10 m. All groups are being represented there. This will be a very good presentation. OANZ will be there as a service organization to sort out problems re conversion.

## **Q & A**

**Federated Farmers?** OANZ are meeting with them to try to educate them re organic production.

**Funding?** OANZ should be self-funding in three years time. Veg Fed takes a fee from producers – can this go into OANZ instead? This happens under the Commodity Levies Act and is nothing to do with Organics. (In USA, if certified, the levy goes to the Organic Trade).

**Carbon credits** need to be with the grower if you want to change anything.

**South Island Farmers.** Did they want to convert to organics for money or the ethical process? Probably a mix. There is a convergence. Farmers are a lot more responsible / responsive to reducing inputs = chemicals. There are those who have done it for the money saving and found that they are feeling a lot better as a result.

Organics can be based on technology, sustainability and innovations combined with historic practices.

**How much leverage can OANZ actually put out there?**

OANZ did submit on the Brassica issue. GE in commodity products is showing declining

success, but is certainly on the increase in medicine. GE is not part of our advisory service, but OANZ believes it should be clearly defined in food and medicine. Politicians need educating and convincing. People need to be clear about what they want when telling politicians.

**Packaging?** Research on packaging to get away from plastics.

***Will it be that the next thing TGA start telling us is what herbs we can and can't plant?***

***Approved Inputs. Some are mined and non-sustainable. We need sustainable substitutes. Please can OANZ do research to find something else?***

This probably wouldn't qualify for the research money. To get research finance, the angle more likely to succeed is – what are the micro-organisms needed?

*You can see that some excellent questions were raised with Ken, and that there is still much to be researched or implemented. Support and action from the organic sector is constantly needed.*

## **LIBRARY BOOKS**

- Organic Gardening, A guide by Organic NZ
- Resource Guide S & H Assn
- Wetland Restoration, A beginner's guide NRC
- Trees For the Land, Trees for Northland NRC
- Plastics are Fantastic, Using Plastic bottles for a Greenhouse, Sustainable Communities Initiative Scotland
- Seed to Seed, Suzanne Ashworth
- Organic Avocado
- Organic Pastoral
- Organic Citrus
- Organic Summerfruit
- Animal Health
- The Environment
- Natural Farming
- Practical Organic for NZ farms
- Organic Futures



## THE OANZ RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

### How Research Approach developed

- Based on wide ranging consultation over many years and the specific work of OANZ over the last 18 months, including the Organic Advisory Programme & R&D consultation process in April & May 2006 & the stock take of existing information in March 2006.
- In the consultation process farmers directed OANZ to take a strong lead in R&D.
- An analysis of R&D funding and the activities of science providers was completed.

Based on this, the approach now presented, was developed

### Proposition based on OANZ's R&D Framework

To have OANZ as the **co-ordinating body for organic-based sustainable systems research**

- not being a funder
- not being a provider

### But aligning proposal needs

- avoiding duplication of effort
- avoiding research funds spent on knowledge that is already available
- improving quality of organic processes and outputs.

### An Integrated Approach to Knowledge & Experience in Agricultural Systems

The approach will involve farmers and growers in deciding on the research questions and carrying out research on their properties in collaboration with scientists.

Previously research was controlled and carried out by scientists, often with little relevance to farmers' needs. The aim is to change this, and have scientists help to design on-farm trials that will validate farmers' knowledge, based on their practical experience.

Effects of management practices would be monitored on a "monitor or demonstration" farm, and other farmers in the group could try out alternative practices relevant to the same research question, which would also be monitored and results compared with those on the main monitor farm.

### Future Development

OANZ will be talking to the following about funding for organic R&D:

- The Foundation of Research, Science & Technology (FRST), the main organisation allocating Public Good Funding for R&D in New Zealand.
- The Sustainable Farming Fund (SFF) about the research and extension needs of the organic sector and developing an appropriate approach towards next years funding round.
- Various industry & farmer/grower organisations that have resources to help support extension & research, about how they may help organic initiatives.

The aim is to develop a long term, cohesive, coordinated structure for Knowledge Management in Organics – education, extension & research.

If you would like further information and input as this programme is developed please contact Gavin Middleton at the OANZ office, [gavin.middleton@oanz.org.nz](mailto:gavin.middleton@oanz.org.nz)

**MAHINGA ORANGA**  
**ORGANIC MARKET GARDENING**  
**PRACTICAL SKILLS / TRAINING**  
**2007 COURSES**

Coaching small to medium scale commercial conventional growers willing to learn pathways to organic production that meet the criteria of OFNZ / Bio Gro Organic Certification Standards.

Training Course conducted locally at Waimate North by commercial Certified Growers.

Day 1 – Theory  
Followed by 3 day Practical Workshops  
Commencing June 25th – June 29th &  
August 6th – 10th 2007

**Course Content**

Personal & Business Planning  
Property Plans  
Soil Preparation / Fertility  
Seed Raising / Green Housing  
Transplanting  
Fertilising  
Weeding  
Harvesting & Marketing

**Course fee** \$160 per day  
Subsidies available for members of FNOG.  
Membership details available

If numbers are sufficient, Rob is willing to create a workshop series for those who want to apply all the principles of organic gardening on a small scale for family use.  
Please let him know if you are keen for this to happen.

**Prerequisites**

It is necessary for the persons expecting to attend this programme that you currently are farming, or plan to start farming this year.

That you attend the Personal and Business Planning together with the Property Management segments in Day One, prior to the Practical Skills segments.

**Day One**

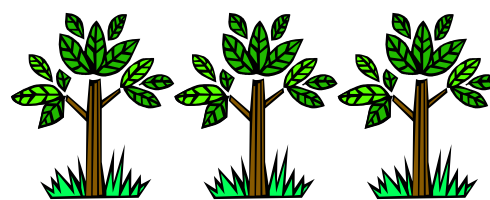
This planning stage covers your personal state of willingness to proceed along the pathway of being a Certified Organic Farmer / Grower. Personal barriers, world barriers, motivation, wellness / health and support networks. Marketing, management, property plans, resources / inputs / outputs, competencies / skills and standards.

All the above mentioned must be completed before commencing the Practical Skills learning segments covered in Days 2,3, and 4

**For booking / enquiries**

Rob Downing  
Phone / Fax 09 4059 435  
[rob\\_downing@hotmail.com](mailto:rob_downing@hotmail.com)

(there is an underscore \_ between rob and downing)



**REPORT FROM THE**  
**OFNZ CERTIFICATION MANAGER.**

**“organic” means “certified organic”**

Too often we see produce for sale that says “spray free” or “organic”. Where is the *verification of these statements?* How do we know we are getting quality produce grown to a standard?

We don’t !!!

How do we know these folk are genuine, producing your food with an organic ethic and a knowledge of what inputs they are using - are they certified organic inputs or are they prohibited?

Quite often when I query the growing methods used by these uncertified organic producers, I find their fertilisers are just conventional – full of prohibited ingredients.

“Spray free” is also a rather empty statement, because as certified organic producers we use approved sprays like seaweed.

*If only consumers would question whether their food is certified or not, then more producers would become certified in order to get into the organic market – and the status of uncertified organic would carry no weight whatsoever.*

Unfortunately retail outlets are accepting so-called “uncertified organic” produce to sell, not knowing at all how it is grown. Thus giving the consumer no guarantee whatsoever as to purity of this food. Given the amount of sickness we see in our communities, surely the consumer needs this guarantee to maintain health? Are there DDT residues? Who knows without the soil tests?

We have recently added to our Far North criteria that producers in the certification process can’t stay in any of the conversion periods for longer than 2 years without very good reason. If the producer is working to the standard they shouldn’t need any longer than one year in C0, C1 or C2.

There is never enough certified organic produce to go around, so if you are producing enough for yourself and others, get it certified and walk the talk, it’s not difficult, and we do make it affordable.

We cater to the novice and are here to answer questions - but it is up to the producer to research what they can grow and what is allowable under the standard for sprays and fertilisers. Support the industry by always using certified organic inputs and don’t make the mistake of scoring a whole heap of wonderful manure off someone’s farm only to find they have just drenched with chemical nasties.

Certification isn’t difficult, and the added bonus is that your neighbours know there will be a furore if they contaminate and upset your status – thus they are generally thoughtful & respectful of your certification. Fortunately spray-drift is becoming less of a problem than just a few years ago, with overseas markets not accepting the residues in the produce.

*Kris Kaine*  
*WAI WURRI JUNE 2007*

**If you have surplus produce, you might like to donate it to your nearest primary school. Many are now working on “healthy eating” projects with fruit & vegetables, making soups etc for fundraising, especially in low-decile schools. They might really appreciate your excess produce.**

Helen Guthrie



## FNOG Field Day Meeting May 20th At Mahinga Oranga, Waimate Nth

**PRESENT** around 50 people,  
dwindling after lunch

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS Field Day MEETING**

held on February 18th 2007

- DDT testing now being done on OFNZ properties. High DDT levels could relate to high levels of copper in the ground.
- Letter re the term “organic”. A draft letter has been started. The following points were made during discussion.
  - Growers can still sell organic food without certification. Consumers need a guarantee = certification. Some farmers’ markets require a certificate on “organic” stalls. We are asking OANZ and OFNZ groups to take up the banner on the use of the term “organic”.
  - Kris gets phone calls from growers who find that they don’t need a certificate to sell their produce. We also lose grower members because they don’t need the certificate and they get to save the \$160+ fees. Many of them still use prohibited inputs. They seem to think that spray free means organic. By comparison, many others are going to a lot of effort to go through the certification process.
  - The bottom line is that the consumer needs to see this certificate and the producer number on their goods. Only the word “certificated” means producing to a set of standards. Prices are high in Auckland where producers do not get a fair share of the retail price.
  - Certification does not mean that you will sell all your produce. It’s getting harder to do so. Growers are not getting enough leverage. Should we encourage the Consumers’ Institute to look at this?
  - Chantal will take non-certified produce if certified produce is not available. Ceres will pay well for certified food.
  - How much pressure was coming from overseas on cert. Produce? Ken Shirley clarified standards in various countries. IFOAM, Demeter, Bio Gro certification needed to export. There is also AgriQual. OFNZ only National – basically Bio Gro with our own compliance procedures.  
Can start off small with OFNZ / FNOG before ‘graduating’ to BioGro / export.

- Some imported organic material is questionable. OANZ is on to the situation.
- Certified Organic shops: In Australia, there is an inspector checking every aspect of their operation – it is compulsory for organic outlets. Some shops have used another producer’s cert. number on other folks produce.
- Prior owner of East-West Organics in Auckland found that buyers did not want plastic food wrap on their purchases. A certification on a shop would require it.
- Food should be certified organic or conventional. No in-betweens.

THAT the Consumers Institute be contacted to do research and an article on the use of “organic” and what it should / does mean to the consumer.

Moved Wendy MacPherson

seconded Yvonne Stephens

carried

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Thank you cards sent to Werner Krieger and Sabrina Griffiths
- The treasurer sent Subscription renewal notices to support members.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Balance as at February 18th	\$1,475.69
Payments	1,362.13
Income	<u>1,620</u>

**Balance as at May 20<sup>th</sup>                      \$6,733.56**  
including \$5,0000 for OANZ

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

- Library now updated on page 3.
- FNOG logo stickers for farm gates. Peter Harrison spoke on the old logo – how the triangle is linked into old ways and the “male” hierarchy. He explained that it was time for a new logo with a more “feminine”, creative geometry, to incorporate creative Mother Earth energies. Peter had a circular design with our name and the words Truth, Trust & Passion in it. Celtic / Maori koru curls in it. The design is universal, linking the physical and spiritual realms. John’s connection on the production side will look into how simple we need to keep the logo. Another suggestion was that we have four sections, not three with the koru curls, to signify the four seasons.

We will put it out in the Networker for consideration by the membership, and ask for comments or other designs. We could also put the old logo into a circle.

- Snap Audits on OFNZ properties. After reading the minutes of the last committee meeting, Richard van Alphen questioned if this was a wise choice of use of funds even though no certified grower should be worried about such an action? A DDT test costs \$85. No more credibility would be gained by OFNZ or the property chosen. If auditors are concerned about a property, then the auditor should approach the committee for assistance. The chairman said he knew there were properties where a snap check would be a waste of time. But others where illegal inputs are being used. The plan was to choose from those properties who consistently do not hold to the standards. Many work a fine line between the standards and going over. If they came out clean in the check, FNOG would pay, if not, the owner would pay for the check and costs.

Bio Gro do snap checks, including soil and foliar tests - with no warning that they have concerns or when they are coming.

**MOVED** an amendment to the motion made in the last committee meeting:

**THAT** the committee have the discretion to nominate, with reason, the properties from which the choice is to be made.

Moved Richard van Alphen

seconded Graham Harris carried

- RPR. Imported from Tunisia, Egypt, Peru to NZ by Summit Quinfoss. It has BioGro certification on it so the cadmium should be low. However this level varies with each shipload, and there is concern as to high levels sometimes being present. Jim Valley suggested we keep samples of each load put on our property, to verify queries if soil samples show an excess.

The meeting closed at 11.38am

*Koanga Gardens offer many workshops for organic growers. If you would like to attend one, we have an arrangement with them for our FNOG members to receive a discount. You will need to contact the FNOG secretary to confirm your membership to Koanga administration.*

**FNOG Committee Meeting**  
**June 10<sup>th</sup> 2007**  
**At Wai Wurri, Kaitaia**

**PRESENT** Terry, Kris, Helen, Rob, Marty,  
Graham, Tony, Jan Arie, Peter  
**APOLOGIES** Andy, Ian, John, Grant

**CORRESPONDENCE**  
**OUT**

- Thank you cards sent to Rob Downing and Pamela Baker for hosting the field day.

**IN**

- Organic NZ request for donation to help fight the Therapeutic Products and Medicines Bill.

**THAT** we send them a donation of \$50, with encouragement, and tell them of our membership numbers.

Moved Tony Henderson

seconded Graham Harris carried

- Pamela Baker – letter re OANZ and workshops / education criteria.

- Pamela's main concern is the criteria for Demonstration farms. Ian has requested clarification on same from OANZ.

- Rob suggested we set our own criteria, as we already do under OFNZ, being a self-directed unit. After discussion, we decided to do that – as a “stand-alone” group, to take the initiative.

Do we need to have control over which farms are used?

What about Demeter and BioGro farms? They also have a right to be considered.

The need to be fully certified by a recognised organization.

Currently financial.

In the first instance, model farms need to be the above – demonstrating the ultimate to achieve. To have Vision and Idealism.

We do not wish to consider those who are “certifiably” organic as model farms, as they find excuses to drop out of the need for certification.

OANZ is looking for certified produce, not just farms. FNOG is seen to be working with BioGro, so it is just a step up under the OFNZ umbrella.

We will wait for a response from Gill for a week before notifying them of our decisions.

- GE Free Northland, membership form and AGM minutes  
**THAT** we donate a \$20 sub plus \$80 donation, totalling \$100 to GE Free Northland, as per last year.  
Moved Jan Arie seconded Kris carried
- ERMA email regarding result of submissions. Controlled tests to go ahead.
- Soil & Health – “Dinosaurs Must stop robbing Sustainability budgets”
- Soil & health – “Organic means Certifiably Organic”.

**THAT** the correspondence in be received and the outwards approved

Moved Helen seconded Kris carried

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

<b>Balance as at April 27<sup>th</sup></b>	\$ 6556.96
incl. \$5,000 for OANZ	
<b>Income</b>	\$ 1170
<b>Expenses</b>	\$ 671.26
<b>Balance as at June 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>\$7055.70</b>

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

- Certification Matters.  
As this is OFNZ business, the discussion was kept to a minimum. A Producer's Management Plan has been declined by the Certification committee. The owner has been advised to approach the National OFNZ committee for redress, as this is outside the scope of the FNOG committee. The owner tabled the correspondence between himself and the Certification Manager, then left the meeting. Another certification property remains at C2. Yet another awaits a DDT soil test result.
- Letters re spray drift.  
Kris has used the BioGro letter as a template, modifying it for our needs. OFNZ properties can now be classified as sensitive areas under NRC. The local Kaitaia regional office would like to keep a list of our certified members on hand for quick reference should problems arise e.g. a member with problems from sprays.  
Members to be contacted for permission to do this. It was thought that FNDC should also keep a list.
- NCC rep. Terry is standing down. Tony and Rob have offered themselves as a replacement. Terry has approached Julia Geljon & Chris McIvor to see if they wish to be nominated but

not yet had a reply. Each candidate needs to present a profile for OFNZ members for Kris to send out for perusal. The position of rep was explained, and how the NCC works. We also wondered if it should go on the web site.

- OANZ Northland Web Site
  - a) We need to sort out who is maintaining the website once it is set up.
  - b) Rob Downings training workshops to go on.
  - c) Computer lease. We have one to fill out to go ahead with.
  - d) Library to be put on-line, with facility to order books. Charges to be \$15 for outsider, or value of book. Members \$5. Books allowed out for a month. We will review this policy in 3 months. Hetty McClure is willing to be our Librarian.
  - e) Boundaries are given in the web site. They need clarifying. Originally we were from Kaitaia to the south side of the Mangamukas and across to Kaeo. Certification boundaries now go to around Kawakawa, with Central OFNZ taking over from there.
- FNOG logo stickers for farm gates. Peter brought several prototypes in for perusal, developed after discussion on Field Day. One was chosen. It will be circulated in the next Networker. If no objections are received by the next field day, we will adopt the logo. Remember that OFNZ has its own stickers which are easily printed in any size with producer number on it.  
**THAT** we reimburse Peter for the \$40 cost to produce the prototypes.  
Moved Terry seconded Jan Arie carried
- OFNZ certification. The issue of a time-line for certification processes from C0 through C1, C2 etc. Was raised. After discussion  
**THAT** where properties are under conversion to certification, FNOG / OFNZ allow 2 years maximum in each level of certification, with provision for extenuating circumstances of 1 year, to be determined by the FNOG committee case by case.  
Moved Jan Arie seconded Rob carried
- A new certificate produced by OFNZ was tabled. An objection to the third paragraph now on it has been received. Jan Arie commented that it belonged to a separate auditor's document; and that the original certificate is preferable, with the addition of the OFNZ seal, preferably embossed into the paper. The committee agreed on all points. OFNZ will be notified by our representative.

The meeting closed at 4.55pm.

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**Mission statement of *The Organics Networker* :**

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.

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