

The Organics



No 35 Summer 2008



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Sunday, FEBRUARY 24TH
At PENNELL'S OSTRICH FARM,
388 Kaimaumau Rd, Awanui
the home of Raewyn and Ross



NO DOGS, please. CHILDREN very welcome

GUEST SPEAKERS: John and Gail Aikens
of Kohatu Toa Eco- Village in Kaiwaka.

John is a woodcraftsman and charcoal maker,

Gail is manager of the Northern Seed Savers.

Both feature in articles on Pages 12 - 15 of Organic NZ Nov / Dec 2007

- 9.30am** Refreshments & Mingle
10 am prompt start for a hopefully short meeting. There are vacancies to be filled on this year's committee. Let us know if you would like to be nominated. A short break, then
11.30 am Speakers, continuing after lunch
12 noon **BRING SOMETHING YUMMY FOR A SHARED LUNCH –**
always a great success. Tea, coffee and juice supplied.
1pm **speakers continued.....**
2 pm Walk and talk with Ross and Raewyn

DIRECTIONS TO 388 Kaimaumau Road

Take the road to Awanui, then follow on north on State Highway 1. Kaimaumau Rd is on the right, not far past the township of Waiharara. It takes around 20 minutes from Awanui to the Pennell's place, a distance of 20kms. No 388 is on the right-hand side of the road.

Don't forget SEED SAVING!
Peter Harrison will have his stock of seeds available for purchase. Please help their survival by planting some, and letting some to go to seed to perpetuate the species. And bring any spare you have to pass on...

INTRODUCING.....

In Keeping with a new tradition, I have asked a lesser known committee member of the association to give us a blurb to introduce himself.

THIS ISSUE'S EDITORIAL is from a not so new committee member, Grant Fallon, who lives on Kauri Peak Farm at Marlow Road, Riponui. He calls their place Marlow Heights due to the panoramic views over the Hikurangi Flats and beyond.

When our family moved here 21 years ago there was only the remains of part of the original homestead on a ridge. This is where we decided to build our house. It overlooks part of the Hikurangi swamp to the south and this vista also includes the volcanic cones towards Whangarei (Parakiorietc). To the north in the distance, we can see the hills prior to descending into Paihia. The south and west view encompasses areas of farm land with scattered pockets of native bush which is mostly regenerating, and beyond that is part of an area of pine plantation and the forefront of several thousand acres of mature native forest.

This is the view from our house. I have been building it for about 17 years. Like cheese, good things take time, but also my wife Janice keeps wanting things changed. That's why women have cleaner minds than men – because they change their minds more often!

From the back of our 162 acre property, one can see Mt Manaia at the Whangarei Heads, the volcanic prominences of Kaikohe and neighbouring Mt Hikurangi with its towering radio/TV mast, and the Okaihau area up to Maninganinga Forest. A most impressive sight on a clear day!

Our native bush areas have several interesting and possibly endangered species: kiwi, kauri snails, terrestrial and epiphyte orchids, filmy and kidney ferns etc. There is also a very beautiful bush stream deep in a gully, and the only place I will trust for a drink of cool fresh water. This stream has hundreds of spherical, dark brown and extremely heavy stones in the creek bed and banks. So far, I haven't found anyone who can identify them.



On December 1st, our daughter Gayle had her wedding ceremony on our farm, on a small flat area by another stream. Most of our flats are on a 45 degree angle. People came from as far afield as Kaitia and Taupo for this occasion. Just over 100 of them, and a lot were "jafas" (from Auckland). Due to the prior rain, it was 4 x wheel drive access only. My 20 year old 4 x 4 tractor with hay bales on the tandem trailer was the wedding vehicle, with the bride, her bridesmaids and flower girls sitting there waving to the crowd like Santa at the Hikurangi Christmas parade. All went well with the wedding, with myself as M.C. and Toastmaster.

The townies were amazed, intrigued and horrified to think the meat was homekilled, that my wife Jancie did all the catering – all prepared on a wood stove! Since then my title has been "Jed" after the Beverley Hillbillys.

Christmas has been busy with people wanting to visit these strange folk who don't care if the electricity fails for a week or so, and can still carry on with normal life!

I wish every member of FNOG – past, present and future a happy and prosperous new year. Let's all work together for what we believe and desire to do.

Grant Fallon, Jan 2007

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Pien Vink of Takou Bay
Selwyn Martin of Takou Bay
Gijs and Trish Veling of Kaeo
Ruth Renner of Diggers Valley
Reuben & Giden Porter of Ahipara
Sheree Nilsson of Wells Road
Elfriede Patek of Pakaraka
Anthony Lamont of Kaitia
Thadeus (Tadjo) Mazurkiewicz of Waipapa
Erica & Andrew Phillips of Kawakawa
Christine Henderson
Sue Dyer, Peria
Glen Farac



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE 2008 AGM.

It's that time of the year again, already, and I hope it has been a good one for you all.

The weather has had it's ups and downs, but up here we've not had the lack of water as other parts of our country, although it's getting dry now.

I was fortunate to see the East Coast up to The Three Kings from a yacht recently & it all looks beautiful – none of the usual summer burnt brown look, spectacular views of The Three Kings, better than I have seen before. We didn't land many fish as the sharks were very active & hungry, but caught a glorious view of a large whale at North Cape.

Back to business. FNOG's involvement with OANZ (Organic Aotearoa NZ) has been a busy time, with successful workshops run by Ian Sizer, Tony Henderson and myself, with the assistance of OANZ funding. The attendance has been disappointing despite the widespread advertising and the huge effort put into running them. Ian organised a Cattle Management workshop, Tony an Organic Growing one and I have just finished with two Trapping workshops this weekend, with the assistance of the NZ Kiwi Foundation and NRC, much appreciated.

FNOG will be showing our colours at the next Kaitaia A & P Show, fitting into the Kiwi Foundation space, and our presence will also be at the Dargaville Show, so, any assistance with these activities from members would be brilliant. Members can exhibit their wares, especially at Dargaville. We have also been seen at the Waimate North Show, so, as you can see, FNOG activities are keeping us very involved. OANZ has been getting promotion at the Kaitaia Market every weekend also.

We had no interest from members in applying for funding from OANZ for the '08 year, and no one wanted to replace Ian as co-ordinator for this. Promotion of the organic movement is very important, but I do have some reservations about OANZ going about this in the right way with the lack of progress reports and promotion of organics in the mainstream media.

This year has been extremely busy for our secretary/treasurer Helen Guthrie, as she has worked very hard on our behalf and I can't thank her enough – she has been the main reason for everything coming together and flowing. Thanks also to the Committee and their efforts to support FNOG's activities.

Tony Henderson has done his best to represent our region on the OFNZ (OrganicFarmNZ) National Co-ordinating Committee – it has been more difficult than he's been prepared to admit, I know, but, it is running to budget, so that's a bonus.

It is time some of you think about replacing me as Chair, there are members out there who are more than capable of this, so let's get on with it. Also, please don't be shy about representing us on our Committee, you are not expected to attend every single meeting, but numbers are helpful so that we get a reasonable attendance each time. Remember, we have been around for 18 years, since December 7th 1989, and involvement is stimulating and very worthwhile to the Far North.

Happy and profitable gardening to you all.

Terry Higginson.

OUR LOGO



Out of the forty-four email requests sent out as per the motion as the last field day, only 19 responded with a vote. Opinion covered all suggestions, with the majority voting for the logo that appears on the front of this newsletter. It has less wording on the outside ring.

Special Thanks to those who voted. We presume that those who didn't either didn't mind one way or another, or disliked all suggestions.

OBITUARY

Sad news was received on Friday 14th

Joe Polaischer of Rainbow Valley Farm passed away at 3:30 this morning, quietly and peacefully.

From Betsy Kettle: The most beneficial contribution you can make is a donation to Friends of Rainbow Valley Farm in your name to help Trish cope with the financial burden of the past and on-going court costs of protecting themselves from one of their neighbours. To make a donation, print out the form on www.rainbowvalleyfarm.co.nz and mail it with a check or do a direct deposit. All the info is on the website.

**MINUTES FNOG Field Day Meeting for
Sunday OCTOBER 14TH at Wai Wurri, 155 Wells Rd**

PRESENT: Terry Higginson, Helen Guthrie, Kris Khaine, John Kenderdine, Rob Downing, Peter Harrison, Jan Kamsteeg, members and guests
APOLOGIES: Jim Valley, Ian & Anna Sizer, Graham Harris, Tony Henderson, Grant Fallon

MATTERS ARISING

Letters to Govt departments have resulted in one reply, very general in response
All members are now financial or have resigned. We now have 9 FNOG, 17 OFNZ and 36 Support members.

**CORRESPONDENCE OF NOTE SINCE THE
PREVIOUS FIELD DAY
OUT**

- Thank you letters sent to Michael Ludbrook, Peter Downard and Mike Palmers for donations.

IN

- Re use of term "organic" - Response from Judith Tizard ex Phil Goff office and also:
- Response from Liz McPerson, General Manager, Consumer Affairs ex Peter Mumford
- Copy of court case Notice of Appeal between GE Free Northland and REMZ re GE Brassicas

FINANCIAL REPORT as at 11TH OCTOBER

A full set of accounts to date were tabled for the meeting to look at.

INCOME since last meeting

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Support members | 660 |
| FNOG certs | 90 |
| OFNZ certs | 1420 |
| Documents | 60 |
| Donation | <u>50</u> |
| | 2280 |

Balance today \$2128.42

PAYMENTS as per tabled printout

Accounts for payment

Kris Kaine \$55 (\$40 field day groceries,
\$15 photocopying)

THAT the financial report be adopted
Moved Helen seconded Glen Lovell carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

- FNOG logo. The three logo prototypes were once again presented to the meeting. Only one objection was received since the last meeting – from the Werners, who offered an alternative to the new design, extending the old one into a diamond shape. After discussion
THAT the logo be changed to the new prototype.
Moved Glen seconded Michelle
THAT we accept the logo as designed, in principle, with some small variations to be investigated and taken to an email vote. Moved Michelle seconded Peter

Variations suggested were reverse the inner words with the outer, reduce the FNOG wording on the outer circle, try green instead of black. Also look at appearance when reduced to sticker size. Helen will play with it on her computer. (New slogan ?– "Just Dig It!)

- Stickers for farm gates will come once we have the Logo finalized.
- No missing library books have been returned
- OFNZ

The National Office fee has risen to \$100 plus GST, equaling \$112.50 for certificates. Tony took the committee recommendations to the NCC meeting. These were well received and are being considered, after more support came from the other regions.

Re the wording on the certificates. Legal opinion is being sought as a result of Murray Drumgor's concerns expressed in an email. NCC appear to be leaning towards leaving the certificate as it was.

Running economically with the budget is taking precedence over all.

- Tony Henderson held a "growers group" workshop yesterday, under the OANZ umbrella. Eleven people attended, resulting in 3 new FNOG members – one heading for certification. There are more courses coming up. There is some interest in organic beef farming.
- Ron Downing shared some facts from the OANZ Task Team, of which he is a member. Their roles are in training – Extension – Development – Research. How to train people, and how to get trainers to people are the main areas of need – this is a missing link which they are working on.

The meeting closed at 11am.

Speakers for the day were

After the meeting: Grace Swale and Werner Krieger on "Edible Weeds".

After lunch: Mary and Tony Dwen from Port Waikato on "Organic Sustainability in Russian dachas", and the "Ringing Cedars" books from Anastasia. (The cedars are actually Siberian Pines).

Terry then took folk for a walk on the property, and Kris took others through the certification document.

SUPPORT MEMBERS

Your 2008 membership fee of \$20
is now due.

P O Box 157, Kaitaia

This does not apply to FNOG and OFNZ
members whose fees are paid
when re-certifying their properties.

MINUTES of the FNOG COMMITTEE MEETING
held on Thursday December 8th at 7.30pm by teleconference

PRESENT: Terry Higginson, Helen Guthrie, Tony Henderson, Kris Khaine, Ian Sizer, Grant Fallon, Rob Downing

APOLOGIES: John Kenderdine, Jan Arie Kamsteeg, Marty Robinson, Graham Harris, Peter Harrison, Andy Cuckney

CORRESPONDENCE

- Continuing mail on the progress within Soil & Health / OFNZ finances. Gen Bus.
- FNDC has responded to our letter re the addresses of our certified members to be registered as against spraying, and spray damage from neighbours. Despite their original request to us, they deny any knowledge of this, and recommend that NRC handle it. The same letter was also sent to NRC at the time. They have not yet responded.
- GE Free Northland is trying to pressure FNDC to put it into line with other councils in Northland / Auckland. It seems that the current Mayor will not listen to any guidance / request beyond his own intentions.

THAT the correspondence be received.

Moved Helen seconded Ian carried

FINANCIAL REPORT

The books have been completed and are ready for the auditor pending accounts for payment this meeting.

We are finishing the year with a healthy bank balance.

Balance at September 9th \$2,067.19

Income since that date \$ 683.00

Payments since that date to verify

| | | | |
|--------|-----|---------------------|--------|
| 21-Sep | 219 | Helen Guthrie | 109.50 |
| 26-Sep | 215 | Hextall sec sub pay | 20.00 |
| 28-Sep | 218 | OFNZ | 270.00 |
| 02-Oct | 220 | NZPO | 50.00 |
| 12-Oct | 221 | Paper Plus | 22.49 |
| 16-Oct | 222 | Wai Wurri | 55.00 |
| 30-Oct | 223 | Northland Age | 45.90 |
| 30-Oct | 224 | Fairfax N. News | 51.58 |
| 01-Nov | 225 | OFNZ | 180.00 |
| 14-Nov | 226 | Wai Wurri | 191.80 |
| 19-Nov | 227 | Paper Plus | 15.99 |
| | 228 | cancelled | |
| 26-Nov | 229 | Northland Age | 50.63 |

\$ 1062.89

Support members 120

FNOG certs 140

OFNZ certs 360

Documents 20

Donation 43

683

Balance at 1/12/07 **\$ 2018.03**

THAT the payments made since the last committee meeting be ratified. Helen/Ian carried

THAT the financial report be adopted. Helen / Tony carried

OANZ accounts

The Excel spreadsheet of these accounts were presented by email to the committee, also available in PDF format.

The OANZ accounts are also ready, pending a final payment to Ian Sizer for the organic beef farming workshop this coming Sunday.

THAT the costs incurred at the Organic Beef Farming workshop at Takou River farm be reimbursed to Ian Sizer, and **THAT** the accounts be adopted

Moved Terry seconded Rob carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

OANZ FNOG is required to submit – very soon – proposals for use of funding for the next six to twelve months. Ian is resigning from the position of co-ordinator on the sub-committee, so a new person is required to take over the helm.

Rob clarified some points for us, as he is on the OANZ team for Education, Extension and Research.

Within OANZ, the UDP criteria have been raised. Where funding has been given for 2007, few groups have delivered on what they originally planned. Milestones have not been achieved, hence the tightening of the criteria. Rob recommended that we not apply for funding unless we believed we could deliver the results.

We need some-one with time / energy / commitment to help us. No-one on the FNOG committee was willing to take this on.

Rob told us that within OANZ, FNOG is seen as a group with history, is well established, has “grass roots” membership, and Integrity. We need to ensure that our well-earned image is not blemished.

It was proposed that we put the request out to the FNOG membership via email to find a motivator with ideas – projects worthy of funding and effort. This needs to happen a.s.a.p.

Re Soil & Health debts. Our N.C.C. rep, Tony was asked if they were just \$3,300 or was there more? The NCC meeting set for last Monday did not happen, and will now be held on the 10th. Tony has advised that meeting on a previous occasion to consider the members’ financial positions. FNOG will not change its stance on how the NCC needs to go forward.

Ian has asked Gill for clarification on when the financial year ends, in the hope that we can pay off the computer equipment in one go, rather than keep on the lease. We have \$7,000 in our account at present.

LOGO

44 emails were sent out to those with addresses, mainly OFNZ members. The majority vote has been for D. A total of 18 votes are in so far:

A 3 votes B 2 votes C 5 votes D 8 votes.

BAY OF ISLANDS (WAIMATE NTH) SHOW

We set up our site with a new gazebo purchased with OANZ funds. Tony started off the early run, handing out forms for certification. Jan Arie Kamsteeg, Rick Swemmer and Marty Robinson did subsequent 2 hours stints.

We were not “run off our feet”, but interest was gleaned, and a few memberships taken.

Ian is getting a price from NPC for strips with our name on to hang across the top of the two sides to help draw attention. Our next use of the gazebo will be at the Kaitaia show. We need more attention grabbing for the stall – big photos perhaps, some produce?

TRAPPING WORKSHOP

Terry is holding a workshop on trapping for organic growers in conjunction with the Kiwi Foundation. One to be held in the far Far North, the other in the Bay of Islands region, possibly Takou River farm. Timing needs to be discussed.

ORGANIC BEEF CATTLE FARMING WORKSHOP

Ian is holding this on Sunday 9th at Takou River Farm, with 10 – 12 people expected. Barbara Gillett will be the tutor.

FIELD DAY Our next one will be our AGM, probably in February. We need a good venue and a brilliant speaker.

The meeting concluded at 8.30pm

MINUTES of the FNOG COMMITTEE MEETING held on Sunday, January 27th 2008 at 7.30pm by teleconference

PRESENT: Terry Higginson, Helen Guthrie, Tony Henderson, Kris Khaine, Jan Arie Kamsteeg, Peter Harrison

APOLOGIES: John Kenderdine, Graham Harris, Andy Cuckney, Rob Downing, Ian Sizer, Grant Fallon, Marty Robinson,

CORRESPONDENCE

- To/from Gill re end-of-year report / financial year. This has been moved to accommodate our trapping and homeopathic workshops, as funding was not received till June of 2007.
- NZPO – our yearly rental is now \$135 from \$125.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The books have been completed and are with the auditor . The cheque books have been returned for outstanding and current payments to be made.

We are finishing the year with a healthy bank balance.

We have several new members as a result of the workshops.

FNOG

OANZ

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------|------------|
| Bank at 31.12.06 | \$ 652.28 | 0.00 |
| Years Income | \$10,575.50 | \$9,454.00 |
| Years Expenses | \$ 9,099.75 | \$3,520.49 |
| Balance at 31.12.07 | \$ 2,128.03 | \$5,933.51 |

N.B. with extension to financial year, we are yet to pay out costs for the trapping workshops and the homeopathic workshops.

FNOG PAYMENTS SINCE LAST MEETING

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Chq 231 OFNZ (Fergusson) | \$112.50 |
| Chq 232 Paper Plus | \$ 31.99 |
| Chq 233 Wai Wurri | \$ 26.40 |
| reimburse REAP photocopying | |

FNOG

REIMBURSEMENTS:

| | | |
|---------------|---------|--------------|
| Helen Guthrie | \$16.00 | receipt book |
|---------------|---------|--------------|

OANZ

PAYMENTS SINCE LAST MEETING

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Chq 009 Barbara Gillett | \$335.25 | Tutor organic beef cattle workshop |
| Chq 010 Tony Henderson | \$225.00 | Use of venue for organic vege workshop |
| Chq 011 Ian Sizer | \$225.00 | Use of venue for organic beef cattle workshop |

OANZ REIMBURSEMENTS

| | | |
|---------------|---------|-----------------------------------|
| Helen Guthrie | \$10.00 | USB cable for computer to printer |
|---------------|---------|-----------------------------------|

THAT the payments made since the last committee meeting be ratified and **THAT** the financial report be adopted
Moved Terry seconded Jan Arie
carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

OANZ Despite talks with various members, the position is still available

GAZEBO We have a price from NPC for strips with our name on to hang across the top of the two sides to help draw attention. Our next use of the gazebo will be at the Kaitaia show. We need more attention grabbing for the stall – big photos perhaps, some produce? A maximum of \$1000 has been mooted. Because of the price, we need further investigation. Helen to contact NPC re material / colours etc.

TRAPPING WORKSHOP One to be held in the far Far North at Wai Wurri, the other in the Bay of Islands region, at Greg Blunden's place in Kapiro Road.

FIELD DAY Our next one is our AGM, on February 24th, the day after the Kaitaia A & P show.

Venue is the Pennell's Ostrich Farm in Kaimaumau Road, north of Awanui. To be advertised in the Northland Age and Northern News a fortnight and week before.

DARGAVILLE FIELD DAYS

These are on February 28/29 / March 1st. Central OFNZ is working with the Auckland group who are unable to help. They have requested a donation of \$350 from our OANZ funds to help with the shortfall in costs.

THAT FNOG send \$350 to COFNZ from the OANZ account moved Tony / seconded Kris carried.

We can use promotional material from FNOG and OANZ. The Environment Centre can provide more pamphlets of organic groups in Northland. We will produce one on ourselves for handing out.

Put it in the Networker – those going to the show might like to carpool, and give 30 – 60 mins on the site roster.

NETWORKER

With the AGM upcoming, request nominations for each position and for the committee.

Support members subscriptions not recently received are also due for this financial year.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

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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.

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.

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