



The Organics Networker

Field Day and AGM Sunday 27 February 2011
At Gijs and Trish's property
See details below...Bring a friend and lunch to share

No 45 Summer 2010/11

Welcome to the summer newsletter! Phew, it's a pretty hot summer but thank goodness the new dam is full with all that lovely rain!

Our first contribution is from Gijs and Trish who are hosting the field day and AGM.

Jesse

Gijs and Trish look forward to welcoming you to their organic paradise

We have lived on this special land for nearly four years and have weaved our own magic with it.

Our land is 1 hectare (2½ acres) with lots of Totara and native bush, a large vegetable garden, orchard, olive grove, bee hives, free range chickens and ducks. We recycle through composting, worm farms and Bokashi.

Our home was built one year ago and was designed to be eco friendly with solar heating, wet-back, untreated materials (as much as possible), double glazing, wool insulation and an eco system which uses an autoflow vermicomposter system for waste water.

From walking in the gardens, along the woodland paths, to observing the beehives we believe it will be a memorable day for you all.

Directions: From the Kerikeri roundabout on SH 10, drive approximately 28 kms north, until you come to Waiare Road on your left (also signposted is Puketi Forest). If you go into Kaeo you have travelled 2 km too far. After turning left into Waiare Road, travel 8 kms (4 kms of sealed road and 4 kms of unsealed road) until you come to our green letterbox (rapid number 2614) is on the fence which goes up our drive. There will be parking through the farm gate straight ahead and to the right side of our drive – please be sure to fasten the gate after parking.

We'd like to suggest you bring utensils as we would like to support the environment by not using plastic cutlery.

We look forward to welcoming you to our organic paradise.

Gijs and Trish

Comments from the Chair...

Dear Organic Growers

Field Day - As you will have noticed we will have another fabulous field day on the 27 February 2011. I have been a few times to Gijs and Trish's property and was always amazed on how well the property was organized. What I really hope is that all of the people who are interested in bees and beekeeping will come to this field day, as Gijs has a very special beehive. We might also

be able to have somebody present to inform us on the latest development with regards to organic control of the Varroa mite.

During this field day we will also have our AGM, which I will try to keep as short as possible.

I would like to ask our members who want to have issues discussed during the AGM to send them to me so that I can include them in the Agenda. Also, have a think about becoming more actively involved in the organization.

For me the committee meetings and field days have been a source of information and contacts which helped me a great deal in improving the management of our organic orchard.

A New Year has started and I hope that the weather will be better than last year for all growers and that all your plants will prosper and your animals breed large offspring!

Networker - Thanks to Jesse we again have again an informative Networker to read after tending our gardens and animals. She is one of the volunteers doing a great job for the organic community in the Far North. We from the committee see this as an important activity and hope you enjoy the Networker and will enjoy it for a long time.

The Networker is the exchange platform for information on organic field days, available organic seeds from the FNOG seed bank and written information from the FNOG library as well as whatever other information needs to be shared.

Member numbers – The number of Certification members is constant but the number of support members is dwindling. Another important activity is the certification of organically managed properties, which we assess against two standards. These standards are a local certification, FNOG certification, for small properties occasionally producing for the regional market and a national certification, Organic Farm New Zealand (OFNZ) for the larger producers who sell their produce more generally in the New Zealand market. The

certification is an important service given to the growers as it is done at cost price and is one of the lowest in New Zealand. The number of certified properties is fairly constant, which is in contradiction to the number of support members, who also enable the organization to function by contributing to FNGO with their annual support fee of \$20. These funds are used for the organization of the field days, mailing of the Networker to those people not connected to the internet, and all those small costs which occur for even a small organization as FNOG.

However, during recent years the dwindling number of paying support members has worried the committee. During the last meeting I proposed to stop sending the Networker to support members who had not paid their \$20 invoice, but after a short discussion we decided to send the Networker free to anybody who wants to read it which seemed better than restricting the distribution to a small membership.

Given the situation, I ask all readers who are not financial support members to become a support member by paying \$20 (or more) into the FNOG account which is Kiwibank 38-9001-0361079-00 and then inform Peter Brake our treasurer by email peter-brake@hotmail.com. Alternatively, you can make your payment by sending a cheque to FNOG, P.O. BOX 157, Kaitaia 0441

Jan Arie Kamsteeg

October Field Day



The last field day went really well with about 24 people at Josie and Rich's place. We had a lively discussion on organics and the naming and future of organic produce. We also saw some

new faces and felt lots of good energy. This was followed by a wonderful shared lunch and lots more sharing about organics. We walked around the curved and terraced garlic gardens and some of us learned some new skills in garlic growing. Rich then showed us around the Cherimoya orchard and gave a demonstration on pruning these amazing trees. Josie provided some samples of this delicious fruit at lunch, yummy thank you!



Following our walk we viewed the wonderful house project in progress. Rich and Josie are building their sustainable home with used car tyres, bottles and clay quite an amazing job!



Good News for Organics as Markets an email received from Rob Downing

Hi Jesse, it's just Rob. I fell asleep after dinner and awoke at 9.30 pm and missed the planned meeting the other night! The only news I have which is worthy of mention in our Networker is that, finally after 8 years of talk, the National Farmers Market Association now enforce the rights of organic certification at their markets. In other words only those stall holders who are

certified organic can use signage or make any reference to their produce being organic. About bloody time, it only took 8 years! It was the questions that I asked at the OFNZ conference last year in Hamilton and pitched at the Vice Chair of the Farmers Market Association that made all the difference; this is because they are wanting organic producers to be stall holders at their markets and this issue was the barrier to many growers. SO YEAH SMALL WIN! love Rob

FOR SALE

Dexter cow G3 (born May 2004) Good mother

Rooster 2 year old Ph: 09 408 0448

Jan Arie Kamsteeg

Organic Feedstock Maize

During past years I have organized a supply of organic maize for the organic chickens of the Far North. However, we have changed our orchard management involving more mulch around the trees. The fully free range chickens are the best animals to redistribute the mulch over a large area, thereby undoing a lot of hard work. We have decided to eat all 50 of them and reduce our chicken flock to a couple in a moveable henhouse. We therefore do not require the larger volumes of organic maize anymore and will not be placing large orders for distribution to the other growers. If someone else would like to take over the organization of the maize, then we would be interested in a few bags per year.

Jan Aire

The maize was bought direct from:

Mike and Bridget Parker
Kiwi Organics Limited
Broadlands Farm
765 Paroa Road
Tolaga Bay
Gisborne NZ 4077

Wai Wurri Update - 1 February 2011

Once again our river flats have been under water and our access modified by the strong current of muddy waters that rip through here. Fortunately Cyclone Wilma didn't hang about for too long, but the rain has given everything another fresh burst of growth. We've harvested a reasonable crop of garlic and the pumpkins, butternuts and cucumbers have relished all this tropical moisture.

I thought that so much rain in such a short period would have eliminated the bunny numbers somewhat, but they seem to be very resilient around here, sitting outside the door nibbling away, hopping around amongst the geese and showing off in numbers with no fear



of our presence. Our dog Angel is finding all this great sport, missing out most of the time, but scoring just enough to give a twelve year old dog that sudden surge of energy, pretending to be young again when it suits.

Unfortunately this year we were too otherwise occupied to attend to the macadamias and missed out on the crop for the first time, perhaps it's a matter of not having so many chores.

Our next aspiration is to have a wee sleep-out for the kids, so ideas and designs are floating around at present, mainly it will be small and affordable but warm, dry and comfy.

Considering the fact that there are timber trees growing here it would be crazy not to look in that direction for materials.

This is such a beautiful place to live it's hard not finding things to do when we really need a break!

Happy gardening everyone.
Krissie

Certification Manager's Report

We audited a new application for FNOG certification last month and we have another who was OFNZ certified coming back into FNOG certification. At present we have 7 FNOG certifications and 17 are OFNZ.

There is nothing of any consequence to report, other than the fact that it would be very beneficial to organics to see a lot more marketers at the Kaitia market selling loads of greens and produce with a local certification.

Plenty of folk want their food organically grown and would prefer that the grower can show they are working to a standard. At present, they have to take the growers word for it that they are "organic" or "spray free."

Perhaps the internet, cell phones, ipods, TV and all these modern "necessities" of life need to put aside for a while. Time once again could go into protecting their planet, with young folk devoting energy and time to gardening with an organic ethic and a healthy outcome. It is hard to find young folk who are not txtng while you talk to them !!

Kris

ENVIROFEST FAR NORTH 2011

Celebrates environmental and economic sustainability with a focus on living smarter and cheaper

12 MARCH 2011

KERIKERI DOMAIN

FREE EVENT

Visit www.envirofest.co.nz or call 09 407 4938



SEED BANK

Michelle Mitcalfe will make these available on the field days. So, plant more seeds now! They will stay viable only if we continue to plant and re-seed them. Even if you don't want the produce from these seeds, would you be prepared to set aside a small plot (free from contamination of other like species) to germinate some of what we have and let it go to seed again? Maybe you might like a small plot that would cross contaminate with any of your species to produce a new stronger seed for yourself?

Here is the current list of seeds that are available in our seed bank from Michelle

Oats
Amaranth,
Blackboy Peach,
Borlotti Bean, Merlins Runner Beans, Red
Kidney Beans,
Chinese Cabbage,
Coriander
Corn,
Fennel, Clary Sage, Curly Parsley,
Kakano,
Kowhai
Multiplying Onion
Multiplying Silverbeet,
Parsnip
Port Albert Cucumber,
Pumpkin Jarrandale, Butternut, Kamo Kamo,
Red Mustard, Sunflower'
Rocket,
Woad Seeds,
Yarrow,
Yellow watermelon, Oak Leaf Lettuce
Zambo Seed, Zucchini,

These are all of the seed savers seeds.

Michelle also stocks Kings Seeds of Organic and Heirloom origins and can order any seeds in as requested from Kings Catalogue they pay the freight, which makes them a better buy for our customers.

Regards, Michele Mitcalfe
Ph: 09 408 2937
021 1652130

MARAWHENUA NURSERY KAITAIA

Specialise in Heritage and Native trees organically grown, not certified.

SPECIAL PRICE FOR APPLE TREES to FNOG members of \$100 for 6 trees i.e. \$20 each

Contact Chris or Brit on 09 408 5443 or email tastytrees@gmail.com for stock list

REMEMBER!

Field Day and AGM 27 February 2011

Details above!

Bring a friend and something to share for lunch!

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

OANZ NEWSLETTERS

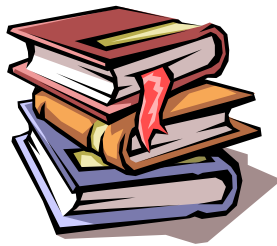
These are sent out every two weeks. It contains the latest news and information about what is happening in the organics sector in NZ and overseas. You can subscribe free on-line by contacting gavin.middleton@oanz.org.nz

LIBRARY

We have a small but good library which is now located at the accountant's office of Peter Brake along Highway 1 in Awanui. These books are available at any time, or at field days. Please contact Peter Brake on (09) 408 7979 if you would like to borrow any of the following books.

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



Library rules:

Books can be collected and returned on Field-days or the AGM. Books can be sent after payment for the cost of mailing and have to be returned within 6 months, either at a field-day or by mail to the FNOG postal address. In case of loss the borrower will either replace the book or pay FNOG for the book.

Contact Peter Brake peter-brake@hotmail.com or see him at the field day

FNOG COMMITTEE

Chairperson	Jan Arie Kamsteeg
Treasurer:	Peter Brake
Vice Chair:	Murray Russell
Auditors:	Terry Higginson
	Jan Arie Kamsteeg
Secretary:	Jan Arie (acting)
Certification Manager:	Kristen Khaine
Networker Coordinator	Jesse Summers
Librarian:	Peter Brake
Financial auditors	Peter Brake
Members:	Terry Higginson
	Jim Valley
	Rob Downing

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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