

# The Organics Networker



No 48 Spring 2011

## Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> OCT 2011 Field Day at Ora Ora Resort, Kerikeri Bring a friend, lunch to share. Trading table.

October 9<sup>th</sup> 2011 field day, this time to be held at a Kerikeri property known as Ora Ora. The owners Inge Bremer & Rolf Mueller are very sincere about their love of land and the creatures that live within it.

<http://www.oraoraresort.co.nz/index.html>

We may have guest speakers on the day. However at the time this went to print, nothing was confirmed. I hope you will find the time in your busy spring schedule to make the effort to share with us the stories of the past few months. The committee and I look forward to meeting you all there.

Cheers, Rob  
Chairman



### *Directions to the Field Day*

1. a From North, take Kapiro Rd and eventually turn into Landing Rd, heading for the Kerikeri Town Basin. Go to #2
1. b Otherwise, get yourselves to the Waipapa Rd and Kerikeri By-pass intersection. Take the road that leads to Landing Rd and the Kerikeri / Stone Store Basin / DOC carpark. Turn right at the T-junction.
2. Just past Kemp Rd (on your left) you will see the sign for Ora Ora. Only about a dozen cars can park in there, so you might need to park in Kemp Rd or further down in the DOC carpark by the basin.

### **ON THE AGENDA:**

**FNOG CLOTHING:** In previous meetings, we have discussed the creation of a FNOG T-shirt with logo. The company which has the template prefers to print several at once, so an indication of interest will be asked for. Rather than spend funds on purchasing a quantity and hoping to sell them, we could e.g. consider a specific order quantity, or you purchase your own



clothing, be it V-necked or polo T-Shirt, or even a windbreaker, and then we take them to be printed. FNOG would pay for that initial set-up cost – you pay for your item of clothing and the printing.

Here is Rob's all done for you to think about. This will be on the agenda at field day.



**ALSO FOR CONSIDERATION:** help from FNOG members on stall at B.O.I. P and I show on Saturday November 12<sup>th</sup>.

## Chairperson's Report May 2011

### *Time for Reflection*

Another winter has come and gone at Mahinga Oranga. My vegetable planting plan completed during early may should have yielded a plentiful harvest throughout winter ?? But it was not to be as Mother Nature decided to unleash endless rain. I had plans to return to the Kerikeri Farmers' Market during winter, agreements to supply cafes, private box sales and of course a plentiful supply of nutrient rich food for ourselves.

Too much water / rain seemed to wash away any hopes of this plan. Instead I had to observe such events as root crop almost remaining dormant and slugs & snails having a party in the folds of most leaf crop. Weeds seemed to be the only plants happy enough to spread like wild fire. Nature was obviously protecting her earth and so the farm income was almost non-existent.

Winter was a bit of a write off for me at our place but I am hopeful of a successful spring and summer growing season with new plans to match my optimism.

Many experts had their say with comments like "the planet is stressed" or "Mercury is in retrograde" or the classic "that's growing for ya". It didn't help me deal with the disappointment, much as I try to balance costs to income ratio. (what a joke!) What did make sense to me, however, was the fact that I had spent so much time ensuring the organic matter was high, perhaps too high, as the drainage was slow and water holding capacity of the soil was too great for many of my plans. Nature does have its way and lessons were learned by this experience of wet wet wet. I did have plenty of time to rest and repair things in between down-pours of rain.

I have prepared the spring and summer growing areas so maybe the outcomes will match my almost undying optimism. Two very fitting signs that this property is in good spirits is the recent arrival of two Kaka Native parrots that spend hours in our garden each day. Another uplifting sign was four wood pigeons perched on a branch outside our bedroom. I suppose nature will have her say in due course, and so like many of our fellow members in FNOG we do what we can to bring balance to our world.

I do wonder how the winter faired for our FNOG members? No doubt we will hear from you folk at our next meeting on October 9th at Ora Ora Eco Resort in Kerikeri. So until then - happy gardening.

*Cheers, Rob*

#### **WAI WURRI UPDATE**

**September 2011**

***Kris Khaine***

What a different Winter; weeks of slush and wetness, and now in September, we are needing rain.

There was even a very brief fall of snowy stuff here, which wafted around in the light breeze then was gone, like teasing, but it was there. I was on the top verandah sorting out the macadamia nuts, wishing Terry wasn't in the shed, because this dreamy stuff really needed another witness.

For the first time in a long, long time, we are not growing the big commercial crop of garlic this year. So many other growers are doing it up here now, and I'm over all that hard work. Year after year folk have bought heaps from me to put in crops but they kept coming back with stories of failure.

Last season I talked myself blue in the face at the market telling them how to grow it properly, so we shall see.

I'm going to have more free time with grandchildren, and less time planting, weeding, feeding, harvesting, drying, cleaning, selling garlic.

This doesn't give me an excuse to not get up so darn early to do the market, as the persimmons, macs, apples, lemons, etc will still continue to bear crops and the Kaitia Market is a great place to swap produce and catch up with everyone.

One hell of a winter for rats around here, never seen anything like it, but then the other neighbours are grizzling too, so the traps have been working overtime, and we're getting there, remembering that for every one I get there are heaps of its rellies waiting to take its place. At the moment I am at war with a large stoat, but I'll get it, usually do with perseverance and the right baits.

The spuds are going in at present, tree pruning is almost done, daffodils brighten up the windowsill and mother geese are dominating prize sites amongst the trees, overseen continuously by their mates.

Like to report that we are having no trouble getting a feed of fish in Doubtless Bay, so there you have it, Wai Wurri is happy and well fed !

## MAGIC EVENINGS, MAGIC SPRING

*Helen Guthrie*

*Waimate North*

It's been some time since I felt enthused at the prospect of working on my property. Burnout brought lack of physical, mental and emotional energy to be bothered. Much of the property went to the weeds. I managed to attend to some of my ornamental gardens now and again over the summer, whilst my son and a builder finished the interior of my wee cottage, finally – after living here for 5 years! The lack of new job prospects balanced by a timely visit to a naturopath brought renewed vigour to restart my dreams for this place. After viewing my old strawberry beds with their 4 – 5 year old plants, I knew it was time to ditch the lot. They are too time-consuming in their need for constant feeding and watering. Picking in the evenings for a couple of hours after seven hours at work was just too much in the end. Without knowing what I would replant in them, I stated on re-weeding the beds my son had helped me clean out in January.

An hour or so on the beds, after a day at school in that week of stunningly warm, still evenings in late August.

Silence. No wind. No cars. The cattle, hens and rooster down the road were silent, as were the birds.

Then it was bird-o'clock. 5pm. The sparrows started arriving in the dead flax flowers which still stand high above their host bushes. In clusters, they make their way into the griselinia sparrow-houses, chatter about their day, then become silent. This is the cue for the next cluster to integrate into the greenery.

Finally all are in. And silence falls once more. I am still on my knees, pulling weeds, on the warm soil that is slowly cooling for the night. Reluctant to leave this energy that is magically restoring my faith in what I do here.

Then in the silence, another ode to the evening. A thrush has alighted on one of the flaxes and sings out her joys of the day. I am entranced and turn to just sit and listen. Look to the hills in the south and west. Watch as



the dusky pink-blue skies disappear into the darkness. There is no moon, just enough light for me to gather my tools to put away, and wander down the slope to the cosiness of my cottage.

The energy of this place feels renewed, entranced. I feel entranced. I need to take that energy with me into my workday, to rise above the everyday "stuff" that goes on in any school. When I first came here, I named my property "Aite Taimh", which is Gaelic for 'a haven, a place of refuge'. This is what it has been and continues to be for me.

The next night is the same, after a much better day at school. I am happy the thrushes are back because I haven't seen them for some months.

And because the skylarks are also back. As are the plovers, the white-eyes roaming in flocks through the flowering



shrubs and the magpies. I know the magpies are a nuisance, but they are also entertaining and part of the rhythm of this place. The plovers will let me know when Kahu is circling, or when they object to my being out on the land. They guard the fields with an



intensity to be admired. I am waiting for the breeding quail to arrive, cleverly hiding their nests, then revealing the family on their regular beat around the place. Same place, same time. Round here, up there, through there. On most days. Dad will sit atop a higher spot to keep watch while the family feeds in one place, alerting them to any danger that might be approaching.

I now have an idea what to plant in my production gardens – it's starting. Seeds to sow. Seedlings to plant. It's all ahead of me. And the watering. And the rabbit proofing! That's the next biggest challenge – apart from the kikuyu of course!

And not to lose that feeling of enchantment!

## **ORGANIC FARM NZ**

AGM 9TH JULY 2011

### **Brief report**

The meeting started at 2pm sharp and concluded 6pm the same day. Several members stayed on to attend a farewell dinner for Carol Knutson.

Contents of the meeting included regional reports and NCC confirmations. Julia Geljon has remained as our representative and all other regional NCC representatives remained the same as the previous year, being: Dennis Enwright (Otago) Alvina Murphy (Canterbury/ Nelson) Sean Wilson (Auckland) Paul Hamilton (Coromandel/ Waikato), Jim Bennet (BOP) John Fawcner (Taranaki) and Claire Bleakley (Wellington / Wairarapa)

The regional reports were read out including that from FNOG. My input was well received in particular, the concept of a forward regional plan. On conclusion of the reports it was generally felt that all regions are experiencing static or nil growth in terms of membership numbers and certification interest.

Discussions were held and feed back given about Organics-on-line, a certification method which falls well short in terms of audit and standards. A formal complaint has been lodged with the commerce commission on behalf of OFNZ.

Jim Bennett gave a brief outline of the threats of the Potato Psyllid insect. This insect has affected many conventional growers nationwide and this includes all nightshade family of plants. I gave Jim some personal insights into this problem and suggested he attend a symposium which is to be held early August in Rotorua. More on that later.

Julia Geljon held a brief discussion regarding some of the bigger and more complex certification management plans, and suggested auditor training to specifically meet this challenge. Fee structure for such complex applications needs to be reconfigured to which

they will be working on and advising other auditors in due course.

Dennis Enwright is now a board member for Soil & Health and from what he told us at the meeting, there was a greater input needed by OFNZ as a member of OANZ. He also led a forum regarding the future of OFNZ and members' ability to meet the future challenges. Rob's conclusion: OFNZ is run by older members at various regions and there does seem to be a lack of fresh input by younger participants, and planning for future success is sadly lacking. I do sincerely believe in the saying "failure to plan is a plan for failure". If FNOG adopts a fresh approach to attracting membership - in particular younger people - then rethinking and implementing this image of 'freshness via marketing our profile' is key to our future proofing.

*Rob*

### **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](http://www.tuturu.co.nz)**

## **CERTIFICATION MANAGERS REPORT.**

**4<sup>TH</sup> September 2011**

With our hierarchy (Govt.) failing to legislate for organic labelling, unfortunately anyone can call their product "organic" ~ without certification. In many countries "organic" truly means that the product has been checked and that it is produced organically, but not NZ.

No one here checks that the uncertified "grown organically" product hasn't been produced with chemicals.

All we can do to be sure is to purchase certified products, grow our own food or be sure that those who grow what we buy are working ethically within an organic standard.

Because of this careless attitude of our govt., growers are not committed to going through with organic certification, and this shows with the amount of documentation I have sent out over the years to would-be organic producers, who I never hear from once they've received their pack of info.

### **MARAWHENUA NURSERY KAITAIA**

Specialising 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](mailto:tastytrees@gmail.com) for stock list

### **LIBRARY BOOKS**

#### **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. The Library is at the office of Peter Brake on the main road in Awanui.

Either the Property Management Plan is too daunting (we help with this) or they look at the Standards and realize that we really do mean business.

Over the years I have seen the dedication toward certification diminishing, and at the price we charge up here, they couldn't get a better deal.

Still, we have 15 OFNZ certifications and 8 FNOG, and I thank those who have that organic ethic, selling a genuine product or growing clean, healthy food for themselves and their friends and families.

The energy and enthusiasm that goes into members' properties that we visit or audit is heart-warming, makes one really grateful that folk out there really do care about MotherEarth, really do care about themselves and really do care about the future generations who will desperately need clean land to nurture their families.

Happy days everyone.

*Kris Khaine*

Hi from Paul and Michele of Kotare Krafts. We no longer have the shop any more but are selling from Kaitaia Market and have our first lot of organic seedlings ready to sell. We are using bought organically certified seed raising and potting mix to grow our mix of organic, non treated and heirloom seeds.

We also have a variety of organic and heirloom seeds available at the market in Kaitaia on Saturday's from 7am till 12ish. In addition, we are selling our range of home made candles and jewellery plus other handcrafts. Hope to see you there.

We also sell from our website :  
[www.kotarecandles.co.nz](http://www.kotarecandles.co.nz)

Regards  
Paul & Michele

email: [hostnz@windowslive.com](mailto:hostnz@windowslive.com)  
<http://www.farnorthwebdesign.co.nz>  
<http://www.kotarecandles.co.nz>  
Ph: 09 4082937  
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## 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.

### SEED BANK

Kris Khaine is currently looking after these.

She will make them available on the field days

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

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 Silver beet

Parsnip

Port Albert Cucumber

Pumpkin Jarrandale, Butternut, Kamo Kamo,

Red Mustard, Sunflower

Rocket

Woad Seeds

Yarrow

Yellow watermelon, Oak Leaf Lettuce

Zambo Seed, Zucchini



### FNOG COMMITTEE 2011

Committee members with positions

Rob Downing - Chairperson

Helen Guthrie - Secretary

Jan Arie Kamsteeg – Treasurer and Auditor

Terry Higginson- Auditor

Krissy Khaine – Certification Manager

Committee Members without positions

Gijis Veling

Richard Collins

Tony Achtzehner

Pamela Baker

Jim Valley

### SENDER:

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