

THE ORGANICS NETWORKER

Far North Organic Growers & Producers Society (Inc)

Issue 50 – Autumn 2013



Field Day

Details for the next FNOG Field Day:

Sunday, 12 May 2013

Roel and Liz de Boer

Roel and Liz de Boer's property is a 4.3 ha citrus orchard. It has been under BioDynamic regime for 2 decades or more. Part of it is in mature trees, the rest young plantings and an absolute delight to see.

Address: 45 Jennings Rd, R.D.2, Kerikeri

Bring a friend, bring a chair and lunch to share. Look forward to seeing you there! ☺

10:00am Cuppa

10:30am Meeting

(incl. talk by Paul & Viv about their veg. venture)

11:00am Speaker - Geoff Cave from DENZ (Fossil Shell

Flour - 100% Food Grade Pure Diatomaceous Earth)

Lunch (Shared)

Tour Of Property (Depending on time, could be tour before lunch)

Directions to the property:

Coming from the North – turn right after Kapiro Service Station into Waipapa West Road. Follow for about 1km and turn left into Jennings Road.

From the south – Pass Waipapa town, turn into Waipapa West Road which is the first road to the left after the bridge.

Then same as above.

[Click here to view in Google Maps](#)

Chairman's Report

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING March 3rd 2013

Venue : Jan Arie's PROPERTY Pamapurua Northland

CHAIRMANS REPORT COVERING

MARCH 2012 –MARCH 2013

Greetings to the membership,

In line with Governance practices I am complying with this annual report. The year that has been, from a membership building perspective, reasonably good. From the list that is presented we have a slight increase in membership over the previous year. Our financial position is good and no exposure to outstanding debt for this recorded year.

My term as Chairman has with regret come to an end due to many personal factors and not a reflection on the Society. During the past year I have held only 2 meetings, one a committee meeting and one a committee meeting combined with a field day which was in the Hokianga. Prior to this field day I was supporting my sick father since Feb in Whangarei Hospital and during the field day I learned that he died that morning of the 3rd June. Since then my activities had to be focused on his passing and all the loose ends of his business affairs. Following this I severely injured my back so couldn't walk for 2 months and now await surgery. Terry Higginson kindly took on the vice chairs role until this last AGM held at Pamapurua March 2013. I don't have any knowledge of other committee meetings that he may have held, and any queries regarding the content needs to be taken up with him and those present.

In closing I would like to thank all the membership for their ongoing support to the society and with special mention to all the governing committee within our group of membership. I hope I can return to assist at a time of better personal circumstance.

Thank You

Rob Downing

How To Plant Your Garden *(thanks Helen Guthrie)*

First, you come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses. For the garden of your daily living...

PLANT THREE ROWS OF PEAS:



1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF SQUASH:



1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF LETTUCE:

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce really love one another
4. Lettuce be patient

NO GARDEN IS WITHOUT TURNIPS:

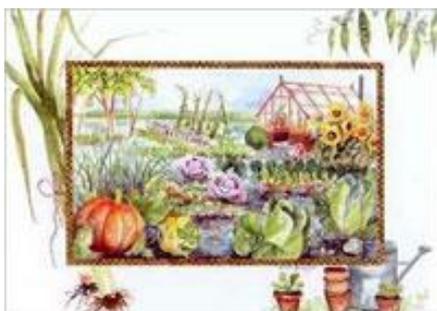
1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another

TO CONCLUDE OUR GARDEN WE MUST HAVE THYME:

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends

Water freely with patience and cultivate with LOVE.

There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.



April 2013: What's new from Wai Wurri

It would be interesting to hear about how our members have managed throughout this drought. The land here that is normally very wet in winter has huge deep cracks, but only on a small area out back of the house. I'm glad we don't have little ducklings, falling in and unable to struggle out! Fortunately we have mulched every year and we have lost very few trees, but the persimmons rebelled and dropped their fruit.

Good outcomes are that the "feral" pigs can't get their noses into the ground so have kept their distance, tomatoes have done well, the grapes are totally delicious, the plum and apple trees are laden and the hives have delivered ample honey, which made me reconsider marketing. The surplus has me again getting up early sat mornings, something I'm not good at! Easter weekend was a very good market and I was glad I had spent so much time picking grapes and apples and packaging mac nuts.

We have reduced the number of ganders, (amazing how much quieter it is around here) and the bonus is Kuklando goose salamis. I'm aiming at girls only waterfowl to take the stress out of losing goslings and ducklings to the hawks etc.

Bottled fruit will be enjoyed this winter, so now to find time to do the dehydrating.

For the first time, we had an abundance of Long Tailed Cuckoos, more visible and noisier than ever before, and so beautiful.

Now I am looking forward to feeling cold for a change, and being able to get that spade into the ground to plant the bagged up trees patiently waiting in the shadehouse.

Krissie

Certification Manager's Report

At present I am managing 9 Far North certifications (with one in the wings) and 15 OFNZ certifications. Fortunately, producers are doing their own research about inputs and I'm not answering email/phone queries quite so often.

If the use of certified organic inputs is applied, it makes the paperwork much easier, and less need for the Supplier Declaration Form.

From time to time we need to ring around the country for answers to sticky questions, and generally we are satisfied with the info we gather for the producer.

With drought conditions we're all finding the challenges testing, but at Wai Wurri Organics we're pleased that the years of mulching has paid off.

The total land area under organic certification in NZ in 2012 was 106,753ha, a 67% increase from 2007. Let's just look forward to a rich, productive, organic future for NZ.

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

Comments from the Chairman

Would like to remind certified members that audit plus travel fees need to be paid on the day of audit. We are not supposed to issue certificates if relevant fees haven't been paid.

A timely reminder that the trap records for trapping gear supplied to you by FNOG through the NRC scheme require a statement of what has been caught up to the end of June this year, and sent to me krisnterry@orcon.net.nz

I need this to comply with the agreement between us and NRC. They require this info from me by the end of July.

The live capture trap seems to be popular & hopefully members are finding these traps helpful with their problems. They are available on loan from me.

Our next fieldday after May is the October one, so please consider hosting. If you wish to chat about it, please get in touch.

Spare a thought for Rob Downing and we wish him well with his spinal surgery.

Look forward to seeing you at Roel & Liz's, and feel free to bring a friend.

Terry

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Our auditor Peter Brake and his partner Janine are proud parents of twin boys born end of March both same length and both 6lb12oz.

Peter wonders if they'll prefer to be organic olive growers rather than the planned doctor and lawyer !



*Heartiest congratulations
from us all at FNOG!*

*Nature does not hurry,
yet everything is accomplished.*



--Lao Tzu--

- Some Slugs produce mucus thick enough to seal shut the mouths of snakes.
- Slugs travel at a staggering 0.07 mph
- Slug trails contain their own scent so that they can find their way home.
- Slugs and snails can have up to 27,000 teeth each.
- Slugs are apparently programmed to travel upwards when they wake up in the evening, and will often climb to the top of a house or garden wall before realising there is no food in sight and coming back down.
- Slug slime can take away the sting from the nettles.
- Hedgehogs can eat 120 slugs an hour if they want to.
- Slugs come equipped with both male and female sex organs so they are never lonely!



FNOG COMMITTEE 2013

Chairman

Terry Higginson

Vice Chair

Elfriede Patek

Secretary

Kris Khaine

Minutes Secretary

Wendy MacPherson

Treasurer

Jan Arie Kamsteeg

Financial Auditor

Peter Brake

Networker Publisher

Viv Rockach

Committee Members

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

Certification Manager

Kris

Certification Auditors

Terry & Jan Arie

Certification Committee

Jan Arie, Terry, Kris, Jim.

Fonterra leaves out Northland organic farmers

<http://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article.cfm?id=3&objectid=10877683>

Contaminated input suspended by organic certifier

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU1304/S00473/contaminated-input-suspended-by-organic-certifier.htm>

Kiwifruit marketer tracking chemical residue

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/rural/132675/kiwifruit-marketer-tracking-chemical-residue>

Organic certification labelling is the best available

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO1304/S00134/organic-certification-labelling-is-the-best-available.htm>

Timaru feed relief for organic farmers

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/timaru-herald/news/8524625/Timaru-feed-relief-for-organic-farmers>

Monsanto vs. Mother Earth

http://www.avaaz.org/en/monsanto_vs_mother_earth/oc/?tQjygb

Responses to Far North local government reorganisation

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/AK1304/S00387/responses-to-far-north-local-government-reorganisation.htm>

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

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