

THE ORGANICS NETWORKER

Far North Organic Growers & Producers Society (Inc)

Issue 51 – Spring 2013



Field Day

Details for the next FNOG Field Day:

Sunday, 13 October 2013

**@ Andreas Kurman's
Property**

Topics on the agenda include: how to make a solar distil; general work with algae with waste water plants; algae as a tool to reduce nitrate and phosphate in the water ways; lab scale model for a biodigester; nutrient leaching from soil; septic tanks; active working groups for the protection of our Doubtless Bay catchment area; nutrient leaching field trials.

Address: 49 Taipa Heights Drive, Taipa

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

10:00am Cuppa

10:30am Meeting

11:00am Talk by Andreas on topics mentioned
above

Lunch (Shared)

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

Directions to the property:

Follow State Highway 10 going North towards Taipa, turn left just before the bridge at Taipa and drive up Taipa Heights Drive for 450 meters. Our House is on the left hand site No 49. Red letter box with a blue Envirolab sign. **Please note** parking is on the road side or in the drive at Taipa Heights Dr no 60 "Olive Grove and Press".

[Here is a link to the map](#)

Chairman's Report

Spring has arrived along with the Shining Cuckoo and the welcome sight of trees greening up. The birds are chasing one another, seeking out food for feeding their young and generally entertaining.

It is looking good for the coming year as the aquifers fill up to replenish the earth.

Thanks to the members involved in the trapping programme for sending back their catch reports. If you have trouble with setting certain traps, let me know, we can do a swap for user friendly ones.

FNOG is still functioning well.

Hopefully we will see lots of support from you at the fieldday, as it promises to be very interesting.

Terry



Need some good books?

The FNOG library books will be available at the Field Day for purchase or for a donation.

Might find some interesting books to own...

RMA reforms undermine communities and the environment

(Source: organicnz.org Tuesday, August 13, 2013)

"Proposed changes to the Resource Management Act, announced last week by Environment Minister Amy Adams, could result in ratepayers picking up the tab for industry damaging our environment. This is highly immoral and undemocratic," says Debbie Swanwick, Spokesperson, Soil & Health - Organic NZ.

Councils have a responsibility to ensure that ratepayers are protected against risk and liability.

"Removing this ability undermines local bodies and makes central government all powerful," says Swanwick.

The proposed changes to Part 2 of the RMA lower environmental standards. The Resource Management Act is both a planning tool and an environmental protection mechanism.

"The reforms provide a pathway for the former compromising the later," says Swanwick.

It has been suggested that an application for the release of GE ryegrass in New Zealand may be filed this year. [Read more...](#)

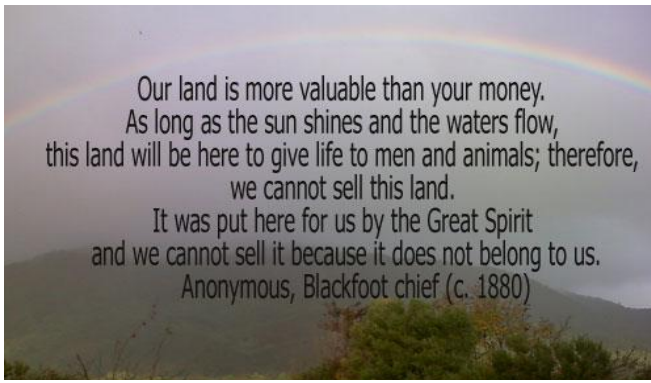
Also

2013 RMA Reform Act Represents the Biggest Threat to Local Democracy and Damage to the Environment in Decades

Friday, 6 September 2013, 2:43 pm

Article by: A. Omundsen (www.scoop.co.nz)

[Read more...](#)

Thought for the Day

Our land is more valuable than your money.
As long as the sun shines and the waters flow,
this land will be here to give life to men and animals; therefore,
we cannot sell this land.

It was put here for us by the Great Spirit
and we cannot sell it because it does not belong to us.
Anonymous, Blackfoot chief (c. 1880)

October 2013: What's new from Wai Wurri

River blockages, storms, fallen trees, power cuts & too many rats – yet, the place is once again flowering & flourishing.

We decided some time back that it would be easier to have just female ducks and geese – but two of the boys decided to avoid being captured and now, one little girl gosling wanders with her family & extended family, totally unaware that there are at least six different villains out there eyeing her up for tucker!

There are more girls sitting, but someone keeps sneaking around at dinner time and stealing their eggs!!! As for the ducks, well, sitting on unfertilized eggs doesn't work out too well, especially when you hide your nest so well that "someone" can't steal the eggs, and then, they explode, and then "someone" is able to locate the nest!

The garlic crop, well fed and responding, will be holding hands on the summer market table with the macadamia nuts and surplus fruit. At present the nuts are hanging in onion bags, awaiting the cracking procedure & well away from the rats and pigs that hammer the orchard.

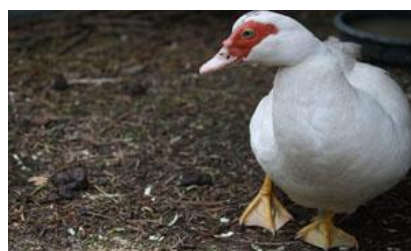
On my trap round I disturbed a very large black pig, who, unusually, just sauntered off, ears flapping, to find another Toitoe to snooze under. One thing it's not eating any more, is the mac nuts.

Good job we don't have bears or we'd lose our honey as well!!

Oh well, "Wai Wurri" aye.

It's all challenging

Krissie



We administer 26 certifications in the Far North at present. The OFNZ folk are doing very well with their marketing, and it amazes me that more folk don't bother coming on board, given all the promotion out there for organics and the need for clean food becoming more and more obvious.

The OFNZ hierarchy are backward in coming forward with information about our nationwide structure, and we still await the Minutes from the last AGM, but, up here, we box along, and at some stage I hope there is someone out there who wants to do the CM training.....

Krissie



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

Research: Gardening fights depression naturally
(Source: <http://www.naturalnews.com>)

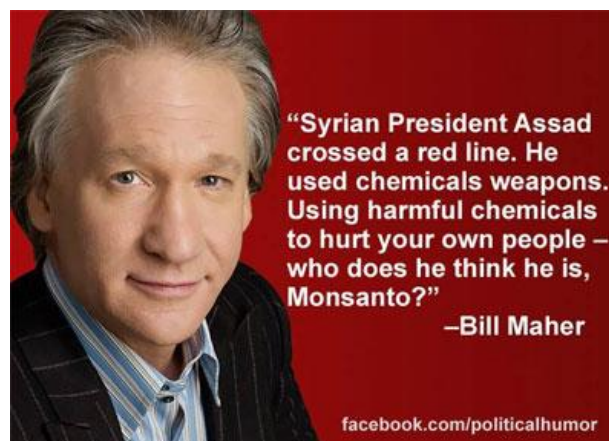
"It makes sense that cultivating a garden of any type can help one's state of mind, even preventing or resolving issues of depression. Focusing on nourishing plant life takes one's attention to nature and away from negative "stinkin' thinkin'" that fosters depression.

The energy field of natural settings also helps calm the mind. Ayurveda practitioners recommend walks in nature, not malls, to balance and harmonize one's energies. Then there's the sunshine received while gardening to promote more vitamin D3, which also reduces depression risks .

Increasing food prices, increasing GMO infiltration, and increasing centralization of food sources that make the food supply more vulnerable to drought and other natural or man-made calamities can lead to losing confidence of how to eat in the near future.



A recently released movie, "Side Effects", floats a definition of depression as losing confidence for the future. So if you're concerned about the future of healthy food, food gardening may be a viable, healthy solution toward living without depression."



(Source: my.lawsociety.org.nz website – 30 August 2013)

The New Zealand Law Society is concerned with search and surveillance powers proposed in amendments to the Food Bill by Supplementary Order Paper 278.

If passed into law, the Food Bill will replace the Food Act 1981 and introduce some fundamental changes to New Zealand's domestic food regulatory regime.

The proposed bill seeks to clarify the role of regulators, remove the need for local bylaws by having a single set of rules for training, registration and other food safety aspects and improve compliance and enforcement.

The changes seek to manage food safety and suitability issues more effectively, improve certainty and minimize compliance costs for food businesses.

The SOP would amend the bill to provide for the application of certain parts of the Search and Surveillance Act 2012. The Law Society questions why privilege provisions of the Act have not been applied to the search, examination and production powers of the bill; and whether provisions should be made for reporting of warrantless searches similar to that provided in the Act.

The submission also takes issue with provisions in the bill relating to privilege. It says the bill provides for broad powers to require production of information and documents, as well as for examination of persons. However, while the bill expressly provides for the application of the privilege against self-incrimination, there is no corresponding provision for the application of other privileges (including legal professional privilege).

The Law Society says this omission is “striking” because the privilege against self-incrimination is addressed in section 138 of the Search and Surveillance Act and other privileges by section 139.

The two sides to the story....

Food Bill changes better balance legislation (12 June 2013)

[Read about it here](#)

Updated analysis of the Food Bill issues list after the supplementary order paper was released 17/07/13

[Read about it here](#)

On the lighter side...

How to stop a dog from digging in a garden.. Start right!
Never let the dog see you digging ...
Doggy see, doggy do



Why do melons have fancy weddings?
Because they cantaloupe.



A toddler who was found chewing on a slug. After the initial surge of disgust the parent said, "Well ... What does it taste like?" "Worms," was the reply.

A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows.



Source: <http://www.mpi.govt.nz>

MPI has received results confirming that products containing Whey Protein Concentrate manufactured by Fonterra are not and never were contaminated with *Clostridium botulinum* and pose no risk to consumers of contracting botulism. This includes product made under the Abbott Gain Plus brand.

The organism detected is confirmed as *Clostridium sporogenes*. It is therefore not capable of producing botulism causing toxins. There are no known food safety issues associated with *Clostridium sporogenes*, although at elevated levels certain strains may be associated with food spoilage.

However.... it may also be used to treat cancer!? See <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

A bacterium found in soil is showing promise as a way of delivering cancer drugs into tumours.

Spores of the *Clostridium sporogenes* bacterium can grow within tumours because there is no oxygen. UK and Dutch scientists have been able to genetically engineer an enzyme into the bacteria to activate a cancer drug. [Read more...](#)

FNOG COMMITTEE 2013

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Jan Arie, Terry, Kris, Jim.

 What else is in the news?

Government Inquiry into whey protein confirmed

<http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/details-government-inquiry-whey-protein-confirmed>

NZ's First 'Green' Distribution Label For Organic Alcohol

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/WO1309/S00416/nzs-first-green-distribution-label-for-organic-alcohol.htm>

Organic drink venture to help needy

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/nelson-mail/news/9110982/Organic-drink-venture-to-help-needy>

Applauding New Zealand Winegrowers Sustainability Policy

http://asiacentinel.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5722&Itemid=635

Minister announces manuka honey consultation

<http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/minister-announces-manuka-honey-consultation>

The Future is Local, the Future is Organic

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/the-future-is-local-the-future-is-organic/5351677>

Farmer floats nitrogen leeching trading scheme

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/rural/222954/farmer-floats-nitrogen-leeching-trading-scheme>

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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