



# THE ORGANICS NETWORKER

*Far North Organic Growers & Producers Society (Inc)*

**Issue 72 – Spring 2020**

Details for the next FNOG Field Day ...

***Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020***

***Start time 10.30am***

***(Committee meet 10am)***

***Uenuku***

***Trish and Gijs Veling***

***2614 Waiare Road***

***Kaeo***

***P.S. Please no dogs on this property***

***Please bring a CHAIR and a SHARED LUNCH, your own CUP, PLATE, KNIFE and FORK so we can have zero waste!***

***Also, something to donate for a raffle***

***e.g. produce, honey, preserves etc.***

***And of course, some loose coins 1 ticket \$2 or 3 tickets for \$5***



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## Life at Uenuku

### Trish and Gijs Veling    October 2020

We look forward to the field day here at Uenuku on 8 November 2020 and always love to share our paradise.

In these times we are especially blessed to live here and being able to pick vegetables, fruit and gather eggs by just walking down a few steps. We never take that for granted. One of the great joys is also to share with friends and know that everything has been grown with love and organically.

We have had plenty of rain from May to July and the following graph shows that. It is interesting comparing these figures with our friends and find that not that far further up north or south they have totally different readings.

rainfall in mls at Uenuku					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
january	258	65	240	9	38
february	242	111	335	77	13
march	227	335	210	76	118
april	70	315	105	102	116
may	123	125	219	81	254
june	260	228	320	113	211
july	205	205	113	208	303
august	175	205	113	151	322
september	137	210	103	199	66
october	75	75	63	142	
november	115	75	130	70	
december	36	41	142	70	
total	1923	1990	2093	1298	

We have had only four frosts this year and they have been very mild. Finally, it is warming up and we notice the growth in the garden. Trish and I pruned all our fruit trees and put the branches through the chipper. Everything is recycled and put back on the garden. We are looking forward to getting good catchers full of grass clippings. I say to Trish that the vege garden is a priority but her reply is “we can share the love”.

Instead of growing around 50 tomato plants of about 10 different varieties I will only grow about 20 (that is the plan anyway!!) and stick to our favourite, Tommy Toe and also Brandywine Pink and a new one, Purple Cherokee which was selected as the tastiest one in the recent Organic NZ magazine. In our previous Networker I mentioned the heritage beans given away by the

Heritage Trust and they are mainly used as dry beans. I will attach a delicious recipe. We will definitely sow these seeds again and stick to 2 or 3 favourites.



Our chickens are very happy, and more and more grateful to have a comfortable retirement home. And why not, they deserve it. Our one duck, Amelie, is still enjoying life and is now 12. She is sitting on a whole bunch of eggs and as they are not fertilised will be waiting a long time. At one stage we will have to remove the eggs but it is very peaceful at the moment without the constant quacking! The wild rabbits are running riot and there are some gorgeous little black ones and a couple of stunning grey with white fronts. It is a mammoth task to get them out of the vege garden and always a mission finding how they get in.



The bird life is phenomenal and seems to be increasing by the day. It is lovely to hear the bird song from early in the morning and through the day. Our neighbour is very good at trapping possums and wild cats and we also do our bit. We even caught two stoats this year.

The garlic we bought from Rich and Jose is looking fantastic and our own shallots are doing very well. It is going to be a busy December harvesting and hanging them up. The shallots have made great presents for our friends and are always gratefully received. It is very satisfying to see them also growing well at our friends' places and they in turn can share them with others.

Amazing to think we started with 10 shallots not that long ago and now have plenty to plant again, eat just about every day and give some away. Nature is really wonderful when you see how things multiply – just look at a lettuce plant going to seed – 1000's of seeds from the one plant. You read more and more of people who are also letting their weeds self- seed which make for a lovely salad.

For those of you who don't know where we live the directions are as follows: (and if full up top, please park on road)

If you are travelling from the north down SH 10 come through Kaeo and 3kms after, turn right into Waiare Road. Drive 4kms of sealed road and 4kms of unsealed. Our number 2614 is on the green letterbox on the left hand side. For those of you who are coming from Kerikeri end, drive north for approximately 28kms and turn left into Waiare Road.



### **Agenda for Field Day**

10 – 10.30am Committee Meeting (minutes of last meeting etc) members are more than welcome to attend.

10.30am – Raffle and cuppa

11 am Introductions (attendance book passed to sign)  
Raffle, tickets will still be available at lunch break

Speaker – Margaux will be talking about the history of hügelkultur and her experience with it also ...

Asha Andersen – Transition Towns Bay of Islands/Whangaroa.

12pm ish Shared lunch

1pm ish Draw raffles, Trish and Gijs to take us around their property

Come along to celebrate and have an inspiring day!

### A bit about the speakers ....

#### Asha Andersen

Asha is one of the coordinators for Transition Towns Bay of Islands Whangaroa. She'll share her thoughts on the importance of groups like Transition Towns and strengthening local communities in this time of converging crisis. She is interested in how we, as a diverse group of people, can come together for common goals and a common future. In the midst of modern systems collapse, the need for a diverse and strong community of organic producers and leaders in this space is greater than ever. As we come to terms with the many shifts and revelations happening in our world, the call for us all to embody and build our "organic life" and "organic future" is getting louder and louder. Do you hear the call?

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#### Transition Towns Bay of Islands & Whangaroa

SUSTAINABLE - LOCAL - COMMUNITY

And ...

Margaux will be talking about the history of hügelkultur and her experience with it



### Wai Wurri Update October 2020

*What a year!!! I so hope our members managed to keep their heads down and find worthwhile activities on their land to distract from the craziness of a Covid world.*

*I resisted the offer of having my Kaitia chores carried out by a nominated carer, as being over 70 I was supposed to **stay home** and behave myself. Who me? I actually saw shopping day as an escape, and endured the long queues of the masked and gloved ones and the conspiracy theories being bandied around while waiting to enter the supermarket. To and from town felt like everyone had gone to the moon, I had the road all to myself. No trucks were a blessing.*

*As the levels came down there was a huge amount of inconsistency with the "rules". Some places made you queue, answer questions etc and other places was in and out – no mucking around. The worst part was Terry being given a continuing cancellation of the operation date for his hip replacements and the lack of communication between all those involved in getting him to the final trip to Whangarei for the op. It was all pretty crazy, right up to operation on June 26<sup>th</sup> and discharged on the 28<sup>th</sup> !! which then became the 29<sup>th</sup> and he couldn't get into my Honda, so ordered an ambulance, which got stuck on our (metalled) driveway. The driver had no idea she was going to Kaitia, so be it, I spend a lot of time explaining it all to St John.*



*After the big flood, we have had an influx of bunnies, but very few rats, mustelids or possums in the traps. Others have said the same. I don't mind not getting them after nearly 4 decades of full on eradication, trapping & shooting. The Kiwis are still calling and there are plenty around the valley so all the work has been worth it to save them and all the other birds we are enjoying every day. The four Kukupa visiting the backyard every day are now so tame, I can get with 2 metres of them and have a chat., no kidding, they coo back.*

*As for the garden, it is still pouring out enough veg for us and when the persimmons were ready, we were able to give heaps away and sell heaps cheaply so everyone was happy. The neighbours loved making things out of them and sharing all the apple, feijoa and persimmon juice with us for breakfasts. We had a bit of a road bubble!*

*Now we have a neighbour promoting the sale of our eucalypts so that will be another mission if the forestry company wants them. They haven't rung back. It will be a huge upheaval with some bucks thrown in at the end to make that journey bearable!! In the meantime, I am learning to be lazy, i.e. doing less.*

*Go well and see you all at the next field day.*

*Kris Khaine*



### **Our OFNZ NCC Representative John Clarke with an update ...**

The NCC is the committee that oversees Organic Farm New Zealand of which Far North Organics are a member, and on which sits representatives from each region. Currently I am the representative from the Far North.

I am one of the newest, least experienced and quietest members of the NCC but will speak when I feel it is necessary. Most of the committee are very experienced growers, have been involved in New Zealand organics for many years and are very passionate about organics, this leads to some lively debates.

At the moment there are two main issues. 1. The Organic bill which is going through parliament and 2. How this effects OFNZ and how the organization may need to change and adapt depending on how the Organic bill eventually looks.

#### **Issue 1.**

Presently there is no legal definition of organic in New Zealand, any business or grower could call their product organic or include organic in their name without adhering to any practice which people may consider to be organic.

If a business or product is labelled organic but not certified as organic by an authority such as OFNZ, BIOGRO, AssurQuality, then it may not be following anything near what we would recognize as organic standards.

The idea of have a legal definition of organics and recognized standards is obviously a good idea and I thought would be very fairly simple but of course with bureaucracy the bill is getting quite complicated and with that more expense for those wanting to grow and be certified organic.

These extra costs of course will deter some people from becoming organic, the opposite of the way we really want agriculture to go.

The committee have been in dialogue, giving advice and views with those writing the bill and members of parliament for the past year.

I've been impressed with the way that those committee members talking to the authorities have conveyed their views and practical knowledge to people in the ministry who don't necessary have knowledge of organics.

One sector which we need to make sure we hold our own with are the large exporters and importers, who's agenda may different from smaller growers and who's economics of scale mean the extra compliance cost which may come with the new law won't affect them as it will smaller producers.

## **Issue 2.**

The other main issue is that if the bill goes through then auditors for individual members will probably need to be ISO credited which is a substantial cost, most probably out of reach of OFNZ.

OFNZ is hoping that the bill will recognise group/pod schemes for the domestic market. A group or pod scheme is where a group of say five growers audit each other. Each year one member of the group is audited so that every five years each member has been audited. This will reduce the cost, however if one member were to fail their audit them all five members fail. It has not yet been confirmed yet whether the ministry will recognise these group schemes.

OFNZ is a volunteer run organization which means that in the past costs to members has been lower than other organizations, however with increasing compliance, costs are increasing and volunteers time is being stretched.

OFNZ needs to make some tough decisions whether to carry on with individual audits or just run group/pods, how to cover increased costs, whether to grow or become less of an auditing organization and more of just a promoter of Organics.

There will be some big decisions in the next twelve months.



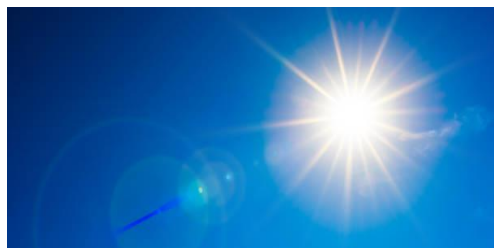
### NatureZone Gardens

We just love the longer daylight hours, you can walk the dogs later at the beach or bush and the vege patch delights in the longer daylight. We have already started irrigating on our sandy soil and have the fingers crossed for a wetter summer than last year. The garlic patch is growing really well and the spear flowers are just appearing on top, so enjoying them in our salads and pan fried, very yummy!

Our new avocado trees have been fantastic in supplying some very nice early fruit compared to our old trees and especially enjoying the Reed variety, huge, 1 does a very nice guacamole!

We have had our son back home for the last 10 days so the "boys" have been "man" camping and enjoying our beautiful beaches on both coasts, surfing, fishing on the West side for a few days and a big hike out to Pandora Bay for an overnight there. Nice to get away from working and looking at all the jobs there are on offer!

We got our wet back installed in the fireplace, after a long hold up over the Covid time and now have all our excess solar power heating the water when the batteries are full.



Getting all the staples in the ground, butternut, potatoes and the kumara tupus are starting to do their thing. So, all is well in the Far North, always plenty to do and see and you never go hungry, especially when you can trade with your neighbour a lovely wild pig to put in the freezer!





### **Possums for sour lemons**

When we bought our property, I wanted to diversify the citrus growing on the property. One of the varieties I wanted to grow was real lemons and not the Meyer lemons, which is a cross of different citruses. We bought a hundred young trees from a nursery. However, time has taught us that the budding was too low and the rootstock, so that the phytophthora could jump straight to the lemon. This resulted in more than half of the trees having died from the fungus. For a couple of years, I tried out some other real lemon varieties such as Genua and Villa Franca. They appear to have a better tolerance to the fungus, but still were dying too early to be viable for us as a commercial crop. So last year we decided to replace the dead real lemons by Meyer lemons. Personally, I find it a pity, because the flavour of real lemons is so much different than of the Meyer lemon. I will maintain a few of the real lemons in my food forest for our own use. (Limon cello made from a base of homemade persimmon brandy).

Replacing the dead trees takes time as we first have to remove the dead tree, including most of the roots. We then start to prepare the new plant whole by digging a possum grave of around half a meter deep on the spot where the new trees planned. When we get a possum in one of our Tim traps, we will put him or her (I am not fussy) in its grave and close it. Time to open the next possum grave. Our dog Indi only eats possums he killed himself and is not interested in Tim trap kills. That is the reason we can work this way. Over time nature will prepare the free blood and bone for the new tree. By having the location properly dug months in advance of planting, putting the new tree in its position on top of the decomposing possum becomes easy as the soil is still loose from the possum funeral.

Regards, Jan Arie



Its Tuesday evening, just gone dusk, as I walk down from the ridge where I get phone and internet reception. And started thinking what do I contribute? Heck I could fill volumes on what experiences and thoughts this lifestyle has resulted in.

And suddenly there its red eyes glower ahead of me. Pretty much at eye level. Red and large, really large, like that murdering clown in the horror DVD, IT, I watched last night. My heart jumps a beat. Holy Moley not the clown!!!



Only ten feet away and aflame, but perhaps not with evil intent. It is curious about me, but given my proportionate size I'm not his meal fortunately, better be careful never know given some of the weird stuff I've seen. I walk nearer.... my torchlight dim and I'm blissed out after a day doing various outdoor chores. I circle around, its eyes follow me, it doesn't stir. Now only 6 feet away and my light shows its features in detail.

And then silently it jumps into mid-air. Always so silent. Only to land in the tree next to me, it is only four feet away now looking down at me a foot or so above me. I love this closeness, this trust from this creature, I love this feeling being on the land sometimes brings. There is little better. I enjoy then walk on without disturbing it. The rodents are starting up again and my new friend is one of an army of moreporks that enjoy this situation. Oddly the moreporks are not calling to each other, this must be the best time for them. They can chat after dinner, I guess?

I am so glad I only cut 200 so of the 2000 or so mature pines on my hill. I've avoided a clear-felled mess and possibly erosion problems on my hilltop. Many of my planted trees are coming on nicely, mainly orchard types. I had no money to spare then so they are seed grown or cuttings. Yet there is nice food to be had, so many more flowers this year to last, even the frangipani are awakening lately, a pattern of more that will continue until it's my turn to help with the compost.

Yet I am surrounded by nature. Big trees included. So very many birds now. And the micro life and fungi. It used to be a feat to encounter 3 Kauri snails in a night walk from ridge, now the highest has been 27. Fascinating creatures. Sometimes they travel a fair distance other times they sit motionless for 3/4 days, certain behaviours in certain areas too I notice. They have meeting places and graveyards also.

So different here to the beautiful large gardens in the various suburbs I grew up in. Man, I wish I could import that volcanic soil back here, but it's changing here. Virgin clay getting organic matter and river silt when I have the desire, it's an investment and I'd created beautiful soil at past habitats. A near perfect climate. And yet I forget to be grateful too often, usually when I've overdone the physical.

There is much to do, building, maintaining a steep kilometre track, repairing machinery, planting, selling, etc, etc. Would I swap it for past well-paid secure jobs? .....nope. Moments like that experienced when I started this contribution are what my soul yearns for, that special connectedness. I think the plants feel it too as some very good results had, it's a lot of fun if I don't perceive it as work :-)

The drought was exhausting, many hundreds here died, but I always have too much. I have focussed to try and catch up on tasks but it's impossible. Health is my priority, I just hope will be spared too much torture this year. Carrying water up and down uneven hill country is okay short term if necessary, let's hope it's another four years or so till next drought if we need experience that. Will surrender to what is regardless, I am nothing compared to nature and its architect. And I've seen how quickly the land can hide any trace of my interference. It's all temporary.

May you all find great contentment in your patch of garden. As Peter sellers said in "being there" .....all will be well in the garden.

The moreporks are to be heard all around now, fat little happiness's :-)

Alex H



### **Title: Snap-shot of NZ Industrial Hemp [iHemp];**

4/10/20

If you have any thought about entering the iHemp domain, best you develop a working understanding of the Misuse of Drugs [Industrial Hemp] Regulations 2006, otherwise there could be much angst and frustration ahead for you.

The Regs are available at

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2006/0163/latest/DLM389407.html>

If you feel put off after reading the Regs, I suggest that it is not too daunting if you can find the inclination to be disciplined in paying a reasonable degree of attention to the detail within. cursory presumptions won't be sufficient.

May I suggest a means of measure, being that if you go Sect 7 & 8 of the Regs and you;

-are able to reconcile the provisions of both General and Research & Breeding licenses with the Sect 3 differences in definitions of iHemp vs hemp; and/or

-can read Sects 22 & 23 and reconcile that with the differences in the definitions of new license vs renewed license vs extended license,

: then its more than likely that you will be able to navigate the application and subsequent admin processes without too much problem.

Make sure you have the April 2020 reprint version of the Regs as there are a handful critical new amendments in there that supersede the previous iteration.

This is the 4th season that Far North Hemp Ltd will be cultivating iHemp under Ministry of Health license. We cultivate under both:

- **General License** - for '*approved*' cultivars; this is the initial license one would apply for , and is a necessary precursor license to the;
- **Research & Breeding[R&B] License** which allows you to cultivate '*non-approved cultivars*.'

The Ministry of Health [MoH] has gazetted a list of approx. 16 '*approved*' cultivars.

For a link to the index of approved cultivars and other general licensing requirements, see the *downloads index* at;

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/regulation-health-and-disability-system/medicines-control/industrial-hemp-0/industrial-hemp-licensing>

'*Non-approved*' cultivars grown under the R&B license can be subject to application to MoH to attain '*approved*' status.

To qualify for 'approval;', statutory testing must disclose consistent THC readings of under 0.35% (with MoH discretion up to 0.5%) for at least 2 seasons, and where these THC levels can be provided via test results for that cultivar from several licensees over that period.

iHemp testing has been undertaken exclusively by ESR (Crown entity) for several decades, but 2020 was the first year that a private testing provider (being Hills Laboratories in Hamilton) has been accredited as a statutory testing provider.

Hills offered testing at \$300 per test which saw a number of licensees taking this less expensive compared to \$500 for an ESR test. However, the cheaper cost proved to be something of a poisoned chalice because I have had direct contact with a colleague who used Hills who returned an over-proof test result vs the same cultivar being tested at ESR which tested compliant.

What is behind this discrepant dynamic is the use of different testing protocols. This is untenable in the bigger industry picture. Respective testing providers keeps their 'cards close to their chest', but persistent enquiries led me to confirmation that indeed ESR and Hills use different testing protocols.

This discrepancy is currently under serious scrutiny by group of industry stakeholders under guidance from Global Proficiency Group. If this is not reconciled, it has the potential to be the most significant "handbrake" on the progress of the iHemp industry in NZ.

It is not difficult to imagine that once licensees hear about this, they will not want to pay higher testing fees to be told that their produce is over-proof on THC and then subsequently be served with MoH prohibition notices.

I can foresee that licensees will likely migrate back to ESR for testing, despite being significantly more expensive, simply in order to benefit from the ESR old-school user-friendly testing protocols.

As of early Oct 2020, I have received no advice that this matter has been resolved. If not resolved by the time of obligatory testing in the 2020/21 season, the implications could mean that the industry has to remain in a one-dimensional status quo, which could have dire implications for any progression of an already fragile hemp industry.

In 2018 the seed oil and hull of industrial hemp seed became legal for unlicensed general human consumption. To possess the whole seed (*pre-processing*) would still require an iHemp License, but once the oil and the hull are separated and the seed cannot be germinated, no license is required.

When seed oil and separated hull became lawful for human consumption, the government required that iHemp plants be tested not only for THC levels, but also for '*total potential THC*'.

This meant that newly accredited testing providers (Hills) were required to adopt an internationally accepted testing protocol that decarboxylated all THCA into THC, then that converted THC is added to very small pre-existing levels of THC in order to give the '*total potential THC*'.

For the purpose of brevity, I will have to stop going any further down this rather technical' rabbit-hole, as it is a deep and wide hole. Suffice to say, you may need to use a search-engine to learn about such terms as *decarboxylating*, *THCA*, *total potential THC* etc.

The purpose of the iHemp Regs is to facilitate production of hemp for "industrial purposes". Typically, 'industrial purpose' means for production of fibre, hempcrete, food-grade seed oil and hull, and a myriad of other potentials you are probably already aware of.

However, more than one applicant has been denied a license because when asked as to what industrial purpose they were intending to cultivate for, the answer was to create hemp balms and ointments from the low THC leaf rather than from seed oil.

Balms and ointments are applied to the skin, and the skin is often referred to as the largest organ the body. The skin is permeable and therefore leaf-oil based products could cause cannabinoids to enter the body for therapeutic purposes, thus putting such balms/ointments under the Medicines Act.

The MoH deem this to be for 'medicinal' or 'therapeutic' purpose and not 'industrial', thus balms and ointments would require a Medicinal Cannabis license as enacted on 1st April 2020. The medicinal license has way higher compliance thresholds and costs associated.

That said, there seems to a good number of lower level non-nutritional therapeutic iHemp products advertised on the internet. I am aware of a few prohibition notices and a handful of prosecutions undertaken by the MoH to address what they see as attendant issues, but the scale of this 'grey market' is of such magnitude that I suspect the MoH can logistically only take action against a few of the less discreet operators.

As above. when I say 'grey market', I mean activity that is not legal but is either too ill defined or not serious enough to warrant the term 'black market'. Grey market products seem to be available at a number of farmer's markets in Northland.

As outlined in preceding paragraphs, this is the type of Ministry thinking you can be subject to. Any prospective license applicant would be better off deciding sooner rather than later whether or not they can be bothered to engage with such pedantic bureaucracy.

The Ministry seem hell-bent on keeping cannabinoids out of the food chain. There are basically no cannabinoids in seed oil which reportedly has the perfect balance of Omega's 3 & 6 for the human body, but there are cannabinoids in the leaf.

If you want to use iHemp for the industrial purpose of supplementing animal/pet food with hemp extracts, or making animal balms, then you will also be subject to the requirements of the Animal Compounds & Veterinary Medicines Sect 1997 where another layer of diligences will apply.

It would be interesting to gauge the MoH as to their position on iHemp being used as an input into cosmetics which are also applied to the skin but are not 'therapeutic' in nature. I hope that this argument can be taken up by someone sometime but it is a brave person that fronts the MoH on such matters as it could mean that your application might be deemed as terminally and irreversibly flawed.

In any iHemp applications to MoH, if you are going to disclose any new ideas you may have for industrial applications for hemp, you will need to be prepared to qualify to MoH as to which regulation allows you to do whatever it is you have recorded in your application. It would be a mistake to be too casual by wombling blithely into this domain without being solidly researched from the outset.

The trick is to keep your hemp aspirations very simple as regards your applications. Accordingly I won't venture into explaining medicinal cannabis which is subject to its own Regs; ref;

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2019/0321/latest/LMS285243.html>



Regulatory changes in recent months/years have become a feature across all the cannabis related domains. Within the past couple of years there have been several amendments to Hemp regs;

- CBD has changed from being a controlled drug and is now a prescription medicine,
- the Medicinal Regs have been enacted on 1st April 2020, and
- there is a recreational referendum on Election Day.

I am often asked whether a “yes” vote for recreational cannabis will have a bearing upon industrial hemp and more so on medicinal cannabis. The answer is that I don’t know. It may do but I don’t have a sufficient frame of reference to warrant comment. It seems to me that the respective regulations for;

- Misuse of Drugs [Industrial Hemp] Regs 2006 &
  - Misuse of Drugs [Medicinal Cannabis] Regs 2019 &
  - Cannabis Legalisation & Control Bill (*aka recreational cannabis*)
- all speak for themselves.

So, there is an unavoidable component of technical aspect to iHemp in NZ. In this modern regulatory climate, there really isn’t any context for imagery of Eastern European peasants shouldering sheaves of freshly harvested hemp while singing communist working songs in the afternoon sun.

With all aspects considered, industrial hemp is easy to grow and does not demand too much if applying organic cultivation principles.

When considered in the wider context, the benefits of the plant are well evidenced and documented.

Brian Camplin  
Director: Far North Hemp Ltd



Happy news!

We have become grandparents on September 17. Our youngest daughter brought her and partner's baby boy into the world via the natural way. Quite a good job as he weighed 5 kilos.

We have been visiting them and enjoyed every minute!

Big smiles from Jan Arie and Ineke



Sent in by Kevin Rasmussen ...

## WHEN WILL KIWIS WAKE UP?

21 countries have now banned or restricted the use of this carcinogenic herbicide.

<https://sustainablepulse.com/2019/05/28/glyphosate-herbicides-now-banned-or-restricted-in-17-countries-worldwide-sustainable-pulse-research/#.X2qIysIzbIU>

Following the recent bans on the use of glyphosate-based herbicides by cities and institutions in the U.S., including Key West, Los Angeles, the University of California and Miami, Sustainable Pulse decided to research which countries around the world have banned or restricted the use of the world's most used herbicide.



This research has led to the discovery that there is a growing swell of government level support worldwide for bans on glyphosate-based herbicides for both health and environmental reasons.

21 countries have now banned or restricted the use of this carcinogenic herbicide.

Previous research by Sustainable Pulse on the number of countries that have [banned GM Crops](#) has reached millions of people and we look forward to our latest research reaching an even wider audience. Sustainable Pulse welcomes additions or edits to the list below from readers and experts from around the Globe.

### **Africa:**

**[Malawi](#):** Malawi's Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development announced the suspension of import permits for glyphosate in April 2019.

**[Togo](#):** In the West African country of Togo, it is now prohibited to 'import, market or use glyphosate and any product containing it'.

### **Asia:**

**[Thailand](#):** Thailand's National Hazardous Substances Committee voted to ban glyphosate and chemicals paraquat and chlorpyrifos from December 2019. This ban was later changed from a ban to [a restriction on use](#).

**Vietnam**: Vietnam announced that it banned the import of all glyphosate-based herbicides with in March 2019 following a cancer trial verdict from San Francisco

**Sri Lanka**: In 2015 a full import ban on all glyphosate-based herbicides was put in place by the then newly elected President Maithripala Sirisena. This ban was [partly lifted](#) in July 2018 but only for use on tea and rubber plantations.

**Six Middle Eastern countries [banned](#) the import and use of glyphosate-based herbicides in coordination with each other in 2015 and 2016:**

- **Oman**
- **Saudi Arabia**
- **Kuwait**
- **United Arab Emirates**
- **Bahrain**
- **Qatar**

**Central America:**

**Mexico**: The Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), Mexico's Environment Ministry, announced in June 2020 that glyphosate-based herbicides will be phased out of use in the country by 2024 to protect human health and the environment.

**Bermuda**: Bermuda's Environment Minister Cole Simons confirmed the ban on glyphosate-based herbicides at a public meeting in January 2017.

**St Vincent and the Grenadines**: In August 2018 Agriculture Minister Saboto Caesar called on all stakeholders to be understanding of the new suspension on glyphosate-based herbicides "in light of the nation's quest to promote a safe working environment and good agricultural health and food safety practices."

**Costa Rica**: In December 2019 Costa Rica's National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC) banned the use of glyphosate herbicides in all protected wild areas in the country as well as on all SINAC owned land.

**Europe:**

**Austria**: In July 2019 the Austrian Parliament voted in favor of banning glyphosate completely in the country. This ban was later delayed and the situation surrounding the ban is still unclear.

**Belgium**: In October 2018 the ban on the sale of broad-spectrum herbicides (including glyphosate) to non-professional users entered in to force across Belgium.

**Czech Republic**: In 2018 the Czech Republic put strict restrictions on the use of glyphosate and banned pre-harvest spraying; "These substances (glyphosate-based herbicides) will only be employed in cases when no other efficient method can be used," Agriculture Minister Miroslav Toman said.

**Denmark**: In July 2018, the Danish government implemented new rules banning the use of glyphosate on all post-emergent crops to avoid residues on foods.

**France**: In 2017 France [banned](#) the use of glyphosate and all other pesticides in public green spaces. In November 2018 President Macron [said](#) he would take all measures necessary to ensure that glyphosate-based herbicides are banned in France as soon as an alternative is available and at the latest within three years. However, he has since stated that this deadline may only be 80% met.

**Italy**: In August 2016 Italy's Ministry of Health banned the use of glyphosate in public areas and also as a pre-harvest spray.

**The Netherlands**: From the end of 2015 the sale of glyphosate-based herbicides has been banned to all non-business entities.

**And as a note I have had good reviews from the new movie called "Kiss the Earth" just released on Netflix.**



I am writing this on a cold, blustery day while doing the delightful job of looking after our new-born baby grandson to let our daughter in law get some much-needed sleep. Babies are such time wasters. I have 101 jobs I could do in the garden today but just watching the expressions on this little child's face as he sleeps is so enjoyable. I remember after the birth of one of our own children a friend sent me a poem- the gist of it was your child won't remember whether the collar of his pyjamas was ironed but he will remember you reading him bedtime stories. And take care not to let your child grow up while you are busying yourself with housework and cobwebs. So, having recalled some of this poem I feel completely justified in gazing at this little boy while the weeds turn into a jungle.

Graeme and I have just completed the PDC course with Klaus Lotz and his wonderful family down in Matapouri. We have come away with so much knowledge and inspiration. We've put in more bananas and cider apples. Perhaps in due course we could have a FNOG tasting session (possibly of cider vinegar).

My greenhouse is bursting with trays of seedlings which will go into the garden this week. The greenhouse seemed huge when we bought it. I could really do with one twice the size.



Some failures, I grew 5 little raisin trees from seed Klaus gave me plus 12 goji berry plants from a packet of King's seeds. Virtually all of them scoffed one night by slugs and snails. The next night I got my revenge on 20 of them I found with my torch. Trotting down to the greenhouse is now a nightly ritual and my vigilance seems to be paying off. My one remaining raisin tree is now an inch high.

Looking forward to seeing you all,  
Kind regards, Carol



Kia ora Rolf,

Nature is being destroyed at a rate never seen before — sending wildlife populations plummeting by more than two-thirds in less than 50 years. But do you know the single biggest threat to nature today?

**How we use our land to produce food.**

The good news is, you have the power to turn things around. The choices you make every day — how you shop, cook, and eat — all have an impact on the planet.

**So, how sustainable are your food choices? Take our quick survey and we'll send you some simple tips on how to help create a healthier future for people and the planet.** You'll also go into the draw to WIN a WWF Keep-Cup!

**Take the Survey**



A third of all land is already used for crops and livestock. And yet, food production continues to be the main cause of deforestation and other habitat loss, while contributing to climate change and putting people at increased risk of new diseases. With a growing global population, it's clear that our food system needs to change – urgently.

**But there is hope.** In the new film *David Attenborough: A Life on Our Planet* (streaming on Netflix now), Sir David says about the nature crisis: “if we act now, we can yet put it right.”

A shift towards more sustainable diets will enable our food to be produced in a way that works for people and nature.

[Take our quick 5-question survey and let us know how you eat sustainably!](#)



When you do, you'll be in the draw to **win a WWF Keep-Cup!** ↑↑

[Take the Survey](#)

Every one of us can make a difference by making small changes. Together, we can help nature thrive for generations to come.

Ngā mihi nui,

Livia Esterhazy

**WWF-New Zealand**

*Chief Executive Officer*

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P.S. Nature is being lost at an alarming rate – here in Aotearoa, and around the world. [Can you take a minute to answer a few questions about eating more sustainably for a healthy planet?](#) You'll be in the draw to WIN a WWF Keep-Cup!

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## MISSION STATEMENT OF FAR NORTH ORGANICS & PRODUCERS

- To gather and seek information pertinent to the organic's 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

## FNOG COMMITTEE 2018

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Rich Van Alphen

### **Vice Chair**

Jan Arie Kamsteeg

### **Secretary**

Carol Smylie

### **Minutes Secretary**

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Rich, Jan Arie, Gijs Veling, Inge, Terry, Krissie, Jose, Carol Smylie, Jo Picollo

### **Certification Manager**

Jose

### **Certification Auditors**

Terry & Jan Arie & Rich

### **Certification Committee**

Jan Arie, Terry, Rich, Jose