



A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF POD 5

BY GLENIS COLE

Pod 5 started life with a meeting back in May last year. Rhys Morgan took the brave step of being pod leader for that year and with his support we all managed to work through our first peer review on time and gained C0 status in July. Our pod (consisting of Ric and Daphne Geisler, Peggy Duncan, Rhys Morgan, Mandy Armstrong and Steve Millgate, and Glenis and Ron Cole) recognized at a very early stage that by working together as a team we stood to gain from each others knowledge and experiences. Sharing resources has been a large part of our involvement like helping plant trees, cut firewood, setting up posts for the raspberries, lending books on a specialist topic, even baby sitting. In December Rhys organized a pod picnic, which, as he was not at that stage residing at his property, we had it at our house. It was a very pleasant afternoon relaxing under the trees and with plenty of space for the children to run.

In July this year Rhys finished his term as pod leader and I took on the task. Once again we had a tiring but good day doing our pod review following the same routine as before with early morning coffee and croissants at Geislers', mid morning coffee at Peggys, lunch at Coles and finishing at Morgans with Mandys yummy cake washed down with Rhys' wheat beer. We organized a hands-on pruning workshop for August which was unfortunately rained out so that will now be a summer pruning workshop in February.

We have 19 acres at 14 Hinau Gully Rd in Carterton just under the hill and are living an organic self reliant lifestyle, we grow most of our own food plus some to sell. On Friday 1st December we are planning a walkabout-talkabout from 6pm to approx 8pm. Most of our pod will be here and we would really love to see as many Wairarapa members as possible, we will have coffee and cake so come and see what we are doing. We have a long drive so there is plenty of parking.



WALKABOUT-TALKABOUT

When: Friday 1 December, 6 – 8 pm

**Where: at the property of Ron and Glenis Cole,
14 Hinau Gully Rd, Carterton Ph 379-8784.**

All welcome!

Children will need to be actively supervised
If this weather continues, bring your gumboots

From the Chair

We had the Annual General Meeting in August which was well attended. It was most gratifying to see such a large turnout, both growers and those who support the organization through their membership, commitment and interest. The meeting, was followed by a delicious organic supper with food provided by our members. A new board was elected and after a lengthy discussion it was decided to keep the number of people on the board small, in recognition that most people involved with organics are very busy with very little spare time to commit to meetings. I think that most of us would prefer to be outdoors working on our properties, observing and planning for the future. The contact details for the board members and the certification manager are provided in a separate space in this newsletter.

The guest speaker at the AGM was Colin Walker of the Koanga Institute talking about Heritage seeds. To illustrate his talk he brought many specimens to show the importance of growing heritage plants and especially to have people growing for seed production so that we do not lose these valuable food sources. Colin then introduced the idea of people in the Wairarapa being involved in the growing of heritage plants for the sole purpose of seed production. His talk was met with great interest and the enthusiasm he generated in seed production was spread throughout a number of those present. There have been follow-up sessions to his talk with many people now getting ready to plant seeds.

Since the AGM the board has been busy attending to a number of matters. At our last meeting we invited Pod leaders to attend so that we could have discussion on how best members can support each other and what learning opportunities they want. The Pod leader of Pod 5 (Glenis Cole) gathered information from all the members in that pod (5 properties) which she fed back to the meeting. There is a report from Glenis in this newsletter. One of the major interest areas was the provision of field days and training workshops. It seems that members want "hands on" experience along with information and theory. Mary Zajkowski has published a list of workshops for people to consider. Let her know what you would like to be involved in. Other pods reinforced this message of wanting to learn. They also want information on the buying of organic produce – see the website for more details.

To provide opportunities for the members who are not in pods, (more than half of our members) one of the suggestions was to have evening strolls (with a glass of wine, cup of tea etc) around properties at various stages of certification. The first of these events is on Friday 1 December, 6 – 8 pm at the property of Ron and Glenis Cole, 14 Hinau Gully Rd, Carterton. The second will be at the property of Derek and Roz Broadmore, Friday 1 March 2007, Opuakaio Rd, Carterton.

You do not have to book, just turn up on the evening. **Mark your calendar now!**

Another idea that came up was for the board to invite members to the board meetings so that they can contribute to the discussion. We found at the last meeting where there were pod leaders and new members present, that discussion was enhanced. If you would like to come to board meetings there is a standing invitation. The next meeting is at the home of Peggy Duncan, Fm 2372 B Wood St, Greytown on Friday 10 November at 6.30 pm. Phone number 06 304 8382.

The board also wants to hear from members of other ways in which we can encourage participation, provide opportunities for learning and what support is needed. Contact one of the Board members - the contact details are included in this newsletter.

Good Life Trail.

The board is pursuing initiatives for the organization and running of the Good Life Trail in March 2007. At the AGM there was a great deal of support for continuing with this activity. We will keep you posted with details as soon as we are able to.

Activities

Wairarapa Organics have been asked to attend many events over the past few months. Claire Bleakely was able to present at three important events. She presented at the final conference of the Smallfarmers Association, the Garden Party garden show earlier in the year, and more latterly at a Teachers' Refresher Course organized by UCOL. At these events Claire demonstrated compost making, was assisted by other members in the selling of organic produce, showed a power point production on Wairarapa Organics and fielded questions on a variety of matters of interest to those attending. It is activities such as these that give people in the Wairarapa opportunities to see what it means to choose to live by utilizing organic principles and procedures.

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Announcing.... the 2006-7 Wairarapa Organics workshop series

One of the aims of our society is to help members expand their organic and horticultural skills and knowledge. The Board has produced a range of possible workshop topics which are listed below. If you would be interested in attending workshops on any of these topics over the next 12 months, please let me know. This does not mean you are making a formal commitment to attend, but does give us some idea of what members would like. One possibility is to run a workshop every 2 months.

All Pod leaders, please can you discuss the topics amongst your Pod group and email me with the three workshops you would most prefer to organise. **N.B.** summer pruning workshop is already taken.

- Summer pruning workshop with Frank van Steensel – (POD 5)
- Animal management using natural remedies.
- Planting crops and vegetables, ground conditions and fertility, when to apply compost and fertiliser.
- Soil and leaf testing: understanding and reading.
- Preparing the management plan.
- Heritage seed sowing and saving.
- Organic inputs (with Steve Haswell of Hortmax),
Selective breeding of stock for organic properties

If there are other topics you would be interested in, let us know!

Looking forward to hearing from you. Email is the best way to contact me as I do not have a Wairarapa landline.

Email: mary.zajkowski@xtra.co.nz

ESSEX STREET MARKET

We now have 12 months at Essex St market under our belt and the demand for fresh organic food continues to grow. Don and Hilary Baskerville started out the year with us on a Sunday morning but moved away from that market back in June to prepare for involvement in the Farmers Market which is due to open in December.

We have been able to buy produce from a number of certified growers including veg, eggs, fruit, nuts, fruit juice, honey, herbs and olive oil. Over the winter we recognized there was also a need for a home delivery service and Ron now loads up his Suzuki van on Saturday mornings and delivers boxes of seasonal produce to customers in the Carterton/Greytown area and this is also growing rapidly.

We now have the range of Heritage seeds to sell and shortly will have heritage produce as well, yummy and very wholesome.

While it has been absolutely wonderful being able to buy produce from the other organic growers especially over the winter months with gorgeous caulis and sweet leeks to name but a few, the range still remains limited.

We will be going to the Farmers Market with our own produce but there is still a place for both markets and we can offer the very small grower as well as the bigger growers an outlet for their produce through Essex St and the box delivery run.

The Sunday market has been good for us and also has helped to highlight Wairarapa Organics, we field calls for information on organics and for the organisation as a whole, there is also a slow but steady interest in the Bokashi system. It is very rewarding to see people coming back to gardening and growing their own food.

Do you have any organic produce you would like to sell? (it does not have to be a huge quantity)

Would you like to have seasonal fresh produce delivered to your door?

We are only a phone call away, call us to discuss.

Ron and Glenis Cole

ph 379-8784

Farmers market

We are in discussion with the organizing committee of the farmers market as to how we will participate in this new activity in the Wairarapa. The market is due to start operation on Saturday 2 December at Solway showgrounds. People wishing to sell at the market must be the producers of the product they are selling and be in attendance at the stall when the produce is being offered for sale.

Spring is well with us with lots of rain, some sun and warmer temperatures with the effect that everything is growing at a tremendous rate. I know that I can hardly keep up with the work that needs to be done on our property – however, it is so great to see the growth in the trees, to watch vegetables coming into production and to see bees doing their work on the flowers and plants I have planted to encourage them and other beneficial insects into our property.

Peggy Duncan

Chair, Wairarapa Organics.

Wairarapa Organics' own website

Jane Ough of O Design has been working on setting up our website, which is now a reality, although there will be further additions as we gather and sort more information. It looks great! Among other items, the website offers a place for organic growers currently in a certification scheme to advertise produce for sale, or to post notices of other goods (e.g. tools) or services wanted to buy or sell. Buyers do not have to be members. Wairarapa Organics has no liability for any goods bought or sold through the site, but is pleased to provide an online meeting place for those interested in organics.

Do have a look at the site:

www.wairarapaorganics.org.nz

Board members are very grateful for Jane's contribution.



Waste not—Want not

The Bokashi Compost-Zing is the system that turns waste to wonderful compost in just 4 weeks!

And it is economical too! The average cost of operating a Bokashi Compost-Zing System can be less than 10 cents per day!!

The Bokashi Compost-Zing system is now available from Wairarapa Organics

10 liter bokashi compost-zing system \$40.00
15 liter bokashi compost-zing system \$45
Bokashi Compost-Zing refill 1 kg: \$6.00/bag
Liquid EM1: \$20.00/L; a liquid stimulating microorganisms

Call Esther on 379 5622 for more information or email: esther.dijkstra@wise.net.nz

Financial

With this newsletter, all Wairarapa Organics members who did not attend the Annual General Meeting will receive a copy of the audited financial statements, as is their right.

Despite a few difficulties this year with recruiting sufficient Board members, it has been most heartening to see that almost everyone whose subscription has fallen due for payment has renewed. It's great to have the financial support of members in this practical way. Thank you all.

Mary Zajkowski, Treasurer

Wairarapa Organics Incorporated aims to promote and support activities to increase the level of organic production and consumption of organic produce in the Wairarapa region. The vision of Wairarapa Organics is to support sustainable producers and consumers of safe, natural, quality produce and services. We are actively stimulating the production of organic produce and livestock within the Wairarapa.

Enjoyed the newsletter? Become a member of Wairarapa Organics and receive this newsletter six times per year. Annual Subscription to Wairarapa Organics: \$30.00 and \$15.00 for beneficiaries and students (inclusive of GST).

**Wairarapa Organics Inc.
PO Box 34 Carterton**

Contact details

The contacts for Board members are:

Peggy Duncan, Chair, Fn 2372 B Wood St, Greytown. Phone 06 304 8382, email: peggyduncan@paradise.net.nz

Mary Zajkowski, Secretary/Treasurer, 33 Witako St, Lower Hutt, Phone 04 569 5259, email: Mary.Zajkowski@xtra.co.nz

Claire Bleakely, member, Western Lake Rd, RD 3, Featherston, Phone 06 308 9842, p.bleakley@orcon.net.nz

Derek Broadmore, member, Opuakaio Rd, Carterton, derek@mdjlaw.co.nz

Certification Manager

Steve White, Certification Manager, Shooting Butts Rd, Martinborough, Phone 06 306 8007, email: shootingbutts@xtra.co.nz

Website:

www.wairarapaorganics.org.nz