



**Wairarapa Organic's OFNZ Newsletter**  
**Issue 13: September 2005**

**Dear Pod and Individual OFNZ members,**

Welcome back to the latest edition of your newsletter. Seems like an early Spring. We are having some concerns about the recent low rainfall. A bit of a concern with summer around the corner.

A group of us were having a meeting last night when the (too brief) shower of rain came through. It was so exciting, and it had been such a long time since we heard the sound of rain on a tin roof, that we even considered adjourning the meeting to stand in it.

Heaps of information to digest this month including:

- Certification news
- OANZ launch
- OFNZ update on standards decision
- WO Bee Field Day
- WO OrganicFarmNZ folder
- Auditor feedback
- Taruna College courses

**Certification News:**

The good news is that we are welcoming the following people to the OFNZ small growers scheme currently.

- Felicity Reed and Claire Aspell – Greytown
- Paul Gadsby and Jane Gannoway – Martinborough
- Ken Ryan and Nina Kyle – Lower Hutt dwellers with a property in Greytown
- Stewart Atkinson – Gladstone
- Andrew Wright (processing) - Greytown
- Mandi Porta – Akatarawa, Wellington
- Dave Treadwill (Ecoseeds)– Ngaio, Wellington
- Rachel Knight – Ohario Valley, Wellington

This should swell our numbers to 31 OFNZ certified properties, which is right on target. This audit round, we have 9 renewals and 8 new people so it's a busy time. The auditor will visit in the first or second week of November so we will be all done by early December we hope!

You will see that we have 3 Wellington properties in our midst. In the absence of a regional organisation to administer the scheme in Wellington, Wairarapa Organics have been asked to manage this area at this stage. Mandi, Dave and Rachel are getting together to make the first OFNZ pod in Wellington. We are delighted to have this keen team on board and hope that they will venture over the hill to join in our activities, as they are able.

In addition I would like to welcome back Pod 3 – Brian Grouden, Peter Campbell, Don and Hilary Baskerville, and Jonathon Hooker after another successful audit.

Check out the latest news in the Wairarapa Organics newsletter – out early next week or so regarding:

- **Essex Street Market** starting 23<sup>rd</sup> October.
- **Good Life Trail** – help needed
- **UCOL Cuisine for Teachers** – recent successful attendance.

**Auditor Feedback: John Ridout**

We are really lucky to have the services of John Ridout to undertake our auditing for us. John travels down from the Hawkes Bay where he does teaching for Taruna College in the area of Organic and Biodynamic Agriculture. He is also a Demeter auditor. From time to time John offers us feedback based on his auditing within our region. I felt that as we often have the

same areas that could benefit from improvement I would share some feedback that is common to all pod audits with you. This should improve our paperwork and make Johns job easier.

#### Licensee documentation:

It needs to be stressed that supporting documentation must be provided for all farm inputs, including invoices and relevant certificates, supplier certification and GE status. It is particularly relevant that many licensees overlook documents for plant materials, including seeds. Substantiating certificates and statements should also be related to purchase invoices for particular products.

The auditor recommends that applicants be provided with, (where already provided, urged to use) a range of supporting reporting and recording forms/templates in a format readily transferable or directly usable in annual reporting. Eg:

- Spray diary including: Date, Product (and amount used where applicable), Source, and Reason for use. Where used.
- Inputs records, including all fertility related materials and products and all plant materials including seeds. This should also include: Date purchased or brought in, Product or material, Purpose, Where or how used.
- Quarantine records including: Date in, Identification of all animals, Reason for quarantine or treatment, Details of treatment, Product, Withholding period. Date out of quarantine and destination. Total time in quarantine.
- General animal treatment records including allowable measures such as homoeopathics. (While homoeopathic treatment is not restricted, regular or repeated use for a particular recurring symptom may provide clues to a wider management issue which should be addressed)

It may also be very useful to include a column, which raises consciousness of the need for supporting documentation. Eg. "Supporting documents sourced?" *Hopefully our document review and new folders will help address this problem....Heather*

#### Completion of Peer Audit Checklist:

Audit checklists are generally sketchy and give few indications in many instances whether reviewers have in fact ascertained compliance. Reviewers should be urged to consider the position of an independent auditor and make comprehensive comments, even where cues for these on the checklist have not been provided, rather than just tick the boxes.

#### Progression of certification from Co status:

Before certification can progress beyond Co, it must be substantiated at Peer Reviews, and through relevant independent audit, that the standards have been fully complied with for the past year. *It may be sufficient in the first audit to note that diaries are to be initiated and documents made available at next audit, but this is not so for second and subsequent audits. Missing documentation must be supplied and compliance with standards of all practices ascertained.* Where non-compliances are deemed to have occurred, these must be graded (minor-major-critical) and their impact on certification decided by the certification committee.

#### Listing of products for certification:

The auditor is of the opinion that products listed for certification should only be those for which licensees have demonstrated a capacity to actually produce in compliance with the standards. Eg. Tree crops should only be included when they have been successfully cropped, not while trees have yet to come into production.

### **Organic and Biodynamic Agriculture – Taruna College**

Offer programs that will bring profound changes to the way that you approach the Natural environment. You will learn how organic and biodynamic ,management systems can be implemented or improved. Organic and Biodynamic Agriculture and horticulture produces healthy and nutritious food in a sustainable manner in tune with the rhythms of nature. Based

at the beautiful 'Demeter' certified Hohepa Farm Taruna's organic/biodynamic agricultural courses include a broad range of content. Including:

- Principles and process of organic and biodynamic land management
- The living soil
- Plant studies from a phenomenological perspective
- Horticulture (vegetable, orchard, vineyard)
- Animal husbandry
- Trees on farms
- Biodynamic preparations
- Astronomy
- Certification

Probably of most interest to our members is the **Certificate in Applied Organics and BD-** spread over 32 weeks, it is based on 3 intensive 8 day contact seminars, supported by home based study designed for application in your own areas of interest or property management.

Contact Taruna College PO Box 8103, Havelock North, Hawkes Bay

Ph 06 8777174

Fax 068777014

Email: info@taruna.ac.nz

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**Wairarapa Organics Field Day:  
Introduction to Bees & Organic Bee Management**

**Saturday 15 October 2005, Garden Innovations (Nursery), High Street South, Carterton. 10 am to 12.30ish.**

Wairarapa Organics and Carterton Nursery 'Garden Innovations' are co-hosting a field day on bees on 15 October 2005, at which a Wairarapa Beekeepers Association member will introduce you to the life of bees and what they can do for you.

Topics include:

- Basic Hive Management
- What is an appropriate Site?
- Conventional vs. Organic Management
- Pests and Diseases (varroa)
- Set up costs and time involved
- Bee hives and gear
- Contractors/own hives. What is involved?

Please park your car on High Street (not in driveway/car park) and follow the signs to the heirloom orchard at the back of the nursery where field day will take place. After the talk Judy from Garden Innovations will talk about trees, and plants that attract bees, and introduce us to her business and vision.

Although Judy is not able to get certified at this time, she is interested in the concept and stocks a variety of approved products.

**Cost:** \$2 pp including coffee/tea, with Wairarapa Organics members eligible for a 5% discount at Garden Innovations for plants bought this day only.

For more information contact The Wairarapa Organics Team on 306 8253 (Esther/Josje), or 370 3909 (Heather).

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**Wairarapa Organics OrganicFarmNZ Folder**

**New to the small growers scheme, or struggling  
to manage your records?**

We have developed a wonderful resource with our new OrganicFarmNZ folder complete with:

OFNZ paperwork requirements

BioGro annexes

Management plan

Soil testing information and costs

Help list

**And the newly developed supporting information consisting of:** Restricted input forms, Animal treatment record sheet, Spray Diary, Schedule of off farm inputs, Incoming animal management form, Compost diary and Compliance declaration.  
Also a flow-chart to help you understand where every piece of paper fits in.

All in a well presented folder for ease of management.  
These are available from Heather 06 3703909 at a cost of \$25.00

NB: Special thanks to **Mandy Armstrong** for helping in the redevelopment of the supporting documentation. It is really great when people with valuable skills are prepared to come forward and assist with projects. Thank you.

These folders are an evolving resource therefore we will be adding and modifying them as necessary. Updates can be made available for those who purchase them, as they are developed. Who knows perhaps we will 'patent' them and be able to roll these out to other OFNZ regions for use and maybe even make a small margin on them.

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Reminder regarding **OFNZ farm gate signs**. If you ordered one and haven't yet collected it, please contact me – they are here and waiting. Bring your cheque book. They cost \$15.00. Thank you to those people who kindly added postage to their cheque. Our expenses have been covered.

#### **OFNZ National Office News: AGM Update.**

The outcome of the OrganicFarmNZ AGM with regards to adopting our own Standard (or production rules) is as follows:

**No decision was made. The issue was laid on the table until the 2006 OrganicFarmNZ AGM.**

#### **Reason**

Our scrutineer Bill Quinn brought to our attention that there is no provision in the OrganicFarmNZ Constitution for 'general' postal voting. Postal votes are only accepted for NCC elections. Hence the scrutineer would not accept any postal votes – only those votes cast at the AGM. Hence with the full agreement of the AGM the decision to lay the issue on the table until the 2006 AGM was agreed.

The meeting debated the issue for some time. It was clear that there was an even split in support for what standards should be used. This was equally evident in the postal votes received. A comment that found favour towards the end of the debate was to delay the decision for 12 months. This would give OrganicFarmNZ time to work through any issues with BioGro. It means that OrganicFarmNZ is in a position of relative strength to work through issues with BioGro. We have the draft Standards available to us as a fallback position should that be required. This was the general view of the meeting.

#### **Use of the BioGro Standards**

This needs to be made crystal clear to all members – the PRODUCTION RULES that OrganicFarmNZ is certifying to are the BIOGRO Production Rules. That was the status quo prior to the meeting and the status quo today, tomorrow and until formally notified otherwise. **OrganicFarmNZ Producers must grow, and will be certified by OrganicFarmNZ, to the BioGro Production Rules. The draft OrganicFarmNZ Production Rules are NOT to be used.**

Please ensure that those people whom you represent are clear that the BioGro Production Rules remain in use for ALL OrganicFarmNZ Producer members. It would be ideal if this could be forwarded onto all those involved with OrganicFarmNZ.

#### **Constitution Review**

The meeting agreed (prior to the above debate) that the OrganicFarmNZ Constitution requires a review. Clearly in light of the above debate highlighting a shortcoming of the current constitution, the need for a review became even more evident.

We thank those who took the time to attend the meeting and those who voted. While it was disappointing that the matter was not resolved, in light of the division it seems that the best possible outcome was reached.

Regards

Hamish Hopkinson  
National Office Manager

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**ORGANIC PROMOTIONS**  
ARE PLEASED TO BRING YOU THE  
**EVENT TO LAUNCH**  
**ORGANICS AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND.**

(OANZ)

**OANZ**, THE ORGANISATION TO EMERGE FROM THE ORGANIC SECTOR REVIEW, AND THE FUTURE VOICE OF ALL INVOLVED IN THE ORGANIC SECTOR WILL BE LAUNCHED AT A 2 DAY EVENT IN WELLINGTON ON THE 4TH/5TH NOVEMBER 2005.

**OANZ** has the potential to pull all the ripples that make up the organic sector into a **dynamic wave**; able to change and adapt, move forward, reform and move forward again. Are you ready to be part of this wave or to ride it as far as it can take us ?

The event is made up of:

- **OANZ** Organic Sector Breakfast.
- **OANZ** Launch Luncheon.
- **OANZ** Organic Expo.
- **OANZ** Gala Dinner (including sector awards).

The events are been held in the Wellington Events Centre and Wellington Town Hall. The opportunity to network with the full range of organisations and individuals in the organic sector and to market your products/services has never been greater.

It is the time for all involved in the sector and all in the general community to have a perspective check on organics, is the sector what you and they think it is?

regards

Bill Quinn

Organic Promotions.

*If anyone wants to take a look at the prospectus for the launch event and the site application form, you may contact me. **Wairarapa Organics** will be there with a site and we will be using this event to promote our 'Good Life Trail'. This is a great opportunity to look at the range of organic products and services available all organised into one venue. **Wairarapa Organics** may need helpers to man our stand. If you are not helping you should at lease come and attend. Perhaps we can organise either a bus or train trip.....watch this space!*

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**Wairarapa Times Age** have confirmed their interest in doing an article about the 4 Wairarapa Organics members in high profile roles at National level:

1. *Kaye McAulay (CEO BioGro NZ)*
2. *Derek Broadmore (Deputy Chair BioGro NZ)*
3. *Heather Atkinson-WO's Certification Manager (Deputy Chair OrganicFarmNZ)*
4. *Frank Van Steensel (Chairman Bio-dynamic Farming and Gardening Association, Council member Organic Aotearoa NZ, member of Organic Researchers working group).*

What a great effort from our Wairarapa region. 'A small region with a **BIG** voice'. Information is currently being compiled so keep an eye out in the next few weeks.

**Help Wanted:**

**Wanted:** Clean topsoil for in-conversion property. Approx. 2 to 3 trailer loads (roughly 3 m3) required during Oct/Nov/Dec. Have shovel, will collect. Must be of similar certification status or above. Phone Rhys Morgan 06 3702615

Think that's about it from me for now. I do have the OFNZ annual report that I hope to get to all members but at present I cant get it in an appropriate format to add to this newsletter. I will keep trying and perhaps forward it seperately

Heather Atkinson

Certification Manager Wairarapa Organics Inc.