



Wairarapa Organic's OFNZ Newsletter
Issue 11: June 2005

Dear Pod and Individual OFNZ members,

June has rolled around already. We are nearly at our shortest day being the 21st June. One could say there isn't much to celebrate with everyone aware that we always get our worst winter weather after this date.

Wairarapa Organics is taking a different approach and instead are celebrating the Winter Solstice with a mid winters event at the Woodcock/Sutton property. Look for it later in this newsletter – hope you can come and join us!

I have lots to share with you this month. Thought I would start this newsletter with a run down of whats been happening that I have been involved with of late.

Wholesale Organic Order:

The Wairarapa Wholefoods club (having met its objectives) has now disbanded with members hopefully being absorbed by either WO or Green Dollars.

This is now a regular fortnightly event with the next date for ordering being Monday 20th June. This will be combined with the opportunity to purchase Tofu products at Wholesale. You need to fax or email your order to me by 5pm. Prior to ordering you need to complete a credit application form that you can get from Lianne Earles Ph 06 3708543 along with the order form.

We really need some more keen consumers of organic produce to come on board with this. To get the best saving with freight we really need to order over 100kg from Chantels per time. To do this we need you. This is a 3 month trial at this stage. If it is not supported we will have to pull the plug on it. If you are keen to get wholesale organic seeds, flours, nuts, fresh produce, dried fruit and anything else you can conceivably think of please support this initiative.

OFNZ: Regional News

Its been a busy month with the newest pod 5 members completing their peer review and audit and pods 2 and 3 having completing their peer review and awaiting audit.

So at this point, with you lot having done your bit, there is a lot of work for the Certification Committee ahead. Great to have everyone on board and great to see people 'graduating' to C1 level.

OFNZ: National News:

I have last week been in touch with National Office to get abit of an update on where things are at with the National Body. And the news is.....

- AGM will probably be held in Palmerston North on Saturday August 27th (to be confirmed). The North Island representatives are up for re-election this year and we have the opportunity to put a representative up for election. I think we should to ensure that the voice of the Wairarapa be heard at National level.
- National Committee has proposed the development of 3 sub groups in the areas of Marketing, Standards and Finance and Strategy. These will have a National Committee person appointed to them but also require volunteers with specific areas of interest to input to them. More information on both of these will be circulated as I get it. Meantime if you are interested please let me know.
- Farmgate Logo. This has been completed at National level. There will be two logos. One for conversion properties another for full OFNZ properties. They are deciding at the next

- OFNZ meeting who is entitled to use the conversion logo (CO or C1). Once this has been decided the signs and costs will be circulated for us to purchase.
- Apparently work has been done on the paperwork and documentation which should improve upon the current forms.

Promotion:

The Board has been progressing the need for some publicity material for WO in a number of ways.

We were fortunate enough to have the skills of Patrick Craddock offered to us to make a Powerpoint Display to promote ourselves. Patrick is Peggy Duncans partner, from Pod 5. Thank you Patrick for your contribution. It is great to see members (and their partners) offering to help WO by donating their time and energy.

Having designed an outline for some promotional material and collected some great photos, we are looking at developing some free standing promotional display boards that will be suitable to take to seminars, produce sales, fairs and educational opportunities.

We are also looking into developing a web page in the near future and have received an offer from another WO member to make a video style documentary about WO.

The Board has accepted an offer to get involved with some professional development training courses offered by UCOL in the Wairarapa for Home Economics teachers. This will involve a speaking opportunity and a chance for students to visit some of our properties.

We will also have a presence at the National Tree Croppers Association Conference in April of next year.

Market Initiatives

Essex Street market:

We now are the proud owners of a car trailer on which to place our 'little red shed' from which we will sell organic produce for the Essex St market. Thanks Don Baskerville for all the energy you have put towards this initiative. Don is just completing the final work on the trailer currently. Once this is done someone will be in touch with you so see what you are able to supply.

Meat Supply Network:

Following a workshop held in the Wairarapa some months ago (by WO) exploring the likelihood of developing an organic meat network in the Wairarapa, I am happy to report significant progress. Whilst the kick off for this initiative was the workshop, this is not being undertaken by WO, rather by independent operators undertaking this on their own account. Within the period of approximately 8 weeks we are hoping to commence a chain of supply, processing and retail sale of certified organic meat. This will involve a number of key people with significant experience in this area and is very positive. It is envisioned to utilise beef, lamb, venison and pork for supply to the domestic market. Meat will be sourced from certified properties (BioGro, Certenz and OFNZ) subject to quality guidelines being met.

If you are an OFNZ meat producing person you will be contacted in the next month or so.

Common Sense Organics:

A meeting was held last Saturday (11th June) with Jim and Marion from Commonsense Organics (CSO) with regard to the need to get supplies of certified produce from the Wairarapa. What a fantastic turnout there was too...13 growers present! Great effort team - my poor little lounge in Masterton was full to overflowing! Apologies to the two people that I was unable to contact about this.

Discussion was held around the types of produce that they require and the quantities that are required. Marion is going to email me a comprehensive list of produce as a starting point. We are in a strong position both location and climate wise to capitalise on this opportunity.

Excitingly Peggy Duncan has offered to co-ordinate the produce for us so we can then meet the needs of both Essex Street and CSO.

You will hear from Peggy regards furthering this in the near future – subject to her getting her technology needs met by Telecom!

Stuff coming up:

Michael Woodcock and Gaye Sutton invite you to:

Celebrate 'Matariki', the beginning of the new year in old Aotearoa, with a walk through

their Olive grove and among their Devon cattle and Boer Goats on their Bio-Gro Certified property. Talk about the old year and the new as you go and then stay for some of the (world famous in WestTaratahi) Te Ao O Te Pukeko fruit cake and coffee, tea or Milo to warm you up. Afterwards you may listen to Solstice stories of long ago and today, and get ready for the dark.

If you're a dreamer, come in,
If you're a dreamer, a wisher, a liar
a hoper, a prayer a magic bean buyer
come site by our fire
We've flax golden tales to spin,
Come in, Come in...

Where: 'Te Ao O Te Pukeko'

First gateway on right in Parkers Road, (just off Chester Rd) Carterton

When: 2:00pm Saturday 25 June, 2005

and afterwards in the West Taratahi Hall, Chester Road, Carterton

This is a great opportunity to see another certified organic property in our region. Thank you Gaye and Michael for extending a welcome to us all and a special thank you to Gaye for offering to share her gift of storytelling with us. See you all there.

Wairarapa Organics AGM

This will be held, at a venue to be confirmed, on 16th July 2005.

We are hosting David Aislabie, an experienced organic vegetable grower from the Wanganui region. He will share his experiences with growing and selling organically in his region.

The plan being that you will all be hugely inspired and get frantically planting come Spring! We will be sharing a potluck dinner together, doing the AGM formalities and then getting on with hearing from our guest speaker. More information later.

Will be a great evening, come and get inspired!

Bits and Pieces/Trade and Exchange:

Jane Ough ph 063048022 has **several hundred metres of 20mm irrigation pipe** that is free to be re-homed to an OFNZ person. Some of it is complete with the irrigation risers etc so is a real bargain to the right person.

I have approximately 50+ **raspberry canes** that are bare-rooted and free to anyone who wants them. They are from my vege garden which is not certified organic but certainly organic. They are out of the ground **now and will need collection this week.**

Denver Stock Foods, Palmerston North has organic stock feed that is available and is sold through Seeds and Feeds in Masterton. They are also willing to make up **certified organic multi-feed** suitable for horses and the like (perhaps calves, llama's). Jane Ough would like to get together an order to facilitate this. If you are interested please contact her a/a.

Garden Innovations on the Main Road in Carterton carry a wide range **of certified potting mixes, composts, seeds and inputs** that they are keen to sell to OFNZ members. Please support them and don't forget to ask for the Certificate and keep the invoice to present for your next audit.

That's about it from me for now. If you have any queries please feel free to direct them to me.

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