



GREENS~LEAVES

Dunedin Vegetable Growers Club Newsletter.
November 2019

Meetings: 2nd Monday of the month at 7pm

Venue: St Kilda Bowling Club,
33 Royal Crescent, St Kilda

Membership: Helen Flockton (455 1816)

helen.flockton6@gmail.com

Club Email: dvgcnz@gmail.com

Website: <http://dvgc.co.nz/>

Bank Account # 030905051590600

(Please include your name as a reference)

Next Club Meeting: Monday, 11th November 2019

Q & A: David

Club Talk: Summer squash - panel

Guest Speaker: Michelle Cox: Composting

Garden Visit: Marion and Jim Thompson, Saturday 30th November, 10am-12pm



Competition for November
Salad bowl for one

Winner of rhubarb competition:
To be announced at meeting

Things to look forward to in November

Garden visit

Hello Everyone,

In this month's newsletter we report on a visit to Robyn and Jim Baszika's garden. Also on the Kindred Day trip to Kakanui. We are invited to give a helping hand at a newly restarted Community Garden.

Report from the Kindred Day committee – by Margaret Scott

We had a great day out with 10 vege club members at the Kakanui Kindred Day attending. The speaker, Jime O'Gorman, on growing organic vegetables, was very interesting. He commercially recoups \$40 per square metre of his land. That is great growing. There were a lot of well potted plants and also preserves for sale, so I will take this opportunity to remind you to pot up some plants. Thanks

Could I also put a plug in for the community garden I am helping with:

Taieri Community Garden has started up again:

Cemetery Rd East Taieri, every Wednesday 12.30 to 2.30 and a working bee on Nov 9th between 9 to 4pm.

If you can give any time it would be greatly appreciated (has not been weeded for a couple of years!).

Margaret Scott, current co-ordinator of the garden



Club visit to Jim and Robyn Baszikas' garden on Sunday 27th Oct – by Ray Wade

We arrived at Waldronville as the high temperatures of the morning plummeted with the looming front. Many of us were busily adding extra layers of clothing and coats. However the floral brightness of the entrance way plus our hosts' warm welcome made our visit most enjoyable. Elizabeth was especially spoiled being chauffeured round the property behind the ride on mower. Maybe a corgi or two to keep her company would have been fitting.

There was a good crowd of us and it was most interesting to see the progress made over the past four years: All sorts of new things, such as a large tunnel house ex TradeMe, a new bean frame at a special 'haggle price' from Bunnings and a sink bench to be used for washing all those vegies outside.

The large fruit trees which had been relocated were doing well and the numerous beds were all well built up with copious quantities of "lasagne" mulch.

Going back in time the heavy clay beds had the turf turned over followed by a thick layer of newspaper, then a mulch of seaweed and stable manure over the top resulting in excellent soil down the line. The process was helped by the foraging activity of a group of chickens. The main vegetable beds were well planned with the chook house in the centre, with 4 pop

holes, surrounded by 4 beds that were able to be separately fenced for the chooks to turn them over for cleanup once harvest was finished. The animals added to the soil fertility, removing vile pests like grass grub and giving a very fine tilth. There are no permanent paths through the vege garden rather dug tracks that were infilled with mulch before being incorporated into the new beds at the end of rotation.

36 tomato plants in the tunnel house had been companion planted with alyssum to attract the useful small insects to keep pests under control. Large freezers plus other processing enable Robyn and Jim to eat from their garden year round.

Some espaliered fruit trees divide up garden areas. A wet part of the garden, where fruit trees previously struggled to grow, had the beds raised along the contour of the slope and were now thriving. There was very little bare soil visible as under the trees grew herbal leys, with an emphasis on comfrey, in a thick layer of wood chips. Seeing the young quince in full flower had us all thinking of another visit to the plant shop.

And to add to the good life, Jim and Robyn keep beehives plus a primitive winter only spa bath, an old enamel bathtub where a fire can be lit underneath. All extremely well presented and a far, far cry from the Coromandel alternative lifestyle projects that I observed in my 20's.

Thanks for a wonderful, informative garden visit and the afternoon tea to follow - when the rain finally arrived.



Address changes

If you have recently changed your contact details, address or phone numbers, please let Helen Flockton know at the desk or by email, thanks.