



GREENS~LEAVES

Dunedin Vegetable Growers Club Newsletter
February 2020

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, 10th February 2020

Q & A: David

Club Talks: Kindred Day – Margaret Scott, Bottling Produce – Robyn Bazsika

Guest Speaker: Our own discussion of harvest recipes in groups

Garden visit: Hot Compost Making, East Taieri Community Garden, Riccarton Rd, East Taieri School carpark, below the church, Sunday 16th February, 2 pm. There is space to drive directly onto the grassy site with awkward loads.



Competition for March

Three Alliums, of the same or a mix of onion varieties

Winner of personal best summer fruit and/or vegetable:
Robyn Bazsika for red gooseberries
Ray Wade for Florence Fennel

Things to look forward to in January

Hot compost session
Harvest ideas brainstorm

Hello Everyone,

In this newsletter we have information on the upcoming compost making session, a report on the latest garden visit, a call for harvest recipes, produce for the trading table and additional people on the committee this year.

Garden visit at the Buxton's – by Jim Bazsika

“We had a wonderful DVGC garden visit with the Buxton's on Sunday Jan 26 in Waldronville. It was very interesting seeing how their gardens have been developing over the past 10 years or so from a bare paddock with photos to really show this. There was a wonderful double grafted apricot tree which was laden with fruit that were to be picked soon, hopefully 1 day before the birds tuck into it. Also two espaliered trees recently grown. The beehive 5 metres away had something to do with the fruit set I'm sure. There were several raised macrocarpa veg beds that had many vegetables within. Bruce had a question as to

why his carrots had a poor germination rate. Several suggests were put forward, hopefully something will help with the next carrot plot. Hilda put on a wonderful supper that was much appreciated and we enjoyed their company and outlook onto their native garden and beyond. Thank you Hilda and Bruce for a most excellent garden visit. Cheers!"

Harvest gluts

We will hold a club brainstorm at the next meeting on what to do with gluts of harvest produce. Please bring along one or some of your favourite go-to recipes that you would like to share. Also send it/them on to our club gmail address. We will collate and make them available on our website. Thanks Colette for sharing this recipe already:

Zucchini Cake recipe - by Colette Buckley

I make this cake for St. Patrick's Day (17th March) as the green from the zucchini fits well, however it is delicious any time.

- 1 cup wholemeal flour
- 1 cup self-rising flour
- 1 Teaspoon baking soda
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons nutmeg
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup oil
- 4 eggs
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 3 cups grated zucchini
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts

In a large bowl combine flours, soda, cinnamon and nutmeg
Add brown sugar and oil and mix well
Mix together well the eggs and the sour cream in a separate bowl
Add to the flour mixture and mix until smooth.
Add zucchini and walnuts
Pour into greased tin and bake at 160 degrees for 45 minutes.
Ice with cream cheese icing when cool.

Hot Compost Session

We are getting together to practice assembling diverse organic materials that will turn into fertile soil in a short time. It is a very adaptable and tried method that creates soil fast in many situations. The skill is invaluable to have as a food grower. This particular compost will contribute to the East Taieri Community Garden.

Please read the list below and think about what and how much you would like to bring to the pile. Let us know at the next meeting on the sheet passed around or by email, thanks.
Please also bring a small plate of food for sharing at Margaret's place afterwards.

Resources needed for our hot compost session or any hot composting endeavour:

*essential items

*Grass clippings, two wool packs

You may need to accumulate a week or two's worth - lay clippings out in a low and wide pile to prevent overheating. Cutting 1 or 2 days prior best.

*Hay or Pea Straw, 4 bales

Farmers are often happy to give away 'stack bottom' hay for free. Aim for weed/seed free hay. Soak in water for a day or two prior if possible.

*Annual weeds, at least 4 buckets

Collect sacks full if you have plenty! Best if they haven't yet gone to seed.

*Crop wastes

At least 4 buckets, up to a wool pack

Disease free wastes - take special care to avoid clubroot in brassica and onion white rot in allium family.

*Hedge clippings/ prunings/ leaves, 1 wool pack

No roses/ thorny plant matter/macrocarpa/gum/flax or cabbage tree leaves! Bigger branches for base. Fallen autumn leaves are great for composting.

Sawdust/shavings/ wood chips, up to 4 buckets

Must be from untreated pine or macrocarpa only.

*Food scraps, Between 2 & 8 buckets

Avoid meat, dairy and excessive amounts of bread/citrus and onion waste.

*Seaweed, 2 fish bins

Any type of seaweed is great! Larger forms such as kelp will need to be chopped up with a spade or machete (it's very tough).

*Fresh cow, sheep or horse manure, 6-8 buckets

Cow is best, but horse and sheep is more readily available. Ensure manure is from healthy 'drug free' animals. Drenches used for worm control in stock prevent microbe/worm activity in your heap!

Chicken/pig manure, 1 bucket

Older, dried out material including bedding is best.

Comfrey, any, but 4 buckets or more good, cut fresh on the day if possible.

Blood and bone, 1/2 a bucket, Or dried blood is fine.

*Hessian Sacks, 20 +

Stuart's Coffee sell 100 for \$20. May gift to community projects?

Cardboard or newspaper, Up to 6 flat boxes, or 1 newspaper worth

Plain brown cardboard with minimum print. Soak in water for a day prior if possible. No white paper or gloss paper/card. Minimise colour products.

Trading Table

Please bring any surplus produce, potted seedlings or seeds along for sale at the trading table. We had very little fare to buy last month and would love to see more this time.

Annual general Meeting

During the March club meeting we will be having our annual general meeting which usually does not take too long. This year we would like to add 2 new committee members. If you wish to be on the committee, please put your name on the attached form or fill out a form at the desk, have a club member nominate you and another club member second that nomination, and hand the form in at the February meeting. This could be a chance for you to initiate all those good ideas you have, or just to give something back to the club. We really welcome people to step up to keep this club running well.

Jam jars and punnets

I have about a dozen glass with metal screw top Barker's jam jars and a couple of hundred or more washed 6 cell punnets if anyone wanted either of these for Kindred Day contributions. If someone sent me an email saying how many of the punnets they'd want, I'd bring them to the next meeting.

Jill

jbalfour-smith@hotmail.com

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.

Subscriptions are due now, \$15.- until end of March, from then on \$20.-.

DVGC Committee Nomination Form

I hereby nominate

for the position of general member

on the 2020 DVGC Committee.

(Name)_____

(Signature)_____

I second the nomination

(Name)_____

(Signature)_____

I accept the nomination

(Name)_____

(Signature)_____

Forms can be filled in and submitted at February 10th meeting
Nominations must be made no later than the February general meeting