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| **GREENS~LEAVES**    **Dunedin Vegetable Growers Club Newsletter**  **January 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](mailto:dvgcnz@gmail.com)  **Website:** <http://dvgc.co.nz/>  **Bank Account #** 030905051590600  (Please include your name as a reference) | |
| **Next Club Meeting:** Monday, 13. January 2020  **Q & A:** David  **Club Talks:** Planning for Winter / Kindred Day  **Guest Speaker:** Joneen Chalmers from Momona Nursery  **Garden visit:** Bruce & Hilda Buxton | | | |
|  | **Competition for January**  Personal best summer fruit and/or vegetable  Winner of potato in a bucket competition:  Elizabeth Whitcombe  Largest single potato and total harvest | | **Things to look forward to in January**  Garden visit  Insight into a nursery operation |

Hello Everyone,

In this month’s newsletter we report on the Christmas picnic gathering and let you in on the secrets of Elizabeth’s potato success. We call for produce for the trading table, your helping hand on Kindred Day and the 2020 DVGC subs.

**Kindred Day** – 4 April 2020 – Margaret will talk at the coming meeting

about the need for HELPERS on Friday evening 3rd April to set up the hall and plant stall and again on Saturday 4th April to ensure the smooth running of the day. Think how you can lend a hand with

* plants for sale and for the raffles - please add a few extra seeds when planting for the vegetable baskets.
* producing food for morning and afternoon teas

**Christmas picnic** – by Sue Novell

On a warm Sunday afternoon a good crowd of us sprawled out on Jim and Robyn Baszika’s deck and lawn for our annual Christmas gathering. In view of the chooks and productive vegie and fruit garden we had a lovely time chatting and eating our picnic food and sampling tasty goods. The drama of the skies kept slowly unfolding with big black clouds and sheets of rain approaching from the South as we strolled around the garden. We admired the newly constructed strawberry bed edging, summer vegetable plot and the rows of lush tomato, tomatillo and aubergine plants strung up in the two hot houses. The skies grew darker still and hurried us away and into our cars just as they unloaded their heavy raindrops. We felt so lucky to have had the time given to us together outside. Thank you for your great hospitality, Robyn and Jim!

**How Elizabeth grew her potatoes successfully** – by Sue Novell

I asked Elizabeth Whitcombe, how did she grow her fine crop of potatoes?

She said that it was down to a mixture of garden soil, tomato- and potting mix with some sheep pellets, blood and bone and osmocote added in. She placed the potato not very deep down, covered it over, then watered it daily and topped it up with some sheep pellets later on. Well, the results speak for themselves: a bucket full of creamy white oblong potatoes of a nice even size!

Alan Savell confirmed with his experiments that putting the potato far down with little soil coverage, then gradually topping it up, gave worse results than placing the potato not so far down and covering it right to the top with soil already from the start.

**Trading Table**

Please continue to bring any seedlings, produce, seeds etc. that you have spare.

**DVGC Subscriptions for 2020** – are now due.

The amount is $15.- if paid before 31st March, thereafter $20.-. If you prefer to be sent a paper copy add another $ 5.-. Please pay by cash at the desk or into the above DVGC bank acc. number - and don’t forget to put your name as reference.

**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.