

# GREENS~LEAVES

Dunedin Vegetable Growers Club Newsletter; issued monthly, Vol:8.2 February 2015

**Next meeting ; 7pm, Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February**

**Venue is the St Kilda Bowling Club, 33 Royal Crescent**

*President ; Carol Henderson (454 4625) [hendersonic@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hendersonic@xtra.co.nz)*

*Membership: Heather Wilson (4764607) [heatherandmike@clear.net.nz](mailto:heatherandmike@clear.net.nz)*

*Website ; <http://www.dvgc.co.nz/>*

**Monday 9th February ; Welcome and notices**

**Planting now/Q&A – David Neill**

**Club Talk – Cathy Shemansky on Courgettes/Zucchini**

**Invited Speaker – Mr Jan Leunissen on Making Sauerkraut**

**Competition – Two Courgettes/Zucchini**

**Open Garden - Ross Gilbertson's, Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February.**

## **Hot, Dry and now Wet and Windy!!**

This is the first season I have been so worried about getting enough water into the garden so I'm quite relieved at the present dull, wet weather ☺ However, this rain is not enough if your ground has dried out like my potato bed in the front garden!! I had to leave the hose dribbling into it overnight to make any difference and then soak it again the next day before mulching. The pink fir apple potatoes are well worth the effort ☺ I am interested to know how the beans sold on the trading table are going in your gardens so please let me know at the meeting or e -mail me. I am especially pleased with the 'cobra runners'.

## **January meeting**

We had a friendly and relaxed meeting for our first in 2015 with around 40 attending - including Margaret Scott's three wwoofers from Chile and the Netherlands!!

Jim Bazsika gave a lively, interesting and inspirational presentation on making wine from garden produce so now even I may attempt to make some wine.... in the future....once I have had a taste test !!

Margaret Dodds gave us a great wee talk on lettuce after Jim and that tied in nicely with reminding everyone to vote for their favourite lettuce on the competition table.

I do apologise for getting things out of order and special thanks to Lynne for setting me straight! Wayne Tuck was again the winner with his cannonball sized hearting lettuce and Robyn Bazsika was only one vote behind him with her beautiful, big loose-leafed lettuce.

Supper was excellent as usual and we had a large number of volunteers on the new supper list so a big thankyou for that ☺

The garden visit to the NEV Community garden was well attended but the weather was so hot it was almost unbearable! Thankfully we had a seat in the shade at afternoon tea time.... after we had

admired the bees, the bountiful crops, spoken to the volunteers there helping and pulled out some weeds. The members of the community garden are very hospitable and spent time with us explaining how their systems work and shared their afternoon tea ☺. Margaret Scott also helped to plant the saffron bulbs she had given to them.



*This is Richard Tozer, at the NEV Community garden harvesting garlic earlier in January. Richard is basically the director and main planner of the garden and has spoken to our club in the past.*

## **DCC Soil Maps**

Jan Leunissen is a former member of the DVGC and has done a bit of research into the soil types here in Dunedin. While I was talking to him about his upcoming talk he gave me this link to the DCC website ;

<http://www.dunedin.govt.nz/council-online/webmaps/growrural>

If you click on the blue 'Link to DCC webmaps' script it will take you to a page where you can type in your address and find out what soil area you are in. If you double click on the icon at your address it will give you an information sheet on your soil type. I have emailed the council requesting some hard copies of these for our club library.

## There are several things going on in the near future and here are some of them ☺

The Dunedin Horticultural Society Summer Show is on Sat. Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, 2pm-5pm and Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup> 10am-4pm at Forbury Park Raceway, Victoria Rd. Competition entries in by Wed. 25<sup>th</sup> to Secretary Susan on 4884054. If you need a schedule Susan will post one out to you.

<http://beyondorganicnztour.com/>

The film mentioned on this website will be played in Dunedin in April so look out for it.

**Gardens on the Lagoon**, hosted by the Waikouaiti Garden Club, will be held on **Sunday 22nd February** from 10am to 4pm. A selection of gardens adjoining the Hawkesbury Lagoon will be open to visitors. This unique day will be centred around the beautiful St Johns Church in Beach Street. Tickets will be available on the day from the East Otago Events Centre. The \$8 ticket entitles the visitor entry to the South Island National Dahlia Show, Devonshire tea at St Johns Hall and a stroll around the gardens, which are all within walking distance of each other.

### Dunedin Fruit Tree Harvest

Contact Amanda on 4700813, or email [amandar@psotago.org.nz](mailto:amandar@psotago.org.nz) if you would like to offer your fruit or to volunteer to pick and/or preserve.

Workshops for any age and any ability:

- **Plum picking, Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> Feb.** Meet at 10am at Carisbrook School
- **Community baking and preserving workshop, Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. Between 10am – 4pm** at Carisbrook School, South Road, Caversham.

### Community fruit tree harvesting and preserving...it's that time of year again!

Do you have fruit trees that you don't harvest or need help to pick? Do you know how to preserve the fruit, or would you like to learn? The Dunedin Community Food Harvest Group and other volunteers are teaming up again to do some community fruit picking, baking and preserving. The aim of the community initiative is to reduce waste, make the most of local food, and to share skills. Volunteers and tree owners will get to keep a little produce themselves, with fresh produce going to the Food Bank, or being used in 'skill sharing workshops', or turned into delicious fresh apple juice. Contact Annika Korsten on 0210690546, or email to [dunedinharvest@gmail.com](mailto:dunedinharvest@gmail.com) if you would like to offer your fruit, to help pick or preserve, or you would like further information.

There is also an information sheet on the Otago Organics new Mentoring Programme which will be sent as an attachment but a few printouts will be available at the meeting☺

## Seed

This is a great time of year to let a few choice plants go to seed as there will hopefully be plenty of time for it to ripen properly before the bad weather starts! I have just gathered in the parsnip seed from the two plants I chose for seed production so I am expecting great things from them once it is time to plant them. I saved some seeds from the excellent Carouby snow peas and there is a huge Cavolo nero kale plant which has been a great producer with no pests and no sign of going to seed early which I will be saving some seed from too. It does interfere with a tidy garden sometimes but the seeding plants can be moved to a different area to mature if required.

Please note that members are very welcome to write a short article on anything to do with vegetable growing and have it included in the newsletter ☺ Margaret has done a review of the new garlic book which is due to appear on the website.

### The annual fee for membership is due.

Annual Fee \$20.00

Discount of \$5.00 to \$15.00 if paid by April 1st.

Discount of \$5.00 to \$10.00 if you pay by April 1st and receive your newsletter by email.

If choose to have newsletter by post it will cost \$15.00

Visitors \$2.00 per meeting.

**Bank Account details...**For those who would like to pay their subs promptly in 2015 via internet banking the Club bank account number is; **Westpac 030905 0515906 00** Please remember to add your **name** as reference when paying by internet banking :) *Heather*

### Planting by the Moon Feb/March 2015

**Feb 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>** – Cultivate only

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>** – Sow root crops...Turnips, Mr Guyton says!

**9<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>** – Barren period...rest ☺

**15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>** – Spray garlic, rhubarb leaf etc. to deter insects

**17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>** – Cultivate only-prepare materials for sowing etc

**22<sup>nd</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> March** – Sow (spinach, broccoli, onions and cabbage)

**March 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>** - cultivate only.

**March 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>** – sow root crops

According to the local planting calendar the time is **ideal** sowing/planting this month for;

#### February - in trays

Lettuce  
Silverbeet  
Spring Onion

#### sowing direct (in ground)

Beetroot  
Corn Salad  
Greencrop  
Mesclun  
Miners lettuce  
Peas  
Radish  
Rocket  
Spinach  
Turnip

#### planting seedlings of ;

Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Celery, Chicory, Chinese cabbage, Kale, Kohlrabi, Leek, Lettuce, Parsley, Silverbeet and Spring onion.

These dates come from the new Vegetable Planting Chart for Coastal Otago/Southland produced by Jason Ross of Habitate Farm (formerly known as Sutherland Nurseries) which are available from Taste Nature in High St.

### Dates and details for March 2015 meeting;

March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

Speaker is yet to be confirmed

Competition – Three tomatoes....preferably named

Garden visit – A very small garden tour!!

**Carol Henderson, Newsletter Editor**