

GREENS~LEAVES

Dunedin Vegetable Growers Club Newsletter; issued monthly, Vol: 9: 5 May 2016

Next meeting; 7pm, Monday 9th May

Venue is the St Kilda Bowling Club, 33 Royal Crescent

Immediate Past President; Carol Henderson (454 4625) hendersonic@xtra.co.nz

Membership: Heather Wilson (4764607) heatherandmike@clear.net.nz

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

Monday 9th May Welcome and notices

Vegetable of the Month – Pumpkin Growers on how they did it!

Lavender by John Horrocks

Planting now/Q&A - David Neill

Club Talk/Speakers- Topcrop/Flopcrop discussion groups

Competition – Pumpkin competition weigh and measure

Garden visit – TBA - volunteers needed!

Here's hoping that everyone has been having a lovely time sorting out their garden for winter since the weather has been on our side ☺

I can't say that my garden is sorted out but I have been having a lovely time getting the paths cleared and re-lined so that I can walk around freely again without getting muddy feet or tangled up with overgrown plants. The Horticultural Society Autumn show has just finished with DVGC members Dennis Dorney and Margaret Dodds both receiving trophies and cheques for their entries!!

This is good publicity for us but I did get a few comments from disappointed Hort. Society members about a lack of other entries from "The Veggie Club". Please let Dennis, Margaret, myself or any other committee member, know if you would like to enter your produce into these shows but would like some help ☺



Dennis and Margaret with their trophies!!

April Meeting

Thanks to David for his usual timely advice which included getting our broad beans in by Anzac Day (oops!) I did take his advice about splitting up the rhubarb though ☺

Jim Bazsika did an excellent job of running the meeting and heading the Fruit Forum of himself, Margaret Scott, Lynne McCrone and Ruth Bayne. Special thanks to the forum and club members for such an interesting and informative meeting... a lovely relaxing meeting for me! Personal best Vegetable competition was won by Stephen McCabe with his Austrian oilseed pumpkin (could we have some seeds?) and the personal best fruit competition was won by Pam Kennedy with her Sweet 100 tomatoes!!

What to plant in May

Jason Ross of Habitate Farm only recommends Broad Beans as suitable for sowing this month on his Vegetable Growing Calendar, misses June altogether and July just has Garlic and Shallots. The magazines have other ideas and, with our changing weather, it may be worth taking a few chances to see if we can get something to grow over winter to fill the 'hungry gap' in spring ☺

NZ Gardener Diary suggests;

Seeds in trays or some in the ground Broad Beans, Broccoli, onions, cabbage, caulis, onions, peas, silver beet, swedes and turnips.

Punnets or seedlings to plant are:

All brassicas and silver beet.

May Moon Planting:

3rd and 4th - sow roots

10th to 17th - above ground planting (Broad Beans)

18th and 19th – good time to apply liquid fertiliser

25th and 26th – sow more roots

Midwinter Dinner Date; Saturday June 18th

Come to the Caversham Baptist Church, cnr. Surrey St and South Rd. Sat. 18th June arrive at 6:00pm for a 6:30pm dinnertime celebrating our Mid-Winter!!!

Please bring a main and dessert if possible...I'm sure there will be enough for everybody so bring what you can.

It would be helpful if you could label your dish and bring a recipe so that everyone knows what it is in it ☺

We will have pot luck pickle tasting with crackers etc. beforehand so please bring along your tastiest pickles to share and show off, then the main meal followed by the speaker(s) and dessert.

Robert, Robyn and Hollie Guyton have confirmed that they would like to come along and speak for their supper!! Jim is going to make sure the heaters have been on before we get there so hopefully this will mean it won't be a cold night like last year.

Magazine morsels

Kiwi Gardener has a great greenhouse clean-up guide by local author Diana Noonan (Papatowai) along with articles on community gardening and growing peas.

NZ Gardener has a recipe for preserving pumpkin in a jar, an eye-opening article on kiwifruit and Lynda Hallinans composting secrets ! There is also a very interesting article on fruit with an **orchard plan and a fruiting calendar**

OrganicNZ has top tips for growing Garlic, how to use chicken manure in your garden and a lovely article on a wedding feast made mostly with produce from their own garden.

Also another article on Glyphosate (roundup)

Preserved Pumpkin (from NZ Gardener)

Trim the skin from 1kg of pumpkin.

Cut in quarters, remove the seeds and slimy middle (I would have called it connective tissue!) slice into 1cm thick crescents, cutting each of these in half again.

Line the bottom of a wide, heavy-based saucepan with pumpkin pieces.

Pour over 2 cups of sugar, 2 cinnamon sticks and a pinch of salt.

Cover and leave overnight.

By the next morning the pumpkin will have released its' juice. Place pan on a medium heat, bring to the boil and simmer until soft (1 to 2 hours), don't let it burn.

Cool, discard cinnamon sticks, remove pieces with slotted spoon and place in clean jars. Pour over syrup and seal.

Photo/Artwork competition?

A new header for the DVGC website has been suggested by Sarah so send your photos/images or bring them along to the meeting if you would like them to be considered :)

April garden visit

A small number of our members came along to the NEV Community garden working afternoon and were made welcome. Richard Tozer is away and had written a long list of things to do and not to do. Sadly not everyone read what **not** to do and some eager member pulled out the seeding radish which were meant to be left for seed....I think someone noticed in time so that some were left though!!

Seed Saving...tiny advice for a huge topic!

Sometimes we just happen to notice that there is some seed to be harvested and feel pleased with ourselves for catching it... but just as often the rain or wind gets to it and it is too late ☹

A **Plan** is needed! Choose which plants you want to save seed from and keep a close eye on them. With root crops like carrots and parsnips it is easy to pick the ones you like best when harvesting to replant and grow on for saving seed. Others like beans and peas are also straightforward as long as you have been growing different types far enough apart to ensure no crossbreeding.

Lettuce can be tricky as the flowers and seed heads are small so careful observation to catch them ripening is needed. I like to test to see if the lettuce seed is ready by picking one seedhead off and carefully pulling out the fluffy tops which have the seeds attached to them. If the seed is green and soft then they are not ripe so wait a couple of days and try again. When the seeds come out dry and hard then you can cut off the whole stem and place upside down into a large paper bag for storing until you need them. I like to stand and pick each fluffy top off, nipping the fluff from the seeds with my thumbnail and dropping the seeds into an old envelope or similar. Not all seedheads contain viable seed and this way means you can keep only the good seed .

Bank Account details...For those who would like to pay Their subs 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 :)

2016 competition list is out and on the website.

There will be copies on the entrance table.

Carol Henderson