



GREENS~LEAVES

Dunedin Vegetable Growers Club Newsletter.
October 2018

Meetings: 2nd Monday of the month at 7pm

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

Membership: Heather Wilson (4764607)

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(Please include your name as a reference)

Next Club Meeting: Monday 8th October

Q & A: David

Club Talk: Margaret Dodds on kumara growing in Dunedin

Guest Speaker: Jason Ross on small scale integration of chickens with orchard, berries, and support plants

Garden Visit: Habitata gardens Waitati.

Sunday 28th October at 10am.

Meeting at Bunnings carpark 9.30am for car-pooling.



Vegetable competition winner

Congratulations to Alan Savell for winning the brassica competition with a cauliflower

Competition for October

Personal best spring fruit and/or vegetable

Things to look forward to in November

Opportunity to vote on proposed DVGC rule changes

Club discussion "brick bats and bouquets" what you think the club is doing well or not

Maybe a Seaweed workshop with Sally Carson (currently under negotiation)

Hullo Everyone

Now it is October spring is well and truly underway here at home in my own garden. Some people count the 1st of September as the official start of spring, but with a shady southwest facing garden I find the equinox, the 23rd of September, a more practical starting date.

When does spring begin for you? Looking around at home I can see real signs that the growing season has begun; weed seeds are sprouting and volunteer potatoes are pushing through the ground. I hope you are enjoying planning and planting for the new season as much as I am.

With experimentation in recent years growing perennial vegetables I am at risk of getting overrun by Jerusalem Artichoke, Onion weed, and that tuberous mint called Chinese Artichoke. A good result is that there is always something to forage for in my own garden, even in the hungry gap. Yet I have still not learned my lesson and am trying out another perennial, a root vegetable called Skirret. I bought a wee seedling at last months' DVGC trading table and am looking forward to seeing how it might grow and taste.

Yours, Ruth Bayne

Biochar

Thank you to Dennis Enright for an interesting talk last month on biochar. For those who are interested in finding out more about biochar and sequestering carbon check out his website: nzbiocharltd.co.nz. You might also find this blog informative: AllBlackEarth Biochar in New Zealand

Trading Table

Thank you to Carol who raises most of the seedlings for the trading table, your time, effort, and vision is most appreciated.

Thank you also to everyone else who donates plants, cuttings, seeds, and so on, for the trading table each month.

Visit to NEV Community Garden

Last month's garden visit was to the NEV Community Garden. It was a beautiful spring day; the sun was shining and sun hats were needed. A handful of DVGC members turned up to an ordinary weekend working bee day for the community garden.

About 20 or so community garden members were hard at work clearing old crops and turning over the ground ready for spring planting. Apparently, the garden has a large number of supporters and always has a good turn-out of helpers on the weekends.

It was a pleasure to see such united community action with those helping including families with children, the young and fit, through to older folk. The garden is even supporting one of their young children as a nominee for "Yates budding young gardener of the year".

The community garden is very organised. It has many large beds all of which get planted out in one go with just one vegetable at a time. On the day we visited there were still fabulous winter leeks in the ground, plenty of coloured chard, and rhubarb and asparagus springing up. A small herb area included a patch of saffron bulbs originally sourced from Margaret Scott.

We were made welcome, shown around, and our questions answered. After some desultory weeding, on my part, we joined the garden members for a delicious shared afternoon tea.

Proposed DVGC rule changes

We intend to hold a special general meeting (as part of a regular club meeting) to vote on proposed club rule changes.

All going to plan a copy of the DVGC rules and proposed changes will be available at the October meeting so the special general meeting can be held within the November meeting.

October 2018 planting now:

Sow seeds of:

basil, broccoli, brussel sprouts, bush beans, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, chicory, Chinese cabbages, kale, kohlrabi, leek, lettuce, parsley, runner bean, silverbeet, courgettes and marrows.

Plant seedlings of:

cabbage, basil, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, capsicum, cauliflower, chicory, chilli, Chinese cabbages, cucumber, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, onion, parsley, pumpkin/squash, silverbeet, spring onion, tomato, courgettes and marrow

Planting by the moon:

9-10 Oct

Don't sow seed or transplant seedlings

12-15 Oct

Sow seed and transplant seedlings

19- 23 Oct

Sow seed and transplant seedlings

23-31 Oct

weed and cultivate



NEV Community Garden

Photo taken in summer and supplied by Carol Henderson