

# GREENS~LEAVES

**Dunedin Vegetable Growers Club Newsletter; issued monthly, Vol: 9: 4 April 2016**

**Next meeting; 7pm, Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April**

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

Immediate Past 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 11<sup>th</sup> April** Welcome and notices

**Planting now/Q&A** - David Neill

**Club Talk/Speakers-** Interactive Panel of Club members on fruit growing.

**Competition** – Personal best vegetable and/or fruit

**Garden visit** – NEV Community Gardens Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup> 2pm

The Harvest has started! So much of the bottling has been done; the early pears, apples and plums with the peaches just starting. I went out this morning and counted 21 saffron crocus flowers so as they open this morning I will pick them... something else for the kitchen cupboard that I won't have to buy!!

## **March Meeting**

It was our AGM and, although we no longer have a president, we will be operating as a collective which the committee had discussed in advance of the meeting. We welcome Sarah, our new committee member, who did a great job of bringing us up to date with the additions she has already made and took the opportunity to ask for your suggestions which she really appreciated 😊 Thanks to Ruth and Warren for the display and tasting of their dehydrated fruit.....great to get advice for something I, and maybe you, will be trying in the future with our bumper crops!! Competition was 3 Tomatoes of either heritage or Hybrid or both and the Winners were:

**Marian Alice for the hybrid with *Encore* and Dennis Dorney for the heritage with *Roma*.**

Thanks to the 'supper people' once again and especially to Joy and Margaret D who do an excellent job of co-ordinating it.

## **April 11th Meeting**

### **Panel; Focusing on Fruit growing**

A panel of Club members will do their best to answer your fruit growing questions and give some useful advice. Please send any relevant questions to Margaret Scott; [msscott@xtra.co.nz](mailto:msscott@xtra.co.nz) or 4892030

Competition is personal best autumn fruit and or vegetable.

## **What to plant in April**

**Seeds in trays or some in the ground** Broad Beans, Chinese cabbages, onions, peas, silver beet, turnips and I have just put in Spanish and daikon radishes.

### **Punnets or seedlings to plant are:**

All brassicas, celery, lettuces, (winter varieties) silver beet, bok choi and spinach. Spring onions I find also winter over.

### **Moon Planting:**

April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> planting roots

April 10<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> inclusive above ground planting

April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> planting roots

May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> planting roots.

**The trading table** Thanks again for everyone's contributions.

## **Library**

*Colder months are coming.... a good book on the garden and you are all organised for a rainy day or a seed catalogue for the spring!*

**Website** <http://www.dvgc.co.nz> Thanks Sarah we all need to be sending you things to post and reading the calendar to see what is coming up.

Remember the newsletter will be posted on there as well but complete details of garden visits may not be on the website version for security reasons. Please let Carol know if you would prefer not to have your photo on the website.

**SEATING** and clearing the seats away at the end of the meeting and putting them back around the tables after supper. Thanks everyone as this is working very well now.

## **May 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

**Proposed: Topcrop Flopcrop in groups**

**Pumpkin competition in May 😊**

**Don't eat them yet!!!!!!**

## Midwinter dinner date; Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup>

Can't believe it is time for organising this already but mark the date on your calendars!!

We will be holding this celebratory event again at the Caversham Baptist Church Hall where we held it last year.

Robert and Robyn Guyton have provisionally agreed to come along and join in the fun with their inimitable brand of educational entertainment....subject to confirmation ☺

## Magazine morsels

Kiwi Gardener has a great local interest article on the Incredible Edibles movement which has taken root in Geraldine!! Written by Rebecca Lees who has indicated her interest in coming to talk on the subject in Dunedin, which will be great, but if you want to hear more about it there is a podcast (just radio on demand instead of TV on demand) on the Nine to Noon programme on the Radio New Zealand National website  
NZ Gardener has interesting articles on Biochar, knowing your onions and a couple who have his and hers vegetable plots!! Also recipes for Saffron buns and green tomato marmalade...and a snippet of information I hadn't heard before...that pumpkins taste sweeter 3 weeks after being picked!

OrganicNZ has the disturbing news that MPI (Ministry for Primary Industries) has decided NOT to test food for the herbicide glyphosate ☹ Time to start a petition?

Plus lots of more positive articles including one on DIY Composting Toilets !

## Saffron Bun Recipe (from NZ Gardener)

*Ingredients;*

¼ tsp saffron threads, 2 tbsp warm water,  
**(Infuse saffron in warm water overnight)**  
1 sachet active yeast, 1 tbsp flour, 3 tbsp lukewarm water, ½ tsp sugar, 3½ cups flour, ½ cup sugar, 1/2tsp mixed spice, ¼ tsp salt, 15g butter, 1 cup milk, 250g raisins, ¼ cup mixed peel, 30g sugar cubes crushed.

*Method;*

Whisk yeast with first measure of flour, lukewarm water and sugar. Leave for 30 minutes until bubbling. Sieve remaining dry ingredients. Rub in butter. Stir in yeast mixture. Warm milk, add saffron and soaking liquid. Add to flour mixture with raisins and peel. Stir. Transfer to plastic bowl, cover and leave for 2 hours. Preheat oven to 190deg C. Shape dough into buns and bake on greased tray for 20 mins. Sprinkle with crushed sugar cubes.

## 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 :)

## March garden visit



Comprising of approx. half acre, the garden of Mal and Robyn Parker of Somerville Street, Andersons Bay, was a joy to visit. A plot of land next door to the Parkers once deemed unfit for development by council and left barren for many a year has since been put to good use. Mal obtained permission to occupy and develop the plot in to what now forms the main section of his vegetable garden. Complete with five generous sized raised beds, fruit trees, bee hive, glass house, compost bins and garden shed this transformation over the past three years has gained many an interest from green thumbs and veg enthusiasts alike. During the visit he shared with us an insight to initial ground prep performed, mostly drainage and soil remediation and what the site has taught him. A tidal creek which runs through the property has at times cause havoc.

Immediately around the house showcases a semi-formal cottage style amenity garden leading over the creek onto a south east facing slope. This section of land was also an additional purchase, although many years earlier. Once covered in broom and blackberry Mal worked long hard days clearing the land to eventually replant with a mixture of native and exotic trees and some 100+ Rhododendrons, a favourite species of both Mal and Robyn's.

As with any garden Mal continues to add to his vast collection of amenity species and further develop the area. The vegetable garden (and Mal) have proven tenfold that growing your own is for both pleasure and satisfaction as nothing beats your own beets! *Sarah Fenwick*

**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.

**Please let Heather know if you are not getting the newsletter as they are not bouncing back to her if undelivered. Please add Heathers email address in your contacts list. [heatherandmike@clear.net.nz](mailto:heatherandmike@clear.net.nz)**

**Margaret Scott as temporary writer**