

# GREENS~LEAVES

Dunedin Vegetable Growers Club Newsletter; issued monthly, Vol: 9: 6 August 2016

**Next meeting; 7pm, Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August**

**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 8<sup>th</sup> August** - Welcome and notices

**Vegetable of the Month** – Seed share/swap to be held after speaker

**Planting now/Q&A** – Jim and Margaret

**Club Talk/Speakers-** Ruth Zeinert; the Dunedin Sustainable Food Project

**Competition** – Garden Preserves ; Fruit or Vegetable....for tasting!! ☺

**Garden visit** – Ross Gilbertsons, 39 Dalmeny St, Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August at 2pm.

## **New Season Begins!**

A flurry of snow has just passed and here we are embarking on another season of growing our own vegetables ☺

It is heartening to see the first garlic pop through and brings high hopes of a better crop than last season. Our May meeting was a great chance to compare notes on how successful, or not, the last growing season was and we had a lot of fun hearing about it.... well done everyone!

We are very pleased to welcome Ross Gilbertson onto the committee ☺ He is a skilful gardener and organiser and is dealing with the library books for the August meeting...along with several other jobs...thanks Ross!

## **May Meeting**

Tomatoes, courgettes and root crops seemed to be generally successful whereas beans were either great or terrible. Everyone seemed to have learnt a lot over the season; the importance of watering, weeding, seaweed and eggshells and my favourite - tying the tree to the tree...not to the ground!!



The pumpkin competition was a close call as you can see from the photo – thanks Sarah ☺

Ross Gilbertson won the heaviest and Margaret Dodds won the ugliest!! Vivienne Harper left hers behind and I still have it on my kitchen bench.....*must take it around to her before the meeting*.....

## **Midwinter Dinner June 18<sup>th</sup>**



This years' club mid-winter dinner was a great success. Jim B did an excellent job as MC and Robyn B directed the setup and takedown with her usual good humour and aplomb!!

We had a good turnout, delicious selection of food and our guest speakers were wonderful! The Guytons both wanted to encourage us to get involved with the Southern Seed Savers and let us know of the help they are getting from the Geoplasm centre in Palmerston North. Robert told us of his 'Common Ground' movement ...his letter was sent out to everyone before the dinner....and shared his penchant for sneaking around in the dark planting fruit tree seedlings on unused ground!

Robyn explained her work with the old heritage apples she has prevented from being lost forever by first identifying then propagating and sharing them.

Thank you once again Robert and Robyn Guyton for sharing your passion for growing food and for your genuine interest in all of us who also like grow food.

A special thank you to all those who helped with the set up and clean up afterwards, ESPECIALLY Joy! What a gem 😊

## August Meeting

This will be a very busy meeting with the seed sharing, preserves tasting/judging and the distribution of the seed potatoes and buckets (gold coin donation) for December competition!! The committee will be down a couple of members who are away on their travels so will appreciate any help from the crowd ☺

Seed sharing is an important aspect of local food production and the more information you can provide with your seeds the better for this year's crops. One way to do this is to stay with your seeds to answer any questions as Margaret did last year.... information sheets are also good. The fruit and vegetable preserves tasting will be done with iceblock sticks and forks this year so nothing will interfere with the flavours!! These will be **single use** but are very recyclable ☺ Members will be asked to indicate their favourite (entries will be numbered) in both categories and hopefully the result will be available on the night. Buckets will be available this year for growing your potato to bring everyone into an 'equal growing space' and allow you to concentrate on the soil and conditions!!

## Magazine morsels;

*These are just the articles which catch my attention when browsing through these magazines.... they all have much more in them!!*

Kiwi Gardener has an article on Growing Resilience using permaculture principles.... very easy to understand ☺ Also a great article on, and recipes for, Beetroot!

NZ Gardener has a very interesting look at what food we grew in NZ from pre 1814 to today and three examples of how gardeners with disabilities carry on gardening...one of them Dunedin's very own Roger Kan who has offered to be a speaker at one of our meetings!!

OrganicNZ has part 6 of the "Feed your garden from the garden" series focusing on propagating from cuttings, a great article on Cauliflower and a thought provoking article by local herbalist Sandra Clair on autoimmune diseases.

## Membership badges

Some of you have been wondering what the coloured stars are on your membership badges and it is very simple;

Red star that means you have paid 2016 subs  
Green star then you *did* pay in 2015 but have not paid for 2016 yet ☺

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 :)

## What to plant in August ;

### ***Seeds in trays inside or some in the ground depending on your micro climate / cloche***

Leek seeds need to go in and be protected this month for planting out Nov/December as they are very slow growing. Also Broccoli, cabbages, capsicum, cauliflower, chicory, celery, chinese cabbage, kale, kohlrabi, lettuces, parsley, silverbeet, spring onion and onions and beetroot inside.

Tomato, chillies, and zucchini if you have a warm place and sometimes pumpkin and corn. Sometimes next month is better.

### ***Plants and seeds in the ground***

Broad bean, Carrot, Celeriac, Coriander, Corn salad, Florence fennel, Garlic (almost too late), Mesclun, early Potatoes, Peas, Radish, Rocket, Shallot, Spinach and Turnips.

Time to put in asparagus plants, rhubarb divisions and strawberries.

## ***Moon Planting August 2016***

**August 6<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>** –sow and plant above the ground

**21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>**– root planting

**27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>** Root planting

**September 4<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>** – sow above ground crops

## **Sales Table**

Please consider potting up your extra seedlings and **label them** for the sales table, or even sowing some extra on purpose!! Carol is away for the next two meetings and regrets not being able to do seedlings as usual.

However, there will be a couple of trays of Merveille de Quatre saison (4 seasons) lettuce, a few herbs and some rhubarb divisions so far☺

## **Workshops!!**

Jason Ross is holding two workshop out at Waitati in the near future ;

**Fruit Tree Training ;** Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August at 1pm-4.30pm

Cost \$60 and bookings are essential,

Email [jason@habitate.co.nz](mailto:jason@habitate.co.nz) or leave a message with your email address on 4822625

Bring; warm clothes, gloves, secateurs, loppers, saw.

### ***Fruit tree grafting workshop;***

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September at 1pm-4.30pm

Email [jason@habitate.co.nz](mailto:jason@habitate.co.nz) or leave a message with your email address on 4822625

Cost \$50, bookings are essential, additional rootstock \$10

Bring; warm clothes, gloves, a very sharp flat bladed knife, secateurs, loppers, saw, apple tree cuttings to graft (optional)

**More details at [www.habitate.co.nz](http://www.habitate.co.nz) under the Articles header.**

