



OrganicFarmNZ

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Kia ora everyone,

Our AGM is just over one month away and, again, it's being held by zoom, so we can all attend!! In this letter I want to bring to your attention some simple but important changes the National Committee (NCC) will recommend at the AGM, be made to our constitution.

We discussed in the forum following last year's AGM, that the constitution needed a major overhaul. The consultation with MPI regarding the organic regulations has necessarily been our priority since then, so the constitution review had to be on the backburner. However, the NCC last Monday did agree (unanimously) on several technical changes to be presented to the membership for ratification at the AGM.

You can view the OFNZ constitution by downloading from the link on this page of our website - <https://www.organicfarm.org.nz/ofnz-farmers/documentation/office-holders>

These are the changes we are recommending:

1. Section 9.2: Add "or online in the case of electronic meetings".
2. Section 10.2 (iv): Delete the word "postal". In 10.3 insert after 'postal' "or electronic".
3. Section 10.2 (vi): Delete "auditor" and replace with "financial reviewer".
4. Section 12.1: Delete the number "7".
5. Section 13.1: Delete the clause and replace it with "The delineating of Regional Bodies should as much as possible, reflect communities of interest".
6. Section 13.2: Delete the clause and replace it with "The National Coordinating Committee will review the Regional Body boundaries annually to ensure that every region has sufficient members to be viable, or that membership in a region has not become too large. Any changes will be approved by the AGM."
7. Section 14.1: Delete "postal" in the first sentence. Thereafter through the clause add "or electronic" wherever the word postal occurs.
8. Section 16.10: Delete references to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies and the Incorporated Societies Act. Replace with "the Charities Commission as required by the Charities Act, 2005."
9. Section 16.12: Delete the current wording and replace with "The Treasurer plus one of the other members nominated by the National Coordinating Committee, shall be necessary for the authorisation of payments. (See 20.2)"
10. Section 20.2(iv): Delete and replace with "Who will be able to authorise payments, namely the Treasurer plus two other members of the National Committee."
11. Section 20.4: Delete "audited" and insert "reviewed".

If you have any questions about these changes, please email them to us before the meeting. They are simply changes to bring the constitution into line with current standard administrative practice.

At the AGM, there will be opportunity for discussion of how continuing review of the constitution should shape our organisation. From the consultation with MPI regarding the future regulations, we are aware that to be recognised by the Ministry as an entity competent to provide verification services, we must modify our procedures and become a single national organisation with branches, rather than regions each with responsibility for certification decisions. Come prepared to contribute to this discussion. Further, if you have legal training and would like to be part of a working group which will carry on the project of the constitution review after the AGM, please do be willing to self-nominate.

A reminder – If you are a North Island member, with the exception of members in the Far North, you should have recently received voting papers as you select or endorse the people nominated to represent your region on the NCC for the next 2 years. Please do remember to exercise your right to vote!! Voting papers must be received by the National Office by 5 p.m. on Monday 23 August.

There is one further matter to bring to your attention. At its June meeting, the NCC agreed to a requirement for members seeking to place their certification in abeyance for a short period of time. Up till now, certification managers have had no guidance on how to handle such requests. A new clause is to be added to the OFNZ Compliance procedures. It was agreed that such requests could be considered but that members would pay an associate member fee of \$50 annually for this service and, of course, maintain compliance with the organic standards.

Finally, congratulations to Lisa Buchan and Glen Wigley, members in the South-West North Island Region, whose Waikawa Glen olive oil won a gold medal at the New York International Competition recently. Superb! Here's a link to the story in the Kapiti News - <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/kapiti-news/news/kapiti-olive-oil-makers-win-in-prestigious-new-york-competition/TGITO6OMQDSH3BJ5FVKAQ3GXHE/>

Nga mihi



Jim Bennett
Chairperson, OFNZ.