

OrganicFarmNZ

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Saturday 16th August 2012
Lincoln Events Centre -Christchurch



Agenda:

1. **Apologies:** Sandra Donley, Dennis Enright, John Falkner

2. **Welcome** by Sean.

Thanks to Canterbury Organics for hosting the weekend and doing such a sterling job.

3. **Present** Tim Newton, Sean Wilson, Alvina Murphy, Dave Tredwell, Jim Bennett, Neville Sinclair, Sue Sinclair, John Grater, Michele Chevy, Karen Joblin, Gianni Prencipe, Loraine Liddle, Jude Belcher, Brendan Murphy, Colleen Stuart, Eleanor Jolly, Jim Jolly, Mark Dickson, Malcolm Lay, Pauline Lay, Jan Mackenzie, Tony Banks, Eric Waan, Bill Ellery

4. **Minutes of 2011 meeting** read by Jim Bennett. Moved by Jim seconded by Alvina Murphy

5. **General Business Items called for**

General discussion occurred on;

Otago looking at doing an update on the PMP.

Certifying the property rather than the produce.

Remit from the Far North to discuss.

Direction of the Organisation as a whole

6. **Chairman's Report** from Sean Wilson

Verbal report given.

10th Anniversary, good time for a review.

OFNZ has been recognised as one of IFOAM's Participatory Organisations.

In Auckland it feels like it has gone from initial enthusiasm to just sitting there for a few years now. Sean would like to see POD's and the internal systems reinforced.

7. **Regional Reports**

Far North

Magazine is coming out regularly, Website updated; Committee has broadened its base, new blood.

Written Certification Manager's report from the Far North

Everything up here on track – all certifications have been completed to date, with three more coming up in September.

Our members are completing the Processor's Plan where necessary and finding that the suppliers are agreeable with signing & dating the Supplier Declaration Forms.

I seem to get inundated with a backup of old Plans, the years flying by, and have reminded all the Producers again that they are available if they want them.

Our Certification Committee of 4, sometimes 5, have been very reliable with meeting and discussing the audits at length so that certificates get to our members on time.

At present we have 16 individual certifications, with several in the wings making up their minds about getting on with it. Some comments are that it is all too daunting, so be it, we help out with everything they need to know.

Our easiest audits are with those using biodynamic principles – there are no mistakes from those with a total organic ethic. It was great to see one of our Far North processor/ producers featured on Country Calendar.

With the amount of environmental issues going on at present, being always vigilant is our best line of defence so that our members are up with the play and aware of outcomes from inputs. I always say, “put certified organic in and you’ll get certified organic out.” That way they source the right inputs. Regular NCC meeting minutes would be appreciated by our members who like to know what’s going on, other than that; the Far North is still functioning well.
Kris Khaine

**Central North
Written Report**

2012 seems to have heralded a series of changes for the Central Northland branch.

1. Two of our most involved members, Julia Geljon and Chris Mclvor, who have both acted as Certification Manager and Auditor, and have held this region together for a number of years, will be moving to Brisbane shortly. This has led to a rapid training of new Certification Managers. We do hope that Julia and Chris enjoy their time in Australia and hope to see them back in the district in two years time.
2. There is a new committee who have a lot of learning to do but they keen to grow the organic sector in this part of the country.
The committee is as follows:

Chair - Clive Craymer / **Secretary** - Vanya Smythe / **Treasurer**- Emma Ihaka
Certification Mgr - Emma Ihaka / **Auditor** – Vacant

The number of properties that have certification has been maintained over the past twelve months, although there have been properties that have transferred to BioGro
There is currently one pod – Tara – with five members and ten individual members. Recently, another two groups have approached the association expressing an interest in becoming certified. The members are producing a variety of products – both horticultural and pastoral - for sale either in Farmer’s markets or commercially.

Properties vary in size

| Property Size | Number |
|---------------|--------|
| <1 ha | 1 |
| 1 - 5 ha | 8 |
| 5 - 20 ha | 3 |
| >20 ha | 2 |

| As of 1st Jan 2012 Certification | Number |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| C0 | 1 |
| C1 | 1 |
| C2 | 1 |
| Full | 11 |

There is also one processor with full certification.

Areas of concern have been expressed by the continued use, especially in Saturday markets of the term ‘Organic’. This is an area that this association is trying to address with little response. The public assumes that ‘organic’ means certified, but in some cases this point is being ‘stretched’, especially when the marketer is purchasing from the Wholesale auction markets on Friday to sell in a stall on Saturday.
Clive Craymer [Chairman]

Auckland

Sean is not happy with where the branch is. Things are running smoothly but no one is putting their hand up to help. Letter read out from frustrated Auckland member, Peter Wilson Certification Manager.

Frustration

I hope no other OFNZ Certification Manager, Auditor or member feels as frustrated as I do.

Since 2009, when I agreed to take back the role of Certification Manager for the Auckland Region, even though I no longer reside in the area, I have noted the decline in **communication**.

Active or becoming active Yahoo groups for the CMs and another for the Auditors were being developed, together with one for the members. Members were starting to talk with one another and exchange ideas, resolve problems and communicate.

just on the Certification Managers duties for the Renewal Process. The total time spent on this one process will end up well over 3hrs per person. This time sheet did not include the hours spent on the recent Dispute which, because **no one communicated, took 17 months** to arrive at a contentious conclusion, or the hours spent on the normal Certification Managers job.

10. In order for OFNZ as a National Certification body to achieve credibility I also feel that we must insist that correct procedures are followed, correct forms used and the Rules adhered to. Remembering that the Certificate is the result of a series of Audits - **You cannot audit the spoken word only the written word.**

11. Communicate

Waikato

Written Report available through Sandra with a verbal report given by Tim

Taranaki / Whanganui

Written Report

- We are now down to 2 pods of 3 members, and 1 pod of 2 members.
- All 8 members are fully certified.
- We've had a few enquiries regarding certification, however only two that were serious, who are currently working on their management plans and starting certification in October/November.
- I was interviewed about OFNZ certification for a local radio programme, and the presenter is now interested in certifying his property.
- \$46 was raised by selling Organic NZ mags which were donated from Soil and Health, Organic Matters and Agriculture New Zealand.
- We had problems with Growwell compost and potting mix (Biogro certified). Even after meeting with the manager of Growwell, we as a group could not resolve the problem of poor quality product that had terrible and very erratic test results. When I contacted Biogro they were not very helpful and told us that as Growwell were following all of the correct procedures there was nothing they could do. So much for a good 'organic' product....
- The courses have gone really well (see separate report) – it's a pity that the positive futures trust was unable to see the benefit of continuing the funding.... There are however, other forms of funding out there – it would be good to pursue some more.
- I gave a talk in Marton, along with a certified grower in Whanganui to a group of interested growers to help boost up the numbers in the Whanganui region.

Dee Turner

OFNZ Taranaki and Whanganui Certification Manager

August 2012

Bay of Plenty

Written Report prepared by John Palmer, read by Jim.

Coromandal

Verbal Report given.

Wararapa/ Wellington Regions

Verbal Report given by Dave Tredwell.

Canterbury/Nelson Bays

Written report read by Alvina Murphy

The Canterbury/Nelson Bays Branch of OFNZ is in good heart. Interest in organics in Canterbury is strong with the Branch having a stable core of Producer groups, individuals and supporter members. Canterbury has 20 Producer Members with another 4 in the process of applying. Of the 20 members we have 5 individuals and 5 pods; the North Waimakariri pod with 3 members, the South Waimakariri pod with 5 members, the Peninsula/Plains pod with 5 members and South Canterbury with 2 members. We also have 10 paid supporter members.

Encouragement is provided through a free mentoring system on the Certification Process for all potential new Producer members. This provides support for those starting the process of understanding the certification system. This is provided by volunteer producer members.

The Canterbury/Nelson Bays Branch has a dedicated committee of 11 members. These members have a diverse range of talents and expertise. The Committee is supported by an excellent Office Administrator who oversees the day to day running of the Branch and our Branch monthly Newsletter, Canterbury Organics. Present projects for the group includes; stimulating new membership, having more farm visit style field days and both marketing and promotion.

Branch funds for the year are expected to balance. Assets have risen in the past year with a balance as of the 31st March 2012 of \$9,245.54. Possible use for the built up of funds could be to promote and increase membership. In the past year Producer members have increased while supporter members have decreased. The branch is looking at initiatives for encouraging more supporter members.

With widespread membership regular email contact has been vital. This allows all to be kept up to date, consulted and informed of the many issues and various undertakings as necessary in a very efficient way. The success of this communication system has been demonstrated and has culminated in the running of this weekend's OFNZ Conference and AGM for 2012.

It has been a pleasure working with such a supportive group of people.

Alvina Murphy / NC Rep. Canterbury 2012

Regional reports move that they be accepted by Neil Sinclair and seconded by Karen

8. Treasurer's Report

Delivered by Sean.

Moved by Sean and seconded by Tony Banks.

9. Remit

Idea of having one sheet instead of maintaining the PMP for those members that are certified for over 5 years.

That the matter be referred to the NCC to promote future membership discussion.

Moved by Jim Bennett seconded Tony Banks.

10. General Business

Certify the property rather than the produce.

Discussion- Lists can be long if all produce is listed.

Can be good for customers to know exactly what is grown.

System of trust.

Item to be discussed in the branches and though the NCC.

Meeting finished at 6.30.