

Chairperson's Report to 2022 AGM of Auckland and North Region of OFNZ

Membership of our region is in flux with some individuals withdrawing, others needing to go into temporary abeyance and 2 new members coming in. There are currently 6 members: 3 in pods and 3 as individuals, including a new processor, a coffee roaster in central Auckland. The difficulty in forming pods in certain parts of our region is in the distances between properties. Our region includes Auckland, Waiheke Island, Northland and now the Far North.

At our last AGM we welcomed Tom Bannister as our Certificate Manager to replace Betsy and he has been a real asset to our organisation. Thank you, Tom from all of us.

Brendan was nominated as our NCC rep last year and has kept us updated on MPI movements regarding the Organics Bill and also informed us about the member survey and created a zoom for us to get the final outcome of the survey. He is working tirelessly alongside others in OFNZ on the Refresh project. Thank you, Brendan.

Bob has been our treasurer again and Le-Chen our bookkeeper. Thanks to you both.

Bridget has been auditing up in the Far North and as far as Houhere where she site audited a new members property. Thankyou Bridget.

We agreed to new rates of fees, to cover costs of auditing and management more realistically to \$300 per pod member and \$550 per individual member. We also agreed to charge \$90 for certification management and \$60 for each audit with 50c per km for petrol. At the national AGM it was decided to increase the fee to be paid to the OFNZ Head Office to \$161.

Brendan, Bridget and I attended the workshop in Hamilton led by MPI representatives who were collecting information from OFNZ members around the country about our views on the structure and stipulations of the Organics Bill.

We need to be mindful of the Organic Products legislation. The national legislation and the Organic Standards will have a major impact on OFNZ and there is an ongoing dialogue with MPI on the acceptance of OFNZ group schemes for the domestic market.

Sarah Robinson
Auckland and Far North chairperson

Welcome to everyone who has made a special effort to attend today.
Many thanks to Kelmarna Gardens for offering to host today.

Agenda Items:

There are several reports to share:

Chairperson

Treasurer

Auditor

NCC

There are two roles to fill: Chairperson and Secretary.

Discussion on setting fees for Tom as CM and Bridget as Auditor

Refresh Process survey

Intention to grow the Auckland Membership

BOP Report to AGM

Following our hybrid Zoom/in-person AGM in May 2022, Bay of Plenty carries on with a sustained membership of 27 and a stable leadership team comprising John Palmer as Chair/Auditor, Jenny Lux as Treasurer/Secretary/NCC rep/pod leader and 8 additional pod leaders Jim Bennett, Jim Young, Chris Coney, Herman Rooseboom, Arthur Dixon, Claire Belcik, Duncan Maas and Sandra Gibb.

All of our members are assembled in pods, and the 2022 peer reviews are well underway supported by our new Certification Manager Sarah Williams. All member documentation is now being uploaded to Google Drive. Our membership comprises:

- 7 vegetable growers
- 6 avocado growers (some of whom have vegetables or other fruit production too)
- 5 mixed fruit growers (some of whom have a few vegetables they produce for sale)
- 2 seedling growers
- 2 members with mixed livestock, fruit and vegetables
- 2 citrus and vegetable growers
- A manuka tea grower/processor
- A macadamia nut grower collective
- A specialist microgreens grower

Commenting on last year's reviews which were completed at a difficult time due to Covid restrictions, Chair John Palmer has noted that the experience of some of our members in being remotely audited under the Food Act opens up the possibility of OFNZ using this technology in future for more remote properties, or if we again have travel or contact restrictions imposed.

OFNZ Canterbury/Nelson Bays Branch Annual Report 2022

The Canterbury/Nelson Bays Branch of OFNZ has 13 Certified growers within the region, 7 in Canterbury and 6 in Nelson Bays. There are 2 POD's and 3 Individual growers in the Canterbury region with Nelson Bays having all Individual members.

Overall the number of growers has increased slightly from last year with an experienced and established grower joining us in Christchurch. Another new grower from Timaru has expressed a keen interest in organic growing and is presently being introduced to the requirements of our certification system.

We are fortunate in having our Auditor Tracey Marvin providing a strong link in our scattered region. She is able to audit properties as required. Although she is based in the Nelson Bays Tracey is originally from Christchurch and still has strong links there visiting regularly.

This years AGM was held on the 31st July at the BHU at Lincoln University. We are actively encouraging all our members to show an interest and be involved in our branch, but growing is the primary focus. Our administration has become streamlined and functional. We are very fortunate in having a capable and dedicated team taking on the positions that are needed to ensure we maintain a strong and committed region.

NCC Representative Alvina Murphy

Hawkes Bay and Gisborne

This report also includes some properties in Wairarapa and one in Fielding.

The Hawkes Bay and Gisborne regions are currently in a growing phase. There are several enquiries for what OFNZ offers as a more appropriate and less expensive certification for smaller local market growers and producers.

It was a very difficult renewal round last year in November as we are still very reliant on our auditor John Palmer who comes from Bay of Plenty. COVID disruption and a serious weather event meant that John had to reschedule all his audits. We do not have our own Auditor in the region, and this is something we need to address. The audit round was from Gisborne to Wairarapa over to Fielding and then back home to Bay of Plenty. It took John 13 days to complete the full round. This is not a sustainable situation. We had a remote certification committee as I am currently based on the Kapiti Coast. My grateful thanks to Jenny Kaye Potaka (SWNI), Paula Allen (Fielding) and Claire Bleakley (Wairarapa) who did a sterling job of reviewing and commenting on the documentation and then signing off on the renewals.

All properties are Individuals and at this point we have no PODS although there is a desire by some members to be in a POD or Group. This would be a welcome movement and would mean that the job of the auditor is much less taxing. However, there would need to be greater commitment from the members to participate in the Peer Review certification process. We have virtually been in a holding pattern to see what the Organic Products Bill will require of OFNZ as a scheme going forward under the new Regulations. Will the new regime under MPI only accept groups or will it be possible to have a blend of Individual members and members in groups?

We have a very diverse membership which is currently growing. Our renewal process is just starting for 2022/ 2023

Gisborne 3 members and 2 joining

Hawkes Bay 11 members and 5 joining

- Table grapes - Ormond Table Grapes Gisborne
- Macadamias - Gwen Bush Gisborne
- Vegetable growers - Bremdale at Nuhaka, JJ's Organic Garden (Napier), Hapi Ora (Napier)
- Permaculture Farm and Nursery - Kahikatea Farm (Poukawa).
- Large Sprouting operation -Wright Sprouts (Napier)
- Heritage fruit production and Hazelnuts - The Beehive Gardens (Hastings)
- Small scale orchards - Tilyard, Keats (Pakowhai and Clive)
- Olives - Stu Burden (Hastings)
- Fruit Juices- Poppa Pete's (Napier)
- Rawlistic - Raw food products from both sprouted seeds and fresh vegetables, which include snack foods, Muesli, bread, crackers and wraps as well as herbal teas and condiments. (Napier)
- Weleda Gardens also under Demeter Certification (Havelock North)

New members in progress - Feijoas, vegetables and fruit, and a Pastoral cooperative.

Wairarapa - 2 Food forests and 1 Olive grower with 2 Certified properties. Changes to this for the next season is one Food Forest not renewing and the Olive grower adding one more olive property.

Fielding - 1 member with a mix of fruit and vegetables.

Marion Thomson
Certification Manager
NCC representative
Co-Chair OFNZ
10/08/22

May - July 2022 Otago Southland

The Otago Southland region has a very active associate member programme. Otago Organics hosts well attended regular monthly meetings (including two member field days May at the Linklater property and July with Graham at Otama Hazels and a mid winter evening skype conference on Korean Natural Farming). Both our auditor and certification manager have resigned with Tom Bannister accepting the Certification Manager Role for the group and a process being established for the new auditor training ready for the next round of property audits. The region is challenging geographically with two properties 200km from other properties - so these are individual members and then there is a POD of three members close to Dunedin.

Valda Muller



ANNUAL REPORT TO ORGANIC FARM NZ - 8 August 2022

In spite of another difficult year with Covid 19 our region continues to grow. Membership now extends from the Hutt Valley, Wellington, Kapiti, Horowhenua, Manawatu and Wanganui – we are truly SouthWest North Island.

We have managed to hold one excellent workshop on soil with staff from Fertco.

We had hoped to host the AGM gathering but Covid has put a hold on that. Some of our members and their properties will be part of the **Tree Crops Conference** here in Kapiti/Horowhenua next year if Covid allows.

Currently we are in the final stage of pod reviews and audits. This has been a challenging exercise moving all our members onto the database system being developed by Fuzion. Members registering for the first time have found it relatively straightforward. Eight members are using it for the second year and are helping to identify issues that need to be refined.

Remote Pod Reviews – One pod did 3 properties with one member remote. This was generally ok but we will evaluate how to make it more effective.

SWNI membership now comprises:

4 processors (breadmaker, cider maker, kefir maker, jam maker)

3 olive growers – one with pyo blueberries and coffee and icecream in the season

1 seed grower

6 market gardeners

8 orchardists including: 1 truffiere, 1 apple, 1 blueberry, 1 feijoas & plums, 1 citrus and Japanese vegetables, 1 kiwifruit, citrus and avocado, 1 pear, roses and market garden, and 1 mixed (apricots, plums, pears, peaches, nuts and berries).

Plus 3 properties in Featherston

2 growers are on hold this year after a difficult time with Covid and 1 member has moved to BioGro. 1 grower has retired after many years with OFNZ – we wish you well Ann from Imago. Another farmer (beef) has also retired and moved to Australia.

Barbara Harford
Co-Chair and CM for SouthWest

Regional Report 2022

OrganicFarmNZ Waikato Inc

Introduction

OrganicFarmNZ Waikato Inc. was established in 2002. It is an incorporated society with charitable status. In 2022 the organization agreed to a merger that incorporated Coromandel OFNZ growers and this was accepted by the NCC in June 2022.

The region has an ambitious vision - that all farming and gardening in New Zealand will be organic, and that all produce sold from organic farming and gardening will be certified as organic.

It manages an organic certification scheme according to the standards and processes prescribed by OrganicFarmNZ

- Supports farmers and gardeners to obtain organic certification
- supports farmers and gardeners to farm/garden organically
- All certified growers are POD growers

Key Roles

Chair: Huia Smith, vedic.organics@gmail.com

Certification Manager: Tom Bannister; E: tombbusiness73@gmail.com

Auditor (in final training): Jon Russell, russellsorganics@gmail.com

Treasurer: Warwick Hutchinson, whutch024@gmail.com

Secretary: Peter Poschl, ohaeneorganics@gmail.com Mob.: 021 566 460

Certification Committee: Korbinian Poschl, John Stanley, Murray Handley, Tony Gyde

NCC Rep: Paula Allen, paula@penstroke.co.nz

Fees - POD member: \$350, Individual: \$600, Associate member: \$35

The 2022/23 membership will be 23 paid up certified growers in the merged region and four paid up associate members. The region ended their 2022 financial year with \$1052.59 in the bank.

Waikato's CM Tom Banister and certification committee now provide an inter-regional service to growers in Waikato /Coromandel, Otago, Northland, Auckland, and South Auckland .

The region has worked to create effective low-cost digitized documentation and protocols. These are available to other regions - please make requests to Tom Bannister. They include documented auditor training, a google docs based PMP process and a visual representation of the POD process.

Wairarapa Report.

Wairarapa OFNZ properties are still with two different certification bodies. The Wairarapa POD has three members. We have just had our peer review which went well and the properties though very wet looked good. I have contacted Deborah Butterfield who would be interested in coming back to the Wairarapa and be in a POD.

Over the year I have connected four other interested in properties. I think the Wairarapa is ready to reform into its own area.

To start this off we will be grateful for some help to pay for advertising OFNZ, arrange for meetings and setting up the infrastructure.

This would be good until we are a consolidated body. With the ability for virtual (zoom) meetings we can bring members together.

Claire Bleakley
10/8/22