

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SOIL & HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF NZ (AUCKLAND BRANCH) FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2019**

From the Executive Committee comprising Ross Kesby, Adrienne Grace, Bruce Grenville, Sue J Fowden, Yazdi Khambatta, Laurence Speedy, Dave Woods and Ian Fielding (Immediate Past President)

**General** - Shortly after the March 2019 AGM Laurence Speedy joined the committee. Unfortunately, in 2020 he is changing his career path and can no longer help on the committee, but will still come to the monthly meetings where possible. All the best Laurence – it has been great to have your help.

Your committee has met on the first Tuesday of each month (except for January) to discuss organisational matters including speakers, field trips and other matters. Some of our other activities are mentioned below.

**Promotion of Auckland Branch** - Additional effort has been put into holding display-stalls, as opportunities arise, to publicise the activities and membership of the Branch.

**Promotion of Organics in Auckland** - The Soil Assoc. of N Z (National Council) is kindly continuing to provide us with copies of 'Organic N Z' for the purpose of promoting it in the Auckland area. The magazine is a valuable asset to the organic movement in this country and of course a useful gardening, health and lifestyle reference. In every promotional copy distributed, we insert an insert about the Branch, its activities and also the benefits of people subscribing to the magazine. Members are encouraged to promote the magazine to friends and neighbours as well as purchase 'gift subscriptions'.

### **Monthly Speakers and Field Trips**

Adrienne Grace continued her very successful efforts in the organising of speakers and field trips. This included the organising of posters to promote the events. Sue J Fowden has produced some of the posters utilising her excellent computer and design skills. Ross Kesby has continued to ably chair the monthly meetings and his humour and gardening knowledge are most valued.

**Postage Stamps** Bruce Grenville organised our fourth stamp for the Auckland Branch at the end of 2019 with a design produced for Organic Week 2020. The stamps have proved to be very popular and provide a point of difference for our Branch as well as some extra income.

**Library** - An index of our library books is available at the meetings for members to peruse and order at the meetings. A proposal has been sent to Auckland Horticultural Council suggesting a joint library for all affiliated groups but this is on hold by AHC until the venue move has been completed. The storage of these books may be a problem in future and it would be appreciated if any members have some spare storage space.

**Membership** - The current membership is in the range of 100 to 110 with members currently in the process of renewing subscriptions. It appears that the resignation of some members is approximately balanced by new members joining.

The production of T-shirts for branch members is currently being trialled and it is hoped to have some samples at this AGM for future sale to members.

**Newsletters** - Two issues of our biannual newsletter, *Organically Speaking*, were again compiled during 2019 by Gillian Woods and produced by Bruce Grenville. The newsletter

aims to inform members about our upcoming programme as well as provide news and short articles on organics & health. Links are often provided so that readers may study the subject further If needed. Thanks to Gillian and Bruce for an interesting newsletter and for getting it out over the busy holiday period.

**Auckland Horticultural Council (AHC) Building** – We have not been notified of a date for moving to the new building (the old restaurant building) but the current lease of the present building finishes in July 2020. We have been asked to start clearing out our cupboards in preparation for a reduction in storage space in the new venue. Further information about the move will be passed on when available. Yazdi’s knowledge of AHC has been most helpful regarding the coming changes.

**Donations Outward** - A donation of \$100 was made to Soil & Health Assoc. of New Zealand in March to support the ‘Vision’ of achieving

**“A TOTALLY ORGANIC AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND”**

A donation of \$100 was also made to Auckland Horticultural Council in March in response to a request for help to finance legal advice for their negotiations with Auckland Council about the change of venue.

**Collaboration with Auckland Organic Business Collective (AOBC)** – During the year, discussions took place with representatives of our group and AOBC regarding the inclusion of their members in Soil & Health Auckland Branch. This has not proceeded, but it is still planned to collaborate with them for activities during ‘Organic Week 2020’.

**Thanks** - The committee would like to thank all 2019 meeting speakers and field trip hosts for the time and effort put in for our interest and enjoyment. These learning opportunities are very much valued by us all.

We also thank our members who have pitched in to help make our meetings and activities the success that they are, and those members who attend our activities and meet with others to discuss organic gardening – we could perhaps call this ‘ORGANIC GROWTH IN ACTION’.

**Update July 2020** - The Auckland Branch cancelled the usual monthly meeting and AGM scheduled for 17 March 2020 because of the increasing presence and danger of Covid-19. Further meetings and Field Trips were also cancelled until further notice, The committee is currently looking at recommencing monthly meetings on 21 July 2020 and the next planned Field Trip for 12 September 2020.

It is expected that our June biannual newsletter "Organically Speaking" will be posted out by early July.

Keep up the good work and let us achieve:

**“A TOTALLY ORGANIC AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND”**

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Signed (on behalf of the committee)

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Date .....