



## CANTERBURY ORGANIC NEWSLETTER

March/April 2017

We have a busy few weeks coming up with our next Field Day set for the end of March. This is a fantastic opportunity to experience some of our OFNZ producers in action. It will be an informative morning where questions are welcome!

### FIELD DAY

#### TO SPRING FED ORGANICS & ROSIE FORD'S FARM

SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017

9am – 12.15 pm

**Come visit this productive OFNZ certified property in Tai Tapu and speak with experienced**

**Hazelnut & Vegetable growers –**

**Rosie Ford, Dominique Schacherer & Logan Kerr**

**Cost: \$15 Canterbury Organic Members \$20 Non members**

**Cost includes Morning tea**

**For more information and to register; Contact: Nicky O'Sullivan 0274904325 or  
[admin@canterburyorganic.org.nz](mailto:admin@canterburyorganic.org.nz)**

#### ORGANIC GARDENING COURSE – GERALDINE

Organic gardening basics, features alongside eco-design of buildings, water/energy efficiency and waste minimisation in the **Future Living Skills** evening series. Tuesday evenings in Geraldine from Tues 7 March (8 sessions) Details from Rhys Taylor [rhys@sustainableliving.org.nz](mailto:rhys@sustainableliving.org.nz) 036938726 See also website [www.sustainableliving.org.nz](http://www.sustainableliving.org.nz)

### **Garlic for sale**

**2nd Grade Printanor. Fully certified OFNZ. Sound quality, but bulbs smaller than golf ball size and slower to peel. \$6/kg. Minimum order size: 10kg. Phone Raymond 0272085199.**

### **ORGANIC PRODUCERS/GROWERS WANTED**

The Selwyn Organic Co-operative is looking for organic growers to supply their 50+ Membership group. Please contact [selwynorganicscoop@gmail.com](mailto:selwynorganicscoop@gmail.com)

### **LAND AVAILABLE**

2 ha that has been used for horses (and a donkey) and for growing some vegetables. There are a few fruit trees, hazelnut bushes and olive trees that are not wonderfully healthy looking and could be removed, together with a slightly dilapidated tunnel house.

The owners do not have the time to care for the land anymore and would be delighted if someone would use it productively.

They are not looking to profit although a small amount of fresh produce is always acceptable!

They are also keen to keep the land free of chemical sprays etc.

For more information please contact Fiona: Email: [winwoodbb@gmail.com](mailto:winwoodbb@gmail.com)

### **MESH COVER CROPS**

The BHU Future Farming Centre has mesh crop covers for sale. These are a humane/non-lethal pest control for outdoor crops for home gardeners, life style blockers and market gardeners.

For more detail see their website: <http://www.bhu.org.nz/future-farming-centre>



Comparative yield of Moonlight potatoes grown under mesh (left) and without mesh (right) at the BHU in 2015/16

**If you or a friend are interested in joining Canterbury Organic as a Supporter Member, the cost is \$30 per year (Students - \$20)**

**We are a non-profit organisation and this fee assists us in organising workshops/field days and contributes towards organisational costs. You will receive bi-monthly newsletters about Canterbury Organic and OFNZ as well a discounted rate to our workshops and field days (4 held per year) You can also join in at our AGM and pod meetings.**

**We appreciate your support! For more information -  
Contact: Nicky: [admin@canterburyorganic.org.nz](mailto:admin@canterburyorganic.org.nz) or 0274904325**

### **A Rare and Wonderful Opportunity.**

BioBlitz is a 24-hour around-the-clock event where teams of biologists, with the help of the public, try to find as many different species as possible, living in Lincoln's Liffey Domain. It is fun *and* educational.

Teams of specialist biologists will be searching the Liffey Domain throughout the 24 hours starting Friday 7 April 3.15pm and finishing Saturday 8 April 3.30pm. A temporary laboratory ('base camp') with lots of microscopes and computers will be set up in the church hall on James St (opp the fire station). There will be plenty of opportunities for public participation - joining the teams of field searchers, looking at displays and down microscopes at a 'base-camp', and talking to specialists about the many different kinds of organisms that live in our 'backyard'. It is most unusual to have so many scientists from different fields and different organisations working together at the same time and same place. This makes BioBlitz a rare and wonderful opportunity for the public to be able to join such an event.

Further information is available on: <https://lincolnbio blitz.eventbrite.co.nz>



Photo: A group examine life in the Liffey at the last BioBlitz, 2009

# **BHU Organic Horticulture Courses    Start 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017**

The BHU's programmes offer training at one of Australasia's oldest organic farms. The BHU, which is located at Lincoln University, was established in 1976 and the programmes are offered in partnership with Telford, a Division of Lincoln University. Our on-farm facilities and equipment coupled with off-farm visits and tuition from a range of experienced tutors, work experience, and workshops provide you with the widest possible knowledge of the industry. Graduates will have acquired an understanding of organic production for use in employment within the organic horticulture sector or their own gardens and smallholdings

## **Applied Organics**

Start & end dates: 31 July 2016 – 25 May 2018 Full time: 2.5 days a week (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday morning), over 43 weeks. Programme covers: The history of organics, composting, commercial organic production, organic certification, plant propagation, pruning, farm fencing, applied soil management, water management and irrigation, small business skills, tractor skills. Practical Options: Applied Organics students have the option of using land and facilities on the Biological Husbandry Unit (BHU) Farm to grow and sell their own certified produce at the weekly farmers market stall on campus – a semi-commercial venture that gives students a real taste of organic horticulture as a business.

## **Introduction to Organics**

Start & end dates: 31 July 2017 – 11 May 2018 Full time: 2.5 days a week (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday morning), over 41 weeks. Programme covers: History and principles of organics, permaculture, beekeeping, composting, shelter selection and management, soil management, pest and disease management, plant structure and function, liquid fertilisers, worm farming, companion planting, weed identification and control. Practical Options: Students are encouraged to help out with the following model systems on the 10ha BHU farm: intensive vegetable gardens, heritage orchards, mixed species shelterbelts, vineyard, organically managed sheep, honey and leafcutter bees, food forest garden, community garden, worm farm.

**Fees:** Introduction to Organics: \$498 Applied Organics: \$498

All programmes are eligible for student loans and allowances

**Programme Information:** Please visit the BHU website or contact the BHU for programme information.

**Enrolment information:** BHU Organic College Lincoln University

Phone: 03 325 3684 Email: [college@bhu.org.nz](mailto:college@bhu.org.nz) [www.bhu.org.nz](http://www.bhu.org.nz)



# Organic Training College

## LEARN FROM THE EXPERTS

Start a career in organics. Reduce your footprint and produce a regular supply of your own fruit and vegetables.

### COURSES (All fees under \$500)

#### Year 1 Introduction to Organics

44 weeks  
Starts August 2017  
(Lincoln campus)

#### Year 2 Applied Organics

46 weeks  
Starts August 2017  
(Lincoln campus)

#### Programme information

college@bhu.org.nz | 03 325 3684 | [www.bhu.org.nz](http://www.bhu.org.nz)



## Organic Farm Technician

Biological Husbandry Unit (BHU), Lincoln University

**Location:** Lincoln, Christchurch

**Category:** Organic farm technician

**Position type:** Part time, 2.5 days per week

**Start date:** 10th April 2017

The focus for this organic farm technician position is to be out there maintaining and improving the 10ha BHU organic farm. Key tasks for this role include tractor work (mowing, cultivation, spraying), fencing, orchard maintenance, irrigation maintenance, shelterbelt maintenance and weed control. The successful applicant will also provide resources and assistance to the BHU's education and research programmes. The successful applicant will have:

- Experience and qualifications in organics, and agriculture or horticulture
- A commitment to excellence - sets high personal and professional standards; assumes responsibility and accountability for the successful completion of projects
- Relationship management and collaboration skills with iwi, public, stakeholders, students and staff
- Be physically fit, have a can-do attitude and is someone who wants to get things done
- Experience with tractor work, chainsaw use, quad bike or LUV use
- A full drivers licence and First Aid Certificate

**Please apply in writing or via email.** Applications must include a cover letter, CV and evidence of the required capabilities as per the role description.

**For more information please contact**

**Bill Martin, [bill@bhu.org.nz](mailto:bill@bhu.org.nz),**

**telephone (027) 389 0030, 03 325 3684**

**Applications close at 5pm on  
Wednesday 8 March 2017**



If you have anything to add to our next newsletter (May/June) Or would like to join Canterbury Organic we look forward to hearing from you.

Warm Regards Nicky O'Sullivan [admin@canterburyorganic.org.nz](mailto:admin@canterburyorganic.org.nz) 0274904325