



WWF Organic Gardens in Schools Fund

Through the WWF Organic Gardens in Schools Fund, you have the opportunity to provide school communities with financial support needed to create sustainable organic gardens. Gardens that will be living classrooms for children to discover the wonder of raising a plant from seed, relationships between the soil and all that depend on it, and a raft of other skills and understandings that this unique experience can provide.

You will be pleased to know that a number of small businesses have already contributed; however we are still well short of our target. We need your support! So whether you pledge \$10 or \$100, your contribution will be helping schools to purchase materials, seeds and tools to create sustainable organic gardens.

Remember that for every dollar you donate, we will match it. Simply put - if every one we approached donated \$35 - WWF could disburse \$70,000 directly into New Zealand schools for organic gardens. Now that is food for thought!!!

If you would like further information about the fund or would like to make a donation please contact Wendy Barry, the Conservation Teacher, wendy.barry@wwf.org.nz or Lynda Murray, Marketing Director, Lynda.murray@wwf.org.nz or phone us at WWF on 04 499 2930.

Please help us to help schools and to promote the importance of sustainable living to our children.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Breese, Chief Executive

Donations can be sent to:

WWF

Organic Gardens in Schools Fund

PO Box 6237

Wellington

Phone (04) 499 2930

Fax (04) 499 2954

www.wwf.org.nz

From the Coordinators' Desk

- This year marks **30 years** since Sue Coppard left her job in a London office to travel to NZ. While staying on Dick Robert's Nelson farm she introduced the WWOOFing idea to Dick and also to some Lincoln Uni students who were staying with Dick at the time.

Today there are about 800 WWOOF farms around NZ with almost 4000 WWOOFers, each staying on an average of 3 to 4 farms during their travels around the country.

Our thanks to **Benjamin Lowings** for producing the radio documentary on WWOOFing that aired on National Radio's Country Life Programme on the 20th June. Ben's interviews with WWOOFers and Hosts highlighted many of the reasons people participate in WWOOF and discussed some of the challenges that such a popular scheme faces today.

- **Hints** for making advance bookings with WWOOFers: Ask them to phone you again a couple of days before they are due to arrive to confirm their stay and avoid the disappointment of a 'no-show' WWOOFer. Also ask for their membership number so you know who they are and that they are genuine members.

- A host has suggested that an official WWOOF **Register Book** would be a useful idea, similar to registers that many hostels and guest houses use. We have previously supplied hosts with WWOOF Visitor's Books but a register book may be more appropriate for signing-in WWOOFers (A visitor's

book can still be used at the end of the stay. Many hosts have a hard cover book that they can also stick a photo of each WWOOFer in). Once your WWOOFer arrives you would give them the register and they sign in with their name, address and membership number. The idea for the register is that it is a simple but formal routine that provides you with a record of who your new guest is.

If hosts are supportive of the concept we will supply all hosts with a free Register to use with their WWOOFers. For it to be successful it would require a large proportion of hosts to use it so that WWOOFers come to expect to sign-in when they arrive at each farm. If you could please indicate on your return slip if you support the use of a Register and also add any suggestions you may have. If the numbers add up, we'll send out the Registers around November.

- Hosts are still being contacted by **language schools** wanting to find WWOOFing places for their students. Most hosts reply by saying they prefer the WWOOFer to contact them directly.

- A well organised WWOOFer recently made sure she had a Calling Card before going to stay with her host so she could phone home without leaving a toll call for her host. Unfortunately the calling card was only for use within the US so when she phoned the "free calling number" from NZ she was actually making an international phone call. This ended up as a \$62 toll for the host. Eventually the WWOOFer was contacted after returning to the States and was most embarrassed about the mistake. Therefore you may like to check with your WWOOFers that their card is the correct type for use within NZ.

The Next Edition of the WWOOF Book

The deadline for making any changes to your listing is January 2004. You can indicate if you prefer to have your email address published in the book or not. In the past couple of years a few hosts have chosen not to have their email address published because they prefer to have their WWOOFers phone them instead.

While emails are quick and easy some hosts find a phone call more personal and have found there can be less commitment to arrangements made via email. If you don't wish your email to be published it would still be handy for us to have your email on our records in case we need to contact you this way.

If you don't already have your logo or a small picture with your listing you can send one in with your slip. These add a personal touch to your text. Also up to 3 photos can be added to your listing on the WWOOF web site. We'll return the photos once they are scanned. There is no costs for logos or photos.

All the best for the upcoming spring. We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,
Andrew and Jane
WWOOF NZ

Two WWOOF Hosts have received \$500 grants to help them complete conservation projects on their properties:

Louis Toorenburg and Sue Moetara, Hokianga, Northland have proposed to replant up to 2 - 5 acres initially back in native trees. The land is adjacent to kauri forest and is largely unsuitable for farming. Louis and Sue have already planted many trees on the their property using a great idea. When WWOOFers plant trees the trees are labelled with who they were planted by and when they were planted.



Area behind the Craft Shop to be fenced and planted.

Louis and Sue are wanting to extend the project by getting the wider public involved in the tree planting. Then they can return in the years to come to see how the regeneration is progressing.



Visitors to Louis and Sue's maze, craft shop and bush walks showing young kauri trees at each corner of bridge

Pamela and Michael Callahan, Tokanui, Southland have proposed to fence off ponds that they have created to form a safe haven for waterfowl e.g. pukeko, paradise and mallard ducks.



Pond with islands to be planted

The aim is to plant trees, flaxes etc. to provide shelter and encourage birds to nest.

The area is on the Callahan's property next to a road so should increase the aesthetic values for the wider public. The project should also enhance the biodiversity of the local area.



Fencing will be completed around the pond to prevent stock from damaging the plants and affecting water

The aim of providing WWOOF Grants is to help hosts complete environmental development projects. The \$500 can be used for things such as fencing materials, plants etc. Along with the help of WWOOFers some exciting developments should result.

CERTIFICATE COURSE

P.L.A.N.E.T. Organic is a vocational training programme in organic production systems, sustainable land use design and holistic resource management, with application to bio-regional organisation and community development—in other words it's a course for people who want to help save the Earth.

PLANET Organic was created in response to ongoing requests to Earthcare Education Aotearoa from permaculture design graduates for training to prepare them for this kind of work; from university graduates wanting practical experience to complement their theoretical learning; and from WWOOFers keen to extend and formalise their learning experiences.

The programme operates under the umbrella of the Institute of Earthcare Education Aotearoa (EEA). EEA is convinced that that in today's world of deteriorating environmental, social and economic systems, there is a need for rapid, regenerative solutions which contain the seeds of deep sustainability.

P.L.A.N.E.T. Organic's classroom is Golden Bay, top of the South Island. Courses on offer later this year are Design for Organic Properties (June-Oct) and Design for Sustainable Communities & Ecovillages (Oct-Dec).

For further information, please contact:
PLANET Organic

c/o Earthcare Education Aotearoa
PO Box 130, Takaka, New Zealand
e-mail: planetorganic@excite.com
web: www.planetorganic.org.nz
phone/fax: +64 3 525 8334

"You're racing for tomorrow, not finished with today"

Surely the Corrs were singing about GE scientists in their song "Would You Be Happier"!

Now is the best time to act against GE in NZ. Read the reports.
Visit www.madge.net.nz and www.gefree.org.nz

Exercise your democratic right to keep you property GE Free, register at www.gefreeregister.co.nz

Vacation Verde

Vacation Verde (Green Vacation) is an accommodation guide providing for travellers who wish to have wholesome holiday experiences and also to promote the hospitality aspect of the organic industry to the domestic market and also overseas holiday makers. The guide includes people who wish to provide homestays, farmstays, B&B accommodation where organic food is available. Along with organic food, many people are also able to offer mud/straw/earth/recycled non-toxic eco-accommodation as part of the package. The guide also includes eco-excursions such as organic cafés, restaurants, vineyards, olive groves, conservation projects etc. Either write to Wwoof for more info or submit your listing at www.wwoof.co.nz/vv