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FEATURES

Seed Importing

Photos from around the country

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Photos from Pumpkin Events

April 2018 Newsletter

Hi and welcome to the April edition of The Pumpkin Post newsletter.

Hello to all the new people that have signed up recently, as is tradition the April edition has a lot of coverage from pumpkin events around the country.

There appeared to be a lot of pumpkins around this year, which is always great to see. Congratulations has to of course go to Tim Harris who broke the New Zealand record yet again and has set it at 808kg. If you haven't seen it getting weighed in [GO HERE](#), and if you haven't seen it being dropped from a

crane in slow motion [GO HERE](#).



I feel it is only a matter of time before New Zealand will reach the elusive heights of getting the world record, we just need everything to fall into place and have the perfect weather throughout the season.

Talking of weather, hopefully you are staying warm wherever you may be reading this.

Planning for the 2019 growing season as well as pumpkin events is already well under way.

Thanks for being part of the giant pumpkin growing community, now lets get into all the pumpkins.

Sam



Seed Importing

We are again lucky enough to have the services of Eddy helping us getting giant pumpkin seeds here to NZ.

Giant pumpkin seeds need to have a phytosanitary certificate with them to be allowed into the country.

To read more on when and

why this happened [check out my original post covering this](#).

I will have the page about this process and where to send the seeds etc up on the website by the end of May (don't panic, there is plenty of time)

All seeds will be sent to one of Eddy's addresses, these

seeds then come in one package to NZ with the Phyto certificate, the seeds are then sent out to the growers.

If you have any questions around this, please get in touch.

Which Event Did You Go To?

If you are reading this, then there is a high likelihood you may have made it to a giant pumpkin event near you, if you are crazy like me you may have gone to many giant pumpkin events.

No matter how many you went to the question I have for you is: How was the event? And what could they do better?

Running an event no matter how big or small can sometimes feel like you are in a vacuum.

Getting feedback from visitors and competitors is valuable.

So if you made it to an event and you think something could be done differently, have an idea or just want to say thanks make sure to reach out the organisers and let them know.

And if you are super keen, ask them if they would like any help with anything, you never know, you might be the missing piece they have been look-

ing for.



Running an Event

Have you ever thought about running your own giant pumpkin event? Either for friends, workmates, your school or community?

Want to know all the ins and outs of running a giant pumpkin event?

Well you are in luck as I have a free guide to help you out and to help answer some of the questions you may have

Click the image to get your free copy.



Weigh Your Pumpkin

No matter what your giant pumpkin event is, from the super casual event with no prizes to your bigger events with lots of pumpkins you need to have the ability to weigh your pumpkins.

This may seem like common sense, but there are a few events that judge on who has the biggest pumpkin.

Pumpkins can sometimes be deceptive in their weight. Some will go heavier than expected or light than an estimate.

Having bragging rights of just a couple of KG over your friends, family or community can be a powerful tool for people to continue to grow and beat their

own personal best.

Who has scales?

Surprisingly or not, depending on what circles you frequent a lot of people have access to them.

One of the most common set ups I've seen at different events is the calf weighing type consisting of two load sensors, a plate of some sort that goes on top and a digital read out.

Ask around, talk to vets, farmers, companies that deal with scales. Sensortronic scales help us out here in Hamilton. Start these discussions early

on and make sure you have something jacked up early on. With people growing bigger pumpkins having the correct equipment to weigh them is crucial.



BigPumpkins.com

Want to learn more about giant pumpkins? Want to see what other growers are up to?

Well you need to go and spend some time at BigPumpkins.com, it's been around since 1999 and is where every big time grower in the world posts into their diaries, posts on the message boards, talks in the chat rooms and more.

It is FREE to sign up and interact with all of these growers. Seriously if you want bigger gains start reading everything you can, and ask questions if you get stuck, this is what Tim did and here he is with the NZ Record.

The Next Cycle

I'm not sure if cycle is the correct word, but over time in the giant pumpkin world there always seems to be a push from growers to all try something new at around the same time.

A lot of what people try and gravitate towards are things that seem to show results, the next evolution in giant pumpkin growing if you will.

For a lot of people, this is currently revolving around growing inside a greenhouse or a rather large hoop house structure.

With it comes challenges and new learning but... this is the ideal time to watch what other growers are doing, learn from them. Learn from their successes and failures and be part of BigPumpkins.com



The Great Pumpkin Carnival



Bushmere Arms



Marton Harvest Festival



Kumeu A&P Show



Te Kowhai School



Tamahere School



Blog and Vlog

Make sure to keep an eye on the website as I will be updating the [Blog](#) with what has been happening around these parts.

If you click on the [Video](#) section in the menu you can see all the latest videos including the vlog that I post on the [GPNZ YouTube Channel](#).

Feedback

I'd love to hear from you, what do you want to know more about?

let me know and I'll put together the information.

Is there anything you would like to see a video on?

Thanks to everyone that interacts with the website, Facebook page or drops me an email, I appreciate it, and it's great to hear from you.

Let me know, I'm starting to brainstorm all the information I want to put in the July issue of The Pumpkin Post Newsletter and I want to bring value to you, the giant pumpkin grower.

So no matter what your skill level, if there is something you want to know more about, something you think more growers need to know about,



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The website for growing giant pumpkins in New Zealand.

The aim of Giant Pumpkins NZ is to help new and seasoned growers by providing information they will find useful.

From information about growing, products, events or just interesting people all of this is provided via the website and the Facebook page. Helping the giant pumpkin growing community grow here in New Zealand.

Thanks for subscribing to the newsletter.

www.facebook.com/giantpumpkinsnz

Next Issue Due Out - July 2018

Let me know what you would like to see in the next newsletter. And remember to check out the Facebook page and website for all the latest updates.

Advertise

Want to advertise your product or service in the next newsletter?

Contact me via the details above to discuss options.

Write an article

Do you have something you want to share with the other giant pumpkin growers here in NZ and abroad? Get in touch.

