
DREAM CATCHER

FOOD CO·OP

What is Dream Catcher Co-op?

Dream Catcher Co-op is a nonprofit community foods co-operative, established in 2014. Our priorities are:

- Sourcing affordable food – prioritising local, organic (certified or non-certified) and/or fair trade.
- Participating in our community through volunteering, engagement and co-operation.
- Enjoying learning and sharing skills and knowledge.

What's involved?

We all bring a wonder of skill, talent and time-availability to the co-op. No one in the co-op is paid for their contribution, we run entirely on a member-volunteer system. We ask a minimum of 12 hours per year (or 1 hour per month) of volunteer time from our members.

Some aspects of our week-in/week-out efforts are:

- Packing dry goods (Tues) and fresh produce (Wed)
- Minding the co-op space on a Wednesday from 3–6pm while people are picking up their orders
- Helping clean the co-op space on the weekend or in the evening
- Doing odd-jobs around the place as required
- Ordering and purchasing produce through our suppliers
- Collecting local produce
- Coming up with creative and fun ideas on how to expand the co-op
- Smiling and getting to know one another over food!

We have a wide range of roles which suit different schedules and lifestyles - email dreamcatchervolunteerco@gmail.com for more information.

Our base in Te Horo

We are based at Windsor Park Orchard in Te Horo. Windsor Park also offer space for members to grow crops to sell back to the co-op - talk to Jeremiah if this interests you. They are certified Organic through Organic Farms NZ (OFNZ).

What it costs

Joining fee: \$20 for a household, \$40 for a business

This is non-refundable. There's no minimum order though, so it's okay if you take a break from ordering at any time.

Please pay your joining fee into our bank account.

Name of Account: Dream Catcher Co-operative

Bank Acct Number: 38-9019-0223993-00

Be sure to add your name as a reference when you pay. On payment you will receive a username and password for our ordering website, lettuceshare.org, as well as a member number for your box at Windsor Park.

Other costs

There are no other costs apart from the price on the food. We're happy to show you a stock list so you can get a general idea of what things cost through the co-op. Prices on fresh produce fluctuate and, because we prioritise local suppliers, availability is seasonal. We rely entirely on volunteer labour, which allows the mark-up we put on food (to cover freight, etc.) to be low.

What happens to any financial surplus?

Our aim is to neither lose nor gain money. If we have a small surplus at the end of the financial year, it is re-invested back into the co-op and our product mark-up is tweaked accordingly, so that we keep prices as low as we can (without losing money).

Contact information

General enquiries, Lettuceshare and ordering
dreamcatchercoop@gmail.com

Joining the co-op
joindreamcatcher@gmail.com

Volunteering
dreamcatchervolunteerco@gmail.com

Packing
cooppackers@gmail.com

We have a closed facebook page for members, search for Dream Catcher Coop and request to join.

How to order

Timeline:

We operate according to this timeline on a weekly cycle:

- **6pm Friday through to 9pm Sunday**
Members place their order on lettuceshare.org
- **Monday**
Members receive an email confirming their order
- **Tuesday**
From midday – Dry goods are packed
- **Wednesday**
From midday – Fresh produce is packed
3–6pm – Members collect their order at Windsor Park
7pm – Invoices are sent via email to members, members email the co-op with anything missing, extra or incorrect in their boxes. There's an option of either returning incorrect stock as soon as you can, or paying for it if you would like to keep it.
If any of the fresh produce you received is poor quality (within reason, considering season etc.), contact the co-op as soon as you can. If it's easy for you to do, take a photo and email it to us.
- **Wednesday 7pm through to Thursday evening**
Members pay invoice by bank deposit (details on reverse page)

Dream Catcher Co-op structure

Small day-to-day decisions are generally made by those volunteering in the relevant role. We also have frequent hui where bigger decisions are made, these meetings are usually followed by a shared potluck dinner. The agenda is sent out prior to the meeting, all members are welcome, and decisions are made by those present. Some decisions may need the input of the whole co-op community, in which case we will email all members and ask for a vote.

Communication

Although we love seeing everyone in person, we use email for all general communication, and orders are placed online at lettuceshare.org. We consciously limit the number of emails we send, and do not allow members to use the group email list.

Our suppliers

We currently buy through:

- Local suppliers, including: CoralTree, Hebe Botanicals, Te Horo Harvest, Common Property, Kapiti Organics, Kapiti Coffee Company, Peter Robson, Apheleia, Reon's Eggs, Applemedow.
- National suppliers, including: Fix and Fogg, Soapberry Company, Wellness Ltd, Chantals, Hohepa, Ceres, Ecostore, Trade Aid.

If you wish to supply – or know of someone or some item you wish us to stock please let us know.

The 7 Co-op Principles

Cooperatives around the world generally operate according to the same core principles and values, adopted by the International Cooperative Alliance in 1995. Cooperatives trace the roots of these principles to the first modern cooperative found in Rochdale, England in 1844.

1. Voluntary and Open Membership

Cooperatives are voluntary organisations, open to all people able to use its services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

2. Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organisations controlled by their members – those who buy the goods or use the service of the cooperative – who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.

3. Members' Economic Participation

Members contribute equally to, and democratically control, the capital of the cooperative. This benefits members in proportion to the business they conduct with the cooperative rather than on the capital invested.

4. Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self help organisations controlled by their members. If the co-op enters into agreements with other organizations or raises capital from external sources, it is done so based on terms that ensure democratic control by the members and maintains the cooperative's autonomy.

5. Education, Training and Information

Cooperatives provide education and training for members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperative. Members also inform the general public about the nature and benefits of co-operation.

6. Cooperation among Cooperatives

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

7. Concern for Community

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of communities through policies and programs accepted by the members.