

**Step
on
it!**

**DIG
for victory
NOW!**

D.I.

Issued by the National "Dig for Victory" Committee, Auckland and Wellington.

DIG now! Don't delay! Once your garden is dry enough to work without damage to it, get it ready to grow your own vegetables. In the world food crisis, New Zealand must do its bit. And *you* must do *yours*. It is up to every man and woman to—Dig for Victory. Listen in to any North Island YA or ZB Station every Thursday night at 7 p.m. for practical instructions.

Issued by the National "Dig for Victory" Committee, Auckland and Wellington.

Advertisement: Evening Post, 13 July 1943.

DIG FOR VICTORY

VEGETABLE GROWING IN THE HOME GARDEN

Duncan Galletly

The Second World War depleted New Zealand of its gardening menfolk. Many departed for overseas action, while those that remained were diverted into the home guard or worked increased overtime hours. Women took on additional roles to make up for this loss but, with this human flux, the home vegetable garden, critical during the preceding 1930s depression, began to suffer. At the same time, with the war now in the Pacific, there was an influx of vegetable-eating American servicemen, a need to send food overseas to support Britain's food shortages, and a need to supply our own overseas servicemen. As a result, New Zealand food production declined towards critical requirements, and domestic fruit and vegetable shortages were seen as inevitable. The public were warned that, unless they grew their own, dinner tables would be bereft of the veges.

Through the war years women played an increasing role in gardening for food production. Between 1940 and 1946 the New Zealand Women's Land Army supplied several thousand agricultural workers for farms and market gardens. By 1940 Christchurch women had begun to grow vegetables to support charitable institutions, both at their homes and at a dug-over half acre at Abberley Park, St Alban's. Private bands of women dug up spare plots where they could, and New Zealanders began to be grateful for the gardening skills of the once vilified 'Celestials.'