Community Garden 3231 Annual Report 2019-2020

Community Garden 3231 Incorporated
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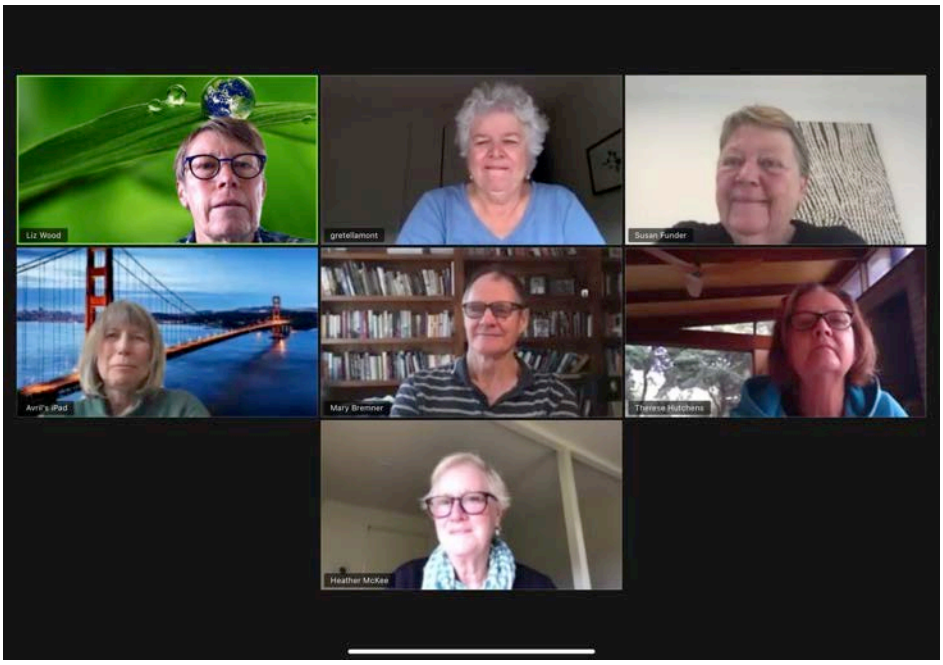


Top: Liz Wood, Gretel Lamont, Susan Funder
Middle: Avril Blay, Keith Bremner, Therese Hutchens
Bottom line: Heather McKee
Absent: Gay Fuller

Welcome to the 2nd Annual General Meeting of Community Garden 3231 Inc. a voluntary and not-for-profit organisation of 168 individual members.

Community Garden 3231 was founded in 2010 and auspiced by the Anglesea Community House. In 2019 the CG3231 became an incorporated association.

We acknowledge that we meet and garden on the land of the Eastern Maar and Wadawurrung people, traditional custodians of the Surf Coast Region. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Committee:
President: Liz Wood
Vice President: Heather McKee
Secretary: Susan Funder
Treasurer: Therese Hutchens
Committee members: Keith Bremner, Avril Blay, Gay Fuller and Gretel Lamont.

Garden Team:
Avril Blay, Gay Fuller, Gretel Lamont, Barbara Evans, Angela Berry and Debra White.

Building and Maintenance Team:
Keith Bremner, Barry Whelan, Rod Tucker, Conrad White and Scott Ashby.

From the President

It is fair to say that the last 12 months has been a wild ride! For starters, this is the Garden's first full year being incorporated. This has meant that CG3231 is a totally independent community group, with our own bank account and able to apply for funding in our own right. Then at last year's AGM, we had a significant change of personnel and office bearers on the committee so there has been a lot to learn. Finally for most of 2020, we have faced the most significant global event of our lifetime.

On the 16th March 2020, just as the new committee started finding its feet and sorting out who does what, the Victorian Government declared a State of Emergency. It was one of those 'where were you moments'. Whilst the outgoing committee left everything in good stead, there has been no COVID-19 road map to follow, no precedent experience. Like many organisations, institutions and nations, we too found ourselves in unchartered pandemic territory.

Coronavirus has challenged us all to find new ways of working, operating and being, and I am very proud of how our garden members and particularly the CG3231 committee have responded. Their commitment to our members and their passion for the garden has been wonderful. Most importantly, the committee was readily able and willing to adapt to the new conditions and challenges presented by COVID-19.

We started meeting on Zoom, we introduced new hygiene protocols, we installed signage and provided hand sanitiser, we limited numbers in the garden and developed our online presence with a revamped webpage, a new Instagram account and reinvigorated Facebook profile. We introduced a weekly bulletin when the lockdowns kept us from the garden. We ran online workshops and even an online morning tea. We introduced the novel Snail Stomp which showed that if you give adult gardeners a torch, a glass of wine, live acoustic music (provided by Tim Kingston) and a mission, there is much fun to be had in the garden after dark. The sheer number of snails means Snail Stomps will continue in the future. This mix of activities enabled the garden to keep operating, providing food security, gardening tips and information, respite from lockdown, pest control, and both virtual and real connections with our garden community.

I'm sure you will agree that the committee has done an extraordinary job keeping us connected and gardening. I want to thank our great garden committee for all their efforts throughout the year. It's been challenging, but they've been great. Thanks to the committee members: Gretel, Keith, Susan, Gay, Heather, Avril and Therese for all their work providing information and communication, managing finances, meetings, garden planning and infrastructure. Thanks also to the Gardening Team Avril, Angela, Barbara, Gretel, Gay and Debra; and our Building and Maintenance Team Keith, Barry, Rod, Conrad and Scott. Without your contributions we really wouldn't have much of a garden!

Finally, COVID-19 has also given us time to do some longer term planning for the garden. We are still in the draft stage of our Landscape Masterplan and there are a few other proposals that are in the drafting pipeline. We will share these ideas when they are further developed. The Landscape Masterplan Brief is available for you to view on our webpage.

While they may seem like distant memories from another, more social time, our Garden has held many successful events for both members and the wider community. I'm thinking of what a great day Art-in-the-Garden was (thanks Gretel and Caroline), and remember our Christmas Party? These events were made possible because of the hard work and enthusiasm of Garden members.

CG3231 is a remarkable place to meet people, learn about growing veggies and share life's joys and surprises. Our Garden works because we all contribute to this essential part of our community in Aireys Inlet and postcode 3231. I've thoroughly loved being President this year and I look forward to seeing more of our members in the garden and learning more about gardening with you in 2021. Bring it on!!!

Liz Wood

Garden members enjoyed the Christmas BBQ held on 13 December, 2019

Our first online workshop in May Đ ÔPests and how to be rid of them Õ was both informative and enjoyable for those who joined on Zoom to learn from Avril and Gretel

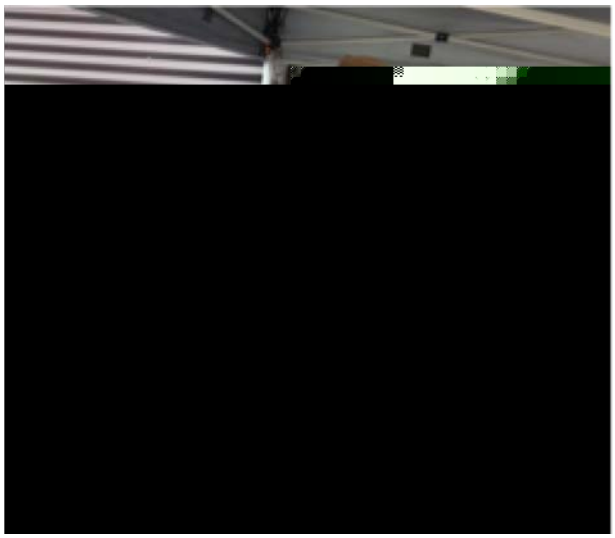
Membership

As at 30 June 2020 CG3231 had 168 Members. This includes 7 Honorary members and 19 members who joined to participate in our Art in the Garden event. Twenty two new members joined during this financial year and 20 members did not renew.

We welcome the new members who joined in 2019/20:
David Beauchamp & Lyn Howden, Bridie Boyle, Kara, Leon, Bonnie & Enver Cheah Sue Diamond, Anne Davies & Maureen Tehan, Gill Gartlan, Sue Leavesley & Paul Hermecz, Lecki Ord, Jacqui Read & Matt Russell, Helen Thomas & Rosita Vila Barbara Selvay, John, Katie & Elise Pahlow
The Garden has 32 Plots and at the end of the year all plots were utilised.

Therese Hutchens

Art in the Garden held on 25 January was a perfect day. The day was enjoyed by many visitors who admired both the artwork on display, the activities for children and our garden.



Jet looking very happy with his creation

Scott and Dave serving the masses