



**Community Garden
3231
Newsletter
October 2013**

**WORKING BEE
*Sunday October 6***

September Working Bee



Inevitably there was a lot of post election discussion during the working bee. Pulling weeds was quite therapeutic! The garden is looking good with new growth, but unfortunately the weeds are also thriving.

There were 12 enthusiastic garden members pulling weeds, planting a new spicy green bed, harvesting and pulling up the peas, mulching and whipper snipping. The prolific weed growth is providing a great base for the pumpkin patch. It was also good working with new members.

After the abortive attempt to fire up the pizza oven last working bee we had a more successful but low key



pizza session. While there is still a lot to learn, we had some great pizzas using frozen dough from last time and lots of produce from the garden. The highlight was potato and fennel followed by spring onion and capsicum. Delicious.

It will be good planting at the next working bee – always much more fun than weeding.



Before



After

Recipe: Etti's Herb Salad

From recipe from Ottolenghi: The Cookbook



There are lots of fantastic herbs in the community beds. I was able to find all the herbs apart from basil in the community and my own herb gardens. This salad is a fantastic blast of flavors in your mouth. The recipe gives specific amounts of each herb to use, but really it depends on your taste and herb availability.

Coriander leaves
Flat leaf parsley
Dill leaves
Tarragon leaves
Rocket leaves
(basil)
Unsalted butter
Unskinned almonds
Sea salt
Black pepper
Lemon juice
Olive oil

1. Wash and gently dry the herb leaves.
2. Heat the butter in a frying pan and add the almonds, salt and pepper. Sauté over a low heat for 5 minutes until almonds are golden. Drain, but keep the butter. When cool, chop the almonds roughly.
3. Assemble the salad in an attractive bowl, add the almonds, cooking butter, lemon juice and olive oil. Toss gently and serve immediately.

Gardening Ideas: Walls of Water

When we lived in New Jersey we were able to start our tomatoes early using 'walls of water' that are essentially mini greenhouses. Sometimes it even snowed after we planted our tomatoes, but they survived within the 'walls'. While Aireys doesn't have snow, it is still too early to plant tomatoes, but as we will be in Asia for the next few weeks, I wanted to get an early start. I have planted Pino and black Russian seedlings and hope they will thrive while we are away. Keep an eye on them for us!



Soup Night at Susan Reilly's

The soup night was fun and a great success with four different soups and Jo's homemade bread. The talk and slide show on the Pindari Farm and the benefits of herbs was interesting to all. We sampled some of the tinctures (creams) that Sue had purchased at Pindara. The herb for eczma relief for itching has remarkable healing components. We are hoping to keep introducing new herbs to the garden. One needs to understand that there is a lot of learning when using herbs medicinally – consult a herbalist first.

Building Team News

From the Committee

Seagrass

Thanks to Keith who went and got a load of seagrass that the council was giving away on the Bellarine Peninsula. This can be found in a pile near the compost heap and is available for members plots or the community beds. Seagrass has a high mineral content and works as a booster for your vegetables. Some studies claim that seaweed products strengthen plant cell walls and therefore increase disease resistance. Both Seasol and Maxicrop are plant foods made from seaweed.

The best way to use the seagrass is as either a liquid plant food or a mulch. If using as a liquid food, steep some of the seagrass in a bucket of water until it has decomposed and use the resulting liquid diluted in water to the colour of weak black tea.

A mulch works well in Spring as the dark colour helps to warm the soil and the fluffy nature of the seagrass gives some protection from night temperatures.

Warning! Check the material for small, white snails. These marine snails are sometimes present and do as much damage to plants as garden snails.

The garden team recently spent a pleasant couple of hours planting seeds for the community plots. See the results below.



While Terence is away in September, Kim Neubecker will be acting co-ordinator
kneubecker@iinet.net.au

Upcoming Events

- October 19 Spring Planting Day and Open Garden. Watch the newsletter for further details and opportunities to help.
- Nov 29 – Dec 1 Aireys Inlet Christmas Tree Festival at the Pub, organised by the Aireys Inlet Uniting Church. Use your imagination and create a Christmas tree. See brochure in the shed or contact Keith Bremner
bremnerkm@gmail.com
- December ? End of year party in the garden. What's a good date for you?



2013 Working Bees

Sunday October 6

Saturday November 2

Sunday December 8