



**Community Garden
3231**

**Newsletter
January 2015**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Hope you all had a wonderful Xmas with your friends and family and are looking forward to a healthy and fruitful 2015 in CG3231.

PLEASE NOTE

The **Working Bee** on Saturday 3 January has been **cancelled** due to the fire danger ratings for Central District.

Next working bees: Sunday 18 Jan & Saturday 7 Feb

Thanks again to all those who are on the watering roster. The summer vegetables are looking very happy and I'm sure we'll be reaping the rewards in the coming weeks.

If you are in the garden at any time, please check the whiteboard on the shed for 'things to do' in the community beds. No need to wait for a working bee.

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- Working Bee and Christmas party photos
- Coordinator's comments
- The hooded plover v dog walkers along the surf coast – research report
- Things to do in the community beds
- Favourite recipes

To celebrate the New Year we are having a BBQ ...

When	FRIDAY 23 January 2015
Where	Community Garden 6.30 - 7.00 pm
What to bring	Please bring your own meat or vegies for the BBQ and contribute either nibbles or a salad to share.
Remember	BYO drinks, cutlery, glasses and plate.
And ... stay tuned	It is of course, WEATHER PERMITTING
Bonus	Mark will set up his telescope after dark if a fine night, around 9.30pm.
Keep the date	Put the date in your diaries and come along and enjoy some pleasant company.

No replies needed this time. Just turn up. Look forward to seeing you there.



Coordinator's comments and observations ...

One of the things I love about CG3231 is the wide range of knowledge, skills and contributions of our members.

- A new latch was requested for the sheep manure shed and, being a farmer, Keith quickly made one from fencing wire – effective and cheap. But most town folk would not have thought of it.
- Kim read an article questioning the safety of snail baits – Barbara E's scientific network uncovered the truth and she provided advice.

There are many more examples.

In addition, many members *just do* things. Have you ever wondered why our compost is so good – it's not magic. Graham T is an avid mulcher and Mark assiduously turns it over, waters and creates nutritious compost from our green waste. However, one thing I have noticed is that now Terrence is away, the bins don't magically go out on Monday although I think there may be a new bin magician at work.

There are many ways members can contribute – if you want to help out, have a look at the list of jobs on the white board. The garden thanks you.

The new committee met in December and is working on updating CG3231 documents. Don't hesitate to raise issues with me or any on the committee. Gretel Gretel.lamont@gmail.com

Aireys Inlet to Eastern View: Planning for the Future

You've probably had a letter from the Shire about the Planning Project. CG3231 will be making a submission and inviting the Project Team to visit our garden. If you haven't already done so, complete the survey http://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/My_Property/Building_Planning/Planning/Strategic_Projects_Studies/Planning_for_the_Future . Our Community Garden is a fantastic resource for the community and provides opportunities for people to get exercise, grow healthy produce, learn new skills and meet and socialize with other residents they may not otherwise meet. Don't forget to point out that the current location for the Community Garden is ideal as it is easy for everyone to access it. The close proximity to the Post Office makes it easy for people to visit the garden when they collect their mail. Lots of people walk past and visit the garden and learn more about growing organic vegetables.

Gretel Lamont

Ever dreamed of homegrown tomatoes for Christmas?



Look who had tomatoes ripe before Christmas! And these weren't the only ones. Gretel and Rod were eating Black Russians in early December. If you'd like to know how to do this for next year, speak to Gretel. Observing from the bed next door, I think there is a secret.

Working Bee 6 December

You could have been forgiven for thinking the Working Bee on 6 December wasn't on due to the inclement weather. However, in case you weren't aware, we do have some 'all weather' stalwarts who turn up rain, hail or shine and this they did in their wet-weather gear on that wet Saturday morning, as evidenced in these photos. They weeded ... they planted ... they tidied the shed and garden and all enjoyed a delicious rhubarb cake provided by Debra at morning tea in the shelter of the verandah. Perhaps the boat was there for a reason ... but fortunately it wasn't needed.



Garden Team notes - ready to harvest now

Some of the summer vegetables, salad greens (and reds) and herbs are ready to harvest, so help yourselves.

- tatsoi (Bed A)
- zucchinis (Bed B)
- red lettuce - harvest outer leaves and plants will keep producing (Bed C), rhubarb (Bed I)
- mustard and lime misuzu (herb bed)
- other herbs
- strawberries

The Garden Team will work with the Building Team to make some signs to go into the beds, such as:

- Saving seed – please do not harvest
- Ready to harvest – please pick
- I'm on holidays – help yourself to anything ripe (and water if needed, please)
- Herb names
- Vegetable names

If you have any suggestions for signs that would be helpful, please let anyone on the Garden Team know – Kim, Barbara E, Jo, Angela

Things to do in the garden now ...

- Weed asparagus bed (down the bottom)
- Tidy rhubarb and harvest some as it will keep re-growing (in bed near pergola and also in Bed I)
- Bed G - weed
- Bed H - weed and mulch
- Bed I - generally tidy bed in readiness for more planting
- Bed J - please do not weed as we are saving the coriander seeds
- Bed K - pull out everything, rejuvenate bed ready for sowing peas - snow, snap and greenfeast (any preferences?)

Working Bee 21 December

By contrast, the Working Bee on 21 December was a beautiful day and although close to Christmas many turned up to enjoy a fulfilling morning in the garden. A lot of good work was done including mowing, mulching, weeding, frame-building, and planting.



Debra and Alistair made a great weeding and mulching duo. The pumpkins look much happier now (above and below).



Thanks for getting rid of the long grass on the nature strip, Graham. Hopefully the snakes won't have anywhere to hide now.



We're trying out a new type of climbing frame for the scarlet runner beans. It's made of jute and at the end of the season you can just take out the stakes and dig it all into the ground as compost.



The tomatoes are looking much happier now the weeds have been removed from their bed.



The flowers have been a real treat so far this summer. Don't forget to take time to 'down tools and smell the roses' when you are in the garden next.



The garden is always a good spot to stop for a chat, share tips with fellow gardeners, learn about sustainable practices, listen to ideas and generally enjoy the vibe.

CG3231 Christmas cum end-of-year Party Friday 12 December

Weather was perfect. The variety and flavour of food, amazing. The pizza cooks challenged, but successful in the end. The sausages were delicious, accompanied by homemade chutneys and sauces and the company in festive mood. Ingredients for a relaxed and happy evening.





Many thanks to all those who attended, to Tania, Sue and Janice who organised the event and to those who cooked, served and washed up on the night ... and we loved the atmospheric lights that came on at dusk too (see left). Thank you.

Protection for the hooded plover on the Surf Coast

This article appeared in the *Surf Coast Times* 11/12/2014

DEAKIN student and avid ornithologist Sue Guinness has conducted significant research concerning dog walkers and their attitudes toward off-leash beach regulations.

As part of her wildlife and conservation biology bachelor of environmental science degree, Ms Guinness performed her research along the Surf Coast from Anglesea's Point Roadknight to Moggs Creek.

"The underlying background as to why I chose this topic is because I am involved with Birdlife Australia and the plight of the hooded plover," Ms Guinness said.

"I want to understand what peoples' attitudes are now in relation to dog regulations." Ms Guinness delivered 1,479 surveys and conducted 100 beach interviews on six beaches during the day in January this year; there was a 27 per cent survey response rate.

Part of the research highlighted there was a noteworthy attitudinal difference between residents and non-residents' attitudes, with residents being less

supportive toward dog management regulations than non-residents while having stronger views that dogs have rights to beaches.

Ms Guinness evaluated four major findings from the research.

The first revealed respondents had a high level of agreement supporting dog regulations and complying with them.

The second showed that respondents disagreed that if their dog was off-leash it would be disturbing in any way – to people or other animals.

The third expressed a level of agreement that dogs suffered discrimination in regard to access to beaches.

The fourth major finding stated that people disagreed that dogs were more valuable than wildlife and they did not value dogs higher than wildlife.

“There is a disconnect here because while people have shown they don’t value wildlife less and do not think their dog is disturbing off-lead, the fact remains that a dog owner will not always know where their dog is off running, for example through the sand dunes or above the high tide mark where birds nest,” Ms Guinness said.

Ms Guinness hopes that if people develop more understanding about the plight of the hooded plover and the endangered birds’ nesting habits, then together the community can assist this vulnerable bird into healthier numbers.

“These birds need as much help from everyone – everybody working together to help protect this species.

“This includes the shire, GORCC (Great Ocean Road Coast Committee) and Parks Victoria to work collaboratively with the public.” Ms Guinness said Parks Victoria have permanent signage at Lake Lonsdale in the Grampians and hopes that permanent signage can activate communal awareness for the hooded plover.

“I advocate that more permanent signage is placed along the coast to build awareness and that the shire places a greater emphasis on enforcing compliance with regulations,” Ms Guinness said.

RECIPES - thanks to Tania and Sue

Tania’s rice salad

If you missed out on this at the Christmas Party, try it now! It’s a winner.

Ingredients:

- 2 cups brown rice
- 2/3 onions chopped
- spring onions
- oil
- 1 cup currants
- a cup slivered almonds, roasted
- salt and pepper

- spices - cumin, coriander, cinnamon, ginger, cloves, nutmeg

Fry brown rice in oil and add powdered spices. When lightly browned but not burnt add enough boiling water to cover generously and boil until rice is tender. This takes 25-30 minutes and you will need to top up with more boiling water. Strain rice well and leave to cool.

Chop onions and fry in oil. Once browned, add currants with lid on for a few minutes. This puffs them up. Place the rice and the onions mixture in a bowl. Add extra spices to taste, salt and pepper and chopped spring onions. Add salad dressing and mix well. Before serving add the roasted slithered almonds.

Geelong Show winning CARROT CAKE

per favour Sue Guinness

Put 3 eggs in a bowl.

Add:

- 1.5 cups of caster sugar
- 0.5 cup canola oil

Beat until creamy.

Then add:

- 1.5 cups plain flour
- 1.5 tsp bicarb soda
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- salt
- 2.5 cups of finely grated carrot.

Mix together until blended.

Bake for 40-50 mins in moderate oven.

Can also add sultanas and walnuts.

Lemon icing on top.