

Community Garden 3231 Newsletter



Growing food, friendships & community

August 2017

**August 20
AGM 11:30 @ The Pub**

Working bees: Saturday 5th

**August 12
Recycle Shop Anglesea**

**August 19
Soup from the Garden – a Winter in Aireys event**

Coordinator's Comments

August is going to be very busy as we are hosting **Soup in the Garden** on Saturday the 19th – tell your friends to come along and enjoy soup and bread. Then the next day we have the **AGM**. This year we will have a guest speaker talking about sustainable back yards plus we will be providing drinks and finger food. It is guaranteed to be easier than a working bee and just as much fun.

We need new people on the committee and teams. Please think about joining us – it is fun and rewarding and you can use your skills or learn new ones. Jen needs help with events and we need someone to assist with communications including the newsletter and web page. I know the garden and building teams are doing a brilliant job, but how about joining them. Feel free to ask what is involved.

I was delighted to find a frog in bed K when I was weeding – it means we must have a healthy garden as frogs are very sensitive to toxins. It was cute too!

SPRING SOWING AND PLANTING

The Gardening Team is preparing for spring sowing and planting and is keen to hear your ideas on what you would like to see planted in the community beds. If you have any ideas and suggestions please talk to one of the team.
Angela, Barbara, Gabriel, Jo and Kim

July working bees

How do you warm up on a cold Sunday morning in July? At the garden, we start by warming up around a nice fire and then all join in to do some of the major tasks which we don't get to in the warmer months, such as renovating the garden paths which have become overgrown with weeds. First the mulch was scraped back and then the carpet underneath was pulled up (we have been concerned about contaminants leaching from the manmade fibres and glues etc into our soil).



Next we put down a thick layer of newspaper or cardboard and finally covered this with a thick layer of the council mulch.



Bed K, which is going to be sown with potatoes, was given a major overhaul, taking out some of the tired and degraded soil, removing the rusted tank from the middle and then adding wheelbarrow loads of yummy compost.



As always, a great way to warm up and get some exercise was to turn the hot, steamy compost and also spread the ready compost on the communal beds.

The nasturtiums had all died off in the recent frost, so these were removed and added to compost Bay 1 where they will break down with the pea straw, manures, shredded paper etc to make more delicious compost.



Others dug in the green manure in Beds H and I - this will break down over the next 4 - 6 weeks and then be ready for planting.



From this



to this



Lots of
nutrients for
the next
crop in Bed H.



Of course there was plenty of time for chatting and also for morning tea.

Have a look at the time lapse video on our [website](#). The activity stops while we all enjoy the break.



When you mix talent and recycled materials you get excellent outcomes!

Alastair and the new shelving he and Unice built from recycled timber from the Aireys Inlet Primary School - thanks Dukes.



Daryl beside the seed-raising bed. Below is the new shelf he made by recycling and re-welding a metal bed frame found at the tip. Seedlings will be moved to this shelf to harden off before we plant them out.

Always Needed for Compost

- Wood ash - put in metal rubbish bin beside Bay 1
- Shredded paper
- Autumn leaves
- Grass clippings
- Manures
- Egg shells
- Kitchen green waste

Beyond the Fence

Repair Café: Aireys Inlet Community Hall August 6 10am – 2pm

Do you have a broken household item waiting to be fixed but need help to do so? This is your opportunity to come along to receive help and learn new skills! Come along to the first Repair Café event on the Surf Coast where we are fighting the throwaway culture and building community, one fix at a time!



At our Repair Café you will meet people with the knowledge, equipment, skills and advice to help you make the repairs you need on items such as clothes, furniture, gardening tools, bikes, toys and more. You will be saving money by repairing items rather than having to replace them, and reducing the number of usable items going to landfill.

See the Facebook page: [repair café surfcoast](#) or talk to Jo Murray or Sue Guinness for more details.



The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee (GORCC) is preparing a [master plan](#) for the Great Ocean Road Memorial Arch Precinct. They are seeking feedback on 3 options

<http://www.gorcc.com.au/app/uploads/2017/07/Memorial-Arch-options-paper.pdf>. Have your say!

What is organic gardening?

From an article in NZ Gardener

Are you an organic gardener? That sounds a simple question, which you should be able to answer easily. But NZ Gardener is working on a special edition of *Fresh from the Garden* and it's made me realise that organic gardening is actually quite tricky to sum up.

To start with organic gardening can't be defined as 'chemical free'. You do hear this phrase bandied about a lot when in fact there are plenty of chemicals which can be used by organic gardeners. Copper and sulphur are two of the nearly 100 chemical elements which occur naturally. "Organic" doesn't necessarily mean pesticide-free or

spray-free either. There are plenty of sprays you can buy or make that could be used in the organic garden. And any substance used to kill insects, weeds or diseases could technically be considered a pesticide: growing mustard as a cover crop to fumigate soil, say, or using hot water to kill weeds.

To me organic gardening doesn't mean replacing systemic pesticides and artificial fertilisers with "organic" alternatives, either. Working on our book has brought home the fact that organic gardening basically means working with nature. It involves thinking before you act about the

potential consequences of that action and attempting to mitigate or reduce any harmful effects.

I have come to realise that organic gardening is far more about prevention than intervention. The aim in the organic garden is to have healthy soil, healthy plants and a healthy garden environment that is rich in biodiversity, so avoiding many of the problems that non-organic gardeners might respond to with

chemicals. And, if those problems occur anyway, an organic gardener would attempt to address them first in an ecologically neutral way: hand-picking off slugs and snails rather than laying bait, clearing leaves and debris that might provide an overwintering site to break the lifecycle of a pest, and practising crop rotation to prevent plant-specific pests and diseases building up in one area.

(Note: Our aim in Community Garden 3231 is to work with nature. We aim to have healthy soil, making our own compost and worm castings, sowing green manure crops, feeding our plants and soil with worm tea, and rotating our crops to prevent any build-up of diseases. We're also building the biodiversity in the garden, expanding the range of vegetables, fruit, flowers and other plants and attracting more beneficial insects and small birds to the garden. We rake up leaves and keep the garden tidy to reduce the opportunity for slugs, snails and other pests to live and breed.)

What did you do for Plastic Free July?

Twelve things to consider about single use plastic

From Our Permaculture Life

1. 6% of the world's fossil fuels are used to make plastic
2. from 2000-2010 1 billion tonnes of plastic was made - same amount as between 1950-2000
3. half the world's plastics are used once before going to landfill
4. 8 million tonnes of plastic end up in our oceans every year - that's like putting five bags of plastic trash on every foot of coastline in the world.
5. Almost 75% of the plastic found in the oceans is single-use (food wrappers, food containers, caps and lids, plastic bags, polystyrene...)
6. 90% of sea birds have eaten plastic, 50% of turtles have too
7. 1 million sea bird and 100,000 turtles die from eating plastic and becoming entangled each year.
8. 5 billion plastic lined coffee cups are used each year
9. 4.7 billion toothbrushes are made each year. They'll last around 1000 years.
10. each person on the planet uses around 700 plastic bags a year each
11. it takes around 5 litres of water and a litre of oil to make a litre of bottled water
12. In Australia, we use almost 120,000 tonnes of plastic drink bottles each year.

**Please send articles or ideas for the newsletter to
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