



Community Garden 3231 Newsletter July 2016

Growing food, friendships
and community.

**Next Working Bees: Saturday 2nd July
Sunday 17th July**



Alex Leknius

This year the AGM was held at the Community Garden. Alex Leknius, Anglesea Community House Co-ordinator, welcomed everyone and officially opened the AGM. Thank you Alex for providing us with strong support.

Gretel Lamont, Community Garden Co-ordinator, gave a full account of the year's activities, followed by reports from the Team Leaders. The past year was full of many achievements. Thank you Gretel and the team leaders and team members for making it all happen throughout the year.



Special thanks also to the Building Team for always being so practical – tarps were provided for members to sit on covering the damp benches, and our wonderful BBQ was fired up and put to good use after the AGM.

Co-Ordinator's Report

Before the AGM I looked back at what we have achieved over the last 12 months – it has been a spectacular year. The most exciting thing is the great support we have had from the Surf Coast Shire and the community for the community garden to stay where it is as 2 Fraser Drive is redeveloped. This reflects the respect for Community Garden 3231 in the community.

CG3231 is successful because of the many contributions of members. Membership has increased by 30% in the last year and there are new faces at the energetic and productive working bees. People share their knowledge and skills in many ways. What were the highlights for you? Perhaps the delicious Aireys grown tomatoes, conversations at working bees, new people you've met, the pizza night, a recipe shared or new things you've learned.

Over the next 12 months we'll be working with the Surf Coast Shire as plans for redevelopment of the site proceed. There will be more information and photos on the website and hopefully more art in the garden. More people will discover their community garden. And of course there will be new vegetables to grow, fruit trees to espalier and much more. I am sure that over the next year we will continue to grow food, friendships and community.

See you in the garden.

Gretel Lamont

News from the Maintenance Team

Winter is well and truly upon us and some of our members are in warmer climes. Great excitement from our garden team about the prospect of planting some espalier fruit trees and good progress has been made constructing the trellis.

Plant labels have been stapled to sticks for identification.

Our wicking beds look fantastic and the possibility of building some more would be well worthwhile especially during the long summer months.

Another two garden beds will need to be built in the Q section to tidy up that area. Altogether a very productive couple of months.

Thank you to all helpers.

Keith Bremner



Our espalier posts are in!



New plant labels.

News from the Gardening Team

Fruit in CG 3231

Recently, our fruit trees, canes, vines and crowns have been a focus of the gardening team. As well as maintenance work on our existing plants, we are planting more fruit. An espalier has been built, parallel with the bottom fence line and 7 new fruit trees are being planted. Thanks to Keith, the structure has gone up in the blink of an eye. Kim has sourced the fruit trees from a few different suppliers:

- 2 pears – Beurre Bosc and Doyenne Du Comice;
- 2 apples – Granny Smith and Golden Delicious;
- 3 plums – Santa Rose, Mariposa and a European yellow plum.

The trees are all on dwarf or semi-dwarf root stock so they can be maintained at manageable sizes.

Kim also has plans to graft other varieties onto these in the future.

Kim and Barb are going to maintain the espalier, pruning and shaping the trees onto the wires. I know a number of other people have already said that they are keen to learn the art too, so please talk to them about how and when you can get involved.

We have produced a great pile of delicious compost which is being used for planting our new trees, and Liz and Ti are now leading a new group

“Friends of the Compost”. If you are interested in helping and learning more about composting to improve soil, which is the basis of all plant health, please come along and join in at the working bees and also bring along any “green” or “brown” materials which you can find to add to the layers. Remember that the more compost we produce, then the more that will be available to use in your own plots too which ultimately means more healthy, delicious vegetables to eat.

In addition to these fruit trees, more brambles (boysenberries, silvanberries, etc.) will be planted in Bed L next to the raspberries which Barb pruned at the last working bee. She will soon prune the grapevine as well. Kim also



Our new wicking beds.

Strong bonds

Participation in community gardens makes a society stronger, a new study by the University of Adelaide has found. The study looked at the role of shared gardens in urban areas and found they help develop adaptive responses to food security and climate change.

“Outside the fence”

Sustainable Film Season

SCEG (Surf Coast Energy Group) starts the new film season July 15th at 7pm at Surf World Museum. Utilizing state-of-the-art equipment, Oscar-winner Louie Psihoyos (**The Cove**) assembles a team of artists and activists intent on showing the world never-before-seen images that expose issues of endangered species and mass extinction.

Racing extinction examines biodiversity loss, its effect on humanity, and the solutions that inspire hope for a more sustainable future.

showed a few members how to prune the peach and nectarine trees.

James has become a “Friend of the Citrus” and will be nurturing them to good health and production.

The rhubarb is being moved into Bed R, as a permanent home.

Of course, we also have a couple of passion-fruit vines, strawberries, an apricot, a cherry, 2 figs, a quince, a pomegranate, an olive and 2 more apple trees. To date, some crops have been more successful than others but with some additional TLC, hopefully we can all look forward to abundant crops to share over the years to come.

As always, if you have any ideas and suggestions, please talk to one of the gardening team (Barbara, Angela, Gabriel, Kim and Jo) or just come along to the working bees and join in.

Jo Murray