

# Community Garden 3231 Newsletter

## July 2018

*Growing food, friendships & community*



It's cold and wet outside, the fire is warm and it's a good time to make some soup and think about what spring and summer will bring. What do you want to grow? What do you want to become more involved in?

How about getting more involved in your community garden. We need more people to help run events, make compost, water in summer, build and repair, plan the next crops, etc. All positions on the committee are open and there are always opportunities for joining a team. It's a great way to learn new skills. If you don't know what is involved have a look at the position descriptions on the inside notice board or better still, talk about it with existing committee and team members.

See you in the garden.

**Gretel**

### **Working Bees**

The weather wasn't very kind to us for the last working bee. This weeks working bee on Saturday (7<sup>th</sup> July) will proceed as planned. The Garden Team have a list of winter garden tasks on the white board ready to be tackled, there will be a fire to keep us warm during morning tea and lots of good garden company.

A reminder the working bee on Saturday August 4<sup>th</sup> is cancelled. Instead this working bee will be held on Saturday August 11<sup>th</sup>, followed by Soup in the Garden, a *Love Winter in Aireys* event.

### **Annual General Meeting**

Our AGM will be held on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August in the Aireys Pub commencing 11.30 am. Our guest speaker this year is Katie Traill who will speak about how we can reduce our environmental footprint and develop sustainable lifestyles. Katie encourages everyone to learn the importance of understanding where food comes from and why supporting locals is the best thing you can do.

Finger food and drinks will be provided at the conclusion of the meeting. All positions on the committee will be open and new members are encouraged for events, garden and building teams. Please think about joining a team. Want to know more? Ask a team member.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **July**

**Working bees**  
Saturday 7 July  
and  
Sunday 22 July

### **August**

Saturday August 11-  
**Soup in the garden**

**Our AGM** is on Sunday  
August 19,  
11.30am-1pm at the  
Aireys Pub

## Soup in the Garden

This year the Garden will again host "Soup In the Garden" as part of the Love Winter In Aireys Festival. <http://www.aireysinlet.org.au/events/>

Come along to the working bee on Saturday August 11<sup>th</sup> 2018 (instead of the first Saturday working bee scheduled for Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August) and stay for some homemade soup. Or come just for the soup from 11am to 1pm



## July is plastic free

Plastic Free July is here and garden members are asked to take up the challenge '**Choose To Refuse**' single-use plastic during July.

Each time you refuse shopping bags, straws, takeaway containers and coffee cups it's one less piece of plastic being consumed. With more than 2 million people taking part in Plastic Free July this year, that is a huge positive impact.



If you have ideas on what we can do in the Garden and for other Garden members to keep plastic free, please send your suggestions to [communitygarden3231@gmail.com](mailto:communitygarden3231@gmail.com)

<http://www.plasticfreejuly.org/>

## What's growing in the Garden

### Angela's plot

You may have noticed my plot has a beautifully painted sign identifying me as the plot holder with picture-words for my surname (berry), for a bit of fun. Very artistic, thanks Lynn and Desley!

Having had no luck with brassicas in previous years (I've tried purple brussel sprouts, broccoli, baby cabbages and purple cauliflower) and because we're not able to plant garlic due to the fungal disease in the garden, I decided I needed something that could pretty much `sit' over the winter months doing its own thing, without too much maintenance.



I'm a big fan of broad beans and loved Anne Le Lievre's deep crimson flowers one year. I had previously tried chocolate flowered broad beans for the flower colour, it being a bit more interesting than the usual white. I also found they produced early and abundantly. So this year I've planted both the crimson and chocolate-flowered broad beans to see if one is earlier than the other and which is more abundant. The

crimson is already flowering (poor thing) but hopefully the flowers will last long enough for the bees to come and pollinate them, although this is a big ask in this cold weather!

I've also planted snow peas as they've always been great producers, but not as many germinated as I'd hoped. They're still hanging on, but growing slowly. I find it very convenient to plant the broad beans and snow peas at the end of the tomato season, because I can reuse the wire frames for them to grow on and I don't have to remove them.

After the summer I had thought to plant a crop of green manure, but read somewhere that the peas and beans can provide nitrogen and with the thick layer of pea straw to be dug in after the broad bean and snow pea season, I'm hoping it will do a similar job, ready for tomatoes again. I find the pea straw keeps down the weeds better than the sugarcane mulch, which is much softer.

The grey leafed plant with pink flowers at the end of my plot is an old-fashioned picatee from my grandmother's garden that I've carried with me since the 1970s. It is doing better here than it has ever done anywhere else. Must like the sheep manure!

I've also just popped in two cuttings of a simple white geranium from a friend's garden in Melbourne, who died recently.

## Around the Garden

And we also have broad beans in community plot G.

And another community garden member has a good crop of Brussels sprouts. And there is a beautiful cauliflower growing in the garden, showcased on the front page of this newsletter.



## Q. & A.: Ask 'The Gardener'

Q. What's wrong with my cauliflower? It looks healthy and not affected by pests but it hasn't formed a tight head.

A. Cauliflower is a cool season crop that is a bit more finicky regarding its climactic needs than its relatives broccoli, cabbage, kale, turnips, and mustard. Sensitivity to weather and environmental conditions make cauliflower prone to numerous growing problems.



Any number of conditions during the growing phase when the heads are forming such as unusually warm weather, drought or low temps can result in small premature heads or "buttons." Cauliflower heads won't form unless the weather is cool and humid with medium to short day-lengths.

Given the relatively warm autumn we have had in Aireys, this may be the reason your cauliflowers haven't developed well this season.

If you have no at all head on your cauliflower, it's undoubtedly stress affecting the plant. Stresses that affect cauliflower development may be overly cold soil or air temps in the spring, lack of irrigation or nutrition, root bound plants, and insect or disease damage. Cultivars that mature more quickly such as the mini cauliflower are more susceptible to stress than those that need a longer growing period.

## **2 Fraser Drive – an update**

Community Garden members may recall that the council, earlier this year, established an Expression of Interest (EOI) Process in respect of the development of the land known as 2 Fraser Drive (the vacant land surrounding our community garden). Several members associated with the community garden joined the community panel to provide feedback to council on proposals received for housing on the land. That panel met in March at the conclusion of the EOI process.

Only one submission had been received and this single submission came after an extension was provided to the original due date - and did not meet the developed project objectives. At that meeting council officers indicated that they would work with the submitter to see if they could come up with an acceptable alternative.

An email to the community panel has now indicated that the joint submitters have withdrawn from the process. Council now proposes to put the project on hold for a few months and during this time officers will consider alternatives to put to councillors and the community for feedback. Further council officers will seek feedback from the Registered Housing market (that provides housing to low income individuals), the Department of Health and Human Services (that has provided funding for the units there now) and others that they have made contact with during the EOI to see what they could do to make this project appealing to the market.

Leonie is the Community Garden representative on the Panel as, so please contact her if you wish to discuss this project further.

## Beyond The Fence

### Aireysistible

We are holding an evening of food and entertainment to support refugees. This is our major fundraiser for Aireys Inlet Rural Australians for Refugees.

Saturday 28 July at 6pm, Aireys Inlet Community Hall. Tickets \$50. Drinks at bar prices. Phone: 0427 701 275. Email: [aireysinletrar@gmail.com](mailto:aireysinletrar@gmail.com)

### U3A Torquay

The Federal Government has launched a program called 'Be Connected' that offers a range of online and mentoring services for people who would like to become a bit more comfortable using computers, emails and the internet. U3A SurfCoast <http://www.u3asurfcoast.org.au/> based in Torquay has been accepted as a Network Partner and some of us have attended a briefing session.

U3A Surfcoast is interested to know :

1. Would you like to sign up for 'Be Connected' and improve your computer skills using U3A support at short self-paced sessions?
2. If you are already reasonably comfortable using a computer (or even very competent!), would you be interested in joining the Mentor panel to help other members?
3. If you already have computer training experience, would also you be willing to assist mentors as needed?

Please let me know if you would like to participate – it will be a great opportunity to sharpen your computer skills whether you are a 'novice' or an 'expert'.

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