

# Community Garden 3231 Newsletter



**Growing food,  
friendships & community**

**May 2017**

**Working Bees in May:  
Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May, 9.00 am  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May, 9.00 am**

**June:  
Saturday June 3  
Sunday June 13**

The tomatoes, pumpkins, zucchini have all been harvested and shared but there are still delicious figs to eat, plus lots of mizuna, lettuce and more. It's great to see the garlic looking so good, and the brassicas are surviving the cabbage moth onslaught. We have been spraying them with Dipel – a bacterial spray that only affects caterpillars with alkaline stomachs so it is entirely safe for beneficial insects, birds and other animals.

Thank you garden team, particularly Jo for all the wonderful photos in this newsletter.

See you in the garden!  
*Grete!*



## **APRIL HAPPENINGS**

At the April working bees we were pulling out many of the summer crops and sharing the last of the bounty – tomatoes, basil, chillies, zucchinis, cucumbers, tomatillos, lettuce, silverbeet, mustard greens, beans, melons and more.

The pumpkins were all harvested at the mid-April working bee. This year we grew 7 varieties up the reo on the eastern boundary - Anna Swartz, Pennsylvania Dutch Crookneck, Waltham Butternut, Lakota, Blue Ballet, Turk's Turban and Ironbark (with a stray zucchini tromboncino in the mix). Don't they look fantastic in the photo above.

If you weren't at the Easter working bee, and didn't get to take home a pumpkin, then have a look in the shed and take a pumpkin and share it with another member. Please save the pumpkin seeds and bring them to the garden – we will re-sow them

next season and also put some in seed packets to give away or to sell to raise money for the garden.

We emptied and dug over the soft herb beds, adding a layer of delicious compost (thanks Compost Team). In bed P, we have sown coriander and also planted one of our celery seedlings. We'll sow more coriander in 2 weeks time and then more in another 2 weeks after that so that we have successive crops for ongoing harvest. Coriander is slow to germinate and needs to be kept moist. Next to this we have sown rocket and also planted more celery. (If you would like to plant celery in your own plot, please help yourself to a seedling from the seed-raising bed - thanks Gabriel for all your great work sowing these and other seeds and nurturing them to seedlings ready for planting)

*Jo Murray*



Kate preparing bed Q for garlic April 1



Two weeks later!

### Interesting Produce

Have you seen this plant in Bed R and wondered what it is? It's a perennial chilli - Rocoto Tree Chilli (also known as Hotlips) from Peru. The fruit matures from green to red and ranges in heat from medium hot to very hot depending on the weather. This shrub will fruit abundantly for many years. It's an evergreen and fruits from October to June. It's covered in fruit, so when you see a red one, why not try one?





Another plant you may not have seen before is the Rockmelon - Minnesota Midget which was growing in a few different places around the garden. According to the Digger's Club it's one of the earliest to fruit with sweet, rich flesh. It's a compact and prolific vine taking up just one metre of garden space and producing up to 18 fruit per plant, at 550g per fruit. All our vines have now died off and the fruit has been harvested, so if you missed out this year, make sure to look out for them next summer and try one.

### Saving Tomato Seeds



1. Removing the seeds and pulp and soaking them in water to ferment



2. Five varieties: Black cherry, Green Zebra, Tigerella, Tommy Toe and Wapsipinicon Peach



3. After a few days, the contents were nicely fermented and ready for washing



4. Washed seeds were laid out on kitchen paper to dry



5. Dry seeds being placed in envelopes. Unfortunately this was during that very windy, stormy weather and while the seeds were drying, some of them blew off when a door was opened ... oops ... had to discard those seeds because I wasn't sure which variety they were.



6. Saved seeds, in envelopes, labelled for storage. Ready for planting next for next summer!

### Saving Pumpkin Seeds

1. Remove the pulp and seeds from inside the pumpkin. If you have more than one variety then keep the seeds separate and label them so you know which they are when they are next sown.
2. Place this pulp in a colander and rinse under running water. Do not let the pumpkin pulp sit in non-running water. Clean any clinging pulp from the seeds. You don't want any pulp remaining as it will prevent drying and can lead to mould growth, rotting the seeds. There will be lots of seeds inside the pumpkin, so once you have a good amount of
- seeds rinsed, look over them and choose the biggest seeds as these will have a better chance of germinating.
3. Place the rinsed seeds on dry paper towel. Make sure they are spaced out; otherwise, the seeds will stick to one another. Place in a cool dry spot for 2-4 weeks. For the first couple of days, stir them often and turn them over, so they dry on each side.
4. Once the seeds are dry, bring the labeled seeds to the garden to store.

*Jo Murray*

### WHAT TO SOW & PLANT NOW

If your beds haven't had a rest for a while, it could be a good idea to sow a green manure crop to replenish the soil. However, if your soil is healthy and you're keen to get your next crops in, then leafy greens grow well during winter, things such as silverbeet, rocket, bok choy and kale. Coriander grows well in the cooler weather when it won't bolt to seed like it tends to in summer.

I usually sow my broad beans and spinach in May. Peas (snow, snap and podded) can also be sown in autumn, as can spring onions, leeks, onions and chives.



Come along to the working bees for a good upper body workout, food from the garden and morning tea.

## **Beyond the Fence**

### **Surf Coast Shire website**

We were sent a request for volunteers to provide input for improving the website.

*Even if you've never been to Council's website before, our communications team wants to know what you like when you visit websites and discuss how you would look for certain information on Council's site. You don't have to be an internet expert, but a general understanding of how to browse websites would be good.*

*There are two dates available to choose from and the workshop will include catering.*

*Monday                      22 May                      9.30am to noon (includes lunch)*

*Wednesday                24 May                      5.30 to 7.30pm (includes dinner)*

*Both sessions will be in Council chambers at 1 Merrijig Drive Torquay.*

There is a flier on the garden noticeboard with further information.

### **Friends of Allen Noble Sanctuary**

If you've ever enjoyed watching the wild life on the pond, then you should consider helping maintain this wonderful place. They have working bees the last Sunday of the month (May 28) from 9:30 to 11am. Bring gloves, hat and sunscreen.

### **Solving the Wildlife, Roads & Traffic Conflict**

Anglesea and Aireys Inlet Kangaroo Advisory Group is hosting a presentation by Rod van der Ree at the Anglesea CFA Community Room on June 7 at 10:30am. See the flyer on the notice board for more details.