



Community Garden 3231

Newsletter

July 2020

Working bees:

Saturday 4 July
9:30–12:30pm

Sunday 19 July
9:30–12:30pm



Sarah repairing the wheelbarrow



Liz briefing us about the Landscape Masterplan Brief

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

[WWW](#)

[Twitter](#)

President's report

Well, 2020 is proving to be a very challenging year and we are only just halfway through! Welcome to winter! Aireys Inlet is actually quite busy this winter as people have had to postpone travel plans and many others have chosen to base themselves in Aireys. Perhaps the upside is there are more people about and available to get their hands dirty at our wonderful little garden!

COVID-19 continues to affect our daily lives, but we are lucky CG3231 has proven to be agile and innovative in how we have responded to the challenge. We held smaller and staggered working bees; we hosted online events; we changed from monthly newsletters to weekly bulletins; and we will keep adjusting and adapting our approach in response to any current restrictions. Our committee has been nothing short of brilliant in adapting to the ‘new normal’ (anything but normal!). Please be assured we are implementing best practice COVID-Safe protocols in the garden, and constantly reviewing our practices to ensure we keep our community members safe. So please, if you feel unwell or at all concerned about your health, refrain from coming to the garden.

A socially-distanced break at the recent working bee



Our winter solstice working bee on Sunday 21 June was simply fabulous. We had a massive turnout that meant we had to closely monitor numbers (max 20 permitted in the garden). At one point we had people outside the fence waiting for others to leave, before they could enter. Thanks to our ‘door bitch’, Gretel, for managing the entry point whilst also keeping a keen eye on composting. Avril was flat out providing necessary guidance on the

Garden Team’s list of tasks, all of which were completed to dismantle a wheelbarrow that now boasts a brand-new wheel! Great job, thanks Sarah! It was a very productive working bee—but there was a bit more to it—it was the vibe! We were all struck by the contagious positive energy generated by 20 people getting stuck into it! Thanks everyone. I have to say Community Garden 3231 is in GREAT shape.

We are recruiting Working bee assistants wanted

Are you looking to step up?

Gate assistant - you will work alongside a garden team member and help manage members entering the garden. You will welcome members, sign people in, monitor numbers in the garden, encourage the use of sanitiser and keep an eye on what goes in the compost. You will meet lots of people. Fun and easy peasy!

Shed assistant - working alongside the working bee leader from the garden team. You will be the only person allowed in the shed during working bees. You will retrieve items from the shed if required. You will assist deciphering working bee jobs and encourage members to maintain physical distancing in the vicinity of the shed. You will have a bottle of sanitiser at your disposal! You will have the chance to build your garden knowledge.

Contact Us communitygarden3231@gmail.com

Executive

McArthur

We've gone digital and it's working very well. Thanks to Susan and Therese for working with our IT whizz, John, to implement a new **membership renewal** procedure. Please check your email and jump onto our new system for paying your membership for 2020/21. Very clever work John, Susan and Therese!

Recently we lodged a request for Surf Coast Shire to consider the removal of the sugar gum (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*) located near the worm farm. It has already had limbs removed but there are a number of dead branches waiting to fall, creating a hazard. The council has come back to us, having inspected the tree, indicating they will again prune the tree, and check it again in six months.

At the working bee we talked about the Landscape Masterplan Brief we have developed to help plan for future improvements of the garden. Please read the article below to find out more.

Finally, the CG3231 Management Committee (Heather, Keith, Avril, Therese, Gretel, Susan and Gay) has been absolutely fantastic in adapting to this COVID world. Thanks team!

Catch you in the garden, Liz

Online memberships

As Liz mentioned, due to the efforts and talents of many people on the committee and out there in the support legions, we now have new online **Membership Renewal** and **New Membership** forms. No more consultation with handwriting experts—a new digital future for the Community Garden.

Manifold blessings in particular to John, Susan and Liz for invaluable work. A positive response has been received from garden members renewing online recently, and the new system will make record keeping a much simpler task.

Remember—new members are always welcome and we trust the new system will be a smooth introduction to the wonderful world of the Aireys Inlet Community Garden. Please submit renewals by 31 July. Visit the new forms under the membership tab at our [website](#).

Garden team report

We have held two working bees since the last newsletter. The first saw a small bunch of those members undeterred by cold and wet weather achieve a remarkable amount, until the lure of a coffee became too strong for some (well, for me anyway).

The second working bee had a great turnout, with maximum numbers carefully distancing and getting heaps done. There is a great energy around the garden at the moment. New members, new ideas, lots of enthusiasm, and interest in our developing plans for the future are helping to drive this. Although for some members, perhaps the absence of morning teas and the pressure of COVID19 safety measures may contribute to a feeling working bees are less rewarding than usual.

We are considering running a workshop/working bee on pruning the fruit trees in the garden, separate from the regular working bee (to better manage distancing and numbers). Please let me know via the [Garden email](#) (attn: Avril) if you are interested. It would be weather dependent and have limited numbers, but could be repeated if there is enough interest.

If you are a new or newish member, please make yourself known to a committee or garden team member at a working bee, and we can make sure you get a proper welcome, induction and introduction to other members.

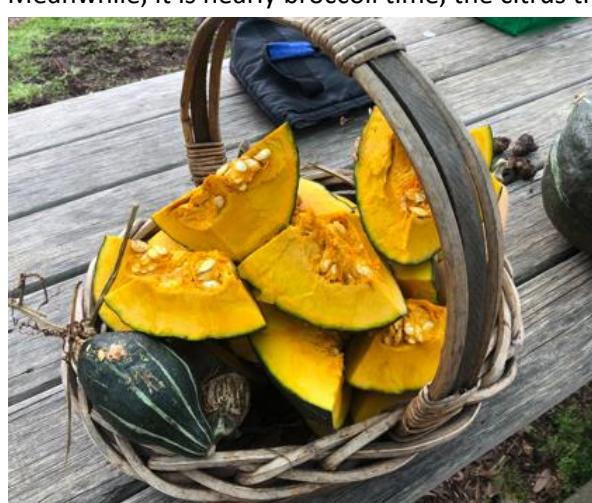
So many people have contributed in different ways over the last few months and we thank you. Special thanks should also go to our president Liz Wood for her leadership and support during these complicated times.

We are lucky to have such an involved and active committee—why don't you think about joining the committee perhaps at our next AGM later in the year? The garden team is also hoping to recruit new members—let us know if you are interested. There are many possible roles to suit your interests and availability.

Meanwhile, it is nearly broccoli time, the citrus trees are flourishing, the broad beans are up and other crops are coming on well. Note that the plots previously known as J, Q and T are no longer community beds—we will be numbering them as they are now private plots. Otherwise feel free to harvest a few leaves of lettuce, kale, mustard greens, sorrel, silverbeet, a lemon or two, and of course a variety of herbs.

See you in the garden
Avril (for the GT)

A recent harvest shared at the last working bee



Landscape Masterplan—planning for our future

Whilst the garden is going really well, there are aspects of it that could work better. A few months back, we were planning to install a new storage shed, but where would we put it? Our compost bays are in need of renewal, but could we improve on our composting system? Our shed stores almost everything from coffee and tea supplies to shovels, rakes, snail bait and fertiliser. Should we have a more hygienic arrangement?

We realised we needed a road map to guide development in the Garden for the next phase of its life. We knew we wanted a more welcoming entrance, a practical and versatile social-gathering space, improved storage for garden gear, but also hygienic storage for our kitchen things.

Hence, we are in the process of developing a Landscape Masterplan, providing a strategic, logical and staged approach for the current and future development of CG3231. The committee has identified six key objectives:

1. to create a more-welcoming entry
2. to improve storage for garden equipment, materials, tools and furniture (e.g. chairs and tables for events)
3. to create a clean, fit-for-purpose shed which houses office and kitchen functions
4. to develop a versatile social-gathering space which enables both smaller and larger gatherings in all weather conditions
5. to plan for improvements to existing garden beds/infrastructure where needed
6. to maintain the philosophy of the garden.

We have developed a design brief, and from this brief a local landscape designer is helping us to develop the Landscape Masterplan. We will keep you informed at working bees, and involved in the development of this plan. Please don't expect any changes overnight as this is a medium to long-term plan.

Want to know more? Please visit the [CG3231 website](#) to view the Landscape Masterplan brief.

Avril and Liz (AKA Landscape Masterplan Working Group)

Oca

Julie and I have grown Oca in our plot for a couple of years now. As Julie says, it does look rather like an internal organ, but we really like it. You can cook and use them just like a potato, but the texture is lighter and the flavour has a hint of lemon.



Oca—originally from the Andes—is also known as New Zealand yam and is popular there. It is really easy to grow but needs a long time in the ground and cold weather to form the tubers. They store well for ages, and while they will often pop up next year where you planted them, we have not found them invasive like their other oxalis relatives. There is a good article by Penny Woodward here <https://www.organicgardener.com.au/blogs/lowdown-oca>

If anyone wants to try them, let me know as we have some spare small ones for replanting. Perhaps we will pop them in a community bed if there is interest,
Avril

Preserved unripe figs

1 kg unripe figs
2 ½ cups of white sugar
Water
1 lemon, peel removed in six longish strip
4 cloves (optional)

1. Wear plastic gloves when picking and working with unripe figs as they ooze a milky white liquid from their stems that can irritate your skin. Wash the figs well. Cut off their stem along with a bit of the fruit from that end and make a slit at the bottom of the figs.
2. Place figs in a pot and cover with water. Boil for 15 minutes.
3. Drain and add fresh water to cover, the sugar, juice of half a lemon (about 2 tablespoons), 4 strips of lemon peel and cloves. Bring to a boil and continue cooking, partially covering the pot with a lid, until the liquid becomes slightly syrupy and the figs begin to glisten. Cooking time depends on ripeness – you may need to remove softer figs and boil the rest for longer.
4. Remove lemon rind and cloves, put in clean glass jars with remaining lemon, cover with syrup.
6. Store in fridge for a week before eating with cheese, ice cream or yoghurt.

Gretel's unripe fig recipe

Beyond the fence

Choosing Mulch for Your Garden: In *Water Conservation, Mulching* by SharronP.
<https://www.sgaonline.org.au/choosing-mulch-for-your-garden/>

A comprehensive article looking at why mulch, which mulches, pros and cons of the range of mulches, how to ... and more.

Why You Need to Regulate Worm Bin Temperature

<https://wormfarmguru.com/worm-bin-temperature/>

Another informative blurb with some clever tips.

Pandemic Gardening Survey—support Sustain & Community Gardens Australia in their quest for recognition of CG's and Urban Farms in Australia. At a time when the vulnerabilities of national and global food systems have clearly been revealed and the topic of food security is high on the public and political agenda, **they believe it timely and necessary to make the case for greater recognition.**

Last week they launched a **national Pandemic Gardening survey, seeking to gauge the extent, impact and significance of edible gardening for Australians during COVID19.** You may have already seen this survey on social media and completed it. For those who have not come across it, they would encourage you to take 8 minutes to complete it, and also to share it with your networks and colleagues. [The survey can be found here.](#)

Surf Coast Shire Council needs passionate advocates for disability

Do you know someone with a lived experience of disability who is passionate about making the Surf Coast Shire an accessible and inclusive community where everyone can participate? Council is currently looking for new members for their [All Abilities Advisory Committee](#). The Committee is a group of Surf Coast Shire community members who meet six times per year to provide advice to Council on improving access and inclusion for all. Positions on the committee are voluntary. Expressions of interest should be less than 500 words and received by **Friday 17 July 2020**.

For more information, please go to www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/Community/Access-for-all/All-Abilities-Advisory-Committee or call (03) 5261 0600.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic Minister Dutton has reintroduced a Migration Amendment (Prohibiting Items in Immigration Detention Facilities) Bill 2020, yet another attempt by him to remove mobiles, SIM Cards, computers and other electronic devices capable of being connected to the internet, from those detained in immigration detention.

Rural Australians for Refugees believe this is a cruel and inhumane amendment which will have a catastrophic effect on these people. The Aireys Inlet branch (AIRAR) is asking members and friends to send an URGENT EMAIL to all Senators in your State or Territory, imploring them to ‘Please act on this cruel and inhumane Bill’—the urgency has been created by the announcement late last week that the Senate hearing of the Bill is **this coming Friday 3 July**. AIRAR also will also be sending emails to **our local MPs** asking them to spread the word about the injustices of the Bill.

For information and details about how and where to send your messages contact Cecily Mason cecilmason007@gmail.com. For further information about AIRAR contact the coordinator Mary Bremner on email: aireysinletrar@gmail.com.

Indigenous lives matter



Well-attended Indigenous Lives Matter demonstration in Aireys Inlet, 30 May 2020—all socially distanced of course.

Learn more ...

- The Guardian’s Deaths Inside site and database:
<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/ng-interactive/2018/aug/28/deaths-inside-indigenous-australian-deaths-in-custody>
- Our beloved ABC:
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-06-22/how-to-engage-with-indigenous-content-black-lives-matter/12373408>
- The Koori History Project: <http://www.kooriweb.org/>
- National Indigenous TV & radio: <https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/>
- Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural heritage Aboriginal Corporation:
<https://www.wurundjeri.com.au>

