



Community Garden 3231

Newsletter

June 2020

Dates for your diary

Working bees:

*Saturday 6 June
9.30–11.30am*

*Sunday 21 June
9.30–11.30am*



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President's report

A warm hello to our growing garden community! It seems like such a long time since we have been able to gather freely in the garden to do a few garden jobs and share a cuppa and a story or two. Yet so much has happened!

We held our first Covid-19 working bee on Sunday 17 May in two shifts of 10 people (9:30–11:00am and 11:00–12:30pm). Led by Avril and Gretel, the two-shift system worked brilliantly. So much was achieved in the first shift that new jobs had to be listed on the board! Great work done by all those who came along.

We also ran our first 'Snail Stomp' on Friday 22 May. Advertised on the whiteboard at the garden and on Instagram (communitygarden3231), the event was fully subscribed very quickly. Apologies to those who weren't aware that it was happening; it was designed as a low-key social event—an idea raised by myself and Jenny Bannister during the online workshop 'Pests and how to be rid of them'. We gathered with boots, torches, wine and nibbles to check out the snail population at the garden. It's fair to say we were a little taken aback by the sheer number of snails and whilst we made a dent in the population, we did not cover all of the garden in this one session. Musical accompaniment was provided by Tim Kingston and we had a great time chatting by the fire in between snail hunting. It is likely we will have more Snail Stomps in the future—so keep an eye out for our low-key promotion of these events!

The garden committee has commenced a long-term landscape masterplan project to assist us to improve the garden. We are in the process of finalising the brief that will outline our goals and objectives for the future development of the garden. You will hear more about this in the near future.

A big thankyou to our garden team led by Avril Blay, Gabriel Fuller and Gretel Lamont who have been the backbone of the garden over the lockdown period. They have kept the garden going—planning, preparing and planting community plots. Thanks also to Scott Ashby and Kate Driscoll who quietly do the mowing, mulching and whipper-snipping without fanfare and keep the garden looking great. Then there is the compost team—I'm not sure I know exactly who does what, but they keep collecting material to compost and little fairies magically arrange compost turning. This work is the life-blood of the garden and greatly appreciated. We are always looking for new compost fairies! We have a community of constant gardeners whose work and commitment helps create one of the best community gardens on the Surf Coast.

Keep getting your hands dirty (but make sure you wash them)
Cheers, Liz

Garden team report

Thanks to everyone who came to our recent split-shift working bee. Tasks were tackled with enthusiasm and it was great to see people again (though we did miss morning tea). The garden is looking surprisingly good under the circumstances due to many individual and micro-team efforts over the last few weeks.

The next working bee is on Saturday 6 June. A maximum of 20 people are allowed but distancing and hygiene are still important. We will ask people to sign in and hand-sanitise on entry and we will keep an eye on numbers.

Please clean all tools before and after use with metho spray provided. BYO gloves and tools if possible. There will be pruning, weeding, tidying, bed preparation, compost turning, mulching, sowing, planting, feeding, harvesting or just come to say hello (numbers permitting!). If you can't come on Saturday, please check the whiteboard to see if any jobs need completing. We completely understand if anyone does not feel comfortable joining us at a working bee at present. Please do what you need to do to look after yourselves and obviously do not come if unwell.

Also, there will be no communal morning tea, but please bring along your own morning tea and hot drink, or get a takeaway supporting our excellent local cafes.

Seasonal vegetables currently growing in the garden (most not ready to harvest yet) are shallots, carrots, parsnips, lettuce, bok choy, garlic, broad beans, peas, silverbeet, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, Romanesco, celery and more. Ask someone to show you around if you are new!

Avril



At the working bee: new member Barbara weeding in style



Susan and John tackling the kikuyu in their new plot.

New plot-borders

As the wooden boards around plots gradually rot away, they are being replaced. Four plots so far have been refurbished with boards made from recycled plastic—soft plastic bags deposited at supermarkets are converted into long lasting boards by Replas. The Surf Coast Shire has generously funded these purchases.

Recently Michael, Bruno and John did a brilliant job on Plots 10 and 11. Check out their workmanship—there is no way the structure will collapse.

What do you think about using recycled plastic boards as opposed to recycled wood? Do you prefer brown or grey?



The construction team – John, Bruno and Michael installing the recycled garden plot edging boards.



The whole team!

New members

Welcome to Sue Leavesley, Paul Hermecz and Bridie Boyle. We hope to see you soon in the Garden.

Leaving recyclables at the Garden

The shed has been closed throughout the COVID-19 restrictions. Prior to the restrictions, the shed provided a drop off point for a range of items that were not suitable for our Council recycle (yellow) bins, but could be recycled if dropped off at other locations. A couple of years ago Jo Murray took the initiative, creating containers for garden members to drop off soft plastics, used toothpaste tubes, batteries, corks and other items not suitable for our fortnightly council recycle service. This was part of an educative role the community garden played in encouraging members to support a more sustainable community.

While the shed remains closed, please don't bring any recyclables items to leave at the garden. The committee is reviewing what role we can play in assisting members with specialized recycling after the shed reopens and we will keep you informed.

People also leave things at the garden that they think might be of use. This can result in the garden team having to move on boxes of wet paper, unsuitable cardboard or even larger items left at the garden. The compost team this month is looking for LEAVES from deciduous trees, FINELY SHREDDED paper and of course vegetable scraps to make our compost as good as it can be.



OK, here's a challenge! What IS this? (clue on page 3)