



Community Garden 3231 Newsletter February 2020

Dates for your diary

Working bees:

*Saturday 1 Feb
9am–12 noon*

*Sunday 16 Feb
5–7pm followed by BBQ*

Remember CG3231
events are cancelled on
days of Total Fire Ban



New member Sue with Liz

We are on Instagram
Facebook & W—
Communitygarden3231.

President's report

Happy New Year to all and a very warm welcome to all our new members, and to our first newsletter for the year. Well, 2020 kicked off with a wildly successful 'Art in the Community Garden' event held on Saturday 25 January.

The weather was perfect and the garden was looking good. Gretel and Caroline co-ordinated a wonderful art event in our beautiful summer garden. There were lots of visitors, many coming to the Garden for the first time. Membership numbers are up!

You can't produce fantastic events like this without the contribution of many Garden members and we have such a brilliant, talented and energetic bunch of people involved in, and contributing to, our Garden. Thank you for giving your time, expertise and energy so generously.

In a few months we will celebrate our 10th birthday and if you're keen to get involved in organising or contributing to a celebration/event please contact us via email (communitygarden3231@gmail.com) or speak to any committee member. More details to come!

In the meantime, I hope you are enjoying being in the garden, gathering and using fresh garden produce, and the company of old friends and new members. Catch you in the Garden
Liz

New members

Welcome to all those who have joined CG3231 over the last month:

John, Katie & Elise Pahlow, Sue Diamond, Nicole Maher, Caitlin Bourke, David Beauchamp, Lyn Howden, David, Caitlin and Freya List, Kerry Ferguson, Toni & Chris Fitzpatrick, Lecki Ord. It's great to have you on board, and involved in different aspects of the Garden. We hope to see you at our working bees and other events coming up.

Therese

About the bees ...

The recent bush fires across Australia are having a huge impact on our native flora and fauna. Both our native bees and commercial bees had been severely affected by

the drought, through lack of adequate flowering—and now the bushfires. First the NSW South Coast bushfires have had a massive impact upon bees, then South Australia has reported losing 3,000 hives on Kangaroo Island and in the Adelaide Hills fires before Christmas. Queensland and Victoria too have lost many hives. The Weekly Times last week estimated over 10,000 hives have been lost, but thousands of hectares of land, where bees are reliant for foraging, have also been burnt, leaving surviving bees weak.

Bees have a major role in pollinating our garden plants, and of course in our Community Garden. Illawarra beekeeper, David West, suggests gardeners grow more flowering plants and set up bird baths for bees: 'Generally you have to fill a bowl with pebbles or sponges to make sure the bees don't drown.'

Jo Murray has forwarded a promotion for a documentary film *How to Bee* – 'A story about family, loyalty, kindness and bravery, set against an all-too-possible future where climate change has forever changed the way we live'. There is a one-off screening in Geelong on 12 February 6.30pm at Village Cinemas Geelong.

The promotion also includes a link to a GoFundMe campaign supported by an organisation, Save The Bees (www.beethecure.com.au) who have raised over \$36,000 already and transparently disbursed \$31,000. More money is needed. The campaign is donating to individual beekeepers who have lost hives as a result of the recent bushfires. At their sit you can find out more about the campaign and their projects, and who is involved— you can also make a direct donation there.

Heather

Art in the Community Garden



The weather was just about perfect. The garden was gorgeous and the wonderful variety of art, jewellery and craft pieces from 19 exhibitors was beautifully displayed on the new screens. We live in a very talented community. The judges selected Caroline Lawrey as the recipient of the inaugural Pauline Reeve Encouragement Award in recognition of artistic talent and passion for Community Art.

Beyond the Fence

Repair Cafe Surf Coast and the **Kids' Tinkering Zone** kick off with their first event for 2020 on Sunday 2 February, 10am–2pm at the Anglesea Memorial Hall, McMillan Street Anglesea.

Skilled volunteers will help you repair your broken and worn out items including clothing and textiles, soft and wooden toys, bikes, small mechanical and electrical items, jewellery, furniture, garden tools & more.

Kids (3–15 years), with accompanying adults, can have lots of fun dismantling and reassembling household items, and learning the importance of repairing, repurposing and recycling.

Check out the **ABC report** on small mammal conservation research happening close to Aireys and Anglesea. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-12-04/bushfire-shelters-to-protect-wildlife-during-heat/11749480>

Green Living Festival
Sat 4 April, McMillan St
Anglesea from 10am

BlazeAid—Fencing company helping communities rebuild after natural disasters. Contact Debbie Buttler 0418 990 267

How to Bee—documentary film
12 February 6.30pm at
Village Cinemas Geelong.

Children made wonderful colourful creations from 'rubbish', feathers and found items. We were entertained all day with guitar music, and we ate well with delicious sausages, veggie burgers and zucchini slices. There was a fabulous array of cakes to accompany the hot drinks.

We estimate that about 350 people walked through the Garden and many commented on how fantastic it was—and we gained 5 new members.

Thank you to the many people who helped in so many ways: setting up, putting up posters, baking cakes, making veggie burgers, cooking, mowing, helping create bee-art & much more.

And of course, thanks to Caroline for organising the artists, layout and making it all happen. So, what do you think—should we do it again next year? How can we make it even better?

Gretel



Mark's impressive cinnamon scrolls



Jenny Bannister and buzzing bee hat!



Fabulous creation (from Cinnamonsart)



Jet with his amazing bees & beehive

Garden report

We have just had nearly 40mm of very welcome rain in our little bit of Aireys after a dry few months. The garden has loved it and everything is looking fresh and healthy. Thanks to all our garden waterers who have nursed it through the summer so far. We will need to keep going through February and probably March, so please sign up on the list on the Garden shed noticeboard if you can help. The instructions have been updated and are much clearer but it's great to team up with someone to get to know our improved irrigation systems and share the work. We are happy to run through it at a Working bee or at a time that suits you, just send us an email— communitygarden3231@gmail.com .

Summer harvesting has started and, as usual, the zucchinis are turning to marrows from one day to the next. The potato crop is nearly out, tomatoes are still green but coming along, beans are ready, the carrots have been thinned, sweetcorn is rising, kale needs to be picked, and don't forget the herbs and other leafy greens next time you make a salad.

It is also time to plan the next season and sow some seeds for the next rotation of our communal beds. The main reason for rotating the beds is to minimise the risk of pest and disease build-up but it also helps with maintaining appropriate nutrition levels in the soil. Please let the garden team know what you would like to see in the community beds or if there are any new plants we should try. We like to experiment!

One experiment this year followed a suggestion from Penny Woodward that some varieties of garlic could be planted later and so have a much shorter growing season. We planted two varieties in late August and harvested in early January—with quite good results and decent-sized bulbs.

The next working bee is on Saturday 1 February at 9am. On 16 February we will have a twilight working bee from 5pm–7 pm followed by drinks and a BBQ. More to come on this later, but hope to see you all in the garden!

By the way, if you have a plot with netting, please check that it is in good condition and secure. We have lots of birds in the garden who can get trapped—also they will eat your crop!

Avril



Dave and Scott barbecuing whopper zucchinis amongst other delights.