



Community Garden 3231 Newsletter October 2016

Growing food, friendships
and community.

**Next Working Bees: Saturday 8th October
Sunday 16th October**

Note: re Working Bees for October

It was agreed that due to Footy finals, etc., the first working bee for October would be held on Saturday the 8th, a week later than usual. There will be a Pizza lunch after the working bee. Pizza bases are provided, please BYO pizza toppings and beverages. All welcome. The second working bee will remain as Sunday 16th October. People are not expected to come to every working bee, but we are a better community garden when you can join us.

The following are some photos Gretel took at the last working bee:



Keeping CG3231 in Fraser Drive

By Gretel Lamont

The August 23 Surf Coast Shire Council meeting voted for the recommendation to:

“Authorise the commencement of an EOI process for transfer of the existing Aireys Inlet social housing units and potential development of the site.”

As there was no mention of the Community Garden I followed up with Brendan Walsh (SCS Manager Business Improvement) who had indicated when we met him in March, that there were plans to subdivide 2 Fraser Drive with the garden on a separate title. However, Brendan wrote back:

*“The EOI will seek a range of options, one including the **entire site*** and another including the entire site less the garden.”*

The commitment to keep the garden in its current location seems to have been lost. This is very disappointing to say the least, as clearly there is widespread community support for the garden and will be positive interface between the development and the community. We are talking to Council Officers and Councilors, and trying to get an undertaking to keep the garden where it is. AIDA is supporting the garden.

For me Community Garden 3231 is far more than a place for growing fantastic produce. Let me know what it means to you.

**my emphasis*



What we need for the garden:

By Jo Murray

Inputs for the compost: grass clippings (if you see someone mowing, perhaps you could stop and collect a bag of clippings OR even better, if you know someone who mows lawns regularly, perhaps you could ask if we could have the clippings); shredded paper and wood shavings - these can be left in bags in the shed next to the compost bays. Kitchen scraps can be added straight into Bay 1 and covered with a thin layer of lucerne. If you are cleaning out your wood fires, we would also love the wood ash for feeding the fruiting and flowering plants.

A Year in the Garden

By Rod Tucker

A camera has been installed at the top of a pole near the bottom of the garden. Many thanks to Alistair Duke for his help with setting up this pole. The camera is now busily taking photos like the one here. These will be stitched together into a time-lapse movie of a full year of growth and activity in the garden as well as action movies of working bees. Movies will be posted on the CG3231 website.



Here's an update on what's been happening in the garden by Jo Murray.

In recent months, members have been harvesting plenty of produce from the community beds including cauliflowers, broccoli, cabbages, red russian kale, celery, beetroot, fennel, rocket, lettuce, leeks and spring onions. There has been an unusually late crop of passionfruit which many have enjoyed. Most crops are coming to an end now and we have been busy preparing the beds for the spring and summer sowings and plantings.

The compost has loved the rain and is full of worms. A huge amount has now been spread to nourish the fruit trees and to build up the community beds. The currawongs have been quick to feed on our worms as the compost has been spread.

We have continued to liquid feed the growing crops to keep them moving along through winter.

We saved lots of seeds at the end of summer and these seeds have been put into jars ready for spring and summer sowing.

Rhubarb has been moved to a new permanent bed (Bed S) to which we added plenty of compost for improved soil fertility.

The asparagus had not been doing well in its previous location so it now has a new, permanent home in Bed D where we sowed a green manure crop over winter to nourish the soil. So they are now in a bed of their own where they can freely multiply. Putting in this extra effort should provide us with an annual harvest for 20 years or so. However, we are not harvesting the asparagus this year, instead letting it settle and take the nutrients from its new bed to grow big and strong for future years.

Many of the fruit trees (apples, pomegranate, nectarine, peach, figs) have been pruned and the apricot has already blossomed and is now starting to fruit. Seven new fruit trees were planted along the espalier - pears, apples and plums. The raspberries were pruned and new bramble canes have been planted beside these in Bed L.

Seed sowing: snow and snap peas were sown against the trellises in Bed K during winter and are starting to flower. In mid-September we sowed 3 more varieties in this bed - greenfeast, purple podded dutch and golden podded.

We have also sown lots of seeds in punnets and trays, ready to plant out when the soil warms. We are going to plant a range of different tomatoes in the community beds including tigerella, blue berries, Christmas grapes, beams yellow pear and green grape.

There will also be some pumpkins which you may not have seen before including iron bark, anna swartz, lakota and turk's turban.

Cucumbers and rockmelons have also been sown and are growing in the seed-raising bed, so there will be plenty of seedlings to plant out at future working bees.

Calendula is flowering beautifully around the garden and will help to attract beneficial insects. The flower petals can also be added to salads - give them a try!

See you in the garden.

Feed Your Food

It's important to feed your vegetables to ensure healthy crops. Tino Carnevale recently did a segment on Gardening Australia talking about what to feed various plants. Here's a link to the story

http://mpegmedia.abc.net.au/tv/gardeningaus/prog_streams/feedfood_ep26_2016.mp4

There is also a link on our website.

OUTSIDE THE FENCE

PUMPKIN COMPETITION Anglesea Community Garden

Dear Fellow Gardeners

We are running a Pumpkin Competition, and we would love you - as individuals, and as Community Gardens, to 'play' with us too.

It's more about getting together, than winning I think.
Though a huge or crazy pumpkin would be exciting.

Our Competition Sheet should be completed.

If you would like to join the fun, please let me know. We would like a note of who is joining so that we can remind you NEXT June of the Final Day.

We will NOT send lots of emails. Only one reminding email.

And if you need some Queensland Blue seeds let me know too, and I will get them to you.

Cheers

Wins

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Please tell everyone you know - folks don't have to be a member of a community garden to join in. That's the point.

AND

Geelong Beekeepers Club is very fortunate to welcome ***Dr Shona Blair*** as our very special guest speaker at our meeting on Friday 21 October.

Venue

Belmont Masonic Centre, 25 Regent Street, Belmont.

*Dr Shona Blair is a microbiologist who was awarded her PhD from the University of Sydney (Faculty of Science) in 2004 for her thesis: **The therapeutic potential of honey**, and has been doing research into many aspects of the medicinal properties of honey for over 15 years.*

*Shona will discuss: **Medicinal honey – the sweet solution to a global health emergency?** Refer to attached flyer for further information. Please feel free to share the flyer with anyone you feel may be interested in attending.*

Non-members are charged a modest entry fee of \$5, plus booking fee.

To book your seat, please go to TryBooking: <https://www.trybooking.com/NBPP>