



# Community Garden 3231

## Newsletter

### July 2021

#### **Dates for your diary**

##### **Working bees:**

- **Saturday 3rd July 9am**
- **Sunday 18 July 9am**

##### **Events**

#### **Soup in the Garden**

- **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July**

#### **CG3231 AGM**

- **Saturday 28th August**

#### **New members**

*Bernard Skahill and Jeanette Butler*

*Helen Jennings and Sue Philips*

**We are on Instagram  
Facebook  
communitygarden3231**

#### **A Word from President**

It's nice to be able to pass on some good news! Surf Coast Shire has allocated funds in the 2021/22 budget for Community Garden 3231. We are cracking on with Stage 2 of our Masterplan project.

Stage 2 involves our beloved shed getting a makeover. You may have already noticed that our leaky roof has been replaced with new corrugated iron featuring a section of laserlite. This has made a huge difference bringing much more light into the shed. You may also have noticed that the fig tree adjacent to the shed has gone – thanks to the efficient work of Keith Bremner and his accomplice Pete. It has had to make way for a small additional shed that we will use in the long term to store our chairs out of the weather.

The next step is to empty the shed, fix the floor and line the walls. This will assist to keep out unwanted visitors. We are on the lookout for a second-hand kitchen – mainly benchtop, sink and cupboards to go inside on the western wall of the shed. So if you or a neighbour are planning a kitchen renovation, please let us know if the kitchen is re-useable! (email [president@cg3231.org.au](mailto:president@cg3231.org.au)).

To facilitate all of this activity, we are hiring a shipping container as an interim store for all of our tools and shed things. The container will be sited on the vacant lot – just behind the compost bins, with a new access point to be created.



Amongst all of this building work, Stage 2 also includes some gardening! We want to make our entry area more welcoming and start using the beautiful pedestrian gate for access rather than the vehicle access gates. Now with the fig tree out of the way it's possible to imagine a new entryway. If you're keen to help us plan this please let us know as this is very much a work in progress. (email [president@cg3231.org.au](mailto:president@cg3231.org.au)).

### Catch you in the garden

Liz

I was about to write that there is not much to harvest – but there is. Help yourself to a few lemons from inside or on the verge. The Meyer lemon is amazingly prolific. Also there is a lot of silver beet under the apricot and in bed H. It is wonderful in spanakopita, but carefully check for snails. It may be winter, but the spicy greens in bed O and rocket that is coming along in M make a wonderful salad – add some apple and walnuts and enjoy. Plus herbs are available both inside and outside the fence. And the perennial chilies are also producing well. Before long we'll be harvesting broccoli.

Carefully watch your brassicas for grey aphids – one of my heads of broccoli was heavily infested while the one beside it was clear. A mix of cooking oil and water seems to be doing the trick, but read about parasitic wasp control!

See you in the garden.

Gretel for the garden team



**Kate Bulling has contributed this article:**

### **Parasitic wasps – good for our garden**

Did you know that there are little insects that spend their life preying on other insects? Killing those insects that we call pests. I'm talking about parasitic wasps. There are numerous species of these tiny insects each targeting a different prey. Read on to learn about a couple that we would love to welcome into our garden.

#### **Cabbage white butterfly larval parasites**

*Cotesia glomerata* is a wasp of about 5mm in length that lays its eggs in those hungry green caterpillars of the cabbage white butterfly. Once the eggs have hatched, the wasp larvae emerge from the body of the green caterpillar. Reminiscent of *The Alien* movie! The caterpillar definitely won't live on to become a butterfly. Then the wasp larvae spin yellow cocoons, right there next to their dying host. They pupate and emerge as new adult wasps ready to find a new caterpillar host. That's a 'good bug'!



**Wasp larvae emerging from caterpillar**

### Cabbage aphid parasite

*Diaeretiella rapae* is tiny at 3mm in length. It lays one egg into the body of each cabbage aphid. One wasp can target about 100 aphids. The larva of the wasp eats away the insides of the aphid until it dies and turns into a 'mummy'. This is a hard bronze coloured shell of the original aphid. The wasp continues its life cycle inside the mummy over about two weeks and then emerges as an adult that will look for more aphids as hosts.



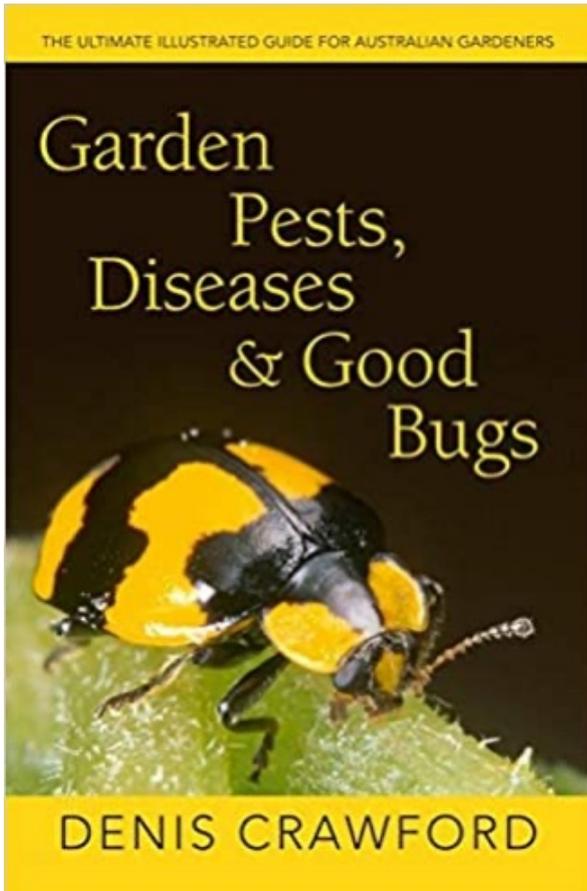
One aphid has turned into a mummy. It is likely that the wasp has injected eggs into the others too and they will endure the same fate.

### What can we do?

This is just a snapshot of the complex ecosystem working away under our noses in the garden. So how do we encourage all these little helpful bugs to make our garden their home? Firstly, don't kill them with insecticides! Maintain a diverse array of plants, so that there is something flowering all year. The wasps for example need nectar or pollen to produce fertile eggs. Leave a few pests in the garden to them to parasitise.

Try methods such as pruning, weed removal, picking off pests by hand etc. but always check first whether you can see something like a mummy or wasp cocoons, some indication of a parasite doing its job.

If so, then maybe leave them.



Much of this information is sourced from Denis Crawford's excellent book 'Garden Pests, Diseases & Good Bugs.

(Although I have person seen those wasp larvae emerging from a cabbage white butterfly caterpillar body!)

## Outside the Garden

Winter has definitely arrived so what better time than to brush up on our winter gardening activities. Hoping that restrictions are eased again but we will still have new rules for gatherings which we have all become accustomed to. It's been wonderful to see the continued work happening in all our CG's, Urban Farms, Food Swaps, Food Carts & garden groups.

Details are:

Date: Sat 17th July 10:00am to 3pm

Location: Norlane Neighbourhood Centre [39a Rose Ave Norlane](#)

Workshops: Grafting & Pruning with Stefan Roth

Fee: Gold coin donation to NNC

Covid sign in for NNC plus sign in for CGA

Tea & Coffee provided, Lunch: please bring a plate to share

The Agenda will include updates on CGA plus results of The Pandemic Gardening Survey & maybe a surprise or two.

We also have new CG's & Urban Farms to welcome to our network. NNC is a great venue with ample parking.

An update will be sent prior to the event.

Keep warm & keep gardening

Cheers

Lorna 0407044870

Vic Rep & VP CGA