



Community Garden 3231

Growing food, friendships & community

November 2020

Restrictions Easing

The State Government has introduced a re-opening Road Map for Metropolitan Melbourne and Regional Victoria. For the community garden and particularly for our working bees this means:



- CG 3231 will return to maximum 20 members for our next working bee starting at 9:30am.
- Access to shed will be via 1 designated 'shed monitor' who will ensure tools are cleaned.
- Gate sign in for contact tracing, numbers management etc
- Usual COVID protocols - masks, gloves, 1.5m distancing etc.
- If you are feeling at all unwell please stay home, get tested.

From the President

Spring has sprung and the garden is looking absolutely magnificent. The Garden Team have done a wonderful job throughout 2020 keeping the garden looking good, without the usual volunteer numbers at working bees. At our last working bee and over the next couple of working bees, the DRAFT Landscape Masterplan will be on display to gather feedback from members. This feedback will be collated and will inform the revision and development of the Final Landscape Masterplan. We have also been exploring the idea of a community orchard. So come along and have a look and contribute your thoughts.



So much has been happening over spring. Our regular mowers (Kate, Jim and Scott) have managed to keep up with grass growth and it makes such a difference, thanks!



The pizza oven has been decommissioned (thanks David, Keith, John and Barry), making way for a more welcoming entry to the garden, as identified in our Landscape Masterplan brief. Soon we will be moving the worm farm and our propagation bed, as we clear some space for a new shed.

If you're keen to be involved with some building type works, please let us know.

We have a few different projects you might be able to help with. I should stress nothing significant is imminent, but there will be some minor works happening to facilitate some future projects. Sounds interesting doesn't it!!

For our Melbourne based members and supporters, who have borne the brunt of the COVID19 pandemic, we can't wait to welcome you back down the coast and especially back to the CG3231. We certainly have missed you!

Our 2nd Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, October 3, 2020 and was attended by 30 members by Zoom. President, Liz Wood welcomed all and acknowledged that we garden and meet on the land of the Easter Maar and Wadawurrung people and that we pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

A new committee was appointed at the meeting and we welcome two new Committee members - Paul Hermecz and John Pahlow. The 2021 committee appointed at the meeting is:

President: Liz Wood , Vice President: Heather McKee , Treasurer: Therese Hutchens and Secretary: Paul Hermecz. General Committee: Keith Bremner, Gretel Lamont , Avril Blay and John Pahlow.

Garden Team co-leader Gay Fuller retired from the committee and Liz, Avril and Gretel all expressed much gratitude and respect on behalf of the community garden for the dedication and expertise Gay has provided over the past four years.

Our Guest Speaker – and community garden member - Marg Lacey delivered a beautiful and engaging presentation on how to attract birds to our gardens with birdbaths. Marg imparted her years of experience highlighting tips and sharing some stunning photos taken during the first wave of the pandemic. Thanks Marg for a most enjoyable presentation.



Singing Honeyeater



New Holland Honeyeater



Currawong

From the Garden Team

Isn't the garden looking wonderful? Recent working bees have been quite intense and a huge amount has been achieved. But I am looking forward to more fun, less body counting and of course morning tea. I'm also looking forward to seeing Melbourne based members. Hopefully soon.

The propagators have done a fantastic job and I thought we had too many tomatoes, but excess have been snapped up by the wider community – Aireys is going to be the tomato centre of the Shire...



Team Tomato



Robby with a Green Zebra for his garden

The community garden tomatoes are planted – I can almost taste them. This summer is definitely going to be better for tomatoes! Also planted are some zucchinis with more varieties to come. The carrot seeds are germinating well and the leeks are looking good. The herb wicking beds are doing well. Also planted are some yam daisies and Midyim.

We have some wonderfully talented new members who have already made a difference pruning the citrus and espalier. Plus more muscles for the compost and skills in building.

At the next working bee we will be harvesting broad beans, cabbage and parsnips, planting corn seeds, beans, beetroot, preparing to move the worm farm. Plus because you love it so much there will be more cardboard and mulch path work.

Gretel for the Garden Team.

COMPOST ETIQUETTE

Please, please, please, chop up your green waste and put it in bay 1 (apart from tough stalks). Broad beans, broccoli leaves etc are easy to chop. The choppers are usually on the bench. It is much easier to chop them when green.

RHUBARB ... the most popular bed in the garden!

The rhubarb bed is under renovation - PLEASE DO NOT PICK yet!

The rhubarb plants had developed multiple heads and the stalks had become very thin. Plants were divided in the winter and replanted in richly rejuvenated soil dug in by Keith (thanks Keith). The plants seem to be responding well, however, stalks are still very short at this stage as the plants are currently developing new roots.

We will pick a few stalks to share at working bees for the next couple of months to help the plants develop strongly again.



How (not) to pick rhubarb

We noticed that one of the rhubarb plants had been `harvested' with a knife (see photo) and so wanted to share some tips about ...

HOW TO PICK RHUBARB correctly!

Pick stalks by hand, easing them gently sideways away from the stem, so that the whole stalk comes away. Pick from the bottom of the plants first.

Angela for the Garden Team

Beyond The Fence

AIDA (Aireys Inlet District Association) Annual Survey

AIDA has requested we promote the AIDA Annual Survey to all community garden members.

The community's opinions help inform the work of AIDA. They are critical for the district to effectively engage with the Surf Coast Shire Council and the State Government on policy issues. With the new Great Ocean Road and Parks Authority taking over its management responsibility of the GOR in December 2020, this is particularly important. This 2020 survey seeks the community's views on a range of important issues: planning, Environmentally sensitive development, Local business, Environmental preservation, Tourism, Recreational opportunities and Future challenges and opportunities.

<https://mailchi.mp/92383ce87184/2020-aireys-inlet-district-community-survey-4533740>

What if

How prepared are you for a bushfire this summer? What is your fire plan?

The Aireys Inlet and District Association has organised an online workshop to be run by the highly experienced Anglesea resident, Jamie Mackenzie, a bushfire incident leadership expert who has worked in the fire incident area for 35 years.

Jamie's 45-minute scenario of a bushfire in the Aireys Inlet area will take the community through what might be expected on a fire day with VicPol, Forest Fire Management Victoria, the Aireys CFA, Parks Victoria, DELWP and Surf Coast Shire outlining their respective roles in such a bushfire situation and their contingency plans for traffic management, road closures and evacuation. There will be ample time for questions after.

The Surf Coast is an area that is threatened by bushfire and being fully prepared is essential for every community member. DON'T MISS THIS!

EVENT: WHAT IF?

WHEN: 7:30pm Thursday 26 November, 2020

FORMAT: Webinar

REGISTRATION: Eventbrite

At: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/what-if-tickets-126752334645>