

# Community Garden 3231 Newsletter

## Growing food, friendships & community

February 2019



### Working bees:

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February and farewell to Terrence and Alex**

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February - twilight working bee 4pm -6pm followed by bbq dinner**

**Waterers are urgently needed - please put your name on the sheet outside the shed.**

**Volunteers are needed to pick up green waste from Little Feast and the Aireys Pub. Please put your name on the roster if you are able to help.**

**Always Needed for Compost: shredded paper; grass clippings; manures; egg shells and kitchen green waste.**

### Coordinator's Comments:



Wow! What an amazing start to the year! Our first twilight working bee was very successful albeit a bit hectic and the BBQ that followed was great fun. Another is planned for February 15 – should we have more?

The wicking beds outside the fence have both been installed – we had intended to install them during a workshop, but for safety reasons that wasn't possible. Have a look at the report below.

We are very fortunate that the Surfcoast Shire supported the concept. Thanks to Anglesea Community Bank for a grant that funded the metal tank. Recycled planks were donated by Timberzoo for the second bed and a donation from Frank Repsys' family covered the other materials we had to purchase. Most of the other materials were recycled and of course our wonderful compost was used. Thanks to the many people who provided labour and the unstoppable Keith without whose trailer we would have been stuck.

The garden has survived a number of very hot days remarkably well – regular watering made easier with the sprinkler systems meant the garden looked fabulous for Art in the Garden.

I think Jane Edmanson from Gardening Australia captures the essence of the garden, "Just sitting there and enjoying it, soaking it all in, is a form of gardening. It can be passive as well as active." \*

\*The Age Green Guide, 24/1/2019

**See you in the garden!**  
**Gretel**

### **Our Christmas Party**

A great Christmas Party was enjoyed by those who attended on Friday 7 December. The weather was kind, the food was excellent (those sausages are wonderful) and gifts with a garden theme were shared.



### **Art in the Garden**

Art in the Garden on Saturday, January 26, was a great success this year. Hundreds of visitors marvelled at the beautiful garden, enjoyed and purchased the art on display, ate all the sausages and veggie burgers, listened to the music, kids produced works of art and everyone was smiling.

There were international tourists including Australian Open visitors as well as locals discovering the garden. There was a lot of interest in the wicking beds and people loved the concept of herbs for the community.



Caroline did a fantastic job organising the artists - all of whom said they enjoyed the atmosphere and want to come again next year. Art and the garden is an excellent partnership.

A special thanks to the nearly 30 members who helped set up, put up (and down) signs, cook, wash up, work with the kids, show people around and more. It was a great team effort.



## Getting to know other community gardeners and share ideas

Members of the Anglesea and Breamlea Community Gardens will be joining us at our next Twilight Working Bee and BBQ Dinner on Friday 15 February.

Last year, some of us visited Breamlea and it was a great morning of meeting new people, learning about their garden and sharing lots of sustainable ideas as well as a sumptuous morning tea! Many of us have also visited Anglesea CG in the past.

This is our opportunity to return some hospitality as we continue to grow food, friendship and community.

## Summer harvesting

It's such a great time in the garden at the moment and the summer harvest is in full swing. Some people have been asking about how we share the produce from the community beds and new members sometimes feel uncertain about how it works (I know I did!), so it might be a good time to mention our harvesting policy.

Here's an extract:

"The community beds demonstrate the what, when, how of fruit and vegetable production. They have been built, filled, prepared, sown, planted and harvested by the members for the members.

The produce from community beds and fruit trees is for sharing amongst all garden members. If someone needs a lemon, they harvest one. If a member is in the garden and feels like an apple for morning tea, s/he picks one. If there are ripe passion fruit on the vine then members can pick one or two for themselves. In fig season, pick one or two for yourself and leave the rest for others who will do the same. Want some stewed rhubarb for your breakfast? Then harvest some stalks and come back a few weeks later to pick more, leaving strong stalks for others in between times.

Those who come to working bees or participate in other garden activities are always welcome to share in the harvest from these community beds."



A link to the full document can be found on the website.

<http://aireyscommunitygarden.weebly.com/in-the-garden.html>

Generally, we harvest popular but limited crops at working bees so produce can be more fairly distributed and also as a reward for putting in the effort! For example the beautiful donut peaches will be ready soon.

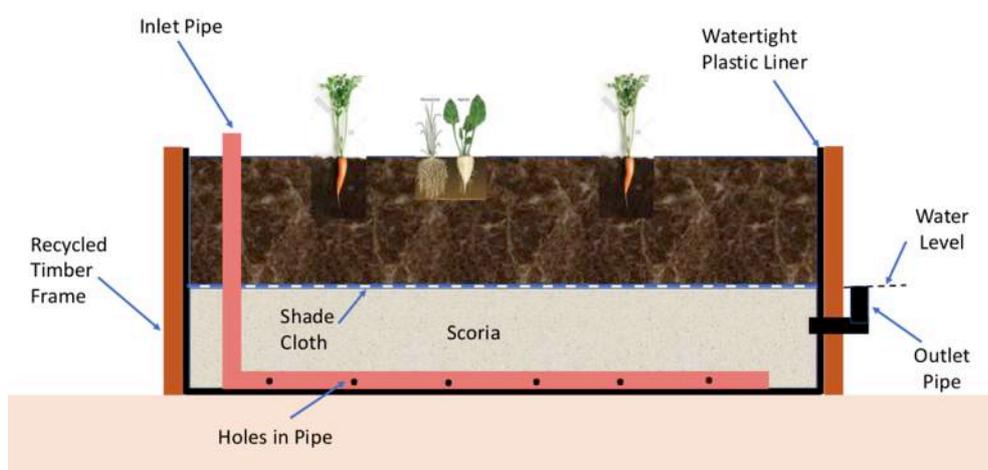
**We also ask that everyone respects that the garden is there for all members and not take more than is reasonable.**

We try to keep the 'Harvest Now' whiteboard on the shed up to date and any surplus will be found in the 'Don't let it go to waste' basket in front of the shed.

If you are unsure about how or what to harvest, ask a garden team member or send an email and someone can take you on a tour. Thanks to all for understanding and enjoying the produce from CG3231.

## Building a Wicking Bed

### Building the wicking bed



#### To build the wicking bed we used:

- Recycled timber boards 200mm wide, 50mm thick
  - Geotextile (geotech) or shade cloth (leftover from a build)
  - Heavy duty food grade plastic liner (purchased new)
  - Scoria (purchased)
  - Plastic piping – 2 pieces joined by right angle bend (build waste)
  - Outlet pipe with flanges (purchased)
  - Compost from our bins and also some leftovers
- Also needed: Drill, saws, trailer, screws, shovels etc



Build 3, 2m x 1m boxes Stack on top of each other on level ground, and screw them onto vertical triangular wooden supports at each corner.



To protect the liner, add layer of waste geotech. Then add the liner – food grade, thick plastic. Take care to fold corners so water cannot escape.

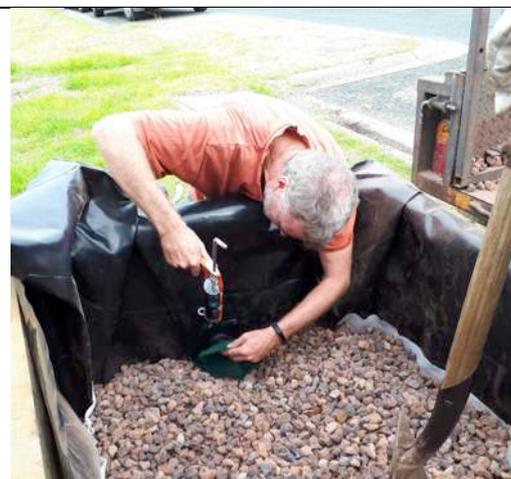


This is the trickiest part – note the number of highly skilled workers.



After the plastic add another layer of geotech to protect plastic from the scoria. Now the inlet water pipes are installed.

(after considerable discussion)



An Install the outlet pipe and carefully seal. Scoria added up to the outlet pipe – 35cm below the top of the box.



Yet another layer of geotech to keep the soil out of the water reservoir then a green bin of our compost was added to leftover commercial compost and the bed was almost ready. Then it was time to fill the bed with water, leave and then .....



Plant some herbs with the help of Frank's grandchildren!

## Sustainability

### Recycling

In the shed, you will find 5 buckets, each for recycling a different item which either cannot go in your yellow bin or which is perhaps better off recycled elsewhere:

- Corks
- Batteries

- Toothpaste tubes and packaging
- Packaging for beauty products including tubes and bottles
- Pens, pencils and markers (recently added)

At the start of the year, I took all the dental and beauty product packaging as well as a stack of old CDs to Live Eco, Shop 1/112 Pakington Street, Geelong West.

Erin collects these items for the community and sends them off for recycling. Let's support businesses such as this which are helping us all to look after the planet for future generations. Live Eco sells "Reusable, recyclable, compostable, and upcycled items to help you live an Eco life"

Thanks for recycling all these products. Keep up the great work everyone!

**RedCycle**  
(<https://www.redcycle.net.au>)



I was asked how to dispose of garden netting used on fruit trees. I didn't know the answer, so I contacted REDcycle who provided the following response:

"Garden netting cannot be REDcycled as it's actually made of a different material to citrus bags and therefore cannot be processed."

Unfortunately this means it's destined for landfill, unless anyone can find another ongoing use for it. Any ideas?

REDcycle also wants larger pieces of plastic cut into A3 size. This can be difficult with compost bags etc, so I asked if it was really necessary and this was their reply:

"With regards to cutting items to A3 size pieces, that is to ensure it can go through the processing machinery properly without getting caught. Larger pieces become entangled and cause extensive damage. Potting mix bags etc should just be able to be cut in half."

***Remember: If you are not sure if an item is recyclable or not, then DON'T. In trying to do the right thing you might contaminate the recyclables by mistake.***

## **Compost**

Over the holidays, we were contacted on our Facebook page, by a visitor to the area who wanted to compost her kitchen waste and was enquiring where she could do this? Of course I invited her to add them to our community garden compost, which she did:

“thanks again for the composting opportunity. We came by today & we're blown away by how wonderful the garden is. We're members at Brunswick West CG so good to visit another CG”.

Next time you're on holiday and need somewhere to put your kitchen scraps, why not see if there is a local community garden. Like us, they'll probably be delighted to hear from you.

Alternatively, check out Sharewaste (<https://sharewaste.com>) to find someone nearby who would love to receive your scraps.

## **"Beyond the Fence"**

### **Repair Café Surf Coast – Sunday 3 February, 10am-2pm, Aireys Inlet Hall**

Bring your broken and worn-out items and our skilled volunteers will help you fix them. Clothing, textiles, toys, furniture, woodwork, electrical, mechanical, jewellery and more.

Facebook: [repaircafesurfcoast](https://www.facebook.com/repaircafesurfcoast)

### **Detox Your Home – Geelong – Saturday 9 February (this is a once-a-year opportunity)**

Toxic household chemicals - such as solvents, poisons, cleaning products, fertilisers and car care products - can be safely disposed, for free, at Sustainability Victoria's annual [Detox Your Home](https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/You-and-your-home/Waste-and-recycling/Detox-your-home) events. The 'Detox your Home' service is for household chemicals only. If you are booking in for this event, why not consider asking other garden members, family and friends if they have anything to dispose of and taking those things as well? <https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/You-and-your-home/Waste-and-recycling/Detox-your-home>

### **National Sustainable Living Festival, 1-28 February, 2019**

<http://www.slf.org.au>

Check their website for a great range of events including the Big Weekend, 8-10 February, Fed Square and Birrarung Mar. All events are free & non-ticketed unless specified.

### **Transitions Film Festival, 21 February – 8 March, Cinema Nova, Melbourne**

<https://www.transitionsfilmfestival.com>

Check their website for the full program including dates and times and to see trailers.

## Wellness and Community Garden

June Marks from Danawa Community Garden in Torquay has been asked to give a short talk at a wellness seminar about women and community gardens. She would like some feedback from CG3231 members about why they are members of a garden, the health benefits, and other thoughts.



Everything will be anonymous and no community garden will be identified in relation to the comments - it will be generalised feedback.

### Wellness and Community Garden questions:

- What has been your experience of being involved in a community garden?
- Have you belonged to more than one over the years?
- What is the appeal of becoming a member?
- What have been the benefits of belonging?
- Do you associate 'health' with growing vegetables/flowers in a community garden?
- If so, what is the association?

Please add any other comments you would like to make in relation to your experience. Please send your responses or questions to June at [danawacommunitygarden@gmail.com](mailto:danawacommunitygarden@gmail.com)

### A forum to gather community ideas

Lorne Community Hospital invites the community of Aireys Inlet surrounds to join us for a chat about the possibility of holding an event in Aireys which celebrates and recognises diversity, inclusiveness and the LGBTI. The forum will be an informal gathering to discuss ideas and suggestions from community. All welcome to attend.

When:

Wednesday 6 February at 5pm

Where:

Aireys Inlet Pub

For more information contact [info.lorne@swarh.vic.gov.au](mailto:info.lorne@swarh.vic.gov.au) or phone 5289 4394