



Community Garden 3231 Newsletter

Growing food, friendships &
community

June 2019

Dates for your diary

Working bees:

Saturday 1 June and Sunday 16 June from 9am

Anglesea Resale shed Saturday 13 July

Incorporation

At the last working bee held on Sunday 19th May, a majority (all) of members voted to incorporate the Garden. The Committee will proceed with the process of incorporation with Consumer Affairs Victoria. While you probably not notice anything new, incorporating the Garden will make some processes easier.

From the Coordinator:

When the world wearies and society ceases to satisfy, there is always the garden.

Minnie Aumonier (I have had trouble finding out about Aumonier).

I think I should go away more often as so much has happened over the last month. The new mulcher is doing a great job making our weeds and dead plants compost ready, the shed has been transformed, a workshop was hosted, garlic planted and much more including the installation of our little library. Cicero got it right "If you have a library and a garden you have everything you need". Thank you to all involved.

Leonie is stepping down as secretary of the garden – she has been a fabulous secretary and her efficiency, proactivity and sense of humour will be missed.

While Janice is taking on the role while we incorporate, we desperately need someone to replace Leonie in the long term. We will also need a vice president once we are incorporated. Think about it – you don't need to be around all the time.

In the mean time, remember that moving compost is a great way to keep fit and warm.

See you in the garden.

Gretel

From the gardening team



Earlier in the month 50 bales of pea-straw were delivered and stacked at the garden (Keith), the new mulcher is in the safe hands of Darryl who has added a safety device on the end of the chute and it is now ready for use. AND.....Janet has tidied the shed. Thanks to all.

The people at the first working bee in May achieved all the jobs listed. Thanks to Janet and John, Marg J, Alison, Avi, Conrad, Deb, Therese, Ellinor, Megan, Angela and Sue Morgan - a young volunteer who brought the average age down considerably.

Composting - the heart of the Garden



Bays 1 - 4 are part of a continuous system set up to help Inputs to cook, aerate and move towards their final destination - the garden beds. The process takes about 6-8 weeks in summer, and about 8 -12 weeks in winter.

Bay 1 is the most important Bay. What goes in to this Bay determines how excellent our compost will be by the time it finishes off in Bay 4.

Bays 2, 3 and 4 **do not** take any new inputs - they are the turned material from Bay 1. If you put more raw inputs into Bays 2-4 the final Bay will have material that hasn't had time to break down

Layers in Bay 1 - Height ratio of Green to Brown is 1: 4. Layers are crucial in allowing oxygen into the Bay

For example:

10 cm Green - food scraps (no meat), lawn/grass clippings, green mulch/weeds etc (NOT oxalis, couch or kikuyu) or a mixture of all
40 cm Brown - sawdust, shredded paper/cardboard/egg cartons, dried autumn leaves, chopped pea straw, coffee grounds, vacuum dust or a mixture of all

After a fortnight Bay 1 will be moved to Bay 2 where it will stay for 2 weeks before being moved to Bay 3 and so on. When Bay 1 is empty it will be filled up again and it must be at least 1m³.

Always needed for our compost: shredded paper; grass clippings; manures; egg shells and kitchen green waste (NB shredded newspaper only and please leave all paper in the shed out of the rain.)

Tidying up the Garden



Once upon a time there was a Good fairy who sprinkled her hard-working fairy dust throughout our garden shed to make everything right. Before you could say "watering cans, spades,

tomato stakes, weed bins, plant signs, miscellaneous tools, gloves, secateurs etc. etc" there they were, all lined up and easy to see. Thank you Good fairy. Maybe you could sprinkle us all with some magical "tidy up" fairy dust. I could use a bit of that!

In May, the Surf Coast Shire hosted an excellent introduction to permaculture and no dig gardens in the Garden. Ben Shaw from Ben Shaw Permaculture <https://benshawpermaculture.com> covered many topics including garden design, composting, companion planting, crop rotation and layering principles for a no dig garden.

Desley's plot was used as a demonstration plot and has been planted out with winter crops, herbs and bee attracting plants. Have a look at Desley's plot (plot no.12) if you need some garden inspiration.

It was a great session for attendees and even Ben learned something new from Gay; planting out garlic soaked in vodka.



Welcome to two new volunteers

Ranita Poudel



Sue Morgan



Beyond the Fence

Garden member Dianne was staying in North Melbourne recently and came across this excellent example of a community garden.

Seven households in Courtney Street maintain the street garden and share the costs of compost, mulch water and seedlings.

Other Courtney Street residents and those passing by are welcome to pick from the garden, in moderation.

Costa would be proud!



From Sarah Bolus, the local food and sustainability officer at the Surfcoast Shire:

Plan & plant your orchard

This free event will be held in the Community Garden on Saturday Saturday, 22 June 2019 from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM. The event is sold out but Sarah has advised all Garden members are welcome to attend. No registration necessary