



Community Garden 3231

Growing food, friendships & community

March 2022

Working bees:

Saturday 5 March from 5pm
To mark the end of summer our Saturday working bee will be a Twilight working bee followed by a BYO-everything BBQ. Bring something to cook on the BBQ and a salad or dessert to share.

Sunday 20 March from 9am

Welcome to New Members:
Anne & Rudi Kruse & family

We are on Instagram and Facebook

communitygarden3231

Check out our new website at:

cg3231.org.au

From the President

As the days shorten and the night's get colder the summer crops are coming to an end. There are still more zucchinis to pick even though we may be almost over zucchini soup, stuffed zucchinis and zucchini cake for another season. Some of us are still waiting for our tomatoes and corn to ripen.

Gay has been on a mission to get on top of the kikuya and create mulched paths between the plots. Following a dedicated weeding session, the first working bee in February did a fantastic job of removing weeds, laying cardboard and spreading mulch. Then with help from the boys from St Bernards Santa Monica camp more weeds were removed.

At the Sunday working bee Kim Neubecker, who spoke at our last AGM and was presented with Life Membership to the garden, shared her thoughts and practical ideas for planting vegetables in February. Planting in February enable plants to grow before the



Jess crossing off jobs at the last working bee

soil starts to cool too much and winter is in full swing. The Garden Team report covers Kim's educative session from last month's working bee and some photos.

Before the nights get too cool to enjoy outdoor eating, our next working bee on the 5th of March will be a Twilight working bee commencing at 5pm, followed by a BYO BBQ around 6-6.30pm depending how many of us there are and how quickly we can get the jobs done.

Many of you will be aware that The Surf Coast Shire has been considering potential opportunities for social housing within the Shire and 2 Fraser Drive has been one of the sites under consideration. A report was presented at their January meeting and council officers will now meet with the committee to outline the council decision and discuss the next steps. The report confirms the community garden and the existing social housing will remain and any new housing to be considered on the vacant parts of the site.

Further details of the decision are included in this newsletter.

See you in the Garden

Heather (Liz is on holidays)



The newly painted kitchen floor.



Left to right: Conrad spreading the mulch. More mulch for the paths and the St Bernard's boys help out with garden maintenance

Community Garden 3231 is here to stay.

There has been discussion at working bees over many months regarding the Surf Coast Shire's consideration of the vacant land at 2 Fraser Drive.

Some years ago, the council went through a process of reviewing the site for social housing and invited Expressions of Interest (EOI) from community organisations that build and manage housing. The council received no response to the EOI at that time as the project was not financially viable without capital funding from government.

Early last year, the State Government announced the **Big Housing Build**, a social and affordable housing building program to deliver thousands of homes with 25% guaranteed for regional Victoria. Local governments that identify opportunities, such as on underutilised council land, are encouraged to work with community housing providers to develop partnership proposals.



In late January the council received a report from officers (Affordable Housing Action Plan) and one of the resolutions was that Council

“Agrees to explore a land use arrangement at 2 Fraser Drive, Aireys Inlet that would facilitate the development of social and affordable housing”.

The report detailed a proposed approach to explore opportunities for 2 Fraser Drive, Aireys Inlet and noted the intention to leave the existing social housing and community garden in place.

For our Community Garden this is both exciting and challenging. Exciting that the Community Garden can be part of a project that will see much needed housing for those in desperate need of safe and secure housing, but also challenging. It will mean that the community garden becomes part of a much bigger deliberation as council staff consider the interface of the garden with the broader site. It also means that our request for capital funding to progress the Landscape Masterplan, deferred last year, will become part of their deliberation. While reviewing the masterplan, other ideas not currently included could be considered. This doesn't stop us from progressing projects already underway. New wicking beds and the development of a more functional social space outside our wonderful re-conditioned 'shed' will still proceed with funding that we will continue to seek.

We have been advised that the next steps regarding the social and affordable housing opportunity at 2 Fraser Drive are to engage with community so expect more information and discussion in the coming months. Council staff are also seeking a meeting with the committee to discuss the next steps and likely timelines in the near

future, so please be assured that the committee will seek to represent the Community Garden's interests.

From the Garden Team

Instead of doing a Marie Kondo on my plot, I've just done a Kim Neubecker. At Sunday's workshop, Kim encouraged us to pull out the plants that we are no longer loving – the tomatoes* that look a mess with no new fruit coming, as well as the zucchinis and cucumbers that we really have had enough of.

It may be hard to think about winter crops in February, but Kim reminded us, that now is the time to plant broccoli, chard, coriander, lettuces and more, ready for winter harvesting. Planting now will build up sugars in the plants by acting as 'antifreeze' in cold weather. Kim suggested red tinged plants that do better in lower sunlight. The main problem will be keeping the cabbage butterfly caterpillars under control.

Thank you, Kim, for an inspiring workshop – please come back again soon!

Thank you also to the 28 year 9 boys from St Bernard's College who are currently at their Santa Monica camp. They, and their teachers, were terrific and worked hard pulling kikuyu along the boundaries and bed J. They embraced the competition for the longest piece of kikuyu and there were lots of questions about the garden and what we grow. Despite the aroma, few complaints as they emptied the compost from bays 3 and 4 onto the bed Kim used and then transferred the contents of 2 to 3 and 1 to 2. They also harvested and shared ground cherries and grapes. We hope to see the next group soon.

In the meantime, keep cooking those zucchinis, and remember to harvest grapes, tomatoes, beans, herbs and zucchinis. But please leave other produce to share at working bees.

*Hang the plant with remaining tomatoes and wait for them to ripen.

Gretel, on behalf of the Gardening Team



Kim planting out the plot with winter vegetables and herbs. Barbara, the Potato Queen

What's growing in the garden?

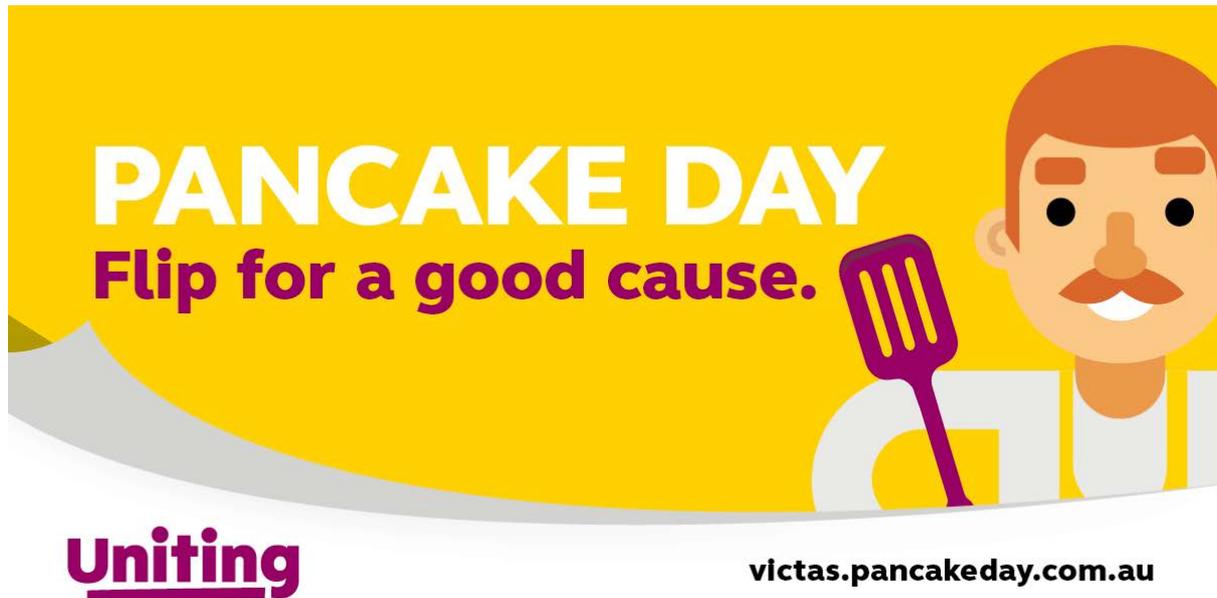


Left to right: Spaghetti Squash and new ways of netting fruit trees in the Garden



Left to right: The February harvest, Harley checking out the ripe grapes and Mario's beans.

Beyond the Fence: Pancake Day this Tuesday



Come along for a delicious pancake or two, on Tuesday the 1st of March at the Aireys Inlet Community Hall from 1.00pm to 4.00pm (notice later starting time)

Gluten-free options available on request. Tea and coffee available.

All proceeds to Uniting Barwon to support social welfare programs in our community.