



Community Garden 3231

Growing food, friendships & community

August 2022

Working bees:

Saturday 6 August from 9.30am

Sunday 21 August from 9.30am

Annual General Meeting -
Wednesday 7 September at 7pm

10 Year++ Celebration -
Sunday 27 November at 3pm

***We are on Instagram and
Facebook***

communitygarden3231

Check out our new website at:

cg3231.org.au

Aireys Inlet Community Garden respectfully acknowledges the traditional owners of the land where we live and garden, the Wadawurrung and Eastern Marr. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

From the (Vice) President



We have had a number of very cold mornings this past month and plenty of rain. The working bees have been quieter with some garden members on the move, following warmer weather and the opportunity to travel again. The wattle is in full bloom. Gay provides a picture of July in the Garden.

Our AGM is coming up on Wednesday 7 September. The AGM will again be held by ZOOM, allowing members to join wherever they may be. Dr Mark Garkaklis will be our guest speaker. Mark is an Ecologist and a garden member. A key area of Mark's research has been the management of *Phytophthora* dieback in the Otway Ranges, a critical issue for the unique vegetation of the Otways. He will present on this topic which should be of interest to many garden members.

The AGM is an opportunity for garden members to become more involved in the management of our organisation. While the important work of planning working bees, coming along to working bees and being part of the maintenance team is more visible, there are other roles that keep our community garden ticking over and we are again looking for new people to contribute. The committee of management would welcome a conversation with anyone who is interested to consider joining the committee. Someone to help with the monthly newsletter and someone to organise social events are also two roles that we are looking to fill.

After several dates set and then postponed due to the pandemic, we have set a date to celebrate the Garden's 10 year milestone, reached in May 2020. Save Sunday afternoon 27 November in your diaries for a celebratory end of year party. More details will be shared as we plan for this event.

Looking forward to seeing you in the garden

Heather

From the Garden Team

July in the Garden:

Winter season - time for cleaning-up, pruning, preparing and repairing beds and planting.

A big Hello to members new and long-standing. Thanks for being part of our Garden. It's great to share working bees, morning tea, (rain, hail or shine), and the knowledge you bring to our community.

Step through the Garden gate on Isla Stamp Ct and you'll see four flourishing passionfruit vines on the left; four wooden compost bays on the right; two small storage sheds in front of you and the recently renovated kitchen/admin room behind the passionfruit vines. This whole area is the heart of the garden.

As you walk down the grassed path you'll notice circular community beds on the right in which the winter veggies - broccoli, cabbage, onions, and garlic, are at various stages of growth. The strawberries in Bed C have been thinned, and more leafy greens sown in B3 along the Eastern boundary. You'll also notice and probably smell the seaweed mulch we have placed on the asparagus bed. We're hoping to fatten up those asparagus stalks.

You'll also notice that the espaliered and pruned fruit trees along the N boundary are much more obvious now that the fence behind them has been replaced and the weeds removed. Take a close look at how they are pruned to make sure the fruit-

bearing branches get all the light and nourishment they need and that they are within picking height.

Keep walking through the arbour. The bushy plant on the left is a Pepino, which bears a small melon-shaped fruit (apple/melon flavour); and it looks like the peas are thriving there as well. Bed M to the right usually contains something ready to pick be it leafy greens, rainbow chard, beetroot etc.

Turn left at the Fig tree and you'll find the herb beds NOP. These precious beds will be renovated soon with new corrugated surrounds and fresh soil, compost and mulch. Bed L along Fraser Drive is our go-to garden bed where we plant exotic food such as Jerusalem Artichokes, Kumera (sweet potato), Ground Cherries (Inca Berries), Raspberries, Currants and anything else that needs a home. At the Northern end is the Fig which has been immaculately pruned to bring it down to a manageable height and at the top Southern end are the Bay tree, Makrut Lime and Elderberry. The latter has been cut back strongly and some thicker older branches taken out with a view to having more flowers and berries lower to the ground - this is a work in progress.

Recently we have planted two Plum and two Pear trees in Bed L. Our espalier team has prepared these trees by pruning and tying branches so the Spring growth will be in the shape of a fan for the plums and a horizontal shape for the pears. This training and shaping will take time over the next few seasons.

Bed K near the taps at Bed J is planted with carrots, parsnip, garlic and fennel, and you'll notice that the large shrubs behind the fence near Bed J have had a well-deserved cut-back - thanks to two very determined members at the last working bee.

We need to create a path along the J fence-line and all the way around and down the Fraser St fence, always trying to keep the kikuyu at bay as best we can with mulching and smothering. It's an ongoing process that helps our physical fitness and flexibility, AND it drives us nuts.

This little tour lands us back to the entertainment area outside the kitchen, where our magnificent grape vine is in the process of being pruned by Barbara and David – should be finished soon, weather permitting.

Thanks to the folk who are tirelessly applying for small grants, witness our new array of raised beds - some wicking and others not.

New members and not so new are most welcome to join us at our working bees on the first Saturday or the third Sunday (9.30 am Winter) of each month. You don't need to come to every working bee, but the company is great and the morning tea is often to die for.

See you in the garden. Oh I forgot to mention - there's a worm farm down near the Fig tree along the fence. The wormies need feeding - vegetables, vacuum dust, anything degradable but not meat or dairy. There's also the propagation table beside the worm farm - it's where Debra and anyone can put their seedlings to

toughen them up before planting out. It's almost time to get those tomato seeds started. Another year gone by so fast!!!

Cheers,
Gabriel (on behalf of the Garden Team).

And from the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority:
'Thank you for contacting The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority regarding collection of seaweed. Shore cast seaweed (not attached to rocks) can be collected for personal use only. Collection must occur by hand with a maximum of 20kg per person per day. Use of trailers and collection from Marine Sanctuaries at Pt. Danger and Aireys Inlet are not permitted.'

What's growing in the garden?



Produce from new wicking beds and Angela's spectacular radicchio



produce from a recent working bee and Angela at the compost

What's new in the Garden



Barry, Peter and Dave smile at their handiwork. With excellent timber they have just completed the edging of three members' plots. A big thank you on behalf of the plot holders. One of the new raised wicking beds available to plot holders seeking a raised plot is already flourishing with a range of greens.

Beyond the Fence

The father of one of our garden members is finding the maintenance of his much loved garden a bit too much these days. Min has asked that this request be included in the newsletter, hoping that a garden member might be interested. Brian will discuss arrangements with anyone who is interested.

Gardener wanted for one or two hours a week at a house block in Aireys Inlet. Mostly needed for hand weeding around established plants and light pruning. No mowing or whipper snipping required. Days/times are flexible.

Brian (Mob:0418 384 114)