



NEWSLETTER No.8 December 2010

Community Garden 3231

Aireys Inlet, Fairhaven, Moggs Creek, Eastern View



Reflecting on our First Year

by Terrence Hoffmann

pictures by Trudy White

Our first year of operation has been one to remember. We started the year with some money from grants but no members, and a two year lease on an empty paddock. We now have a functioning community garden that is feeding at least some members and their families. Here are some of the details of the year:

There are currently 70 garden members.

The Committee decided to advertise a Family membership for next year. It will cost \$60. Individual membership remains at \$30.

Participation in the garden varies. 20% of members are high to very high participants. They attend most working bees and garden several times a month or more. These are the workers who have mostly built the garden.

Nearly 26% are moderate participants. They do visit the garden, but infrequently and have participated in a working bee.

14.3% are low participants visiting the garden only once or twice.

40% of current members do not visit the garden at all, yet will be made very welcome should they come. Some of these members have joined because they want to support the garden to get established and their donation has been in the form of a membership.



Reflecting on our First Year

by Terrence Hoffmann (Continued)

63% of members are residents
and 37% are weekenders.



Safety training was delivered to most members who use the garden. Refresher courses will run in the new year. Please read the safety booklet if you have not yet done so.

Training in how to make a no-dig garden and in compost making were delivered to members. More practical courses are planned in the new year.

The Members Agreement provided a form of instruction outlining requirements of members while at the garden. Most members have now signed the form and returned them to Terrence.

Eight newsletters were produced over the year recording the events and the rapid development of the garden. The newsletters were regarded by the committee as an important point of communication for members.

Financially we raised \$8,710 this year. Donors were the Surf Coast Shire (\$3,500), Anglesea & District Community House (\$1,000), Anglesea Community Bank (\$1,000), AIDA (\$500) and Seaside Seconds (\$250). Membership fees and donations were \$2,460. Thank you all.

We have spent nearly \$7,000 erecting the fence, cutting into the site, building paths, buying materials for garden beds, taps, hoses, seeds and many other things.

A key factor in curbing expenditure has been the use of re-cycled materials. Big thanks to John Hamilton of JBH Demolition.

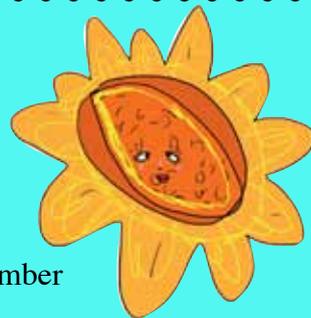
The biggest cost cutter though has been the army of workers volunteering to help. Thank you one and all. We will need to continue to gather our own manure, collect our own hay and build our own garden. If you want to help come to one of the working bees and learn more.

We still have a one year lease on the property so there is a need to think about the medium term and what may be next. We have assurances that the lease will be extended for another year, but after that, we don't know. If you think the garden needs to continue, you can join in with the discussion. Just come to the garden and talk to someone. It is a great place to be when you need to meet new friends.



Working Bee

Saturday 11 December
9.30 am – 3 pm
BYO Lunch and drinks.
There will be a BBQ available.





Bugs Time in the Community Garden

By Kim Neubecker

Alex and I did a walk around inspection today and found that quite a few plots needed attention in various ways. I have summarised the most important things here. Have a read and see if they are applicable to you.

The ongoing rainy weather has meant lots of plant growth but the proliferation of slugs. Unfortunately mulch is the ideal breeding ground but it is so beneficial that we have to work with it. As mentioned before Multiguard is a readily available snail bait that is harmless to birds and animals and breaks down safely in the soil. Its chief ingredients are bran and iron. It is available at hardware stores. It is also possible to sit down by your plot and turn over the mulch with your hands. You will discover lots of slugs that can be drowned in a bucket of salt water or plain water with a few drops of detergent. This will reduce numbers drastically and also help keep them out of your neighbour's plot.

The other emerging insect nuisance is the cabbage moth. These bugs lay tiny yellow eggs on the underside of leaves, which hatch into green caterpillars that will then systematically strip all the plants leaves. These insects are endemic to the brassica family. This means that if you are growing broccoli, cabbages, cauliflower, brussell sprouts, mustard greens, chinese greens such as bok choy, radishes or rocket, look out. Pick off the grubs as you find them and throw them on the ground for the birds or net your plot. Cabbage moths die after the first few cold nights so another way to manage these pests is to only plant these vegetables after summer is over.

Some people have lovely potatoes ready to pick so check under the mulch. It has been so wet that it might be wiser to harvest some rather than wait for the foliage to die off. If it is very windy or we have a few sunny days, don't forget to water your plot.

If you ever have any queries please feel free to email me at kneubecker@inet.net.au





COMMUNITY GARDEN 3231 FUNDRAISER

Saturday 29th January 2011
9.00 to 3.00pm

At our Community Garden: 2 Fraser Dr, Aireys Inlet
The Fundraiser will raise money for completion of our shed, purchase of tools, and to fund our planned sculptured gates.

There will be a Recycled and Household Treasures Stall, a Sausage Sizzle and a food & drinks stall.

PLEASE START COLLECTING NOW

We can sell books, plants, produce, clothes in good condition only, treasures and household items.

We also need people to

- make muffins, cakes or biscuits to sell
- set up and staff the stalls on the day
- cook the sausage sizzle
- sell drinks



If you can help in any way
at all contact Tania on
5289 6526 or email Terrence at thof4@bigpond.com



Aireys Inlet Community Christmas Carols 2010

All community gardeners are cordially invited to be part of this relaxed and family-friendly event to be held at the Allen Noble Reserve at 7.30pm on Friday December the 10th. Put this in your diary now to avoid clashes with all of the other Christmas functions.



What are you planning for your vegie patch? Write in and send photos to trudyw@westnet.com.au if you would like your vegie patch to be shown in an upcoming newsletter.