



NEWSLETTER No.9 February 2011

# Community Garden 3231

Aireys Inlet, Fairhaven, Moggs Creek, Eastern View



## Hello and Happy 2011!

This year the newsletter will be published bi-monthly by email as a PDF, and a printed copy will be posted up beside the doorway of Aireys Inlet Post Office.

Newsletter words written and edited by Terrence Hoffmann, Community Garden 3231 Editor and Memberships Officer.

Gardening Team Report by Kim Neubecker and Alex Leknius from the Gardening Team.

Design, photographs and drawings © Trudy White.

To find out more about Community Garden 3231, please email Terrence at [thof4@bigpond.com](mailto:thof4@bigpond.com) or telephone him on 0438533346



## Garden Fund Raiser

The Trash & Treasure and Sausage Sizzle held on 29th January raised just over \$1,400. Organised by Tania and Graham Teague along with Susan Reilly, a team of volunteers collected, priced, displayed and sold the goods. We attracted a good crowd of people and six new members.

There is money now available to build the entry gates designed by local artist, Bill Jackman as well as buy materials to construct the verandah on the shed. Thanks to all who donated goods, and especially to these members who gave their time and energy to making this event such a success:

Tania and Graham Teague, Susan Reilly, Keith and Mary Bremner, Jane Honman, Megan Stoyles, Barbara and Dennis Leavesley, Kim Neubecker, Alex Leknius, Alastair and Unice Duke, Bill Higginson and Annie Barwise, Anne Marie Power, Jim and Nancy Whan, Gretel Lamont, Trudy White and Terrence Hoffmann.

Above is a picture of the design for the Community Garden 3231 metal gates by Bill Jackman. Look out for the real thing at the garden soon!











## What is the Membership Agreement for?

When you joined the community garden you were given a membership agreement to sign. Hopefully you read the agreement before putting your signature to it.

The agreement had many parts to it, but is essentially a set of rules that all members agree to follow. You were asked to sign the agreement to ensure that you understood the rules and to ensure that you believed the rules were fair to all members. Some rules are just common sense based on what is normal behaviour in the wider community. Not making noise to annoy the neighbours, or not using abusive language are just rules about being polite. Other rules concern the use of individual plots and their maintenance. For individual plot holders I would recommend that they consult this section of the agreement to ensure that they are managing their plot appropriately. Membership renewal is coming up on 30 June and there is already a waiting list for plots.



The maintenance of common areas is another key element of the agreement, for it is on this, that the continued survival of the garden depends. In our first year the garden had to be created from a bare paddock into a productive food-growing site. This involved the construction of paths, garden beds, a shed, a retaining wall, compost bins, manure and paper bins, drainage and fencing. A series of working bees contributed to these achievements and also planted the area outside the fence with indigenous plants and mulched the area, filled the garden beds creating no-dig gardens, planted, watered, weeded and nourished the garden to ensure that it was productive.



Many members attended these working bees or joined with the Building or the Gardening Team to give their labour to these tasks. Not everyone contributed their physical labour, but did give their time and energy according to their capacity, to making the garden grow. The membership agreement states that members should participate in at least one working bee per year and give one hour a month to the care, maintenance and development of the garden. If you have not yet found the time to do so, now is a good time to come to a working bee or to simply contribute some work to the garden. There remains a lot to do and the weeds and watering needs never go away.

If you want to take food from the community plots and share the garden as a member, you are required to contribute as stated in the agreement. Please come and join us for you may well find that there are some people there who will become new friends. There is a great social life as well as a gardening life in membership. If you have yet to discover this side of membership, do so soon.







## Thank You

Thank you very much to all of these wonderful people who have each helped the garden this year:

Sue Rowe at the post Office for displaying the Garden Newsletter and making a notice board available for use by the garden.

Angela Berry for obtaining sheep manure and straw and to her sheep manure and straw supplier, Gerry Briody of G & V Rural Pty Ltd, Bellbrae.

Nancy and Jim Whan for donating bales of pea straw for use in the community garden beds.

Adrian and Renee for lending us their wheelbarrow.

Yvonne who allows the use of a power line from her unit to power the urn at our social functions and the power equipment to the building team.

Without the assistance from these benefactors, the garden would need to find more funds, so thank you all for your gracious and generous help.

Terrence



## Garden Shed



We now have a garden shed with a wheelbarrow and tools inside it for use in the garden. Please refer to the recent email bulletin about unlocking the garden shed for details of how to find the key!





## Gardening Team Plans

by Kim Neubecker  
& Alex Leknius

### Making more community beds

It has been wonderful to look around the garden and see how much progress has been made in just 3 seasons. As the garden develops, so to does the committees understanding of how it should operate. How many community plots are needed? Should we only have private plots? What is the best fit for our community? It is early days yet and we are still working out what we might do. At the moment we have two types of plots, community and private. We hope to expand the amount of community beds we have this year so that we can grow more produce as a community.

### Watering

This summer has seen us watering the whole garden on a roster basis. This is also too large a task to continue indefinitely. We have decided to restrict the watering roster to the community sections of the garden only. This will commence at the end of summer. This means that unless you have communicated otherwise, from March the first, private plot holders will be responsible for the watering of their own plots. Until then though we are looking for volunteers.



### Workshops

We hope to have a garlic growing workshop in Autumn which we will advertise in the newsletter. If you are keen to grow garlic over winter keep your eye out for the date. There will also be more training workshops at the garden covering topics that we have already covered, but that some members (particularly newer members) may have missed. Topics include making a no-dig garden, making good compost, watering plants properly and mulching. If you have something that you would like to learn more about related to gardening, email me at [kneubecker@iinet.net.au](mailto:kneubecker@iinet.net.au)

### Sowing the next crops

It is also time to sow winter crops allowing plants to establish themselves over the warm months, to be harvested over the cold, short days of winter. If you can manage the cabbage moths, then plant broccoli and its relatives, also salad greens, beetroot, carrots, silver beet and peas to name a few.

### Manure and straw

Plots will need top dressing with manure before planting. Private plot holders have had manure and straw provided so far. Now that their plots are established, they must obtain their own manure, straw and topsoil to replenish their plots. We will be getting in a supply of manure and straw that will be available on-site to purchase at cost, otherwise bring your own. Vegetables are very greedy plants and need a constant supply of food and water.

### Netting

While watering this morning, I noticed that parrots are now sitting in the trees inspecting the crops. It will only be a matter of time before they begin to eat tomatoes. If you have tomatoes growing and they are not netted now is the time to do so.







Little Bird



Did a little bird tell you a gardening story? Little Bird is a new regular column for the Community Garden 3231 Newsletter.

What are you growing in your garden bed or home vegie patch?

Have you walked through the Community Garden and noticed any changes?

If you have a small story to tell about the garden, please email Little Bird at [trudyw@westnet.com.au](mailto:trudyw@westnet.com.au) and we will put your words into print. We are also looking for people who might like to be interviewed about their garden bed, walk through the garden or home vegie patch. Please contact Trudy on or Terrence to arrange a cup of tea and a chat with Little Bird.

### What Sue Reilly Learned

‘After weeks of gathering things from friends and family, and sorting through my own clothes and bits and pieces to get items to sell at the trash and treasure, I arrived on the day to discover my favourite nightie and top hanging up and priced for sale. How did they get there? I quickly pulled them down and stuffed them in a bag to put in the car. I must remember that next time, I make sure to check the items before I give them away.’

### What Graham Teague Learned

Graham was helping put out the book display when an early customer picked out some books to buy and showed them to Graham to pay. With a shocked look on his face Graham grabbed one of the books and said, ‘Hey, that’s mine, it’s not meant to be for sale.’ He slid a grim look in wife Tania’s direction before taking his rescued prize to the car for safekeeping. Lesson: be sure to check what your partner has selected of yours to donate to the trash and treasure!’

