



Gathering of SA Community Gardeners and Friends

Duck Flat Community Garden in Mount Barker will host the next Gathering of the SA Community Gardening Network.

It's happening on Saturday October the 29th from 11am.

Anyone involved with a community garden, thinking of starting one, or just curious about all the things happening at Duck Flat is warmly invited to come along. Please let your gardening friends know.

There will be a relaxed walk around the garden to view its many recent developments, a working demonstration of energized water, and Duck Flat gardeners will share some of the secrets to developing successful community arts projects.

There will also an opportunity to find out about the National Community Gardening Conference happening in Adelaide next year (make sure you have March 6 - 9 2006 in your diary!), to hear news and updates from other community garden projects, and to make plans for future local community gardeners' get togethers.

If you have photo albums, flyers, or other display materials from your garden, please bring these along.

We'll have a shared lunch at about 1pm. Please bring some food to share. Duck Flat will supply coffee and herbal tea for all.

As it happens, the Waldorf School around the corner (which has wonderful vegie gardens!) is having its Spring Fair on the same day, so you might like to plan a whole day in the hills.

Duck Flat Community Garden is located at the rear of Mount Barker DSM Hospital, Wellington Rd Mt Barker.

A free mini bus will be leaving the city at 10am, returning at around 3:30 via the Waldorf Fair. If you'd like to book a seat, contact Julie Coulls at Kurruru Pingyarendi Community Garden on 8342 8600 or at Julie.Coulls@health.sa.gov.au

For any further information about the Gathering, contact Tess on 8393 1727 or at minett.tess@saugov.sa.gov.au

National Gatherings of Community Gardeners

The second annual Australian City Farms and Community Gardens Network national Gathering took place at Coolumb on the Sunshine Coast in July.

The interest generated was huge. A larger venue was chosen in anticipation of increased interest in this year's Gathering, but even its capacity was reached a fortnight before the event, with many people turned away. Community gardeners from Western Australia, Victoria, Tasmania, New South Wales, Queensland and four South Australians took part.

The weekend included a wide range of talks and workshops, inspiring new ideas and enthusiasm in novice and veteran gardeners alike. The gathering also made significant progress in developing and formalising national community garden networks, with a 12 month action plan including a major national survey, was endorsed by all present.

Proceedings have been prepared. If you would like a pdf copy, please email [claire at spiral@senet.com.au](mailto:claire@spiral@senet.com.au).

Next year's National Community Gardens and City Farms National Conference is being held in Adelaide from Monday 6th March to Thursday 9th March 2006. It will be preceded by a gardens in schools seminar. Information will be available at the Australian City Farms and Community Gardens Network website www.communitygarden.org.au in the next few months, or you can register your interest by emailing the organisers at ceres.sa@gmail.com

Aldinga Community Garden Open Day & invitation for more gardeners

Aldinga Community Garden has many productive, compost rich garden beds waiting for people to plant and harvest. Parsley and rhubarb and spring greens are available right now and there is as

much space as you could want to plant your spring and summer crops. The garden has been lovingly built up by four 'retired' people who are now ready to truly retire.

The Community Garden is having an open day on Sunday 16th October to advertise the opportunity it offers. They'd really like some new gardeners right now. Full training given from green thumbs. Tonnes of rich organic loam await your seedlings.

Now we have a really good dried food co-op, let's get into some fresh food too. Regular garden times are Tuesdays and weekends. Other times by arrangement. Please contact Asha Forrest on 855 66 367, or Ian Lilington on 8556 4270.

Fern Avenue Community Garden Open Day

Sunday November 13th, 10am - 4pm. Plant sales, art display, morning and afternoon teas, free workshops on compost making, natural skin care, green cleaning products, wheatgrass, and more. 18 - 20 Fern Avenue Fullarton. For more information phone 8397 8941

Backyard Permaculture Course

An introduction to permaculture principles and permaculture design course is happening in Littlehampton and local community gardens. The course runs over 8 Saturdays from 10am - 2pm starting 1st October 2005. Cost \$250. Contact Devashoan on 8391 2095 or at devashoan@hotmail.com

Organic Gardening Evening Course

Taught by David Corkill at Fern Avenue Community Garden commencing Monday 10th October 2005. Nine weekly sessions from 6 - 8:30pm. Includes theory and practical work. Topics covered include soil, water, botany, compost, mulching, propagation, companion planting, weed and pest control. \$60 waged/ \$30 unwaged. For more information phone 8397 8941

Resource Kit Booklet available on website

The Community Gardening in SA Resource Kit can now be downloaded as a pdf booklet from the Kit website: www.canh.asn.au/community_gardening. The booklet includes updated information and contacts. If you would like to put a link to the Kit on your website that would be great!

Keeping in Touch

If you would like to be more closely in touch with other community gardens around SA and the country, there are two email discussion lists you might like to join. One is a South Australian yahoo group, where you can share news, announce events, and draw on the collective knowledge of list members to solve problems. The other is the Australian City Farms and Community Gardens Network discussion group, which includes news and events from around the country. If you'd like to subscribe to either of these, email claire at spiral@senet.com.au.

Registry of Interest in new local community gardens

A listing of people who are interested in starting or being involved a community garden is being compiled. The list will assist people to make contact with others in their neighbourhood, and hopefully lead to even more gardens flourishing around SA. It will be launched at the Go Organic Festival on September 24th. If you know of anyone who is thinking about starting a community garden, or who would love to see one established near them, please ask them to contact Janet Fensom at Fern Avenue Community Garden on 8379 8941. Perhaps their collaborators are closer than they think!



Australian School Gardens Network

The first Australian Community Gardens and City-Farms Network 'Learning in the Garden' Seminar was hosted by Northey Street City Farm and Growing Communities in Brisbane from the 20th - 21st June, 2005.

The first day involved tours to the Grovelly School Garden, Zillmere School Garden and Beelarong City Farm.

The second day was comprised of sessions focusing on

- Thinking global acting local - using school community gardens to educate for sustainability
- Physical activity and nutrition
- Integrating the garden into the curriculum by getting your hands dirty!
- Creating Networks - a workshop providing an opportunity for both regional and national networks to grow.

The network workshop produced many actions including state and regional groups committing to hosting local conferences and ideas towards creating a national database for school garden projects to use as a networking, resource and lobbying tools.

Melbourne community gardening organisation, Cultivating Community is planning an 'Edible Classroom' seminar on November 11 - 12 this year. For details, contact Heidi at heidi@cultivatingcommunity.org.au or phone (03) 9415 6580.

CERES SA in Adelaide will hosting a national school gardening seminar next March, including school tours and workshops.

If you would like to subscribe to the national School Gardens e-mail group - a means of sharing stories and seeking support - send a blank e-mail to school_gardens-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Seed Saving

Local Seed Networks

Community gardens around Australia have become Local Seed Networks – hubs for the preservation and distribution of useful, unusual and locally adapted seeds.

On October 18 – 19, the Seed Savers Network in Byron Bay will be hosting a workshop to train people to become Local Seed Network co-ordinators. It will cover seed saving and running a local seed exchange. The cost has been kept as low as possible to encourage the formation of new networks. If your garden would like to become a custodian of our food biodiversity by forming a Local Seed Network, please contact Jude or Amy as below.

National Conference

The annual Seed Savers Network conferences are opportunities for seed savers to get to know one another, swap tall stories, share skills, and to attend incredibly interesting workshops.

This year's conference will take place on 22nd – 23rd October 2005 at the Seed Savers' Centre, Byron Bay, NSW. \$15 per day. See the Seed savers' Centre garden and unusual food plants from all over the world and check out the grand, new chook shed.

The key themes at the conference, as always, are learning, networking and conviviality. This year's conference will include speakers from Solomon Islands, East Timor, Puerto Rico, and Argentina.

INFORMATION:

PO Box 975, Byron Bay, NSW 2481
P: 02 6685 7570
E: info@seedsavers.net
WWW: <http://www.seedsavers.net>

Farmers' Markets and community food systems

...From the Farmers' Market Association

The 2nd National Australian Farmers' Markets Conference, held at the Lake Hume Resort in Albury Wodonga on 28 & 29 August, 2005 has been heralded a success.

Over 150 delegates attended the two-day conference that examined the growth and

benefits of farmers' markets to both primary producers and consumers, and the challenges facing communities and market managers seeking to establish sustainable markets.

International keynote speaker Mark Winne's address underpinned the realisation that farmers' markets are part of a vital need to facilitate the growth of local food systems. He also called for the introduction of a food nutrition coupon program to be run in conjunction with Australian farmers' markets.

The Conference was addressed by Senator Richard Colbeck, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry who indicated government support could be made available to assist communities establishing farmers' markets via various grant schemes.

Agricultural researcher Max Coster presented the first substantive Australian research into farmers' markets that highlights the myriad benefits to farmers participating regularly in farmers' markets. He highlighted the positive 'incubation' effect on business growth, the need for a self-regulated quality assurance program, and for training programs for market managers. His study estimates an annual turnover in Australian farmers' markets of \$40m with an economic impact of \$80m across the host communities.

Workshop sessions examined the structure and benefits of CSA Farms (community supported agriculture) and community gardens, and how to establish vital Food Security projects.

Other workshop topics addressed the challenges facing market managers, the increased need for local government support in the vital establishment phase, and the growing demand for organic and heirloom foods at farmers' markets.

*This newsletter was produced by Claire Fulton for the SA Community Gardens Network. September 2005
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