

SA Community & School Garden Network

Occasional Newsletter - Spring 2008

We are at a point in time when the re-localisation of food production is becoming essential. The current practices of large scale cropping and transporting of food all around the world are both environmentally and economically unsustainable.

Community and School Gardens are the perfect places to learn and share the skills of growing our own food, and to 'reclaim the food chain'.

While there is plenty of moral support around for our gardens, unfortunately this has not transferred to much political and financial support. It's now several years since we had a funded Community Garden Project Officer in South Australia.

However, it's heartening that SA still has a very healthy grass roots gardening movement, with new gardens being established each year. Please continue to spread the word about the benefits and pleasures of Community and School Gardens.

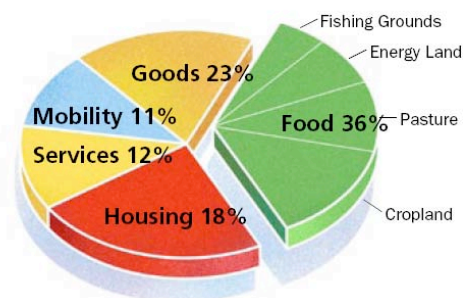
Invitation to the opening of the **Ridley Grove Community Garden**

66 Ridley Grove, Woodville Gardens.
Saturday 18th October 10am - 2pm

Sophie Thomson from ABC's Gardening Australia will officially open the garden at 11.30am, and there will be a community fair with environmental, community & gardening stalls, entertainment, food, drinks and talks on gardening.

Recent progress at the site includes 2 large rainwater tanks, a roof on the large pergola, 20 fruit trees, a new pergola in front of the shed, seats and a native butterfly trail planted by local school groups.

The SA Footprint by Consumption Type



* Energy Land refers to the amount of land required to sequester (soak-up) the carbon dioxide emitted as a result of our use of energy.

NETWORK SPRING GATHERING

At Fern Ave Community Garden
18-20 Fern Ave, Fullarton

On Sunday 26th October @ 1pm

All Community & School Gardeners are invited to an afternoon gathering, beginning with a shared lunch. Bring along a pizza ready to cook in the pizza oven, or a plate of food to share.

This is a great opportunity to link up with other like-minded gardeners and swap ideas and seeds/plants.

The theme for a discussion at about 2pm is 'water-wise gardening'. We will share tips for successful food production with limited water.

**"A garden that is
finished is dead."**

H.E. Bates

Australian School Gardens Gathering & Learning in the Garden Seminar

Brisbane 13th – 14th July 2008

About 35 school garden workers/teachers from SA, Vic, WA, Qld & NSW gathered to share ideas, visit gardens and learn from several inspiring key note speakers. A new **National School Garden website** <http://www.oz-teachernet.edu.au/wiki/index.php/Home> was launched, and anyone involved in school gardens is invited to post/download resources, lesson plans etc.

Representatives from **Cultivating Community** in Melbourne, and **Growing Communities** in Brisbane (our hosts) spoke of the great work they are doing in a number of schools in their cities. They also expressed their frustration at not having access to any of the federal Health funding which is all going to the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation. A representative from the **Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation** <http://www.kitchengardenfoundation.org.au/> spoke about their successful program in 27 Victorian schools, and of the rollout of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Scheme into other states.

It was interesting to hear that funding from the private sector (BlueScope Steel) is behind the establishment of a number of school gardens in the Wollongong/Illawarra region.

Carolyn Nuttall & Janet Millington spoke of their forthcoming book **“Outdoor Classrooms: a handbook for school gardens”** (\$45 inc postage - email Janet on miltech@bigpond.com to order). Janet is involved with the **Transition Town** movement in Qld, and she spoke passionately about the way society needs to make changes to cope with “peak everything”. She has a great website <http://www.seac.net.au/main/index.php>.



Giant compost rollers at Northey St City Farm, Brisbane

Dr Ted Trainer gave a very inspiring presentation on alternatives to economic consumerism, in order to survive the current global predicament. He advocates change at a local level and promotes a non-affluent lifestyle, but without sacrificing a good quality of life. His website about **“The Simpler Way”** is <http://www.sses.arts.unsw.edu.au/tsw/>

He noted that building a school garden is a fantastic starting point, and in his view those who teach others the basic skills of growing their own food are “the most important people in the world”!

It was decided that there would be a **National School Garden Day**, beginning in 2009 and representatives from **KidsGrow** said they will help promote it. **KidsGrow** is an initiative of the horticulture industry to encourage and support gardening in schools, see http://www.ngia.com.au/helping_your_busines/kidsgrow.asp for details, and they also have a free downloadable kit www.lifeisagarden.com.au.

The final day of the gathering included tours to a number of newly established school gardens and to the fabulous and famous Northey Street City Farm.

Kate Hubmayer
Black Forest Primary School

Molly's Community Garden at Henley High School Inaugural Festival

2nd August 2008

The day started with an opening by Paul Caica, who planted a fruit tree with the Mayor of Charles Sturt, Harold Anderson and Debra Bassett, the Director of the Special Learning Centre.

The day included:

- swale digging demonstration
- dancing and singing performances from the students
- fruit tree grafting demonstrations
- stalls - herb society, permaculture, plant sales, garden book sales
- smoothies made with human energy
- Indigenous weaving
- sand mandalas
- hot soup
- Irish soda bread demonstrations
- 10 people registered interest in having a community garden plot
- and.....best of all.....it rained!

The rain was very welcomed, however, it meant many people didn't get to see the garden.

We have a local cross to ABC local radio to John Lamb garden show with Ashley Walsh. It was also linked to the SALA program with the wonderful artists in attendance. Also, to add to the commitment for a community event the Henley Kindy (situated next door to the garden) had their garden art paintings on display.

The day was enjoyed by all and we look forward to many more days to share and celebrate.

Tanya Potter

ABC Gardening Australia Expo

We have promoted our gardens and network a number of expos in the past year.

The most successful was a stall at Adelaide's first ABC TV's Gardening Australia Expo.

We hope to continue this next year so please consider volunteering to help out on the stall. It's enjoyable and worthwhile, and you usually get a free entry ticket.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Landcare

http://www.landcareonline.com/funding_opportunity_details.asp?fo_id=6

Telstra Environment Awards

http://ten.com.au/tv_environmentawards.html



Community Gardening in SA Resource Kit

Download this very useful resource for free from:
http://www.canh.asn.au/community_gardening/



Lobethal Primary School students

Lobethal Primary School Garden

We're in the early stages but essentially we are going for an organic, no dig vegie garden including, potting, propagation areas, chooks, worm farm, wood oven and small stage / amphitheatre teaching area. Also we are developing a native shrub bird garden.

The year 6/7 class have been developing the bird garden for a couple of years and the 4/5's are responsible for most of the vegie beds and propagation to this point.

Year 2/3 class are looking at potting lavender at the moment and the R/1's seem most fascinated by the worm farm.

Garry North

INTERESTING LINKS

At Least Half of all Food Produced Worldwide is Wasted

<http://greenreview.blogspot.com/2008/08/at-least-half-of-all-food-produced.html>

World Water Crisis Underlies World Food Crisis

<http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/aug2008/2008-08-18-01.asp>

Guerilla gardeners beautifying Australian cities

<http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2008/s2354714.htm>

SA's Peak Oil Website

<http://www.adelaidetouringcyclists.org/bosa/>

International Year of the Potato Home Page

<http://www.potato2008.org/en/index.html>

Butterfly Gardening in the Adelaide Region

<http://www.butterflygardening.net.au/index.html>

Strange Fruit

<http://www.monbiot.com/archives/2008/09/02/strange-fruit/>



Kurruru Pingyarendi Community Garden

489b North East Rd, Hillcrest

This shared model garden is now well established at the Gilles Plains Community Campus. It features a large vegetable patch, herb garden, frog pond, orchard with rare fruit trees, shady trees, lots of community art installations, shared lunches using garden produce and good company. New gardeners are welcome on Fridays during school terms from 9am-1pm. Contact: Jo Duffy on 83348400 (Mon-Fri).

Horticultural Therapy South Australia (HTSA)

Horticultural therapy is based on the benefits of contact with nature through access to open spaces and outdoor activities, especially in gardens. As well as gardening as leisure and recreation, the garden has a therapeutic purpose in enhancing health and well-being. Those involved in its practice use social and therapeutic horticultural activities to address physical, emotional and spiritual needs of participants. Horticultural therapy can be part of the programming of community agencies and institutional facilities, or it can be an informal way in assisting individuals to enjoy their gardens. Always the aim is to enhance people's quality of life.

In October last year, a very successful introductory workshop on horticultural therapy was held at TAFE, Urrbrae. Alan Shepard presented a session on Community Gardening as acknowledgement of the close association between the aims of our two groups. In May and June this year, a six week short course was offered by HTSA at TAFE, again with input from Alan Shepard about Community Gardening. We are now planning another expanded course for next year and hope that Community Gardens can again be a part of the presentation, giving both groups an opportunity to make stronger connections.

HTSA meets regularly at various locations in Adelaide, with members hosting meetings where their garden activities and programmes are showcased.. Visitors are always welcome to attend our meetings; cost for non-members is \$5.00.

If you are interested in joining HTSA, please contact Glenda Williams, Secretary on 8339 2229 or email glenda@senet.com.au . For web-based information on the HTAV Conference, www.horticulturaltherapy.com.au or email contactus@htav.org.au

We need Community Gardens in the Adelaide Parklands!

Why hasn't Adelaide got something like Brisbane's fabulous Northey St City Farm, or Melbourne's inspirational and practical CERES? Our parklands are the perfect place.

The great news is that the current Adelaide City Council is developing a policy surrounding the establishment of Community Gardens.

Council is supportive of the Hutt St Precinct Association developing a garden in Park 17 on Hutt Rd. Another temporary site being considered is a privately owned block of land in Gilles St, just east of Hutt St.

Both sites have the potential to involve users of the Hutt St Centre (a homeless men's shelter) which could have positive social benefits, and also the local restaurant owners who may be interested in supplying food scraps for compost. For further information about these gardens, contact Jane Copeland at jane.copeland@adelaide.edu.au.

Other groups have been lobbying for gardens in other parts of the CBD and parklands for years, including the SW corner, and will continue to do so. Contact Mij Tanith at webb@olis.net.au to become involved.

Sign the petition regarding the safety and labelling of all GM foods:

<http://www.truefood.org.au/OurRightToKnow/>

Urban Orchard

The Urban Orchard is a network of households across the inner suburbs of Adelaide who are meeting monthly to swap and share the produce of their back yard (or front yard) gardens and conduct workshops on gardening and preserving the harvest.

First Sat of the month

10.30am – 12 noon

Clarence Park Community Centre
Corner East Ave & Canterbury Tce,
Black Forest



YEAR OF THE POTATO

Food prices are soaring worldwide, driven by fierce competition for reduced international supplies of wheat, maize and rice, and other agricultural commodities. As concern grows over the risk of food shortages and instability in dozens of low-income countries, global attention is turning to an age-old crop that could help ease the strain of food price inflation.

The potato is already an integral part of the global food system. It is the world's number one non-grain food commodity, with production reaching a record 320 million tonnes in 2007. Potato consumption is expanding strongly in developing countries, which now account for more than half of the global harvest and where the potato's ease of cultivation and high energy content have made it a valuable cash crop for millions of farmers.

At the same time, the potato – unlike major cereals – is not a globally traded commodity. Only a fraction of total production enters foreign trade, and potato prices are determined usually by local production costs, not the vagaries of international markets. It is, therefore, a highly recommended food security crop that can help low-income farmers and vulnerable consumers ride out current turmoil in world food supply and demand.

In Peru, for example, the government has acted to reduce costly wheat imports by encouraging people to eat bread that includes potato flour. In China, the world's biggest potato producer, agriculture experts have proposed that potato become the major food crop on much of the country's arable land. India has plans to double its potato production.

Food of the future.

The International Year of the Potato is raising awareness of the key role played by the "humble tuber" in agriculture, the economy and world food security. But it also has a very practical aim: to promote development of sustainable potato-based systems that enhance the well-being of producers and consumers and help realize the potato's full potential as a "food of the future".

Over the next two decades, the world's population is expected to grow on average by more than 100 million people a year. More than 95 percent of that increase will occur in the developing countries, where pressure on land and water is already intense. A key challenge facing the international community is, therefore, to ensure food security for present and future generations, while protecting the natural resource base on which we all depend. The potato will be an important part of efforts to meet those challenges...

Source: <http://www.potato2008.org/en/aboutiyp/index.html>



SA Community Gardens Directory

Find your nearest garden at:

http://www.communitygarden.org.au/news/a_newsletter/sa_gardens_directory.pdf

SA Community Garden Email Group

To join send an email to:

ComGdnSA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.au

Community Gardening in SA Resource Kit

Download this very useful resource for free from:
http://www.canh.asn.au/community_gardening/

Seaton Community Childcare Centre

is setting up a garden for the kids and families that use the day care centre. They've just received a grant of \$5,000 from Community Benefits SA.



Another Seedy Sunday

A group of enthusiastic Seed Savers enjoyed the recent Spring Seedy Sunday held at Molly's Garden, Henley Beach. The day included a delicious shared lunch, a tour of new community garden, and the sharing of seeds.

The SA Seed Saver network holds two Seedy Sundays a year, where seeds, plants and knowledge are exchanged.

There is a Seed Saver email list, and new members are welcome. Contact Allison Miller on theoother66@gmail.com to join.

The SA Seed Saver website is
<http://saseedsavers.tripod.com/index.html> .



ON THE RADIO... **'Back to Basics'**

with Harry Harrison & Chris Day

9pm Mondays on 5RPH 1197AM

The SA Community and School Garden Network is our local offshoot of the **Australian City Farms and Community Gardens Network** (ACFCGN) which connects gardeners from all around the country. It has a great website:

<http://www.communitygarden.org.au/>

There is an SA News section within the ACFCGN website, on which anyone can post details about open gardens or any other SA news. Please use it by sending information through, and by checking it regularly.

This Newsletter

...is produced for anyone who is interested in, or involved with, Community and School Gardens in SA.

It is mainly distributed via cyberspace, however it is important that it gets to people who don't have access to the internet. Please print it out for those people, or alternatively, telephone me on 8371 3735 with postal details and I will mail copies out.

If your garden has a story to tell, an event to promote, or photos to show, please email your items through to khubmayer@westnet.com.au so they can be included in the next newsletter.

Thank you,
Kate Hubmayer