

## The Rocherlea Peace Garden

The overall goal of this project has been to involve the community to live peacefully alongside one another while achieving greater things together. During 2004, this community garden has successfully fostered this kind of community engagement while nurturing the generosity, trust and self-help of many children, parents, friends, volunteers and valued businesses in the Launceston community.

In order to achieve the garden's success, a loyal partnership was formed by the Rocherlea Primary School, Rocherlea Parents & Friends Association, Northern Suburbs Community Centre, "Goldies" Women's Group, ET Youth Group, Blokes United Men's Group, Rocherlea Scout group to name a few.

In the wider community, local businesses such as Bunnings, Tony Lister Electrics, Allan's Nursery and Esk Water have given their support and also valuable agencies such as Tasmanian Community Fund, Housing Tasmania, FACS & the ABC Open Garden Scheme.

The initial stages of the community garden project involved a series of distinct but connected tasks. It was decided by the committee that 3 particular stages would determine and consolidate the intended goals for the project. These 3 stages were also recommended as manageable steps able to be achieved by this community. They were:

Stage 1	Vegie Labyrinth
Stage 2	Peace Fountain
Stage 3	Amphitheatre

During 2004, Stage 1 exceeded the Committee's initial goals. These achievements have included:

- Garden beds were prepared and dug: vegies were planted and a garden shed was erected by the children of Rocherlea Primary School as well as many valued Volunteers
- This workforce worked side by side producing crops that consisted of broad beans, lettuce, onion, broccoli, silver beet, parsley and strawberries.
- In Term 3 the children from the Rocherlea Primary School organised 2 market stalls from which they sold their produce from the garden. The children were successful in raising \$120, which in turn assisted them to purchase new plants and materials for the Peace Garden.
- As a result of these sales, many of these young children show signs of becoming fine little entrepreneurs and budding salespeople of the future!
- Success with funding from a Junior Landcare Grant to develop a frog habitat within the garden area.



The major benefits of the Rocherlea Peace Garden has been to benefit the community with numerous learning opportunities. During these initial stages, the garden has fostered much goodwill and is undoubtedly living up to its name!

Recently, the Rocherlea Peace Garden was awarded a *Spring Clean Tasmania 2004 Tidy Towns Award*. This exciting award has recognised our fine community spirit and it has also respected us for our hard work, dedication and enthusiasm to develop a very special garden indeed.

This story was contributed by: Denise Delphin, Rocherlea Peace Garden Committee, telephone: (03) 6326 5506.



This newsletter has been compiled on behalf of the Tasmanian Community Gardening Network. For further information please contact Eat Well Tasmania on telephone: (03) 6233 2923, Email: mherzfeld@cancertas.org.au, post: GPO Box 1624 HOBART TAS 7001 or fax: (03) 6233 2123.

We welcome your comments, suggestions and contributions.



**START HERE**

**1. Find land, develop ideas.** Visit existing community gardens for inspiration, to develop your ideas and to learn from their experiences.

**2. In assessing a site for a community garden consider:**

**Needs -**

- Minimum 6 hours of sunlight year round
- Uncontaminated soil in reasonable condition (can be improved later)
- Close to public transport
- Close to residential areas
- Security
- Near to other community activities

**Existing Features -**

- Look for existing taps, sheds & other facilities
- Existing vegetation – healthy? keep? remove?
- Check site history to assess site suitability, possible soil contamination
- Check for drainage/water logging problems and wide protection

**3. Look for land**

Here are two ways to do this:  
1. First, look around your area for land. Find who owns likely locations:

Landholders are likely to include:

- Local council
- Churches
- Schools
- Hospitals
- Housing estates
- Other government bodies & institutions

2. Approach your local council (planning section) with your identified needs and ask for advice on finding land and how to go about developing a community garden

**8. Learn from experience.** After the first 6 months or year, it is time to take a long hard look at what we have done and how we have managed it. This is called monitoring. It provides us with valuable learning which we use to improve our community gardens and the way we manage them.

**7. Developing the site**

- Implement site design - start small, consolidate what you have done, develop from the edge of what you have done, consolidate....stay compact and easy to manage
- Reassess needs over time and make changes if needed
- Incorporate ideas of new gardeners

**6. Planning**

Develop:

- Site analysis plan
  - list what you would like to have on site such as vegetable gardens, herb gardens, orchard, seating area, play area so these can be located in the design
  - look at sun and shade patterns, wind directions and drainage, soil type and microclimates
- Several concept plans from which to choose
- Final plan (this may change over time as people gain experience on site)
- Implementation/construction timeline to include:
  - pathway construction
  - soil improvement
  - compost making
  - storage shed construction
  - propagating plants
- Organisational plan:
  - how will new gardeners be incorporated?
  - how will we gain the skills to garden and manage the garden?
  - how will we develop a planting plan?
  - how will we make decisions about the garden?
  - how will we raise funds and obtain resources?

**4. Accessing the land**

Write up your needs as a submission and present it to the landholder.

- Remember to list your aims & objectives, type of activities planned, examples of successful community gardens and benefits to gardeners, the community and council/landholder
- Describe how you would manage the site, the legal structure of your group (eg. incorporated/unincorporated association), whether you have public liability insurance, how you would manage risk on site and allow continued public access
- Propose a lease (1 initial year with 5 to 10 year options to renew; this allows both parties to assess their continued participation)
- Outline agreement for use arrangements and extent of development
- Ask landholder if they are prepared to donate assistance in-kind or through small grants of funds

**5. Reaching agreement with landholder**

- Peppercorn or free lease signed
- Legal organisational structure finalised as unincorporated or incorporated association
- Public liability insurance obtained via organisation or through landholder

# Working with Land



# Work on the Native Garden Begins in Latrobe

A community partnership between the Latrobe Council, State Government, Mersey Natural Resource Management Group and Latrobe High School resulted in the start of works of a community native garden and gazebo at a Latrobe Elderly Persons Unit complex.



Pictured above: Residents of Hampden Court Latrobe look over plans for Community Garden area in their complex

Latrobe Mayor, Mike Gaffney said that tenants at the Council owned unit complex had requested beautification of the common areas and State Government funding had made it possible. The native garden and gazebo project was developed by the Latrobe Council and the State Government provided \$9,100 in funding through the Affordable Housing Strategy, Community Grant Program. This project will involve Council staff, but is a whole of community project involving people of all generations.

The tenants have indicated a willingness to be involved in the work, and Latrobe High School students will work alongside Council staff to develop building skills while Work-for-the-Dole participants, through the Mersey Natural Resource Management Group, will put their horticultural skills to practical use. It is also hoped that this project will foster relationship building between generations while developing a community asset.

The State Government provided 28 Community Grants out of Affordable Housing Strategy funds to the value of almost \$250,000 around Tasmania.

For further information about the Native Garden in Latrobe contact Michelle Dutton, Latrobe Council, (03) 6421 4650.

## News from the Tasmanian Community Gardening Network

Over the past eight months, a Working Group for the Tasmanian Community Gardening Network has met on a number of occasions to carry out activities that aim to benefit community gardening in Tasmania. It can be said that members of the Working Group have limited capacity to undertake the activities of the Network however over this time they have been able to achieve a number of things including:

- A survey of community gardens in Tasmania
- A database of network members
- Information sharing via email
- Linking with the National Network to provide information about up-coming events
- A submission for funding to employ a project officer
- Newsletters twice a year
- Identification and dissemination of resources
- Meetings in various parts of the State
- Linking individuals and organisations together to help them plan, establish and maintain gardens
- Planning a workshop for later this year

If you would like to be involved with the Working Group please contact Miriam Herzfeld on (03) 6233 2923. Also, don't forget to return the questionnaire we circulated recently asking you to update your contact details and for ideas on workshops.

## Australian Community Gardens Network Listserv

The purpose of the Australian Community Gardens Network listserv is to enable direct communications among community gardeners as well as those interested in the activity.



The types of information that the listserv provides includes the posting of:

- dates and details about events such as workshops, courses, conferences, meetings and the like
- questions and answers to problems and enquiries
- news about community gardening and allied activities
- discussion about things of interest, issues and ideas to do with community gardening.

For further information and to subscribe visit <http://lists.cat.org.au/cgi-bin/m/listinfo/community-gardens>

### If you have a story to share with the Tasmanian Community Gardening Network, Contact Us!

If you would like to share information, stories or resources with others interested and involved in community gardening in Tasmania please send an article to:

Eat Well Tasmania  
GPO Box 1624  
HOBART TAS 7001

Email: [mherzfeld@cancertas.org.au](mailto:mherzfeld@cancertas.org.au)  
Telephone: (03) 6233 2923  
You can send your article at any time. Pictures are always appreciated too.

## An update from the Cape Country Accommodation for St Vincent de Paul Society Project

### **As part of this project the Council is working towards:**

- Constructing a BBQ area on a concrete slab base within a trellis shelter
- Erecting a small communal garden shed on a concrete slab base
- Planting a community herb garden
- Contributing to the Cotton Street streetscape by planting some nature strip trees
- Involving residents and wider community of family, friends and neighbours throughout the project

### **What's happened so far:**

- Monthly Tenant Management Committee meetings have been held to address the planning and procedures for this project.
- Four capable fathers of tenants have provided labour and expertise to order requirements and prepare the area with boxing for a delivery of concrete. They have all met again recently to spread the concrete on delivery and make the slab ready for the next stage of construction. The shed and the barbeque area are to be constructed on the one slab. The men plan to meet each Wednesday to complete the construction work. One tenant was at home so she was proudly able to supply a morning coffee to the workers. One parent remarked that it was a pleasure to work together as he didn't realize what a personable group of fellows they were.
- A winter program of tenant activities ended with an enjoyable time of planting a variety of herbs in egg carton beds in readiness for the development of their herb garden. These are now flourishing in the garden which is placed in a small section of grassed area that was difficult for mowing. Mint, parsley, thyme, oregano, garlic, chives, wild strawberries, everlasting spinach and basil are thriving and now we have only to complete the area with a mass of chamomile.
- Local municipal Council outdoor staff members have been included in the consultation process. It has been suggested that a native such as the NSW Waratah might be the most suitable for this purpose and we are still waiting on advice as to where the trees may be sited because new footpaths are on the municipal capital works program for next year's budget. The tree planting day was planned for the end of April and it is certain that the barbeque will be used to celebrate our progress.

For further information about this project contact:

Alwyn Friedersdorff

Manager, Cape Country Accommodation  
for St. Vincent de Paul Society, Burnie Regional Council  
Telephone: (03) 6442 1166



## **Veg and Fruit Month in June!**



Now is a great time to start planning a vegetable and fruit promotion activity in your local community.

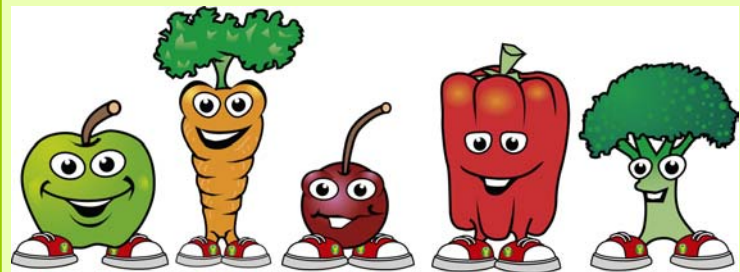
You may have noticed recently that vegetables and fruit have been promoted in the media. The Australian Government is currently running a media campaign promoting the message, Go for 2 & 5!

Thanks to the Tasmanian Community Fund, Eat Well Tasmania has been able to develop some terrific promotional resources to coincide with this campaign and help you promote Go for 2 & 5 in your community.

Eat Well Tasmania encourages you to get involved in promoting vegetables and fruit during June. Whether you can organise a winter veggie cook-off or simply hang a poster on the wall, it all helps to spread the message.

Eat Well Tasmania can provide you with information about promoting the Go for 2 & 5 message and ideas on activities that you can run in your community. You can also order, free of charge, a range of terrific promotional resources to help make your activity colourful and appealing.

Contact Eat Well Tasmania on (03) 6233 2923 for further information.



## **Building Community....From the Ground Up**

The Australian City Farms and Community Gardens Network...

### **Second Annual Conference**

Friday 17 June to Sunday 19 June 2005

Coolum, Sunshine Coast, Queensland

For further information:

Phone: (07) 5474 5892

Email: [nnorthey@bigpond.net.au](mailto:nnorthey@bigpond.net.au)

### **Learning in the Garden**

Monday 20 June to Tuesday 21 June

Northey Street City Farm, Windsor, Brisbane

For further information:

Phone: (07) 3857 8775

Email: [growingc@bigpond.net.au](mailto:growingc@bigpond.net.au)

