

NEWSLETTER: A SEED HAS BEEN PLANTED

An update on Community Gardening in Tasmania



Housing Tasmania Supports Community Gardens

Two communities in Northern Tasmania have been allocated start up funding to establish two new community gardens. The projects were funded through Housing Tasmania's Regeneration and Renewal Community Development Small Grants Program. The grants allow for the communities to purchase equipment and materials to aid in the development of the gardens.

Tresca Community Centre and Exeter High School Farm have established a partnership to develop a community garden. The School is providing a high profile site for the garden and \$8,800 has been allocated from the Small Grants Program. The project's target groups are people residing within the West Tamar Municipality with an emphasis on people living in socially isolated and disengaged areas who would benefit from interaction, skills sharing or skills acquisition. The Tresca Community Garden will certainly increase social and educational opportunities for people within the West Tamar area.

St Michaels Association has been allocated \$8,020.00 to establish a community garden and undertake a home maintenance project. These projects will operate under the title of "Learning Together". The community garden will be established at St Michaels' Newstead Campus. The project's target group are people with disabilities who are participants in St Michaels' core activities, together with community volunteers. The project will increase the capacity within the community of people with disabilities and will assist in minimising disruption to their lives thus reducing their dependence on more intensive supports. Participants will acquire certain skills that will be recorded as part of the training towards vocational Certificates in Horticulture.

Housing Tasmania's Small Grants Program has also provided funding for at least six other community gardens and garden based projects. The areas of the State involved include: Wynyard, Ulverstone, Latrobe, Brighton, Dunnally and Dodges Ferry. Dodges Ferry has been allocated \$10,000 towards their community garden project.

These new gardening based enterprises will provide horticultural training and propagation skills whilst promoting healthy eating amongst participants.

Housing Tasmania's Regeneration and Renewal Community Development Small Grants Program is a key Affordable Housing Strategy initiative aimed at boosting local communities.

This update was provided by Duncan Bowers (Housing Tas)



New Resources:

Community Gardening in SA Resource Kit

The Community Gardening in SA Resource Kit was created to encourage the establishment of new community gardens, and to support existing community gardens. The Kit is relevant to community groups considering starting a community garden, professionals considering using community gardening as part of their programs, people who are asked to support community garden projects, and groups already running community gardens. Some of the topics covered in the Kit include, benefits, garden design, garden management, learning, education and training as well as strategies for responsible pest control. More information can be obtained by visiting

http://www.canh.asn.au/community_gardening/



Dig In: Creating an edible school garden



The information provided in this Guide is designed to give classroom teachers, in a variety of schools and circumstances, information to begin a range of school or classroom gardening projects. The resource was prepared by the nutrition team of

the Tropical Public Health Unit Network, Queensland Health. For further information and to order your own resource booklet visit http://www.health.qld.gov.au/ActiveAte/beyond/order_form.aspx

Community Gardening Resources

The **South Australian Community Gardening Network** can be contacted by phoning 1300 737 612 (cost of a local call)

Australian Community Gardens and City Farms Network (<http://www.terracircle.org.au/garden/>) has information on starting a community garden, news and updates about community gardens around the country and links to more resources.

Australian Community Foods

(<http://www.communityfoods.org.au/>) contains contact details for community gardens in South Australia and across Australia.

The **American Community Gardening Association** (<http://www.communitygarden.org/>) has start up info and resources, links, and access to publications.

The Canadian **City Farmer** website (<http://www.cityfarmer.org>) has extensive information and links about urban agriculture and community gardening.



Starting a community garden might sound like a good idea ... but how do you go about it?

Here are some things to think about before you start digging:

START HERE

1. Is there really a need for a community garden?

2. Find people to join in:

- Promote through the local paper and distribute posters
- Letter box drop
- Talk to community or other relevant groups
- Talk with council about your ideas and ask advice on how to proceed

3. Interested people found:
Willing to participate in and develop the garden

4. Organise the first planning meeting:

- Choose a competent facilitator.
- Describe what you imagine the garden would look like in 5 years – what do you see on site? – what are people doing?
- Develop broad aims for the garden and specific objectives to achieve those aims.
- Develop a strategy for finding land and developing the site.
- Ask – what do we need to do next? When will we have our next meeting? What will be on the next meeting agenda?

Working with People

8. Ongoing management of the site:
Continually evaluate and implement tasks and improve communication systems

7. Plan, prepare and develop the site:
Following and amending timeline previously set

6. Land found

5. Next planning meeting:

This will be a more concrete meeting. Agenda suggestions:

- choosing the site
- developing the organisational structure:
 - incorporated association
 - unincorporated association
- developing a timeline for broad implementation:
 - finding site
 - site analysis
 - design
 - construction
- developing good communications:
 - keeping accurate records
- listing tasks that need doing such as:
 - lease agreement
 - insurance
 - setting up a phone tree
 - listing materials needed
 - budget/identifying grants/in-kind donations
- listing who will do the tasks and when will they be done by them



PARTICIPATION

Most community gardens are grassroots projects based on cooperation between people. The use of participatory planning and decision making processes builds ownership, shared responsibility and motivation.

PUT FIRST THINGS FIRST

Treat the process of setting up a community garden as a series of distinct but connected tasks. Start slowly – consolidate – then move on to the next step. Proceed in small manageable stages.

What's happening with the Tasmanian Community Gardening Network?

Since the community garden forums held around the State earlier this year, a working group has been established to progress some activities that can support communities to establish and sustain community gardens in Tasmania. The working group has agreed on the following objectives:

- To promote and raise the profile of community gardening in Tasmania, including the benefits of community gardening.
- To share information, resources and expertise relating to community gardening.
- To advocate for community gardening in Tasmania, including resources for community gardens.
- To value and promote the diverse range of community garden models.
- To recognise and promote community gardens as a method for fostering community engagement and establishing a culture of generosity, reciprocity, trust and self-help.

One of the challenges of this activity is limited resources. All the people involved in the working group are currently volunteering their time. With this in mind, Ravenswood Community Garden and Eat Well Tasmania formed a partnership and wrote a funding submission to employ a project officer who can help get the Tasmanian Community Gardening Network off the ground. We hope to hear the outcome of this funding submission very shortly. In the meantime, the working group is planning another meeting for later this month and will do its best to keep things happening. We will keep you posted.

For further information please contact Miriam from Eat Well Tasmania on 6233 2923.

Pictured below at the Ravenswood Community Garden are the Tasmanian Community Gardening Network working group members present at the inaugural meeting (from left): Tamara Johnston (Ravenswood Community Garden), Brendan Fuller (Dodges Ferry Community Garden), Miriam Herzfeld (Eat Well Tasmania), Karolina Damen (Housing Tasmania), Marieke van Dijke (NW Environment Centre), Carol Cowley (Community Nurse – George Town), Roger Tyshy (Tresca Community Centre), (front): David Stephen (Creek Road Community Garden) and Akia Chabot (Environmental Management Student at Uni of Tas).



**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 contact us:

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