

SA Community & School Garden Network

Occasional Newsletter - Summer 2010



Editor: Carolyn McArthur
Layout/Design: Justin McArthur

Gardening is an act of faith in the future...

Greetings All Community Gardeners.

The committee of the Walyo Yerta Community Garden is thrilled to announce the birth of our baby.

Mothered (and fathered) by a small group of indomitable city residents, supported by additional like-minded individuals (you know who you are), and over five years in gestation, the garden, thanks to the midwifery services of the Adelaide City Council, and its adoption by the City South Association, will soon be receiving visitors. As soon as that happens, it will begin to grow and flourish! So check out the site, south of the conservatory in Veale Gardens, South Parklands.

Due to strict conditions for use of the parklands, the garden will not be fenced, and its combination of raised and ground-level beds will be used by community groups rather than individuals. This does not mean, of course, that individuals cannot get involved; a "community group" might just consist of a number of like-minded individuals who are happy to work together.

Getting our garden up and running has indeed been a long slow process, but we now have a committee of eight - Ben Taylor, Helga Burry, Jeni Kent, Sue Webb, Regina de Vries, Julie Jordan, Jim Wishart, and me, Mij Tanith. Between us we have an awesome accumulation of experience, skills and knowledge about all aspects of managing a community project such as this.

(cont.)

We have a corporate sponsor - Martin Burns of Liquid Property Real Estate at Norwood. Liquid Property has agreed to pay the on-going annual costs of the garden. Thank you Martin and Liquid Property for this generous offer.

We also have another generous supporter: Pauline Gambley, a city resident, has offered her car for the use of the garden. Many thanks, Pauline. We are going to get a pair of removable magnetic signs with logo, website address, and contact details, to place on the car doors as a way of promoting the garden.

The City South Association has agreed to take us under their wing. This means they will hold the ACC Parklands license for the garden, and will cover us for public liability insurance, and that our garden committee becomes a subcommittee of City South. Many thanks to the members of that organisation for being so supportive and welcoming.

Many thanks also to Hilary Hamnett who produced the design for the garden - it's beautiful! - and to Chandler Giles at the ACC for negotiating with council staff, especially the Horticulture Dept, to bring the garden in within the allocated budget.

If you have any comments, queries or whatever, feel free to contact me, Mij Tanith on 0405 086 533.

SECATEURS COMMUNITY GARDENING GROUP – up and running in City East

Secateurs Community Gardening Group – first formed by a small group of residents in the eastern side of Adelaide over a year ago – has now got not one but two garden projects up and running within the CBD. The group received a grant from Adelaide City Council last year enabling them to set up a special garden table project at the Box Factory Community Centre, in Regent Street South.

The project was officially launched on December 12, during the centre's Xmas Open Day, when Adelaide's Lord Mayor, Michael Harbison, and city councillors Michael Henningsen and David Plumbridge attended.

Five tables have been brimming with veggies and herbs, and are now being harvested. The project has caught the eye of many passers-by and has brought the empty patio to life. Workshops will be run at the centre for city dwellers to learn how to garden in small spaces.

Not only that, the group has also been given the wonderful opportunity to set up an organic garden at the St Andrew's Hospital grounds on South Terrace. The hospital CEO is more than happy to allow Secateurs to set up a community garden in front of the beautiful heritage-listed Waverley House, a historic building now used for clinics. A stone wall borders the site, with the parklands across the road and plenty of bird life. The hospital is also offering even more space if the group needs it in the future.

What's more, Urrbrae TAFE Garden Design students will be using the hospital site as their main project this year and will be producing some fresh and inspirational designs. Secateurs is also linking up with various community organizations on the city's eastern side to enable all sorts of people to make use of the site apart from also working closely with the hospital to ascertain the needs of patients, staff and visitors. Members have been busy clearing the neglected garden beds, preparing the soil and planting veggies and fruit to provide its members with fresh produce through the year.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about these truly wonderful and exciting ventures please contact the Secateurs coordinator, Mary, at secateurs.cg@gmail.com.

Community Gardens Directory

The SA Community and School Gardens Network have just finished updating their directory of community gardens.

There are now 40 gardens listed from around South Australia – a substantial increase on the 29 listed in the March 2009 edition. The new list is bolstered by listings for gardens that have been operating for sometime without contact with the wider community gardening network, like the Old Mount Gambier Gaol Community Garden, and by a number of newly established gardens, including three within the city of Adelaide. In addition to these, there are several community gardens that prefer not to be included in the directory. There are probably others we don't know about as well – please let us know if you're aware of any community gardens that are not listed here.

There are also many groups of community members are in the process of starting up new gardens in their neighbourhoods. There are gardens-in-development in Prospect, Norwood, Brighton, Hawker, Quorn and Naracoorte, and I'm sure we'll hear about even more in the coming months.

The listing of gardens is available on a webpage and as a downloadable brochure at www.communitygarden.org.au, and is in the process of being listed at www.communityfoods.org.au. In the web listing at the Australian City Farms and Community Gardens Network website it is possible to include flyers or other information about your garden – Aldinga and Wynn Vale's flyers are already there. If you'd like your flyer, a story about your garden, a call for volunteers, or anything else to be included on the website, please let me know at clairenettle@adam.com.au.

For those gardens receiving this newsletter in the post, we have included a few paper copies of the directory to distribute to members and pin up on your notice board. For others, copies of the new brochure can be downloaded from www.communitygarden.org.au, or pick up a copy from your nearest community garden.

Growing Community: Starting and Nurturing Community Gardens

A new resource manual for community gardeners, *Growing Community: Starting and Nurturing Community Gardens* will be launched on Sunday 14th February, at Glandore Community Garden

The booklet is based on the Community Gardening in SA Resource Kit, which was produced way back in 2004 and has been long out of print. In addition to revised and updated information from the Resource Kit, *Growing Community* includes new material for people working in local government and community agencies; an expanded section on gardening with children and in schools; tips for addressing common concerns and objections; and an up-to-date summary of the research substantiating the benefits of community gardens for individuals and communities. It also features new local case studies and a spiffy colour layout.

The *Growing Community* booklet has a companion website, which is full of information, resources and contacts, as well as forms and templates that can be adapted for use at your own garden. The website will be launched and available online at the same time as the booklet.

Copies of the booklet will be sent to local libraries, community centres, government agencies and local councils.

There is a complementary copy for each community garden listed in the SA Community Garden Network's latest brochure. If you would like to collect a copy on behalf of your garden at the launch, please send an email, with the name of your garden and the name of the person who will be collecting it, to clairenettle@adam.com.au, and we will put a copy aside for you. Gardens that don't pick up their copy at the launch will receive their booklet in the mail in the coming weeks.

A PDF version of the booklet can be downloaded from www.canh.asn.au. Print copies are available from Community and Neighbourhood Houses and Centres Association, 1/25 Naldera Street, Glandore. Phone (08) 8371 4622 or 1800 633 616 (toll-free non-metro callers only). \$15 including postage.

See enclosed flyer for more details about the launch.



Growing Community book launch and SA School and Community Gardens Network Gathering

Sunday 14th February

2pm

Glandore Community Garden

- ★ Guided tour of Glandore Community Garden
- ★ Hands-on workshops and info sharing
- ★ News from community and school gardens around SA
- ★ Get your copy of *Growing Community: Starting and Nurturing Community Gardens*
- ★ Afternoon tea provided.

All Welcome



The table garden at Common Ground Community Garden continues to grow amongst the commotion.

AIRWATCH 2010

AirWatch is a hands-on schools program, delivered through the Environment Protection Authority, where students can learn about air quality issues such as vehicle emissions, wood smoke, dust, pollen, indoor air quality and odours. AirWatch also helps schools take action to reduce their own impact on air pollution.

AirWatch wants to gauge teacher interest in attending Professional Development Sessions in 2010 focusing on a range of air quality related topics. Please click on the following link to go to the online survey which should take you no more than a couple of minutes to complete:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QP6RN9W>

Once you have completed the survey please send Polly Weckert an email (at pauline.weckert@epa.sa.gov.au) with "survey complete" in the subject heading and your contact details in the email, for your school to win a set of colourful kites!

Milang Primary School Garden

The Milang Primary School garden was established in June 2009. The school accessed the 'Life With Gusto' program from the Milang Old School House Community Centre (MOSHCC), to fund and develop the garden with the aid of a part time community garden coordinator.

GreenCorps Hindmarsh Island volunteers built the large 2x7 metre garden bed and Peat Soils Willunga donated 56 cubic metres of organic peat soil for use in the entire project. The garden bed was constructed with Red Gum sleepers, lined with cardboard and straw and filled with the organic soil to ensure chemical free beginnings.

The Milang Primary School students are keen and excited gardeners taking great interest identifying the plants, finding ladybugs on leaves and being a part of each and every job.

The students also participate in another outdoor learning program, the rescue and rehabilitation of Turtles from the Lower lakes. The students have contributed enormously to the publicity and fund-raising campaigns surrounding the Turtles plight.

Karen Barrett

MOSHCC Community Garden Coordinator



“...the Milang Primary School students are keen and excited gardeners...”

FOOD CONVERGENCE FEB 10 – 13

Dear friends,

The last few weeks have been a frenzy of activity for the organising collective of the South Australia Food Convergence "From Plains to Plate: the Future of Food in South Australia".

We're delighted to announce that registrations for "From Plains to Plate" are now open, and you can download the registration form from our new website:

<http://futureoffoodsa.ning.com>. In order to ensure participation in the convergence from a diverse range of participants, we've done our best to keep registration costs as low as possible.

Also just released is the preliminary program. The four days of the convergence are packed with a diversity of different events, workshops and presentations exploring six main themes:

- ★ Food, agriculture and the environment
- ★ Nutrition, public health and food access
- ★ Urban planning, growth and food security
- ★ Food, education and ecological literacy
- ★ Agriculture, trade and food policy
- ★ Practical community-based solutions to food issues

Download the program from <http://futureoffoodsa.ning.com>, and check the "Speakers" page for more information on individual presenters.

Our presenting partners Ecocreative designed the stunning logo for the convergence, and we've been joined by a number of other organisations in the last months to help make the convergence a success. In addition to Ecocreative, Friends of the Earth welcomes the involvement of presenting partners Slow Food (Adelaide & Barossa, Adelaide Hills and the Fleurieu Peninsula), the SA School and Community Gardens Network, the Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre at UniSA, and Zero Waste SA.

Our invaluable community partners are Food Connect Adelaide, the Permaculture Association

(cont.) of SA, Conservation SA and Transition Adelaide West. We also acknowledge the City of Marion and the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resource Management Board for their generous support for tours to community, school and private food-producing gardens and farms.

For more information on "From Plains to Plate: the Future of Food in South Australia", visit <http://futureoffoodsa.ning.com>, email joel.catchlove@foe.org.au, or phone 0435 631 524.

Joel Catchlove

On behalf of the Sustainable Food and Agriculture Collective



“...at Plympton Community Centre you will find a flourishing hidden garden...”

Tucked away at Plympton Community Centre – at 34 Long Street, Plympton – you will find a flourishing hidden garden.

Plympton Community Garden has been engaging with local residents since late 2009, with the support of a grant from CAHN and City of West Torrens.

Plympton Community Garden is a pilot for the West Torrens Council; which hopes to establish further community gardens and community markets in the near future.

For more details regarding Plympton Community Garden or future projects in West Torrens contact Michelle Mitolo on (08) 8416 6252

**A LOCAL COMMUNITY GARDEN BRANCHES OUT:
The establishment of a native butterfly garden at
Ridley Grove Community Garden**

Community gardens are as individual as the gardeners involved in them.

Some focus on food production, some on building community, some are places to express creativity through community art projects and some focus on all of these areas and more.

The Ridley Grove Community Garden at Woodville Gardens officially opened in October 2008 and early on some of the gardeners had an interest in native vegetation and biodiversity. Consequently an indigenous plant garden was commenced that year in conjunction with the establishment of the more traditional veggie plots and orchard.

The Butterfly Trail Garden covers the entire street frontage and eastern boundary of the Woodville Gardens Uniting Church site, the shared location with the community garden.

The trail consists of a rock bordered, winding path with approximately 550 native Australian plants along both sides of its length. About 95% of these are indigenous to the Adelaide Plains, most were sourced from local provenance and most were chosen because they are native caterpillar food sources and therefore can attract native butterflies.

An additional 150 indigenous plants were planted with the local council's permission in June and July 2009 on the verge adjoining the front of the property. The end of the trail comprises about 40 native food and medicinal-use plants e.g. Muntries, Bush Raisins, Warrigal Spinach and Kangaroos Apples.

The entire Butterfly Trail Garden is heavily mulched and the plants are reliant on natural rainfall except for hand watering of newly established plants struggling through prolonged hot weather.

The Butterfly Trail Garden area was previously covered in weeds including couch grass (as was the entire community garden site) and in many sections by bitumen from old netball courts. Clearing of the weeds and removal of the bitumen was undertaken a section at a time by the community gardeners,

(cont.) and plantings were carried out by both the volunteer gardeners and students from the nearby Ridley Grove School.

The students visit on a weekly basis and learn about conservation, growing food plants as well as watering, weeding and maintaining the garden, including the Butterfly Trail Garden. And of course the students look out for native butterflies.

In addition the site has two ponds with native fish and aquatic life including tadpoles and surrounded by native riparian vegetation. The Butterfly Trail Garden is an official Butterfly Site of Butterfly Conservation SA.

An outcome from the establishment of the Butterfly Trail Garden was Adelaide's first Butterfly Festival, held at the garden/church site in October 2009. This and other fairs have helped promote the garden and our free public gardening workshops.

The Ridley Grove Community Garden is a share model community garden. New gardeners are welcome with session times on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9am and the first Saturday morning of each month from 10am. The garden is located at 66 Ridley Grove, Woodville Gardens. For more information, please phone 0432970466.

Alan Shepard, Coordinator

New Local Government Community Gardening Network

In April 2009, a group of workers who support community gardens in their roles in local government got together to form the Local Government Community Garden Network. Amongst other things, our goals are to advocate for the benefits of community gardening inside our organisations and to other levels of government. Current member Councils are the Cities of Charles Sturt, West Torrens, Adelaide, Marion, Norwood, Payneham, St Peters, Burnside, Playford and Salisbury. Is your Council represented at this network? Please contact Carolyn McArthur (Charles Sturt) on 8408 1379 or Michelle Mitolo (West Torrens) on 8416 6252 for further information.

GRANTS FOR JUNIOR LANDCARERS CLOSE MARCH 5

The Landcare Grants Program has opened with applications closing on March 5, 2010. Under this program, any school or organisation that would like to involve their students in landcare projects, in conjunction with local landcare groups, can apply for grants to assist them with the cost of their projects.

During this round of funding there are two categories to apply for:

- ★ The Coles Junior Landcare School Garden Grant - Schools and youth groups can apply for grants of up to \$1000 (ex GST) to create gardens in their school or community such as bush tucker gardens, waterwise gardens or vege gardens.
- ★ The Yates Environmental Management Planning Grant - Schools and youth groups can apply for grants of up to \$1000 (ex GST) to undertake School Environmental Management Plans (SEMP) or to undertake works identified in an earlier SEMP.

More information is available on the Junior Landcare website,
<http://www.juniorlandcare.com.au/>

Another possible opportunity for young people is the Telstra's Kids Fund, open for applications until the end of May 2009. This program aims to support a broad range of initiatives and projects including education, sports and recreation, arts and culture, environment, social issues and disability programs. Permanent Telstra Group employees can apply for a grant of \$1200 to support a project or activity run by a not-for-profit organisation involving a child, 18 years or under, in their immediate family. More information is available on the Telstra Foundation homepage,
<http://www.telstrafoundation.com.au>.

Microbat Boxes

Attract insect-eating microbats to your garden by installing a \$25 Microbat Box built by volunteers from the Glandore Sustainability Street Environment Group. The boxes are available from the Glandore Community Centre, Malwa Ave, Glandore.
Phone 8371 1139.
Proceeds go to Adelaide Bat Care.

GRANTS FOR WATER PROJECTS

Think Water Local Hero Campaign is valid until 26th February 2010. It gives you the chance to win a \$20,000 water project for your local community, plus the chance to win 1 of 40 community water projects worth \$1,000.

Can you think of a worthy local community group that would really benefit from a donated water project? It could be anything from irrigating the local sports oval to developing a school vegetable garden or even installing a water tank at the retirement village - the more creative the idea the better! For more details on how to enter speak to your local Think Water, water management professional.

Are you interested in becoming a Think Water Local Hero? Locate your nearest Think Water store by visiting our Locality Guide or by calling 1300 THINKWATER.

Visit <http://www.thinkwater.com.au/think-water-promotions.php> for more details.



GRANTS FOR GARDEN TOOLS AND MATERIALS

This may be of use to schools setting up a garden. Grants for up to \$1500 of tools and \$1000 in materials are being offered by Fiskars (a garden tool company) for community and school gardens.

Submissions are open now and close March 2010. Details are available at
<http://www.projectorangelthumb.com/pot/Index.do?locale=AU>

Primary School Community Garden

The School community in Ashbourne have also accessed the 'Life with Gusto' program from the MOSHCC and are currently constructing their garden in what used to be their chook yard. Ashbourne Primary School are hosting a 'Fringe Family Fun Day' event on Sunday 28th February 2010 and will officially open their garden at the event with freebie garden activities such as create your own mini garden in a bucket to take home.

The Ashbourne School community are excited to get behind such a healthy program for their children and are committed to keeping the garden small, healthy & vibrant. Just like the kids!

Karen Barrett
MOSHCC
Community Garden Coordinator

This Newsletter

...is produced for anyone who is interested in, or involved with, Community and School Gardens in SA. Local Government Community Gardening Network members have recently committed to sharing the joy of compiling and editing this newsletter.

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 Kate on 8371 3735 with postal details and she 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@marion.sa.gov.au or cmcarthur@charlessturt.sa.gov.au so they can be included in the next newsletter.

Thank you,
Kate Hubmayer and Carolyn McArthur

A great place to grow.



Ashbourne Fringe Family Fun Day

Music, markets and more!
Sunday 28th February 11am - 4pm

Ashbourne Primary School



Transition Adelaide West

presents...

Fresh



New thinking about what we're eating

A film by Ana Sofia Jones

A movie celebrating farmers, thinkers and business people who are re-inventing our food system.

Friday 26th February

Information stalls and

Organic Sausage Sizzle from 7pm

Screening of movie at 8pm

HENLEY SQUARE

Pack a picnic, bring a rug and enjoy 'Fresh' the movie in the square, embracing local, healthy and sustainable food and find out about the Transition initiative working to re-localise our community and reduce our energy usage.

For more information

contact Amanda on 0422 677 749

transitionadelaidewest@yahoo.com.au

www.freshthemovie.com

Proudly Supported by





How to start a Fruit & Vege Swap in your local area

FREE WORKSHOPS IN 2010

It's the gardener's dilemma: you have more peaches, figs or plums than you can possibly use, but you'd love a little of what your neighbour's got!

A local "Fruit & Vege Swap" offers benefits for you and your local community.

You can:

- share the goodness of your garden • save money • add variety to your diet •
- cut food miles • reduce waste • encourage sustainable living •
- share knowledge • meet your neighbours • strengthen community networks.

It's easy! Come along to a **workshop** and hear about how others have made this simple idea work.

It practically runs itself!

When & where:

Monday, 22 February, 2-3pm, Findon Community Centre**

Saturday, 27 February, 1-2pm, Cheltenham Community Centre**

Tuesday, 2 March, 6-7pm, Croydon Organic Store**

*** FREE * No obligation - no strings attached * Refreshments provided**

****Can't attend on these days/times? Please register your interest anyway - further workshops will be scheduled subject to demand.**

**To register your interest, or for more information, phone Julietta on 0435 530 839, Carolyn on 8408 1379 or email fvswaps@adam.com.au
More information about Fruit & Vege Swap: www.myspace.com/vegeswap**