



Lets get growing!

NEWSLETTER

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SPRING EDITION 2016

Welcome to the spring edition of the WCG newsletter!

Just like our spring weather, this edition is a little bit overdue but we sure are pleased that it has arrived!

Take a look around this issue and get caught up on what is going on in the garden and what is coming up. Thank you for so generously continuing to share food, knowledge and community. All of our contributions together form a vibrant mosaic and make our little community the wonderful place that it is.

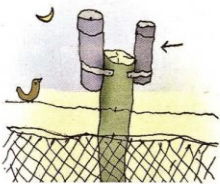


Our rain gauge is filling right up!



Kylie Treble leads a marvellous workshop on manipulating microclimates

ON THE FENCE POST, NEXT TO THE RAIN GAUGE IS THE OLD HAPPINESS GAUGE.



IT'S A SMALL GAUGE BECAUSE IT RECORDS LITTLE THINGS. YOU DON'T NEED MUCH TO KEEP THE GARDEN GROWING.



IT MEASURES THE LITTLE DROPLETS OF HAPPINESS THAT FALL DOWN UPON YOUR LIFE... IN CASE YOU NEED TO BE REMINDED



SOMETIMES THE GAUGE FILLS AND ALL THE WILDFLOWERS COME UP.



Leunig



Spring seedlings are growing nicely

WCG acknowledges and respects the original custodians of this rich and fertile land, the Gunditjmara people, and the traditions and knowledge of their elders both past and present

COMMUNAL PLOT HAPPENINGS!

Spring is here and one would be hoping to wax lyrical about the warmer days and sunshine but we are still waiting!! The inclement weather has not stopped our intrepid group of Tuesday gardeners however and seedlings planted so far have reaped the benefit of plenty of water. John, our industrious seedman continues to supply most of our needs and many spring seedlings are currently being nurtured in the hothouse. John likes to try new and interesting varieties so it is worth a wander through the communal plots to check out plants and their labels. Robyn continues to plan the rotation of our plots to ensure maximum soil nutrition and directs us in completing any required tasks.

Any members are welcome to garden with us on a Tuesday morning. 9am start is now working well with a cuppa about 11am and, as is often the case, a sampling of a cake or slice supplied by one or more of our team..

Our communal lunches are still happening on the first Tuesday of every month when we aim to share a meal at midday, using, as far as possible, only produce from the garden. Thai fish cakes, veggie burgers and Asian cabbage salad were on the menu on 4 October (sometime we do sneak in fish and meat products!). The cost is \$4 on the day but it is advisable to put your name on the list in the hub the week before so we know how many people to cater for. Over the past 12 months the number of diners has been increasing and work crew members also join us for the communal feast.



Clare Vaughan, Jennie Miller, Heather Ryan



Robyn checks out the Broadbean Plot! These two plots were planted with tomatoes last season and the broadbeans were sown in the autumn. This helps control wilt virus after the tomatoes and also returns precious nitrogen to the soil in preparation for our spring plantings.



Hi Members – did you know we now have a communal herb plot? It's beside the HUB and so far includes kitchen herbs, medicinal and herbal tea varieties plus some exotics. The plot has four beds and is a work in progress.

The herbs are for all members to share however so please follow the signs and don't just help yourself. From time-to-time there will be fresh-cut herbs, cuttings and seedlings to share. More helpers are welcome – chat to Clare, Di Lewis, or Heather

Active Hub on the Civic Green

10am-2pm Sunday 16 Oct

Challenge your friends to Giant Games, get the whole family cycling or find a club or community group to match your interests. There will be live music (including our WCG member Bruce Campbell on stage 10:00 to 11:15am), BBQ brunch and coffee van on-site. Tell your friends, bring the family. There's FREE FUN FOR EVERYONE from toddlers to grandparents and everyone in between!

Our WCG Tuesday gardening group will be there and we would love for more members to join us!

All that is required is to chat to people about the fantastic opportunities available at our garden and help show people how to make tussie mussies (they're small bunches of flowers, herbs, seed pods and leaves that are a simple pleasure to make and take home). Here's a pic from when we made them at the last Active Hub in April. We have a range of herbs, seed heads and companion plant flowers like lavender, calendula and borage in our BEE BED beside the communal plot however it would be great if members wanted to bring some suitable plants along on the day. The trick is to pick varieties that don't wilt quickly, pop them in a bucket with a little water and bring them on the day. It would be helpful if you please let Jen Miller (jennie_miller1@yahoo.com 0421568248) or Clare Vaughan (clare.vaughan@gmail.com 0400 369 525) know roughly what time you can help out on the day and if you have particular plants to contribute. If the weather is fine it should be a nice relaxed day.

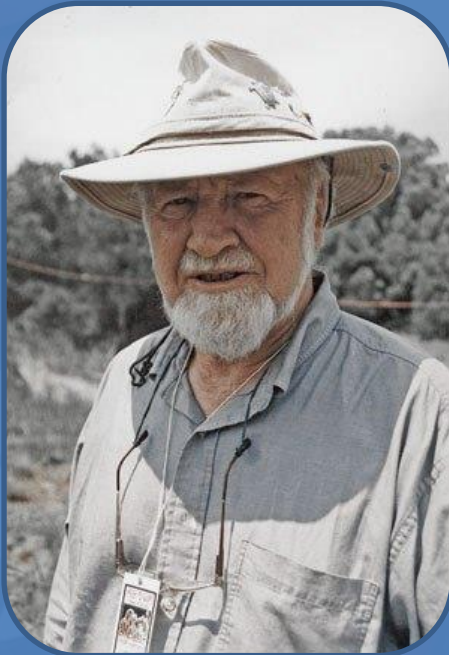


Have you ever tasted a Cranberry Red, Pink Fur Apple, Purple Congo or even Crimson Pearl Potato? You won't stumble across these beauties in the grocery store! These varieties and a handful more have been planted to compare taste and flavour in a Potato Tasting Fest at harvest time with Communal Members.

Bill Mollison

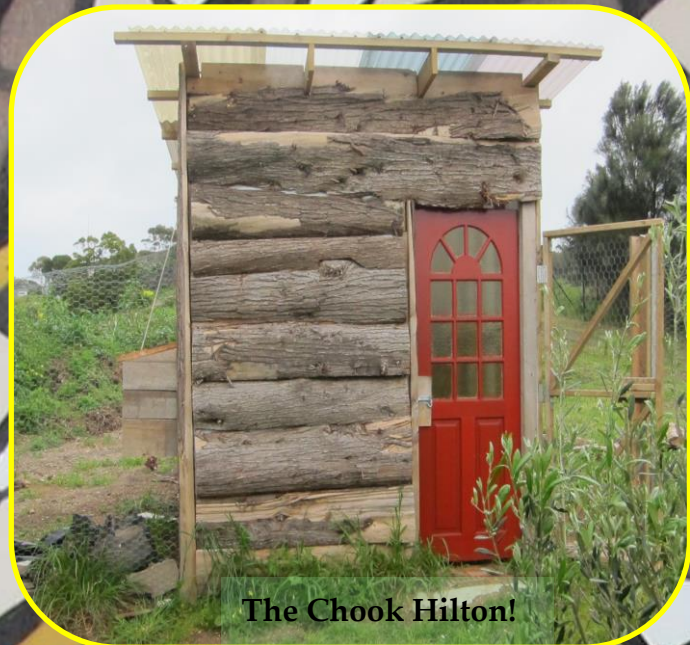
Some thoughts from Dave Mitchell

Saturday September 24th Bill Mollison passed away (1928-2016). Mollison and David Holmgren were co-origins of the permaculture concept, and their work together at the University of Tasmania culminated in the publication of 'Permaculture One' in 1978. He was one of the true pioneers of the modern environmental movement not just in Australia, but globally as well. Mollison was the recipient of the esteemed Wright Livelihood award in 1981 (an alternative Nobel Peace Prize award). Mollison helped develop a holistic body of environmental theory and practice, which is widely recognised as one of Australia's finest, and most original contributions.



On a personal note, both Mollison and Holmgren helped to shape the way I thought and lived when I was introduced to the permaculture concept in the early 80's. I studied with Holmgren, learning permaculture design in Daylesford, Victoria. Unfortunately I never got the chance to meet Mollison, but his theoretical and practical ideas have been very influential on my life. I did however get the chance to capture a glance at his house in Stanley, Tasmania to take a few photos.

So here's to you Bill, your thoughts and wisdom have enriched so many, and now your body is enriching the soil.



The Chook Hilton!

We are almost ready to have chooks in the community garden again! Check out their new digs - the Chook Hilton! Love the red door! Initially we will be getting six girls from Milroy and then when they are settled some other breeds will round out the group. We can look forward to seeing the girls settle into their new home and having fresh eggs for breakfast! Please get in contact with Jess at warrnamboolcommunity@yahoo.com.au or catch her around the garden if you would like to help out.



Our new girls will have a lot more room to dust, scratch, and explore in their new spacious home!

Thank you from Warrnambool Community Garden to Peter Austin!

Peter has assisted the garden over the past couple of years with our weed control strategies and with perimeter planting to reduce weed flow into the quarry while the process of working out what to do in there is happening. Peter led the Work Experience crew on Thursdays over the past 12 months.

His knowledge, skills and experience have helped transform the garden space with shelter belt planting, organic weed trials, native plant propagation and plantings over this time. Work Experience crews have enjoyed the benefit of his talents as a trainer. The next 6 months Work Experience projects will focus on the HUB renovation and stage 2 of our bushfood garden in front of the HUB building. While we are working out what to in the next stage of our quarry project, Peter will take a break from his Thursday Work Experience role.



Here's Peter before the quarry work we've done in the last 18 months.



This shot, taken from the same vantage point, shows the quarry sheoak perimeter planting (mulched area) and removal of woody weeds in the quarry. Those sheoaks are now jumping out of the ground with all this spring rain and bursts of sun!



Wondering What to Plant in October?

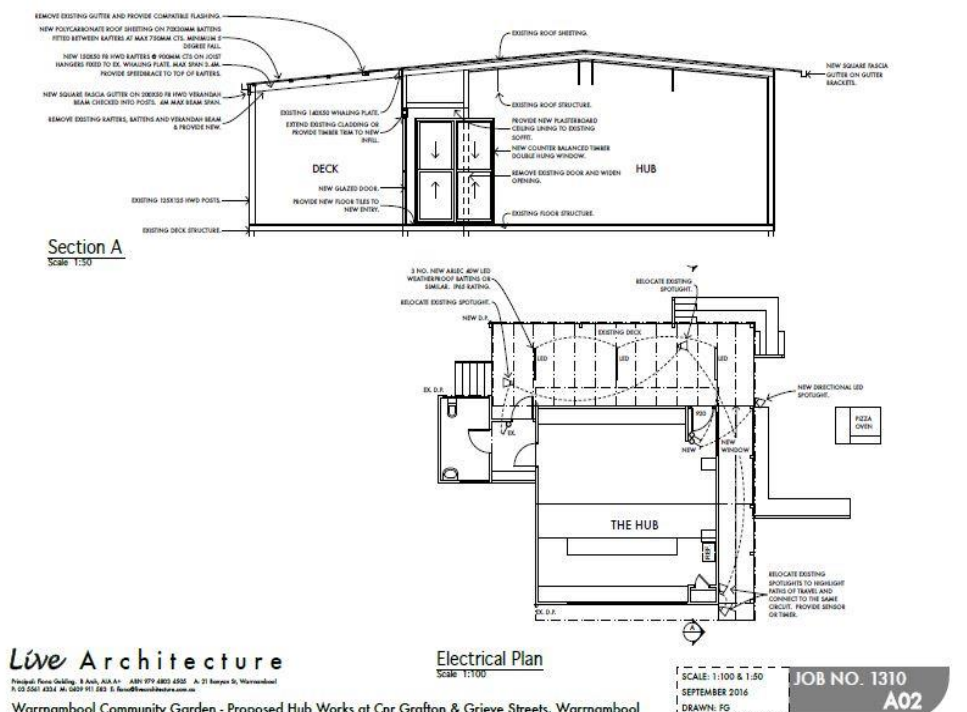
Try beetroot, broad, bush and climbing beans, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, capsicums, carrots, cauliflower, celery, cucumbers, eggplant, leeks, lettuce, peas, potatoes, pumpkins, radishes, shallots, silverbeet, spinach, swedes, tomatoes, turnips.

From <http://members.dodo.net.au/kbears/>

Kylie Treble led an inspiring and interactive workshop at the garden the last weekend of September. Members took away lots of thoughtful tools and ways of thinking about Recognising and Manipulating Micro-climates. The workshop was part of the ongoing combined Grow Your Own Food workshops taking place across The Natures Way Sanctuary, The Port Fairy Community House and right here at the WCG. You can be part of the next one we are hosting on December 3 titled Efficient Use of Water and Mulch.



The works include rebuilding the HUB pergola so it can support a roof covered by laserlight, a transparent and tough plastic that will provide shelter and allow light and sun to enter the building from the north. There will also be a roof over the ramp, an upgrade to the outdoor lighting (which is currently very poor at night), two new double glazed windows on the east facing wall and a new glass double glazed door that will allow passage to our pizza oven/bushfood garden area and to the new steps completed in our last Work Experience project. This will replace the current door which is not being used. Fly screens will be added on some windows that can be opened for pest-free airflow. There will also be tiling to the floor in both entrances, the wooden kitchen floor will be sanded and finished and there are a few boards that need replacing on the outside of the building. We hope this will make the HUB building look and function better for the wide range of users and uses, currently and into the future.



The HUB renovation will be assisted by our second Work Experience crew (Thursday/Friday group starting October 6th). We received an infrastructure grant from WCC and this plus the materials budget from the Work Experience Project will greatly assist with these works .

A copy of the plans is also on display on the HUB noticeboard.

BUSHFOOD GARDEN

November 26 in your diary. That's the day we'll launch our new bushfood garden and bushfood brochure along with a public dedication of our indigenous acknowledgement seat. There'll be live music, food and plant sales as well as cooking with bushfoods and bushtucker workshops. Rob Lowe Snr says we'll have traditional dance, story telling around the fire and if you're lucky he'll show you how to throw a spear and boomerang! Watch out for more details coming soon. Tell your friends and family.



This is a pic of BEFORE we started our bushfood garden, pizza oven mosaic and indigenous acknowledgement seat



Live Architecture

Our Green Architect **Fiona Golding** is presenting *How to Design your Green Home* on **Sunday 9th October**



*Back yard Beekeeping for BEE ginner*s with the amazing Fraser Makenzie. By golly these are popular. Fraser is doing the BEE ginner on **23rd October**

Please contact our friends at Nature's Way for more information and bookings



AFTER!



Signs of Spring!
Dave Mitchell
and Kristy with
black swan
cygnets hatching
at Tower Hill



Quarry Activity Update

Things are moving along well with the quarry renewal project including a meeting held by the Quarry Reference Group on September 29 to help take it to the next stage. Members of this group include Fiona Golding, Keith Fisher, David Mitchell, Dave Stockdale, Bruce Campbell, Jessie Porte, Julie Eagles, Geoff Rollinson and Jennie Miller.

We have appointed Perry Mills (from Perry Mills and Associates, based in Torquay) as our landscape architect and to lead the design phase for the new-look quarry precinct. Some of the elements that may be incorporated are an amphitheatre and multi-purpose gathering and event space, native plants and wetlands, a labyrinth, a peaceful-meditative place for reflection and a wetlands/water garden.

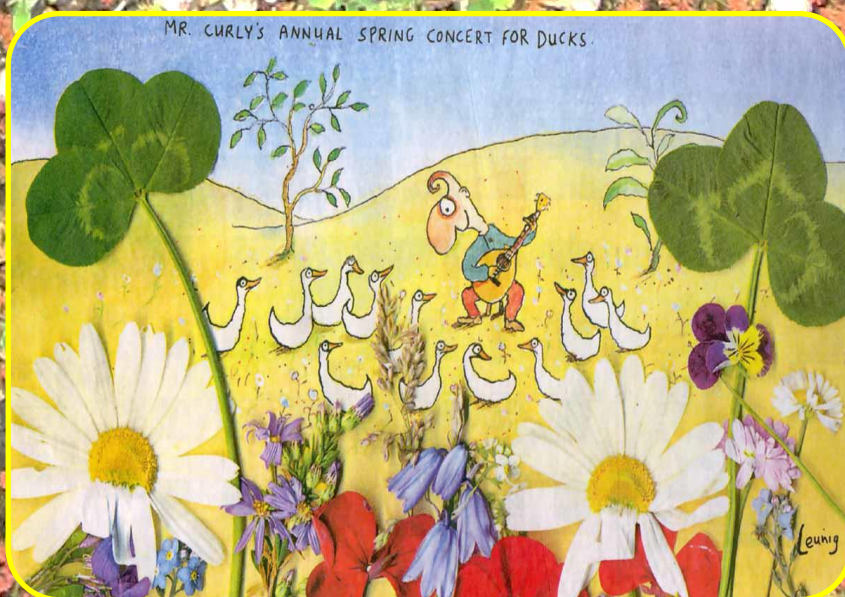
Other elements being considered are links to the Miura Friendship Garden, solar power for the amphitheatre area, a viewing platform and artworks and sculptures. An overarching consideration is that the space is low maintenance and well-designed in terms of linkages to other adjacent features around the quarry and garden. Foundation activities such as weed control and paths into the quarry will be attended to in the meantime.

There will be a "walkshop" with Perry for the Quarry Reference Group members on the morning of Saturday October 15 between 10 and Noon. Later in the day all Warrnambool Community Garden members and others with a statutory role are then invited to join in the afternoon session to see the initial concepts produced by Perry. This will take place between 4pm - 5pm, Saturday October 15 so please pop that in your diary if you'd like to be part of that activity.

Geoff Rollinson,
On behalf of the Quarry Reference Group



Watch this space for exciting things to come! Come out
4pm -5pm, Saturday October 15 to see the initial
concepts for the quarry precinct



Wishing you and yours a beautiful spring filled with growth and new possibilities! Thanks to all those that contributed to this issue!