

WCG Annual Report 2022



Premier's
Sustainability
Awards 2022

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP

WINNER



x



x



2022 CONVENOR'S REPORT TO MEMBERS



Some of our crew with Justine Schofield



Carey Grammar kids with Rob



Working bee in the quarry



I present the Convenor's Report for 2022 to members with a sense of amazement and awe at what our members and our Garden has achieved since COVID gathering limits were removed just after our 2021 AGM. At the same time it must be recognised that the after effects of the 2020-2021 lockdowns have also slowed progress in some areas.

This report cannot cover all of the events of 2022, but our monthly newsletters certainly have. To review 2022 in detail look up www.wcg3280.org.au/newsletters-current

During this last year our Garden has received a lot of **publicity at national and state levels**. I was going to say "amazing exposure", but in all honesty this is an amazing organisation and an amazing site – so without conceit the exposure is actually warranted even if we are sometimes slow to see it. Some of the ways we have been shown off to people beyond our district include being a site for the filming of Everyday Gourmet with Justine Schofield, being a finalist then a winner in the Premier's Sustainability Awards (Sustainable Places and Destinations), and being featured in the Gardening Australia Magazine. On a lighter note our own Dame Eggna was named Australia's best named chook in one of the Grow It Local national competitions.

It has been wonderful to **welcome visiting groups**, especially children, back to our Garden. Local schools and groups like scouts have been in for tours and activities like propagation. Visits from local groups have not quite reached pre-COVID levels but we are getting there. What have increased are enquiries and visits from outside our district including Melbourne. Some of this is from the exposure mentioned above, but some is also from support from Warrnambool City Council's events and tourism staff.

Our **Garden App** was re-launched late in 2022. Development stalled during what the tech-sperts called "beta testing" for a range of reasons. Mid 2022 we got back to sorting out the issues that had been indentified, and it is now out and available for anyone to use to safely track WCG progress.

The **quarry development** has continued, with Stage 1 (The Amphitheatre) just needing the bollards supporting the power and water to be fitted. Our extra wet spring has also shown a couple of small areas where drainage can be tweaked. It was a new member's observations on this wonderful asset that eventually led to our win in the Premier's Sustainability Awards. We are anxious to give the amphitheatre a test run, but the record rainfall has kept the surface too soft given the new grass. We finish 2022 with Stage 2 of the development, the rainforest gully and educational space,

now attainable after a grant of \$150,000 from the Warrnambool City Council Small Infrastructure Fund.

Not everything has been positive all the time. We have had another **burglary** resulting in loss of essential and valuable tools. This time the culprits have brought along an angle grinder to break into our container / workshop. It seems to be an ongoing arms race of sorts. We have further reinforced the container and expect to have high quality CCTV in the area very soon. However even the thefts have led to positive relationships. We were very humbled and grateful when local businessman Jay Stuart (Southwest Pipe Relining, Carter's Tree Services) stepped in and replaced them for us.

Our **maintenance area** has also undergone a great deal of development during 2022. With support from South West Community Foundation our container / workshop is now fitted out including solar power and a battery. Broken seedling tables in the area have been repaired and are now being used for their original purpose helping our native propagation activities. New outdoor racking has been built, the old shed emptied, and now we have a great storage area for storing items that will have low appeal to future thieves.

Our after school children's program, **Kids in the Garden**, was barely an idea when the 2021 annual report was written. Member Heather Ryan got this going and has progressed it wonderfully, with this project taking on a life of its own during 2022. The initial ideas, with funding from Wannon Water and ourselves, began taking shape in late 2021. Permaculture designer and now member Kirsty Williams donated her expertise and creativity to do a design for whole area based on input from us (see the end of this report). Kids, parents and grandparents engaged with the program from the start in February 2022, and the program has run continually since then. Heather has even run extended sessions during school holidays. Many members and volunteers have helped with the evolution of the area towards the plan, and Susan Jones supported us with further funding to install the second bank of wicking beds.

Our **HUB kitchen and classroom** now has a commercial display fridge. This was provided through a Victorian Energy Efficiency Target (VEET) scheme. It is yet to be officially announced, but it appears we will also get funding to replace our degraded decking boards in 2023 through a Victorian Government Living Local grant.

Our **grounds** have looked amazing throughout this last year. The value-adding that comes from having a site manager with set hours cannot be emphasised enough. There is a whole team that come in and wrap around this role, resulting in the site manager's 15 hours per week being magnified to more like 80 or 90 hours of work per week. This team also runs the Garden Market and everything that sits behind it, which gives us a degree of financial security many similar organisations don't have. They also take care of much of the



Julie Eagles and Dave Mitchell with Jay Stuart



Heather Ryan (right) – queen of the kids



L-R: Jesse, Julie, Susan Jones, Alexander, Heather.
The Jones family are wonderful supporters of WCG



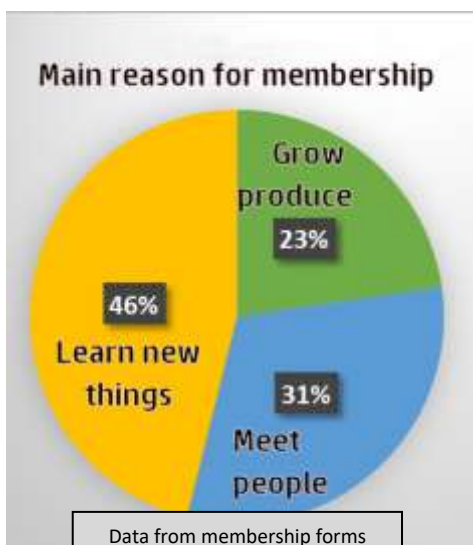
Gilles & Keith repairing plot edges



Grafting workshop with Carolyn Gemmell (back to camera)



One of our new marquees thanks to South West Community Foundation



Catching up over a working bee lunch

mowing and edging, and do most of the structural repair and development work. Our Saturday Communal Sessions generally result in another 100+ hours of similar work per month. As amazing as these contributions may be, don't get too focused on the hours of work. Paramount in all of this is that the work is undertaken with a sense of community – at heart we are an organisation for people and the garden is the focus we use to bring us together.

It has been wonderful to have an almost full calendar of **workshops** running once more. We have had workshops on everything from propagation to repairing tools to grafting to cooking to weaving and more. We have also had a short course introduction to permaculture, and the Kids in the Garden program has also run workshops on various topics.

The **Garden Market** has continued to be a valuable part of what we do. Valuable in terms of income but also in terms of the community building it generates. Linked to the Market and also to other areas of our operation is propagation. Our Green Thumbs group have once again raised several thousand seedlings for this spring. Team leader Heather Ryan has signalled that she will focus more on Kids in the Garden in 2023, but we will be forever grateful that her hard work, research and persistence have shown us just what we can achieve in this area. Also linked to the Market we have taken delivery of two new marquees with support from the South West Community Foundation. Weekly use is taking its toll on the older models.

Our long delayed **strategic planning process** (COVID again) has started and is well progressed – many members and friends of the Garden have completed surveys to help with this. It should be complete by the end of the 2022 calendar year. The completion of this process will allow us to come back to the master planning we had started some time ago, and link this in to the WayFinding project and new signage that was also delayed by COVID. We are very grateful to the David and Isobel Jones Foundation who have supported us with funding to support the strategic planning process as well as elements of the signage.

With the Garden being 16 years old as an organisation and 15 years on site, it is becoming clear that it is very easy to lose information. Annual reports are one document that will be preserved, so it is a logical place to highlight people taking leadership roles each year. There is always the danger of missing people, but getting the majority recognised for posterity makes this a risk worth taking. Some of the WCG's key leaders of 2022 are listed here.

- Our committee as always has been amazing. Secretary Christine Morriss, Treasurer David Baker, Deputy Convenor Julie Eagles, and general committee members Geoff Rollinson, Heather Ryan, Terry Lowen, Courtney Mathew, and Sue McCallum. Courtney and Sue joined us when casual vacancies were created

when firstly Toby Webb (early in the year) then Lidia Cavaliere (around midyear) moved away from Warrnambool for work. All committee members have made a valuable contribution to policy and decision making, whether they were with us for a full year or part.

- I need to make special mention of Julie Eagles, who is stepping away from the committee after 10 years. In that time she has had a number of roles including convenor for five years. She has been a big part of the team that has brought significant resources into the Garden, often through many hours of hard work. Julie will continue in several roles including some subcommittees and following through on some current projects. We thank her for her amazing contributions so far and look forward to whatever ongoing roles she is involved in.
- Site Manager Dave Mitchell has created a great team around him, leading with positivity and humour. A sign of good leadership is that the team can function well without their leader, and this was the case when Dave and his family had a long delayed overseas holiday midyear. Dave is largely responsible for organising the maintenance and physical development of the site, running the Market preparations, and supporting all Garden teams with resources and time.
- Heather Ryan has continued to lead the propagation team with great results. As if that wasn't enough, she has been the driver behind the Kids in the Garden Program. Heather has not only designed and run the program she has also done much of the on-ground work herself. Finding a way to engage children in the Garden in an ongoing way has been a long term goal – Heather has found a way for us to do this.
- Dianne Membrey has continued to lead the Herb Group. They quietly go about their business every Tuesday, providing a welcoming space for many.
- Christine Morriss has continued to lead our chook crew. There are many purposes for having chooks at WCG, but one of the best has to be the interactions that happen with children.
- Keith Fisher has been the inspiration, drive and main worker running the Market Garden for several years. 2022 has not been an easy year given the weather, but Keith continues to lead by example and sheer hard work.
- Terry Lowen has quietly run the original Communal Vegetable Beds for a couple of years, liaising with our site manager and providing both gardening opportunities for people who are interested and also produce for the Market.
- As much as I dislike putting my name forward, there are clear roles in the monthly newsletter and organising workshops. Leading either of these does not have to be me, so any interested members should speak up.
- Sabine Schreiber is a new member who has got us looking at a couple of things differently. She not only drew our attention to the potential of the quarry in the Premier's Sustainability Awards, she also did most of the work with the application. She



Julie Eagles (right) with our longest standing committee person Geoff Rollinson



Dave Mitchell being Dave (cover photo)



Heather & Kay after the kids solstice candle activity



Keith catching his breath after the umpteenth load of hay from the showgrounds

has also helped Heather apply for a Junior Landcare grant. Any organisation worth its salt values new perspectives on how it is running – I hope all new members feel listened to.

Looking forward to 2023 there is a lot to anticipate.

- We always keep in mind the reasons WCG was established, and providing people with opportunities to garden communally and individually will always be central in our planning. Similarly with our other core purposes, many of which are supported through informally sharing knowledge on site and more formally through workshops, visits and tours.
- Continuing projects around master planning and interactive signage (Wayfinding) should be completed in 2023. A grant only recently received will allow us to replace the deteriorating deck boards at the HUB. We are also hopeful that the nursery area (the “Corral”) just inside the main gates will undergo a renewal. Stage 2 of the quarry will see the whole area made accessible and get its educational purposes started.
- In our modern world social media has also become a powerful medium to celebrate what happens at WCG, as well as sharing our vision and supporting our purposes. Our presence and activity in this area continues to grow. However our app will also provide an avenue for those uncomfortable being exposed to the world to share this type of communication within a smaller audience.
- During COVID WCG’s importance to the physical and emotional health of our community was really highlighted. During 2022 this has been an ongoing theme with engagement with NDIS clients and carers, involvement in City Council health-related working groups and meetings with Southwest Healthcare health promotions officers. It is now clear that we have gone from somewhere people can pursue their own health and recreation objectives to a place which can have an impact on the health of our wider community, and this will continue into 2023.

In closing, I would reflect that in taking up the opportunities WCG offers them, our own members have grown our Garden into so much more than what it started as. It was very affirming to have a conversation with a convenor from the early years who no longer lives locally, who reflected (almost in tears) that it was wonderful to see the dreams of the early days coming to fruition even if they could not see how that might happen back then. Like the world of modern work, the world of modern volunteering can quickly morph into something that it once was not. Our challenge going forward will be to hold those aspects of our Garden that make us valuable to our community, but at the same time remain unafraid to explore new ways to add to the dynamism of the organisation and the site as opportunities arise.

All the best to everyone for the upcoming festive season, and may 2023 be a wonderful year for all of us.

Kind Regards,
Rob Porter,
WCG Convenor 2022.



- WCG CHILDREN'S GARDEN HUB -

- 01 ENTRY AREA: 2 DOUBLE VINYL OR CANE SCREENS
- 02 HOBBYCH WELCOME OF HANDMADE MOSAIC TABLES
- 03 BUSTLING VEGETABLE WICKING BEDS x4
- 04 PROPOSED VEGETABLE WICKING BEDS x4
- 05 HANDPAINTED TOTEM POLE STYLE 'GARDEN' SIGNS
- 06 PROPOSED DEMONSTRATION BEDS x3 2L BY STU WICKING BEDS
- 07 HANDMADE STAIRING STONES ALONG PATHWAYS
- 08 VERTICAL TRELLIS GARDEN AND PULP-POLE 'PRAIRIE'
- 09 LARGE CENTRAL FEATHER TREE DEDICATING THE 5 PERMACULTURE BEDS
- 10 LARGED MARKET HOTEL IN INTEGRATED LEARNING RESOURCES
- 11 DARK PERMANENT FEATHER TREE UNDERPLANTED IN PERMACULTURE GARDEN
- 12 THICK BENCH SEAT IN UNDER BENCH WICKING BEDS
- 13 NEARBY CIRCULAR HUB AND LEARNING CIRCLE
- 14 SMALL GRASS LEARNING CIRCLE OF LOG SEATS
- 15 BUSTLING VEGETABLE PLOTS x5
- 16 BUSTLING WATER TABLE & MURAL AND VISUAL LEARNING RESOURCES
- 17 MOUNTAIN POTTER PLAYING AND EDUCATIONAL DISPLAY AREA
- 18 BUSTLING SAND PLAY SPACE
- 19 MULCHED PATHWAYS
- 20 SMALL WATER RESOURCES FOR BEDS AND BEDS x2

The plan and legend for the Kids Gardening Area,
designed by Kirsty Williams.



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AGENDA

Annual General Meeting

Warrnambool Community Garden Inc.

Tuesday 8th November 2022

7:00PM at the HUB Building

1. Welcome and acknowledgements.
2. Present.
3. Apologies.
4. Business:
 - 4.1 Confirm the minutes of the previous annual general meeting and of any special general meeting held since then.
 - 4.2 Receive and consider:-
 - (i) the annual report of the Convenor on the activities of the Association during the preceding year; and
 - (ii) the financial statements of the Association for the preceding financial year submitted by the Committee in accordance with Part 7 of the Act.
 - 4.3 Election of Committee members and office bearers.
 - 4.4 Confirm or vary the amounts of the annual subscription.
5. Close meeting.
6. Next meeting.

I respectfully acknowledge the Maar (Gunditjmara) people as the original custodians of the land where I live and acknowledge the traditions and knowledge of their elders past and present.

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MINUTES – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

Held on Tuesday 9th November, 2021 at 7pm at the HUB Building and via Zoom.

1. Welcome and acknowledgements.
2. **PRESENT (in room or via Zoom):** Rob Porter, David Baker, Christine Morriss, Heather Ryan, Peter Jackman, Terry Lowen, Denise Dalton, Cullen Pope, Di Pettigrew, Toby Webb, Lidia Cavaliere, Dennis Hilder, Maggie Dwyer, Maida Gilbert, Julie Eagles, Kay Porter, Deb Burns, Marg Kenna.
3. **APOLOGIES:** Bruce Cairns
4. **MINUTES:** Minutes from previous AGM have been emailed to members. **MOTION:** That the 2020 AGM minutes be confirmed. Moved Geoff Rollinson, seconded Heather Ryan. Carried.
5. **ANNUAL REPORTING:**
 - 5.1 **The Annual Report of the Committee to Members for 2020-2021** was tabled. The Convenor spoke to the report, including thanking outgoing committee members Matt Simpson, Amanda Power and Lisa McLeod. Report is appended to these minutes. **MOTION:** That the report of the committee for 2020-2021 be accepted. Moved Rob Porter, seconded Geoff Rollinson. Carried.
 - 5.2 **The report for the financial year 2020-2021** was tabled (previously emailed to all members). The Treasurer spoke to the report. Report is appended to these minutes. **MOTION:** That the financial report for 2020-2021 be accepted. Moved David Baker, seconded Terry Lowen. Carried.
6. **ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Nominations were received as follows:

• Convenor:	Rob Porter	Nominated by David Mitchell
• Deputy Convenor:	Julie Eagles	Nominated by David Mitchell
• Secretary:	Christine Morriss	Nominated by Rob Porter
• Treasurer:	David Baker	Nominated by Rob Porter
• Committee Person:	Heather Ryan	Nominated by Terry Lowen
• Committee Person:	Lidia Cavaliere	Nominated by Rob Porter
• Committee Person:	Terry Lowen	Nominated by Heather Ryan
• Committee Person:	Geoff Rollinson	Nominated by David Mitchell
• Committee Person:	Toby Webb	Nominated by Catherine Turland

Motion: That as the number of nominees is equal to the number of positions, all nominees are duly elected.

I respectfully acknowledge the Maar (Gunditjmarra) people as the original custodians of the land where I live and acknowledge the traditions and knowledge of their elders past and present.

7. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

There was discussion regarding membership and plot fees which have not changed since 2017. Agreement was reached that membership fees and key deposits should increase but plot fees remain the same for the coming year.

MOTION: That annual subscriptions and other fees be changed to reflect the table below. "Friend of the Garden" is to be removed as newsletter access is now offered free to all. Moved Geoff Rollinson, seconded Terry Lowen. Carried.

Membership types	Fee #
Adult	\$33.00
Adult Concession*	\$27.50
Family (entitles two adults to be entered on the membership register)	\$49.50
Family Concession*	\$38.50
Not-for-Profit organisation with annual revenue <\$500,000	\$82.50
Commercial organisation or Not-for-Profit organisation with annual revenue >\$500,000	\$148.50
Individual Garden Plot – standard size is 4mx4m. <i>Irregular plots incur a pro rata fee; please contact Treasurer</i>	\$88.00
Key deposit (paid once and available to all members)	\$27.50

*holder of Commonwealth concession card or full-time student. (applicant to provide concession/student card)

fees are inclusive of GST if applicable.

8. NEXT MEETING:

Next AGM is Tuesday 8th November 2022 at 7 p.m.

Meeting closed at 7:40pm

Profit and Loss

Warrnambool Community Garden Inc For the year ended 30 June 2022

2022

Trading Income

Gifts & Donations	2,288.09
Grants	8,991.18
Interest Income	245.40
Key issue	2,320.03
Membership Fee	4,320.92
Other Revenue	10,199.92
Rental - Hub	250.00
Rental - Plot	4,101.82
Sales	43,431.42
Solar Tariff	782.53
Total Trading Income	76,931.31

Cost of Sales

Cost of Goods Sold	13,508.19
Total Cost of Sales	13,508.19

Gross Profit

63,423.12

Other Income

Grant income previous financial year	43,222.56
Music support	632.98
Total Other Income	43,855.54

Operating Expenses

Cleaning	347.25
Consulting & Accounting	54.64
Freight & Courier	18.00
General Expenses	5,609.57
Grant Expenditure	52,213.74
Insurance	1,770.95
Light, Power, Heating	577.53
Office Expenses	2,026.48
Printing & Stationery	22.73
Rent	245.04
Repairs and Maintenance	8,358.15
Subscriptions	574.52
Superannuation	2,835.00
Telephone & Internet	163.68
Wages and Salaries	28,947.20
Write off/adjustments	(201.02)
Total Operating Expenses	103,563.46

Net Profit

3,715.20

Balance Sheet

Warrnambool Community Garden Inc

As at 30 June 2022

30 JUN 2022

Assets

Bank

Card Account	1,039.59
Investment Account	98,715.55
South West Credit Union	22,718.80
Total Bank	122,473.94

Current Assets

Accounts Receivable	169.91
Market float	250.00
Total Current Assets	419.91

Total Assets	122,893.85
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Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Grant income c/forward	42,791.68
GST	(189.00)
PAYG Withholdings Payable	1,780.00
SWCE Solar Loan	8,000.00
Total Current Liabilities	52,382.68

Total Liabilities	52,382.68
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Net Assets	70,511.17
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Equity

Current Year Earnings	3,715.20
Retained Earnings	66,795.97
Total Equity	70,511.17