



Warrnambool Community Garden Inc.
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NEW AFTER SCHOOL GARDENING PROGRAM 2022

Our Garden is currently looking at developing a new after school gardening program. Initially proposed and researched by member Heather Ryan, the program now has several members in the core team as it gets developed.

The reason for the proposal is that Heather was involved in school kitchen garden programs for several years and saw that that many students wish to continue gardening after their 6-8 week school-based program has finished. Our program would start modestly with a Wednesday afternoon program - extending to other timeslots is possible if it proves as popular as we believe it will.



Some of the underlying ideas being built in to the plan include:

- Hands on gardening for kids.
- Open to students from any schools, but aimed mainly at grade 3 to 5 (9 to 11 year olds).
- Other activities would be included, like food preparation from the produce.
- Based around wicking beds for ease of teaching and maintenance.
- A bookings based system to control numbers for safety and good instruction.
- Designed with strong links to the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program that most schools follow to some extent.
- Parents must stay at the Garden while the session runs - the summer market will be on by the time we start.



The program itself is fairly well mapped out given that it is practically based around vegies and companion plants. The main adjustments will be around what is due to plant when it starts. The infrastructure to run the program needs to be developed. We are looking at 4-6 commercial wicking beds (eg Biofilta Food Cubes or similar) plus a couple of IBC-based beds we build as part of a workshop. They will be located on the south side of the Pavilion, taking up some of the ornamental garden near the childrens' play area.

Estimated costs for beds, growing media and a small amount of site works is \$4,000. We will be seeking grants and donations for these. The staging of the project will largely depend on how successful we are with this.

Members and friends of WCG who are interested in being involved in the program or donating towards the program or both should contact Rob or Heather at the Garden or email or phone Rob (0438 308 755, wcggrows@gmail.com).

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.