



## 'Let's Get Growing'

Warrnambool Community Garden Inc.

Post: PO Box 5181 Warrnambool VIC 3280  
Email: [info@communityhub.net.au](mailto:info@communityhub.net.au)  
Website: [www.warrnamboolcg.wordpress.com](http://www.warrnamboolcg.wordpress.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Warrnambool-Community-Garden/360924007270788> 

## Sprightly Spring! EDITION — SEPTEMBER 2014

Hi Everyone...

Have you met the resident Magpie and Willy Wag Tail at our Garden? Yesterday they were both hanging around and seemed glad that Spring is here!

There is warmth in the sun, insects are getting moving, the blossom is blooming, bulbs are emerging, the cockatoos are calling, people are cleaning (or so we have heard), dogs are moulting, mowers are mowing, sneezes are brewing, seeds are sprouting and there is a smell of new possibilities in the air.

There's lots to read about and digest in this edition. We hope this finds you well and poised for the season to come —like a coiled spring...

**Now spring into action!**

**Below: A canola field near Camperdown captured by one of our gardeners.**



**Above: Beautiful Parsley, Onions and Lettuces in the well-tended communal Plots.**

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





## Get your Diary out and put in.....

### A 'ROTTEN DAY' AT THE GARDEN!

A Rotten Day at the WCG – November 15<sup>th</sup> 10am-3pm. This day was formerly known as the Dirty Weekend.

This annual event is run in partnership and with support from Warrnambool City Council. The aim of the day is to educate the public about various ways to recycle kitchen and green waste – so that we are helping to reduce the amount of green waste going into landfill. It's also a chance for us to showcase our garden to the public and to raise a little bit of money with a barbie and raffle.

The program will include workshops on different ways to compost (hot, cold, fast, slow, Iranian, tumbling, turning, etc). There'll also be workshops about worm farming, making wicked weed tea, and keeping chooks.

Those plot holders with their own compost bins and especially the tumbling bins at the garden - we'd love you to be available to chat to people about how you do your compost. We'd like as many as members as possible to help out on the day or just be in your plot and available to chat with passing public. Please think of it as part of your community contribution to our garden. At the moment we need people to:

- ◆ Help with the barbie (fundraiser for our garden)
- ◆ Make the vegie burgers (for the barbie fundraiser)
- ◆ Make some salad (to go with the barbie)
- ◆ Welcome people at the gate
- ◆ Sell raffle tickets
- ◆ Talk compost (and why it's so great for growing vegies) at their plots
- ◆ Help Christian in the Chai and Honey Tent
- ◆ General help out with washing plates and cups, etc.

**Please contact Julie ([Julie.eagles@bigpond.com](mailto:Julie.eagles@bigpond.com) or 5562 1141)**

**...for how you reckon  
you can help out or  
to let her know what  
times you are availa-  
ble on the day.  
Thanks in advance!**



## **This Edition's Proud Plots**



**Above: Succulents up on the balcony**



**Above: Leo tends to his Proud Plot**



**Above: The plots near the HUB are enjoying the arrival of Spring.**





# Composting @ WCG – this is how we do it



At the Warrnambool Community Garden we're committed to composting, managing weeds, producing nutrient teas as well as minimising disposal of waste to landfill. We ask all members to help keep our site healthy and productive by following the info provided below: (Thanks Clare Vaughn)

Recycling options	Garden material	What does it look like?
<b>Large compost bays –near main gate</b> COLD & SLOW Composting just ticks along with minimal effort	Plant material but not branches or other wood. Shredded paper & cardboard are fine (not full colour gloss paper)  Wannon Water constructed these compost bays to divert workplace organic waste from landfill. Food waste in bio-degradable bags, shredded paper & cardboard as well as horse manure are layered in the bay each fortnight	
<b>Small compost bays and stacks under tarps</b> HOT & QUICK  It is possible to make compost in 3-6weeks when the right proportion & quantity of ingredients are layered in a bay, with sufficient water and air  Please follow signage on compost bays describing which bay to add your chopped garden material	<u>Brown or carbon</u> , eg: hay, leaves, woodchips, carbon, corn stalks, shredded paper <u>Green or nitrogen</u> , eg: soft garden trimmings, vegie scraps, lawn clippings <u>Activators</u> : sprinkle of manure, coffee grounds, comfrey, nettles, worm or weed tea  NB: NO onions, citrus or wood bigger than 5cm wood chips. Alternate brown/ carbon layer (about 20cm) with green/nitrogen layers (5cm) and sprinkle thin manure layers & other activators too	
<b>Wicked weed bins: Trial in 2014</b> Located beside shared compost bays. Please don't over fill the bins.	'Wicked weeds' like kikuyu, couch and dandelions seed heads etc	
<b>Worm farm</b>  Please don't over feed the worms.	Chop any plant material into small pieces NO onions, citrus or wood  2 or 3 litre bottles of worm tea are available for sale (Gold Coin Donation)	

## What Should Go Where?

Items we re-use and rubbish	Material	A bit more info...
Punnets, pots & trays	Clean, re-usable punnets, pots & trays, milk bottles.	Stack punnets, pots & trays neatly. If the area is overflowing... take them home. Milk Cartons are useful for worm tea.
Carpet and Cardboard	Small amounts of cardboard and carpet	Useful for weed control—please no plastic tape on the cardboard, carpet is better.
Wood off cuts & stakes	Useful wood off cuts & stakes	Stack wood suitable for stakes neatly in garden shed and non-toxic wood off-cuts beside pizza oven. If either area is overflowing... take wood home
Plastic & metal stuff that's not reusable	Split plastic pots or manure bags, wire etc	Please take home - WCG does not have a rubbish service.



# The Spring Spiel

With Clare Vaughan, John Madden and the Tuesday Gardeners

## Communal vegies

From early August the communal gardeners have been making good use of the Community Garden's hothouse to germinate seeds for early plantings of well-established seedlings in Spring/Summer. The following seed varieties have been chosen to provide colour, variety and taste to the crops which will be sown in the communal plots.



### TOMATOES:

**Siberian** is a non-staking vigorous plant with distinctive foliage, producing medium sized round red tomatoes, even in cool conditions.

**Aussie Red** is fair dinkum Australian, and is another sturdy dwarf plant, producing medium to large flattened fruit.

**Legend** is also non-staking and compact, producing masses of tasty red slicing tomatoes.

**Roma** has Italian heritage, does not require staking, and produces pear shaped fruit, especially suited to bottling and sauces.

**San Marzano** is another Italian tomato. It does require staking, and produces cylindrical fruit best suited for sauces, pastes and bottling.

**Periforme** is a tall Italian heirloom plant, producing large pear shaped tomatoes, outstanding when sliced for salads.

**Better Boy** is an American bred disease resistant tomato, grown as a tall staking type. It produces large heavy red fruit of globe shape, juicy and excellent for salads.

**Jaune Flamme** is a French heirloom, producing delicious yellow fruit in just 7 weeks from transplanting. It does best when staked.



### CAPSICUM/PEPPERS:

**Gilboa Orange** is a large bright orange capsicum, very sweet.

**Big Bertha** is a large blocky (18cm x 10cm) capsicum, turning from green to bright red.

**Golden Bell** is a large bell shaped capsicum, turning green to bright yellow.

**Sweet Romano** is an Italian capsicum, long and pointed with a thin skin, turning from green to bright red.

**Purple Beauty** is a large bell capsicum, turning green to purple as it ripens.

**Chilli Joes Long Cayenne** produces 15cm red chilli peppers, not as hot as some but guaranteed to make your eyes water.



### EGGPLANT:

A kaleidoscope of eggplants never seen in supermarkets, including Fairy Tales, Rosa Bianca, Violetta di Firenze, Slim Jim and Listada di Gandia.

### PUMPKIN:

As the weather warms, a large collection of heirloom pumpkin seeds will be sown and grown outdoors in a large communal area. Species will include Musquee de Provence, the most decorative French pumpkin with fluted dark green skin, turning orange-brown. Also to be grown are a collection of some of Australia's finest heritage pumpkins, especially the distinctive 3 lobed Triamble, but including Ironbark, Queensland Blue and Australian Butter.



Those of us that work in the communal plot are excited about growing some of the interesting varieties that are often only accessible as seeds from specialist distributors. Often I get thinking about growing different varieties when it is too late to order/plant seed...this year, we're onto it! YEAH.



**Back story to communal vegies:** Communal pumpkins, zucchinis and strawberries have been grown in previous years in various places around the perimeter of the private plots and herbs and rhubarb in the original 'demo-plots' in the central part of the garden.

This year we're planning to grow pumpkins in the 'old Telstra pit' beside the communal plots as well as some zucchinis at the north end of the garden. The strawberries, rhubarb and herbs have been trimmed and fertilized and hopefully we'll have continual supplies in the coming months.

YUM.

The spirit of growing these goodies is that members get together to grow and look after them for all to share. Please don't touch anything that does not have a sign on it inviting you to do so.

During spring, a few of us will trial working in the communal plot on Friday arvos... say from 4-6pm or so. Any members who want to come after work or with your kids after school, to give a hand will be appreciated. Even just working in your own plot at this time will be a good way to meet other members. We all have that common interest in growing healthy food so it is easy to find things to chat about.

Cheers,  
Clare V





## Art Exhibition Coming Soon

Spring Harvest is a selection of art work made by community garden member, Trent Jackson. Trent and his family hold plot 18, and Trent also occasionally attends weekly gardening sessions at WCG with Karinal.

Trent has been making art for around 18 months and particularly enjoys the processes of painting with acrylics on canvas, and making digital images and photographs using his iPad. This is Trent's second solo exhibition and will include paintings, photographs and prints inspired by time spent at the community garden, images of laneway art around Warrnambool and personal symbols.

Spring harvest will open on Wednesday 24th September at 1.30pm in the Hub and run until 8th October. All welcome. For more information contact Chelsey Reis on 0438008371.

## Manures, saw dust, wood chip mulch etc.

Various people arrange for these materials to be available on site for members to use. Phil and the WDEA WFTD crew maintain our supply from the racecourse, Geoff works miracles getting wood chips delivered and members of the pigeon racing club (yes you read correctly) deliver poop from their flocks.



Having diversity of materials helps build great compost so these piles make up the 'brown' material and accelerators. It would be good to start a supply of coffee grounds because it's a good compost activator. Does anyone have good ideas about how to co-ordinate this?

### Sale of hay and bags of sheep manure.

From time to time you'll see stacks of Lucerne hay (\$12 each) and bags of sheep manure (\$5 each) near the communal plot. Robyn Drechsel kindly orders it. We want to set up a simple system for other members to order too - say each season so here's the plan:

- ⇒ There's a clipboard in the big box near the front gate, so please add your name and order there.
- ⇒ The preferred method of payment is internet banking directly to the WCG account and Peter our brilliant treasurer will keep an eye on deposits.
- ⇒ If you don't do internet banking, arrange to get cash to Peter by putting it in an envelope with your name and order on it. Small amounts can be left in honesty box... Peter and Clare will empty it regularly but it is a risk.
- ⇒ Robyn will place an order in each season. Reminders will be in the newsletter.
- ⇒ How does that sound? Feedback welcome to Clare

Sometimes we will get pea straw. Cost TBC



### WANTED

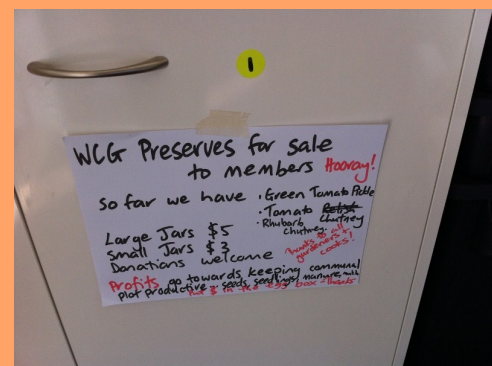
2 fixed and 2 swivel wheels for the chooks!

Barry and the work crew are going to make a chook tractor so the girls can move around and still be safe from MR. and MRS. FOX. They reckon they can make it out of the old bird cage at the back of where the girls live. Anyone got some strong wheels they could donate for the job? At Pontings they cost about \$120 for two so check out your garage in case you've got a couple we could use.

## Honesty boxes

The system in the HUB for collecting small amounts of money for eggs, preserves, spuds etc is going pretty well.

A second honesty box is secured in the big box near the front gate. Small amounts of money for worm tea, hay and bags of manure can go in there IF it is in envelope with the person's name and what the money is for, written on it. Clare and Peter will empty the box often. If you see Peter, give envelope of cash directly to him.



## Pruning Workshop

Peter Austin (who did our Community Garden weed management plan) ran a fruit tree pruning workshop on Sunday August 24th at the HUB. 13 people attended. We did intend to go Jen and Mick Gent's for the practical part of the workshop - but it was raining so hard and Peter's 'theory' part of the workshop was so interesting that we kept on with that and made a time to go the following week to the Gent's to practice on their fruit trees.

We hope to run more of these practical workshops in the future for helping us all to learn how to grow fruit, vegies and herbs more effectively in our backyards and at the Community Garden.

Some of the comments after the workshop:

10/10! Thanks so much to Peter who was very generous with his knowledge. He's the real deal when it comes to being passionate about organic gardening. I learnt to look at my fruit trees differently. Next time I'll try to prune them to get good structure so that the branches are strong, the fruit at picking height and there is good air flow around the fruit.

I also want to notice what's going on with the tree through out the year, so that it is healthy and has good nutrition which will help it to fight pests better itself. The simple plant deficiencies guide Peter gave us will be very handy.

Peter's professional Fruit tree pruning theory workshop was excellent. The handouts are going to be invaluable resource maintaining our fruit trees, keeping our soils healthy, and possible pest and disease controls. WOW! Already it's helped us identify what is ailing our citrus trees and steps are being taken. Can't wait for the practical pruning session next week!

Cheers,  
Julie

**Pictured:** Peter receiving a bounty of produce to thank him for his great workshop





# What should you plant in September?

<a href="#">Artichokes (Globe)</a>	Plant in garden.
<a href="#">Asparagus</a>	Plant in garden.
<a href="#">Basil</a>	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks.
<a href="#">Beans - climbing</a>	sow after frost
<a href="#">Beans - dwarf</a>	sow after frost
<a href="#">Beetroot</a>	Plant in garden.
<a href="#">Broccoli</a>	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks.
<a href="#">Cabbage</a>	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks.
<a href="#">Capsicum</a>	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks.
<a href="#">Carrot</a>	Plant in garden.
<a href="#">Celeriac</a>	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks.
<a href="#">Celery</a>	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks.
<a href="#">Chicory</a>	Plant in garden.
<a href="#">Chilli peppers</a>	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks.
<a href="#">Chives</a>	Plant in garden.
<a href="#">Coriander</a>	Plant in garden.
<a href="#">Cucumber</a>	Bring on in pots
<a href="#">Daikon</a>	Plant in garden.
<a href="#">Dill</a>	Plant in garden.
<a href="#">Eggplant</a>	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks.
<a href="#">Endive</a>	Plant in garden.
<a href="#">Fennel</a>	Plant in garden.
<a href="#">Horseradish</a>	Plant in garden.
<a href="#">Jerusalem Artichokes</a>	Plant in garden.
<a href="#">Kohlrabi</a>	Plant in garden.
<a href="#">Leeks</a>	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks.
<a href="#">Lettuce</a>	Plant in garden.
<a href="#">Mint</a>	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks.
<a href="#">Mustard greens</a>	Plant in garden.
<a href="#">NZ Spinach</a>	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks.
<a href="#">Oregano</a>	Plant in garden.
<a href="#">Parsley</a>	Plant in garden.
<a href="#">Parsnip</a>	Plant in garden.
<a href="#">Peas</a>	Plant in garden.
<a href="#">Potato</a>	Plant in garden.
<a href="#">Pumpkin</a>	Frost tender
<a href="#">Radish</a>	Plant in garden.
<a href="#">Rhubarb</a>	Plant in garden.
<a href="#">Rocket</a>	Plant in garden.
<a href="#">Rockmelon</a>	Frost tender
<a href="#">Sage</a>	Plant in garden.
<a href="#">Salsify</a>	Plant in garden.
<a href="#">Silverbeet</a>	Plant in garden.
<a href="#">Snow Peas</a>	Plant in garden.
<a href="#">Spring onions</a>	Plant in garden.
<a href="#">Squash</a>	Frost tender
<a href="#">Sunflower</a>	Plant in garden.
<a href="#">Sweet corn</a>	sow after risk of frost
<a href="#">Tomatillo</a>	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks.
<a href="#">Tomato</a>	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks.
<a href="#">Turnip</a>	Plant in garden.
<a href="#">Zucchini</a>	Frost tender





# Turning Wannon Water's waste into community garden compost.



⇒ Above: Organic material such as food waste goes from the Wannon Water Green Bin to our slow compost system

Just over 2 years ago Wannon Water and Warrnambool Community Garden partnered up for an innovative way to deal with their organic waste. This initiative sprang from the Green Steps program at Wannon Water, designed to offer staff an opportunity to make an environmental difference within the organisation. The program was initiated by Keith Davis and facilitated by Murdoch University, Melbourne and approximately 20 staff participated in the program.

One workgroup had the idea to reduce waste to landfill from the 25 Gateway Road Office. An audit of rubbish bins in the office showed that contents may include up to 69% organic materials. It was decided that a “three bin system” would be implemented to enable recyclables, organics and waste to be separated and managed accordingly.

Wannon Water’s audit also showed that the compostable material was primarily made up of waste paper (hand towel) and kitchen scraps (fruit and food items) and amounted to approximately 28.9 kg per week (1.5 tonnes per year). The material that makes its way into our compost bays is picked up regularly by Wannon Water staff members using a ute and trailer, with stable waste (horse manure) from Warrnambool Racecourse collected on the way.

The benefits associated with our partnership include close proximity to raw base materials, low overall process energy consumption, the final product on hand for convenient use and community education through the on-site signage.

When the material reaches our site, individual bags are inspected and any foreign matter is removed. Waste is then blended to create an appropriate compost mix (other material such as leafy green-waste and stable manure may be added for a balanced compost end-product). Composting involves slow decomposition involving aerobic, anaerobic and humification processes. We’re very pleased to have Paul Clancey and others assist with this system at our site and look forward to working with Wannon Water on other initiatives that may provide multiple benefits including resources for the garden, member education and demonstrating reduced energy options.

Written By Geoff Rollinson, with thanks to Wannon Water for background information.



## Follow up from Weed Management Plan—Compiled By Julie

A member meeting on 8th August talked about how to respond, priorities and next steps in response to Peter Austen’s weed management report. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. All agreed, it is a big project to tackle weeds on the whole site but that a holistic approach needs to happen.

We are seeking to both tackle weed problems (most notably kikuyu) in the garden areas of the site and to transform the unused parts of the site by removing weeds (starting from the top of the site working downwards) and then planting out with suggested species – primarily sheoaks for weed barriers and for future stores of our own mulch and fire wood.

Quarry area vision - this could be a beautiful indigenous or native species garden and amphitheatre – for performances, markets, gatherings and where people can see local plants and be encouraged to grow them at home. We could partner with Society for Growing Australian Plants, Coast care/Landcare, Botanical Gardens and Council.

### Stage 1 - (next few months)

- Shelter Belt Planting – southern and western boundaries - Callistemon species - our work crews will assist.
- Tackle Kikuyu in Grassed Pathways near garden beds: Heavy hessian, carpet and/or very thick newspapers with thick mulch and raise garden bed borders on grassed sides to 600mm.

- Price a steam backpack weed killer
- Plant Lomandra border
- We had a follow up meeting with Council Officers to talk about applying for community development funds for stage1 and to plan & talk through strategy, support and other partners for the other stages. Council are very supportive of our plans.

### Stage 2 – (this year)

- Cut big pine trees on site and mulch (Barry has a tree feller in the work crew next couple of months. Then could we get council to mulch as they do for Xmas trees?)
- Spray or steam 3 M strips - top edge of quarry - mulch heavily and plant first line of sheoaks as weed buffer
- Work Crews have started to source sheoak seed from Japanese garden for propagation for later plantings.

We are looking at applying for another grant suggested by Council officers for Stage 2 and beyond of the weed management plan which includes funds for project management. Any questions or offers of help to Julie Eagles who is coordinating the grant applications.







THANK YOU

- Artists Claire Bishop and Caroline Healy for the wonderful Communal Plots sign. (See below) It looks fantastic! Thanks for all of the time you gave.
- Robyn Drechsel: for being so generous with her time and knowledge as our Communal Plot Coordinator
  - Thanks to everybody who contributed to the newsletter!
- Thanks for everything you did for the garden and our members in Winter.



Progress of The Patches

#### A Spring Haiku written By Christian

Stark brown fingers, past-  
Leafless branches are no more!  
Tender buds of spring.

Thanks for reading...  
We hope you enjoy the  
arrival of Spring!

