



Community Greening

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2010

SAVE

In 2009, Housing NSW, in partnership with four Sydney councils City of Sydney, Randwick, Canterbury and Marrickville, successfully received \$1.75 million in funding from the NSW Environmental Trust.

The SAVE project aims to provide sustainability education programs and resources for low income and Housing NSW residents and is also building a number of community gardens. The project plans to complete 10 new gardens in its three year plan. To date a number of gardens have been planned for Lakemba, Marrickville, Waterloo, Malabar and Lurline Bay. Furthermore the SAVE project aims to enhance existing gardens and install rainwater tanks in some gardens in the project area.

With the building of new gardens, the SAVE project is also building capacity by running community engagement workshops on environmental topics, such as gardening in small spaces, composting, energy and water efficiency.

Community Greening has been actively involved in the planning stages of the new gardens and will remain involved in supporting gardens once the SAVE project has come to an end. We will provide support through ongoing educational workshops, provision of plants for gardens and also ongoing liaison with Housing NSW concerning the gardens.

If any residents in these Council



areas are interested in learning more about this project, please call

Yolande: 0408 614 733 or email: yolande.presland@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

Kooloora Community Centre Permaculture Garden

Planning is underway to establish a permaculture garden in the grounds surrounding Kooloora Community Centre. The previous garden was demolished to make way for the extensions to the Centre but now they hope to have a replacement garden which will be bigger and better and will incorporate added features including chickens, ponds, and native plantings to provide habitat for indigenous fauna and flora.

The current project was initiated by the SAVE Project, and the project officer for SAVE, Matshepo Molala, has been working closely with Community Greening, Randwick Council, Housing NSW and the Centre to facilitate planning meetings and to gather ideas of

local residents. A local permaculture specialist has drawn up a concept design which incorporates the various hopes and aspirations expressed so far. Kooloora is looking for more keen gardeners. Anyone who is interested can contact Rebecca or John at Kooloora on 9661 9160.

New phone number

Yolande's phone number has changed. If you ring her in the office it is now 9231 8363. Her mobile number remains the same 0408 614 733.

Felicity can still be contacted on 9231 8333 and Phil on 9231 8399. Thanks!

Tallowood Nursery — Producing more than potted plants!

If you ever take a trip out to Tallowood Community Centre at Ambervale and wander around their nursery, you are going to be amazed at what they have growing there.

Not only do they supply free plants to the local community, they also grow the most amazing fruit and vegetables. Margaret, John and the team of volunteers are growing the best strawberries and kale in the district and their corn crop shot up to a strong, healthy size in no time. They practise natural pest control,

making their own fruit-fly traps and use yellow sticky boards to attract insects.

The best thing about this fresh food is that it is given to the community and used in meals the Centre produces. Some adults and children are also experiencing cooking and eating vegetables that are new to them.

Keep up the great work Tallowood team. You are an asset to Ambervale!



• Veggies with sticky trap.

'All aboard' for the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney tour

On Wednesday the 31 March, Community Housing Tenant Network Members boarded the 'train' at the Royal Botanic Gardens to begin their adventure.

Forecasts of thunderstorms had threatened our planned Train ride and Gardens visit but low and

behold the skies cleared and those that had travelled from as far away as Tweed Heads, Gosford, Mudgee and various outer Sydney suburbs, were off.

The train driver gave us lots of interesting information about the Gardens. With the amount of facts that can be gained from the Gardens, a second visit would certainly not be wasted.

Arriving at the Education Centre, we were met by John Coco, our Community Gardening tutor. Morning tea, donated by the Community Gardens Staff, was all set up for us at the Centre and once lots of tea and biscuits had refreshed us we were off for our hands on demonstration of propagation (using cuttings from plants for new growth) and information gathering.

Back to the Centre to hear how we can organise and be involved in our own gardens and possibly

Community Gardens in our local areas where both individuals and groups are supported in their efforts to connect to the advantages of gardening — is a great way to exercise, socialise and prevent isolation and gain from your labours.

For some the day ended with a Manly ferry ride while others took their own (in some cases) long journey home.

Francesca from Mudgee, our youngest visitor, described the day as 'the best day of her life so we definitely had a win there.'

The comments and thanks given by tenants certainly showed that the excursion was a huge success and that more of these sorts of social workshops would be well attended and appreciated. Attendees voiced their opinion that they would like to be able to gather more information and support in relation to their garden areas.



• Residents enjoy propagating cuttings with John at the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Blooming Macquarie Fields

Heavy rains over the October long weekend did not deter gardeners from preparing their gardens for judging in the inaugural Macquarie Fields Garden Competition, judged on 5 October. Twenty gardens were entered across five categories, many displaying fresh spring colour and new season vegetable plantings.

Leading up to the judging, residents were encouraged to come along to a Nursery afternoon set up in Eucalyptus Reserve where they could select plants donated by Eden Gardens, seedlings from Oasis Horticulture and pots donated by Northcote Pottery. A workshop on vegetable gardening was also arranged in the weeks leading up to judging.

Judges had the arduous task of deciding winners. Maria Quinteros was awarded first place in the Large Garden category for her beautifully manicured front and back garden. The judges described this as a 'happy garden' with lots of spring annuals and shrubs in bloom.

Belinda Liston won the Small Garden category with her front garden lovingly created with her family. Great use of reused material was evident and a feature was the Steve Irwin memorial garden.

John Garcia entered a sculpture made of recycled materials in the Garden Feature section and it was a stand out



∴ Lynn shows off her prized garden statue and award.

piece that saw him win this category.

Ann and Mervyn Robinson's garden reflects their interest and passion for the environment. Their garden has water tanks, vegetable gardens and chooks, features that saw them win the Environmentally Friendly Garden category.

The sole entry in the Services category was a deserving winner. The Men's Shed garden has long term plans to create a permaculture garden within the church grounds and is making outstanding progress.

Reflecting on the gardens after judging, it was decided that two male gardeners should be awarded Encouragement Awards for the

great things they are doing in their gardens. Jayden Edwards is a young man with great plans for his garden and the judges were excited to see such passion. Nyoman Sumerta's garden could one day feature in a garden magazine with his design skills and great plant selection.

The day concluded with a gnome competition and presentation at Eucalyptus Reserve. Lynn Mills won the people's choice award in the gnome category with her entry, with all gardeners taking home some great prizes.

The event was coordinated by Lisa Grimsom from Housing NSW with assistance from Elizabeth Docking from Community Greening.

Alley tells us about 601 Old Illawarra Rd Menai

By Ali Brereton, Delegate

Thanks to Community Greening for the donation of flowering plants and vegetables. Many people in our block of 50 villas took plants to enhance their garden and in doing so also took the time to enhance their overall outlook by installing shades, rocks and garden features to complement the plants.

Overall it was a positive outcome. In particular I include the beautiful vegetable garden and front yard of Adrian Stufano and Vick Liakatos who took great joy in creating a wonderful outlook.



∴ Adrian and Vicks new front garden.

Garden gossip



This spring has seen a flurry of Community Greening projects being recognised in their local communities at award ceremonies.

For the second successive year, Oasis Community Garden at Toongabbie won their category at the Blacktown City Council Garden Competition.

Bidwill Community Garden was runner up. There is some friendly rivalry between the two gardens and Marjorie and the team at Bidwill are keen to take the winner's prize next year, so look out Judy!

Willmot Community Garden in the grounds of the Willmot Public School was runners up at the same awards ceremony in the Schools category. This garden has blossomed with teacher Sue Harris cultivating a love of gardening with her keen students. The hens are a hit in the garden and their eggs are very popular.

KBT Nursery at Bateau Bay has a set up that rivals commercial nurseries, thanks to the efforts of volunteers that put countless hours into its development. Their efforts and the popularity of the quality plants they offer free to the community were recognised by the Central Coast Community Congress with a Highly Commended award. If your garden project has received an award recently, tell us about it and maybe send us a picture so we can spread the news on your achievements.

Spring took hold in Woonona at Popes Road in September with a propagation workshop come BBQ for the gardeners in the Wollongong

area. Gardeners could roam around the Pope St complex garden and select their cutting material and then be shown how to grow them. A BBQ lunch and meat raffle was a nice way to round off the day. Donated plants were given away and a couple of lucky door prizes of orchids and donated pots were also drawn.

Burrawalla St Carringbah had a drop off of plants for all the residents in October. Residents could pick up free plants for their own garden and also a number of plants were donated to the communal space. Soil testing and rose pruning in August had shown some results and now the potatoes and tomatoes were in full growth.

Tharawal continue to run gardening workshops for their group and in November we met to put together flower centrepieces leading up to Christmas. Everyone enjoyed working with the flowers and much chatter ensued as we put together our centrepieces. A great workshop for any time of year.

Mavis Symonds from Kempsey sent us this email to tell us about her garden volunteer Neville.

'Just to let you know that a few weeks ago I submitted Neville Donovan as a nominee for the NSW Volunteer of the Year Award in relation to our Garden Project. The good news is he won the Regional Award and now is entered into the State level, his presentation is tonight at Port Macquarie'.

Congratulations Neville and good luck with the State finals.



Margaret and Syd with their award.

With so much happening with Community Greening it was great to take some time out and celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the program at Riverwood Community Centre on Wednesday 21 September. Official guests included Robert Furolo MP, Member for Lakemba, Dr Tim Entwisle, Executive Director of Botanic Gardens Trust and Ken Bone from Housing NSW. Following a planting of a lemon tree at the garden and a scrumptious morning tea of scones, jam and cream, the gardeners were treated to a garden competition judged by sponsors Simon Ainsworth and Ben Lyte from Eden Gardens and Ken Bone from Housing. This was the first of 10 tree plantings, each tree planting celebrating each year of the program.



Robert Furolo, Tim Entwisle, Ken Bone and some gardeners plant the lemon tree for the 10-year anniversary.



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