



Community Greening

NEWSLETTER JULY 2010

Macquarie Fields Open Day

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon in May, Macquarie Fields' residents celebrated all that is good and came together for an Open Day organised by Housing NSW. Located at Harold St Soccer Park, stall holders enjoyed a good turn-up of residents from near by for some good old fashioned fun. A game of junior rugby league was a highlight of the day as was a scrumptious barbecue, climbing wall and jumping castle.

Community Greening gave away two free plants to any resident who filled out a survey for Housing NSW. It was a good partnership that was helped along by the Mens Shed who handed out the plant vouchers. Plants had been donated by Eden Garden Centre, Colour Options Wholesale Nursery, Ryde TAFE and the Friends of The Gardens.

Overall, 652 plants were given away for people to plant in their gardens. Over 300 pansies were handed out, along with herbs, vegetables, jade plants, mint bush, *Plectranthus sp.*, *Fatsia sp.*, *cyclamens* and chrysanthemums. Horticultural staff were on hand to help people make their selections and provide some advice on where to plant their new acquisition.

We look forward to being involved in other Open Days and helping green up Macquarie Fields gardens.



Yolande at Macquarie Fields Open Day, ready to meet residents.

10 Year Anniversary Celebrations

It may seem like only yesterday that your community garden was started, but it has in fact been 10 years since the Community Greening partnership was formed between Housing NSW and the Botanic Gardens Trust. And not needing an excuse to have a celebration, we would like to make all the Community Greening gardens an offer.

We would like to offer all gardens a fruit tree or plant of their choice. This might be an orange or mandarine, passionfruit or quince.

Please email me on yolande.presland@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au or phone me on 9231 8333 and let me know what you want. There is limit of one plant per garden so choose carefully. We will try as far as possible to meet your request.

Are you a budding writer and want to tell us about your garden? Then we want you.

If you send us your story either by email or post, we will give you a small gift to say thankyou. Please send your stories for our newsletter to yolande.presland@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au or Elizabeth.docking@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

**Or post to: Yolande Presland, Botanic Gardens Trust,
Mrs Macquaries Road, Sydney NSW 2000**

Macquarie Fields celebrates Mother Day with gifts from the garden

A day of autumn sunshine welcomed residents of Macquarie Fields to a workshop 'Garden Gifts for Mother's Day', held at Eucalyptus Reserve recently.

Community Greening officer Elizabeth Docking coordinated the day, with the help of Yolande and Phil. The team arrived with vans full of donated plants, pots and stimulating ideas to create great gifts for Mum.

Simple plastic pots were dressed up with pebbles, decorative paper, stickers and cards with some stunning results.

Participants then had the opportunity to create gifts for themselves or someone special, choosing from the array of vegetable and herb plants, potted colour, succulents and indoor plants. These were potted up into smart pots and planter boxes.

This fun day finished sweetly with Lisa Grimson from Housing NSW providing fresh pikelets that were topped with Elizabeth's husband's citrus carrot marmalade. The marmalade was made with the

abundant fruit from their ruby grapefruit. The recipe for the marmalade and some fresh grapefruit was shared with the group to further encourage making gifts from the garden.



Phil looks on as a resident chooses her plant to make a gift.

Why not try the recipe yourself!

Citrus Carrot Marmalade

Cut the citrus into quarters and slice thinly. Scrape and grate the carrot. Place the fruit and carrot into a large bowl and cover with boiling water. Leave overnight.

The next day, pour the fruit and water into a large saucepan and bring to the boil. Cook gently until the rinds are soft and the liquid has reduced by half.

Add the sugar and stir constantly until it has dissolved. Boil rapidly until setting point is reached, then remove from the heat and leave for 10 minutes.

Stir gently, pour into hot jars and seal.



Ingredients

- 1 large orange
- (or a medium ruby grapefruit)
- 1 medium lemon
- 1 medium carrot
- 3 ¾ cups boiling water
- 3 cups white sugar



New kids on the block

Introducing our new Community Greening staff: Yolande Presland and Phil Pettitt

Hi, my name is Yolande and I am the new Community Greening Coordinator working from the Botanic Gardens Trust Sydney. It is great to be working on such a worthwhile project and to meet the people who are making the community gardens in different areas happen.

I have been busy visiting gardens throughout Sydney, and catching up with people, which has really helped me see the different types of gardens and the scope of what can be done, especially when some gardens start with very little in way of money or resources.



From left to right: Cr Linda Eisler, Yolande and Tarja Newton at Riverwood Community Garden.

I have a background in horticulture and education, and worked for the Royal Botanic Gardens for 12 years, before going to Hornsby Council to grow local indigenous stock for their Bushcare program. I also spent four years with Canterbury Council as a Waste Educator teaching people to 'Avoid, Reduce, Reuse', which is also so applicable to what we do in Community Greening. So if it is composting, worm farming, or



Phil and Yolande both excited about their new roles.

some horticultural advice, I hope to be able to help you out and keep support your gardens.

If you'd like me to visit your garden and I haven't been in touch yet, please give me a call on 9231 8333 or email me on yolande.presland@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au. I'd love to meet you and see your wonderful garden.

My name is Phil I am the new Green Street Program Coordinator working from the Botanic Gardens Trust Sydney. I have been with the Trust for over 16 years in a variety of roles, including Senior Propagator; for the last three years running a landscape maintenance division for the Botanic Gardens.

The Green Street Program is in addition to the existing Community Greening partnership between Housing NSW and the Trust. As the greatest landholder in NSW, Housing NSW has established the \$30 million Green Street Program to improve the environment around many social housing communities. This will include improved super advanced three-metre street tree plantings, upgraded parks and community gardens.

If you have any questions in regard to the Green Street Program, don't hesitate to ask or if your Garden is in the Green Streets areas and I haven't met you yet, please contact me. Or perhaps you would like to hear about starting a community garden in your suburb? Give me a call on 9231 8399 or on 0447 420 173 or email me philip.pettitt@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au, I am keen to catch up and help out or just share some gardening tips.

Contact Details

For more information about Community Greening please contact us at:

Yolande Presland (Community Greening Coordinator)
9231 8333
yolande.presland@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

Phil Pettitt (Green Streets Coordinator)
9231 8999
philip.pettitt@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

Elizabeth Docking (Community Greening Officer),
elizabeth.docking@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

Garden gossip

Vermont St Sutherland community gardeners have a new compost bin provided by Sutherland Council. Now they can throw all their vegetable scraps and their garden prunings into the compost and make some great new soil for their garden beds. Well done Andrew, Jenny, Helen and crew.

After taking part in a seed sowing workshop with Elizabeth, Telopea community gardeners planted out a border surrounding the garden with some fresh flowers and herbs. It looks great Telopea! Keep up the good work.

Bidwell gardeners enjoyed a morning learning about propagation using cuttings. Elizabeth showed us how to prepare cuttings, how to pot them up and then showed us how to take cuttings with succulents. Everyone went home with a number of cuttings to nurture and put into their garden.

Tharawal community gardeners at Airds are really producing some good vegies to cook up in their kitchens. A recent visit to Tharawal with Chris allowed us to see just how productive

their garden is, which they hope to extend to grow some local native species for bush tucker.

The Namoi Flower and Garden Club enjoyed a morning talk on garden safety with Elizabeth and Phil recently. The talk included discussion on eye protection, skin care, mosquito bites and hazardous plants. A tour of the garden by Errol Smith was a highlight, showcasing their 10-year anniversary gift of a wishing well.

Bateau Bay KBT Nursery is being kept well stocked with plenty of plants and ongoing donations. The volunteers say that local residents collecting their monthly plants always love anything in flower, so flowering chrysanthemums, camellias and begonias have been well received.

The propagation workshop delivered by Elizabeth was popular at the Quigley Co-operative Women's Initiative gathering at Bolton Point, south of Newcastle. The woman enjoyed learning about propagating plants from cuttings and took home boxes of potted cuttings including salvias, rosemary, hebe, geranium and an array of succulents.



Errol Smith at Namoi

'Make Time' Women's Group run at the Cranebrook Neighbourhood Centre had fun making their own polystyrene box of vegetables that they could take home. The women first learnt about vegetable seasons and the different feeding requirements of vegetables for flower and fruit or leaf. The aim of this workshop was to make the participants aware that they have a community garden in Cranebrook available to them to continue growing vegetables on a larger scale and to invite them to become volunteers.



Women at Cranebrook making their vegie boxes.



Green Streets

Then new Housing NSW program Green Streets is a welcome addition to the Community Greening Program. This addition to the existing Community Greening partnership between Housing NSW and the Trust is still to be launched. As the greatest landholder in NSW, Housing NSW has established the \$30 million Green Street Program

to improve the environment around many social housing communities.

Bidwill area planting is nearly complete, plantings are well underway in Cranebrook, Rosemeadow and Toongabbie.

Contact Housing NSW staff on 8753 8000 or Phil from Community Greening 9231 8399.

Partnership



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