



Greening & Growing together

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2018-2019

The Community Greening end of year party and the Waterloo Minstrels

Since It was great to see so many of you with happy smiling faces attend the annual gathering our biggest yet - next year we will look at hosting you over two days to provide more opportunity and greater comfort. Everyone enjoyed the Plants with Bite display at The Calyx with our bilingual volunteers helping to interpret this amazing showcase of carnivorous plants.

The Waterloo Minstrels Choir should be extremely proud of themselves for their amazing performance at the

end of the year party which filled the room with joy and the spirit of Christmas. The group of Waterloo Social housing residents, community gardeners and friends had been practicing for months before their big debut in front of 145+ Community Greening gardeners.

Lorraine wanted to make special thanks to Svetlana on the keyboard which was superb, as was Brenden's contribution on the didgeridoo. On the way out of the party Lorraine was asked if the choir would be

singing at the Christmas party next year – we sure hope so!

Lorraine also mentioned:

“I was asked by several members of the audience to thank you the choir for singing the beautiful Christmas carols. What a wonderful feeling to know that our performance brought such happiness to so many people, we are truly proud of ourselves”.

See you out in the gardens,

Phil Pettitt



• Waterloo Minstrels Choir (Anna, Maggie, Noemi, Svetlana, Masalo, Sharon, Brenden, Joe and Lorraine) A Day to Remember Royal
• Botanic Garden Sydney Christmas Party 5 December 2018

A mission made possible

Picture this, you are 72 years old, it's a cold, wet winters night in Orange. Just like last week, you are hoping that someone will allow you to sleep on their couch for the night.

Fast forward six months and the Mayor of Orange has announced your entry 'Best Floral Arrangement in Show', with flowers that you have nurtured and picked from the garden of your new home.

This story was shared at the Keep Australia Beautiful award weekend in November, where the Mission Australia garden project at Benjamin Short Grove (BSG) Orange was awarded the winner of a Community Spirit and Inclusion Award.

Benjamin Short Grove is tailored to the needs of residents from a background of disadvantage, accommodating the aged homeless, those at risk of homelessness and the financially and socially disadvantaged.

Elizabeth Docking from Community Greening was working with staff, planning and contributing to the garden prior to the arrival of residents. Since the winter of 2017, she has offered activities such as



Elizabeth Docking with the award she accepted on behalf of the project team.

growing from seed, propagating, potting up seedlings as gifts, making garden art installations and creating floral arrangements from flowers picked from the resident's gardens. These activities have been made possible by the generous donations by Oasis Horticulture and Northcote Pottery, plus other generous personal donors.

Highlights of the project have included staging the inaugural BSG

flower show and winning 10 prizes at the Orange Agricultural Show, all within months of the official opening of the facility.

Congratulations to the staff and residents of BSG who have embraced the activities offered by Community Greening resulting in the project being recognised with this prestigious award.

Insects in the house and garden

How do you feel about insects and spiders in your house and garden?

With summer just around the corner you may start noticing more insects and spiders around your house and garden. Everybody feels differently about these creepy crawly house guests; they may not bother you or you might hate the sight of them!

A team of researchers from Macquarie University and the University of Sydney want to know which insects and spiders are living in and around your home, and which products (if any) you use to

control them – you can mention some of the many natural controls we have taught you or that you have taught us about at Community Greening.

By taking part in their survey, you will help them develop guidelines for people to effectively and safely manage insects and spiders around their homes. You will also have the chance to win one of five \$100 Coles Myer group gift vouchers!

If you are curious about the insects and spiders living around your house, you will also have the opportunity to volunteer your



household for a biodiversity survey conducted by researchers from Macquarie University.

For more information and to complete the survey please follow this link www.surveymonkey.com/r/insects_in_houses or contact the research leader Dr Lizzy Lowe lizzy.lowe@mq.edu.au

Drew St Community Gardeners

Local resident Anna writes to us – Vulnerable Elders and Vulnerable Adults residing at Drew St Housing NSW Estate would like to express their appreciation for the wonderful signage with the street number, street name and suburb name that was organised by FACS for our community. The sign was erected this in December at the entrance to the Drew St Estate newly extended and improved car park, financed by a grant from the Hon. Pru Goward's FACS SHCIF.

This wonderful new signage is positioned in a particularly appropriate spot - where it complements perfectly the flowery Community Garden centrepiece. This most recent development is a wonderful addition to the 37 Drew St Community Garden which was established at Drew St Estate thanks to enthusiasm and efforts of Phil Pettitt, the Coordinator of the Community Greening Program.

Of course, the most important is that the level of safety of Vulnerable Elders and Vulnerable Adults residing at Drew St Housing NSW Estate was improved thanks to your efficient and successful action.

Getting back to the essence of the matter - it is very important that the Drew St Housing Estate Transformation Project – as

designated by the Riverwood Community Centre and recounted in their Annual Report - is an exceptional achievement.

This seminal success is an outcome of an exemplary collaboration and combination of enthusiasm, efforts, creativity, and skills of Drew St residents, the Community Greening Program staff, staff of the Riverwood Community Centre, staff of the FACS Housing Riverwood Office and social sciences researchers and academics from Western Sydney University. And your guidance, leadership and contribution to making the Drew St Housing Estate Transformation Project such a success, Phil, has been truly outstanding and highly laudable.

The benefits of the Drew St Housing Estate Transformation Project are in fact so impressive and ground breaking that it really should serve as a benchmark for other endeavours of that type. Also, taking into account a plethora of unique aspects - with many of them in areas of national priorities - the Drew St initiative should also be designated as a demonstration project for these areas.

The aim was implementation of sustainable solutions to societal and environmental challenges specific to a community of Vulnerable Elders



• Drew St front entrance (pictured), car park and community garden upgrades starting to take shape.

living in social housing. Reflecting their opinions, the Project focused on meeting needs of these Vulnerable Elders. This included the need for enhanced safety and security, cultural relevance, opportunities to socialise, reduction of social isolation as well as meeting the needs of the residents' carers – to name just a few.

These sustainable solutions that were either adapted or developed and tested in the unique setting of the Drew St Housing NSW Estate – now require to be disseminated to relevant stakeholders to ensure that all involved parties benefit from the results.

Summer Gardening Tips



Vegetables

- Shade new plantings and avoid watering over the leaves.
- Look for fruit fly in flowering fruit such as tomatoes, capsicum, eggplant and citrus.
- Watch for fungus disease and caterpillars on vegetables.

- Check citrus trees for leaf miner which attacks new leaves. Cut out badly affected leaves and spray with a horticultural oil.

Through summer sow seeds or plant seedlings of: capsicum, carrots, chilli, choko, climbing beans, *corn, *cucumber, eggplants, lettuce, *melons,

*pumpkin (look out for the bush varieties for small gardens), *radish, squash, sweet potato, tomatoes (try growing the black cherry or yellow pear varieties if you're worried about pests) *watermelon and *zucchini.

**Remember the vegetables which have large seeds are best grown by seed and are also usually the easiest to grow.*

Join us at the Tomato Festival Sydney

The award-winning festival returns for a sixth year on 16 and 17 February 2019 at the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, 10 am – 4 pm. New elements have been added to the festival and all the favourites are coming back with a brand new theme - celebrating the magic of seeds.

There will be plenty of free activities including the Diggers Heirloom Tomato Taste Test, mandala, Cooking & Learning Hub, guided walks, children's activities, live music and DJ. The foreshore lawns of the Garden will be transformed into a fun and delicious harbourside food festival. The Cooking & Learning Hub will be full of interesting gardening talks and cooking demonstrations with tasty bush food, easy seasonal recipes, hot tips on growing and more.

The Diggers Club has been busy sourcing growers for the tomato taste test and our stall holders are honing their skills making olive oils, condiments, sauces, crumpets, cheeses, spices and putting their thinking caps on for more tomato inspired food and drinks. Costa Georgiadis will be returning as the Festival Ambassador.

Now is the time to start preparing your entry for the competitions whether it be passata or chilli sauce, chutney or best-in-show



Community Greeners making new friends at the Tomato Festival Sydney last year.

homegrown tomato, the field is wide open so get ready and don't miss out. Entries close on 3 February for the bottled categories and 14 February for the best-in-show homegrown tomato.

If you are a Community Greening gardener and would like to volunteer on the day, bring some seeds to share, or enter the competitions please contact Phil, Peter, Elizabeth, Brenden, Paddie and Darren and they will enter your prize homegrown tomato.

We look forward to seeing you at the Festival - pop in and say hi at the Community Greening stall in the Festival Village!

www.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au/tomato



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Community Greening is a partnership program of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust and Housing New South Wales. Youth Community Greening is made possible with generous financial assistance from the Eden Foundation.



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