

# Greening & Growing together

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2016

## Meet our Illawarra Senior Volunteer of the Year – June James!



June James with Gemma Rygate, CEO, The Centre for Volunteering.

Recently some of our Community Greening volunteers were nominated for a Centre for Volunteering award and June James from Woonona was successful in being named Illawarra Senior Volunteer for 2015. Good on you June!

June is the co-ordinator of the Illawarra Community Garden Network. Her job involves bringing together gardeners, including those living in social housing and caravan parks, to learn new garden and garden-art skills.

For many years June has put together a yearly program of activities, including working

with Elizabeth from Community Greening to run gardening workshops and plant giveaways. Excursions are arranged as well as garden craft sessions and social gatherings.

June is also a volunteer supervisor with Probation and Parole and, as part of her job, she supervises people conducting their community service hours in the amazing community garden she has played a major role in creating at the rear of her Housing NSW unit complex. June also assists a developmentally-delayed friend with gardening in her unit block's community garden.

June will now be moving on to the State final in Sydney.

Well done, also, to the Bidwill Community Garden and Nursery Volunteer team who were finalists for their area.

## Getting crafty in Penrith

Sherwood Circuit community gardeners were inspired by the Newpin Rock art feature in our recent newsletter. So much so, Sherwood Circuit gardener Denis had this to say in response:

'We, too, are cunning as we have NRL players guarding our vegie garden — a ferocious Midge,' said Denis.

'Take care or you could get an illegal shoulder charge, or much worse, a bite from Midge.'

Please send in a picture of your garden art projects. We'd love to see what you're up to!



Midge and his NRL buddies guarding the Community Garden.

# Update from Coady Place Gardens, Five Dock

At Community Greening HQ we often get run off our feet so I love to hear from a group we have not seen for a while.

Residents of Coady Place in Five Dock — Grahame, Michael 'Green Thumb', Keith, Adam and Phillip recently invited me to see their work.

Boy was I impressed! ... It had been a little over a year since I had last caught up with the gang and the vegetable gardens were going 'gang busters' and the flower beds had the real wow factor!

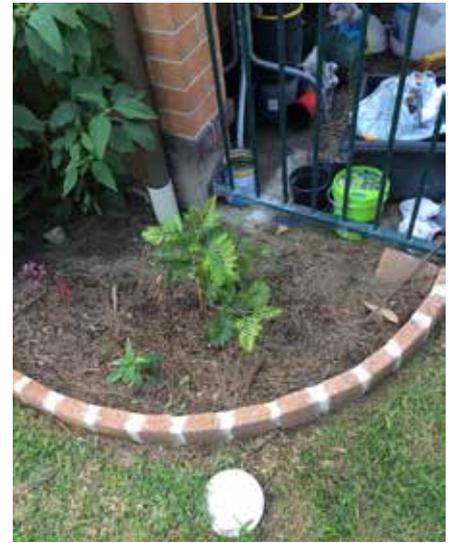
One of the gang had managed to source pavers for 10cents each from

Gumtree classifieds and Grahame put his landscaping skills into action.

He first had to clean each paver with a wire brush to remove old cement and then set about installing the edging. I must say that his curved edge (see picture) would leave many a Sydney Landscaper in awe.

To set off the amazing edging and carefully propagated plants, the local Department of Family and Community Services team donated replacement turf and the results speak for themselves.

Has your garden grown? Call up and get Community Greening out to show off your hard work!



• Grahame's amazing curved edge at Coady Place Gardens.

## News from our Sponsors at Yates

Controlling Fruit Fly is now easy with the new Yates® Nature's Way® Fruit Fly Control pack – it's organically certified!

Don't forget over summer to continue to monitor and control for fruit fly in summer fruit such as peaches, nectarines and apricots.

Start early in the season when the fruit is small and continue monitoring right up to harvest using Yates® Nature's Way® Fruit Fly Control.

It's based on spinosad, an insecticide derived from a naturally occurring soil bacteria, and is applied as a band or spot spray to the lower trunk or foliage (not the fruit) once a week and repeated after rain.

Don't forget to collect, bag and bin any fallen fruit to deter fruit fly infestations in rotting fruit.

Look out for the new Yates® Nature's Way® Range.



## Be part of Tomato Festival Sydney

Do you grow tasty tomatoes or pride yourself on home-made tomato sauces, relishes and chutneys? Well, put your talent to the test at the 2016 Tomato Festival Sydney!

Held on Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 February (from 10 am-4 pm), the Tomato Festival Sydney promises to be bigger, tastier and hotter than ever in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Royal Botanic Garden in 2016.

There are four competitions you may wish to consider entering:

1. Tomato Passata Sauce Challenge
2. Tomato Relish/Chutney Challenge
3. 'Best in Show' Home-Grown Tomatoes
4. Chilli Sauce Challenge.

### REGISTER YOUR ENTRY NOW

and be sure to mention your Community Greening project (or let us know you entered via email) to be eligible for a special prize.

**Registrations open  
14 December.**



# Garden Gossip

## STOP PRESS - WINNERS ARE GRINNERS!

Community Greening gardens in Telopea, Lalor Park and on Pittwater Road Gladesville have all been awarded first place in their respective local council community garden competitions.

Other impressive results include:

- Mrs Jun from Pittwater Road Gladesville who took out second place in the 'Best Edible Garden' category for the City of Ryde.
- June James from Popes Road Community Garden who won a 'Senior Volunteer of the Year' award and is headed for State titles! ... June also represented Community Greening on our panel presentation 'Connecting Communities' at a recent National Botanic Gardens conference in Wollongong.
- Bidwill Community Garden which came third in the NSW Psychology Society Awards in addition to taking out several prizes in the district's local council awards.



• Clockwise from left Mr and Mrs Jun of Pittwater Road Gladesville; Dean and Jack from 'The Block' Wyoming; Greg, Marjory and Edmund Atalla MP; the gardening gang from Pittwater Rd Gladesville at the Ryde Council awards night.

- Marjory and Greg from Bidwill Community Garden and Nursery were finalists in the 'Volunteer Team' award for the 'Sydney Outer West/Blue Mountains' area.
- Inverell's BEST Food Garden won the 'Peoples' Choice Award' in the NSW & ACT Regional Achievement and Community Awards.

Many of our other community gardeners were also recognised

in garden competitions in their local areas. Pictured are Macquarie Fields, Central Coast and Hunter region residents.

These outstanding results would not be possible without our talented teams of Community Gardeners and fantastic support agencies!

To keep up-to-date search Twitter #communitygreening or post your own news on Twitter with the tag #communitygreening.

## Summer Gardening Tips

### Trees / Shrubs

If you are considering carrying out some new plantings, try and wait until autumn. Autumn is the best season to plant out, as the hot weather has passed so your plants are less likely to get stressed.

Instead, research your plants and determine what height and width they grow and their preferred soil type. Also start to prepare the soil by adding compost and aged manure.

### Vegetables

Through summer sow seeds or plant seedlings of:

- capsicum
- carrots
- chilli
- choko
- climbing beans
- corn\*
- cucumber\*
- eggplant
- lettuce
- melon\*
- pumpkin\* (look out for the bush varieties for small gardens)



- radish\*
- squash
- sweet potato
- tomatoes (try growing the Tiny-Tim or Roma varieties if you're worried about pests)
- watermelon\*
- zucchini\*.

\*Remember — vegetables which have large seeds are best grown by seed. You'll also find that these vegies are usually the easiest to grow.

# Digging the Dirt at Thornleigh

Want to see a garden with abundant produce and flowers? ... Then, look no further than Oakley Gardens in Thornleigh where Brian Andrews and a team of friends from the unit complex have been tending a community garden for two years.

Fellow gardener Jan Crocker recently interviewed Brian about his love of gardening and this is what he had to say:



• L to R Alison, Susan and Jan putting the final touches to an English pub basket, made from plants they had propagated in a previous workshop.

'My dad inspired my interest in gardening when I was just a little kid growing up in Kyogle,' said Brian.

'I was also a member of the Junior Farmers at that time.

'These days I work in our community garden, Oakley Gardens, every day. I love it and it keeps me fit.

'My favourite gardening activity is digging up the garden and refreshing it ready to plant the next season's crop and, of course, watching things grow.

'I love spring because it is not too hot and everything breaks out in flower.

'And the best thing about working in the garden is seeing the resulting produce, being able to share it with friends and neighbours, and the comradery with fellow gardeners.

'Did I tell you that my favourite plants to grow are tomatoes? I love to eat them, but they are a challenge to grow as they attract pests and rodents.

'Looking back at my time in the garden over the last two years I can say that my most memorable achievement was actually building the garden with Phil Pettitt and, after construction, I remember the satisfaction of looking back to see the girls planting the garden behind us.

'Since that day I have I also enjoyed the on-going workshops with Elizabeth Docking.'

The team has certainly applied what they have learnt from Elizabeth's workshops and Brian credits the worm farm's worm juice as the secret to the garden's significant plant growth and vibrant health.



• Brian Andrews in the Oakley Gardens.

Seed-growing workshops and propagation sessions have proved popular, with many members of the Oakley Garden's group potting up their propagated plants into English pub baskets that look stunning in the garden's trees.

Thanks Jan for your fine interview and reporting skills. If you would like to nominate someone for the Digging the Dirt section, let Phil or Elizabeth know. We welcome guest reporters — we can give a few tips on the sort of questions to ask.

Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney and Community Greening are on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Follow us.

 [www.facebook.com/RoyalBotanicGarden/](http://www.facebook.com/RoyalBotanicGarden/)  @RBGSydney Tag your photos #communitygreening

**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.



Partnership					Supporters					
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