

How to start a new community garden in Baw Baw: Fact Sheet

Starting a community garden from scratch can be a little daunting. There are however lots of great resources available and people who have experience in doing the same thing.



What have other people found useful:

This fact sheet is a guide to the steps that others have found useful and where to find some information. The Helen McPherson Smith Trust – Community Gardens Manual is a great guide to reference all through the development of your garden. The material included and suggestions made are based upon the experiences of eleven regional Victorian communities who have each been involved in a Community Based Gardening Project between 2010 and 2013.

The Helen McPherson Smith Trust – Community Gardens Manual: community based gardening is available @ <http://hmstrust.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Community-Gardens-Manual.pdf>

This booklet can also be purchased in hardcover with a CD of resources.

Australian City Farms and Community gardens network: 10 steps for starting a garden @ http://communitygarden.org.au/category/about_gardens/10-steps-for-starting/

University of California Cooperative Extension website provides a community garden start up guide @ <http://celosangeles.ucdavis.edu/files/97080.pdf>

'Foodwise' website provides lots of information about food education, reducing foodwaste, recipes and examples of what other community gardens have been doing @ <http://foodwise.com.au/the-community-gardening-movement/>

Guides to starting a community gardens have some common steps that are useful to follow:

1. It is a great idea to hold a community meeting to encourage community participation and gauge interest in a new community garden. Posters, internet and newsletters are good ways of letting people know about the idea.
2. If you have a group of interested people willing to help, the job is easier. How will your group function? – complete a checklist in the manual of all things you need to consider.
3. Selecting the correct site is vital – will it be on private or public land? You will need to have licence and lease agreements and insurance coverage.
4. Visiting other community gardens in the local area is a great way to learn from other's experience. The gardens in Warragul, Jindivick, Trafalgar, Yinnar and KooWee Rup are great examples of what can be done with community participation. Subscribe to their newsletters

and keep up with the latest news on the community garden circuit – you don't need to reinvent the wheel.

5. A Community Garden Site Assessment Planner is a useful tool to help you consider all the needs of the community garden process – thinking about soil, water supply, security, access, drainage and impact on the neighbours, just to begin with.
6. Who will design the garden and who will build it?
7. How to fund it? – talk with local sponsors, businesses, Baw Baw Shire Council and look for funding opportunities such as community grants.
8. What extra equipment will you need? Sheds, bbq, worm farm and of course a kettle and morning tea just to name a few!

These steps are worth considering before you begin to start working on your garden.

Where to find more information on local gardens:

Have a look at these gardens online or arrange for a visit – they all do things differently:

Warragul Community Garden www.growingtogetherbawbaw.org.au/ or www.facebook.com/GrowingTogetherBawBawCommunityGarden?filter=3

Yinnar Garden - www.facebook.com/yinnar.garden

Trafalgar Garden <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Trafalgar-Community-Garden/843932708964354>

Koo Wee Rup www.kooweeruphospital.net.au/community-services/mens-shed-and-community-garden

Jindivick Community Garden www.jindivick.org.au/community-garden (to be confirmed)



For more information on community gardening in Baw Baw contact:

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