

Dig This!

News from Eastern Park Community Garden

November 2020



Welcome to Warragul's Community Garden!

You'll find us off Cambridge Drive, Warragul nestling just near the Community House and Sunshine Toy Library and opposite the park.

We welcome all visitors, people of all ages, abilities, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds, and in a spirit of harmony, fair-mindedness and goodwill to all.

The garden is always open and the produce is free.

Our ethos is simple:

Take only the produce you need and leave some to share

HELPING HANDS

As you can imagine the garden is a huge place to cultivate and it's all done by hand! We always welcome new volunteers and there is no regular commitment needed – even an hour every now and again is greatly appreciated!

WORKING BEES

Our weekly working bee is on Tuesday morning from around 9.30 and we would love to see you! There are always plenty of jobs to do but if you just want to come and have a cuppa and a chat that's fine too. We are also in the process of re-instating our Saturday working bees which will be held on the first Saturday of every month. Check our social media for the latest updates.

REAL BEES!

Our bees are a vital part of the garden – but now that the days are getting warmer, they can be **very** active. Please be aware of this when you visit the garden.

WATERING ROSTER

With the onset of the warmer weather we are in the process of finalising our volunteer watering roster. This involves watering the garden on a daily basis but of course the more people we get the less onerous the task will be! If you'd like your name added to the list please let us know.

TANKS VERY MUCH!

We will soon be starting work on installing an extra rainwater tank thanks to a Fonterra community grant! Rounds of applause to Warragul Theatre Company and Baw Baw Shire who gave us permission to install the tank at the side of the WTC's shed. The Shire has also been very generous in donating much-needed mulch for our garden.

TAKE A BOW

We don't know how we'd manage without the kindness of businesses in our local community. After a reckless act of vandalism left us with smashed windows, Warragul Screens and Glass offered to repair and install security mesh completely free of charge. And as always Bunnings has continued to support our garden with donations of tools, mulch, fertiliser and plants. They are also planning to repair the children's cubby house once Covid restrictions have eased sufficiently.

RENTAL BEDS

Our rental beds will soon be up for offer on a first-come, first-served basis! The cost is \$100 per year paid in advance – that's less than \$2 a week! Each renter is given their own key to access the area. Watch our social media for updates.

AQUAPONICS

Our aquaponics system which had to be decommissioned some time ago is set to be reinstated! This innovative approach to gardening combines the raising of fish with the growing of plants and vegetables in an integrated system without the use of soil.

WATER

The garden is hand-irrigated from rainwater tanks and this is a precious resource. Please make sure to water only as necessary and ensure all taps are turned off.

PEST AND WEED CONTROL

The community garden is fully organic which means that ***under no circumstances*** must chemical weedkiller, snail bait or any other inorganic products be used on the garden. This can also include any products labelled safe for animals and children so if you are in any doubt please ask one of the volunteers.

COMPOST

There are compost bins sited around the garden and there is also a four-bay system near the greenhouse. The compost is an important part of the garden as it enables us to top up and feed the planting beds. However, it is not as simple as just throwing everything in there! Here are some do's and don'ts so we can continue to have top-notch compost:

Do not place the following in any of the bins: meat, fish, dairy, bread, mint plants, kikuyu or couch grass in any of the bins. These can be disposed of in the green waste bin at the rear of the Warragul Community House next door.

Please chop large plants into smaller pieces as this makes the composting process more efficient. Please don't leave them for others to do! For those bits that are too large to chop easily, please place them in the large wire basket nearest the greenhouse after stripping all leaves. The worm farm can also be used but scraps must be chopped up finely and please no meat, fish, dairy, citrus, onion or garlic.

EQUIPMENT

Unfortunately due to recurring thefts and vandalism we have had to restrict access to our tool shed. However, all equipment is available for use on working bee days or when an authorised volunteer is present.

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US!

Please feel free to call, email or contact us on social media:

Gail Smith – 0422 522504

Glenda Trevaskis – 0402 716981

Martha Smith – 0409 423115

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Email: epcgarden@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/warragulcommunitygarden>

Instagram: @warragulcommunitygarden

Growing Together Baw Baw: <https://www.growingtogetherbawbaw.org.au/>