



Seasonal News from Mooroolbark Community Garden.

Welcome to our community newsletter.

It has been a busy year, our dedicated team of volunteers have worked hard to create a lush and bountiful garden for everyone to enjoy. A big thankyou to all those working at the garden and those who work behind the scenes, as we would not have the garden we have now without them.

Happenings at the gardens



We have conducted garden classes for various groups, including schools, kindergartens, Joeys, NDIS participants, and their carers. Other garden clubs have visited for an information talk and to stroll our garden. We have hosted storytime sessions in collaboration with the Mooroolbark Library at our Early Learning Centre. These groups have truly enjoyed their experiences in our garden.

A working bee at the garden witnessed the concrete jersey barriers come alive, adorned by the creativity of budding artists of all ages.

Friday Twilight Picnics.

Join us for a delightful twilight picnic on the second Friday evening of each month 5.30-730pm. Everyone is warmly invited to gather under the fading light of dusk, enjoy the camaraderie of friends and community, and soak in the serene beauty of the garden. Bring your picnic or takeaway, relax and unwind in a charming outdoor setting.



Monthly Markets.

The monthly markets, held on the last Sunday of each month, have been a tremendous success. It has been fantastic to see local artisans come together to showcase their creations. These markets not only provide us with an opportunity to raise funds but also allow us to highlight our gardens and sell our seedlings. A huge thank you to our market co-ordinator, Tracey. We

may not fully appreciate the amount of work she has put in to ensure these markets run so smoothly.

Our next market is on 22nd December from 9am-2pm.

WCIG (Westgate Community Initiatives group).

Our collaboration with WCIG (Working for the Dole) has been a resounding success. Since July we have had ten participants gain valuable experience working in a horticultural environment and several participants have gone on to volunteer at the garden.

Thank you to our supporters.

The committee would like to take this opportunity to thank the Yarra Ranges Council, Bendigo Bank, WCIG, Mooroolbark businesses and citizens for their support in helping us achieve our 5 year goals within the first year.

Seeking

We are looking to strengthen our committee by filling two essential roles: Social Media Officer and Secretary. These positions are vital for our success, and we would greatly appreciate your support. If you're interested in contributing to our community garden, please contact us for more details at Mooroolbarkocg@gmail.com Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a difference!

From the Garden Gate

What a busy time of year it is—in the garden and in our hectic social lives! The weather has been quite unpredictable. While there were predictions for lots of rain in December and a dry, hot January and February, it seems someone forgot to inform the weather!

With high temperatures approaching, now is the time to ensure that your garden beds are well-mulched. Remember to water the soil before and after adding the mulch for better protection. Which mulch should you use? That depends on your preferences and budget. Pea straw adds a lot of nitrogen to the soil, and you might even get the occasional pea; however, it is one of the more expensive options per meter coverage. Sugar cane mulch covers a larger area at a more affordable price, but it requires occasional disturbance to prevent it from becoming hydrophobic (water-repelling). I recommend alternating between them each season to see which one you prefer. Don't forget to cover your vegetable beds with shade cloth on particularly hot days to help prevent your plants from stress. Water early in the morning or late in the evening the day before a hot day. Watering on the same day as the heat wave may not be effective, so it's best to prepare in advance.

The Community Garden will be in caretaker mode for the next month. We will be there most days from 10 AM to 12 PM unless the temperatures exceed 32° C.

Lastly, don't forget our last Market of the year on December 22nd from 9 AM to 2 PM! There will be many great stalls and plants for sale, perfect for last-minute Christmas gifts.

On behalf of the Committee and Volunteers at Mooroolbark Community Garden, we wish you a fantastic festive season and hope you find time to enjoy your gardens.

Now, go get your hands dirty!

Best regards, Helen





We take great pride in the work being done at the garden, and we are thrilled to offer such a welcoming environment for all of our community to enjoy.

We've come a long way in such a short time!

Happy holidays everyone, stay safe and thank you for your support.