



Leaflet

Simply Living Community Garden Newsletter

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Diary Dates

Thursday 17th July
7.30—8.30pm
Garden Working Group
Meet in church hall

Wednesday 20th August
7.30—9.00pm
“Think local, Act local”
Forum

Saturday 6th September
6.30—9.00pm
Spud Night celebrating
International Year of the
Potato

Welcome

.. to our first community garden Leaflet. This will be a periodic newsletter to let you know what is happening in the Simply Living community garden at Port Melbourne Uniting Church.

Garden Information Day

Thanks to everyone who came along to the Information day and sausage sizzle on May 31st. There was great enthusiasm for the garden and we look forward to more get-togethers as the garden grows. For those who weren't able to come this newsletter includes information from the posters we had on display. Please feel free to contact Janet Hoare or Peter Greenwood (see contacts list on the left) if you would like to know more.

Good News

We are very pleased to announce that our application to the City of Port Phillip Community Grants program for funding to build the garden was successful. Now we can get on with the task of finalizing the plans. If you would like to be involved please let us know or come to the Garden Working Group meeting on July 17th (more about the Working Group over the page).

Why a Community Garden?

In 2007 the congregation at Port Melbourne Uniting Church began a project to explore how we can live sustainably in the inner city. This has included looking at how the resources of the church property are used as well as the issues faced by our local community.

South Port Uniting Church and South Port UnitingCare have been working in our community for over 150 years. As a provider of Emergency Relief, the church wants to find more effective ways of helping people have greater food security.

Bringing these ideas together, we are planning to build an edible community garden on the Nott St side of the Uniting Church (cnr Bridge & Nott Sts).

The name “Simply Living” reflects our commitment to live more sustainably and to share our resources so that all may

have what they need.

Our aims in building the garden are:

- To develop a productive community garden and a contemplative garden in the grounds of Port Melbourne Uniting Church.
- To build community by involving the people living in the neighbourhood of Port Melbourne Uniting Church; to provide a place where local people of different ages and backgrounds can come together to learn about and grow their own food; to provide a space for quiet reflection within a garden setting.
- To “Think Global, Act Local” in approaching issues of food security¹ and food miles², recycling of green waste and other materials and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

¹ Food security – “Food security exists when all people, at all times, have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life”. (UN Food and Agriculture Organisation)

² Food miles – the distance that food items travel from grower to processor to retailer to consumer.

- To provide a place where local residents who access South Port UnitingCare programs can participate in gardening and food related programs for recreation and/or to increase their food security.

How the garden will work

- Open for everyone to share in the growing and harvesting (not individual plots for rent)
- Overseen by a Garden Working Group made up of church members and gardeners from the neighbourhood
- Supported by a Community Garden Support Worker for three hours a week for the first 12 months
- Monthly weekend working bees – work in the garden and share ideas, gardening tips and lunch together
- Anyone who contributes to the garden may pick from the garden for daily needs

**South Port
Uniting Church**

**Port Melbourne
congregation**



(according to the garden rules set out by the Garden Working Group)

- Compost bays for recycling kitchen and garden scraps into plant nutrients (and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfill)
- Organic gardening principles to prevent any possible contamination
- Demonstration container garden in hall courtyard
- Regular newsletters

Timetable

July- August —formation of Garden Working Group; final garden design in consultation with Port Phillip Eco Centre garden team; permit application.

August-September—planning to build garden, order materials, develop garden rules; Celebrate International Year of the Potato.

October—working bees to build garden beds and start planting;

November—begin monthly gardening working bees

December—start eating from the garden

What you can do

- Register your interest in the garden – contact Janet or Peter (details on the front page).
- Be part of the Garden Working Group
 - plan the garden layout and planting rotations
 - develop garden rules
 - monthly working bees
- Help build the garden beds
- Come to the monthly working bees – share your garden knowledge or learn some new skills
- Help make compost – bring your kitchen scraps to the compost bays (no meat or dairy)
- Make a donation – eg unused garden tools, unwanted plant pots (clean), potting mix for container garden, etc
- Pot up some cuttings to plant in the garden – herbs, etc (include a name label)
- Lend some tools for the working bees
- Keep a neighbourly eye on the garden

Garden Working Group

This will be the group that keeps the garden going. It will be made up people who want to see it work—from both the church and the neighbourhood. It is not necessary that every member be an expert gardener as there will be support available for gardening advice.

If you would like to be involved in planning the garden, developing the rules for how it will work in our neighbourhood or help organise the monthly working bees you are very welcome to join the Working Group.

When the garden has been built working bees will be held on one Saturday a month and the Working Group will meet at this time. In the meantime the group will meet at a mutually convenient time.

The first Garden Working Group meeting will be held in the church hall on Thursday 17th July, 7.30—8.30 pm. Coffee and cake provided.

Water-wise Garden Course

If you would like to get in early with some gardening experience, the Port Melbourne Neighbourhood House is offering a water-wise gardening course starting in Term 3. The program will cover climate and soils, edible gardening and propagation, basic plant care and water-wise plants, water saving tips for house and garden and gardens for balconies and courtyards.

The course runs over five Saturdays from 10am-12pm at the Dig In Community Garden in J. L. Murphy Reserve. Cost is \$55 or \$26 concession. For more information and enrolments contact the Neighbourhood House ph 9645 1476 or email connect@pmnh.org.au

2008 Winter Forums

A series of three public events is being planned to further explore sustainable living in our community, neighbourhood and church—and to have some fun.

Think Local, Act Local

Wednesday 20th August
7.30—9.00 pm

Local community members share their experiences of energy efficient living, urban food gardens and more.

Church and Environment

Date to be advised

A Christian perspective—why is the church interested in environmental sustainability?

Spud Night

Saturday 6th September
6.30—9.00pm

A celebration of the United Nations' International Year of the Potato with potato-based food, family fun and games with the humble spud.