



Leaflet

Simply Living Community Garden Newsletter

Contacts

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Diary Dates

Garden Working Group

1.00 —2.00 pm
Wed 24th September
Church Hall

Working Bees:

9am—3pm each day

Friday 10th October
Saturday 11th October
Friday 17th October
Saturday 18th October

PPUFFN Forum

4.00 - 6.00 pm
Wed 24th September
Port Phillip Eco Centre

Leaflet by email

If you would like to be added to the "Leaflet" email list (get it first, in colour and save paper) please send a message to Janet at: hoareaj@bigpond.com

Building our community - building our garden

The garden will soon be here! Plans have been submitted to Council and we are now planning a series of working bees to transform a patch of lawn into a productive community garden.

The working bees will be held on four days (9 am to 3 pm) over two weeks in October: Friday 10th, Saturday 11th, Friday 17th and Saturday 18th.

The first Friday will be to prepare the site, the next two days will be for building the beds and compost bays and the final day will be for finishing off, putting in the soil and starting to plant the beds.

We need between 5 and 20 volunteers each day to get the work done. The work will be supervised by staff from the Port Phillip Eco Centre who have lots of experience with building community gardens and we will also have the assistance of a carpenter for two days.

Tools and lunch will be provided, but if you have tools, such as spades, power drills, hammers or crowbars please bring them along to help get the job done faster. Everyone should have sturdy footwear and clothes that can get dirty.

Please contact Janet Hoare as soon as possible if you are able to help on any of these days. If you don't feel able to do the physical work but would like to help provide refreshments that would also be greatly appreciated.

Garden Working Group

The next meeting of the group will be at 1.00 pm Wednesday 24th September in the church hall. Bring your lunch. Tea and coffee provided.

This meeting will be to decide what to plant in each bed as a first crop and to establish some rules for the use of the garden.

You are welcome to come along to the meeting, which will last for about an hour. If you can't come but have some ideas you would like discussed please get in touch with Janet before the meeting.

Vegetables

Spring is a great time to start planting some vegies. Vegetable seeds that can be sown in Melbourne in September include: lettuce, carrot, spring onion, leek, potato (only plant certified disease-free tubers), beetroot, cabbage, silver beet, bean, tomato, capsicum, chillies, eggplant and zucchini.

If you are sowing some seeds in punnets for your own garden why not sow an extra punnet or two for the community garden? If you are taking cuttings or dividing herbs they would also be most welcome. Please make sure all plants are labelled (including variety) so we know what they are.

Recycling for the garden

Before you throw anything out have another look at it and see whether it is something that could be used in the garden.

We will be needing wooden, bamboo or plastic stakes, sticks and poles of all sizes (30 cm – 2m) to support plants and plant-guards.

Old stockings or (clean) socks can be cut up and used for tying plants. Old tinsel can be used to deter birds. Any wire or plastic mesh or netting will also be useful. Gutter guard held together with twist ties from bread bags can be made into great little guards to protect young plants from being scratched up by birds or cats.

Do you have access to stables or a farm where you can pick up a bag of manure?

We are also looking for some recycled plastic drums to set up our summer watering system. If you can provide, or know where we can obtain, large vinegar drums or similar please let us know.

Don't forget to save yourself a plastic container with a lid ready to collect your vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, etc for the compost bays.

South Port
Uniting Church

Port Melbourne
congregation



The Simply Living Community Garden is being built with support from the City of Port Phillip Community Grants Program



PROUD SPONSOR

Donations

Thankyou to those people who have already donated tools, pots, gloves and seeds for the garden: Una Davis, Nancy Price, Ian & Eva Breward and George Jeffreys, Every little bit is very welcome.

Thanks too to Nick Patsakas for donating sausages for the barbeque at our Open Day.

We have also been given some baby worms for our compost bays. They are being nurtured in a few worm farms until the compost bays are built—thanks to Bunnings and to those who offered to care for the babies.



Pegging out the garden beds to finalise the design, August 2008

Spud Night

Our celebration of the international Year of the Potato was a lot of fun and delicious too. Who knew you could make such a variety of dishes with potatoes?

Thanks to Nancy Price and Barbara Copley for organising the night.



Some of the potato dishes prepared for the Spud Night, September 2008

PPUFFN Forum

The next Port Phillip Urban Fresh Food Network (PPUFFN) forum will be held at the Port Phillip Eco Centre (cnr Blessington & Herbert St, St Kilda), on Wednesday 24th September, 4.00pm—6.00pm. Refreshments provided.

PPUFFN is a group that meets to find ways of providing more fresh food to people in our communities and make Port Phillip more edible!

As the cost of fuel and fresh food prices continues to climb, it's time to put our stake in the ground! PPUFFN is particularly relevant to people interested in growing, sharing or helping others to grow or obtain affordable fresh food (e.g., community gardens, school gardens, household & street gardens, food rescue from markets, bakeries & restaurants, food co-ops and feeding people on low incomes).

Previous forums have seen lively presentations from Cultivating Community, PermaBlitz and the EcoCentre's work on building vegetable gardens in local schools.

This PPUFFN forum will focus on developing a clear, comprehensive, practical local action plan that will guide our community to achieve the above goals.

RSVP by Friday September 19th to Wendy van Dort, ph 9525 3102 or email gardeners@ecocentre.com

News Flash

Bovis—Lend Lease lend a hand

Just after this issue of Leaflet had been sent out we received a call from Bovis-LendLease offering to help build the garden as part of their annual Community Day on September 25th. This was an offer too good to refuse.

A team of Bovis-Lend Lease employees from various parts of the company will be doing some of the preparation work for the garden, such as removing concrete and digging out the beds for the hedge and herb beds. This will give us a great start to do the building on the working bee days we have already scheduled.

If you are nearby on Thursday please stop by and say hello. It will be a bit noisy for a while but they won't be starting the jackhammers until at least 9.00am.