



**LEFT: Raiph Powell at** work on his Ringwood Community Garden plot. BELOW: Mare O'Brien ties beans to trellis. Pictures: ANDY DREWITT N28MM202



# **Garden's bounty**

MAROONDAH green thumbs and gardening novices have compared plant growth and tips at Ringwood Community Garden for more than 25 years.

Garden lovers can see the results of their efforts and buy produce when the garden opens to the public as part of the Open Garden Scheme next month.

Club secretary Ralph Powell said the garden was a chance for residents to grow organic vegetables, flowers and fruit in a "sustainable, supportive, community en-

"Our membership is a rich mix of individuals from a wide variety of cultures who happily share ideas and perspectives on what and how to grow vegetables, herbs, flowers and fruit," Mr Powell said.

"A virtual United Nations exists within the club. The diversity of propagation techniques and the wide variety of produce reflects this broad cultural interchange.'

Produce includes citrus trees, berries, artichokes and onions, Chinese vegetables, taro and sweet corn, growing in 10m by 3m plots on what was bare open ground in

The club formed after a public meeting in March, 1980 and staked out its first plots the following July on Ringwood land set aside for a future freeway.

Two decades later the land was bulldozed for EastLink and the club moved over the municipal border to its present site in Knox.

BUDDHISM &



"With financial support from Maroondah Council and funding through the Federal Government the site was fenced, rotaryhoed, laid out and subdivided into 102 plots, Mr Powell said.

All lots are in use and the club has a waiting list.

The Open Garden Scheme open days are on February 3 and 4, from 10am-4.30pm. Entry fee: \$5.

Ringwood Community Garden is at Manson Reserve, Selkirk Ave, Wantirna. Details: 9801 4031.

#### MEDITATION **Weekly Evening Classes** No need to book, just drop in - \$12 per class everyone is welcome Mondays 7 - 8.30pm Introduction to Meditation - February 5, 12, 19, 26 Introduction to Buddhism - March 5, 12, 19, 26 Knox Community Arts Centre, Cnr Mountain Hwy & Scorseby Rd Upper Ferntree Gully St Thomas' Anglican Church, 12 Mount View Road Saturday Courses Learn to Meditate @ KMCA March 3, April 28, June 9

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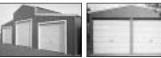
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