

The Winter Plot

Official Publication of the Ringwood Community Garden Incorporated (Inc. No. A0020151Y ABN 65 354 862 500)

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What's Growing On

Knox Farmer's Market

• 3rd Saturday each month
Wantirna P. S. in Mountain Hwy.

Ringwood Garden Club

Monday July 24th—Graeme George
Organic Vegetable Gardening.

AGM

• Tuesday 15th — August 2006
Ringwood Room
Ringwood Library
7.30-9.00 pm

Ringwood Community Garden



Open Garden
3rd and 4th
February 2007

Club stand at the

Maroondah Festival

Croydon Park
Sunday 20th, February 2007
10am - 5pm

Spring Contributions Welcome:

Deadline—August 5th

Please Leave contributions in the shed in the Secretary's postal slot or email to:-
info @ringwoodcommunitygarden.org.au

The Chair's Winter Chatter

On 7th May Ralph and I attended a function at New Gisborne to meet with "Open Garden" representatives and others in the scheme. Our garden has been accepted as one of the gardens open to the public. This will be in February which is probably when our garden plots are looking at their best and most productive. But keep the date of February 3rd and 4th in your mind when planning your plantings so that our garden will be looking at its best.

The roster system for maintenance is not working as well as we had hoped. Please remember that when a committee member calls on you for help that it is so much easier if you accept your task, carry it out and report back when it is completed. If everyone does their share it is so much easier for everyone. Sometimes there is lighter work than at other times but I am sure it pans out fairly for everyone in the long term.

The last month or two has seen Charles organising repairs to a broken tap, connecting water to the igloo and vandal repairs to the igloo. He had assistance for these tasks but he is the true "quiet achiever". Thank you Charles and sincere gratitude to those who helped him.

community plot were harvested and distributed to help keep quality food in front of people who need it. This is one of the objectives of our group and I feel very confident that we are achieving this objective.

Most people have done a great job in planting green manure crops, planting winter vegies or covering their plots. If you are still one that has a bit of a "roughy", make it your aim as soon as possible. Weed growth very quickly spreads but is easy to control if you get to it early.

Have you marked August 15th on your diary? This is the Annual General Meeting and we would like to see every member represented. Vacancies will occur on committee and, as always, we would love to have you consider offering your services. Our meetings are only when required, 3 or 4 a year and are not long, usually 1-2 hours. You do not need special skills, just willingness to give a little extra time. This committee is a great one which works very hard but we do not want them to suffer "burn out" and your offer could keep them encouraged. Put your hand up.



Croydon Library Display



Do you know of a friend or neighbour who might be interested in becoming a member? A good way of getting them going is to invite them down to see the garden and show them how productive the plots can be.

Recent press has been acknowledging the interest in home grown vegies and the benefit of fresh organically grown produce. Talk it up. Every new member is one more plot we do not need to maintain and gets us to that glorious position of being economically viable

Keep warm and happy gardening.

Annual General Meeting



August 15th



Annual plot fees are due July 30th.

Getting the Garden Goods

From Tropical North Queensland to Adelaide to Ringwood

'Gardens are nutrition for the senses'
Rudolph Steiner

Following his attendance at "Putting Down Roots" - the National City Farms and Community Gardens Conference in Adelaide from March 6th to 9th this year, Luke Mathews from Mackay's Community Garden visited the Ringwood Community Garden researching ideas on Community Garden operations.

Luke is involved in developing a project in Mackay, helping educate various commu-

nity groups in practical permaculture as it applies to the local environment. The Mackay Community Garden is developing demonstration plots where groups can learn how to embrace permaculture and then go on to apply it themselves.

The Committee has developed a concept of 'islands' which are used to illustrate how various plants may be grown in a tropical environment, with the aim of the community garden being to provide a model for other projects throughout the district. The gardeners have already planted a herb area, trees, created swales and built fences. The eventual aim is to produce a demonstration permaculture project with wetlands, worm farming, composting and native forest species, as well as organic gardening.

Luke spent the morning looking at the Ringwood Community Garden and discussing our set up and the plants we grow.

- Ed.



Liberty Community Garden—New York



Located only 1½ blocks away from the World Trade Centre, the Liberty Community Garden was covered with debris and thirty centimetres of dust after September 11th.

The garden subsequently disappeared beneath vehicles used during rescue efforts and the subsequent clean-up.



Crushed cars were stacked six storeys high in one part of the garden.

Once cleaned-up and replanted the Garden celebrated its rededication on September 28, 2002 and is now a thriving testament to the determination of residents to reinvigorate the area.

- Ed.

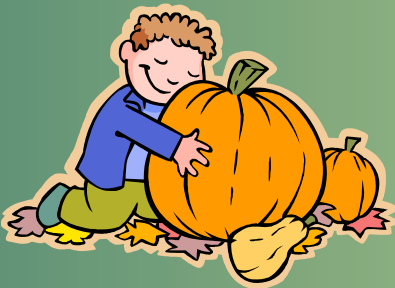
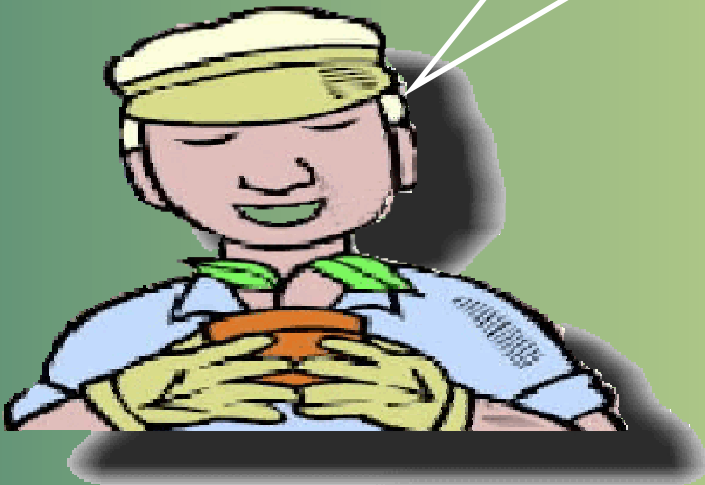
There is so much good in the worst of us, and so much bad in the best of us, that it ill behoves any of us to talk about the rest of us.

Winter Sowing Suggestions

Try Green Manure Crops

- Lupins
 - Pigeon Peas
 - Oats
- Or

cover the fallow plots with black plastic to keep weeds down



Recently we have had pumpkins being taken from plots. If you see this happening, or know who it is, please inform a committee member. No one is allowed to help themselves to other's plots unless they have permission. Violation of this will lead to instant dismissal from the group.

What is the difference between a watermelon and a sweet pea?









Oh! About 20 minutes....!?!?



We Welcome
Helen Plots 49 and 72
and Kim Plot 32
 Who joined us this March and April



We also bid adieu to Steve from Plot 96

Artichokes (Jerusalem)		June-July
Asparagus (Crown)		June-July
Broccoli		June-July-August (In punnets, pots or under cover)
Cabbage		June-July-August (In punnets, pots or under cover)
Carrots		June-July-August
Cauliflower		June-July-August (In punnets, pots or under cover)
Endive		June-July-August
Lettuce		June-July-August
Onions		June-July-August
Peas		June-July-August
Pumpkin, Squash, Radish		June-July-August
Shallots (Bulb)		June
Spinach		June-July-August

WHY DID MY PLANT DIE?

You walked too close. You trod on it.

You dropped a piece of sod on it. You hoed it down. You weeded it.

You planted it the wrong way up. You grew it in a yogurt cup.

But you forgot to make a hole. The soggy compost took its toll.

September storm. November drought. It heaved in March, the roots popped out.

You watered it with herbicide. You scattered bone meal far and wide.

Attracted local omnivores, who ate your plant and stayed for more.

You left it baking in the sun, while you departed on the run, to find a spade.

Perhaps a trowel. Meanwhile the plant threw in the towel.

You planted it with crown too high. The soil washed off, that explains why.

Too high pH. It hated lime. Alas, it needs a gentler climate.

You left the root ball wrapped in plastic. You broke the roots. They're not elastic.

You splashed the plant with motor oil. You should do something to your soil.

Too rich. Too poor. Such wretched tilth. Your soil is clay. Your soil is filth.

Your plant was eaten by a slug. The growing point contained a bug.

These aphids are controlled by ants. Who milk the juice, it kills the plants.

In early spring, your garden's mud. You walked around! That's not much good.

With heat and light you hurried it. You worried it. You buried it.

The poor plant missed the mountain air. No heat, no summer bugs up there.

You overfed it 10-10-10. Forgot to water it again.

You hit it sharply with the hose. You used a can without a rose.

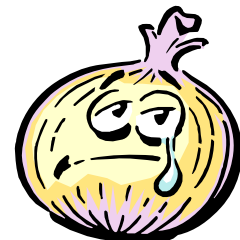
Perhaps you sprinkled from above. You should have talked to it with love.

The nursery mailed it without roots. You killed it with those gardening boots.

You walked too close. You trod on it. You dropped a piece of sod on it.

by Geoffrey B. Charlesworth,

Enough to Make Your Eyes Water



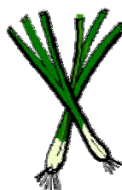
Onions like a soil pH of 5.5 to 6.5 so make sure to sweeten the soil by adding dolomite a week or so before planting.

Onions prefer cooler weather to establish and warm weather to mature so, in cool climates, sow in winter to harvest in summer

- **Do not overfeed** onions as this promotes lush tops but no bulb.
- **Cut back watering** once the onions start to mature
- **Keep** you onions weed free.
- **Keep** mulch away from onions as the bulb needs to sit on top of the soil, not in the soil.
- **Once** the bulb starts to form, use your fingers to scrape away the soil around the bulb as this helps produce more uniform bulbs
- **Bend** the tops over to stop them from going to seed.
- **Onions** are fully mature when their tops have fallen over (about 6-8 months).
- **Brown** onions have a stronger flavour than white onions



Spring Onions can be grown all year around.



*"An **onion** can make people cry, but there has never been a vegetable invented to make them laugh."*

— Will Rogers

Truth is stranger than Fiction

Ann Onion was born to Martha & William Onion of Great Chesterfor, Essex, 2 Jan 1714

Lil Onions - born to Rosetta & William Onions of Kindred, in Tasmania circa 1909



It's Time to Add a bit of colour For The Open Garden Scheme

To add colour to your plot for the Open Garden Scheme, in the first weekend of February, members are asked to consider planting:

- Sunflowers
- Marigolds
- Catnip
- Herbs
- Lavenders
- Golden Nugget pumpkins
- Artichokes
- Heirloom tomatoes
- Garlic chives
- Nasturtiums
- Rainbow Chard
- Chillies and/or Peppers