

Self-Guided Walking Tour

Welcome to the Ringwood Community Garden. This guide takes you on a tour through our garden and points out some interesting plants and gardening techniques used by our gardeners. There are 102 numbered garden plots each measuring 3 x 10m. All of our members are enthusiastic gardeners and will be happy to discuss the gardens with you.

Start your tour at Plot 1, near the main gate.

Follow the path to the next point of interest which is labelled by a sign showing the plot number.

**PLEASE KEEP TO PATHS and
DO NOT SAMPLE PRODUCE or WALK ON THE GARDENS.**



 **1** This plot has a variety of herbs, flowers and vegetables.

Take note of the **Jerusalem Artichokes** at the far end and the **Globe Artichoke** in the middle. Tubers of the former are eaten whereas the Globe artichokes are grown for their edible flower buds. The *Lazy Housewife* beans growing up some stakes are thought to be the first high yielding stringless climber.



 **2** Note the **Celery** plants growing along the path edge. Compare them to the celery that you see later in plot 14.



 **22 and 23** On your right are plots enclosed in net to exclude birds and Cabbage White butterflies. Wander through the net house but close the door after you, please. Can you find the **Yellow Zucchini**?



6  These **Beetroot** yield a lot of produce in a small amount of space. The bulbous roots can weight up to 400g. Many members preserve beetroot in vinegar.

12  Small fruit bushes, like the **Currants**, are attractive and yield colourful and tasty fruit. They take a few years to mature before they yield many fruit.



14  Remember the **Celery** from plot 2? These celery plants are being **blanched** using milk cartons to shade the stems. Blanched celery is tender and paler than unblanched plants but many people like the stronger flavour of the green stems. **Note** the support for the beans.



35  An example of the North American Indian “**Three Sisters**” method of horticulture is being tried here. Sweet corn, Jap and Butternut pumpkins and peas are being grown together in a symbiotic relationship.



 **18** and **19** Resourceful gardeners use a variety of recycled materials for supporting plants. These **tomatoes** have sturdy supports made from aluminium rods. Keep an eye out for the different ways people support their plants. The **climbing beans** in plot 19 are climbing up sturdy strings.



39  On your right, the spreading plants with divided leaves are **Melons**. **Cantaloupes** and **Watermelons** are grown successfully here during Summer.



21  You can see that **Raspberries** can be vigorous plants. Delicious fruit. These 3 year old plants are bearing their first delicious crop.



41  Note the large fern-like fronds of the **Asparagus** plants on the end of the plot.

*Turn right before plot 21 to avoid the raspberries
Then head down the driveway.*



62  More **raspberries** grow here protected by black netting. Compare them to the unnetted **Raspberries** on Plot 21. Next, note the **Thornless Blackberries** on plot 59.



60  Well-established **Green Rhubarb** plants at the far end of plot 60 and on plot 81 have formed a vigorous hedge. The plants die down over winter.



56  **Globe Artichoke** plants have attractive silver grey, divided leaves and purple thistle-like flowers. The ferny leaves of **Asparagus** look good in a flower border. These 2 year old plants are yielding spears already.



55 and **53**  The only way to truly beat the birds to your berries and tomatoes is to build a berry cage such as this one protecting **Strawberries**. Netting is also effective. Strawberries are being used in plot 53 to make a neat border.



32  Across the drive, on your right, flowers, a pot and vegetable plants have been planted together showing that a garden can be both attractive and productive. **Marigolds** are good companions for many other plants and are thought to discourage pests.



48 and **49**  The tall **Corn** plants in plot 48 will reach about 3 metres tall. Compare them to the **dwarf Corn** planted with **Sunflowers** along plot 49. The dwarf and tall corn were planted at the same time but reach different final heights. Have a look at the different corn varieties in plots as you walk around.



47  Look at the base of the **Onion** plants and note the purple/red colour. Although red onions taste the same as white onions, they add a dash of colour to a salad. Next to them are some rows of **Leeks**. The **Lavender** attracts bees.



46  The **Giant Sunflowers** in this bed make an impressive show. Look around and see that there are many varieties of sunflowers here. They differ in height, colour and flower form. Most of these flowers are grown for enjoyment rather than as crops. Cockatoos tear the flowers apart to get the seeds.



Continue to the planter boxes and turn left.

Go to Plot 64 which has two metal arches



 **Raised Plots** have recently been planted with lettuce. Herbs and carrots are also being grown by members in these mini-plots.



64  **Bush tucker.**

Marie has recently planted these **Australian native plants** that yield edible berries, seeds, nectar or leaves.



Community Plots

On your right are three beds used to grow produce for donation to charity or for sale at the Maroondah Festival. Some **potatoes** are ready to dig and may be on sale today. The **pumpkins** won't ripen fully until the autumn.



85  This Community Plot is currently growing **Tomatoes**.

Turn left between plot 64 and 85 and head uphill

 **Plot 65** Note the potatoes growing in the tyre towers



87  **Capsicums** grow well in the summer and can be eaten fresh, cooked or preserved in oil.



70 This **No-Dig Garden** was established in April 2006 by killing off weeds with sheets of black plastic then building up thick layers of mulch. **Potatoes** are planted under straw. The conical **Bean** trellis was designed to also serve as a cubbyhouse for the gardener's small child.



 93 and 94 Two varieties of **Climbing Beans** climb up trellis frames. Beans can have white, purple, orange or pink flowers making them a pretty sight.

76  How many varieties of plants can you count in this plot?



 97 and 100 **Bush pumpkins** are very productive and are more compact than the running kinds that romp over several metres of ground. These are *Golden Nugget* pumpkins. Look under the leaves to see them.



102  Look under the **Tomato** plants. Note the use of **Hessian** bags to keep down weeds and maintain moisture in the soil



81  This garden has a nice crop of well-grown **Carrots**.



82  These sweet, **Green Melons** will be harvested towards the end of summer.

83  This narrow bed running along the greenhouse shows how productive a small space can be.



Green House

Go inside and have a look. We use the greenhouse mainly in the cool months to propagate seedlings and cuttings.

Return to the driveway to walk back downhill.

or

Walk along the fence-line, passing the lemon and lime trees and the pumpkin mound.

Inspect the small bricked beds where you will find a variety of plants including **Marigolds** and **Sunflowers**. **Loofah** vines being grown to make scrubbing sponges. The front fence-line beds have a variety of plants including **Golden Nugget** pumpkins, **Tuscan Kale**, **Passionfruit**, **herbs**, **beans**, **lettuce**, **currant bushes**, **cucumbers**, **Rosemary** and a tall **Mullier** - a medicinal herb with grey-green, furry foliage. Masses of Sweet Pea perfumed the air during springtime.

Please be aware that this has been a tough season as we suffered from several unusually severe frosts. These, together with watering restrictions, have had their impact on plant maturation.

We hope you enjoyed your Taste of Summer self-guided walk
Please return this guide so other visitors can share our Garden and
Remember to sign our Visitors Book before your go.