



Five Villages Community Garden Update - Autumn 2024



Hello gardeners,

After a few wet weather activity cancellations and being stuck indoors I was out of excuses not to write an update, so here it is! Hope you stayed dry and kept busy during the wet spell.

Membership

Back in January I mentioned that we had 144 members and at that time we thought that was going to be our peak. Well since then I can report that we've had additional interest and we're now sitting at 196 members comprising 26 individuals and 72 families. Thanks for your ongoing support and it would be great if all current members renew their support when membership renewal notices go out in a few months.

Yulunga project update

During the last week of March, the long promised retractable sunshade was installed at the garden. While it's a bit late for this past summer it will provide much needed shade in future summers. This was the last major expenditure from our project budget and effectively brings the project to a close. The committee is now in the process of drafting and submitting our final project report to the grant funder; The Federal Department of Industry, Science and Resources.

The committee will now focus on garden maintenance to ensure the garden remains a space the whole community will be proud of. The first step to achieve this will be development of a comprehensive maintenance schedule. There will also be ongoing improvements made to the garden based on feedback, and of course available funds.

The first improvement will be the addition of a small sink and tap in the outside potting bench! This will save having to use garden taps to rinse and wash things that need rinsing and washing!

Things we are growing

This month saw the last harvest from the cucumber and original kale plants. We've had good success with Zucchini as well as plenty of herbs such as thyme, parsley, tarragon, chillies and more recently dill. New plantings include kale, cabbage, broccoli, rocket, brown onion, carrot and some more salad greens.

Recent disappointments have been the early finish of our basil crop and the poor performance of the second (late) tomato planting, these never really got going.



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Social events and workshops

On 2nd March local artist Lara Merrett hosted a fun interactive art activity at the garden. This involved a demonstration of and participation in the craft of Cyanotype printing which involves the placement of natural objects on light sensitive paper and exposing it to sunlight. The artwork created on the day and at other demonstrations organised by Lara around the community will be used in a public art installation to be displayed in Yulunga Community Hall over the ANZAC weekend. Don't forget to go check that out if you are in town.

On Saturday 23rd April we held our second equinox (autumn) social evening. We had all the usual suspects and a few newbies. This is always a great opportunity to meet fellow members without getting your hands dirty. If you couldn't make this one there will be another opportunity when we mark the Winter equinox on Friday 21 June, mark it in your calendar. Perhaps we will try and arrange a fire pit for this one!

Presently we are working towards organising basket weaving and tea tasting/appreciation workshops at the garden. We'll let you know the details as soon as we can.

Sausage sizzle

We were again invited to run the sausage sizzle at the Easter Manyana Markets and once again it was a huge success. Our eager team of volunteers kept up with the demand and we were effectively sold out by about midday. As always, the effort was very worthwhile with a tidy profit of \$780!

Thank you to all the members that continue to step up and volunteer their time for these fundraisers, thanks also to Anne and Raymond for dealing with the logistics. Kudos also to the Bendy Hub who donated all the bread used at the sausage sizzle; this generous donation greatly increases our return from the event.

Until next time happy gardening!

Dennis
President

PS After a six month wait, we've finally spotted some feathered friends in our garden bird bath. We now have regular visits by the local galahs and regularly have magpies bathing in the mound sprinklers; it's a treat to watch them. Hopefully there'll be plenty more birds passing through in the future.



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