



# Annual Report 26th March 2020

Taroona Neighbourhood Garden continues to flourish. It has become a peaceful haven of well-being valued by many more than our own membership. 2019 has been a successful year in many ways. Thank you to Phil Hesketh, a local builder and Lorne Kriwoken for completing the entrance, now an asset of our garden boundary.

We have welcomed new members and many of our plots have each produced 50-100 kg of produce during the year. Overall it has been a record year for both community and individual plots.

There has been plenty of WOW factor with tall corn, scarlet runner beans, amaranth, quinoa and amazing pumpkins.

A stunning array of sunflowers was an unplanned feature of our summer months.

Eastern rosellas feasted on the seeds once flowering finished.

While the current health crisis has greatly restricted social interactions we believe that our own health precautions, including appropriate distancing, will enable the garden to remain a safe place for members and visitors. As such we hope the garden will remain a significant element within the social fabric of the Taroona community.

### Visitors

Two school groups visited, learning to identify plants, grow from seed and sample the herbs

The Obed counselling group visited and expressed great interest in helping local charities set up community gardens for encouraging healing through gardening.

We continue to have visitors from overseas and the mainland, together with locals who delight to just spend time in the beautiful and productive environment the garden provides.



The **October garage sale day**, majoring in tomato plants and various seedlings was another success, raising some \$1337

Once again our cooks produced the most stunning cakes, featuring our fruit and vegetables. Making a choice was difficult but there was plenty of expert advice to help. Some of us couldn't resist a second piece. The BBQ complemented the sweet treats. Well done everyone!



### Workshops

Thank you to Nel and Peter for offering their kitchens for the cheese and Kim Chie workshops. Ayelet Anush skillfully guided participants in the art of making soft cheese.

Peter revealed the secrets of producing a good kimchi and sauerkraut.



**Monthly working bees** have been increasingly well supported and I am always impressed at how much is achieved in a short time.

Children participate enthusiastically planting and harvesting and are always keen to discover something new.

Delicious afternoon teas are always enjoyed after all the hard work

**Three celebrations** followed working bees. The Autumn Long table feast needed to be extended to three tables.

The mid-winter gathering was warmed by our brazier and the Weber. Hot pumpkin soup and toasted marshmallows were popular with everyone. Sparklers created some excitement.

The Christmas feast provided a delightful end to the year.



**Hundreds of volunteer hours each year keep our garden functioning.**

**THANK YOU** — mowers, waterers, composters, repairers of beds, hoses, gates, and all things broken. Also to those who have done many tip runs. Your thoughtfulness makes a big difference.

David Coleman transformed our dark tool shed by inserting a sheet of Laserlite in the roof, improving safety dramatically.

A huge thank you to Michael for managing our finances and to Deirdre for her work as secretary and keeping the website up to date.

**Management Committee:** We have been busy in many ways.

Two loads of soil top-up and lucerne mulch has been provided. Those who have taken advantage of these have seen a marked improvement in their soil.

Following a consultation with Hannah Maloney (initiated by Kingborough Waste Management) we invited members to discuss the needs of the garden. Brave ones will remember that icy cold afternoon. Following this we applied to council to facilitate the provision of a new worm farm. Our current one has saved tons of food waste from ending up in landfill. With no positive response from the council Deirdre has prepared an excellent grant application for the Hydro grants.

Bridget is working on another grant the Tasmanian Community Fund is offering.

We needed to submit a plan for this so politicians were approached late last year. From this we received \$1500 from the Premier's discretionary fund, and from Elise Archer, Meg Webb, Andrew Wilkie and Ella Haddad. This has enabled us to employ a landscape architect who lives in Taroona hence we have chosen Playstreet. The grant is for safe pathways to the social area, seating, an all weather shelter, raised beds and a children's area. Once we receive the plan we have another local business, ready to cost it. The grant we are seeking is around \$40,000 and we need to contribute 10 percent. We have been careful with funds so there is money reserved to pay our part.

**Waste in the garden:** Tina has installed a give-away box for excess food. Sharing is something we do so well. Members are extremely generous sharing skills, time and ideas, so let's do the same with produce. Also I hope this year we can utilise all other weedy areas of the perimeter. Always there is a waiting list. You may have noticed members now gardening perimeter plots.

We appreciate members thoughts and creative ideas and hope you can become as excited about this project as I am. We continue to work for the benefit of our members.

My prayer is that in this difficult time we can show increasing kindness and care for each other and those who find solitude and healing in the garden.

Margaret James  
President