

Taroona Neighbourhood Garden Annual Report - 28th March 2019



Taroona Neighbourhood Garden boasts 46 individual plots and 2 large community beds. The perimeter is a food forest of productive fruit trees and a berry patch. Most plots belong to families, while a few have individual tenants.

A reasonable guesstimate is that this relatively small area provides a considerable quantity of food for well over a 100 people.

Food reward depends on constantly replenishing the soil with some members harvesting 12 months of the year. This year has been a very fruitful year.

There have been several new young families joining us and it is a delight to have an increasing number of children eagerly learning about gardening. Helping the next generation to develop the skills needed to prepare and care for the soil, plant seeds and seedlings as well as harvesting and sharing produce is a privilege. They have planted strawberries, potatoes and sunflowers. Well done!

Working bees: The monthly working bees have been well attended with many members exceeding their 6 hour commitment to the community life of the garden. These are an enjoyable time of hard work along with sharing afternoon tea together. Some very weedy areas in the perimeter and herb verge are being tackled. Many of the herbs had lived out their life or disappeared. The plan with the herb verge is to return it to being a valuable community resource once again.

Hundreds of volunteer hours given so generously all help make our garden a special place..

Thank you the watering team, the mowers and edge trimmers and those who have transformed huge mountains of waste into hot compost. Also thank you to Nel and the children for emptying the worm castings. Plot repairs are gradually taking place so thank you to David.. Also thank you to members who made tip runs with tree prunings and others have repaired our aging equipment & infrastructure.

Perimeters. Fruit trees and berries around the perimeter have been loaded with fruit this season. Harvest times have been advertised for members to pick & share fruit. Thanks go to Peter, David and Bridget for the excellent pruning job done during winter.

Celebrations are the time when we put down our gloves and tools to celebrate the beauty of the garden, be thankful for its bounteous provision and to enjoy good company.

The **Autumn Harvest Long Table feast** in April was a classy affair with a wide variety of delicious dishes delighting our palettes.

Solstice:

Last year we lit up our brazier outside the lower gate so we could see the Possums lantern parade. It was quite a barmy night for the time of the year Pumpkin soup with homemade bread and rolls along with mulled wine kept us warm. Peter, Tina and Bridget and myself provided the goodies.

Christmas afternoon tea after our November working was our best for the year. It was celebration of a year's achievements.



Community involvement

Wreaths from TNG were laid at both Anzac Day and Remembrance Day services. The tributes included flowers from our gardens.

The 100year remembrance inspired the Taroona Sippers and Purlers to knit and crochet poppies for yarn bombing. TNG fence was chosen. Kingston U3A and our local community added to the numbers of poppies. 600 poppies transformed the fence



Fundraiser

Another very successful fundraiser was held on 20th October as part of the national garage sale trail. Our plants sold out. The BBQ, tea and delicious cake were winners, too. Many members volunteered to help. Folk appreciated a stopover between Kingston and Sandy Bay enjoying food as well as an opportunity to chat with members. The trash and treasure was slow and much was left over leaving us an appropriate disposal issue. The decision has been made to do what we are good at which is to grow plants and seedlings along with the food. **We raised the wonderful sum of \$967 - an amazing effort from everyone!**

This year we joined *Garden Clubs of Australia*, enabling us to transfer our insurance at an annual saving of \$500. A new network has opened up for us as a garden. Two magazines full of interesting articles come to us as a result. Recently I attended the southern zone meeting held twice each year.

During the visit of the national president in March, three members attended a reception at Government House.

Other events were held to showcase gardens in the south. I went to a lunch at Birches Bay Art Farm, along with a tour of the extensive food gardens.

We will keep you posted of any events you may like to attend

Situated in one of the sunniest spots in Taroona our garden continues to be popular. We always have a waiting list for plots. Our plans aren't always realized as we would have hoped. There have been several hiccups with the entrance. The committee has been looking at a new way of managing projects to ensure greater success.

Some interesting new plants

- ◆ the Persimmon tree has fruit about to ripen.
- ◆ The Chilean guava hedge around it is struggling.
- ◆ The hops quickly covered the frame and look great.
- ◆ The New Guinea Bean or edible African gourd is fruiting.
- ◆ Two Tamarillo trees have been recently planted near the lower gate.

Members are trying new varieties of plants and experimenting with soil improvement methods such as biochar.

In this coming year I hope that we are able to offer some workshops. These have been very successful in past years.

Members are very generous in sharing their skills and knowledge. Such diversity enriches us all.

We all enjoy coming to the garden as it is a sunny, quiet, peaceful and relaxing place.

Visitors continue to come. I spoke with three people within an hour. Local Taroona folk, interstate and overseas visitors often take a walk through the garden. One carer brings a client each week to see this garden.

In closing **thank you to the committee for 2018**— secretary Deirdre Brown , treasurer Michael Lynch, vice president Nel Smit, David Coleman, infrastructure, and Tina Curtis, Bridget Green, Peter Lutz.

We would welcome other members joining the committee and taking on roles in the coming year.

Looking at the archival photos of the garden I began to realize that so many people have been involved in setting up and growing this garden. David Stephens and Nathan White, I believe were largely responsible for initiating the concept of TNG. Others quickly became enthusiastic joining them through the years. We were sad to hear Attracta Gaskill, a life member, in her nineties, died in February. Living just across the road, she maintained a keen interest in the garden. Her family donated many useful items, now located in the shed for members use.

**Having all that is needed to grow delicious food not only for our families but to share, is a privilege.
Keep nurturing our precious soil and happy gardening to everyone.**

Deirdre hosted a visit from Waimea Heights kinders in June. They were quite knowledgeable about vegies and were very interested in learning about all the creatures living in the garden.

Possums Early Childhood

Learning continue to make artistic additions to their plot each year.

This time, a stunning mosaic spade. Most of us eagerly take note of their patch.

Thank you to Lynn and Karen



Bunnings offered us an opportunity to be included in their spring community blitz. Jessika the activity officer put together a new seat which is now located near the lower gate. The other seat now provides a place to rest next to the fence facing the dog park. Both are enjoyed by walkers. A small colourbond bed was assembled to contain the ailing lime tree.

Some rosemary plants and a bay tree were donated to the garden.