

Taroona Neighbourhood Garden Annual Report 2021

In March 2020 with Covid19 virus entering our state, we found ourselves shaken and in lockdown for a few weeks. Gardening became one of the activities we were free to enjoy. It provided an escape, food and healthy exercise. The Covid safe guidelines were implemented in The Garden and our community continued to enjoy all our garden had to offer.

It has been a busy year.

New signs featuring our beautiful logo were installed at each gate.

Worm Farm

Deirdre tirelessly lobbied Kingborough councillors and the council agreed to purchase from a recycling education fund, a Wormsdownunder Grande worm farm. We harvested worms from our dilapidated old farms. The resulting worm castings went onto enriching plots and fruit trees. In August Dean Winter, our mayor, officially commissioned the worm farm and along with several councillors, politicians and members we enjoyed afternoon in the garden. Thank you to everyone who donate their kitchen scraps.

Seeds of Hope was an outstanding success. A Covid Recovery Grant from the Kingborough Council enabled us to refurbish the greenhouse, grow 1350 seedlings, and build share shelving outside the fence. The Seeds of Hope Celebration Day opened by the mayor, was quite a festival. Our members helped in a working bee preparing for this or were involved in the mini workshops.

Seedlings and seeds were given away. The art of making a recycled growing pots was popular and children made their own miniature succulent garden to take home.

Visitors attended demonstrations of propagating and compost making. The share shelves were loaded with goodies. Over 250 people attended the day, many of them visiting the garden for the first time.

A covid safe BBQ, plus our usual luscious cakes and tea were available providing an opportunity to relax and chat. Thank you to Helen, Michael and Judy who organised the grant.

This created a ripple effect, with more seedlings given away and people constantly visiting the garden, eager to gain tips on growing their own food. The Possums early learning children had their own special workshop learning some new skills. Excess vegetables on our shelves disappear very quickly.

Community Fund grant application

It was very disappointing not to be successful with our Tas Community Fund application, for leveling and landscaping enabling inclusive, safe, easy access. A big thank you to Bridget and Amelia for numerous hours spent writing the grant and consulting members. After wide consultation we found there was overwhelming support for the concept and ideas proposed. Access and safety are important so working out ways to implement these should continue. The committee have decided to start with garden plots. The plan is to have individual plots two sleepers high to a standard size of 1.5 by 4 metres. Members will be informed of changes so that there is little disruption as possible.

Working Bees resumed in July. Attendance has been very good, and much is always achieved. In November we helped David Stephen, our founding father, celebrate his 80th birthday. Always there is much chatter and laughter, especially around our delicious afternoon teas. New members quickly find TNG is a great place to belong. Our children are inspirational, enthusiastic, skilled helpers. They are an integral part of the garden. On the last count, including the Possums Early Learners, we have over 40 children.

Thank you to Deirdre, our secretary and Michael, our treasurer, along with the committee for your work through the year.

Thank you to all members who do the extras.

- The mowing and edge trimming teams
- The two hot composting teams.
- The folk who repair gates, hoses, water pipes and all things needing repair.
- Look after the fruit trees.
- Remove rubbish.
- Put out the bins.
- Welcome and chat with visitors.

It is a privilege to be a member of a garden where everyone is welcoming and caring.

Thank you all, I look forward to this coming year.

Margaret James