



TNG Member News

February 2019

Next working Bee

Sunday 17 February 2-4pm. Afternoon tea at 4pm.

Please come along as there is lots to do and we usually have great time weeding, chatting and harvesting.

If you are unable to attend working bees and need suggestions for jobs that can be done to contribute to the health and productivity of the garden at other times, we will now add to the regular newsletter a list of suggested tasks. We have also decided to vary the working bee day between Saturday and Sunday so more can attend occasionally.

There is a working bee calendar for 2019 at the end of this newsletter.

February-March suggested tasks

1. Weed the herb garden (outside the fence on Chiton Place) and cut back (hard) the woody stems on lavender, and the tarragon and lemon balm, and any other overgrown shrubs.
2. Scented garden inside the gate: cut back the spent flowers on the curry plant. Cuttings can go into the compost.

Annual General Meeting

This will be held at 7.30pm on 26th March.

Venue and Guest Speaker to be announced closer to the date.

Please consider nominating for the garden management committee. Positions are:

President, Treasurer, Secretary, Committee members

A nomination form is attached and can also be found on our website here:

<https://taroona.tas.au/neighbourhood-garden/>

Fill it in and place it in the donation box at the garden or email it to tng@taroona.tas.au, or by return email or hand it to a committee member at a working bee.

Bush beans are ready for picking

Members please pick the beans. The more they are picked the more that will develop.

Vale Attracta Gaskell

Many of you may remember Attracta Gaskell who lived almost opposite TNG and who enjoyed walking in the garden. Often she would select a few weed tips for her budgerigar. Attracta was always welcome at afternoon teas and she kept a watchful eye on the garden for us at other times. We made her one of our first Life Members. I am sad to say that Attracta passed away a few weeks ago, and her daughter told me that a flower was picked from TNG to add to the garden flowers on her coffin.

How to harvest

We may be telling you what you already know but....

We love to see children harvesting vegetables, but sometimes they need a little help with procedure. We suggest....

- Pick beans by detaching each pod rather than pulling at them, which often dislodges the entire plant from the soil.
- Spring onions in the community plot can be pulled entirely rather than single leaves being picked. If you want only leaves, there are chives growing near the tap in the community plot.
- However... pull whole leaves and stems off the silver beet, even if you don't want to eat the white stems. Leaving ragged stems on the plant delays the growth of new leaves.
- Grasp a zucchini at base of its stem and twist to get the whole vegetable.

Compost

We are using a hot compost system which involves chopping up all of the garden waste and mixing it with other materials such as 'brown' waste (dry leaves, straw etc) and manures. The resulting heat from decomposition kills seeds and pathogens in the mix. Participants in working bees often spend 2 hours mowing over the pile of garden waste to chop it and layer it in the active bay. But our thanks is due to Tina and helpers who monitor the heap and turn it regularly.

The full recipe for hot compost is on our website here:

<https://taroonatastasau/neighbourhood-garden/management-plan/>

Horse and/or alpaca manure

Our composting system requires addition of manures. Does anyone know of a good source of manure that we can easily access? Please email back if you know of a source.

Finally...

The recent rain has reinvigorated the garden and everything has suddenly sprung to life. The bush beans are burgeoning and the supposedly 'small' squash sown down the middle of the bed have become giants. Don't forget to harvest your own plots too, particularly tomatoes, which can be picked when not quite ripe as they will ripen in a bowl.

There is a small gallery of photographs taken after the rain on the member news page of our website.

Thank you to all who have paid their subscriptions for 2019. There are still a few outstanding. For how to pay see: <https://taroona.tas.au/neighbourhood-garden/how-to-pay/>

Working bee calendar for 2019

Sunday February 17, Sunday 17 March, Saturday 13 April, Sunday 19 May, Saturday 15 June, Sunday 13 July, Saturday 17 August, Sunday 15 September, Saturday 12 October, Sunday 17 November, Saturday 14 December