



## Summer Newsletter

February 2017



### News

It's been an odd sort of **Summer**. The Beans were all very strong until they were collectively hammered by strong winds and the berries, after so much rain, have decided that discretion is the better part of valour and are concentrating on putting down good roots. The tomatoes are coming along beautifully and the Sunflowers are a joy to behold (especially if you are a parrot). The Moorpark apricots did not disappoint.

Currently the Zucchini and Beans are producing like crazy so please **harvest** them in the community beds if you see there is a green flag out. Remember that the more they are picked the more they produce. If there is more than you need leave the excess in the cool box on the small desk behind the shed to share.



A happy group met on **Australia Day** Thursday to harvest apricots and plant out in punnets some seedlings for the Community bed. These have been agisted out and will return at the end of February for planting out.

We have a **blackboard** now so feel free to express yourself – the coloured chalks are in the shed.

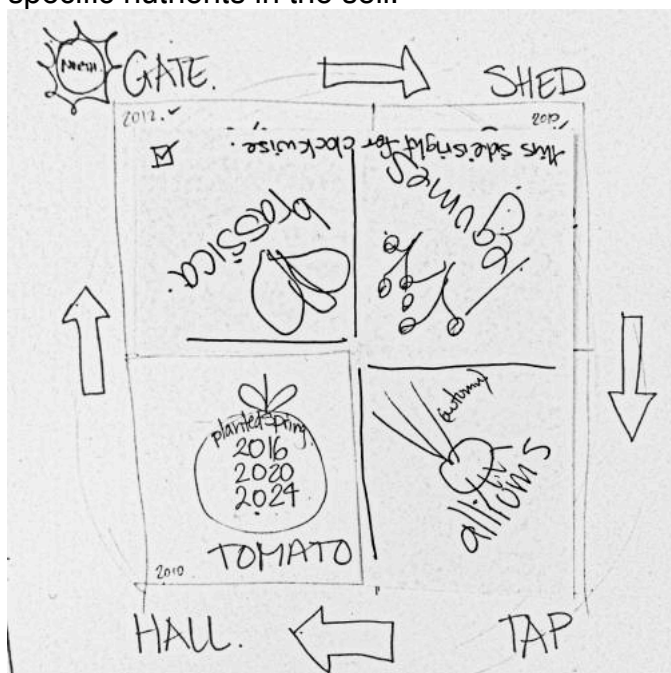
Now the Art Trail is over we are focusing on the **new entry and shade structure** next to the shed. David Coleman is heading up a crew to brainstorm how we spend the money (\$3,000) so please get in touch if you have ideas on what should be included or can help with building. David's

email is [Djcoolamon@gmail.com](mailto:Djcoolamon@gmail.com). So far there are plans for a pergola for kiwifruit, new entry gates, new sand and bought compost bin areas, rebuilding corner compost area, an outside noticeboard area, timber storage racks, place for storing children's tools, storing wheelbarrows, community library box, excess vegetable counter, brick paving, shaded area under pergola.

**Membership** is due each January and we are encouraging everyone to pay up at the beginning of the year. There is a waiting list for plots and so we need to know who is planning on being a plot holding member and who isn't. The plan is that there will be a \$10 disincentive if payment is late ie after February 28th. There have been a few teething issues this year because we have changed banks (to Bendigo Bank) since last year so we will move the cut-off date to end of March to give everyone time to get sorted.

Because of the increasing demand for TNG plots it has been decided to stick to the **one household = one plot** this year. This seems the fairest way to go and will give maximum opportunity for new members.

After careful research a **Rotation Plan for the Community Bed** has been adopted. It is an annual rotation ie the plant groups progress to the adjacent plot once a year. The rotation of the beds is clockwise and it seems the most significant thing to remember is that the Brassica follows the beans. The beans are the most important element in the rotation as they reinvigorate the soil with Nitrogen. It becomes a bit tricky deciding which vegetables fit in which category but we are adopting the (1) Tomato and Friends, (2) Alliums (Onions), (3) Legume (Beans), (4) Brassica (Broccoli etc.) routine. Lists will be posted in the shed so everyone knows where to plant out extra seedlings they may have. Essentially it is best to avoid planting crops in the same place in consecutive years as this encourages root diseases and exhausts the plant specific nutrients in the soil.



On the previous page is a Diagram of the crop rotation at TNG.  
(the community beds are long rectangles in reality but a square rotates better than a long rectangle so for the sake of the diagram they are shown square)

Don't forget the **Herb Garden** is there for all to use. There is thyme, rosemary mallow, tarragon, bay leaves, borage, red-rib dandelion, edible chrysanthemum, lemon balm and scented geranium (for flavouring ice cream I'm told) and a few chives growing in the watering can. A mountain pepper has been planted near the bird bath so good idea to give it a drink too if your filling up the bird bath.

Claudia is looking for like-minded gardeners to join her in **growing flowers** in the garden. She has been growing Sunflowers up near the apricot trees. If there are enough takers an area of the perimeter could be dedicated to flowers. If you are interested let the committee know.

Marian has very kindly donated a couple of **native vines** that will be useful for basketweaving so the plan is to plant those on the perimeter near the compost and worm bins.

Ruth Butler is stepping down as **Workshop Organiser**. She did an absolutely amazing job. Thanks Ruth. Is there anyone who would like to give this a go.

**Taroona Labyrinth** planning is under way – It is hoped this will become a feature down behind the Taroona Beach. Though it is not specifically a TNG project, TNG may get involved in some aspect of it later on. Anyone interested follow the links on the Taroona Community Website to Labyrinth Project or contact Judy Keen at cumquatmay@bigpond.com .

Congratulations to Nel Smit for her part in **Huon High School's** bid for the Zayed Future Energy Prize. Their proposal to engage students and community in sustainability initiatives was the international winner! Check out the video on our TNG facebook page.

If you'll be **out of action or absent** from the gardens for a while please let someone at the gardens know, as there is usually somebody who will happily water/ take care of your bed while you are away.

There are a few things **coming up** that members might like to be a part of. Next month, being March, will be our AGM. This will be on Tuesday March 14<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm and will be held at the Taroona Bowling Club. Nibbles and drinks will be provided by TNG. Simon Grove will be our guest speaker and his presentation will be "Taroona garden insects and other wildlife".

Happy growing,  
Tina

## Upcoming Events

### Annual General Meeting

7.30 pm Tuesday 14th March at The Tarooma Bowling Club,

The Annual General meeting will be held in March. Please come along, and have your say, catch up on news, listen to others and get involved.

Guest speaker: Simon Grove will present "Tarooma garden insects and other wildlife".

### Steve Solomon

April – Date to be set,

Steve is well known by many for his book "Gardening South of Australia". He will be calling in to the gardens to have a chat about soils.

### Drawing in the Gardens

July – Date to be set,

Tina will be running this workshop again. Hopefully we'll have the same fantastic weather and model as last time.

### Thursday Veg Outs

5.00 -7.00pm Every Thursday

Weekly unstructured sessions gardening together at the TNG garden.

### Next TNG Working Bee

Sunday 2-4 pm 19th March

Focus: To be decided closer to the time but there will be some community bed planting, bed rebuilding, some perimeter planting and compost mulcher mowing.

This will be close to the Equinox so we'll celebrate that too!

Several members have said they would like to know ahead of time when working bees are planned so on the last page of this newsletter you can find the dates for the 2017 year listed.

### Next TNG Committee meeting

(After AGM) 7.30pm Tuesday April 10th

(second Tuesday of the month) If you have ideas or questions, chat to one of the committee.



Our resident family of magpies enjoying a shower – well 3 having a shower, the fourth was hogging the bath! Was hot last Thursday.

Find monthly planting notes and keep up to date with

**Facebook page for TNG**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Taroonagarden/>

## 2017 TNG Working Bee Calender

**Sunday 2-4** (unless indicated otherwise)

	<b>Working Bee</b>	Other
January	26 <sup>th</sup> (Thursday)	
February	19th	
March	19th	21 <sup>st</sup> Equinox & AGM
April	23rd	Weekend after Easter
May	13 <sup>th</sup> (Saturday)	Day before mothers day
June	Rest	21 <sup>st</sup> Solstice
July	16th	
August	13th	
September	17th	22 <sup>nd</sup> Equinox
October	15th	
November	19th	
December	17th	22 <sup>nd</sup> Solstice

The rationale for these dates is that, usually, it is the Sunday following the second Tuesday of the month (which is the usual date of TNG Committee Meeting)