

Seed Community Garden Autumn Newsletter



WELCOME

Christmas has been and gone now, but thank you to those who attended our Christmas party. We had lots of fun, and it really is a great way to celebrate Seed, its members and volunteers. Every little bit helps, and Seed management committee and the community are grateful to everyone who contributes to Seed to make it what it is.

Please join us on March 16th at 1pm for our next members meeting. We finally get to taste some of the tomato varieties that we chatted about last time. If you have some labelled tomato varieties that you'd love to share, please bring them along with you.



Members and friends of Seed shared photos of their tomato harvest

In the community shared beds we have some great things growing. The spent tomato plants have been replaced with silverbeet. The eggplants are starting to mature and so are the hot and sweet chili. There is plenty of basil available so please pick it before it flowers to make your pesto.

We always appreciate when members with private garden beds share their harvest. Thank you. We remind others that they are not to pick from the private beds unless you are invited. Often the owner has a plan for their harvest and it is very disappointing when high value veggies are taken.

Seed Community Garden



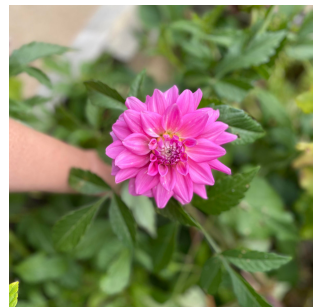
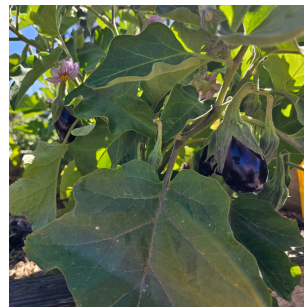
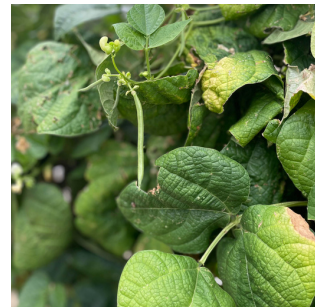
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Gosh what a Summer! ...storms, floods and fires with all the unsettling consequences. The cooler Summer though has provided some relief for the watering squad at Seed, but thanks heaps to all our wonderful members who have kept our Community Shared Beds looking so good. Tomatoes are ripening late but other crops have been doing really well especially the beans, cucumbers, eggplants, zucchinis, lettuce, corn, chillies and masses of brilliant sweet basil! We know the community and our many visitors love this space coz they tell us!

The Seed Committee is pleased to announce a number of new initiatives this year. They include a new shade cover over the children's sand pits and a proposal to expand the garden behind Seed to install bee hives with the newly formed bee group. But most importantly Seed has gratefully received a substantial grant to employ a part time Community Engagement & Administrative Officer from the wonderful John Leslie Community Foundation for the next 2 years...and I am pleased to announce that after a rigorous selection process Maree Mead will be starting this month.

Our Seed Committee is looking forward to catching up with all members at our next Members' Seed Meeting on March 16th featuring our Tomato Tasting extravaganza

....see you there! cheers Fred



FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@seedcommunitygarden



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Seed Community Garden



SALE BEE GROUP

Recent meetings have been held at Seed to re-establish a Sale Bee Group following Covid close downs. The aim of this group is to share the knowledge base within the Gippsland Apiarists Association with existing and new members wanting to establish and maintain hives. The importance of bees has always been important for pollination, but with the imminent spread of a the varroa mite into Victoria the role of beekeeper hives will be imperative. It is estimated that in excess of 70–80% of all bees that live in the wild will be lost which will impact all crops reliant on pollination. Members of Seed management Committee have attended these meetings and Seed management committee support the Sale Bee Group restart.

Anyone interested in establishing hives and joining the Sale Bee Group can contact Lyn Weatherson 0497 346 641 lynweatherson@gmail.com



Prop group grow our seedlings to be used in the community shared beds and for selling at the seedling table.

PROP GROUP

Propagation Group have been busy getting autumn seedlings ready, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage and kale. This month prop group has an impromptu demonstration of budding and grafting with Neil Barraclough. Please note the change of day to SATURDAY March 9th at 9.30am.



Pictured are members of the bee group building hive frames



CHICKEN UPDATE

We are still collecting eggs daily. Unfortunately we've lost a few chickens to what we suspect has been reproductive disease. This is a common issue isa browns given they have been bred to lay eggs, and lots and lots of eggs. Rest assures that the life these ladies have had at Seed is a lot better than the one they have come from and they are treated with the upmost care. On occasions and fully supervised, and enclosed, they have been allowed to roams beyond the coop to gobble up some bugs and stretch their legs.



NEW STAFF MEMBER

Seed has been fortunate to receive a generous allocation of funds from the John Leslie Community Fund to support Seed operations. We thank the John Leslie Foundation and also acknowledge the strong relationship we have with Wellington Shire Council, in particular with the Sustainability education officer, Sharon Ray, who works from Nakunbalook next door. Sharon's letter of support certainly helped us secure funding for this position.

Maree will now assist Seed with community engagement as well as a number of important administrative tasks. Maree will be onsite at the garden Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9am until 12noon.



Community Engagement & Administrative officer

Maree Mead

M: 0438 314 517

seedcommunitygarden@gmail.com

CHANGES TO THE COMMITTEE

Given this new role, Maree will no longer be on the management committee and has resigned as vice president. We thank Maree for volunteering at Seed and we look forward to how she will continue contributing to Seed as our Community Engagement and Administrative Officer.

Heather Watt has recently moved away from Sale and is no longer able to serve on the committee of management. Thank you Heather for all your work at Seed over the past few years.

We will be seeking new committee members to replace these roles shortly.

BABY'S DAY OUT

Playgroup participated in Wellington Shire's Baby's Day Out which saw 100s of family checking out local providers and enjoying a day out of fun activities. Sasha made playdough and took some fresh herbs for children to explore, the smell was amazing. Thank you Sasha for taking your time to attend this event and for supporting the Seed Garden Playgroup.





COOKING

Eleven happy chefs took home a jar of zucchini and pineapple relish and onion jam they helped to preserve at the preserves workshop. We are so glad to hear the great experience the attendees had this morning. We plan to run another cooking event in when some of our Autumn crops are ready. If you have any recipe suggestions feel free to share them with us. This activity prompted discussion on more activities like this, where members and volunteers can share their knowledge and skills.



SPECIAL NEWS

Catherine became an Australian citizen on Australia day along with 36 others in Sale. Congratulations, we are so glad to have you in our team.



VOLUNTEERING AT SEED

Seed would not be the place that it is without our volunteers. Volunteers extends the capacity of Seed to achieve our vision:

To be a thriving and self-sustaining community space promoting the benefits of gardening as a means of encouraging healthy lifestyles and increasing social connection.

Some volunteering opportunities at Seed do not require a formal agreement, such as general attention to the garden and the community shared beds. To ensure the success of our Garden, Seed requires volunteers in a more formal capacity to assist with growing veggies & herbs, keeping our Seed site looking great and helping with events.

If you would like to support Seed with these roles on a regularly basis, please get in touch via our online expression of interest form.

www.seedcommunitygarden.org/volunteer-with-us

Seed Community Garden



GARDENING DAYS

We get a great turnout for Gardening Day on the first Saturday of each month. This is the day we focus on the community shared beds and keeping the garden beautiful. If you want to learn about our compost system, this is the best day to come and see it in action. Thank you to the regular attendees of Gardening Day, your help in the garden is fantastic and really appreciated. We love seeing new faces and often have a 1 or 2 come along. We hope to see you there.

There is some interest in mid-week gardening so keep an eye out for casual gardening days or group activities where you can meet others and share your gardening experiences. But you know you are welcome any time.

Friday afternoon from 5pm some Seed gardeners meet for some casual after work gardening.



WHAT'S NEXT FOR SEED?

We'd mentioned an automatic irrigation system previously, but volunteers have done a marvellous job watering we haven't felt we needed it. So, this has been put on the back burner for now.

We are working on providing shade over the sandpit as current project as this has been a commonly requested task.

Other upgrades we are considering include a fixed BBQ and shelter, seating, to make gardening easier for our members we'd like to improve hoses, and erect an accessible garden shed containing hand tools for members to use. As mentioned, we are developing a proposal for the land behind Seed to be fenced off and to be used for additional low maintenance garden space, while providing sustainability and biodiversity environmental and educational opportunities.

You can join in on that discussion at our members meeting on March 16th. Other topics on the agenda are volunteering, filling the 2 vacant roles on the management committee and tomato tasting.



What's on at Seed?



COMING UP AT SEED

Seed activities are a great way to get involved and meet other members, where you can learn new skills or share yours. Please remember to wear name tag and sign in when participating in group activities.

MARCH

Saturday 9th *CHANGE OF DAY* Prop group 9.30am

Saturday 16th Sale Bee group meet

Saturday 16th Seed Members Meeting 1-3pm

APRIL

Saturday 6th Gardening Day from 9.30am

Sunday 14th Prop Group from 10am

Saturday 20th Sale Bee group meet

MAY

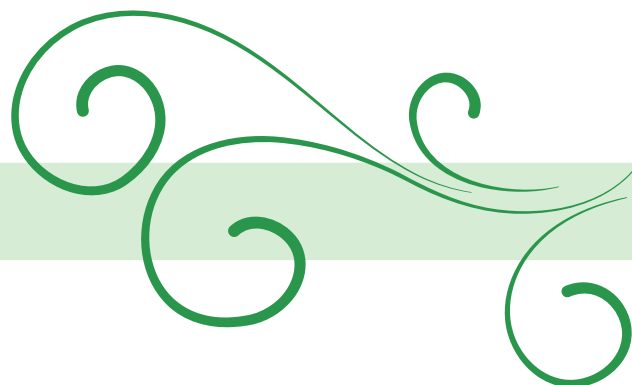
Saturday 4th Gardening Day from 9.30am

Sunday 12th Prop Group from 10am

Saturday 18th Sale Bee group meet

JUNE

June Members meeting TBC



HAPPENING EACH WEEK AT SEED

MONDAY

Gipps Youth Space
12-25yo, 4-5pm
at Nakunbalook
Contact
wagon@gippsland
youthspace.org.au

TUESDAY

Uniting Playgroup
10-11.30am
Contact:
kerry.bennett
@vt.uniting.org

CGH Mens Group
1-3pm
Contact:
patrick.horgan
@cghs.com.au

WED

THURSDAY

Sale Seed Garden
Playgroup 9 or 10am
See Facebook Group for
details.

Uniting Walking Group
12pm
Contact:
tamara.mccartney
@vt.uniting.org

FRIDAY

Friday Avo Fun
Seed Gardeners meet
for some casual after
work gardening from
5pm.

What's on at Seed?



REGULAR GROUPS UPDATE

***NEW* Gippsland Youth Space** are running a drop-in youth activity from 4 till 5pm at Nakunbalook. They will use the garden space on occasion and are looking forward to firing up the pizza oven one night.

Mens Group is going strong, led by Central Gippsland Health's Patrick, new members are welcome. Meet at Seed Tuesdays from 1pm.

Uniting Playgroup meets every Tuesday (during the school term) from 10am till 11.30am at the Seed Garden. It is a free program for families across Victoria with children from 0 to 4. Come along and join us. On the 3rd Tuesday of the month our favourite **Maternal and Child Health Nurses** from Central Gippsland Health join in with a story time and an activity.

Sale Seed Garden Playgroup runs every Thursday, it starts at 9am or 10am (depending on volunteer availability) and runs for 1.5 hours. Toys will be available for unstructured play during playgroup times, we are always looking for more volunteers to organise activities.

Uniting Walking & Gardening group runs each Thursday from 12-2 during the school term. Get in touch if you would like to join this friendly group. For some more information contact Uniting Sale Phone: 5144 7777
Email: Tamara.McCartney@vt.uniting.org

TaiChi

Gillian unfortunately had to pause TaiChi during term 1, we hope she will be well enough to return in term 2.



Uniting



Many of our regular community groups stop over the Easter and school holiday period. Please make sure you are following Social Media pages for updates on when these groups are starting back up.

Committee of Management



OUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



PRESIDENT

Fred Hellreigel

M: 0418660731
fhellriegel@gmail.com



VICE- PRESIDENT

VACANT



TREASURER

Sarah Partridge

Sarahmlangford@gmail.com



SECRETARY

Cindy Madeley

seedcommunitygarden@gmail.com

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Tim Rowe



John Cartledge



Rob Manser



Sasha-Lee Pover



VACANT



Catherine Vasilliou