



Mentone Community Garden Club Inc

Spring 2016 Newsletter

Kingston Seniors Festival

Joanne Cody (43N) is involved in organising the Kingston Seniors Festival this year and the Garden Club will also be involved. The official launch which will be held on Wednesday 5 October from 10.30am to 1pm. It will be held at the Mentone Activity Hub on the corner of Venice St and Mentone Parade-just a few steps away from the garden. It is a great opportunity to celebrate our community and join in the many activities. The guest speaker will be Elizabeth Chong- a celebrity chef and author.

If you can spare an hour between 11 am and 1pm to represent our Garden Club, promote our community event and share growing tips with festival participants please let us know.

And on Thursday 13 October at 1pm to 2.30pm we will be having our Tour and Talk event at the garden. We will need some volunteers to help by sharing their long time or more recent experience and tips of growing vegetables, herbs and flowers.

If you are able to help or have any questions please get back to Joanne (joanne.nd.cody@gmail.com), or reply email to the Newsletter, so that we can make this a successful and enjoyable event, and encourage others to grow their own produce.

Broad Bean Rust

Many of us are finding our broad beans infected with rust, a reddish brown spotting of the leaves. It seems that there is not much that can be done, particularly after the rust appears. Fortunately, there are no adverse health implications and the beans are still OK to eat. However, the affected plants should not be composted (wait till our Spring Working Bee and dispose of them in the skip) and it is not advisable to use the beans for seed next year.

Unworked Plots

From time to time Members find themselves unable to work their plot. This can be for various reasons: travel, ill health, a busy work schedule etc. If you find yourself in this situation please let us know. We try to monitor the state of the plots and occasionally have to remind Members of their responsibility to work their plot and to keep it free from weeds. It helps if you can let us know in advance and avoids a potentially embarrassing reminder.

Mowing Roster

How about taking a turn at mowing the pathways and other communal areas? Just add your name to the Mowing Roster inside the Garden Shed. The mower is easy to start and use and there are detailed instructions with the Mowing Roster. Phil Reid looks after the mower and line trimmer. If there are any problems please contact Phil (0417 347 378) or Brian Sawford (9580 4823).

Membership

At the moment we have 18 people waiting for a plot. John Hughes and Julie Mogford (12N) have relinquished their plot and are taking a long post-retirement trip around Australia. We wish them a safe and enjoyable trip. One lucky person on our waiting list will be offered their plot.

If any of our Members with large or multiple plots would be prepared to reduce their holding please let us know.

A full listing of Members can be found on the notice board on the shed door and is updated from time to time.

Committee Members

Alan Carter - President (2)
Brian Sawford - Secretary (7)
Kris Fitzpatrick - Treasurer (9S)
Anne Conomy (8S & 25N)
Phil Reid (11)
Malcolm Hall (28S & 16N)

Kingston Community Grants

This year we applied for a capital grant from the City of Kingston to help with a project to replace the Venice Street fence and gate with a more aesthetic entrance featuring suitable artwork and signage promoting the Garden. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful. The reason given was that "funding for this project may have to be put on hold until the Master Plan for Mentone Reserve has been resolved". We are still waiting for information about the Master Plan.

Locks

Please remember to be careful with the padlocks on the gates. The procedure for changing the combination involves turning the bolt 180 degrees from the locking position, so when handling the lock try to ensure that that you do not turn the bolt back too far.

If you do find that the lock will not open do not discard it. Often we can reset the combination, or the lock might just need some lubrication. Place the lock in the letter box and contact any Committee Member to let them know of the problem.

Front Edging to Plots

Over the last few Working Bees we have started to repair/replace the front edging to plots. This is an on-going job and we will continue with it at the next Working Bee. Our objective is to minimise the work required to maintain the paths. With this in mind, it is appropriate to remind Members that they are responsible for keeping their plot and its surrounds, including shared pathways between plots and the front edge of their plot, free of weeds. The task of whipper-snipping the edges of pathways currently falls to a few Members and is made much more arduous when Members fail to control the growth of kikuyu at the front edge of their plot.

If you are having trouble maintaining your plot please let us know and we can arrange some help. Please don't let it get out of hand.

Stable Manure & Straw

We have had access to FREE well-mulched stable manure and straw at:

- Equest Park, 37 - 39 Tootal Rd, Dingley, opposite the tip. You must phone Angela on 0409 144 826 first.

- Silverdene Stud, 795 Thomson's Rd, Lyndhurst.

Feedback from Members is that Silverdene has the best manure. I do not check regularly that these supplies are still available. Please let me know if you find that they are not.

What to Grow When

Some of newer Members have asked about what things to plant. The ABC Vegie Guide

<http://www.abc.net.au/gardening/vegieguide/>

is a good source of information that we use a lot. It has month-by-month lists of what to plant (choose the Temperate zone) and if you select a vegetable then it gives you more details of the range of times it can be sown or planted, time to harvest, hints, proven varieties etc.

Using the information in the ABC Vegie Guide I made up a table of the most common things I want to plant. You can find it on the last page of this Newsletter. I find it a very handy quick reference.

Another good site is Gardenate

www.gardenate.com

which has similar information perhaps in a more accessible format. It also is available as an Android and i-phone app.

Website

Our Website is working well. We have had a number of Membership enquiries from people visiting the site. It makes it easier for people outside the Club to see what we do and gives us a profile within the Community. We are also now registered on the My Community Life section of the City of Kingston website

<http://www.mycommunitylife.com.au/Home>

We also have an email account specifically for the Club: mccginc@gmail.com. Please use this email in any correspondence.

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
								Basil	Basil	Basil	Basil
		Broad beans	Broad beans	Broad beans	Broad beans	Broad beans					
Beans								Beans	Beans	Beans	Beans
Beetroot	Beetroot	Beetroot	Beetroot				Beetroot	Beetroot	Beetroot	Beetroot	Beetroot
Broccoli	Broccoli	Broccoli	Broccoli					Broccoli	Broccoli	Broccoli	Broccoli
Bruss. Sprouts	Bruss. Sprouts	Bruss. Sprouts	Bruss. Sprouts								Bruss. Sprouts
	Cabbage	Cabbage	Cabbage	Cabbage	Cabbage	Cabbage	Cabbage	Cabbage	Cabbage	Cabbage	Cabbage
								Capsicum	Capsicum	Capsicum	Capsicum
Carrots	Carrots	Carrots	Carrots	Carrots				Carrots	Carrots	Carrots	Carrots
		Cauliflower	Cauliflower								
								Celery		Celery	
								Chilli	Chilli	Chilli	Chilli
Cucumber	Cucumber							Cucumber	Cucumber	Cucumber	Cucumber
								Eggplant	Eggplant	Eggplant	Eggplant
	Fennel	Fennel						Fennel	Fennel		
			Garlic	Garlic	Garlic	Garlic	Garlic	Garlic	Garlic		
Leeks	Leeks	Leeks	Leeks				Leeks	Leeks	Leeks	Leeks	Leeks
Lettuce	Lettuce	Lettuce	Lettuce	Lettuce	Lettuce	Lettuce	Lettuce	Lettuce	Lettuce	Lettuce	Lettuce
	Onion	Onion	Onion		Onion	Onion	Onion				
Parsnip	Parsnip	Parsnip				Parsnip	Parsnip	Parsnip	Parsnip	Parsnip	Parsnip
			Peas	Peas	Peas	Peas	Peas	Peas			
							Potatoes	Potatoes	Potatoes	Potatoes	
Pumpkin								Pumpkin	Pumpkin	Pumpkin	Pumpkin
Radish	Radish	Radish	Radish	Radish	Radish	Radish	Radish	Radish	Radish	Radish	Radish
Rocket	Rocket	Rocket	Rocket	Rocket				Rocket	Rocket	Rocket	Rocket
Silverbeet	Silverbeet	Silverbeet	Silverbeet	Silverbeet				Silverbeet	Silverbeet	Silverbeet	Silverbeet
			Snow peas	Snow peas	Snow peas	Snow peas	Snow peas	Snow peas			
		Spinach	Spinach	Spinach			Spinach	Spinach			
Squash									Squash	Squash	Squash
							Tomatoes	Tomatoes	Tomatoes	Tomatoes	Tomatoes
									Zucchini	Zucchini	Zucchini