



# Mentone Community Garden Club Inc

## Autumn 2015 Newsletter

### Green Bins

*Why is this so hard? Our new practice of closing the bins once they were judged to be full was working nicely. But now, once the bins have been closed some Members are simply leaving their green waste by the bins, presumably on the presumption that someone else will clear it away for them. We even have reports that some Members simply ignore the "Bin Full" signs and the straps closing the bins and add their waste to the already full bins anyway.*

*Let me explain again. It is not just the volume of material in the bin that matters, but the weight. A bin may well have space for more, but at the same time be too heavy to be accepted by the driver. So when we put the signs on the bins and close them, it is usually because we judge them to be close to the acceptable weight limit.*

*So, if the bins are full please keep your green waste on your own plot until the bins are emptied. Do not leave it by the bins or by the shed or in any other communal space. Leaving it on your plot for a while is actually a good thing to do because the waste dries out and is not so heavy and it is easier to remove excess soil.*

*Everyone can help here. Most green waste can be composted or buried in a trench on your plot. The following websites might be helpful:*

<http://organicgardening.about.com/od/compost/a/trenchcompost.htm>

<http://www.instructables.com/id/Trench-compost/>

*If you see someone doing the wrong thing, just quietly explain to them how the bins should be used.*

### Mowing Roster

*Thanks to those who have helped with the mowing. However, we have run out of names on the new Mowing Roster inside the Garden Shed. If you have not done so yet, please add your name to the list and*

*take your turn at mowing the lawn areas. The mower is easy to start and use and there are detailed instructions with the Mowing Roster. Phil Reid has kindly agreed to look after the mower and line trimmer. If there are any problems please contact Phil on 0417 347 378 or Brian Sawford on 95804823.*

### Membership Changes

*At the moment we have 7 people waiting for a plot, and the Waiting List is open again. Recent new Members are James & Sally Welbourn (44N), Joanne Cody (43N), Jack Carmody (35E), Sandra Collin (25S), Ross & Sue Macaulay (4S), Anne Cash & Bryan Timewell (4N), Pene & Jeff Siemering (40E) and Lesley Shaw (43S). Please make these new Members welcome. **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.*

### 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)*

### Working Bee

*We will be holding a Working Bee on Sunday 22 March, starting at 9am. Morning Tea will be available after the work is done, and is a great chance to get to know other Members.*

### Incorporation

*Following the adoption of our new Constitution at the AGM in November, we applied successfully for Incorporation. We are now known as the "Mentone Community Garden Club Incorporated", and our Association number is A0062178H.*

### **Bunnings Sausage Sizzles**

*Our Sausage Sizzle on February 22 was very successful, clearing \$1613. Thanks to the Members who helped. We will be doing another one next year, so if you haven't been involved why not give it a try. It is a great way to get to know your fellow Members.*

### **Locks**

*Just a reminder 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 it might just need some lubrication. Place the lock in the letter box and contact any Committee Member to let them know of the problem. There is a spare lock on the fence near the letterbox.*

### **Maintenance of Plots and Surrounds**

*A reminder that Members 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. We will be clearing all the fronts of plots at our next Working Bee. After that Members are expected to keep them clear.*

*The inevitable result of failing to keep front edges and pathways clear of couch and kikuyu is the invasion of these grasses into the adjacent plots.*

*If for any reason 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**

*FREE well-mulched stable manure and straw:*

- *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.*

### **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.*

*Another good site is Gardenate*

[www.gardenate.com](http://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**

*Phil Reid is in the process of setting up a Website for the Club. It will make it easier for people outside the Club to see what we do and to enquire about joining. It will also be a central source of information for Members.*

*We also have a new email account specifically for the Club: [mcgcin@gmail.com](mailto:mcgcin@gmail.com). Please use this new email in future correspondence.*

### **Toolshed**

*All of our tools have now been marked with a yellow band on the handle with the letters MCGC in black. They have been hung on hooks or nails in the shed. Please replace them on the same hook or nail once you have finished with them. Don't forget to remove any dirt from them before returning them.*

*Good gardening everyone!*