



WEST LEEDERVILLE COMMUNITY GARDEN INC

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2023

Dear community gardener, overall the Garden is looking good, especially since the general area nearest Cambridge Street has been tidied, dug over and replanted and many of the plot sleepers replaced.

Next Working Bee

Sunday 7 May, starting at 8.30am with morning tea around 11am – please bring something to share.

Plot Sleeper Update

Over the past few months Chris Clarkson has been working to add height to the numerous plot sleepers which had slowly subsided over the years. The problem was compounded by build up of soil in plots and along adjoining pathways. The original plan to fix the problem was to raise up the sleepers and add support underneath however so many of the old jarrah sleepers were rotten and crumbling that more had to be replaced than originally estimated. The unusable ones are being replaced with treated pine sleepers supported by bricks.



New seat

At last!! The new blue Replas seat arrived last Monday and has taken up residence outside the shed. You'll note a plaque on it acknowledging the Town of Cambridge's grant.



Garden Membership

In the past several years, plot holders have been offered the option of paying double fees if they preferred non involvement in working bees, compost club and general maintenance around the Garden, and to simply focus on their own plots. The committee considered that some tasks could be outsourced. Unfortunately this approach isn't particularly compatible with maintaining a community spirit in the Garden. Thought is now being given to reverting to an earlier approach; keeping all fees at the same level and emphasising community obligations such as attending working bees and contributing to a range of maintenance activities.

Ongoing Tasks around the Garden

- Handyman stuff (fixing/repair)
- Weed driveways, pathways, general areas
- Sweep patio, shed
- Water flower boxes, hanging baskets, frog pond
- Build compost heaps and keep moist (water every few weeks)
- Whippersnip grassed areas (pathways, around fruit trees)
- Use the mulcher to convert garden rubbish to compostable material
- Trim hedges, vines
- Pull up unwanted vegetation and dump in compost rubbish bay



- Keep the shed organised and tidy
- Manage weekly rubbish bins
- Meet and greet on Saturday afternoons (2-4pm)
- Manage donated bottles etc for Containers for Cash

Like to help out with any of these tasks? Note your details in the shed diary.

New members

A big warm welcome to

Julia Loweth (Plot 23a)

Michelle Dean and David Hargreaves (Plot 25)

Vicki Mosedale and daughter Abby (Plot 1)

Thank you

To the gardeners who have worked hard to tame parts of the top general area. The sections closest to Cambridge Street look so well cared for and productive. And a special thanks to Jennifer and Ray Collins for beautifying the area near the main gate by tidying it and planting sunflowers.



Keturah

Jennifer

Bottle collection

Carole Duffill has regularly taken containers (many contributed by the flats next door) to the Cash for Containers scheme and the Garden has benefited from the regular flow of income. Carole has done magnificently but is relinquishing this job. We welcome anyone prepared to take it on. Are you interested?

Horned African cucumbers



Found flourishing near the back fence: the African horned cucumber is a traditional food indigenous to central and southern Africa. Grown for its ornamental and edible fruits including NZ where it was registered under the trademark Kiwano. A self fertile climber with tendrils and hairy leaves and stems and bears white or yellow flowers. Its taste has been compared to a combination of cucumber and zucchini or a combination of banana, cucumber and melon. It can be eaten at any stage of development, young, mature green or when ripe.

See you at the Garden!

On behalf of your committee
Felicity

Dragon Fruit flower



