

# MANDURAH COMMUNITY GARDEN

## FEBRUARY 7th, 2024 BULLETIN

*Want to support a worthwhile Community Asset? Simple - join us as a Friend of the Mandurah Community Gardens. Become a member for just \$20 per annum. Your support will help us continue providing help, information, services and a beautiful garden environment for all of us to share. Just visit our website or come along on Saturday morning to join.*

**THANK YOU ALL FOR SUPPORTING MANDURAH COMMUNITY GARDENS!**

*Mandurah Community Gardens Incorporated acknowledges the Bindjareb People as the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging.*

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND SPECIAL DAYS

#### **FEBRUARY**

#### **GARDENS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC -**

Every Saturday 9.30am to 11.30am and Tuesdays 3.00pm to 5.00pm

#### **WEATHER REPORT**

Bunura (February-March) (second Summer, Birak being the first summer) – the season of adolescence. This is the hottest time of the year, characterised by hot dry weather with little to no rain, and a cool wind in the afternoons if you are close to the coast. Lots of white flowering gums in bloom.

#### **ORGANIC FOOD FOR SALE**

Fresh organically grown beetroot and capsicum for a gold coin donation on Saturday mornings.

#### **BUSY BEE AND PLANT SALE -**

Saturday 17th between 9.30am - 11.30 am

#### **NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING - ALL MEMBERS WELCOME**

Friday 16th February, 2024 @ 10.30am

#### **REGULAR SERVICES**

Tool and Book Library, Containers for Change, Recycling (see list), Donations such potted plants, pots (anything for gardening to avoid landfill), Worm Products for Sale and Training on Worms (booking is required), Childrens play area, Seeds for Sale, Coffee and Tea. Potter around the garden (there is a list of needed jobs on the blackboard), Memberships.

## WHAT TO PLANT IN FEBRUARY

Veggies to plant in February (Bunuru) include: Capsicum, Chillies, Carrots, Celery, Cucumber, Eggplant, Kale, Kohl Rabi, Leek, Lettuce, Spring Onions, Pumpkin, Radish, Melons, Silverbeet, Squash, Corn, Sweet potato, Tomato, Zucchini.

When germinating seeds in hot weather, it is important to keep them moist (but not wet) by misting regularly with water.

Bunuru is a time to keep feeding summer crops to get the most out of the growing season. With hot days still to come, apply some seaweed tonic to reduce stress on plants as stressed plants are more susceptible to attack from pests.

Bunuru is a good time to think about putting in a green manure crop in preparation for autumn/winter crops. A green manure crop can help replenish the soil after heavy feeding summer crops have depleted the nutrients. (Reference Urban Revolution).

Flowers to plant in February include marigolds and petunias.

## ACTIVITIES IN THE GARDEN IN JANUARY 2024

David, a member and man of many talents, used corn, zucchini, and herbs grown in the garden to demonstrate how he cooks corn and zucchini fritters. Everyone visiting the garden that Saturday morning ENJOYED the cooking tips and the tasty fritters.

We had a great crop of cherry tomatoes that just kept giving and a fair crop of Roma's slightly heat affected, causing a white core but still edible and ok for cooking.

Our cherry tomatoes were quite watery and a little tasteless, which we put down to overwatering and the need to improve the soil a little more. Sadly, blight and red spider mite was a problem for members growing tomatoes and eggplants in their plots this season. We did stick to organic principles and removed rather than spraying chemicals when the plants were too far gone.

We had a very successful crop of zucchini and lettuce which have now finished. It's been great to see community members call in to pick up veggies and plants available for a small price at the garden. Currently we have capsicum, beetroot and a few rockmelons left. The rockmelon are a slip variety, meaning when they are ripe, the vine attached to the melon easily slips away. These rockmelons have been sweet and juicy. Those pulled off the vine too early have been a little harder and less sweet. Did you know rockmelon doesn't continue to ripen once picked, unlike tomatoes. We have had to invent some protection for the rockmelon from hungry rats. A common problem for most veggie gardeners at some stage. Besides traps which they are too cunning to fall for, we tried putting the melons in black tights and using bird cage wire over plant pots without drainage holes. The melons sit in the pots and a wire mesh

with very small holes is placed over top of the pot with edges bent over the top rim of the pot. So far, so good prior to this action, 5 rockmelons were eaten by the rats.

Sunflowers in our butterfly Cafe pot have evaded the ever vigilant parrots for now.

We had a lovely farewell for Wendy, our friend and a volunteer member at the garden. We wish Wendy and her family well in Port Hedland where apparently there are several community gardens. The temperatures might be a challenge to get used to though.

Sadly, there have been 3 break-ins since 9th January over a seven day period. Lots of mess, some crop damage, all of the shade house pot plants thrown onto the ground, the toilet flooded with water left running and toilet paper strewn over the communal bed area. On another occasion, 3 taps were removed which resulted in water running all night and items were taken over the back fence but thankfully a neighbour heard noises and turned on his flood light disturbing the theft and the people left without their loot.

Police reports have been done, and a great team of members helped clear up and make necessary repairs. We are working on reinforcing the toilet lock, adding a combination lock to the shade house, trialling a solar spot light and reinforcing any gaps in our back fence. The goal is to install 2.1m high garrison fencing to complete a secure perimeter that is a bit tricky to get through or climb over. Of course the expense is beyond the community garden so we will apply to Lottery West for a grant which will take time. Let's hope the intruders get busy doing something constructive someplace else. A huge thank you to everyone for pitching in to get the garden back to normal.

We are working on a series of workshops again this year so keep a check on the website to see when and what they will be. In the meantime look after your self be kind and do what you can to nurture our environment

## **ELK HORN PROJECT**

The community garden has had several fairly established elk horns donated. We are looking for volunteers to help mount these plants on backing boards. Please call Cheryl on 0414 348 404 if you have skills to share or would like to learn how as we tackle this job next Saturday at the garden between 9.30am and 11.30am.

## **REMINDERS/REPEATS - What did you miss?**

### **SUPPORT THE GARDEN - BUY AN ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FOR \$20**

We are asking our readers to please support the garden by becoming a 2023/2024 member for just \$20. Consider this a donation to help us continue to provide a valuable service to the community. Just go to our Website for registration and bank details. Thank you in advance.

### **MCG NAME BADGES NOW AVAILABLE - JUST \$2**

We now have a Badge Making machine to make name badges. They will cost \$2 each. Please consider wearing a name badge while in the garden. Wearing a name tag breaks down social barriers so that everyone is approachable.

### **TOOLS AND BOOKS LIBRARY**

Mandurah Community Garden offers members and friends of the garden more great resources for all things gardening. We have an extensive collection of gardening books and magazines to borrow and now a hand tool and gardening tool library.

Call Cheryl on 0414 348 404 to see if we have what you need. Pop in any Saturday morning to pick up books or tools for your job, then return it in a fortnight. Remember members only. Conditions apply and use at your own risk.

### **Learning about Worms**

It only takes about 30 minutes to help feed and look after our family of worms. Learn about worms for free by contacting Cheryl 0414 348 404.

### **Containers for change**

MCG is collecting 10 cent containers. We use the funds raised to cover running costs for members and the community in the garden. Soil, manure, seedlings, toilet paper, tea and coffee supplies, retic parts etc

Please ask your family, friends and neighbours to collect 10c containers and bring them to Mandurah Community Garden any Tuesday afternoon 3pm to 5pm or Saturday 9.30am to 11.30am.

## NATIONALLY COORDINATED CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECK

1. Go to website [www.education.wa.edu.au/ncchc](http://www.education.wa.edu.au/ncchc)
2. Complete **online** application and choose from the drop down menu, School Volunteer as your position and this should give a cost of just \$10.00.
4. Print Summary sheet.
  3. Contact Coodanup College office on 9581 0900 to make an appointment with Ms Jane Gough, Manager Corporate Services to sign off on your original ID documents.
4. Take your 4 original ID documents and NCCHC summary sheet to the Coodanup College admin office located on Wanjeep St, at the front of the college.
5. When you receive the NCCHC number advise Mandurah Community Gardens by email to [info@mandurahcommunitygardens.com.au](mailto:info@mandurahcommunitygardens.com.au)
6. You may now access the garden during school hours as long as you sign in.