

**Welcome** to the Fourth Annual Australian City Farms & Community Gardens Conference. With broader awareness of Climate Change, Peak Oil & Energy Descent, sustainable food production Australia-wide has never been more important. This conference brings together a fantastic spectrum of the most progressive food initiatives from School Gardening to Food Security that will inspire, challenge and fill you with renewed enthusiasm for whatever involvement you have in this vital and growing field. The conference will combine excellent keynote presenters & discussion panels, with hands-on workshops on a variety of garden, food & arts-related subjects. Throughout, the emphasis will be on practical, informative and creative learning. We look forward to seeing you there!

## **School Gardens Day Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March**

The School Gardens day of the conference will focus on bringing people together who are interested in furthering their own school garden projects to those who are starting from scratch. There will be many fantastic presentations and workshops to choose from including specialist kitchen garden teachers from Cultivating Community, Eric Bottomley from CERES Sustainable Schools Program, the Gould League, Seed Savers, the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation and teachers, students and parents from various local, rural & specialist school programs. Be inspired by the great work of many dedicated people working in gardens with schools.



## **Seed Savers' Day Wednesday 21st March**

For millennia our ancestors have selected and saved seeds of the precious food species that we enjoy eating today. During the 20<sup>th</sup> Century however, this seed diversity has been eroded by the corporatisation of the food system. Many people aware of these issues are now actively working in their communities to preserve the genetic heritage of these seeds. Find out about what's happening globally and locally, as we journey with Jude and Michel of the Seed Savers' Network, local seed saving groups and a variety of different workshops and presenters who will share their knowledge of seed issues and projects, seed saving experiences, and the beauty of seeds and the seed cycle.



## **Food Security Day Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**

What is Food Security, and what does it really mean? On this day of the conference we explore the many issues that impact on people's access to fresh, affordable food, beginning with the global food perspective, and teasing out the threads of social and environmental justice. In an era of decreasing energy and climate change how are we preparing to feed ourselves in the future? Inspiring workshops including: Local is Luscious!, The Foodmiles challenge: how far did your food travel?

Food trees & bush foods in streetscapes, the urban orchard, community fresh food markets, shared backyard food gardens, Grey water gardening in 'the big dry', inspiring documentaries, & visiting a local food justice market.



## **City Farms & Community Gardens Day Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**

City Farms & Community Gardens are on the increase, as communities continue to reclaim common land for sharing in the age-old production of food close to home. Especially in the city where land is at a premium, the City Farms & Community Garden movement is crucial to ensuring that we both protect and lobby for garden space to grow food in our cities. Find out about what new Community Garden Projects and urban farms are happening, and hear from the Community Gardeners themselves. Discover and share the myriad benefits of community gardening through stories, hands-on workshops and great presentations. Our Keynote presenter for this day will be Mick Marston, who works for both the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens and The Soils Association in the UK. Mick has been involved with Community Gardens since 1976 and will be sharing his vast knowledge of a number of projects.



**City Farm, Community Garden &  
School Garden Tours  
Saturday 24th March**

Get-up, shake yer booty and come along for the ride! On this day there will be two garden tours, one visiting a number of different City Farm & Community Gardens Projects, and the second School Gardens around Melbourne. Each garden is unique and particular to the needs of the community that use it. Be inspired and feast your eyes on the wealth of creative horticultural passion and innovation these gardens display.

**Saturday Night Party @  
VegOut, St Kilda!**

Come and relax amongst plots of veggies, flowers, sculptures, chooks and enjoy a boogie, great food, great music and great company at one of Melbourne's most famous community gardens.

**CERES Harvest Festival  
Sunday 25th March**

Now that you've spent the week immersed in the world of urban agriculture globally and locally, relax and join in the CERES Harvest Festival where you can experience first-hand the foods of cross-cultural Melbourne, and the bounty of nature. Don't forget to book your place at the Harvest dinner table.

**Invitation to present a workshop or  
two...**

Do you have a great workshop you would like to share with conference attendees? Please contact Ben Neil:  
ben@cultivatingcommunity.org.au

For all conference registration information and enquiries, please contact CERES: (03) 9387 2609 or reception@ceres.org.au  
www.ceres.org.au

This conference is proudly supported by VicHealth & brought to you by the following organizations and a host of dedicated volunteers.



VicHealth



Preserving the genetic basis of tomorrow's food



**Australian City Farms and  
Community Gardens  
4th Annual Conference  
(incorporating the 19th Annual  
Seed Savers' Conference)**

- Dr. Vandana Shiva &  
Helena Norberg-Hodge  
*International perspectives on food security*
- David Holmgren  
*Permaculture, energy descent & food security*
- Mick Marston  
*UK Federation of City Farms and  
Community Gardens*
- Malaika Edwards  
*Co-founder People's Grocery, USA*
- Gardening Australia presenter  
Jerry Coleby-Williams  
*Sustainable urban gardening*

**Collingwood Town Hall Melbourne,  
March 20-25th, 2007**

## **Attachment Two Types and Examples of Community Gardens**

**Community gardens** – neighbourhood spaces managed by and for members of the community. These gardens allow people to come together for the purpose of growing vegetables, fruits and flowers, but also provide new spaces for neighbourhood interactions.

**Traditional allotment** – small plots of land rented to individuals for their cultivation by local authorities or other public bodies—the upkeep of the land is usually the responsibility of the individual plot owners.

### **Northcote Community Garden** Northcote, Victoria

The Northcote Community Garden in the City of Darebin was developed in 1995 with the aim of promoting crime prevention and community safety. There are 14 Individual plots (small plots approx 1.5m x 1.5m), and most of the plot holders live in flats or houses with no gardens. Young people 'at risk' can get involved in designing and landscaping the site while receiving horticulture training and possible long-term employment opportunities. A mud brick shed, and an open area adjacent to the gardens with basketball courts, seating and an ornamental indigenous garden. The garden is self managed by the plot holders.

### **Rushall Community Garden** North Fitzroy, Victoria

In 1999, the City of Yarra council passed a motion of in-principle support for a North Fitzroy Community Garden with a recommendation for site near St Georges Road. North Fitzroy Community Gardens Group incorporates as a non-profit organisation. St Georges Rd site found to be contaminated and hence unsuitable. Thomas Kidney Reserve identified as preferred site. Proposed design for community garden released in 2002. Plots allocated and laid out in 2004, with the first plantings.

Rushall Garden is a community garden that is situated on former railway land, in North Fitzroy. It is licensed to and managed by, The North Fitzroy Community Gardens Group. Membership of the NCGG is open to any member of the community, but a condition of the license is that priority in allocation of garden plots is given to residents of the Cities of Yarra and Darebin.

The NCGG aims are to enhance the sustainability of the North Fitzroy community by:

Respecting prior ownership of the land by Indigenous Australians  
Maintaining attractive urban space where people can grow plants predominantly for food and which is accessible to the local community to enjoy  
Promoting sustainable organic horticultural techniques and fostering the sharing and development of a diversity of gardening skills



**Managing the garden by consensus in an open, participatory and non-discriminatory manner.**

### **Veg Out Community Gardens** St Kilda, Victoria

In October 1998, Port Phillip Council offered the site of the disused St Kilda Bowling Club as studio space to local artists. The Club buildings were quickly occupied on a month-by-month basis and a thriving artist colony began. However, the sorry sight of a former bowling green sprouting weeds

drove several of the artists to turn the soil into what would become a series of plots and a community garden.

Veg Out is an organic, chemical free community garden run by volunteers. Formerly a lawn bowling green, the land Veg Out is situated on is administered by Port Phillip City Council, and has been permanently reserved for public use since 1881. The garden has over 140 plots.

A commitment to a sense of community, conservation and organic gardening principles underpins all activities on the site. Unlike most community gardens in Melbourne, Veg Out lacks rigid barriers between common land and each plot; the paths curve and meander; flowers, vegetables and artworks have equal standing.



**Communal garden** – common green space or a shared garden for use by a number of residents. For example, the centre of many city squares and crescents can be maintained as communal gardens

### **Fig Tree Communal garden**

Wickham, NSW

The Fig Tree Community Garden at the Croatian Wickham Sports Club in NSW is a project by the people for the people. The project was born out of common goals shared by the Committee Members to the Garden in growing things organically, developing the community and improving the environment.



Fig Tree Community Garden doesn't have individual allotments. It's one big garden where anyone and everyone are invited to get involved and enjoy the rewards of the harvest. The site is alongside a busy street, but in what Craig describes as an 'interesting experiment', they left the garden unfenced.

A number of organizations support Fig Tree, including Newcastle City Council, Hunter TAFE, Hunter Water, and of course the Croatian Wickham Sports Club. Fig Tree also established strong practical links with other organizations, such as Links to Learning, Toogoolawa School, Migrant Resource Centre, TAFE Outreach and Baptist Community Services.

**Community Involvement in Council planting** – encouraging community involvement in planting for streets and reserves

### **Randwick City Council Community Involvement in Council planting**

Randwick City Council, NSW

Randwick City Council encourages community participation in the greening of our streets and reserves. Council is keen to see the community involved in the development of local parks and reserves, participating in tree planting projects and in raising its awareness of environmental issues.

In order to facilitate as much as possible community participation in the planting out of the City's streetscapes, Council introduced the Community Street Tree Planting Project.

This project is co-ordinated by appropriate Council tree management staff, in conjunction with a minimum of five (5) participants from the local community (for each project), and involves Council providing tree stock and associated planting materials and with the community then assisting in the planting and subsequent maintenance of those trees during the initial establishment period.

**Therapeutic gardens** – gardens with raised plots and wheelchair access that can provide an opportunity for recreational activity for older people, or for people with disabilities.

### **Ilma Lever Garden Centre**

Coburg, Victoria

The Ilma Lever garden, in the City of Moreland is a communal fruit and vegetable garden is designed for the use of people with disabilities. It features raised organic vegetable and herb beds, propagation facilities and a community retail nursery. The garden beds and produce from them are shared.



**Aesthetic gardens** – Community involvement in local gardening projects, which do not necessarily involve fruit and vegetable planting

### **The Living Garden Project**

Liverpool City Council, NSW

An unused parcel of land on the corner of Speed and Pirie Streets has been transformed into a vibrant garden reflecting Liverpool's diversity. The Living Garden project has engaged residents from neighbouring areas, including newly arrived migrants, refugee and indigenous communities and older residents who have lived in the area for a considerable time.

The Living Garden project is a partnership between Liverpool Uniting Church and the Living Streets Program. Liverpool Uniting Church is sharing land on the corner of Speed and Pirie Streets with the community for the purpose of creating the Living Garden.

The aim of the garden was to provide a central place for people to relax, reflect and enjoy a safe and peaceful environment. With a welcoming flower garden reflecting the community's ideas and aspirations as the central focus.

### **Oasis Community Garden**

Toongabbie/ Seven Hills, NSW

The Oasis Community Garden was started in 2001 through partnerships between Blacktown City Council, the NSW Department of Housing, the Botanic Gardens Trust, the Toongabbie/Seven Hills Neighbourhood Cottage, community groups and volunteers.

The Garden was officially launched in March 2006 to a very receptive local community.

The Oasis Community Garden has a contemporary multi purpose design, suitable to be used for passive recreation, planting and weeding activities, events and BBQs.

The garden hosts regular school holiday activities and working bees to encourage the community to make use of the beautiful flower garden created by local residents. Community groups and residents are able to use the Garden to hold meetings or events after making the appropriate arrangements with the Garden Committee.



**Indigenous gardens – community gardens that showcase indigenous plants, particularly bush foods.**

#### **Indigenous Garden at Parkville Youth Residential Centre Redevelopment Project Parkville, Victoria**

In 1998, during the planning phase of the overall Parkville Youth Residential Centre Redevelopment Project, the issue of the over representation of Indigenous children and young people in custody and of reconciliation arose. In wanting to recognise and acknowledge both of these issues the concept of an 'Indigenous Garden' at Parkville Youth Residential Centre was born.

Since 1998, a consultative committee for the Indigenous Garden project has been established. This committee meets on a regular basis and is constituted by has a range of representatives from across the community and from both Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultural backgrounds. A working group of young people from the Centre have also been significantly involved in the development of the Indigenous Garden project.

A collaborative approach to the planning and development of the garden has been embraced for the purposed of creating an indigenous environment which reflects the variety of flora used for food, medicine and other daily requirements of the Indigenous clan groups of South Eastern Australia, pre-European settlement. It is agreed that the particular planting, which occurs across the garden, reflects the five distinct bioregions across the state of Victoria and that the Indigenous people of those areas directly inform that activity and future activity in the garden.

The goals of the Indigenous Garden are primarily focused on contributing to the rehabilitation of all young offenders at Parkville Youth Residential Centre, with a particular emphasis on Indigenous children and young people in custody, whilst creating a culturally distinct environment for the whole community to enjoy.

#### **St Kilda Indigenous Nursery Co-operative (SKINC) Port Melbourne, Victoria**

The St Kilda Indigenous Nursery Co-operative (SKINC) is a non-profit organisation, providing local native plants and bushfoods to the council, residents, landscapers and community groups in the Port Phillip area. SKINC also provide landscaping services. SKINC has a contract to supply the council with 25,000 local native plants a year, which are planted by the council's contractors.

Residents can also volunteer their time at SKINC to learn about plant propagation and help the environment. Courses are available on such issues, bush foods and plants for the home garden.

**Kitchen gardens in schools/ kindergartens/ child care centres** – fruit and vegetable gardens within schools, often with associated nutrition or environmentally focused curriculum. The aim is generally to encourage life-long healthy eating habits in students by engaging them in growing, harvesting, preparing and sharing delicious and healthy food at school.

### **The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation and the Kitchen Garden at Collingwood College**

Collingwood College created a kitchen garden within the school in 2001, aimed at students from grades 3-6 at the school. These students range in age from 7-13. Each child spends a single period each week in the garden and a double period in the kitchen. The kitchen manager and the gardener are assisted in each class by the classroom teacher and by some of the wonderful volunteers who have become interested in the project. The idea is to teach children in a pleasurable way about growing, harvesting, preparing and sharing food.

The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation has since been established to provide ongoing support of the successful project at Collingwood College, and to working to expand the pilot by introducing Kitchen Gardens into other primary schools.



**Housing estates** – gardens situated within housing estates and managed by Cultivating Community (Office of Housing)

### **Highbett Street Community Gardens** Richmond, Victoria

The Highbett Street Community Gardens are adjacent to the Richmond housing estate. The garden is large enough to accommodate a number of tenants, and the expertise of the gardeners is evident in the highly productive plots. The garden is designed to enable the plots and layout to change in response to changing resident needs.

The gardens incorporate a shed, barbeque, rotunda and seating, as well as some raised beds for disabled residents.

### **Kensington Community Garden**

Location: Cornish Lane and Westbourne Road, Kensington  
Municipality: City of Melbourne  
No of plots: 34 Individual plots (each plot is approx 5 x 1.5m)  
Management: Managed by the YMCA (a few hours per month)  
People: The Kensington Community Garden was originally established for Ministry of Housing Tenants but is available to all residents of Kensington. There is a yearly fee for a garden plot. Access is by own key and on site garden tools are available for communal use.



### Gardens Located On Public Housing Estates

There are presently a total of 624 plots available for use by public housing residents on the estates. The aim of the project is to supply a range of community garden support services to public housing tenants. Community gardens are located on a number of estates, including the following within or near Yarra City Council:

- King Street, Prahran
- Union Street, Windsor
- 229 & 253 Hoddle Street, Collingwood
- Dight/Emerald Street, Collingwood
- Highett Street, Richmond
- Lennox Street, Richmond
- Napier Street, Fitzroy.
- Alfred Street, North Melbourne
- Buncle Street, North Melbourne
- Gronn Place, West Brunswick
- Lygon Street, Carlton

**Road reserves and median strips** – providing an opportunity for community involvement in the planting of road treatments and medians. It may also be possible to create edible plantings in these areas – for example by planting fruit trees and herbs, that can be used by the local community.

**Private land and development proposals** – private land offered for use by the community for gardening. This may be an unused part of a residential block, or included in plans for an apartment development proposal – allocating garden space for use by prospective tenants.

### Westwyck Residential Development

West Brunswick, Victoria

Westwyck is a sustainable residential development in West Brunswick. While the design includes an individual semi-private courtyard space for each dwelling, there is also a communal area and vegetable garden area and recreation spaces landscaped largely with local native or productive plants.

Each residence opens on to a curved landscaped pathway linking communal spaces like the shared outdoor recreational areas, the productive garden, the bicycle storage facility, clothes drying area and the grassed carpark.



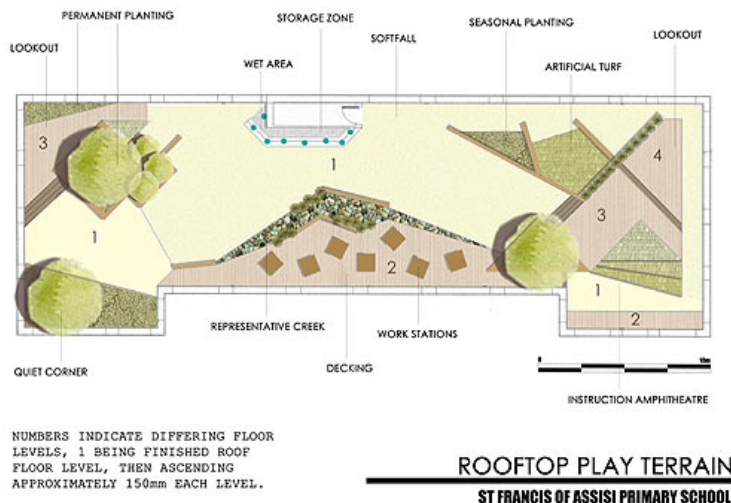
**Rooftop and balcony gardens** –utilising urban roof and balcony space for gardens. This may involve container gardening techniques, hydroponics, or utilising the rooftop itself as the planting medium.

### Rooftop Play Terrain – St Francis of Assisi Primary School

Paddington, NSW

An inner city school with very little green area transformed the school rooftop into an additional play area for its students. The 435m<sup>2</sup> rooftop was converted into an outdoor play area and garden,

providing a space for passive games such as chess and hopscotch and where students can learn about environmental issues.



**Transferable planters** – use of light-weight transferable planter boxes for community planting in areas where there is limited space availability, or where soil contamination is a concern. These planters can be used in a range of locations such as in local streets, schools, neighbourhood houses, childcare centres. Planters can be semi-permanent, or relocated on a yearly or seasonal basis.

**Planter Boxes – City of Melbourne**  
Melbourne, Victoria

Planter boxes are used in Bourke Street Mall to provide green space in the City. Planter boxes are changed on a seasonal basis and can range from trees to flower gardens.



Planter boxes are also incorporated into the balconies of the new Council building, CH<sub>2</sub>. These planter boxes are used to grow vertical gardens that will grow up the building façade via steel mesh. The gardens are designed to assist with shading, reducing glare and improving local air quality.

**Use of vacant land** – temporary gardens could be established on undeveloped sites if there was a substantial period of inactivity. This would depend on developer’s interest and other practical issues such as soil contamination and public liability issues.

**QV Development Site – Temporary Skate Park**  
Melbourne, Victoria

A temporary skate park was developed on vacant land (now the QV site) prior to construction.

**Virtual Gardens** – creating online space for virtual community gardens, providing an opportunity for local community interaction around a shared interest, such as gardening.