

## Opening Hours

The GCG gardens has some standard opening times except in the school holidays

The current opening times for visitors to the gardens:  
**9:30 to 11:30 Friday: Food forest working bee**

**9:00 to 12:00 Saturdays: U3A classes**

## Message from the President

We have had a busy time in the garden lately.

Buying a greenhouse will help getting our seeds and cuttings in early in the season so that we have plants to sell when we need them.

David and Pat have done a fantastic job on our water feature and it is looking really good as a focal point for the garden.



We have entered the Lilac Time garden competition again this year and everyone is working hard to have the garden looking it's best.

Thank you to Steve for the great composting in the garden. It certainly made a difference to the fertility of the soil.

Hope everyone is enjoying their garden now that the weather is warming up.

Happy gardening

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## Backyard Biodiversity workshop



The Goulburn Group president Mhairi Fraser welcomed the attendees at the recent workshop on building bird boxes for nesting.

Jane Suttle and Raina presented the workshop on promoting our backyard biodiversity on Saturday 8 September. They demonstrated how to build a nesting hollow for crimson rosellas and a box for microbats and discussed some things to keep in mind if you install these at your place.



The event had good coverage in the Goulburn Post beforehand and all were really pleased with the numbers, about 40 people attended. The workshop was organised by The Goulburn Group with excellent support from the Community Garden. The organisers really appreciated having Garden

members bring thermoses and food, helping with setup, welcoming and washing up.



hung on the trees in the hope of capturing the moths before they reach the fruit.



## Food Forest Update

While the plants have been dormant over the winter months, the gardeners haven't. Many of the trees and shrubs have been pruned and we now await a new flourish of growth.

Thanks to Steve, the asparagus plants have been relocated to a sunnier and compost rich spot.



In an attempt to fight the codling moth, hessian has been tied around the base of the apple trees (thank you Pat) to try and capture the moth larvae before it develops into the next stage. In addition to this, traps with a mixture of molasses and water have been

The plum trees are a mass of flowers at present promising an abundant crop.

We have declared war on the invasive convolvulus; through regular weeding we are confident that we shall win our fight in preventing it taking over the garden.

We now call on nature to provide the precious rain to help reward our labours.

## TAFE class

The TAFE class is having a very happy time in the Garden on Monday mornings. They've had some very cold starts over this winter term so the fire and hot potatoes for morning tea have been a staple.

The two class garden beds are growing well and looking healthy. The class have also been working on soil improvement in an adopted bed and have just planted seeds there. Over winter they also did some pruning in the Food Forest and prepared hardwood cuttings for grapes, figs, red currants and jostaberry. Hopefully they are busy putting down roots.

Some of the team sorted tunnel house pieces. They also moved the firewood stack to the Garden's northern edge, freeing up more growing space in the Food Forest.



We also learn each class about a specific plant and have recently covered parsley. Parsley's origins are from southern Europe/ northern Africa. They are either biennial or a short lived perennial plant. Parsley is a rich source of vitamins A and C, iron, potassium and calcium and apparently helps with bad breath. It is easy to grow here so, don't hesitate to include it in your plantings.

## Freezing Your Broccoli

When you have an abundant harvest it may be too much to eat and you will need to freeze or preserve. The ways to do this vary with the vegetable or fruit, as some may need more treatment to rid the food of pests in particular.

For broccoli the process is pretty straight forward. Step 3 is to remove all the nasties that you cannot see.

1. Select tender tight head of broccoli for best taste
2. Wash
3. Soak in brine (1 tablespoon salt to every 1 litre water) for 30 minutes. Rinse well.
4. Get ready a large pot of boiling water and a bowl of ice water.
5. Blanch broccoli for 3 minutes.
6. Cool in ice water 3 minutes.
7. Drain well and vacuum seal in bags for freezing.

Peter and Raina love teaching this class and are grateful to be able to run it at the Garden. The Garden is most happy to have them!

## Plant 2 Plate

Ray and Ros continue to present their varied and always interesting Plant to Plate class. A variety of subjects are always discussed and the class topics are driven by the interests of those taking the class so you can't get anything more relevant to you.



One of the new techniques we learned about this year is 'lasagne' gardening, or creating a garden bed with layers of materials that you may already have such as cardboard, weeds, and mulch. You can see how this bed is going as a testament to how well this can work. All plants were put in as seedlings and some are ready for us to start harvesting.

## Practical Vegetable Gardening

The U3A vegetable gardening course is run on Saturday mornings using 6 of The beds at the garden. Currently there are broad beans, garlic, onions and some salad greens consisting of spinach, lettuce and

rocket. We also planted some broccoli and Brussel sprouts.



We planted the sprouts earlier, this year, in the hope they would reach a decent height before the cold weather set in but, unfortunately, they didn't grow as tall as we hoped (probably due to the dry weather and lack of rain). Never-the-less we have had some nice plump sprouts.

We have started growing seeds for our summer planting. Tomato plants and other summer vegetable seedlings are starting to appear in the shops but it is really a bit early to plant them in the garden unless you are prepared to keep an eye on the weather and cover them if a frost is expected. We will wait a few more weeks before we plant summer, frost sensitive plants in the U3A beds.

## Rare Plants Day at Riversdale

On Sunday the 4th of November we will be having a Community Garden stand at the Riversdale Rare Plants Day. It is a good opportunity for us to advertise the Community Garden and make a bit of money as well.

Last year we made a few hundred dollars with not that much effort so this year we will try to make it a

major fundraiser for us. Any money we make will go towards the maintenance of the garden and to defray some of the running costs. With the lack of rain our tank is almost dry and on a couple of occasions we have had to revert to town water, which we have to pay for.

**We would like everyone, who is able, to grow some vegetable or herb plants for us to sell on the day.**

We hope to have sage, thyme and basil along with silver beet, zucchini, various types of tomatoes and chillies, some surplus strawberry plants from Cindy, plus anything else you can grow.

It would be preferable to have vegetable varieties that you can't normally buy in the shops. Last year we bought small tomato plants in punnets and repotted them so, on the day, we had good sized plants. The 4th November is about 6 weeks away so, hopefully by then, we will have a good selection of plants to sell.

## Garden Newsletter

The newsletter is currently produced once a quarter. Your photos and stories are most welcome and help make for a better newsletter.

## Email Contacts

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