

How time flies!

Back in 2008 when FIMBY was just an exciting idea, we began to help Yvette and Stew Edward develop their vegie garden in West Hobart. They now have a thriving vegie patch, and have completed the transformation of their backyard from scruffy jungle into a gorgeous family space.

The other big change since then is the presence of their spunky girl, Steph, now one and a bit! Such a sturdy delight of a child, and no wonder with the constant supply of fresh vegies in her diet. At right Steph checks out the "leftover" tomatoes that Yvette salvaged when pulling out her vines. Yum!



Planting guide for June / July

This guide is a pretty similar list to the last newsletter. All the things that we plant now can germinate in cold conditions, and are frost tolerant. I took photos of frost on the broccoli leaves this morning!

You might see certified seed spuds for sale in the nurseries. Go for it if you have a frost free area, but wait till August if you get winter frosts.

The Allium tribe are great cool weather growers, so now is still OK to plant garlic, leeks (as sturdy seedlings), spring onions and chives, and shallots. Buy garlic or shallots at grocery stores – its cheaper! This mob all like lime, so a sprinkle of dolomite worked into the soil a few weeks before planting is a good idea.

Broad beans and peas grow during winter and enrich the soil with nitrogen. Then in late Spring / early Summer you can harvest their pods before chopping them off and planting summer crops in between the root stumps.

Green manure mixes of grains and legumes can also be raked into beds for winter growth. We like to grow a green manure mix that will be chopped up and dug into the soil in Sept, ready for tomato planting in Oct/Nov.

Asian greens, winter lettuce, English spinach and radishes can all be sown now.

Learning stuff at the RTBG

There are some very cool learning opportunities being offered through the Botanical Gardens at the moment. How do these grab you?

Hands on practical fencing course (Cost: \$90.00)

Two day course 11th & 12th June, 9am – 3:30pm
Goodwood Primary School, Elmsleigh Road

Free Organic Gardening talks (FREE)

Conversational presentations on each topic
Fridays 10am from April 15th – June 24th
Where: Educational POD

Down to Earth - practical sessions (\$10/session)

Practical gardening programs on a range of topics
Fridays 1pm from June 3rd to August 26th
Where: Educational POD

Given the hands on nature of these classes there are a limited number of positions available in each class. To ensure your position please call 6236 3057.

If you have any questions about these or other courses at the RTBG, give us a call or contact Ben Davidson on 0418 301 051, or check out www.rtbg.tas.gov.au

Harvest notes

What could you be harvesting now?

Asian greens, lettuce, spinach and coriander for salads, leeks and spring onions, maybe early cabbage and cauliflower.

Cut the first head of broccoli out early (and eat it of course) and you will encourage side shoots to develop. These will never get very big, but if you keep picking you can get a broccoli "tree" that produces abundant florets.

Rhubarb plants can be divided up – harvest most of the leaves first so you don't waste any. The big leaves will wilt and draw moisture out as the new divisions develop roots, so best to remove them.

You can harvest by carefully pulling the leaf stalk away at the base, then trim off the leaves which are toxic (don't feed to bunnies or chooks).

Carrots and beetroot planted early autumn can be harvested as they reach worthwhile size.



For further information please contact:
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HARVEST



Cold! Sunny! Perfect!

We love these cold frosty mornings when the sky does movie star things at sunrise, and it's not so early that a sleepy head like me misses it! Cold still sunny days are perfect for gardening. And shovelling horse poo or turning the compost is definitely warming work! You can tell if your compost is well made, because it will be gently steaming in the crisp morning air! Go on – make some and check it out! Also check out our groovy list of workshops and happenings (at right) to keep us all connected this winter. Cheeeese! Yay!



Springfield Gardens Primary School

We've been inspired and delighted to be helping establish a school and community garden at Springfield Gardens Primary School in Moonah. A concept plan and resource list has been developed, and we've had lots of consultation and feedback with the enthusiastic garden committee and staff. Picture above is Heather Stanton – the driving energy behind the project, with students at the "Garden Day" activities at the project launch. The first 6 demonstration garden beds will be built on 2nd July – contact us if you'd like to volunteer to help!

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Workshops and activities

TREAD LIGHTLY FESTIVAL

Sunday 5th June 10am – 4pm

Come along to the Botanical Gardens and say hello. We'll be there at this lovely event held to celebrate World Environment Day.

CHEESE MAKING WORKSHOP

Saturday 11th June 10am – 3pm

\$50 members / \$60 non members

Back by popular demand! Claire Collins will lead us through the process, this time making cheddar. Lunch provided. And while the cheese is doing its thing, we'll include a **BONUS** workshop / seminar / demonstration:

PLANTING & TRAINING FRUIT TREES & BERRIES

RSVP essential – numbers limited.

TASMANIAN FARM GATE MARKET

Sunday 12th June 9 am – 12 noon

Bring your own fresh or preserved produce to sell at our stall! Make some cash, meet the people and share the love!

COMPOST MAKING WORKSHOP

Saturday 16th July 10am – 2pm

\$10 members / \$15 non members

A hands-on demonstrations session at the lovely beachside Penna property and home of sculptor Carol Buissink. Sumptuous lunch provided! After lunch, you're invited to a guided tour of the nearby local walnut orchard.

Contact Christina for all details and bookings. Please be clear you can make it when you book, as limited places are available.

Want horse poo? We've recently been contacted by Sandy who lives at Margate and whose horses generate a trailer load of stable manure each week. Sandy is bagging it and generously giving it away to people who would appreciate some extra oomph for their garden! Juliet and Christina pick up a load every Saturday, and are happy to stockpile the lovely worm-fuelling stuff! If you'd like to get a trailer or ute load for your own garden just let us know and we'll give you directions to Sandy's place. Stable manure is EXCELLENT for compost and the worms just go crazy for it.

