

HARVEST



Zoom zoom zoom!

After months of searching, Juliet has found herself a ute! Once 'Fimbo' has our logo on the doors we'll be double trouble as we roam the streets of southern Tas looking for sunny spots to build veggie gardens. Fimbo joins 'Fimba', Christina's ute, and the two little scooters, making quite a respectable FIMBY fleet!

We're having a break in July, so next newsletter will be coming out in August. Meanwhile, stay warm, and enjoy the winter solstice!



Sexy new raised bed packages

More and more of our customers are asking for raised beds these days. We've been offering package deals using corrugated steel colorbond and galvanised beds for a while now.

Our latest addition to the package options are these sexy hardwood raised beds. Made by Bodie and his team of Dove Tail Timbers, they are milled from salvaged logs and are beautifully cut with dovetailed joins.

At \$600 for a standard sized package, including delivery of bed, soil, installation, planting and irrigation system, they're a touch more expensive than the galv or colorbond options. But so Sexy!

Website updates and members forum

We're regularly updating our website, posting new pics and keeping our product info and news section current. There has been some traffic from a few pioneering souls on the Network members Forum – check it out for great questions and answers, ideas and stories. Forgotten your logon info? Just ask Christina for a reminder.

fimby fresh news

no. 4 June 2010

Workshops and activities

Our first FIMBY Network gatherings held on Sat 5th June were great! People had a good old garden and foodie chat, as always, and took home some great ideas, together with a chunk of pumpkin from Christina's 27kg whopper. Check website soon for "Who ate the pumpkin".

Vanessa also brought along some fresh picked plump and succulent spinach to give away, amid many admiring glances and secret envy!

So what other activities are on the horizon?

Pruning workshop at Botanical Gardens

Saturday 26th June 9am – 1.30pm

10 people max (fully booked already sorry!)

\$80 includes hot lunch

Grafting workshop with Bob Magnus

Sunday 15th August 10am – 3pm

10 people max (2 places remaining)

\$70 members / \$90 non members

Cost includes grafting knife and rootstock

Cheese making with Claire Collins

Make your own Camembert and Ricotta

Saturday 25th September 10am – 3pm

8 places available, members have first option

\$50 members / \$60 non members

Next Network Gathering

Saturday 7th August 10 am location TBA





Zelda (left), an inspiring FIMBY customer, and Anke, a delightful FIMBY volunteer, happy and satisfied after a morning's work setting up Zelda's new raised vegie bed.

Planting guide for June

June and July are good months for dividing and planting **rhubarb** and **asparagus** crowns. Both plants like a rich and free draining soil, so lots of compost and aged manure will be rewarded with better yields.

Radishes and **spring onions** can both still be sown, especially in raised beds or free draining soil.

Broad beans and **peas** can go in as good preparation for summer crops. Really cold and wet soils will inhibit their germination, so in heavy ground you could use a **green manure** mix instead that includes grains such as oats and rye-corn which will germinate in cold waterlogged ground.

All young leafy crops such as **English spinach**, **asian greens**, or **silverbeet** will benefit from regular watering of worm juice, compost tea or other liquid fertiliser.

This is a great time for planting small fruits and berries. In particular **strawberries**, **raspberries**, **gooseberries**, **blueberries**, red, white or black **currants**, and brambles such as **sylvanberries**, **loganberries**, **youngberries** or thornless **blackberries**.

And you might be noticing that the nurseries have all started to stock **fruit trees** now. You don't need to rush to get these in – they can be planted right through August. Remember to prepare the ground, including digging the hole and mixing in a bit of organic matter, **BEFORE** you go and buy your trees (if you're like us you'll be tempted by all sorts of lovely things which you might not have space for). If you're planting in a small back yard, choose trees that have been grafted onto dwarfing rootstock.

FIMBY merchandise is coming!

Badges, fridge magnets, purple beanies, work shirts and vests – the FIMBY branding and merchandise wagon is on the move!

You might be lucky enough to have been given a "Kiss My Artichoke" badge or fridge magnet already. Costa (of SBS fame) is wearing one.



My mum (Christina's) has declined one, strangely enough!

Keep your eye on our website for updates on merchandise ideas and prices. We're thinking gardening gloves, hand tools, bags, boots . . . well maybe that's getting a bit carried away! But seriously, if you have great ideas for stuff we can brand, let us know! For starters, there will soon be 20 FIMBY beanies for sale! Good timing, eh?



Harvest notes

Dig potatoes if there are any still in the ground. These should be dusted off, spread out somewhere dark to dry off if they are muddy, then stored dry in paper bags or cloth sacks somewhere cool, dry and dark.

Keep an eye out when you turn your winter compost, as you might have a nice crop of baby potatoes grown from tiny ones that escaped!

All root crops such as carrots, beetroot, parsnips can be pulled as you want them. The winter frosts actually sweeten up many vegies and bring out their best flavour. Parsnips are sweet and caramelise so well in winter, but are flabby and bland in summer. Most root crops won't bolt to seed until Spring.

Leeks can be eaten as soon as they are big enough to both with. Small leeks, braised whole with verjuice, is a winter delight!

Keep picking side shoots of broccoli. If the florets are infested with aphids, you can still peel and eat the stems which are crisp and DELICIOUS!

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