

GGGYO
2020
ALMANAC

This Is The Year That Was

The Harvest

Dig in the dirt, this Earth's wreckage we hold
in our blood, it is between our toes, cannot shower
the dirt from our hair, we pick the fine grains of it
from between our teeth, we muddy ourselves silly.

Look how the queen rogue pumpkin blooms,
a bell-framed Madonna, her colour curving
like a healthy breast - she rests too fat
from her proud insides to be shaken by any wind.

We know the garden teaches us green as it teaches us
water and death comes in stalks that crumble to dirt
and dirt is a living spectacle, we know there is weight
because of shape, because the soil will regurgitate

and there is only one small table between us
and it is loaded with food.

Heather Taylor-Johnson

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Welcome

Breaking News: There's been unprecedented use of the word "unprecedented". "We're not concerned about stocks running low, but we're a bit worried about it wearing out from over-use" reported Dr Fariblarfast of The National Semantics Institute today.

2020 was a year like no other. I could say unprecedented, but I won't.

Though the particulars were different, in many ways it was exactly the scenario which GGGYO was formed in anticipation of. These aren't the circumstances we envisaged perhaps, but the outcome's the same.

Especially early when no-one had any idea what was going on, as characterised by illogical panic buying of toilet paper – people doing what they thought was needed to survive. This is what happens when you don't anticipate a scenario.

"Unprecedented" doesn't mean "unpredictable". Future planning is all about envisaging possibilities, and food security rears its head in an awful lot of them; just about inevitably in a world that fails to deal with population growth and climate change.

Sure enough, following toilet paper, the next thing to run short was (edible plant) seeds – people started thinking "Gee, maybe we need to grow our own food".

Grow Grow Grow Your Own (GGGYO) is a community group which aims to help the community grow more of its own food amidst increasing climate change. We do this by running free workshops (using a grant from Unley Council), installing raised garden beds in community areas, and in encouraging the community to extend its tree canopy - to mitigate the heat effects of climate change.

We'd planned to run seven free workshops in 2020 (approximately every six weeks from February to November), attracting 40 to 50 people to each workshop, from a mailing list of over 450.

Then COVID threw our plans into disarray. Everything – society wide – was cancelled and nobody had any idea what the future held.

From that uncertainty, basically making it up as we went along, we found a way forward. We began by simply maintaining our own connection, via a new-fangled platform called "Zoom" – once a fortnight we 'met' for a catchup meeting. Although we approached that first meeting with some degree of trepidation (beforehand Peter looked forward to what he memorably called a "calamity" of a meeting, which he defined as "where we stuff around trying to get it going"!), it proved very successful and ultimately we continued with it throughout the year.

From a workshop point of view, initially we replaced them with a short newsletter, containing reminders and hints for the season. We then moved to Zoom for a while to continue the workshops, until we were able to go back in face-to-face mode (albeit modified: number restrictions and no shared afternoon tea).

Amazingly, we still got through a full program of workshops. Well, almost – we were on track, and then just four days away we had to cancel the last one of the year, due to the announcement of a six day total lockdown.



Really, that's a great effort guys.

Fuzz

About Us

Climate change is happening now. It will fundamentally affect our lives. It will affect the security of our food supplies. It will lead to more extreme weather and hotter summers.

As climate change progresses, there will be an impact on the ability of our existing food systems to produce as much food. By growing more of our own, we build up our food security.

This is the context that informs GGGYO. Our prime, defining goal is to help the community grow more of its own food. A consequential outcome is 'Fostering community'. Growing food locally can build and strengthen community connections – we share experiences, seedlings and excess food.

Building resilience in food and connections between people will also assist the community navigate through current and future pandemics.

We act in support of Unley's "Food Security Strategy"¹. Key points:

- It is projected that in the future many people will not have enough to eat. This is exacerbated by the early impacts of climate change now being felt.
- A priority for personal action is to reduce the level of resources required for our own food. The most effective way is to grow more (and waste less) of our own food.

¹ Refer "The City of Unley Food Security Strategy", <https://courencities.blob.core.windows.net/couwebsitearchive/Council%20and%20Administration/Strategic%20Planning/Corporate%20Strategies/Food-Security-Strategy.pdf>

Grow, Grow, Grow Your Own – Almanac 2020

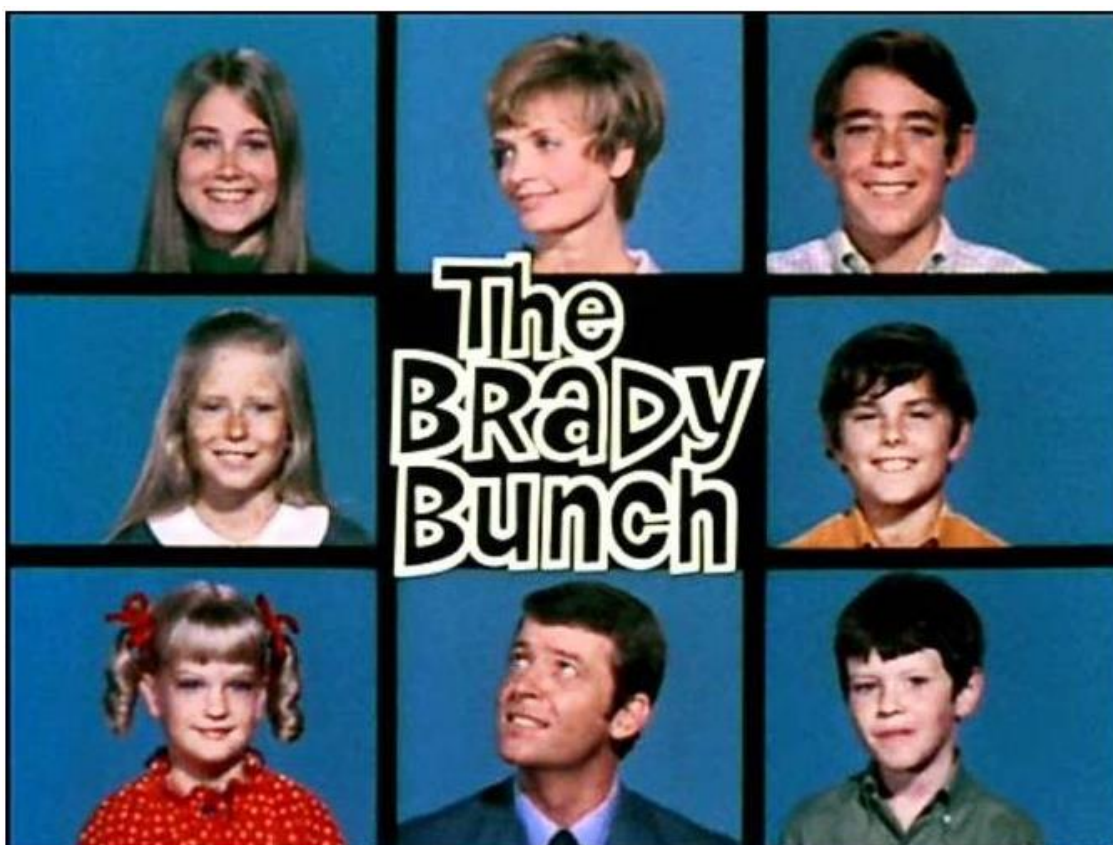
We also advocate for and strongly support growing trees and extending tree canopy to help the community adapt to climate change. This year particularly, we have been very engaged with the topic of tree canopy: Some of our work this year includes:

- Monitoring approvals at CAP (development approval) meetings to remove significant and regulated trees
- Growing and distributing over 1000 seedlings of fruit trees
- Actively participating in Unley Council's tree canopy directions
- Helping with wetland restoration at Urrbrae wetlands
- Running walks of a tree corridor as part of the recent Festival of Nature.
- Walking the streets to assess the space available to plant more trees on verges.

2020 was the eighth year that our group – drawn from Sustainable Communities SA Unley members – has received a generous grant from Unley Council to encourage the community to grow more of their own food.

We feel greatly encouraged by the community response to our efforts and Unley Council's commitment to funding food-growing projects. Thank you.

Us



Oh wait, that's not us. Let's try that again:

Grow, Grow, Grow Your Own – Almanac 2020



That's better.

The *Grow Grow Grow Your Own* (GGGYO) group consists of Chris Adams, Nolda Beynon, Ashley Campbell, Peter Croft, Jan McClelland, Pauline Muir, Russell Talbot, Anne Wharton, Anne Wilson, and Pat Wundersitz, with the active participation and lots of support from Kat Ryan of Unley Council.

We are actively supported by Sustainable Communities SA, which provides financial, publicity and governance assistance. GGGYO is a member group of Sustainable Communities SA.

We also acknowledge the generous assistance of Steven Hoepfner, Diana Bickford (Bickleigh Farm), Mitre 10 Unley, and SA Composters.

16/2 - "Backyard Bounty... the Basics"

Grow, Grow, Grow Your Own

First of the 2020 free Workshop Series

‘Backyard Bounty’... the Basics.

Get started on growing your own veggies with easy
‘Slow Gardening’ techniques.



2.30 pm on Sunday 16th February
at Unley Community Centre
18 Arthur Street Unley.

Register at patwundersitz@gmail.com.

Workshop details

Are you new to growing edible plants? Not sure where to start, or stuck with a shady backyard, water-repellent soil, not much room, or not enough time to do much? This is the workshop for you!

We'll cover easy ways to get started, sort out common problems and help you work out what will work for you. Learn some techniques to start small, and build confidence and productivity. This workshop covers practical advice to set up your 'lower-maintenance' food garden. It will be presented by Jenny Deans, a horticulturist specialising in rejuvenating home gardens to suit people's interests, time and resources.

Topics include: what produce is best for you, ways to 'start small', examples of DIY infrastructure, and information on simple tools, tips and techniques that you can use to save yourself time and effort.

Bring along your garden experience stories (successes and disasters), queries and questions for discussion. If you have any excess produce to share, bring that too!

We will conclude with conversation over afternoon tea.

Thanks to a generous Unley Council grant: **Cost: free.**

Future Workshops: Are you coming to our next workshop? Make sure that you are on our email list to know when it is.

As always, we are interested to hear about topics that you would like to find out more about.

Questions and problems: we are always keen to help you to grow your own vegetables. Please contact Pat on 0407 608 345 if you need help.



Sustainable Communities SA – Unley groups

Report:

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away...

In a different world, we held our first workshop for the year. Attended by well over 60 people, we had to rely on Jenny's loud voice, as the sound system could not be activated! It was a lovely workshop, sort of festive and lots of people who knew each other. Great start to the year.

Key Elements

- Why do I want to grow produce at home?
- Understanding your patch.
- Work out your limitations.

Basics

- Soil, Sun, Water, Nutrients, Air, Wind, Heat, Support, Time and Timing.
- Think of growing flowers for insects and bees as well as vegetables.

Starting

- Choose a plot based on the amount of sun, orientation etc.
- Start small. Simply start with 1 square metre.
- Prepare soil, organic nutrients, have mulch on hand, and think through the watering regime.
- A small square with a stake in each corner allows for supports for plants as they grow, covering with shade cloth in the hot sun, or tying a wind break on the side affected.

What to Grow?

- What does your family like to eat?
- Grow what they will eat. Maybe they will be involved!
- What will help the budget?

Plants: Easy crops

- Green manure mixes - beans etc.
- Self-seeding plants which have been allowed to seed in situ. (lettuces, rocket, parsley, amaranth).
- Seeds which find their way into the garden from compost or scraps (pumpkins, tomatoes, capsicums)
- Pick and pick again.
- Greens (spinach, tatsoi, mizuna, spring onions, which can be cut just below the surface and will grow on again) Greens grown indoors in a jar or tray (microgreens)
- Perennials Herbs, rhubarb, asparagus, warrigal greens to name a few.

Tips:

- Start small to gain confidence, and not be disheartened by too much to handle.
- Compost bins. Place near by your plot. How about where the next plot is to be developed, to enrich that patch of ground?
- Weeds - Cut off the seed heads, if there is insufficient time to pull the weeds.
- Create a microclimate according to the conditions of your plot.
- Attend gardening talks and workshops and open days.
- Quick results - sprouts in a jar indoors, beans, radish, lettuce, Asian greens.
- Soil fixes: Compost, aeration of soil, gypsum for clay soils, organic fertilisers and mulch to keep the soil cool and moist.
- Encourage good insects to predate nuisance ones.
- Find books and magazines in the library, or purchase a book to use as reference.



And then...

COVID-19 had been gradually becoming more prominent in news reports, but on March 9 Italy went into lockdown. When a whole country shuts itself down, it's time to take something seriously. Spreading like fire in a field of tinder dry scrubland soaked in kerosene, everybody was making it up as they go, the rules changing daily, trying to control it.

In the immediate and foreseeable future (which was about two weeks!) we realised we couldn't go ahead with our workshops as planned. We cancelled Workshop 2. That was an easy and obvious decision. But now what?

Like everyone else, as we came to understand our new world, we looked for other ways of accomplishing our mandate/mission. After sending out a 'newsletter', to let people know we were still around (the times were *very* uncertain), we decided to trial 'new' technology – well, 'new' to us and unknown to most people just three months ago; all but mainstream now, as people adapted to isolation and staying at home: an online workshop! Using a thing called "Zoom".

Riding on Peter's coattails, we became proficient... er... experienced... er... we got to the stage where we had some idea what was going on... in Zoom, by practising on ourselves – we began having fortnightly catch-up meetings. After one, Pauline commented "*We are treading the unknown. After seeing Peter resembling a Valkyrie and likely to sprout wings and take off into the Aurora Borealis, I'm convinced we are now living in the twilight zone so anything could happen.*"

Emboldened by our little knowledge, the next step was to turn it on our unsuspecting public. The key here is to act like you know what you're doing. Behind the scenes you can be as nervous as you like. We figured if it all went wrong, at least it'd be a good story for the Almanac.

Newsletter sent instead of Grace's April workshop

The two Ronn...I mean Annes... put this together, Anne Wilson writing the content and Anne Wharton editing and publishing it. Excellent effort.

Grow Grow Grow Your Own Newsletter



How are you?

We hope that you and your family are well and remain so during this difficult time.

Growing food

We will keep in contact with you to help you grow more of your own food. Unfortunately, workshops won't be possible for some months so we are exploring other ways of connecting.

Grace's workshop

Grace was due to present on Eating Flowers, Seeds and Roots on April 5th. This workshop covered ideas of things you can make from your garden harvest that might normally go to your compost or green bin.

Grace has kindly put together a useful guide on sprouting seeds and growing microgreens – intended as part of that workshop. [Click here to download guide.](#)

Free Seeds

We had hoped to be able to continue offering vegetable seeds as we do at each workshop. However, seeds are in short supply at the moment due to high demand. Let us know your details if you would like to register interest for the future. (email address is below).

Trees for Canopy

Trees will make all the difference in adapting to climate change. We are growing some fruit trees that are available at low cost (\$2 to \$5). Let us know if you are interested in expanding your canopy and growing food at the same time. We will explore ways of trees being transferred while maintaining a safe distance.

Questions and problems

We are always keen to help you grow your own vegetables. Please contact Pat on 0407 608 345 if you have questions or problems.

Your ideas

Let us know if you have any suggestions on how we can help each other grow more of our own food during this period of social isolation. Is there information or other things that you need? We are all learners.

Contact us

[Email Peter](#) about anything in this newsletter.

Thank you to Unley Council for its generous grant to support these initiatives.

May Newsletter

Grow Grow Grow Your Own Newsletter



Hello everyone, from your *Grow Grow Grow Your Own* team!

We thought we'd get in touch, as we miss you, and our workshops. So, this is just a quick catch-up with what's keeping us occupied.

Last weekend (with Steven Hoepfner) we installed two raised beds where Clifton St. meets Duthy St, Malvern. This street has been closed off for some time, but has recently been landscaped by Council. We planted the beds with edibles, mostly herbs and leafy greens (see photo above).

GARDENS

Planting anything, or just doing weed control?

If you're not keen to plant, and the weeds are taking over, why not try a cover crop of 'green manure'? Plant broad beans, peas, buckwheat, wheat, barley, clover... and watch it grow, smothering weeds and getting ready to become humus in your Spring garden. Just remember to chop it in well while it's still small and before it flowers, and dig it in, waiting 6 weeks or so before preparing your Spring bed.

The ground is cold now, and too late for many seeds, but if you want to try containers or pots, and you have a warm, sheltered north-facing spot with brick or concrete paving, (which holds some heat from the sun, for bottom-heat in your container) you can try raising some seeds. If you don't have seed-raising mix, use sifted potting mix. Try some greens – spring onions, lettuce and rainbow chard – and perhaps some coriander. It may be too cold, but it's worth a try if you have a warm spot away from the rain.

Direct sowing – I checked with Diggers website - you can plant garlic now, and broad beans. Choose the sunniest spot. Try some radishes (they're fast-growing) and their tops are nice, raw or cooked. They, like all root veggies, prefer to be sown direct rather than transplanted. Also try direct sowing of lettuce, onions, peas, potatoes.

For the rest of your veggie patch, you may have a better result with nursery-grown seedlings; broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, etc. (keep them netted if you can). If you prefer organically-grown, you can get them from Diana Bickford, of Bickleigh Vale Farm, at Wayville, Willunga and Stirling markets.

And remember - if you choose heirloom or heritage varieties you'll be keeping our plant biodiversity alive, and you'll be able to harvest some seeds from your best plants for next year, developing plants which are well-adapted to your site and conditions.

Some seed companies to try:

- Diggers
- Eden
- The Lost Seed
- Seeds of Plenty

PESTS – keep your eyes open!

Citrus leaf miner infestation has been massive. These are the larvae of a small fly, which lays its eggs on mostly new tender leaves, which then curl up, looking shiny. When the grubs hatch out they wiggle their way through the leaf, ('mining'), leaving white trails.

We're hoping you've been spraying with eco-oil or pest oil (1:10) to combat these. They prefer tender new leaves, which is a nuisance, as cutting off the whole tip is pretty drastic. So, try just cutting off the worst-affected single leaves and then spraying, in the hope the branch tips will recover. Don't forget that this oil washes off after rain, so needs to be re-applied.

www.sgaonline.org.au/citrus-leafminer/

Citrus galls are with us to stay for a time, it seems. Chris has tried both horticultural glue and kaolin spray, and this method seems to be successful. Timing seems to be a critical factor.

www.organicgardener.com.au/blogs/citrus-gall-wasp

Or for very extensive information

<https://deepgreenpermaculture.com/2017/04/10/controlling-citrus-gall-wasp/>

Green Grubs: Pat reminds us that the grubs from white butterflies are hatching out and will be enjoying your brassicas. She has a keen eye for these, and monitors her seedlings regularly, picking the grubs off before they can do damage. Watch out for them, particularly on the leaf veins.

Curl grubs (the greyish-white ones with an orange tip) are becoming more prevalent and can devastate small plants overnight. They're beetle larvae, and feed on decaying organic matter in the soil. The parent doesn't like wet soil, so the eggs are laid in summer, when the soil is dry. If you can't get rid of them by any other means, you can use a Neem Oil spray in summer, to kill the eggs.

The grubs hide in the soil and emerge at night, wrapping themselves around plants and chewing off the stems (they don't eat legumes, but are happy with plenty of other plants). The internet is useful for background and tips of how to manage them:

Put collars on your plants (plastic containers cut down; soft-drink bottles cut in half and the tops - without their screw-lids - placed over the plant like a little greenhouse; finely-crushed eggshells or coffee grounds, scattered thickly around the seedling will help to deter snails and slugs as well.

KEEPING IN TOUCH, PROJECTS, AND PLANNING

We've been having 'Zoom' meetings so are still active and working on future plans.

Best wishes from all of us and looking forward to seeing you soon!

Contact us: [Email Peter](mailto:Peter@deepgreenpermaculture.com) about anything in this newsletter.

Thank you to the City of Unley for its generous grant to support these initiatives.

17/5 - "Mediterranean Gardens" (Zoom)

Grow, Grow, Grow Your Own

Second of the 2020 free Workshop Series

Mediterranean Gardens



Chris Bryant



John Boland

**2.30 pm on Sunday 17th May
via Zoom videoconferencing.**

To take part, download Zoom Client for Meetings from Zoom.us onto your PC, Tablet or phone, and register at peter.croft@mmc.com.au.
We will send you an email with a link to the workshop.

Workshop details

Our presenters are Chris Bryant - a research assistant and permaculture designer - and John Boland - Professor of Environmental Mathematics, UniSA:

“Our interest in Mediterranean gardening stems from going to the same village on the south coast of Crete for many visits over 35 years. We realized that we have a very similar warm temperate climate – hot, dry summers with cool, wet winters. Hence, we have many plants that are from, or are similar to Mediterranean species.

We produce about one third of our food from our garden. We eat seasonally and more or less follow the Mediterranean diet. We will present features of the Mediterranean garden in the presentation.”

Free Seeds

We had hoped to be able to offer free vegetable seeds as we do at each workshop. However, seed suppliers are not taking new orders at the moment due to high demand. But we expect that new supplies will be coming, in a few weeks. If you are interested, let us know your details and we will be back in touch when new supplies are available.

Trees for Canopy and Understory plants

Trees will make all the difference in adapting to climate change. We are growing some fruit trees that are available at low cost (\$2 to \$5). There are still a few fruit trees left for sale as well as a limited range of climbers, herbs, veggie seedlings and insect attracting flowering plants.

Let us know if you are interested in expanding your canopy and growing food at the same time.

Questions and problems

We are always keen to help you grow your own vegetables. Please contact Pat on 0407 608 345 if you have questions or problems.

Your ideas

Let us know if you have any suggestions on how we can help each other grow more of our own food during this period of safe distancing.

Contact us on peter.croft@mmc.com.au.

Thank you to Unley Council for its generous grant to support these initiatives.

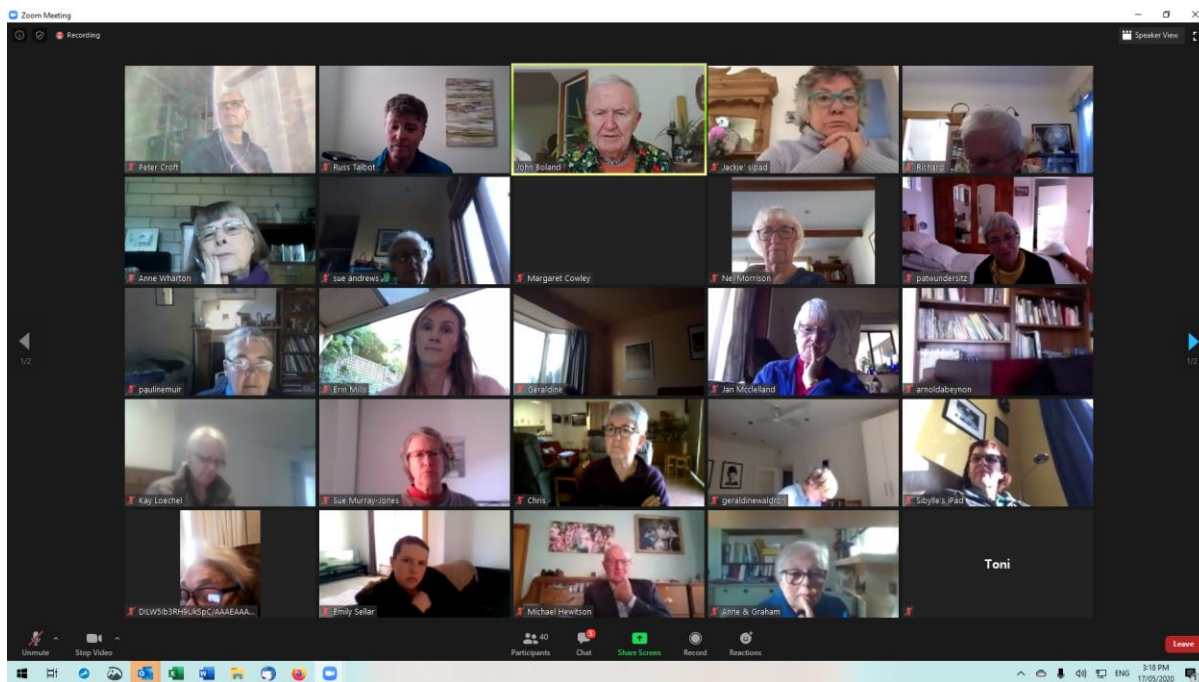
Sustainable Communities SA – Unley groups

Report:

The day dawned bright and clear, then blossomed into an absolutely gorgeous slice of Adelaide autumn. And we cared not a jot, because we were inside playing on our computers.

Like life and nature, GGGYO found a way, venturing into the brave new world (at the time, but destined to become COVID commonplace) of Zoom to continue offering workshops. This was our first, and what a triumph it was.

Our participants, who presumably assumed we knew what we were doing, turned up in force: two screens full – about 50 in all including us.



Our presenters were John Boland and Chris Bryant.

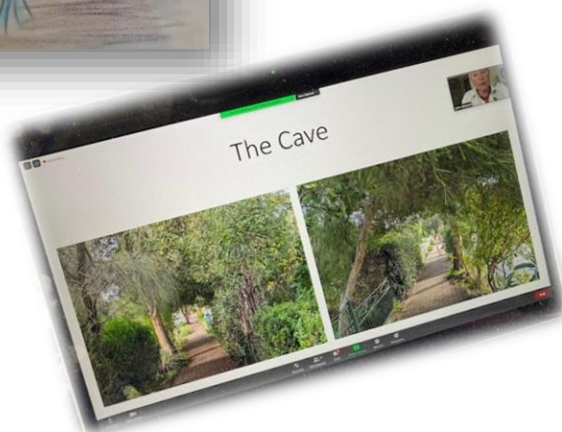
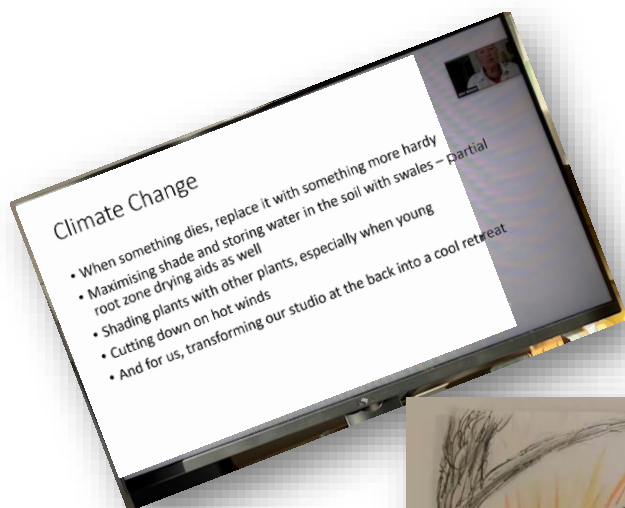
Drawing on their years of experience, John and Chris talked about Mediterranean edible gardens, drawing links between Crete especially and their home garden at Felixstow. Due to the similarities there to here, both in climate and gardens, there is much we can learn and borrow. Both plants and practices are very adoptable, and adaptable, to a lot of people's gardens. They showed us some of the things they'd adopted and adapted in their own garden, and some of the plants they'd seen growing there that are starting to be used here.

Their lively talk covered (or maybe 'touched on' is more accurate, given the time allowed) such diverse topics as:

- carob trees (good street trees),
- purslane (high in Omega3),
- chuffa (or tiger nut - the flour of which is now available at Coles),
- swales for capturing water,
- climate change advice including watering systems (slow release buckets with holes in the bottom and layers of newspaper, compost and twigs),

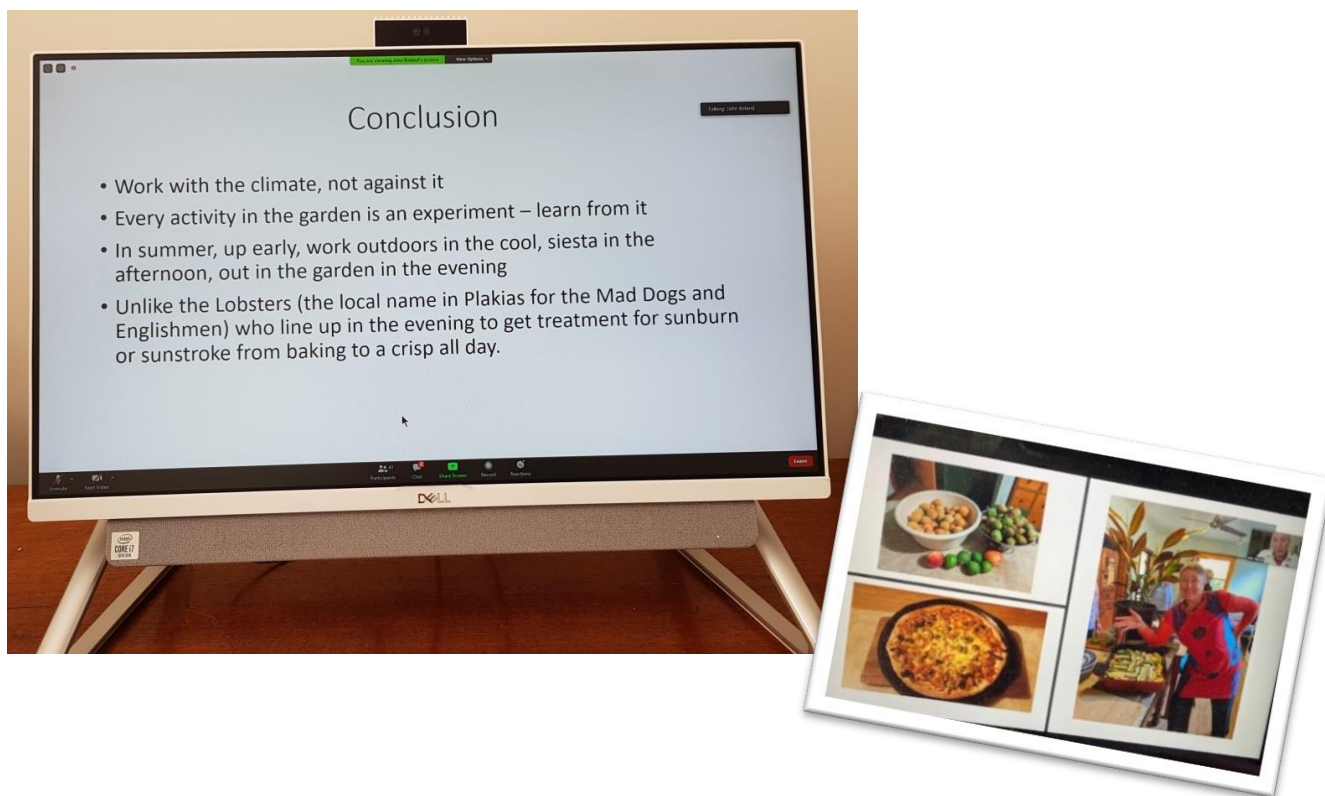
Grow, Grow, Grow Your Own – Almanac 2020

- compost bins (2/3 green providing nitrogen, 1/3 brown providing carbon, and a thin layer of soil between each),
- worms,
- mulberry trees,
- the importance of being “constant pruners” as the Cretans are,
- the use of trees to create cool “caves”,
- the cork arboretum in Canberra
- how to get rid of weeds: (cut off at the base with an old bread knife and let the roots rot).



A Zoom presentation doesn't lend itself to ad hoc interaction, so participants were invited and encouraged to lodge comments and questions via the 'Chat' function. At the end John and Chris ran through the. There were many - all well answered.

Beforehand Peter admitted to being "a bit nervous about how it will go - technical glitches especially on my part". There were a couple of minor glitches – but they were Chris and John's, both quickly and easily (well, for them) sorted. Peter, of course, was flawless (it's good Peter can doubt himself. It balances the rest of us having total faith in him).



Terrific session.

Random Notes

Annie put out the invite for the May 17th workshop at 9.59am. Just 14 minutes later we had our first registrant.



Waving when a new person you know joins the session is irresistible. Forgetting of course that you're waving at the camera, so everyone sees it.



Closing off: Watching people leave a Zoom session is like popping bubblewrap.

23/5 - Raised garden beds at Clifton street

Report:

Unley Council had been working on a pocket park at the corner of Clifton Street and Duthy Street Malvern and invited GGGYO to put in some raised garden beds designed as wicking beds. We jointly decided on two beds and Steven Hoepfner (with assistance of Tom Giles) to do the work. The beds were delivered a couple of days beforehand and stored at a neighbour's house until the day of installation.

Steven put a layer of pond liner on the base of the two beds after drilling holes in the beds for a flushing drain, then installed some pipe with one end brought to the top of the raised garden bed (for water). Scoria was placed in the base of the beds to create the reservoir, then this was covered with a layer of geotextile and finally the soil. We then put in seedlings and filled the reservoirs.

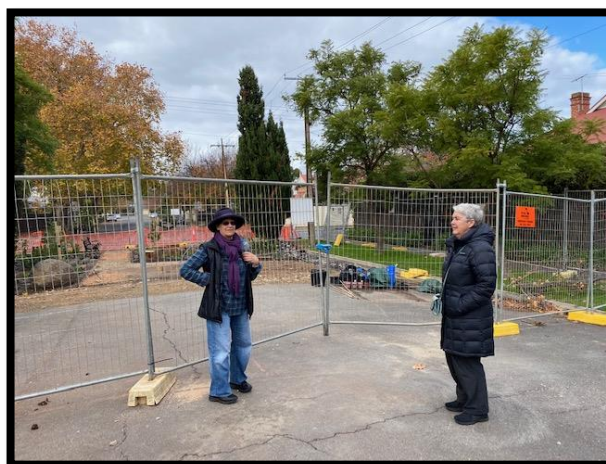
A terrific positive experience during COVID. The beds have grown well since installation. We continue to review our approach to wicking bed design: how to ensure that the beds can be flushed out from time to time; and how to ensure that the wicking process takes place effectively.

Photos

Planning and Preparing



The Beds arrive



*Inspectors Annie & Pauline, braving the chill
& keeping their distance*

Grow, Grow, Grow Your Own – Almanac 2020

On the day



Kat was unable to attend, but one of her team members was on site. He was able to use his phone to join Kat's meeting and show them the progress. She reported "Felt like a news program and 'crossing to someone live on the scene!'"



Signage and screws, installed two months later by Depot staff. The plants are looking good too.

28/6 - "Cooler, Greener, More Liveable Cities" (Zoom)

Grow, Grow, Grow Your Own

Fourth of the 2020 free Workshop Series

Cooler, Greener, More Liveable Cities



Photo: courtesy Sophie Thomson

**2.30 pm on Sunday 28th June
via Zoom videoconferencing.**

To take part: download Zoom Client for Meetings from [Zoom.us](https://zoom.us) onto your PC, Tablet or phone, and register at patwundersitz@gmail.com.

We will send you an email with a link to the workshop.

Workshop details

The bushfires and heat over summer across Australia clearly indicate that climate change is not “something in the distant future”, as might have been previously thought. It’s here right now.

Plants and gardens are the key to cool us down and feed us.

Sophie Thomson – well-known presenter and writer – will guide us through how we can make our city cooler, greener and more liveable.

Fruit Trees

We are growing some fruit tree seedlings that will be available at low cost (\$2 to \$5) later this year. Let us know if you are interested in expanding your canopy and growing food at the same time.

Questions and problems

We are always keen to help you grow your own vegetables. Please contact Pat on 0407 608 345 if you have questions or problems.

Your ideas

Let us know if you have any suggestions on how we can help each other grow more of our own food during this period of safe distancing.

Contact us on peter.croft@mmc.com.au.

Thank you to Unley Council for its generous grant to support these initiatives.



Photo: courtesy Sophie Thomson

Sustainable Communities SA – Unley groups

Report:

Our second workshop on Zoom - to an audience of just under 30 (some sharing screens) on a clear, sunny winter's day. This time we were privileged to be presented to by SA's Living Treasure Sophie Thomson.

Sophie's workshop was about how to use our gardens to cool us and our environment down.

Sophie began by reflecting on the changes in weather patterns over our lifetimes and observed that our summer weather systems seem to be more tropical in nature than before and less directly coming from due west. It will be hotter and Adelaide needs to adapt.

Throughout her presentation, Sophie gave us the results of her heat gauges over various surfaces (Sophie "loves!" her heat gauge). All of these showed striking differences between the temperatures of "green" surfaces and others (eg artificial turf, bitumen, dark pavers etc). The differences were generally between 20 and 35 degrees on summer days.

Some ways of greening:

- Plant tree canopy (but this takes time to mature)
- Use deciduous trees - particularly close to the house so that one gets shade in summer and light in winter
- Grow vegetables vertically. Her examples were inspiring: New Guinea Bean, tromboncini, malabar spinach, and a variety of smaller pumpkins and squashes on vertical foundation mesh. These grow so quickly that shade can be achieved through summer in months rather than years
- Lawns - particularly judiciously used on northern side of a house with a windbreak: hot wind passes under the windbreak tree branches and across a cooling lawn to the house. Nara grass (a native grass) highly recommended.

An excellent presentation.

Notes & Comments

While the number of participants was good, we were a little surprised there weren't more. Sophie is normally such a drawcard that it's a struggle to get in. With Zoom, for once the potential number was unlimited. So, why? We hypothesised reasons:

- It was a *beautiful* day – maybe they were all out gardening?
- Maybe people are 'zoomed out'?
- Was the title (of the workshop) not enticing/interesting?

PostScript: Our next Workshop, which was in person. was booked out almost immediately. Which seems to support the theory that people were craving personal interaction; they were 'over' Zoom and online.



It was Sophie's first-ever Zoom presentation. She thought it went ok, but she felt a bit "stifled" – she said when talking to a Powerpoint slide, she can't see audience – can't 'read' them.



Sophie's philosophy on small and/or 'difficult' gardens (and maybe on life): "It's about making the best of what you've got".



Comment Wally May, I mean Sophie: "Part of becoming a vegie gardener is making mistakes".



"Lawns aren't evil" – if planned, well thought through, appropriate.

Synthetic Turf on the other hand... (gagging sound): They're hotter than bitumen and concrete.



She hates seeing these new houses created and sold with a "Low Maintenance Garden". eg.



It's about marketing, not about what's good for you. All that paving, wrong plants, lack of plants, lack of thoughtful design, synthetic turf etc., make things so much hotter the house is enslaved to the air conditioner.



Gardens can cool it down. There are things you can do in your garden to optimise passive heating and cooling. It's about being aware that you're creating a microclimate and creating the microclimate you want. The things to think about are:

- Shade
- Shelter
- Reducing unnecessary hot reflective surfaces
- Reducing radiant heat



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The first consideration is shade. The simplest thing you can do is plant deciduous trees nearest the house and evergreen ones further away.

Then it's plants. Consider 'vertical vegies' climbing and shielding walls. A deciduous tree will take at least 5 years to get shade. But with vertical vegies, they can be planted in spring and create shade by summer. Quick growing shade vegies, all of which grow perfectly vertically, include:

- Tromboccino
- Spaghetti Squash
- Pink Leaf Squash



Verges. Better to have plants in them than dolomite. But better still: we should make them, corridors instead of gardens – for bees and butterflies (*Note: Unley Council does and actively promotes this*).



Sophie's stunning pumpkin frame, up and over which she grew... pumpkins!

9/8 - "Backyard Diversity"

Grow, Grow, Grow Your Own

Fifth of the 2020 free Workshop Series

Backyard Biodiversity

A presentation about wildlife and insect-life in backyards. Find out about the 'little helpers' in your garden and how to attract them. Discover the wonders of wildlife frequently found in Adelaide, and learn how to manage some of the less than helpful creatures, all while enjoying your garden's place in the wider urban ecosystem.



Wren photo: Marg J.



**2.30 pm on Sunday 9th August
at Unley Community Centre
18 Arthur Street Unley.**

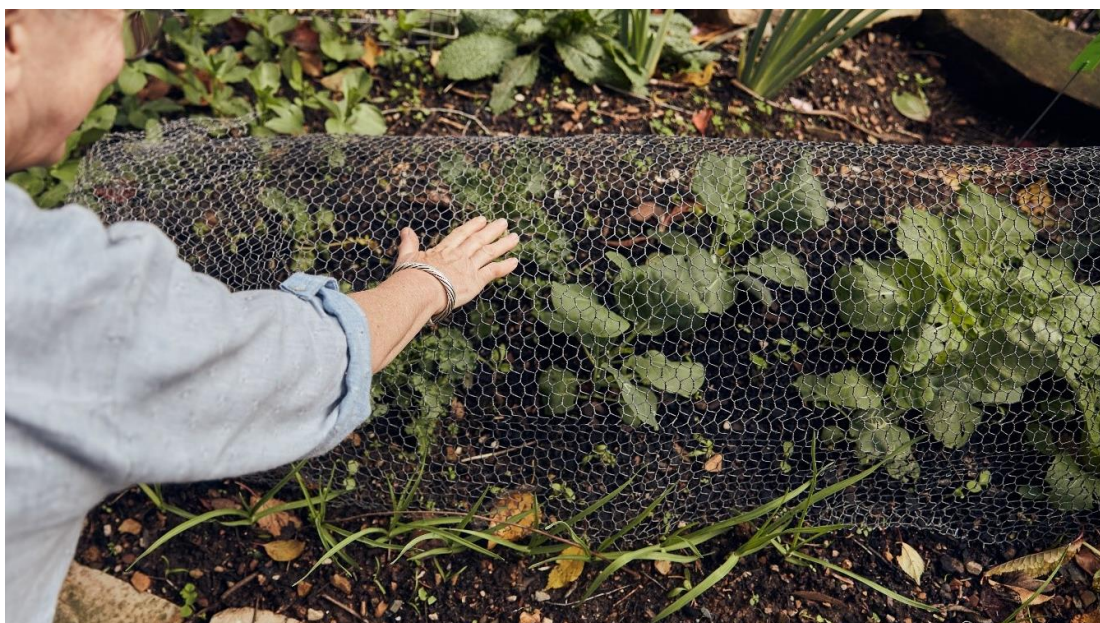
Register at patwundersitz@gmail.com

Workshop details

This presentation is about wildlife and insect-life in backyards, and how to make the most of the desirable ones and reduce the impacts of the less desirable ones in your garden. It includes:

- recognising common pollinators (birds, bees and butterflies) and pest-eaters (birds, skinks and ‘good bugs’) in gardens
- attracting these ‘little helpers’ to your garden
- less desirable backyard-life and how to manage its impacts
- an introduction to Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for the backyard vege-grower.

Our presenter is Jenny Deans, horticulturist, land-carer and backyard vegetable grower.



Fruit Trees

We are growing some fruit tree seedlings that will be available at low cost (\$2 to \$5) later this year. Let us know if you are interested in expanding your canopy and growing food at the same time.

Questions and problems

We are always keen to help you grow your own vegetables. Please contact Pat on 0407 608 345 if you have questions or problems.

Your ideas

Let us know if you have any suggestions on how we can help each other grow more of our own food during this period of safe distancing.

Contact us on peter.croft@mmc.com.au.

Thank you to Unley Council for its generous grant to support these initiatives.

Sustainable Communities SA – Unley groups

Report:

Total registered - 42

Total registrants who turned up – 35

plus us (10 including Jenny Deans). A COVID plan in place.

No wait list in the end because some people pulled out.

That this Workshop happened was no certainty. In the lead-up to it we kept an eye on the almost-daily changes to rules and daily updates. But in the end, Jenny Deans became our first-ever consecutive 'live, in-person!' presenter.

Our first workshop back after two Zoom workshops in the COVID period.

Jenny covered massive territory in talking about Backyard Biodiversity: birds, koalas, rabbits, bats, rats, possums, lizards, snakes, geckos, insects (including up to 10,000 different sorts of native butterflies in Australia), flies, stick insects, wasps and hover-flies, native bees (500 different sorts in SA), ants, termites, scale insects, beetles, spiders and other 8-legged insects, slugs, snails, worms and millipedes.

She highlighted the 'good' bugs (the "Good Guys"); for example

- Hoverfly & larvae
- Lacewings
- Ladybird

and how to attract them to your garden. Mostly that's by plants, e.g.:

- saltbushes and native grasses attract Good Guys which eat tomato thrips
- Christmas bushes (*Bursaria*), which attract native Good Guys, are used in vineyards.

A bonus is that plants which attract Good Guys also 'unattract' Bad Guys. This was all part of Integrated Pest Management and associated record keeping.

Jenny recommended that we think of our gardens as part of the urban ecosystem and habitat. A final recommendation was for information resources, including the "Wild Pollinator Count" website, and for Denis Crawford's one-minute videos.

A whirlwind one hour.


Anne Wilson had prepared seed packets for people to take. And some of the participants helped pack up and Nolda, Jan and Ashley clean and stack chairs.

A terrific start. Hopefully afternoon tea next time. (*Editor's note: This report was written at the time. Peter went on to express that wish at *every* Workshop. It never eventuated but his unbreakable optimism, or perhaps desire for cake, was inspirational).*

Some Notes

Practices to look after the 'good guys'

- Diverse plantings – especially flowering understory plants and grasses
- Understand what is happening – **identify pests**
- **Extreme caution** with use of pesticides
(low residual, targeted, narrow-spectrum products)
- Be 'present' in the garden: **observe, think, understand, then act and review**
- Introduce '**beneficials**' and/or '**insectary**' plantings
- Use '**trap plants**' eg sow thistle to monitor/maintain pest/predator numbers
- Use **sticky traps** (intermittently only) to monitor/identify pests
- Go for an evening walk using a torch to see **night-active** pests
- Remember that there are more good 'bugs' than problem 'bugs'




Planting for Good Guys:

What species do we plant?

FILTERS


- Local native plant species pool
- Resource for bees?
- Flowering time?
- Does it suit there?
- Can we grow it?
- Crop



Nick Gelle

- Bush peas
- Tea trees
- Daisies
- Wattles
- Bursaria

<http://papill.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/KaJa-Integration-Plantation-Through-Vegetation.pdf>



Jenny's strong advice regarding the use of insecticides: "Think first"



One of Jenny's tips for "Managing Pests": Prickly plants dissuade... *children*.



Comment afterwards, which drew lots of nods: "That was *a lot!*"



Because of COVID we couldn't do afternoon tea. But in small compensation we had...
GIVEAWAYS! Packets of seed. There were two rules:

1. No more than 2 packs per person.
2. You touch, you take



Email from Russ to Pat:

Re. our 'Backyard Diversity' workshop, for almanac: Can you tell me please:

- How many registered?
- How many, if any, registered didn't show up? (And how many of those didn't let us know)
- How many, if any, showed up without registering?
- How many, if any, were on a 'Wait List'?

Reply from Pat:

- There were 51 registrations altogether.
- Quite a few sent apologies in the last week.
- Two of those who did not show offered an apology later. He had not put it in his diary. They have now registered for the next one, and it is in his diary.
- There were none who just showed up.
- There was no wait list in the end.
- And I had muesli for breakfast.

Now you're completely up to date!



Chris comment: "I'd forgotten - you're so tall! We're all the same on Zoom!"

The New Normal

Before:



After / Clean-up:



29/8 - Tree canopy presentation

Report:

Unfortunately due to the COVID threat, planned speakers Anne Wilson and Sally Osterstock were unable to attend. They were ably replaced by Pauline Muir, "an experienced propagator and fruit tree grower", and Alan Halsted, "a professional gardener, who has worked extensively with fruit trees."

24 people came to their presentation in Unley Town Hall. Pauline talked about the project, the need for canopy and selected some fruit trees to talk about propagation in more depth. With examples of hardwood cuttings, bee attractors and a wide variety of species discussed, including mangoes, cape gooseberry and strawberry guava, and a generous supply of giveaways, there was lots of inspiration and lots of questions!

Pauline's neighbour, the indefatigable Olivia, helped her pot up some and with transporting and selling treelings on the day.

Alan spoke about preparing soil, planting time, fertilising, growing fruit trees in pots and answered queries. He talked about planting and maintaining trees and the necessity of keeping the soil active so that nutrients can be made available to trees. He emphasised the importance of gentle fertilisers such as Seamungus, which he uses for all plants including natives every month. Good watering is also very important (water as the best fertiliser) particularly for pots.

This was only the second session hosted by the Unley Library this year, due to COVID.



Annie reported:

"Pauline's photos were beautiful and very inspiring. Very useful for me as I'm about to plant a whole heap of native plants in my friend's new garden at Kingswood (after we've done some more work on the weeds) so Alan's comments about fertilising etc were timely. I now have a big bag of Seamungus!"



Grow, Grow, Grow Your Own

Sixth of the 2020 free Workshop Series

Wicking beds, Pots and Vertical gardens



Wicking bed schematic Karen Montgomery

**2.30 pm on Sunday 20th September
at Unley Community Centre
18 Arthur Street Unley.**

Register at patwundersitz@gmail.com

Workshop details

We are all looking for ways to produce the maximum of produce using the minimum of space and water. This workshop focusses on three ways of doing this: wicking beds, pots and vertical gardens.

Our presenter is Karen Montgomery of Kspace Gardening Consultancy Service who holds qualifications in Horticulture, (including garden design), Conservation Land Management, Training & Assessing and is the President of the Horticulture Media Association SA. Karen holds a Peter Bennett Award for sustainable living practices. Karen is a resident of the cool Adelaide Hills, where she tends her 1 acre garden shaded by large trees, includes a 35m² veggie garden, orchard, berry garden, bee hive & chicken run which she shares with her family & 3 dogs, along with the possums, koalas and kookaburras, just to name a few permanent visitors.

Fruit Trees

We are growing some fruit tree seedlings that will be available at low cost (\$2 to \$5) later this year. Let us know if you are interested in expanding your canopy and growing food at the same time.

Questions and problems

We are always keen to help you grow your own vegetables. Please contact Pat on 0407 608 345 if you have questions or problems.

Thank you to Unley Council for its generous grant to support these initiatives.



Vertical herb garden Karen Montgomery

Sustainable Communities SA – Unley groups

Report:

We sent out the flyer for this session on September 20th and within 24 hours reached our limit.

Registered: 43

Attended: 39 participants + 9 of us (though Ashley left early).

Well, the weather today was not unlike yesterday's. That is, beautiful. Which is interesting considering yesterday was predicted to be awful.

This workshop was fabulous! Karen was **so** engaging and the information **so** interesting – and importantly, so **do-able**. Very practical, available, realistic – in line with her guiding principle: do what you can, work within your limits. You don't have to push yourself, don't have to keep up with anyone. There's not just one way to do something. You don't have to spend a fortune; if you want to, that's fine, but there are alternatives.

Karen began by acknowledging the original custodians of this land, the Kaurna people, then articulated her personal guiding principle which is "Be good custodians of the land and grow in a sustainable way", and then went on to give her delighted approval to "Pauline's personal ambition to turn Adelaide into a forest". All of which was a seamless segue, one into the next. From then on we were completely in her hands. Personally, she had me at "Hello".

Something that was really good to see: her advice/design/how to do a wicking bed – exactly what we'd worked out. It was reassuring to find that someone who knows does it the same way.

"How sweet it is to hear one's own thoughts in the mouth of another"

It was a completely engrossing presentation.



Some notes, from various authors:

Raised Beds & Wicking

- She's actually not a fan of Raised Beds. Basically, it's growing in a container – which means you need to supply all the nutrients, water etc. You're responsible for supplying everything your plants need – they have no access beyond what you give them. Much better, if you can, to grow in the ground.

However, they're very trendy and desirable, so it's good to know how to get the best out of them.

- The biggest advantage of them, and she thinks it's pointless having them unless you do this, is to make it a Wicking Bed.
- This is a very efficient way of watering. Properly set up, you can expect to use around 70% less water than otherwise.

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- Start with a flat surface, so the water well is level. Line container with plastic or pond liner. Water well depth: 10-max 15 cm; soil depth: 30-max 40.
In most beds 10-15 cms of material forms the base, while the soil layer, for efficient wicking, should be about 30cms.
 - In the reservoir Karen recommends scoria: "Scoria is fantastic. Partly because it's really ugly so you'll never have to see it again".
 - This sits on a plastic liner, taking care that the base material does not puncture the plastic.
 - Ag Pipe can also be used in the base.
 - A layer of Geotex prevents the soil from filtering into the well below.
- Water from overhead after first planting.
 - Keep a cap on the inlet pipe.
-
- A reason people often cite for wanting one is to "save their back". To make it easier to garden so you don't need to reach down. She agrees - *provided* you make it high enough to achieve that. There's no point, if this is your objective, raising it 'a bit'. If it's thigh-high you'll still need to bend and it'll hurt just as much. Raise it to chest-level, so you can reach in without bending.
 - Note that to do this doesn't mean more dirt or a larger reservoir. The dimensions remain unchanged.
More water won't work. It's simply a question of physics. Beyond that, water won't 'wick' (i.e. rise). You'll simply end up with a pool of stagnant water.
What you do, to raise it higher, is create a 'void' underneath. This can be a stand of some sort (depending on weight), or sand. Whatever. Something to elevate it.
- A tip, from experience, is to have a 'hoop frame' on top – like a lid, made out of poles and mesh, which can be opened and closed easily – opened to provide access; closed to provide protection, and even a microclimate. Gives protection from frost, sun, birds and possums, and allows insects in from pollination.
 - She was given a couple of "VegePods" about 10 years ago to try out. And they surprised her – in spite of herself she discovered they were actually pretty good, especially in the right circumstances. And they're still going strong. She found them "great" for things like herbs, strawberries and raising seeds especially.

Worm towers

- Worm towers are easy to install, and a good way of using kitchen scraps. Steps:
 1. Take a simple lidded bucket – 'Boost Juice' buckets are good for this,
 2. Drill holes in the bottom,
 3. Sink into soil (Soil mix – 50:50 compost and loam, from landscape supplies) to top of bucket,
 4. Fill with food scraps for the worms,
 5. Cover worms and scraps with a 'blanket' (paper, old cotton fabric, geotex) to insulate the bucket,
 6. Push the lid down tightly.

The worms will move in and out of the base of the bucket, taking nutrients into the bed, without any work from the gardener. Worms travel 1 metre diameter from a worm tower.

These towers are good for children's school projects, as even over holidays, though the worms may die, worm eggs will be in the soil and will revive when new food and water is added.

Soil

- Compost is the answer, for soil microbiology to feed plants. 1% compost in a one square metre area increases water-holding capacity to 17 litres. Soil in the beds ideally is a 50/50% compost and loam mixture.
- Feed microorganisms – compost, manure, water. Keep applying to top of soil and let it work itself in.

Fertilising

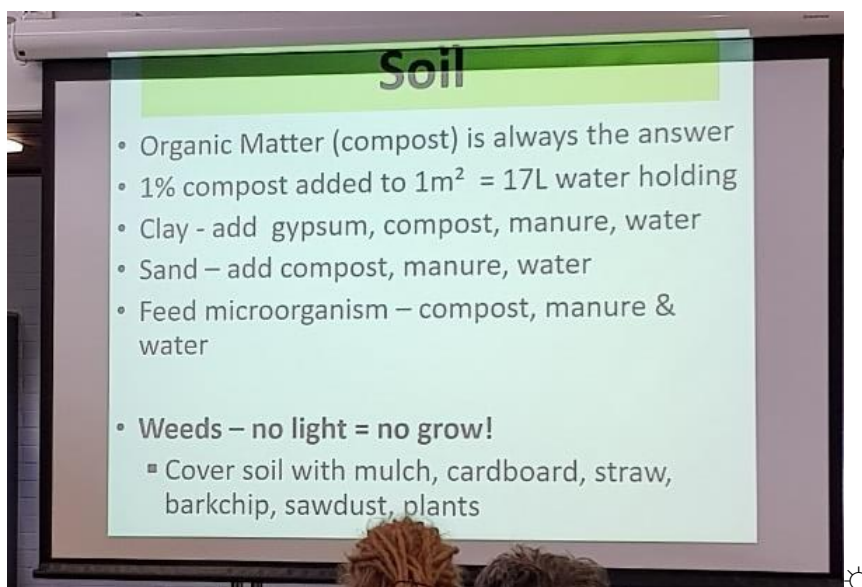
- Make compost, weed and manure teas, separately or together. Soak for 2-3 weeks, dilute 1:10 if watering over foliage or into wicking beds, or apply neat to the soil and water in (if using on the ground).
- For faster teas aerate with the smallest fish tank pump and it's made in 3 days. See Dr Elaine Ingram, soil food web. Cotton crops in Qld showed a 70% reduction in pesticide use when these teas were used.

Space Savers:

- **Vertical gardens** are difficult to maintain and frequently fail due to lack of knowledge of plant needs and water systems. But they catch the sun, bring the garden to you, are space-effective and aesthetically pleasing. To succeed, you'll need to consider water, light and shadow, soil volume, plant selection and fertilising.
 - Water supply is essential with timed releases of water.
 - The plants at the top of the structure receive the most light and grow faster. Plant sun sensitive plants like basil and coriander at the bottom.
- **Vertical towers** can be made using a circular 50cm base, reinforcing wire lined with geotex, and plants inserted as soil is added. Vertical brick spirals can also be built to save ground space, and are good for herb plantings.
 - *Column*: Only establish a third at a time, so that the column remains stable.
 - *Spiral*: A brick spiral increases planting area.
- **Multigrafted trees** are also space-savers, but care must be taken to maintain equal growth as one will be dominant.
- **Espalier** – need to prune, and shape at the right time, when branches are flexible.

Tips & ideas:

- **Weeds:** The simple rule is "No light – no weeds". Cover weeds with any material (eg. cardboard, bark chips, newspapers), so no digging involved. Digging disturbs the mycorrhiza in the soil and the soil structure.
- **Grow what you like to eat.** One caveat: don't forget the flowers for the insects to help with pollination.
- Coriander 'bolts' when it's stressed. The tip? Typically, that's when it's *too dry*.
- **Question:** "What do you use for pest control?"
Answer: Magpies, little birds and her 'juice' – compost tea. And she gets a few snails – so the snail dance sometimes.



Comments:

"Just a quick comment on Karen's workshop this arvo - I thought she was excellent, particularly her presentation on wicking beds. But also I liked the fact that she was very practical, included sustainability issues in her presentation, and also touched on the mental health side of gardening. Several of us had excellent feedback from participants."

Annie



"It was a very good session, and people went away with lots of ideas. Sometimes I wish I had more room, when people like Karen enthuse us."

Pat

Some snaps



?! Insert your own caption...



26/9 – Willawilla (aka Wilberforce) Walk

GGGYO was invited to host an event in the inaugural Festival of Nature, a project of the Nature Conservation Society of SA. The aim was to connect people with nature, and to celebrate how important it is to all of us.

Chris and Pat volunteered to take a guided walk in the Forestville Reserve area, naming it the Willawilla walk. The theme of the walk was to discuss waterways and their management since white settlement in the Adelaide area. Willawilla is the Kurna name of Brown Hill Creek, and the Forestville Reserve is a rehabilitated section of this creek. The waterways of this part of Adelaide used to flood, and since settlement, their paths have been disrupted and diverted, and most of the natural vegetation has been cleared. Water, one of our most precious resources, has been directed into concrete drains in many places, which stop water from soaking into the ground, and cause it to rush out to sea. However, here at the Reserve, the rehabilitation has rocks and reeds to slow down the water and filter it, and allow plants and animals access to it.

Most of the original vegetation has also been removed, to make way for farming, then later housing. The natural vegetation of the area was Grey Box grassy woodland, and they highlighted some of the plants of this vegetation type that have been planted there as part of its regeneration, noting the large variety in the understory plants. It is hoped that by identifying them, people will become more likely to plant them in their gardens, increasing habitat for native bees, butterflies and birds.

There is an important remnant tree of this area, located in Wilberforce Walk, about 500m from Forestville Reserve. Chris and Pat led the group to this magnificent tree, which is guessed to be over 700 years old. It is now in a derelict culvert, and very few people know about it, so their aim was to acknowledge its presence, and advertise it. It was much admired, and we appreciated the number of birds using its hollows for nesting. The walk finished with some interesting discussion about saving this tree, and others that are being lost to development, and what we can do about it.



Photo: The Tree. The oldest living thing in Adelaide. It's hard to photograph because the cramped conditions make it impossible (for a photographer of Russ' ability) to get the whole thing in. The top is a bit more sparse than luxuriant (which goes with the territory of getting on a bit), but it still looks very healthy. Pat chose this photograph. Her poetic take on it was that "it seems to be crying the agony of life".

29/9 – Mango tree transplant

In September we got involved in trying to save a Mango tree. It was thriving happily in a backyard in Goodwood, but the owners of the property decided to redevelop it, and as part of that plan the Mango tree was to be removed. In other words, killed.

Next door neighbour Tom Giles couldn't stand by. He talked about it to Pauline, and that discussion quickly evolved into "Let's save it!".

Originally Tom tried to get the Goody Patch (community garden) to take the Mango, but they said it would be too exposed to the western sun and they want to focus on Mediterranean fruit trees. Next Pauline suggested Souter Park where there is a small fruit orchard, but that too was vetoed.

So, Tom decided to take it himself. Basically he moved it from an adjacent backyard, pulling down the fence between his and the original owner's place.

This is an example of an 'affinity' project. On first glance, what's it got to do with GGGYO? But our intuition knew otherwise, and we were all enthusiastically, and unreservedly, in favour of it.



Pauline: What I feel is saving a mango tree is within our 'mission' of encouraging people to grow their own fruit and veg. But it goes a bit further than that perhaps highlighting the value of trees. Supporting this is showing what can be done.

I let (Mayor) Michael Hewitson know and he wrote back saying how fantastic and thanks for caring and acting. It was mainly Tom's doing though, not GGGYO's. I didn't do much except give advice and support. I'm in huge admiration of Tom's determination.

It will be a great victory/story if it lives.



Peter: It's experimental really: "Is it possible to save big fruit trees?" is a good question.



Pauline: Also Sally Osterstock took some cuttings and grafted onto her little mango trees. Which means if the transplanted tree dies, at least we may get fruit from which we can grow more of that particular tree and its genes are not lost forever.

Some photos from the mango tree transplantation.



1. Tom cutting it back prior to removal.



2. the hole he dug in his garden ready for the tree.

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3. the arrival of the excavator



4.1. the excavator digging the tree out.



4.2. the excavator digging the tree out.



5. excavator delivering it to its new spot



7. the tree as it is now.

After this, Tom built a 3m high frame with shade cloth around it to protect it from the wind, and put in a mister.

UPDATE, late November

Sadly, the tree is dying.

11/8 - "Alan Halsted on Building up your soil"

Grow, Grow, Grow Your Own

Seventh of the 2020 free Workshop Series

**Building up your soil
&
Answering your questions on growing
vegetables and fruit trees**



**2.30 pm on Sunday 8th November
at Unley Community Centre
18 Arthur Street Unley.**

Register at peter.croft@mmc.com.au

Workshop details

Success in growing food depends on your soil being in good condition.

This workshop will concentrate on how to build up your soil: tips, techniques and dealing with problems that we all face.

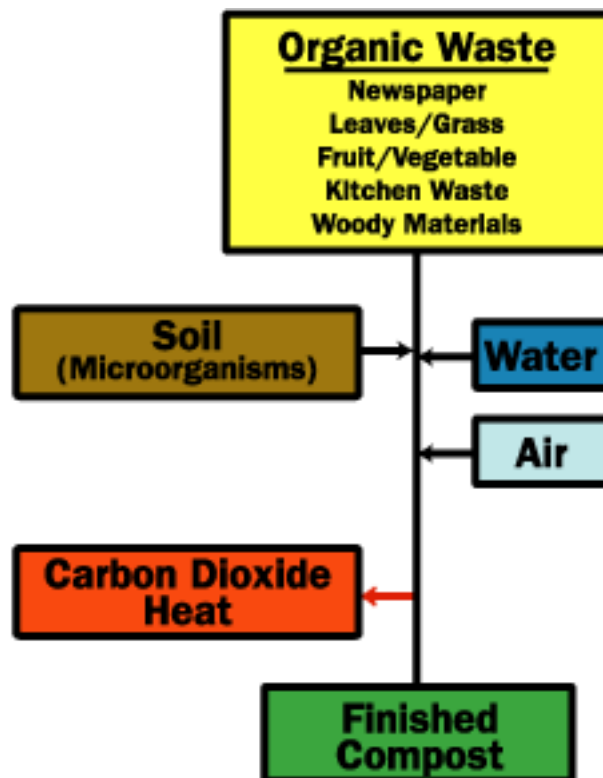
Come with your questions!

Alan Halsted is a professional organic local gardener with a specialty in home vegetable and fruit gardens. He is passionate about encouraging people to be more connected to their own gardens, not just productively but also aesthetically. Your garden is also your sanctuary! He is involved in community gardens, community markets and a committee member of the Rare Fruit Society of South Australia.

Thanks to a generous Unley Council grant: **Cost: free.**

Future Workshops: We have started planning our 2021 series of workshops and are interested in hearing about topics of interest to you.

Questions and problems: we are always keen to help you to grow your own vegetables. Please contact Pat on 0407 608 345 if you need help.



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Sustainable Communities SA – Unley groups

45 registered. On the day 42 + 6 of us attended. 3 apologies were received.

Report:

On the day that we learnt the chances of responding to Climate Change had been given a boost (a.k.a. the day that it was announced Donald Trump had lost the US Presidential Election), the weather was smiling too.

Our presenter today was Alan Halsted, a professional local organic local gardener with a specialty in home vegetable and fruit gardens. Alan is passionate about encouraging people to be more connected to their own gardens, not just productively but also aesthetically.

Using an "analogue system" of slides – handwritten on butcher's paper (Ashley cheered loudly) – Alan explained to a rapt audience how to build up your soil, the foundation of gardening success, and planning your garden. He put this in a clear framework of steps, then took us through them. It was all very do-able and clear.



Something he mentioned *often* was **compost**. Compost is *critical*. Obviously making your own is great but "don't be ashamed to buy" he said, "just as long as it's good quality". He recommends (i.e. personally loves):

- SA Composters
- Adelaide Greenwaste
- Neutrog products. Especially 'Seamungus' for potted plants

He then shared tips and advice, and answered questions, about growing vegetables and fruit trees.



Alan's first bit of, strongly emphasised, advice was "Patience!" He is speaking from experience, admitting he suffers from a lack of it himself. "I want it now!"

**"Good judgement comes from experience,
and experience comes from bad judgement"**
Fred Brooks

He made an interesting comment about water, namely "Don't skimp". Water is precious, so it must be used wisely and well. But it's crucial that your plants get the water they require – they need water for strength.

Mind you, if you want irrigation advice, Alan's was "Please don't come to me!"

Some other tips:

- Don't let a tree get too wide or dense – need light in the middle of a tree too.
- He strongly encourages grafting. Saves space, can 'tailor' a tree for your needs (eg. graft varieties so when something finishes something else comes ripe, rather than all at once). Aesthetic reasons too– visually, especially blossom, can be quite stunning.
 - Not a new and trendy thing, but a practice that's been rediscovered – grafting has been practised for over 2500 years.
 - Grafting provided him with an example to share of his impatience: First time he did it, all his grafts took. Pleased with himself, he tore off all the grafting tape – and all the grafts died.
- Wind is bad for trees, especially citrus.
- "At every stage of planning a garden, step back and say 'What can I manage?' "
- Planting trees, especially fruit trees:
 - dig your hole 1m deep and 1m round.
 - put soil, compost etc. in hole, 1 YEAR AHEAD.
 - Preparation and patience!
- "If you've got fertiliser in your shed, put it in your garden. It's not doing any good in your shed."
- Put Potash (potassium) on anything that fruits.



When it was nearly 3.30, Peter went to the back of the crowd and waved to Alan, to let him know time was nearly up. Alan, a bit surprised by this unexpected sign of affection, but nevertheless happy to receive it, waved back then cheerfully carried on.

Alan, it emerged later (10 minutes later after Peter intervened again) had thought his talk was for 2.5 hours. He was very embarrassed and most apologetic(!) But actually, none of the audience minded. No one was getting fidgety or waiting to leave; in fact I was surprised when I looked at the clock to see over an hour had passed, and I think we were all the same. The audience was very engaged and interested.

Grow, Grow, Grow Your Own – Almanac 2020

Photos



Pauline giving the question the serious attention it deserves



Oh good! I think she believed me!



22/11 - "Wicking beds, Pots and Vertical gardens"

Encore

This is the same workshop that Karen Montgomery gave on September 20th so no new flyer was prepared.

Report:

Leading up to this workshop, just seven days before, Adelaide was struck by a COVID outbreak. The next day, Monday 16/11, authorities reacted quickly and 'hard', announcing a fleet of new COVID restrictions. Among them was this one:

"The cancellation of all activities with an approved COVID-19 management plan scheduled for the next two weeks"

That seemed likely to encompass the planned workshop, but was sufficiently grey that we weren't sure, prompting a mature flurry of phone calls to clarify the situation.

On Tuesday 17/11, Pat emailed:

Hello All. Have just spoken to Stella, and the workshop may proceed, with caution of course. Some things have been cancelled- ECH social programs, Yoga at UCC, David Roche House visits, Urrbrae open air concert etc, so it is hard to judge. So for now we are lucky, and will be careful on the day. I have 34 bookings. Kate will be sending out something but thought I would pass on the info from Stella.
Pat

But then on Wednesday 18/11, the Premier announced (at noon) that as from midnight, for six days, SA is going into total lockdown. So the Workshop's brief reprieve ended, and it was cancelled.

(Very) annoyingly, by 2.30pm there was panic buying in supermarkets, carparks were full, people were queued up to get in, and police were on hand to ensure order. IDIOTS! There was panic buying back in March. Ultimately people saw how stupid that was. So how come seven months later they're doing the same thing again?! Didn't they learn anything?! Are they just mindless lemmings? What is WRONG with people? Stupidity and selfishness – probably the two qualities I loathe the most; in combination it just fills me with disgust.

Anyway...

Well, it's a perhaps appropriate bookend to this... unprecedented... year.

Tree Canopy Project (a.k.a. "Pauline's Trees")

We are active about tree policy in Unley and how the Planning and Design Code impacts on trees. But in addition to that, one of our members is doing something special.

Pauline Muir is a Goodwood resident who is passionate about growing trees for their canopy and their fruit.

In 2020, through COVID-19, she grew and distributed over 1000 fruit trees as "treelings". They included pink and strawberry guavas (210), apricots (30), Lilly Pillies (250), feijoas (100), figs (130), pomegranate (60), mulberry (65), ice-cream bean (70) and many others.

250 went to Urrbrae Agricultural High School for the students to pot and sell. Hundreds went to Growcarts located around Unley and many were taken at workshops.

Report:

A summary of the Tree Canopy Project, from Pauline:

My aim was to grow a few hundred to a thousand fruit trees and climbers and distribute them to people in unley encouraging them to think about increasing canopy in their gardens and so mitigate climate change and replace the loss of trees that has been going on in private gardens in the past few years.

I chose mostly tough fruit tree varieties suited to heat and not requiring too much water : feíjoa, pomegranate, mulberry, quince, grape vines, strawberry guavas, Hawaiian guavas, ice cream bean trees, curry leaf trees, peaches, nectarines, apricots, figs, avocados, loquats and ribberries. Also climbers such as silvanberry, youngberry, pandorea, grape vines, hardenbergia.

These varieties are easily grown from seed or cutting and will grow true to the parent mostly, but can be grafted if necessary. I also chose desirable varieties of fruit trees, for example, Azerbaijani pomegranate, Spanish dessert fig, Hicks Fancy mulberry and no varieties which would grow too large like the English black mulberry.

Sally Osterstock grew many of the trees from seed and gave us several pots of cuttings. I mainly potted seedlings with the help of some volunteers, especially my neighbour Olivia Coombe.



Pauline's neighbour Olivia - steadfast volunteer - potting up figs and grape vines

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DISTRIBUTION

- 250 treelings went to Urrbrae gardening club and will be sold at their monthly barn sales.
- 200 have been placed, a few each week, on four Growcarts: Albert St, Clarence Park Community Centre, Precious Cargo in Fisher street and Eastwood Community Centre. Many of these treelings disappeared overnight or within a few days.
- 50 given to Walya Yarta community garden.
- 100 sold at GGGYO workshops.
- 100 donated to Kangaroo Island, which were all planted by Nolda.
- 100 given to 2 guerrilla gardeners; some unfortunately were stolen but many are doing well.
- 50 given to the Rare Fruit Society; many of these will be planted in the proposed subtropical fruit garden in 2021

There are still many more to be distributed. We should reach 1000 treelings.

POSITIVES

It has probably cost about 50c a tree to grow the treelings. We ended up with many more treelings than expected due to Sally Osterstock's superb seed raising, probably over 1000 plants raised and still to be potted on.

PROBLEMS

There's no way of knowing how many have been planted or how many ended up outside the unley area. I think this could be partly remedied by setting up a small table in the inner courtyard at Goodwood Library with treelings and information to give away. I'm currently speaking to the library about this.

Next year I'm aiming for about 300 trees

Pauline

Thank you

Pauline would like to thank the following people:

Sally Osterstock, Olivia Coombe, her sister outlaw Helen Smith, Chris Bryant, Lina Sabatini, Sarah Barnett, Mary the guerrilla gardener, Romi and Alan Halsted.

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From: Pauline MUIR

Sent: 12 July, 2020 3:00 PM

Just a summary of the Tree Canopy project. All is progressing well. Below are photos Strawberry Guavas (220) Pink Guavas (30) Ice Cream Bean seedlings (40). Some Cape Gooseberry seedlings are coming up.

Have now buried all the nectarine and peach stones, some are wrapped up in paper towelling to stratify in the fridge. Have also set up quite a few hardwood cuttings of figs, pomegranates and mulberries.

Have a great range of fig varieties: Black Genoa, Brown Turkey, White Adriatic, Excel, Blue Provence, St Dominique Violet, Strawberry Vert, Black Ischia and Italian Honey.

Pomegranates: Wonderful, Azerbaijani, Elcite and hopefully Peter's Mystery 2 and hopefully the White Babylonian pomegranate.

The unusually named figs came from a man out at Athol Park who works in an enormous workshop, and behind that has set up some 1000 (or did he say 2000) fruit trees in pots in a huge backyard. Rather surreal.

Had a good discussion with Mary-Rose, who works at Urrbrae, and we have been discussing the possibility of Urrbrae being involved. Look like they are keen but need to work out the details.

Pauline



If you'd like to know which is which - ask Pauline! Only a mother can tell them apart...



From: Pauline MUIR

Sent: 9 September, 2020 12:29 PM

Hi

With my abundance of seedlings I have given Mary the guerrilla gardener a tub of ribberries and will also give her some feijoas. Everything I've given her she knows where it is and how they are doing. She's become very skilled at it all.

Also given Walya Yarta ribberries and tall lillypillies - they want to build a windbreak for their community garden. Then a few more fruit trees to create a bit of an avenue. I'm

giving Goody Patch a selection of treelings for their sale on the 19th, I figure their customers should be mostly people from the Unley area.

Also lining up to see the Urrbrae people, Mary-Rose is arranging the time etc., and have sent them a list of seedlings and hardwood cuttings they might like plus photos. I'm quite happy to go by myself to any meeting.

On Saturday I will have 3 volunteers coming to help pot what needs to be potted on. I've been madly tidying my nursery area.

Tom is awaiting a visit from Dave Bunney about moving the mango tree.

Some of my grafts have worked which is exciting. On the nectarine tree I now have Harvest sun, Pleach (plum x peach), 90 yr old mystery peach, the plum now has a greengage, the apricot has excelled with Fireball, Franceso, Orange red and Trevatt and one of the kiwi plants has both male and female branches, does that make it transgender?

best
Pauline



From: Pauline MUIR
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2020 3:00 PM

Hi another good day at the office.

I'm having a go with the Growfree carts. I put another 25 treelings on the Albert St cart on Wednesday afternoon - all gone by today. Saw Simon Grist who reconstructed the cart after it was vandalised. He said there was a small gathering around the cart yesterday discussing the tree canopy project - great I thought. I'm going to give Simon and Joe, who look after the Souter Park Fruit orchard, some fruit trees - a babaco, strawberry guavas, cape gooseberry and anything else they would like.

Went to the Fisher St Montessori school, their Growcart is in the school grounds and must just be for the school's families, but they will keep an eye on it and yes they would love the treelings. Eastwood CC is excellent. There is one person who looks after the cart and loves plants so I can put a whole lot there and she will look after them.

I've now sent out 500 treelings and climbers. About 100 with the guerrilla gardeners, 50 to Walya Yarta, 250 to Urrbrae and probably over 100 on Growcarts and sold in the last workshop. I haven't included the 100 riberies that went to KI. A more extensive system of carts might be a good way to get trees etc to people to plant or to hotspots in the council area. I'm going to contact the guy who created the idea - Andrew someone, lives at Strathalbyn....



From: Pauline MUIR

Sent: 12 September, 2020 3:19 PM

I had a lovely two hours with the volunteers, Lina, Sarah and Romi. We did a lot of potting up and they asked lots of questions about growing and propagating plants, sampled the cape gooseberries and blueberries, what's a saba nut, etc. They are willing to volunteer again which is great.

Rhonda has offered me a trestle to promote the Tree Canopy project and to sell trees at their plant sale next week on the 19th. So I will do that and hope to sell lots.

Pity there has been no rain.

Pauline



Lina, Sarah and Romi

UPDATE, 18/11

On 17 Nov 2020, at 2:53 pm, Pauline MUIR wrote:

Just an update on the Tree Canopy stuff.

Re the claim that council workers are pulling trees out. The area at Forestville near East Ave appears to be people stealing the fruit trees or just vandals. Michael did follow it up (see below) and there is a report from Lara Kennedy. Bit sad that the council workers got the blame. I'm wondering if the same misconception applies to Musgrave street. All very confusing and wild.

I'm really upset that someone took it upon themselves to take all the plants off the Albert St growcart and told me about it so proudly (dare I say it American) - it's beyond me. I do think other people to the Albert St cart probably got some but now when I go (and they are all gone this morning) I don't know who has taken them.

To try and control the distribution of treelings better I had a look at the little courtyard at Goodwood library which would be a safe place. There is a small table and a few chairs -

really pleasant. Actually might offer them some strawberry guavas and feijoa. Nobody would be able to lift the whole lot and get them out of the library without someone noticing - surely. The librarian I spoke to (Kristie Beaston is ill) thought it a good idea. I could even offer to be there once a week to answer questions. I'm going to try and get Kristie's help with a poster and info. And perhaps some printed labels would be good. Not sure how to do that but I'm sure it's easy. Maybe should have a logo - any offers?

Pauline

Dear Sarah and Pauline,

Whilst I am relieved that our Council staff were not involved in removing the plants I am very disappointed they were removed for either theft or vandalism.

I do hope you do not lose faith, and I hope that the plantings you have given to our community are able to be restored by you and any friends willing to help. If you have a working bee I would like to come... COVID willing!

"In response to your enquiry from Sarah Barnett regarding removal of plants near the Forestville tram station an investigation into the matter was undertaken and the following information is provided.

I can advise that neither Council Depot staff nor our contractors have removed any trees or plantings from this location. It should be noted that Depot staff maintain the southern side of the tram stop (corner Aroha Terrace and Victoria Street) but not the northern side, as this was planted by DIT (Leah Street and Norman Terrace) and is maintained by an unknown person or group.

It would appear that whatever trees or plants were recently removed may have been either stolen, given that some of these plantings are fruit trees, or may have been removed as a result of vandalism (evident by the defacing of a sign).

Depot staff have recently noted some plantings adjacent the car park within Forestville Reserve (fig tree, etc) but these have not been removed"

With my best wishes,

Michael

On 17 Nov 2020, at 3:50 pm, Anne Wilson wrote:

Pauline, I was pleased to see in Michael's reply that the Council staff are keeping an eye on 'random' plantings but not removing them.

What do you think about not replenishing the grow cart for a few days, then just gradually putting a few out to see what happens?

Also, I think the library idea is excellent, especially if you feel happy to be there now and again (once this current situation has abated).

As far as labels go, it's just a matter of writing the labels once and then copying them onto the same sheet. I can do that for you, if you just send through what you'd like written.

Cheers

Anne

On 18/11/2020 6:26 am, Pauline MUIR wrote:

Yes, Michael's reply was good and offering to do some planting as well. Actually Pat talked to her GG and it seems he actually saw a council worker pull out plants at Musgrave street. It's so complicated, I'm just going to work with Mary. I think the fig the workers spotted may have been a Black Genoa I gave Mary.

This was what I was trying, putting out a few, about 20, on Monday but they were all gone yesterday. Unless someone sits in a car or bush and watches to see what happens - maybe we could hire a PI - it's nigh impossible to know what's going on. Simon can't watch it all the time. I think the Eastwood and Precious Cargo carts have been successful. The Clarence Park cart is in a good place but because of the food coop, people from outside the Unley area will probably take them also. All good really but I would like the treelings to go into the Unley area and I don't think that's impossible if places like Aggies had a grow cart. More growcarts in the central Unley area would be good. When I get to write something I'll put in an appeal.

Another alternative is to have one day when I can give away treelings, perhaps at Goodwood CC - perhaps in autumn.

When I was talking to the mother with her two children, she told me they are renting and have loads of pots in the back garden. She and her husband are so keen to grow trees, so she has my email if she needs advice. I think they are possibles for GGGYO workshops. Just the sort of people to support. But as she said, nearly always there's hardly anything left on the cart when she gets there. She chose 3 treelings, she asked to take the box. This meant she had one child in the pram, another riding on the pram kind of foot pedal and trying to balance the box to then push all this back way across the park to her place. I drove around with the box.

Thanks for the offer to help with labels. I'll ring you

Pauline



SPECIAL NOTE:

Some of the treelings (ice cream bean tree, guavas and ribberries) are going in to the subtropical fruit tree garden planned by the Rare Fruit Society in the Botanic Garden next year. Pauline is understandably "particularly chuffed" by this.

'Clifton St – Raised Garden Beds' video

Following Matthew Ives' encouragement and suggestion, we explored the idea of making a series of short videos.

The first idea we pursued was "*Building a raised garden bed*" – it was to be an account of how we went about building the Clifton Street raised garden beds as part of the Clifton Street pocket park.

A fair bit of work has been put into this, but at the moment it is still incomplete. The professional operator we engaged to make it for us, has encountered some unforeseen personal circumstances.

We did learn a few things though, including how to make a video schedule for filming, and how to write a script for making titles of the segments.

1. Video Schedule

CLIFTON ST POCKET PARK

VIDEO SCHEDULE

23.05.2020

1. THE AREA BEFORE LANDSCAPING (may need to be a still shot retrieved from somewhere)
2. THE AREA AFTER LANDSCAPING (before installation of raised beds – SHOW CHOSEN AREA)
3. SOIL DELIVERY
4. CHOOSE BEST ANGLE FOR CLOSE-UP FILMING ONE BED
5. CARRYING THE BEDS IN - SHOW PORTABILITY AND CONSTRUCTION (i.e. internal braces, no bottom)
6. INSTALLATION
 - DRAINAGE OUTLET
 - LINER
 - PIPE
 - SCORIA
 - FILL BED WITH WATER AND OPEN OVERFLOW TO SHOW HOW IT WORKS
 - GEOTEXTILE
 - SOIL
 - WATER
 - PLANT
7. OVERVIEW FROM DIFFERENT ANGLES

2. Script

SCRIPT AND TITLES FOR VIDEO CLIFTON ST, UNLEY

(Instructions and directions for choosing frames are in red, preferred titles in black)

For the first frame, choose a blank background or any background image you prefer, with this wording and layout in your choice of script and colour.

The same applies for following texts, but this time overlaid on images, not as separate frames on blank backgrounds

Introductory frame

RAISED WICKING BED CONSTRUCTION
by
‘GROW, GROW, GROW YOUR OWN’
for
Unley Community
2020

Design and Installation:
Steven Hoepfner
Wagtail Urban Farm

Overview of area, and close-up showing

A level, firm sand base

Soil delivery

Good quality, well-draining, certified organic soil

The beds as they’re being moved, and show that they’re bottomless

Light, portable, galvanised metal beds

Close-up of the drainage outlet

The drainage outlet can be opened for flushing

Installing the waterproof pond liner

The bed is lined with waterproof pond liner

The water inlet pipe

The water inlet pipe attaches to the outlet

Scoria is barrowed in

The water well is filled with scoria

Filling with water

In goes the water, to the top of the scoria

Geotextile layer for the soil base

Geotextile separates soil and water

Filling with soil

In goes the soil

Adding fertilizer pellets

Organic fertilizer pellets for extra nitrogen

Watering from above

Top watering, to settle the soil and aid the wicking process

Planting

The best part – planting!

Credits

Our thanks to:
Unley Council
Steven Hoepfner
Tom and Jake Giles
and to
Linda Quinton, for film and editing

Nolda's "Backyard Garden" videos

More successful, and done much more simply (perhaps that's why), has been a planned series of short videos made by our own Nolda 'Spielberg' Beynon.

The idea of the series, called *What I love about my garden*, is to have members of the group (including participants) give us a tour of and talk about their garden. Real gardens, that ordinary people have.

I asked Nolda to write a few words about her work for the Almanac. Our email exchange went like this:

Nolda:

I don't know if you'll want to write about this as at this stage I've only finished Pat's garden, so there's not much to rave about.

Russ:

Yep, I do want to write about it. I wrote about the other video (of raised beds in Clifton St) too, and that's even less finished, so yours is a beacon in comparison. Happy to hang our hats on yours and rave if we want to."

Nolda's Report:

The idea was to do a virtual tour of GGGYO members' (including regular attendees) gardens and point out what each one particularly liked about their little plot.

I was really trying to see what filming we could come up with without any outside help and at a low cost. I started filming using an SLR and a phone camera. The footage was edited with i-movie and lots of help from my son who is a film maker. The end result was shared on our WhatsApp group and also shown on a lap top during one of our workshops.

I haven't been able to share it online though I have spent quite a bit of time trying. When I eventually managed to get it onto YouTube the film quality was poor. I also realised that when you google "Pat's Garden" there are a lot of those about. It needs a bit more research to find a title which would lead straight to our films.

Positives I have learned: I can get decent footage and do basic editing. This includes titles and credits. Splitting audio from film and enabling voice overs.

Negatives: An awful lot of computer space is used for editing which is not easy with a slightly elderly laptop; sharing on social media also not straightforward. I have a lot of sympathy for Linda and her filming of the wicking beds as she might not have a filmmaker within reach to give a bit of support.

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I have also filmed in Annie's garden but not had the time or energy to do much with the footage. Watch this space.

Is this ok for the almanac?

Cheers,

Nolda

Pool Room

From: Sue Murray-Jones
Subject: trees
Date: 5 April 2020 at 12:29 pm
To: Peter Croft

Hi Peter, I reckon I could squeeze in one more tree to create more shade! what do you have?

I have quite a bit of area that gets full sun in summer but not a lot in winter.

Hope you are keeping well! Sue

From: Peter Croft
Sent: Monday, 6 April 2020 3:04 PM
To: Sue Murray-Jones
Subject: Re: trees

Sue

Good to hear from you. Great that you have space for another tree. I'm at that point myself.

Pauline Muir from the group will be in touch with you

regards

Peter Croft

From: Sue Murray-Jones
Subject: Re: trees
Date: 7 April 2020 at 10:03 am
To: Peter Croft

its a juggle to have canopy, keep them small enough to net, fit lots in but still have sun for veggies!

If I get a couple more from your team, I will have 30 fruit trees, not bad given I demolished my falling down old house and subdivided!!

From: "June Wuttke"
Subject: register
Date: 26 April 2020 at 10:59:06 am ACST

Hello Peter,

I am not a member of Grow Grow Grow but I am on your mailing list. I'd like to participate in the May workshop. I have downloaded Zoom so I want to register. I love that GGG workshops will be run over Zoom. Thank you very much.

Please let me know if you need more information.

June

On Sun, Apr 26, 2020 at 5:03 PM Peter Croft wrote:

Cathy

I have booked you into the Zoom workshop on May 17th at 2.30 on Mediterranean Gardens

We hope that you are well at this unusual time

Best wishes

Peter Croft
for Grow Grow Grow Your Own

From: Cathy Chua

Date: 26 April 2020 at 18:53:43 ACST

Subject: Re: Can I register for the Mediterranean workshop please?

Thanks, Peter. I am new to Zoom too, but I've had to join various meetings/courses with it over the past weeks and it seems to work pretty well and also it's quite intuitive, easy to use.

As for well? On the one hand, I wish my garden was bigger. On the other very pleased to be here rather than in Geneva where I live 7 months/year at the moment in an apartment - a very small garden is a whole lot better than none. On another hand, thinking how on earth will I ever get back again? Life was complicated enough as it was and now we've added 18th century convict period with Internet to the equation. No way out except sailing ship and row boat.

But really, any time we are bothered by self-isolation, imagine how lucky we are compared with Europe.

Regards, Cathy

.....
On 26/04/2020 12:12 pm, Lalitha Maheswaran wrote:

Dear Anne

Thank you for organising the zoom session, what a wonderful idea.

I am looking forward to this session as I have a western facing backyard with harsh sun beating the area. I bought several canopy trees from Pauline. I am looking forward to growing them in my backyard.

I am interested in the seeds if they are available.

Thanks for organising these great sessions and keeping us together and engaged during these testing times.

Looking forward to seeing you all once the social distancing is over.

Be safe. Kind regards

Lalitha

.....

On 21/04/2020 5:20 pm, Gioffre, Caterina (Banksia Park Kindergarten) wrote:

Hi Everyone!

I do miss attending your workshops Thanks for the newsletter a great way to keep up to date. By the way what fruit trees do you have available. By any chance do you have a strawberry guava tree or some caper berry bushes?

Keep in good health and safe from all harm

Caterina

From: Susila Palani

Subject: Registering for 17 May Zoom

Date: 27 April 2020 at 11:51:51 am ACST

Please include me in your invite for the 17 May Zoom conference.

Thank you to ALL of you for ALL of your ongoing great work. So uplifting.

I have the ability to collect some parsley seeds and garlic seeds and oregano seeds from my plants if they're of interest. Currently I am just letting them self-propagate. Let me know.

If there's anyone near Rosslyn Park from the group I wouldn't mind a couple of hours of assistance for joint work to pot a few mints and boysenberries or endives etc to give away . I am not a solo gardener and do need that additional interaction. Safe physical distancing assured. I am happy to return the support in their garden or other community garden with company - more hours even. Let me know. Thanks

Susila Palani

From: roger_son

Date: 19 May 2020 at 15:29:32 ACST

To: Peter Croft

Subject: Re: Fwd: John Boland shared "MediterraneanGardens.mp4" with you

Peter,

That was a very interesting presentation on Sunday by John and Chris. They presented it very well via Zoom.

Regards, Roger and Dianne

From: roger_son
Subject: Pruning a young quince tree
Date: 19 July 2020 at 5:08:33 pm ACST

Hi Peter

I wonder if anyone in our 'Grow' group can help. We have a 2 year old quince tree. As you can see from the attached photo, it's very leggy. Last year was its first full summer. All the foliage went to the top. Can anyone of our experienced growers advise on how it should be pruned properly?

Cheers, Roger

*Why is this email in the 'Pool Room'? Well, notice the reference to **our** Grow group?*

From: Meryl
Subject: Grow Grow Fruit Tree Seedlings
Date: 24 July 2020 at 4:20:56 pm ACST

Hi Peter,

I'm interested in purchasing some fruit tree seedlings if Grow Grow make these available later in the year. I'm contacting you to register my interest. Have just emailed Pat W. re attending the next Grow Grow session on 9 August. Hopefully will hear back from her confirming my registration. What a great group of people you are. Thank you all for the wonderful community you've created!

Meryl

From: Matthew Ives
Sent: Tuesday, 17 December 2019 4:38 PM
Subject: Community Impact Grants with the City of Unley

Dear all

As recipients of the Community Impact Grants I just wanted to remind and update you of where we are up to.

2019/2020 is officially the 3rd year of the grants scheme. Most of you are completing your action plans for Year 2.

In the New Year I will be starting to ask for an annual plan for Year 3 as we will need to receive invoices for you by June 2020. Also when we instituted this scheme it required a review by myself of the success of the program in order hopefully to recommend the scheme for a further 3 years, maybe with more \$!

I trust you will be able to help me with this process as you may like to apply again for another 3 year grant after Dec 2020 if it is endorsed by Council. Data and qualitative feedback from the inaugural grant recipients will be vital to us continuing.

So just wanted to say festive greetings. I hope you have had a good year and I will be back in touch.

Matthew

Matthew Ives
Cultural Development Coordinator
Community Connections
City of Unley

From: Matthew Ives

Sent: Friday, 3 April 2020 12:28 PM

Subject: Community Impact Grants with the City of Unley

Dear all

I trust you are all safe.

I would understand that many, if not all, of your activities are suspended at the moment.

And these would apply to your activities with the Community Impact Grants. We understand this and when we return to any form of normality we can certainly renegotiate the time frame and capabilities of fulfilling your project.

But I am aware we are getting closer to the end of the year and we need to release your 3rd year funding for those postponed activities.

Can you please invoice me for the relevant amount as soon as possible so as we can account for and honour our original agreements?

Many thanks

Matthew

From: Peter Croft

To: Matthew Ives

Date: 6 April 2020 at 3:27:13 pm ACST

Subject: Re: Community Impact Grants with the City of Unley

Matthew

Thank you for your email re the third payment of \$6100.

We are very appreciative of Council's ongoing support for Grow Grow Grow Your Own activities and acknowledge this in our workshops.

We have stopped face-to-face workshops for the time being and are now exploring workshops via Zoom. First one may be in mid-May. Our newsletter to our mailing list on these changes went out yesterday (<https://mailchi.mp/5e7f0511b140/grow-grow-grow-2nd-2020-wkshop-eating-flowers-seeds-roots-sun-5th-april-230pm-2458493?e=e346485424>).

We have been finding that with other delays from the coronavirus, our significant items of expenditure (raised garden beds particularly) have been deferred for some months and we think that we have sufficient funds in hand to tide us over until well into next calendar year.

Accordingly, when we met today, we decided that we should decline the third payment: others funded by Council might need it more than us.

Regards

Peter Croft

From: Matthew Ives
Sent: Wednesday, 15 April 2020 2:48 PM
Subject: Community Impact Grants with the City of Unley

Hi Peter et al

Thanks for the newsletter and the update.

Also thanks for being so gracious regarding the funding.

Can I hold off on giving you a definitive answer to your offer until the dust has settled on how we are handling all of our grants processes in the near future.

I trust you and all the group are staying safe and trying to do your own bit of Grow, Grow, Grow in your own gardens for the moment. We certainly are as we go into autumn in our little world in Macclesfield!

I will be back in touch.

Matthew

From: Matthew Ives
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 9:05 AM
Subject: Community Impact Grants with the City of Unley

Hi Peter et al

I write to you in the spirit of making sure that we support our communities, celebrate their contributions and provide assistance where we can.

Your group in all its various forms have been a long standing valuable community resource.

I would like to offer you some suggestions on how you could move forward in the 3rd year and therefore access the moneys which were allocated to you in the beginning. This would give all concerned very valuable resource(s) for the future.

It is obviously your decision how you progress going on.

So, have you considered:

- A series of short videos by yourselves or with a professional “gardener” on supporting/encouraging all the newbie gardeners growing vegetables during and out of COVID. This could be a moving image facts and tips a la you Tube.
- Or just the top tips of the fabulous gardening elders across Unley that have advice on growing food in the local conditions.
- Putting together an online shortened version of the workshops you have been running
- A simple how to guide on building raised bed gardens for community and individual use
- Or any other pearls of wisdom you wish to share?

The funding could be used to cover the costs of setting up dummy workshops, guides, filmmaker, production etc.

Thoughts to mull over and consider while we have time.

Matthew

From: Anne Wilson
Sent: Thursday, 7 May 2020 4:25 PM
To: Matthew Ives
Subject: Re: Community Impact Grants with the City of Unley

Hi Matthew

We couldn't resist your suggestions.

They've sparked a discussion on how to best make use of our next Grant monies, so I'm consequently attaching an invoice for the next increment!

I know Peter has emailed you with some feedback from our 4 May Zoom meeting.

We're now mulling over a number of ideas on how to make the best use of our abilities, particularly under these currently uncertain times and personal space constraints.

We're holding a Zoom workshop on 17th May, with our next meeting following, on 18 May.

Much to think about, in the interim.

With thanks, as always,

Anne (on behalf of GGGYO).

From: Matthew Ives
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2020 9:01 AM
To: 'Anne Wilson' ; Peter Croft
Subject: Community Impact Grants with the City of Unley

Hi Anne and Peter

Just touching base to see where you might be up to regarding your discussions for the future?
Matthew

From: Anne Wilson
Sent: Thursday, 27 August 2020 4:25 PM
To: Matthew Ives
Subject: Re: Community Impact Grants with the City of Unley

Hi Matthew,

Thanks for your followup. We've been busy, with twice-monthly Zoom meetings (thanks to Peter's expertise).

This has kept the group together, and focused, in these times of physical distancing.

We took up the suggestions of the videos with vigour and currently have several in development: three themes:

- *What I love about my garden* - a series of short videos with members of the group explaining their garden. We've done one and a second will be developed soon. Then we need to post them: perhaps Unley Council might link to them?
- *Building a raised garden bed* - it's an account of how we went about building the Clifton Street raised garden beds as part of the Clifton Street pocket park. This is being edited. A few delays on this.
- *Living with big trees*: interviews with Unley residents with big trees on their property. This will start later this year/early next year hopefully.

Grow, Grow, Grow Your Own – Almanac 2020

We've continued with our six-weekly free workshops: we did two on Zoom then one as a face-to-face session, the latter over-subscribed. Our next one is scheduled as a face-to-face session on September 20th. Also a session on tree canopy hosted by the Library this coming Saturday.

We are continuing to look for raised bed opportunities: the Montessori school in Oxford Street is likely to host three beds. It depends on their timing.

And while not wishing to bombard our participants too much with emails, we kept contact in the early stages of lockdown with a short newsletter, with a few reminders and hints for the season.

Finally, we have continued to be active on tree policy in Unley and the Planning and Design Code impacts on trees.

So thank you for your creative suggestions, which had us 'up and running' with new ideas we would have thought beyond our capabilities.

Best wishes,

Anne (for GGGYO)

From: Matthew Ives

Date: 28 August 2020 at 9:31:33 am ACST

Subject: Community Impact Grants with the City of Unley

Hi Team Grow, Grow, Grow

I can't tell you how uplifting this was as an email to receive in these challenging times. I have already shared this with my management.

Working from home and not as embedded in the community as I was makes these kind of community stories extra special.

Well done to you all again for your passion, commitment, resilience, flexibility and innovation.

We will need your wholesome and honest videos to share on our social media and our website so keep dribbling these through to us as you make them. Kat said she has had a sneaky peek!

Keep up the great green fight and your positivity.

May many others learn from you.

I hope to see you soon personally.

Matthew



Matthew Ives
Cultural Development Coordinator
Community Connections
City of Unley



From: Jan Fielke
Date: Sun, 30 Aug 2020 13:57:39 +0930
Subject: Re: GGGYO Wkshop - Wicking Beds, Pots & Vertical Gardens

Dear Anne,

I cannot come to the next Grow Grow Grow, 'Wicking beds and Vertical gardens'
However I am interested in the Fruit trees, for sale later on in the year. I have a couple of
fruit trees, an espaliered plum and an apricot tree and I would love another fruit tree in the
garden.

Thank you for all, that you do to make these afternoons so interesting.

Blessings. Jan Fielke. 😊

Following the demand to attend Karen Montgomery's workshop, on September 20th, Peter contacted her to see if she was open to the idea of more sessions on wicking beds, and vertical gardens. She responded that she'd be happy to. When Peter passed that information on to us, Pat responded with:

Thank heavens for that Peter. I am already up to 69 enquiries. I have been telling the later comers, that we hope to run another session on the topic. I have kept a list of the names and contacts in any case.

I thought it important to keep up good PR with those who miss out. Many of them are regulars too. I have already overbooked as I missed an enquiry at the last session, which I wrote on the back of the last sheet, so fingers crossed that someone can't attend. I will have to spend the time outside! I do think that our members should leave the seats for our guests as the seating will be tight. We will just have to fit in around the group. Last time some of the allotted seats were taken by us, and we had not factored that in.

Pat

To which Kat replied:

What a wonderful problem being too popular is!

Good work Pat – you got this.

From: Susan R
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2020 8:47 AM
Subject: Thank you for your generosity and TED talk link

Dear Peter, Anne and Annie

Thank you all for your time, wisdom and the resources you so generously shared with us when we met yesterday. We were awestruck and impressed by the work you have done in influencing environmental sustainability and tree strategy in Unley Council. It has certainly provided some food for thought and the advice you provided will be very valuable as we share some of these ideas with our group and as we move forward.

Here is the link to the TED talk I mentioned. It is 20 minutes and is called 'Take a street and build a community'. I hope you enjoy it – your theme of 'just do it' reminded me of it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C1WSkXWSJac>

Warm wishes
Susan

From: Kathleen McGeever
Subject: Re: Grow your own food workshop Sunday 8th November
Date: 19 October 2020 at 10:55 am ACDT

Hi Pat, could I please register to attend the workshop you have on Sunday 8th November?
Many thanks
Kathleen McGeever

From: Pat Wundersitz
Sent: Monday, 19 October 2020 10:58 AM
To: Kathleen McGeever
Subject: Re: Grow your own food workshop Sunday 8th November

Kathleen. I have booked you in. As we are nearly to the limit of our numbers, could you please let me know if you are unable to attend, as there will be a waiting list?
Pat

From: Kathleen McGeever
Subject: Re: Grow your own food workshop Sunday 8th November
Date: 19 October 2020 at 11:01 am ACDT

Wow, Pat, that is amazing as you only advertised yesterday. Wonderful so many people are interested in learning more about growing food! I certainly will let you know if I cannot attend. Thank you so much for reserving a spot for me. I very much appreciate it.
Kathleen McGeever

From: Kathleen McGeever
Subject: Re: Grow your own food workshop Sunday 8th November
Date: 11 November 2020 at 8:29 am ACDT

Hi Pat, thank you for the talk on Sunday, Alan was excellent, so down to earth. I felt blessed to be given some worm castings. Thank you also for the two trees, can I just check, are they riberry trees, is that the correct spelling?
Many thanks, Pat, I hope you have a good day.
Kathleen McGeever

Urrbrae Students Garden Club

From: Pauline MUIR

Date: 20 October 2020 at 13:52:20 ACDT

Hi All.

Just had a great trip to Urrbrae. Was directed by a girl student with a yellow moustache and a boy with bright red lipstick - gender swap day!

Receptionist didn't even know what the Garden Club was and I had to push her to find someone who did and could take me there. My contact was Wes Parker, there were only about 6 students in the gardening club none of whom seemed to be quite with it. However when I opened the boot to show them the treelings - I had potted and labelled everything carefully, even colour coded pots for different species - they were delighted and took everything. Probably about 300 treelings in all.

I also chatted with the students. They were very enthusiastic about their barn sale, and I said I would catch up with them at the next barn sale day, Sat 7th Nov.

Have also lined up contacting Wes Parker first term next year if I have lots of figs, pomegranates etc.

At the end they wanted to give me some pots in exchange and/or some plants and I came away with some beautiful eggplants and capsicums.

Made my day!



(from Karen Montgomery's FaceBook page)

"A garden is a thing of beauty and a job forever"

Anonymous