

## Canowindra Community Garden



Lets not stop with a curvy main street. The brand new Canowindra Community Garden, to be launched by no less than Costa himself next week, is looking awesome following the working bee, or better, "bendy backyard blitz", of last weekend. Looking forward to [Julia's blog](#) post on this soon, but for now, here's just a piccie I took from the shady "contemplation corner", with the lovely Simone Statham and young Floyd in the sling! In brief, we put in a curvy fence (or better, "wavelike", made from old Rosnay vineyard posts), marked out a curvy path (designed by Chris and incorporating the [Fibonacci](#) spiral), dug out the "husband killer" oleander shrubs, rotary hoed in the couch grass with compost from Canowindra Produce (vegetarian compost from straw but it smelt like poo!), put on dolomite and lime courtesy of Woolly and Margie, installed Owen and Mark's awesome steel archway gate, thanked the "Big Fella" for the free BBQ lunches that appeared in the shade of the church, washed it down with lashings of Hamilton's Bluff Sangiovese sangria, watered the compost, sprayed biodynamic 500, hung out with the kids, talked to passing wide-eyed locals, mulched with lucerne hay from Mark Ward (and others), and viola! Ready for Costa to do his magic next Thursday!

A big thanks of course to the Canowindra Uniting Church for letting it all happen in their yard, and of course, Chris for coordinating it.

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By *Julia*

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Like Willy Wonka opening the gates to his mysterious chocolate factory, passionate organic gardener and host of the popular SBS series *Costa's Garden Odyssey*, Costa Georgiadis, officially opened the gates (made from recycled bicycles by local teacher Mark Edwards) to the new Canowindra Community Garden last Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October.



Costa shows children how to plant a sunflower seed.

“This archway represents everything about community gardens to me,” he said with wonder and enthusiasm. “On one side we have a beat up, compacted old car park, but through this archway we go into a beautiful new world we have created together!”

Over the course of the day, every student in Canowindra, from pre-school to high school, planted a vegetable seed in the garden and was engaged and entertained by Costa as he spoke about the importance of community and of growing fresh, seasonal, healthy food. Cabonne Council was represented by Councillor Kevin Walker, who had the honour of planting the first tomato of the season.

“You put garbage in, you get garbage out,” Costa told the children, with a few well targeted poo and wee jokes to keep them enthralled. “You are the customs control officers of your own bodies. In a community garden like this you can learn how to grow clean, good food for a strong and healthy body and mind.”



Costa leads pre-schoolers through the recycled archway and into the new Canowindra Community Garden

The Canowindra Community Garden, centrally located in a vacant block next to the Uniting Church, began to take shape just three weeks ago when an army of volunteers turned up to set up boundary fences, chop back weeds, lay out garden beds and mulch to be ready for planting this Thursday. Mulch and fencing wire was donated by local farmers, equipment from local contractors and compost from a local mill.

“The site was chosen in part due to the proximity to the primary schools. We hope that it will become a really great educational resource for the schools and the wider community,” says garden co-ordinator Chris Cuddy. “Much of the produce from the garden will be provided to low income families through the Uniting Church’s Food Basket next door. There is a Community Garden working group, which has representatives from the CWA, Landcare, the Uniting Church, the Garden Club, teachers and parents from all the schools, and other community members.”

The Canowindra Community Garden, approximately 600sqm in size, has been designed around a simple spiral path to entice people in to the garden and to create ample planting space. The garden is planted predominately with edibles – vegetables, fruits and herbs – and includes raised beds, composting, worm farms and communal spaces. Although it is fenced, the garden is never locked – community gardens are as much about the production of food as they are about the social and psychological benefits of having a nurturing, positive place to belong.

“A community garden can be a lively hub of growth – in fresh produce, warm friendships, community spirit, the sharing of good things and the understanding of how to grow your own food,” says Chris. “The

Canowindra Community Garden shows the open hearted and generous nature of the people of Canowindra and their willingness to pitch in and be part of this project and promises all of that and more form people from every walk of life and background.”



Every student in Canowindra planted a seed in the Community Garden on opening day.

Community Gardens are popping up all over the region – Orange, Bathurst, Young and Forbes have all established or are in the process of establishing community gardens and there are over 14 gardens now established in Sydney. For advice on how to set up, manage and sustain a community garden, visit the Australian City Farms and Community Gardens Network website at [www.communitygarden.org.au](http://www.communitygarden.org.au)



Adding a touch of whimsy, scarecrows were designed by local school children.