

COMMUNITY GARDENS

East Lake Macquarie Warners Bay Community Garden

Meets 1st Sunday of the month at Warners Bay Lions Club Hall, Sweet Street, 2pm. Activities and groups include seedling growing, seed saving, organic recipes, organic pest control, composting, garden design, garden visits, garden blitzes, assisting with local school gardens, market stalls, picnics more. All welcome.

Contact Information

Contact Person: Trish Jarvie on (02) 4947 1821 email patriciajarvie@hotmail.com

Website: <http://www.warnersbaycommunitygarden.org/index.jsp>

Warners Bay Community Garden

Bunya Park

Eleebana

(02) 4947 1821

www.warnersbaycommunitygarden.org/

After a letterbox drop in the Warners Bay area in December 2008, 26 local residents with a diverse range of skills and backgrounds came together to discuss ideas to create a Community Garden. Since then our group has exploded to over 350 members and supporters, all keen to be involved in the development of Community Garden in the local area.

In October 2010, Lake Macquarie City Council invited the community garden group to lodge a development application (DA) for the establishment of a garden in the open grassed area of Bunya Park, Eleebana (corner of Cherry Rd and Macquarie Drive).

Belmont Men's Shed & Community Garden is where men can be safe and secure, talk shoulder to shoulder and find mateship. Belmont Men's Shed & Community Garden is a proud project of Belmont Neighbourhood Center (BNC).

Belmont Men's Shed & Community Garden is a group of people with a wide range of backgrounds, interests and skills who come together as members.

Projects and activities carried out by members can be as diverse as the membership would like. At present these include gardening to grow vegetables in the Habitat in Harmony community garden, odd jobs around the BNC property, and watering the town plants along Belmont's main street. Once our shed is finished being built the membership will have the exciting task of deciding what projects and activities they would like to get involved in!

Our Community Garden – Habitat In Harmony

Environmental Project, "Habitat in Harmony" is a community project designed around Permaculture and Organic Principles. The aim is to demonstrate the use of land using sustainable practices and water catchment management.

Habitat is manned by volunteers who maintain the garden. If you are interested in working in the garden, please contact BNC to apply for a 'volunteer' role in the garden.

If you are interested in finding out more about "Habitat in Harmony" you are most welcome to drop in at the centre or give us a call on 4947 0031.

Charlestown Parish Community Garden

Hugh McKay, the social researcher, tells us that we have largely lost our past concept of community and our modern generation often finds its community at the coffee shop.

COMMUNITY gardens are becoming recognised as providing a place where people can come together to grow fresh food, relax and make new friends. Community gardeners have come to know that sharing a common interest in growing food and other plants builds a sense of place and community and create a greater sense of personal wellbeing.

As part of Charlestown parish's outreach to the community, the Environment and Sustainability Ministry team, with the assistance of an Environmental Sustainability Grant from Lake Macquarie City Council, has recently established a community garden around the periphery of St Alban's car park. The garden consists of a number of raised beds and will primarily concentrate on growing a range of herbs and vegetables.

A number of innovative components are being incorporated within the overall concept, including the composting of coffee grounds in partnership with local coffee shops and the establishment of a composting facility where parishioners and local community members will be invited to bring their grass clippings.

The parish sees the garden as providing an opportunity to reach out to the local community members who will be invited to join the gardening community and to offer access to fresh herbs and other vegetables as they become available. As part of the community involvement it is planned to organise some cooking events using the garden produce and other opportunities to meet and share with other community groups in the area having similar interests. We look forward to being able to welcome any interested people to join our gardening community.

Further details are available from Geoff Rigby (rigby@mail.com), Bill Livingstone (wrlivings@optusnet.com.au) or Vaughan Rees (lindaandvaughan@bigpond.com).

Windale garden plans to grow

WORK on revitalising Windale's dilapidated landscape has started, with the local PCYC and primary school receiving a large grant to kickstart the big task.

Windale Community Garden will be set up over the next three years at two sites - the Lake Macquarie PCYC and Windale Primary School.

Almost \$300,000 will be provided over a three-year period to JobQuest, a Penrith-based company, which also has an office at Mayfield.

JobQuest plans to start work experience programs at the site that will involve gardening, landscaping, construction and designing artwork.

JobQuest spokesperson Andrew Tipping said inspiration for the design, function and style of the garden were being called for from the community.

He said the garden project was to be constructed by members of the community.

A garden co-ordinator will also be employed to manage the site.

The organisation will also run workshops on sustainable living for the members of the garden project and monthly working bees for the garden.

Mr Tipping said the proposal was put to the residents in 2009 and there was an almost instantaneous response.

"They could see the value of a community garden that could provide positive experiences for young people and other community members," Mr Tipping said.

Sustainable living workshops are also being planned for this year.

Consultation with the community began in late November, with the development of the garden to start early this year.

PCYC - Ph. 4948 6622 - Windale Public School - 024948 8864

East Lake Macquarie Community Gardens

Redhead Community Gardens

The project is being overseen by the P&C Association's LearnScapes Committee and will be created in parallel to the Redhead Community of Gardens Project which works with Permaculture Hunter to run "PermaBlitzes" on private properties in Redhead.

The community garden will be built over the next 6 to 12 months using money raised in fundraising events and from grants from various organisations, including Lake Macquarie City Council. We will be holding regular working bees – the last Saturday of every month from 12 til 4 unless otherwise advised. We will post these dates on the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Website.

Plans for a Community Garden at Beach Road: We are very pleased to announce that our group have a draft plan for the community garden on Beach Rd Plan for Garden on Beach Road. It has been drawn up by one of our group's members, Mark Thomas, and based on the sum of the ideas of all the members of the group. The nautilus design is just fantastic!

In May 2012, this project will feature on this website and in the second 2012 Newsletter.

Jan 2012 Update: Having held two successful permablitzes in September and November last year, we approached Redhead Public School to see if we could lend a hand in their "Munch n Crunch" vegetable garden.

The school Principal proposed that (rather than helping in their existing garden) we develop an independent community garden. Within the school grounds. The School is donating a block of land for Redhead's first Community Garden!

What will the Community Garden offer our community? As you may know, the Community Garden Project came about as part of Lake Macquarie City Council's Sustainable Neighbourhood Program.

The aims of the Community Garden Project when our group first got together in 2010 were to:

- Build a strong, inclusive and vibrant community gardening group which draws on the energy and expertise of all involved;
- Enable residents to grow our own tasty, organic fruit and vegetables;
- Learn from others and share gardening experience and skills;
- Develop a local communal composting system;
- Create a place for positive community activity and projects.

The processes and materials used in building the garden will reflect the principles of sustainability, for instance, bringing minimal 'new' materials in – using recycled materials where possible; building the soil up over time in a sustainable way and so on.

Where's the land? The land is located at the end of Beach Rd and is approximately 300m². The land is roughly rectangular, potentially subject to strong southerlies, on a slight slope currently covered in weeds/grass. As is the case all over these parts, the "soil" is sand.

If you want to know more and/or get your hands dirty to build our community garden, email us! permablitzredhead@gmail.com

How did the Redhead Community Garden project become the Community of Gardens Project? At our 2011 June meeting the committee for the Redhead Community Garden Project had to face the realisation that the time and energy requirements inherent in getting a community garden up and running (and then maintaining it) were far beyond the capacity of our individual members.

This felt disappointing given the strong support for the community garden idea in the general community. Over 200 signatures were collected in support of a community garden at the Fernleigh Track Opening in April.

So rather than disbanding the committee and giving up on the idea altogether, we asked: "Why stop at ONE community garden when we could build a whole Community of Gardens?"

Contact details: Permablitz Redhead – permablitzredhead@gmail.com

Permaculture Hunter coordinator, John Shiels – jafshiel@gmail.com

Dudley Sustainable Neighbourhood Group

Get Involved

Join us to help make Dudley a more sustainable and vibrant place to live. We started by connecting with our neighbours to develop a vision, values and aspirations for Dudley, and have been gathering some great community project ideas.

Contact us: <http://www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/dudley.html> to receive email updates about upcoming activities and opportunities, and stay informed.

We welcome new members to the Dudley Sustainable Neighbourhood Group. You can take the lead on one of the many project ideas; take up a role on the coordinating committee, or simply turn up to any of our meetings, activities and events.

Celebrate World Environment Day this Tuesday 5 June

Note: the venue has changed to Dudley Primary School Hall, Corner of Ocean and Boundary Streets. We expect it will be raining on Tuesday night, so come along to Dudley Primary School Hall instead for games and a BBQ. If it's only light rain, spotlighting will still go ahead from 5.30pm. Bring a rain jacket and/or umbrella.