

# Soil-ed

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Bi-monthly

NEWSLETTER OF THE *Beaconsfield Neighbourhood House* COMMUNITY GARDEN

## Welcome back avid gardeners for our second edition!

Over the next several issues we will be looking at the principles that govern and guide our gardening. These are the 12 principles of Permaculture. We will also look at winter cropping, what to sow and plant, and how to make your very own garden furniture that can be incorporated into your plot at home.



### Goings On

With the wet weather that's been inundating our area in Tasmania's north, gardening here's been focussed on recovery. Top soil has been washed away, plants hammered by torrential rains and crops eaten by hungry animals after food. Luckily, we haven't been affected as badly as other areas. Our crops have fared well despite the wetter days – some are even beginning to fruit as I type this newsletter.

We have swede, cauliflower, carrots, beets, spring onion, red and white cabbage, kohlrabi, watermelon radishes and purple top turnips in. Our late season potatoes turned out well with a decent crop of 7 kgs harvested despite the bad weather, which took about a third of the yield.

Although not much is growing until the weather warms up a bit, there's still plenty to do as we're preparing for our first growing season in September. As always, you're welcome to drop in to say 'Hi' and share a nice warm cuppa. 

### Poly Tunnel Workshop

As you can see from the picture below, we're well on our way to getting the greenhouse up by the end of July so stay tuned for the workshop dates if you're interested in learning how to build a poly hoop house (aka green house).

I've pencilled in our workshop for the mid to end of July but the dates are yet to be confirmed. The details should be on our website and Facebook page soon. 



## The Garden

We're about to sow our green manure crops in the coming weeks to provide organic matter we can dig in for the spring crops. I'd like to thank the people from Rangeview Seeds for their awesome service. It was our first purchase from a Tasmanian seed stockist and we're all about supporting local communities and businesses here at the House.



We've relocated the Raspberries to their new perennial beds and, hopefully with the new trellis system, we should get a bumper crop this coming season. Some of the excess canes are for sale at the House 10 canes for \$5. There are two varieties: Thornless, which crops once a year and Lloyd George, which crops twice in a growing season.

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The new garden beds are proving practical. They're 30" wide with an 18" walk space between and this allows our gardeners room to squat down while harvesting without interfering with the beds behind. At that size they give a larger growing area in total.

*What to plant and sow in:*  
**JULY and AUGUST**

**PLANT:** Asparagus crowns, early potatoes, rhubarb divisions, Jerusalem artichokes, globe artichoke suckers, potato onions, chives, shallots and garlic cloves. Long-keeping salad and spring onions (August)

**SOW:** Long-keeping salad and spring onions, broad beans and English spinach. In containers under glass or indoors sow seed of cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli to raise seedlings for August planting.

**FOR SALE:** Raspberry canes 10 canes for \$5. Thornless & Lloyd George



## Multi use garden furniture

I always love my time in the garden, whether it be weeding, harvesting, sowing or just earthing out. A problem I always have is finding a nice spot to sit to enjoy the abundance that is life. So I've come up with a plan for an arbour bench that allows you to enjoy your slice of nature while providing a growing area for vines and plants, which will also create a haven for smaller animals and insects – all of which will benefit our gardens! You can find the plans on our website or you can request a copy from Beaconsfield House.

## Permaculture Principle #1 – Observe and Interact (beauty is in the eye of the beholder)

Good design depends on a free and harmonious relationship between nature and people, in which careful observation and thoughtful interaction provide the design inspiration, repertoire and patterns. It is not something that is generated in isolation, but through continuous and reciprocal interaction with the subject.

Permaculture uses these conditions to consciously and continuously evolve systems of land use and living that can sustain people through the era of energy descent.

So the proverb 'beauty is in the eye of the beholder' reminds us that the process of observing influences reality, and that we must always be circumspect about absolute truths and values.

I can be found in or around the garden on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Feel free to drop in to say 'hi' and have a cuppa.



## In Closing...

1. Care for the Earth
2. Care for People
3. Share the Excess



**'It is up to us to grow a better tomorrow' - "D"**