

Book of Proceedings

Hilton Harvest Community Garden



“How should we grow our community garden?”

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Attendees: Sam Wainwright, Janet Parker, Chrissie Yates, Sarah Rule, Ben Grassham, Leigh McGowan, Helen Whitkin, Matt Fossey, Nathan Rushton, Jess Fitzgerald, Amy Warne, Adam Peck, Wayne Cooke, Grace, Tanmayii Bulman, Valerie McCrudden, Polash Mondal, Claire Lasserre, Geralt Filipe, Fran Gibbons, Simon Rule, children and dogs.



Issue/topic: Community events at the Garden

Convenor: Helen

Other members: Wayne, Jess, Matt, Nathan, Fran, Tanmayi

Discussion notes, key understandings, outstanding questions, observations:

Twilight Fair is a lot of work, is it worth it? Creates a great community feeling and puts Hilton on the map, but all our other projects get dropped for 3-4 months. Explore funding to employ an event co-ordinator.

Try for more and smaller events – put together an event calendar to include:

- Workshops – both gardening and creative
- smaller (job specific) busy bees
- Shared meals/cook ups
- Vege swaps
- Equinox/solstice celebrations
- Movie nights
- After school gardening gatherings

Smaller events mean that 1-2 people can take the lead on them and that we can all work on whatever we are most passionate about. Also everyone (including participants) is time poor so small, manageable commitments are ideal.

Should we put out the word that the garden space is available for retiree groups, playgroups, etc to use. How to manage the use/key/maintenance issues.

More communal beds would encourage other groups to get involved – eg retirees could come and potter around. There was discussion around the need to personalize the individual beds to add some colour/life to the garden and make it a little clearer that they were leased by individuals. Maybe remove the street names to reduce confusion?



Issue/topic: Workshops/training

Convenor: Wayne

Other members: Jess, Matt, Nathan, Fran, Tanmayi, Helen

Discussion notes, key understandings, outstanding questions, observations:

- Calendar of events with community events ie communal meals, workshops
- Fees for external facilitator/presenter possible – internal members could also potentially be paid
- Important it is ongoing/regular enough to engage people
- Potentially late afternoon Mon-Fri rather than Sunday morning, challenging to get up on a Sunday morning!
- Events/training increase the exposure to community attending
- Time frames: consider easy-to-organise and small timeframes for people to attend ie one 2-hr session, rather than a 7-week course
- Insurance – check our policy covers workshops and events
- Potentially get seniors to share their knowledge
- Val: mosaic workshop to create something for garden





Issue/topic: Growing Fields/flowers

Convenor: Chrissie

Other members: Helen, Adam, Matt, Amy, jJess, Janet, Fran

Discussion notes, key understandings, outstanding questions, observations:

- Plant en masse – potatoes, pumpkins, onions, garlic, artichokes, rhubarb, shade
- Communal – community planting and harvesting to help build
- Tomato and basil crop, then harvest/sauce-making day
- Need to map out space to see what room we've got
- Put beds against the chook run – butting up against the fence
- 6 crops for rotation, plus perennial beds?
- Consider water needs when planting

Growing flowers:

- -passionfruit vines , native wisteria
- edge existing beds with flowers – poppies, daffodils
- natives – in addition to bush Tucker garden
- grow your own shade' umbrella structure over picnic table

Plant bamboo to harvest for garden stakes

Shade in summer:

Explore cost of very high large shade cloth over all the beds – perhaps in stages

Look at different shaped feature beds.



Issue/Topic: Compost

Convener: Amy

Other members: Ben, Adam, Nathan

Discussion notes, key understandings, outstanding questions, observations:

Compost should be available to all members

Feedstock sources include The Organic Collective, School (lunch scraps, lawn clippings).

Dry ingredients include shredded paper, cardboard and chook straw.

Need a roster to collect materials during the week before making brew on weekend.

School could collect lunch scraps.

3 composting systems: worm fridges, Gedye bins and hot compost bays.

Gather volunteers (Ben keen).





Issue/Topic: Opportunities for Communal Cooking @ the garden

Convener: Sarah R

Other Members: Chrissie, Matt, Sam, Grace, Wayne

Discussion notes, key understandings, outstanding questions, observations:

Ideas for communal cooking included; mulberry jam making, marmalade, olive pickling, pesto making, tomato sauce making.

The idea would be to use produce from the garden and/or the local community.

Just more fun to cook with friends.

Where to cook? Do we need outdoor kitchen? Have 2 well appointed kitchens that would be available for cook ups ie. the school canteen and the kitchen at the community centre.

Other ideas that would increase cooking opportunities include having a fire pit in the garden (potatoes in the coals) possibly in the Noongar seasons gazebo and a pizza oven.

We also need to create more beautiful places to eat and hang out in the garden. Putting a grape trellis over the existing picnic table and some sort of additional seating in that area would help.

Discussion moved into making the garden more cosy, less open, and the space better defined so that people may want to just go there and read a book or hang out.

Need to make mapping the space a priority.

The topic communal cooking is linked to community events and communal crops.



Issue/topic: External Stakeholder Engagement

Convenor: Leigh

Other members: Chrissy, Sam, Sarah, Polash, Ben, Claire, Amy, Janet

Discussion notes, key understandings, outstanding questions, observations:

The garden space needs to be planned – going ahead with every new initiative is no longer working. We need to be mindful of not overusing it.

There are many synergies between our projects and the ideas other organisations would like to implement at the garden. It's okay to explore them, but decisions are to come from the members to avoid the integrity of the garden as a community/grass roots group being lost.

Seek MOU with City of Fremantle for HHCG to be able to access the PCYC art workshop space + toilet as needed.

Janet works at Disability services and wrote the grant that has secured \$50 000 for HHCG. It includes a number of projects AND a wage of 8 hours per week for 96 weeks (@ \$30 per hour)

SMPHU can offer substantial resource support, but not funding. A wage (similar to the Disability Access grant) could be sought – Lotterywest, Healthway, Caring for Country. SMPHU would ideally like to see;

- Garden bed(s) for local Nyoongar groups/families
- Gazebo/Meeting place; incorporating the six Nyoongar seasons on the design.

HHCG needs to do a management plan and then seek support from SMPHU.

Other suggestions:

- Buddy system for new people at busy bees
- Are there Health and Safety issues with opening up the garden for greater (disability) access
- We should approach Hilton PS about using the oval for events (Twilight fair) so we don't need to save space for it in the garden.
- Link in with Hilton PS to support their initiative to be a waste wise school.

Time! – will sort a lot of these issues out.



Issue/topic: Making Hilton Harvest a Resource

Convenor: Ben Gressham

Other members: Wayne, Claire, Grace, Valerie, Tanmayii, Sam, Leigh

Discussion notes, key understandings, outstanding questions, observations:

Lets collect our own seeds; after 2/3 generations the seed will be adapting to local Hilton conditions. For sale or swap.

Build a hothouse to grow seedlings for sale (minimal price) to members (for home or garden use) and for sale at events.

Grow HH as a meeting place for people who have their own gardens – eg. A good quality mulcher, produce swaps, workshops.

Workshops; longer ones OR incorporate a short ½ hour workshop/info session/conversation/short film at busy bees;

Ideas:

- Liquid fertiliser
- Worm farms
- Seed collecting/saving
- Different composting techniques
- Animals and gardening
- Aquaponics/hydroponics
- Garden design
- Pest control
- Companion planting
- Basic horticultural info on specific plants/ plantings for that time of year
- Planting to support solar passive house design
- Bush Tucker



Issue/topic: Creativity in the Garden

Convenor: Leigh McGowan

Other members: Wayne, Helen, Jess, Janet, Grace (and Quinn), Claire, Valerie

Discussion notes, key understandings, outstanding questions, observations:

We want more of it! Big projects as well as little ones that could be completed during a busy bee.

It needs to be robust for longevity.

Ideas:

- Public Art
- Mosaics (2 local Mosaic artists: Valerie and also Robyn Varpins, who has just moved in to Hilton) – big projects that are visually appealing as well as signage
- Sculptures
- Signpost in the middle of the garden with posts pointing to the different areas of the garden
- Murals on shed
- Local artists
- Plaques for Orchard/Bushtucker – what the plant is, who donated it
- Tree House
- Archway
- Living tepee
- A big swing
- Nature Play
- Artists grants from City of Fremantle
- Mural on sheds by local indigenous artists
- Sensory Garden/performance space – Sensorium and Dadaa workshops





Table 1: Assigning priorities to issue/topic (7 votes per person)

| Issue/topic | Votes |
|---|-----------|
| External stakeholders/social inclusion project | 13 |
| Community events at the garden | 12 |
| More 'mini fields' like asparagus one | 11 |
| Creativity in the Garden | 11 |
| <i>Map space of garden/plan priorities</i> | <i>11</i> |
| <i>Seed bank</i> | <i>10</i> |
| <i>Completing existing projects</i> | <i>8</i> |
| Communal harvesting/cooking | 8 |
| Composting | 6 |
| <i>Shade sails for summer</i> | <i>6</i> |
| Make HH a resource for people with own garden | 6 |
| <i>Help Hilton PS become a wastewise school</i> | <i>4</i> |
| Growing flowers | 2 |

NB: Issues in italics are topics which were discussed during sessions which were considered important enough to create separate issues to vote on.

