

Hilton Harvest Community Garden Chairpersons Report 2017

Welcome to our eighth AGM. With the vision presented at last years AGM, our garden has matured and grown in a wonderful, sustainable and engaging way.

Thanks to the commitment and energy of our committee, our regular volunteers, our members, the local community and the support of local Council.

As a reminder OUR VISION is that "Hilton Harvest Community Garden is a hub for gardening, community building and education anchored in sustainability"

OUR OBJECTIVES are to:

- Nurture people's interest in gardening by demonstrating organic gardening practices
- Provide a public green space that encourages social interaction in the community to strengthen social inclusion
- Bring people together through participatory activities in the garden to share information on everyday sustainable living

This report includes some of the highlights of the past year. As I tell you about these events I invite you listen to the meaning behind the words. To me all these events reflect a community garden that has managed to grow without losing its grass roots ethos, and one which enables a love of humanity and planet earth.

- **Vision Implementation**

There have been many structural changes to the garden, such as fencing, more compost bays, new plot holders area, tree planting and the community bed area is also under way. There are many other aspects of the vision which have been implemented and the committee continually refer back to this document for reference and guidance.

- **Plot holders beds**

Thanks to our plot holders who have so readily embraced a new style of gardening. Under the expert guidance of Dave our beds were constructed using a special soil blend recommended by Harry, and mixed through with our new broad fork. We have also moved to an overhead sprinkler watering system. The beds look amazing, providing an abundance of produce and holding the interest of our many visitors.

- **Work for the Dole**

The WFTD community volunteers have continued to work in the garden under supervision of Dave and Robyn. This program has become a much valued and integral part of Hilton Harvest. As I said last year *"It has been an absolute pleasure to watch the garden transform with a degree of quality and craftsmanship that reflects the passion and love that this community holds for our community garden."*

- **Interpretive Signs**

Interpretative signs have been installed in the Native Garden, which looks amazing, thank to Amy and the other volunteers who worked on this project. Other signs have been installed for plot holders, community beds, composting bays and more are planned as works are completed.

- **Buds n Blooms**

The Buds n Blooms Inter-generational gardening program now in its 4th year has continued to flourish. Thank you to Sarah Nix who has delivered an amazing program over the past year. This has attracted many new families to the garden and strengthened partnerships with organisations such as Playgroup WA, Buggles Day care and Hilton Primary School. This year the program has mostly been funded by Hilton Harvest, with some support from Fremantle City Council. Sarah is now taking some time out after having her third bub and so we are very pleased to welcome Leigh as the new Buds n Blooms Facilitator. Thanks to Fred for being our star 'elder' at Buds 'n' Blooms

- **Earth Hour Picnic 2017**

Our Earth Hour Picnic was a great success this year. Replacing our annual Twilight Fair we had about 1000 people attend for great music, food, gardening, star gazing and social catch up. This year we charged an entrance fee and offered only Hilton Harvest run activities. Big thanks to Amy for steering the organization of this event and all the volunteers who contributed with planning and on the day.

- **Seedling Shelter Grant**

Sarah Nix secured a grant last year to build a seedling shelter in the garden. The planning and approval for this project has been worked on extensively throughout this year. It will be built at some stage next year and we look forward to planning in more detail how to maximize its potential use for the whole community.

- **Monday and Saturday Gardening**

Huge thankyou to our Amy who has facilitated the Monday gardening group and to Nate and Kiera who have facilitated Saturday morning gardening. Sometimes social, sometimes serious gardening or sometimes pottering, this regular work has helped to shape the garden in so many ways. Thanks to all the volunteers who have joined these gardening mornings throughout the year.

- **Chook Club**

Chook Club runs on Thursdays after school started just over a year ago and is well loved by many of our local families. Thanks to Amandine who now facilitates this program and has done a great job engaging children who attend the PCYC After School Program.

- **Sustainable House Day**

This year we hosted 2 bus loads (about 90 people) for a quiche, salad and pizza lunch as part of the Nations Annual sustainable house day celebration. Thanks to Amy for organizing this and all those involved with volunteering on the day. It's always a good fundraising event.

- **Gardening for Beginners Course**

We ran the gardening for beginners course again this year. Thanks to the amazing gardening duo, Amy and Sarah for all your efforts in putting this course together and we look forward to it being a regular annual event.

- **Social Media**

We now have a Facebook Page as well as a Facebook group (which has over 1000members).. We are also now on Instagram, thanks to Kiera. Our e-newsletter is sent monthly and all our events are shared on facebook.

- **The Great Hilton Harvest Olive Oil Press**

Between us all we picked about 1000kg of olives from the "Greater Hilton" area Special thanks to Amy, Nate, Sarah and your families for taking our olives to York for pressing and then distributing it all back to us and turned into ??? many litres of our special Hilton Harvest blend.

Some new happenings this year...

- **Movie Nights**

We hosted 2 movie nights this year, one to celebrate Winter Solstice thankyou to Rochelle for this inspiration and organizing the night. The other movie was shown to celebrate Plastic Free July, thanks to Amy and Quincey.

- **Lance Holt After school gardening Tuesdays**
- **Community Composting Bank**

With the assistance of a Waste Authority grant we have established a community composting bank. Food scraps are collected from The Local café weekly and the compost bays are open for use by the local community. Thank you to Amy for making this all happen.

- **Christmas Carols**

Last Christmas we held our first ever Christmas Carols in the garden. St Patrick's Starlight Choir sang for us, and we had a guest appearance from Santa and the Bendigo Bank pig. It was a really lovely community event, sharing a meal, singing songs as the sunset behind the eucalyptus tree.

- **Garden Gurus**

We featured on Channel 9's Garden Guru's TV show last month.

A few more thankyou's...

None of these events, projects and the growth in the garden is possible without both a strong and active committee.

Thank you to Dave, Nate, Sarah, Rochelle, Amandine and Leigh for all that you have done this year. I would like to make special thankyou to

- Amy, for all your Secretarial amazingness, endless inspiration, ideas, energy and presence in the garden every week.

- Davina, our Vice Chair extraordinaire, thank you for updating our membership records and starting the process of reviewing our Constitution.
- Michelle, our wonderful Treasurer, thank you for keeping us on track financially and with the strategic planning for our vision implementation.

Finally, thank you to you, our members, plot holders and community for being a part of Hilton Harvest Community Garden.