

Sustainable Macleod News January 2018.



Newsletter January 2018

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Macleod Vegie Swap

The next Macleod Vegie Swap is on Saturday 21 January 11am - 12noon in the Rotunda in Macleod Park opposite the Macleod Village shops in Aberdeen Street. For GPS we are in the park opposite the newsagent at 62 Aberdeen Street.

Roster for set up and clean up: all of us!

Seed Bank: Urgent need for more seeds! Please give them to Sandra Macneil or bring bulk lots to vegie swap for packaging.

December Swaps

We swapped the following in December: 17 kg of fruit and veg, 19 bunches of herbs, 2 bunches of flowers, 11 jars of preserves, 59 packets of seeds, 401 plants, kamboucha scobie and drink, water kefir drink and grains, magazines, newspapers and egg cartons, jars and bottles, and chook poo.



Upcoming events

First Saturday-of-the-month at the Community Garden Big Working

Bee 1 - 5pm: 3 January. Garlic distribution day.

Macleod Vegie Swaps at the Rotunda 3rd Saturday of the month - 20 January, 17 February etc

February Sustainable Living Festival - activities everywhere including the festival along the Yarra!

Transition Network News

Advance Notice of 'Transition to a Safe Climate' May 4 and 5 2018. Ian Dunlop to speak on the evening of Friday 4 May.

Transition Banyule, Sustainable Macleod, Macleod College, Monty Community Group, T3081, Transition Warringal and Transition Greensborough are combining to present 'Transition to a Safe Climate' with keynote speaker Ian Dunlop next May. Ian is a former international executive in the coal and oil

industry who is now an activist for climate change and a phenomenal speaker. We are thrilled that Ian has accepted our invitation to speak. Some of us who have previously heard him speak were inspired to develop this conference/workshop. You might also have heard him recently on the ABC.

Ian will speak on Friday evening, and Saturday will be devoted to working on solutions that can be implemented in our community and contribute to Banyule City Council's energy plan. Both events will be held at Macleod College and childcare will be available on the Saturday with an art program for children to envision a world they would like to live in.

You can hear Ian on the ABC Big Ideas program: [Australia's Oil Vulnerability](#)

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Sustainable Macleod Membership fees for 2018

Membership fees for 2018 are due on 1 January 2018.

Fees are \$25 per year per person.

This year we ask you either to pay directly into our bank account - BSB 633108 Account no. 153226782 - or give your money to our treasurer Chris Newman. No forms to fill in!

Please add 'Mship' and your surname when you pay into our bank account! If you forget, send us an email with the date and amount of your payment please.



We will save about \$1.25 per person by doing it this way which on current membership saves about \$160 a year.

News from the shops

Chris the Cobbler opening for business on 5 March!

We are indeed lucky that as from March, Macleod will be the new home of Chris the Cobbler, for many years a Rosanna institution, and a true sustainable business. Chris will be in the former Milk Bar between Ray White Real Estate and Macleod Pharmacy at 68 Aberdeen Road. For those new to the area, Chris repairs shoes, belts, handbags - in fact all things leather. Welcome, Chris! His website: [Chris the Cobbler](#)

Sweet Mocha for sale.

Our phenomenal ice cream and gelati, cake and chocolate shop is for sale. See Jason if you would like to own and run this fabulous business.

Shop local to preserve our shopping strips and build our local economy!

Potluck dinner - Monday 22 January

This will be held at the community garden and the pizza oven will be fired up on Monday 22 January 6.30pm. Our monthly meeting will start at 7.45pm. Please bring food to share and Sustainable Macleod will supply pizza toppings.

Gold coin donation appreciated.



Our Christmas and New Year's Eve parties

We had 40 people attend our Christmas party and the launch of our pizza oven. 50 pizzas were cooked on the night. Well done in particular to Chris and Matt for producing a terrific pizza dough and doing the cooking. Hot work on a hot night.

On New Year's Eve we exceeded our Christmas party numbers with 46



attendees plus 6 children, and again the pizza oven was fired up and we had wonderful pizzas plus a feast of other food. One person said to me: 'It's amazing - all the salads have gone and there is still some dessert left'.

Both occasions were a lot of fun.

Macleod Organic Community Garden News!

Construction

The pizza oven had its seven firings and was launched with great success on 15 December at our Christmas party. So far it has cooked close to 100 pizzas. The polytunnel will be ready either Saturday or the next warm day for its plastic to be stretched and secured. Putting the plastic



covering on, requires a hot day for best results. The heat allows it to be pulled tight and this prevents flapping in the wind and wear and tear.

Planting, weeding, watering and that very hot day!

We pulled out all weeds and plants that were finished, and which we were not saving for seed, so that they didn't compete for water in the hot weather. In addition we mulched everything in sight and deep watered in the week before the 41 degree day plus put up shade cloth where possible. We had no discernible damage on that 41 degree day other than a few sunburned tomatoes when one of the tomatoes collapsed under the weight of its fruit, exposing the fruit which would normally be protected by the leaves above it. We fixed this by tying the branches higher up the stake and removed the damaged fruit. (Sunburn shows as white patches or blisters and is irreversible).

The rhubarb garden was treated to shade cloth on top of the trellis and a curtain of it facing the west side. This proved interesting as it did not cover one plant on one end and two on the other and these 3 plants were quite wilted after the very hot day but those behind the curtain were fine. Members have reported sunburn to fruit such as apples and berries in their gardens when shade cloth was not used.

The bale garden is fully planted and progressing well. We've learned a few tricks that will improve next year's bale garden. In the end, because of the

need to prepare the garden for the hot weather, we reduced the number of bales from 20 to 10 and used the spare 10 to mulch the zucchini and fruit trees.

Watering has been much reduced this year primarily because there has been sufficient regular rainfall and the trees are established. We have given each fruit tree about 27L of tank water compared to about 100 L to the same time last year when they were just coming into their second summer and required this support.

Harvest

Lettuce, rainbow chard, rhubarb, carrot, beetroot, leeks, cucumber, zucchini, tomato, basil, herbs, strawberries, red currents, apricots, peaches, figs and a few beans.

We need the following for the garden:

- shade cloth - urgently!
- sieves of any kind (household or garden)
- watering cans
- buckets
- worms
- worm wee
- large plastic storage boxes with lids
- star pickets and their yellow caps
- hoses
- buckets
- seed
- leftover fertiliser such as citrus food, seasol, maxicrop
- gardening tools
- plant tags



January and February Community Garden Opening Hours

Wednesdays and Saturdays 1 - 5pm

Monday evenings 5 - 7pm

First Saturday of the Month at the Community Garden

Saturday 3 February 1 - 5pm. Garlic distribution Saturday!

Come for as long or as short a time as you can manage. This is a great opportunity to both contribute to the life of Sustainable Macleod and the community garden, meet lots of members and take away delicious, fresh, organic vegetables. There'll be a delicious afternoon tea and a great variety of jobs to choose from and new skills to learn. Come along and have a great time!



Please email us if you would like organically grown garlic from the community garden. This is free to members. Join up if you would like some! sustainablemacleod@gmail.com

Sustainable Macleod Inc News

Welcome to new members: Membership now stands at 135 paid members. Welcome to Karen and Michael, Anne H, Leah, Leigh, Anne C, Rebecca, Owen, Louise and Chris.

For benefits of joining [click here](#). For joining online [click here](#).

Facebook and Instagram

Social media is the way we keep in touch with members and non members alike throughout the month. This means we can limit our emails to 2 at the most, including this newsletter. **Sustainable Macleod's Facebook** group is a rich source of questions, answers, photos (what's this?) and discussion as well as reminders of upcoming events. We encourage you to join. Dianne Lacroix will help you with Facebook if you need that. Join the FB group at: [Sustainable](#)

[Macleod Facebook](#)

Carolyn Morrissey has set up an **Instagram** account for us too so please follow **macleod_ocg** if you are on Instagram.

Advance notice of AGM

This will be held at 8pm on Monday 19 March 2018 at the Macleod Organic Community Garden, Somers Avenue, Macleod.

Tool Library

Our tool library is up and running. Come to the garden to inspect it yourself. Please note that we do not have electrically powered tools as we have no electricity to the community garden.

Plant sales

All up we sold over \$2000 of plants from October to December, all of which went into the Sustainable Macleod coffers and supports the community garden.

Wanted: someone to do some data entry

We need someone to enter the monthly harvest from the community garden onto a spreadsheet and then onto the web page and do the same for the produce at the vegie swap. Emily is available to advise on how to do this in relation to our website.

Urban Shepherd Workshops

Robin's Workshops

Seeds! Collecting, drying and storing vegetable seed.

Monday, 19 February, 1 - 3 pm. \$30

Planting for a Changing Climate Learn how to adjust your autumn/winter planting schedule in line with climate change.

Monday, 19 March, 1 - 3 pm. \$30

Growing Great Garlic! Learn how to grow garlic successfully.

Monday, 9 April, 1 - 3 pm. \$30

Paul's Workshops

Young Gardeners Join your youngsters in learning to successfully grow your own food. Saturday, 3 February, 10 am - 12 pm. \$30 (Adults - children free)

Gardening 101 Answering all those questions about growing successful vegetables.

Saturday 24 March 10 - 12 pm. \$30

All workshops held at 5 Fairlie Ave Macleod. Full workshop descriptions at www.urbanshepherd.com.au/workshops

To enrol call Paul - 0408 733 683
urbanshepherd.com.au





Rotary
Club of Ivanhoe (Vic) Inc.

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST
DR RODNEY SYME
The Voluntary Assisted Dying
Act and Its Implications

Wednesday 7 February
2018
7.30 - 9.00 am

Venue : Sala Venezia Room
Veneto Club 191 Bulleen Rd Bulleen

Booking through
TRY BOOKING
www.trybooking.com/337092

COST \$45

Bookings close 1 February 2018

Further information:
judimot25@gmail.com

Funds support
Waratah Special School
Bellfield

Garden Hints

Watering in the summer

With the likelihood of more very high temperatures, it is important to understand the purpose of watering. The purpose is to hydrate plants very well BEFORE the hot weather hits. This means deep watering 2 -3 times in the week before the day the temperature soars. Deep watering means watering onto the earth around the roots of the plants or under the dripline of fruit trees. Have the hose running fast and count to 10 slowly to ensure there is enough water going into the soil but make sure you do not wash away soil from the roots. Filtering it through mulch works well. Then do it again at least 5 minutes later if the soil has been dry as the first watering will 'prepare' it to absorb sufficient water the second time around. Watering the leaves is next to useless, moving the hose at random up and down and around also useless, and watering shallowly or for just a second or two just a waste of water. Remember if the water does not penetrate the soil deeply, it is not

going to get to the roots of the plant and will not be drawn up through the stems and leaves and into the fruit. Watering properly also prevents blossom end rot in capsicum, tomato, eggplant and zucchini.

Bee toxins - Yates Confidor

If you have had a problem with pollination or lack thereof it may be due to the effects of a toxin found in Yates Confidor which will be removed from shelves by the end of 2018. It contains the toxin 'nicotinoid imidacloprid' which is fatal to bees and other insects in tiny concentrations. It gets into leaves and flowers and then is ingested by the bee or insect. The following link from Wikipedia goes into detail about the effect on insects. Meanwhile avoid using this product in your garden.

Link: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imidacloprid>

Thanks to John Merory for this information.

Snippets

All the things that happen outside event times!

- Sandra has dried seeds and filled seed packets
- Robin wrote the newsletter and Paul did the photos
- Chris paid the bills and did the banking
- Chris and Terry cut more keys
- Chris purchased tools for the tool library
- Mark, Terry, Chris and Paul erected the polytunnel frame and dug (and drained) 20 postholes



First zucchinis of the year!

- Mark, Terry, Chris and Paul pushed and manoeuvred the shipping container into place
- Chris and Matt made tons of pizza dough!
- Di, Chris and Robin prepared pizza toppings for New Year's Eve



Thanks to Banyule City Council's
Community Development office for
our new tool library.

**Good gardening and transitioning. Happy New Year!
Robin and Paul**