

# Leaflet

## Simply Living Community Garden Newsletter

**The garden is located at Port Melbourne Uniting Church, 144 Bridge St Port Melbourne**

### Contacts

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### Diary Dates

#### Monday gardening

Families: 12-1pm  
All ages: 1-2 pm

#### Garden (working) Bees

3rd Sat, 10-11am  
17 Dec, 21 Jan, 18 Feb

#### Make & Mend

1st & 3rd Wed, 1-4 pm

#### Subscribe to Leaflet

If you would like to be added to the "Leaflet" email list (get it first, in colour, save paper and get monthly updates about activities) please send a message to: janet.hoare@southportuniting.org.au

### Garden update

A whole two seasons have come and gone since the last issue of Leaflet.

Our winter garden was very productive with lots of warrigal greens, lettuce, broccoli, parsley, rocket, radishes, broad beans and sugar snap peas

We are in seasonal transition with our spring crops finishing and our summer crops starting to grow. We still have lots of warrigal greens, herbs, a few peas and beans and some lettuces and spring onions.

Signs are up to remind people to "cut and come again" when harvesting lettuce, silver beet and spring onions. It is much faster to leave the plants to regrow than to start from scratch planting from seed.

This year's summer plantings so far include tomatoes, climbing beans, zucchinis, sun flowers, capsicum and potatoes (in pots).

We also have some marigolds to brighten the garden and act as pest repellent.

The plum trees are laden with fruit and will be ripening during late December-early January.

Our courtyard behind the church has been brightened by a new gumboot garden, planted by the children.

A few more have been added since this photo was taken.



### Wildflower garden

At our Garden Wildlife day in September, a variety of new indigenous plants were added to the Wildflower garden at the front of the church (see picture). These will provide even more opportunities for pollinators and other beneficial insects.



If you sit quietly on a sunny day you will see a variety of butterflies, bees, bugs, beetles, flies, spiders and other critters visiting the flowers or finding a home amongst the grasses.

Some pollinators are quite small, such as this Australian Carpet Beetle, *Anthrenocerus australis*.



We are very happy that this garden is contributing to the Melbourne Pollinator Corridor Project to help our native pollinators and conserve biodiversity in our local area.

### Compost

As we prepare for summer planting we are making use of the wonderful compost that has been created in our community compost bays.

A big Thank You to everyone who contributes to the compost, especially those who bring shredded paper and brown stuff and those who turn up to the working bees to help turn it over each month.

### Fruit fly reminder

Please check all fruit (including vegetables that are fruits) for evidence of fruit fly before putting in the compost. NEVER put fruit that has eggs or maggots in the compost.

The Department of Agriculture advises putting affected fruit in the freezer for several days or thoroughly cooking, then disposing in the rubbish (NOT the compost).

See <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/pest-insects-and-mites/priority-pest-insects-and-mites/queensland-fruit-fly> for more information.



Uniting Church  
SOUTH PORT

The Simply Living Community Garden was built in 2008 with support from the City of Port Phillip Community Grants Program



### Plant biosecurity

Next autumn we will be participating in the Citrus Australia CitrusWatch program which monitors for imported pests that could be devastating to Australian crops and gardens. Specifically, we will be monitoring for Asian Citrus Psyllid which has so far been kept out of Australia.

### Skill sharing opportunities

During the past few months we have run a winter pruning workshop and two basic sewing workshops. More workshops are being planned for early 2023, including summer pruning of the fruit trees, another sewing workshop and a plant biosecurity workshop.

We are also planning more wildflower planting to complement the Melbourne Pollinator Corridor, this time at the Uniting Church in Dorcas St.

Look out for more news about these in the monthly email updates in 2023.

### Garden working bees

10-11 am, 3rd Saturday of the month and 1-2 pm, Mondays. Each month there is a special focus on a garden skill or seasonal job as well as routine garden maintenance.

Please wear suitable clothing, including enclosed shoes and sun protection, bring your own water bottle and hand tools/bucket if you have them.

### Family & social Gardening

Mondays

Families 12-1pm term time; All ages 1-2 pm

Enjoy doing seasonal gardening activities with other people. Get your hands into the soil or take a close look at garden critters. Bring your gardening questions or share your knowledge.

*Monday gardening will be in recess for a few weeks after Christmas, resuming on Monday 23rd Jan.*

### Make & Mend

1-4 pm, 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month in the church hall.

Drop in sewing, crafting, mending and more. Bring your own project or help make something for our community. Sewing machines are available for use and afternoon tea is provided.



### Feature plant—Bronze fennel

Bronze fennel, *Foeniculum vulgare purpurascens*, is a perennial ornamental fennel variety grown for its bronze coloured feathery foliage. It doesn't form a bulb like other fennel varieties but it can be used like regular fennel in cooking as a flavouring, garnish and an additional to salads. The seeds can be used as a spice to flavour both sweet and savoury dishes.

The main reason we grow this fennel is that it is very attractive to ladybirds and is part of our pest management

system. In mid-late summer you will find the plant covered with immature and adult ladybirds.

The larvae feed on aphids and the adults feed on the pollen (as shown in photo). The pithy stems are used in our insect hotels (which also provide winter shelter for the ladybirds).



Like other fennels this plant easily self-seeds and can be an environmental weed.

### Church news

The congregations of Port Melbourne, South Melbourne and St Kilda are forming a new regional congregation. From 11th December the main worship service will be at 10 am at the Uniting Church in South Melbourne, 325 Dorcas St. The ministry team will be Rev John Tansey and Rev Alex Sangster.

All the other activities held at Port Melbourne, including the garden and skill sharing, will continue as usual.

### Christmas services

All will be held at South Melbourne:

#### Carols on the Lawn

Thursday 15th December

7-8 pm . BYO picnic (and picnic rug) at 6.30.

#### Simply Being meditation

Thursday 22nd December

6.30 pm, bring food to share

#### Christmas Eve

Saturday 24th December

6.30 pm, Meditation around the cradle

#### Christmas Day

Sunday 25th December

9.30 am,

### Thank you

Once again a big thank you to everyone who has contributed to the care and maintenance of our garden throughout the year!

### Picking from the garden

*Everyone is welcome to pick from the garden for their personal use. The only things we ask are that you:*

- *pick only what you need for your family today,*
- *take care with the plants so that they can continue to grow and produce more for everyone. The only whole plants that may be taken are the root vegies, (radishes, carrots, beetroot), onions and cabbages.*
- *contribute to the garden in some way, such as: bringing shredded paper for composting, watering the garden, helping out at working bees, or making a donation (which could be cash, plants, manure, garden stakes, wire mesh, tools, etc.)*