

Garden Managers Report –8th March 2014

I would like to thank Steve and his staff for their assistance in helping us establish the communal garden area. I wish to thank everyone else who has assisted in this community based project.

My ultimate aim is for us to be able to provide any excess produce to those who may need it more than us e.g. local charitable organisations who may distribute it.

The communal area is looking better now we have two working bees happening each week. I would like to thank the Wed/Thursday group for their input into establishing the new Potato bed. The weeding, clearing, turning, digging in manure, seaweed and top soil and then turning it all in again.

The composting toilet has had an interesting design drawn by our resident architect Rod Hayes. His design is (in my eyes) outstanding as it is not the normal toilet and will make an extraordinary addition to our already extraordinary community garden.

We still have much to do:

Repair Hot House, reconstruct green house & build the toilet as well as construct our roadway through the communal area.

An idea I have expressed is to plant Marigolds around the perimeter of the road and have the Herb beds between the new Potato patch and the Marigolds--Marigolds are a companion plant which allow pests to attack them and leave the Herbs alone.

I have contacted Alan Baxter to see if he will donate a large quantity of saw dust to use as a road base. Gail has said that is OK. I have spoken with Gary Wallington and he is able to assist us with the loading and transportation when he is back from working up north on Wednesday. I believe Steve has a day's work for Gary at the ANU. We may be able to piggy back which may save costs for us.

The idea of an arbor is still firmly in my mind and I have spoken with Steve extensively and he is of the same opinion that we have an area each side of the road (north west) corner to have trees e.g. Macadamia and Hazelnuts to create this arbor/haven. Eventually we may wish to build benches there.

If anybody has spoken with Steve lately you will realise that the Community Garden is not the be all and end all of our association with Steve and the ANU. Many more things to come.

All in all a very exciting time ahead for us all.

Malcolm Salmon
MCG Garden Manager