

# Healesville Community Garden

## Annual Report 2023



95 River Street (Coronation Park), Healesville Vic 3777

<https://www.healesvillecommunitygarden.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/HealesvilleCommunitygarden>

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ABN: 62 113 201 211

## Statement of purpose

- Empower people to create more sustainable ways to live for the environment, individuals, communities and our local economy
- Provide access to healthy, nutritious food
- Promote community connectedness by providing community members an opportunity to meet, share ideas, skills and work together
- Provide an area for recreation, exercise, food production, creativity and an appreciation of living things
- Create a sense of wellness and belonging
- Provide gardening opportunities for a broad cross section of the community including individuals and groups from a variety of backgrounds and capabilities



*The December 2023 Pathways for Carers walking group. Pathways for Carers, funded through Yarra Ranges Council, offers carers an opportunity to share walks together and learn more about news, services and support available to carers. They are joined on the walk by representatives from local organisations and chose Healesville Community Garden for their end-of-year celebration.*

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## Committee members 2023

President: Ethne Pfeiffer  
Vice President: Betty Martens / Marcus Kaye  
Secretary: Mark Skolnik / Bev Gilbert  
Treasurer: Barbara Laug

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## Committee members 2024

President: Ethne Pfeiffer  
Vice President: Cliff Overton  
Secretary: Mark Skolnik  
Treasurer: Barbara Laug

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## Members 2023

24 Plot holders  
6 Social members  
1 Organisation member

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## Plots 2023

22 Plots  
4 Communal plots  
15 Polyhouse planter boxes

# President's report

This report covers activity from January – December 2023.

Thank you to all our hardworking members for their efforts across a busy year – as well as our funders and supporters who made a great deal possible for Healesville Community Garden.

I acknowledge the work of our committee members:

- Treasurer – Barbara Laug
- Vice President – Betty Martens and Marcus Kaye (respectively)
- Secretary – Marc Skolnic and Bev Gilbert (respectively)
- Ordinary Member – Marc Skolnic

And give a special thank you to:

- Working group leaders and contributors – Barbara Laug, Bruce McMicking, Michael Brewster, Cliff Overton, Dale Prentice, Jill Fleming
- Site and compost hub management – Bruce McMicking
- Equipment and site repairs – Michael Brewster
- Workshop presenter – Marcus Kaye
- Planting the Seeds project – Marcus Kaye (seed raising, planting, harvesting and food distribution)
- Monthly working bees – Barbara Laug
- Artwork installation – Cliff Overton (Woiwurrung language signs and small sculptures)
- Our volunteers – Bev Gilbert and Tina D'Angelo

## **Governance and membership**

- We held a Special General Meeting, April 2023, to adopt the Model Rules for an Incorporated Association (Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012), change the financial year to 'ending 31 December' and accept the purpose of the association
- By December, 100% of the polyhouse planter boxes and 96% of the garden plots were let. We were thrilled to welcome 8 new members and thank existing members for their ongoing support.
- Our members handbook and site management guide were updated
- We reviewed our Child Safe policy and developed a Child Safe Commitment and Obligations document which was presented at the September members meeting. The presentation document was shared with the Community Gardens Network (Yarra Ranges) in October as a resource that can be used by other community gardens.

## Grants

- *Victorian Government 'Our Suburbs: Living Local' grant (2022-23)*. Works included signage at the entrance to the garden and across the site, polyhouse upgrade (new plastic cover, a row of new planter boxes and a wider path in front of the new planter boxes), adding flood-proof shelving to the shed, grading the main path and laying new gravel, installing a solar-powered security camera, purchasing new chairs and bench, purchasing a new shed lock and keys, plus a range of consumable items.
- *Community Bank Healesville (2023)*. We were successful in our application for a small grant to print banners for events.
- *Federal Volunteers Grant (2023-24)*. We successfully applied to Aaron Violi MP, Federal Member for Casey for this grant. We progressed to the next stage of the selection process and are awaiting the outcome.
- *Yarra Ranges Council Community Development grant (2024)*. Funding is to support our events in 2024 (including presenters' costs, event expenses and promotions).
- *Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal grant (2024)*. We applied for funding to instal a new water tank in the south-east corner of the garden, butterfly vents for the polyhouse, replace old planter boxes in the polyhouse and finish work on the main path.

The site was maintained to a good standard throughout the year by several dedicated members. This included plantings in communal areas to grow food and reduce weeds, regular mowing and weeding, and keeping the easement and fence lines clear. Further work needs to be done on the fence lines to manage grass and weeds.

The informal monthly working bees (which are in addition to our quarterly working bees for all members) have been a wonderful way for members to meet their 2 hours/month obligation to keep the garden tidy and get to know other garden members.

The community compost hub was managed by a few members, primarily Bruce McMicking. After the introduction of FOGO bins, there was a significant reduction in contributions by the community, but some residents continue to bring their food scraps. The hub is still viable as a compost system for the community garden.

## Events

We initiated, or were the venue for, an exciting range of events.

These included:

- *Succulent Workshop* – March (presented by Marcus Kaye)
- *Healesville Homegrown Food Fair* – April (attended by Cr Fiona McAllister, Ryrie Ward with a Welcome to Country by Thane Garvey-Gannaway and stalls by a wide range of community groups and Community Bank Healesville)
- *Mushroom Walks x 2* – May (led by Marcus Kaye)
- *Training Exercise for CFA Volunteers, Healesville Fire Brigade* – May (led by Cliff Overton, garden member and CFA fire fighter)
- *Yarra Ranges Council's School Holiday Activities* – July (site visit led by Michelle Lehmann, Early Years Community Support Officer)
- *Hidden Story Books* – July (school holiday activity initiated by The Mental Project, led by Steve Curry)
- *Spring into Spring Gardening Workshop* – October (presented by Marcus Kaye)
- *Gardening in Small Spaces Workshop* – November (presented by Marcus Kaye)
- *Community Gardens Open Day* – November (inaugural event initiated by Community Gardens Australia)
- Social gathering for members – December (many members joined in and brought food and drink to share)
- *Pathways for Carers Walk* – December (end-of-year celebration for this carers group)

## Stakeholder relations and community engagement

We maintained a positive relationship with Yarra Ranges Council workers (including the Parks and Bushlands team, Community Development Officers and the grants team).

We also maintained positive relationships with Healesville Library, Permaculture Yarra Valley, the Community Alliance for Waste Reduction and Sustainability, HICCI, Healesville Connect and Healesville Bowling Club. Healesville Connect continues to be a close collaborator and supporter of the community garden.

We were invited to give a presentation at the Yarra Ranges Council's 2024 Annual Grants recipients celebration in December 2023.

We attended Community Gardens Network meetings, participated in a video to promote Healesville Community Garden and were chosen to be the venue for the *Art of Pizza Making* workshop in 2024.

We were invited by Eastern Health's Health Promotion Officers to participate in their 'Over 50s Active Living Survey'.



## Communications and promotions

- Sent regular newsletter and email updates to members and supporters
- Article in *Star Mail (Mountain Views)* on the Healesville Homegrown Food Fair
- Were interviewed on Yarra Valley FM in March and September to promote the garden
- Regularly posted to the garden's Facebook page and increased page followers from 761 to 917: <https://www.facebook.com/HealesvilleCommunitygarden>
- Maintained the garden's website: <https://foodpatchart.wixsite.com/healesvillegarden>
- Promoted garden events in the *Valley Update* (Yarra Ranges Council's e-newsletter)

## Healesville Community Garden logo

A new logo design was voted on at the November members meeting.

## Looking ahead

Our garden members, community members, visitors, Yarra Ranges Council and community groups see the value of the community garden in Healesville, and we will continue to enhance the site in 2024.

We thank our members and supporters for working with us to:

- Bring our purpose to life in so many exciting ways
- Manage our resources
- Be a trusted tenant and neighbour in this parkland
- Contribute to our community

Ethne Pfeiffer  
*President*



*We are privileged to have a direct connection to Wurundjeri Woiwurrung culture through Wurundjeri artists and elders.*

<b>Healesville Community Garden Financials January - December 2023</b>			
	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Income</b>	
Capital expenses	\$ 9,569.73		
Rates, licenses, fees	\$ 297.30		
Building maintenance	\$ 2,860.00		
Consumables	\$ 751.68		
Equipment maintenance	\$ 47.22		
Garden maintenance	\$ 164.25		
Administration expenses, stationery	\$ 140.03		
Healesville Homegrown Food Fair	\$ 1,599.66		
Sundry	\$ 324.66		
Joining fees		\$ 210.00	
Annual fees		\$ 250.00	
Plot fees		\$ 1,050.00	
Planter box fees		\$ 140.00	
Grants (see below)		\$ 8,564.00	
Fundraising		\$ 172.20	
Donations		\$ 53.50	
Sundry		\$ 29.99	
	<b>\$ 15,754.53</b>	<b>\$ 10,469.69</b>	
<b>Grants</b>			
	<b>Received</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Remaining</b>
Living Local grant (previous financial year)	\$ 12,455.00	\$ 12,455.00	\$ -
Living Local grant additional funding	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Community Bank Healesville (Healesville Homegrown Food Fair)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Yarra Ranges Council (Welcome to Country)	\$ 726.00	\$ 726.00	\$ -
Community Bank Healesville (banners)	\$ 768.00		\$ 768.00
Yarra Ranges Council (2024 Annual Grant, Community Development)	\$ 5,570.00	0	\$ 5,570.00

We thank our funders and supporters for assisting us to deliver site upgrades, events and increase our community engagement. This would be a significant hurdle without your involvement.



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## Funders



Department  
of Transport  
and Planning



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## Supporters



Healesville Stockfeed and Farming Supplies

## Connection to community

We remain committed to growing and sharing food with people experiencing food insecurity. Marcus worked hard across the year to plant, grow and distribute food.



New friends arrive with unexpected gifts. We thank Harald and Heather from Yarra Glen who contacted us asking if we would like seedlings for our community garden beds, and a whole new connection has formed between our communities.





We welcomed 8 new members in 2023.



Our food fair and workshops were well attended throughout the year.



The artworks are a favourite with locals and visitors.



*Mim Kocher replacing her small sculptures. This time they are flood proof.*



YAVA Gallery & Arts Hub  
Looking great! Love the new sculptures.

16w Love Reply Hide



Edible Warburton · Follow  
Fantastic!!!! 🍪🍪🍪

16w Love Reply Hide



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Jo Bracken  
The Healesville Community Garden always adding interest! Love it!

16w Love Reply Hide



Beatrice Sharon Paradies  
Wow

16w Love Reply Hide

