



MEDIA RELEASE

26th November 2013

Open Kitchen Garden Weekend back by popular demand

This weekend, Stawell Urban Landcare is hosting its second Open Kitchen Garden Day. Stawell Urban Landcarer Bronwyn Bant said there had been a great deal of interest in the event when it was first held in March this year, and that the Stawell Urban Landcare Group were looking forward to seeing plenty of locals turn out to be inspired and learn new hints and tricks from experienced kitchen gardeners.

Food producing gardens in Stawell and surrounds will be open to the public showcasing innovative approaches to growing fruit and vegetables. Pomonal Gardener Greg Gepp began creating his kitchen garden just two years ago. In this time, Greg has established an orchard containing fruits such as plum, apricot, peach, nectarine, cherry, pear, mulberry, fig, lime and mandarins. Greg has also developed an enclosed and productive veggie patch which includes a range of berries as well as a large spread of vegetables.

Stawell Gardener Libby Morris has utilised every available space in the backyard to grow an amazing array of food. Fruit trees such as plums, cherries, apricots, citrus and apples grow alongside plump blueberries, raspberries, loganberries and blackberries. The veggie patch includes carrots, beetroot, beans, peas, potatoes and brassicas. Libby's backyard contains two hot houses. One growing tomatoes and cucumbers, the other Libby constructed herself to grow hydroponic strawberries. Libby's food garden is chemical free, using biological control methods to reduce pests.

'This year, the Ararat Community Garden will also take part in the day. They have 17 productive veggie beds, will have a produce trading table set up and a BBQ lunch will also be available for a gold coin donation' Said Ms Bant.

Ms Bant said there will also be a range of food producing workshops running throughout the day. Three workshops are available to attend on; backyard bee keeping, making sourdough bread and growing olives. Ms Bant said people interested in attending the workshops must RSVP by calling 0400 593 500.

Entry to gardens and workshops costs \$5 per person, with entry for children 16 and under free. 'To pay your entry fee and collect your map to the gardens head to the Project Platypus office at 11a Ararat Rd, from 9.30 onwards'. Said Ms Bant.

For full details of workshops, visit the Project Platypus website www.platypus.org.au, or follow Platypus Project on Facebook.

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Caption "Libby Morris's hydroponic strawberry hot house is well worth seeing this Saturday as part of the Stawell Urban Landcare Open kitchen Garden Day. "

End of release

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