



Tasman Ecovillage Newsletter

September 2022

Village News

This month we had various developments such as another concrete road apron being added and finished!

Cherie has built a gorgeous wooden shed/studio on her new lot, Sara W's house received an official occupancy permit and Ilan's house passed the final inspection! Stephen's house is coming together and he will be holding another earth wall building workshop in late October (more details on page 3).



THANK YOU!

- Thank you to Alan for his latest addition to the newsletter!
- Thank you to Sarah R for her rainfall statistics!
- Thank you to Ilan for supplying photos and development reports!
- Thank you to Stephen for holding another workshop in the village!

Spring is here!

Resident Alan Marshall has very kindly offered to continue doing articles for the newsletter, in this article Alan will be covering various jobs that need doing once Spring has arrived.

Spring is here! Lots of work to be done.

The old chicken tractor, which I built for my 3 original chooks, was too small for the few stray birds we acquired and His Lordship, The Rooster. They are now living in the small poly house, happy and comfortable, all laying daily or every other day (except for the Rooster, of course!). There is plenty of greenstuff for them now. They enjoy the yellow-flowered mustard, chick weed, old cabbage plants and weeds pulled from the garden.

Always on the lookout for alternative uses for anything, I have converted the chicken tractor into a compost enclosure. Old rotting cardboard and paper has been layered into a heap, with additions of weeds pulled from the garden and tree mulch. This pile is not turned; that takes lots of energy and hands-on work which I am not able to perform. Instead, as with the food-waste compost bins, the micro- and macro-organisms, worms, etc., will do the work of turning for us. Fungal spores already located in the tree mulch and on the rotting cardboard will ultimately render everything into a great soil additive – Compost. Since much of our soil around here is very sandy, any organic matter that can be added will greatly benefit the soil's ability to retain moisture.

Food waste bins will gradually be transferred to a position beside where those 4 worm farms are currently located.

Some kangaroo apple has already been cleared and rendered down into mulch and the first of 3 new compost bins will soon be constructed. It's intended to introduce some rat-proofing to the new construction. Matured compost from the previous batch has been of high quality, much of it being used in the Community Garden.

Hoped for benefits.. As much as possible the revised design will help to reduce egress of rats into the compost heap. It's unrealistic to expect 100% success, because rats get everywhere, they are part of the ecosystem and were here long before we arrived. In fact, by burrowing into the heap, rats do help to produce some very fine compost, but their nuisance value, allowing heat to escape and some flies to gain entry, is something we can do without. But some use of corrugated iron sheeting can be expected to afford some protection. It is appreciated that rats do get at garden produce and we must try to prevent that. Applying shade cloth all over, plus the use of hay/straw to surround and cover the compost, has been found to largely prevent infestation of maggots. Those bins currently in use have lasted 5-6 years.

A couple of important tips for composting, generally: Always bury new materials into heap, not just throwing it onto top. Especially with food waste, leaving it on top will not lead to good composting, only a smelly, fly-blown mess. Secondly, anything which is, or will become woody in nature, such as large cabbage stems, broad bean stems, chard stems, etc., need to be crushed and chopped into short, 5 – 10cm pieces. Preferably do this whilst they are still soft and green. Otherwise they will take a very long time to decay.

Happy gardening.



“We have around us numerous natural resources. Used wisely and with care, they can enhance our lives, at little or zero cost to the environment. My interest and focus is on integrating just a few of those resources for domestic use.”

– Alan Marshall

Stephen's Earth Building Workshop

Fri 21 - Sun 23 October

Hi everyone!

The light earth and cob building workshop is on again! With the roof being on and the weather warming up, everything is now ready to go.

Now scheduled for Fri 21 - Sun 23 of October.

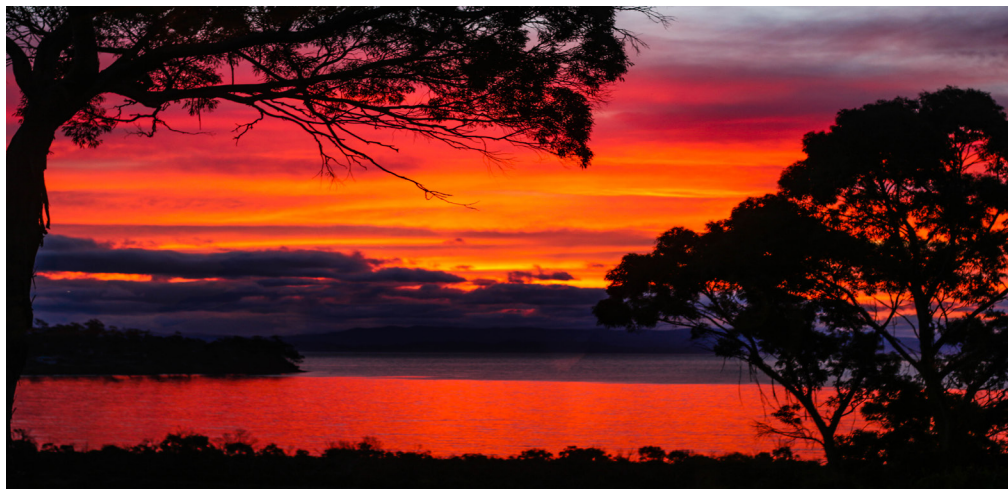
Clare was originally going to be the facilitator however she is OS at the moment. So the facilitator is now the fabulous Mark Healy, a dear friend of mine, tiny house builder, labyrinth maker and an awesome facilitator. So be prepared for an engaging and uplifting experience.

I would love to see a great bunch of people there having fun, learning about earth building and helping to build my house. Let me know with RSVP to stephen@integralengineers.com.au even if you have already RSVP'd to the event previously.



Facebook Pages & Groups

- Tasman Notice-board (Tasmania, Australia)
- Dunalley Tasman Neighbourhood House Inc
- Country Women's Association in Tasmania (Inc)
- White Beach Coast Care
- Waterfalls of Tasmania
- Tasmanian Fungi
- Aurora Australis Tasmania
- Whale Spotting Tasmania
- Field Naturalists of Tasmania
- Bioluminescence Tasmania
- Tasmania Photography Group



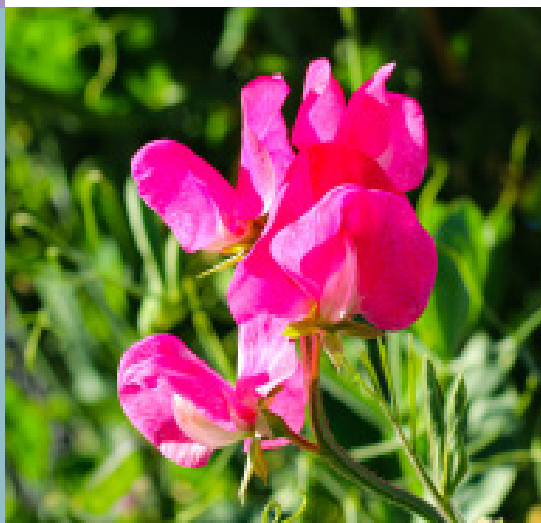
Local Information & Resources

We have so much information on the local area and many local resources and attractions available to us here on the Tasman Peninsula or Turrakana. Beauty and natural diversity surround us including waterfalls, deep sea caves, rugged coastlines, 300 metre high sea cliffs, blowholes, caves, tessalated rock formations and heritage listed convict sites.

Turrakana is also home to many animals including brush tail possums, wallabies, wombats, bandicoots, sea eagles, Australian fur seals, penguins, dolphins, migrating whales, endangered swift parrots and endangered wedge-tailed eagles.

RAINFALL STATISTIC SEPTEMBER

In September we had 12 days without rain, our highest rainfall on a single day was 28.5ml and the total rainfall for the month was 108ml.



IN OCTOBER PLANT...

Artichoke, Beetroot, Broccoli, Cabbage, Capsicum, Carrot, Cauliflower, Celery, Chives, Climbing Beans, Cucumber, Eggplant, Leek, Lettuce, Parsnip, Potatoes, Pumpkin, Silverbeet, Spring Onion, Squash, Sweetcorn, Tomato, Zucchini.

Tasman Ecovillage Events OCTOBER 2022

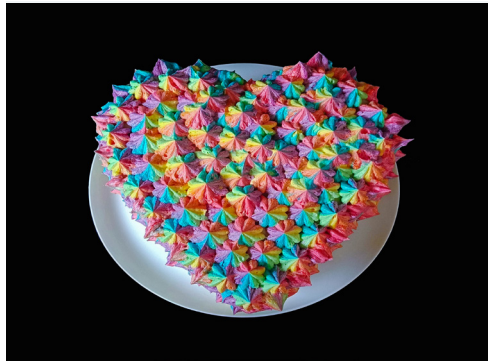
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
00	00	00	00	00	01	02
03 Discussion Forum 2pm - 4pm	04	05	06	07 Fat Beets 2:30pm - 4:30pm	08	09
10	11	12	13	14 Fat Beets 2:30pm - 4:30pm	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Fat Beets 2:30pm - 4:30pm Stephen's Earth Building Workshop	22 Stephen's Earth Building Workshop	23 TEVA Meeting 10am - 12pm Stephen's Earth Building Workshop
24	25	26	27	28 Fat Beets 2:30pm - 4:30pm	29	30&31

Businesses in the Village



Webilicious

Websites that work well on all devices and browsers.



Baking by Hannah

Sweets and baked goods made with love (and sugar!)

to order.



Advertise your business here...