



Tasman Ecovillage Newsletter

August 2022

Village News

The month of August is always busy in the village due to the numerous birthdays we have, we had a special birthday community dinner with singing and lots of cake!



The heavy rain flooded the creek and the small pump shed which had the bore pump and the creek pump inside got extended to allow for more space, the new creek pump is now in the extended shed, all materials are second hand and were donated by ecovillage residents.



We also recieved a garden update from Beverly:

Hello everyone, I would like to update you on the garden, we have put in a lot of work in this area as you can see in the photos, the woofers, Jesse, Wendy, and the garden group, have all contributed greatly, to have it looking good and starting to produce. Please feel free to help yourselves to readily available Kale, lettuce, spinach, beetroot, etc. if you have a walk around, I'm sure there will be something you can use. Alan has made an organic compost heap for pumpkins, and prepared ground for potatoes. Anyone who would like to clear an area and make some plantings please do. The chooks are doing well producing eggs, a few a day at this stage. Happy gardening.



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 Beverly for the photos and update on the gardens!
- Thank you to Jesse B for setting up the new weather station!
- Thank you to Jason for welding the frame of the shed extention.
- Thank you to Sharada for organising the birthday community dinner!

Experimental Gardening – Resources Into Practice.

Resident Alan Marshall has very kindly offered to continue doing articles for the newsletter, in this article Alan will be covering Experimental Gardening.

Around the lower gate area of our community garden, there was a lot of waste cardboard. Wet, partly decayed, muddy, home to many worms, fungi and other micro-organisms. What to do with it? There was considerable amount of plastic tape still attached to the old boxes, so this had to be removed. It was decided to grow potatoes, as these would put their roots deep into the ground, improving the soil for later crops.

Avoiding the use of artificial fertilisers was a key objective. So, the cardboard was all torn up into hand-sized pieces and scattered evenly over the ground. Azolla is prolific on the dam right now, so a load was gathered and spread in rows over the waste cardboard. The Azolla layer was then covered with 5-10cm of mulch (created over several months from tree trimmings, salt bush, cumbungi from the dam, etc.).

Old sprouting potatoes, kindly supplied by Sharada, were then spaced along the rows, 60cm apart, and buried under the mulch, (on top of, not into the soil). More mulch added to the rows, to an extra depth of 5-10cm. Then more Azolla was harvested and mixed with an equal volume of matured compost – beautifully dark and moist, created from food waste over a period of 6-9 months. This mixture was then spread between the potato rows to a depth of about 2-3cm. Any more would be a wasteful and of no extra benefit. By doing this, we are adding biodiversity to the soil. The organisms present in the compost can obtain nitrogen from decaying Azolla. Fungi in the compost, especially *Aspergillus* species, can help to make phosphates available for the potatoes. Finally, more mulch was spread over the entire area. As the potato foliage emerges the rows can be ridged up with soil/mulch/Azolla from the pathways.

These planted potatoes are not virus-free seed varieties. Who knows what they will provide in terms of a crop? We shall see! Nothing ventured, nothing gained, but to my mind, it's "organic."



Old rotting cardboard



Azolla mixed with compost



Now waiting for warm weather

“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

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 AUGUST

In August we had 11 days without rain, our highest rainfall on a single day was 54ml and the total rainfall for the month was 136.5ml.



IN SEPTEMBER PLANT...

Artichokes, Asian Brassicas, Beetroot, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrot, Cauliflower, Celery, Chives, Leek, Lettuce, Onion, Parsnip, Peas, Potatoes, Pumpkin, Rhubarb, Silverbeet, Spinach, Spring Onion, Swede, Sweetcorn, Tomatoes, Turnips, Zucchini.

Tasman Ecovillage Events SEPTEMBER 2022

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

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...