

Tasman Ecovillage Newsletter

December 2022

Village News

What an amazing year it has been at the ecovillage! It sure has been a long and busy one! This edition marks the 1 year anniversary of the newsletter!

Just this year we had flooding in The Shed, REC Room and creek, Stephen Cole hosted his 3rd water workshop, we welcomed Antoinette to the village, Cherie was welcomed as an Associate Member and Sharda & Tony, Emma & Jason were welcomed as Full Members, we congratulated Brigid for buying a house, Ilan, Sarah W and Shem's houses were built and completed with Stephen Cole's house in progress, The Shed got a massive clean by Emma and Karen, many developments were started and completed including vehicle access being created for lots 302, 303, 305, 306 and 307, a 215,000 litre water tank that now provides gravity-fed water was installed, a new orchard was formed by relocating some fruit trees, the 13 year old bore pump was replaced and we had a visit from Andrew Olivier who touched base on the Five Pillars of Ecovillage Resilience. That sure does sound like a lot of activity and those are just the highlights! I wish everyone the best for 2023!



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 everyone who has contributed to the ecovillage this year!
- Thank you to all of the hidden contributors that I missed!

The New Compost Bin

Resident Alan Marshall has very kindly offered to continue doing articles for the newsletter, in this article Alan will be covering The New Compost Bin.

The New Compost Bin is now functioning well. Even with only a small volume added so far, internal compost temperature is up to 60°C most of the time. This is “thermophilic,” meaning that all pathogens are killed quite quickly at that temperature. As more food waste is added, the upper layer gets heated, while lower layers then begin to cool down, worms move into the cooler regions and continue doing their work of helping to create *humus*.

A useful amount of hay has been cut from the creek area and from Pod D, then dried and stored. It's an essential component in this method of composting. It helps to insulate sides and top of the heap, keeping heat and smell in, flies out.

In time, I have it in mind to combine garden waste and cardboard into the one system with kitchen waste, but this will take a while to eventuate.

Several hard-working people cleared a lot of high-growing weeds from the community garden. The big dilemma was what to do with the removed weeds. Some was dried into a sort of hay, which can help in composting. Woody material will be made into mulch with the machine.

A new garden experiment: I have moved the chook run aside, to fresh pasture, which they are very happy with. The vacated patch has had persistent weeds removed. The very sandy soil was then raked over, without digging deeply. then watered the surface thoroughly, applied garden lime and some Azolla collected from the main dam.

On a visit to Peninsula Hardware, I noticed a small punnet of straggly, pathetic-looking cos lettuce, hardly worth buying. Dion didn't charge me for them! The lettuce are now planted in amongst the hay. It's just one way of conserving water. Covering the soil with a thick layer of hay reduces evaporation. Some people use cardboard or black plastic trying to achieve the same result, but that can prevent rain if it does occur, or irrigation water, from reaching the soil surface. You might ask, “what about weeds, don't they take over?” They will grow, of course, but weed seedlings can be removed before they get established. Again, the primary objective is to conserve water.

A confession: this not my original idea, I got it from a magazine some time ago. It worked quite well for me at that time.

If you wish to try it, please let us know how you get on.

By the way, while we are on the subject of conserving water, apparently, we are heading for an El Niño season, with less rainfall. We are already drawing creek water to top up the tanks. How much water do you imagine you use for your shower?

Just supposing your tap supplies 10 litres per minute and you spend just 12 minutes under the shower, the amount of water you use will fill one of the smaller wheelie bins (see photo)! 120 Litres. A hand-wash bowl is only 10 litres when full. This sort of knowledge helps us to make informed choices.

Wishing you all HAPPY HEALTHY LIVING and a safe, successful and satisfying NEW YEAR.

Alan Marshall.



“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 DECEMBER

In December we had 17 days without rain, our highest rainfall on a single day was 35ml and the total rainfall for the month was 75.5ml.



IN JANUARY PLANT...

Beetroot, Broccoli, Brussel Sprouts, Cabbage, Capsicum, Carrot, Cauliflower, Celery, Cucumber, Eggplant, Kale, Leek, Lettuce, Parsnip, Pumpkin, Silverbeet, Spring Onion, Tomato, Turnip, Winter Cabbage.

Tasman Ecovillage Events JANUARY 2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
00	00	00	00	00	00	01
02 Discussion Forum 2pm - 4pm	03	04	05	06 Fat Beets 2:30pm - 4:30pm	07	08
09 Community Dinner 6:00pm	10	11	12	13 Fat Beets 2:30pm - 4:30pm	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Fat Beets 2:30pm - 4:30pm	21	22 TEVA Meeting 10am - 12pm
23	24	25	26	27 Fat Beets 2:30pm - 4:30pm	28	29
30	31	00	00	00	00	00

Sunlight & Colour

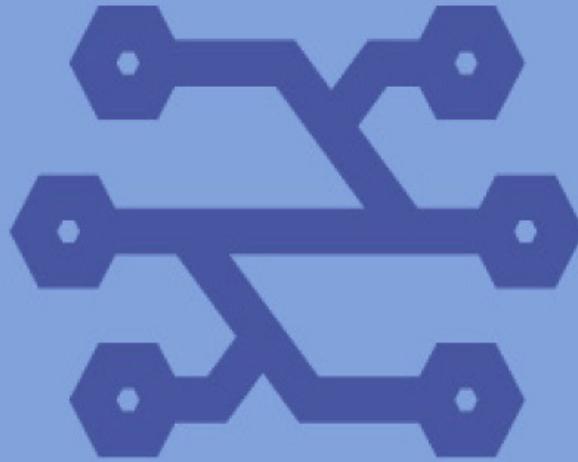
*'Sunlight streaming through panes
of coloured glass creating a
magical atmosphere of tranquility
to calm the soul...'*

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