

Tasman Ecovillage Newsletter

March 2022

Village News

- This month in the village the gardening group had a meeting, cleared ground for planting, did some pruning and weeding, I am also told that we have had an abundance of apples ready and quinces on the way!
- A very warm welcome to Antoinette who is currently moving into unit 6!
- Welcome back to Jen who has just returned after getting stuck in the floods on the mainland!
- Congratulations to Brigid for buying a house here at the village!
- Ilan's house has had more work done and is looking very fancy!
- The dust and grime has been cleaned from The Shed floor, Emma and Karen used a high pressure washer to clean the concrete floor and it came up significantly cleaner and fresher smelling.



THANK YOU!

- Thank you to Karen, Emma, Ben, Dave, Tazi and Rick for organising and cleaning the shed!
- Thank you to Stephen Cole for his continued support through workshops!
- Thank you to Hannah C for feeding the fish in the community orchard!
- Thank you to Alan for his recent recycling run!
- Thank you to Hannah, Jack and kids for contributions over the past 5 years, best wishes!
- Thank you to Brigid for checking the info email and collecting the locked bag!
- Thank you to Alan for another great article!
- Thank you to Brigid, Jen and Beverly for organising the gardening group!

Azolla

Resident Alan Marshall has very kindly offered to do an article series based around our natural resources and ways of using them to enhance our lives without causing damage to the surrounding environment, in this month's article Alan will be covering Azolla.

I trust you have enjoyed reading about and contemplating the use of waste paper and cardboard, as described in last month's newsletter. Have you seen the Netflix production *Fantastic Fungi*? It can open your eyes to what is really going on beneath the surface of my compost bins.

This month let's take a look at Azolla. A photograph is attached to help you discern the difference between Azolla and Lemna Minor (Duckweed). I don't claim to have encyclopedic knowledge of Azolla, just a passionate interest. There are so many people from various academic disciplines who have researched it in depth, as can be seen in the web pages of The Azolla Foundation. Yet for me, it's a plant with such a big history and an equally great potential for the future; hopefully here in southern Tasmania, too. Both Duckweed and Azolla can be used as excellent slow-release fertiliser. Azolla "fixes" nitrogen from the air into its structure, thereby efficiently synthesizing proteins. When the harvested plant is incorporated into soil, proteins and other nutrients are slowly broken down by decay, (particularly by various fungi), releasing nitrogen into the soil for use by plants and other organisms.

Meanwhile, back at the dam: In time, Azolla growth slows, some of it dies, releasing that nitrogen into the water of the dam. Duckweed then takes over and loves the extra nitrogen, growing profusely for a couple of months. At the end of the Duckweed's current life cycle, Azolla takes over again. Azolla (being a type of fern) previously released spores which dropped down into the mud. Male and female spores fertilise and a new minute organism floats to the surface and, when conditions are just right, begin another growth period.

Thus, we have a natural sustainable resource of fertiliser. As a professing "eco" village, I feel we are duty-bound to make use of it, reducing our dependence on artificial fertiliser. It's also important to recognise that, while living on the water surface, both Azolla and Duckweed take up other essential elements, such as phosphorus, carbon and numerous micro-nutrients, which have been washed down from the land around.

The dam just inside our main gate as you drive up, has a new growth of Azolla, mixed in with Duckweed. We will be harvesting some during this next week or two. It will be worked into an area of the Community Garden which is being prepared for planting. Wishing you all a productive and pleasant autumn period, which can be a lovely time of the year.



"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.



IN APRIL PLANT...

Asian Cabbage, Asian Root Crops, Broadbeans, Broccoli, Garlic, Green Manure Crops, Japanese Turnip, Mini-Cauliflower, Silverbeet, Spinach, Spring Onions, Winter Lettuce.

Tasman Ecovillage Events APRIL 2022

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
00	00	00	00	01	02 Strata Manager Quarterly Inspection 3pm - 4pm	03
04	05 Fatbeets 4pm - 6pm	06 Discussion Circle 10am - 12pm Fire Safety Inspection 10am -	07	08	09	10
11	12 Fatbeets 4pm - 6pm Fatbeets Meal 6pm - 7pm	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Fatbeets 4pm - 6pm	20	21	22	23	24 TEVA Meeting 10am - 12pm
25	26 Fatbeets 4pm - 6pm	27	28	29 Natural Building Workshop	30 Natural Building Workshop	01 MAY Natural Building Workshop

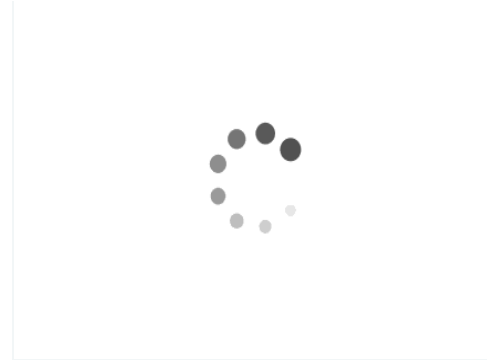
Businesses in the Village



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...