

Saturday 11 February 2012

All day events

Glitter Tattoos (10 - 12 Saturday only).
Guided tours of garden plots
Tea/ coffee and cake stall
Honey, eggs, young chicks and produce stall.

Raffle
Sausage sizzle
Murnong Farm - meet the animals
Pet the chickens with Denae
Wonderful worms

Talks

- 10.30am Denae: *Growing, drying and using herbs* with emphasis on herbal teas and some medicinal implications.
- 11.30am Panel of gardeners: *Organic Gardening/Composting*
- 12 noon Melissa: *Setting-up and using a worm farm.*
Demonstration of collecting and using castings and worm-wee. Hands – on children activity!
- 1pm Bethany: *Community garden Research*
- 2pm John: *Introducing bees into your garden.*
- 3pm Denae: *Backyard Chooks*
Choosing suitable breeds and the benefits of having pure breeds in the backyard.

Sunday 12 February 2012

All day events - see previous entry.

Talks

- 10.30am Vaughan: *Cooking demonstration* using seasonal, organic produce.
- 11.30am Melissa: *Heirloom Tomatoes / Heirloom Vegetables.*
View some of the 26 varieties of tomatoes. The discussion will cover the growing, pollination and seed saving of heritage vegetables.
- 1.00pm Denae: *Backyard Chooks*
- 2.00pm John: *Introducing bees to your garden.*
This talk will provide a hobbyist's overview of bee keeping together with an emphasis on introducing bee friendly plants into your garden and the benefits these beautiful creatures provide.
- 3.00pm Denae: *Permaculture and Companion Planting.*

Kaleen Community Garden & Murnong Farm

Open Weekend 10am - 4.30pm February 11 & 12, 2012

Baldwin Drive, Kaleen beside UC High School Kaleen

Kaleen Garden has only seen 2 full growing seasons, having been established in spring 2009 from an unused paddock attached to Kaleen High School. Initially, much time was spent building up the soil. After a bout of vandalism, a new fence was erected in 2011. The project for 2012 is to build a pergola. The enthusiasm of the gardeners is catching and the styles of gardening so diverse. Each plot has its own character but all gardeners use organic methods – in particular, no manufactured fertilisers, pesticides or herbicides are used. Some utilise a "no-dig" approach, companion planting and some erect structures to deter birds and insects. Three dimensional gardening makes it possible to plant more vegetables in a small space = pumpkins growing up trellises rather than using up valuable ground space. Many try experimental ways to fend off insects and a few are into heirloom seeds.

Some gardeners are just glad the plants thrive!!

Acknowledgements

UC High School Kaleen, Bunnings, Andrew Leigh MP, Giralang Scouts,
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Growers Society, Open Gardens Australia

The *Canberra Organic Growers Society Inc* is a non-profit organisation which was started in 1977 with the aim of providing a forum for organic growers to exchange information and encourage the general public to adopt organic growing methods. The ACT Government supports the COGS community gardens scheme by issuing licences to operate on unused government land and providing grants for garden establishment under the Healthy Cities program. The local gardens are administered by a convenor elected from among the gardeners. Originally, this garden was an unused horse paddock attached to the local High School.