

Professional Development Programs 2012

School Garden Tour and Composting Clinic

When: 10am – 4pm Wednesday September 19th

Cost: \$150

Where: South Eastern suburbs

See first-hand what schools and kindergartens have achieved through a whole day of on-site visits, discussion and a composting clinic. Get a “close up” of how whole-of-school composting looks; the incorporation of chooks and their runs in a school; garden design and the variety of outdoor classroom spaces and gathering places.

Find out how to integrate community using a garden setting, how to utilize a garden for education purposes, how to see your pre-school grounds as a resource for outdoor learning, and provide inspiration and ideas on how to enhance it, fulfilling your teaching objectives.

We will be visiting Brentwood Secondary College, Clayton North Primary School and Knox.

Clayton North Primary School

Kathy Mahar leads a school gardens program that has won the Regional and Special Multicultural Award from the Victorian School Garden Awards, and is currently working with the Biological Farmers Association on curriculum development

<http://claytonnorthps.vic.edu.au/info/bfa-organic-school-garden/>

Kathy, her students and volunteers will showcase their Multicultural Kitchen Garden complete with chooks, worms and composting in action and provide morning tea. Their program provides a vehicle for multidisciplinary and authentic learning at all levels; for example, numeracy, science, technology, and the arts. Their approach also fosters values such as team work, respect for the natural world, responsibility, leadership, acceptance, patience and self-sufficiency.



Brentwood Secondary College

Thea Nicholas leads the Green Team, a dynamic collection of 55 students that have established a large harvest garden and café in their school. This garden is part of the curriculum and has reached out into the community. It recently won the Monash Council World Environment Day Awards for Community Leadership.

The Green Team will provide lunch and explain some of the things they get up to including going off-line, the AuSSI Vic, garden design and management.

Haering Road Pre-school

Knox City Council Family and Children's Services manages 29 pre-schools across the municipality. Haering Road Preschool is one of the services located in Boronia, where Anne Chapman and her team of educators, families and children are actively participating in the *KinderGardens* for Wildlife program. The program aims to encourage the service to plant locally indigenous plants to create habitats for wildlife as well as educate families and children. Knox leadership at this level has been recognised through a number of recent awards.

Indigenous Education Day

When: 9:30am – 4:30pm, Wednesday
12 September

Cost: \$50.00

Where: RBG Cranbourne

Aim: Participants will gain knowledge on Kulin culture, information on “Education: Interventions and the Constitution – Indigenous Australians at the Crossroads”, the cross curricula perspectives of the AusVELS and student Indigenous education programs at the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Tim Gill Seminar

When: 10am – 4 pm Wednesday 24 October

Cost: TBC

Where: RBG Cranbourne

Tim Gill is one of the UK’s leading thinkers on childhood, and an effective advocate for positive change in children’s everyday lives. Tim will present on the changing nature of childhood, children’s play and free time, and their evolving relationships with the people and places around them.

This will also be a chance to see the whole of the Australian Garden for the first time.

Problem Solving for a Sustainable Future

When: 10am – 4pm, Wednesday 7 November

Cost: \$150

Where: RBG Cranbourne

One of the most important skills we can develop in students is the capacity to deal with problems in a constructive and systematic manner. It is a skill that equips them for dealing with an uncertain and rapidly evolving world. Problem-based learning can be an inclusive teaching tool that engages and challenges students with a broad range of skills and capabilities.

Join staff from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology and Nossal High School in workshopping some problem-based learning scenarios that will engage and challenge a broad range of students with diverse ability levels.

Scenarios set in natural environments open up a broad skill set, allowing fieldwork and first-hand data

collection as well as more broadly available secondary sources. Many of the big issues of our time have their basis in natural systems such as climate change, carbon tax, urban subdivision, and food and water security. Students need to be engaged with and active contributors to real-world issues that will shape their future experiences.

Scenarios include: Future Cities, and Carbon Banking and Master Planning. We will be collecting field data in the Australian Garden and in the Conservation Zone at RBG Cranbourne, as well as workshopping PBL as it applies to schools and students.

Food Gardens for Schools & Kinders

When: 10am – 4pm, Friday 30 November

Cost: \$150

Where: RBG Melbourne

Aim: Participants will look at food growing at school in a new light: look at using food plants to enhance your schoolgrounds through good design, develop ideas on how to share fresh produce with your school community, and try some simple recipes that kids will love tasting and sharing.

Topics covered will include:

- hardy, kid-proof edible plants for schools
- garden design for multi-functions
- tasty recipes to share
- cooking without a kitchen



For further information and bookings, please contact:

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