



FARESHARE GARDEN NOTES

Our vision

A society where food is not wasted and no one goes hungry.

Our mission

Rescue food that would otherwise be wasted.

Cook and distribute nutritious meals to people in need.

Inspire and empower action on food rescue and hunger.

FareShare is a not-for-profit community organisation that cooks nutritious meals for people in need using rescued food and vegetables grown in our kitchen gardens. FareShare operates Australia's largest charity kitchens, and with the help of 900 regular volunteers in Melbourne, cooks 6,000 free meals a day for frontline charities such as soup vans, homeless shelters, women's refuges and community food banks.

The FareShare kitchen garden in Abbotsford was established in 2016 to supplement rescued veggies and help ensure a consistent supply of fresh produce to our kitchen to make our meals as nutritious and healthy as possible.

With assistance from 3000acres and major founding partner RACV, the once-vacant site was identified and established on land leased from VicTrack, and has been transformed into an urban oasis that is watched over by locals and passengers from Victoria Park railway station.

The site contains approximately 800 square metres of growing space, and thanks to our hardy garden volunteers' efforts, produces a range of vegetables including sweet potato, zucchini, carrot, eggplant, celery, leek, and pumpkin. To date, the garden has produced approximately 8,000kg of fresh vegetables for use in our nearby kitchen.

At the beginning of the garden's establishment, the site soil was tested and determined to be unfit for food production. With the kind assistance of Melbourne University Burnley Campus' horticultural specialists, a unique garden design was created, whereby all the garden's beds were built up from plastic sheeting laid on the ground. This process involved an incredible 250 cubic meters of soil being trucked into the site and moved into place by a dedicated team of volunteers.

Thanks to the generous donations of seedlings from Boomaroo Nurseries, the garden grows one winter crop, and one summer crop every year. The fruiting crops are pollinated with the assistance of our resident bees tended by urban beekeeper Nic Dowse of Honey Fingers. The crops are enriched with organic fertilisers donated from Biomax, Ecoguardians, and our own site-made compost.

The garden is tended by regular FareShare volunteers, and corporate volunteer groups, who visit the garden weekly. The garden space is also shared with Mind, a mental health service provider, who tend the garden's planter boxes.

The kitchen garden empowers volunteers to make a meaningful difference to the lives of disadvantaged and marginalized people. We look forward to welcoming you to our garden on Saturday 16 March.

Shami Jansen, Garden Program Manager

Refer overleaf for the Open Day's activities and speaker program

Open Gardens Victoria is a not-for-profit organisation that promotes the benefits of gardens and gardening by assisting garden owners to open their private gardens to the public. Monies raised at the gate are shared between OGV and the garden owner – whose share is often directed to charity. Surplus OGV funds are allocated to horticultural, educational or community projects.



OPEN DAY ACTIVITIES AND SPEAKER PROGRAM

- 10:00am** Gates open
- 10:20am** Bees and beekeeping in the urban environment with Nic Dowse
- 10:30am** Garden tour with FareShare garden program manager Sharni Jansen
- 10:45am** Sweet potatoes and novel crops with Dr Chris Williams
- 11:00am** Urban agriculture and food waste avoidance in Yarra City Council with Eloise Lobsey
- 11:25am** Worm farming explained with Helena Buxton
- 11:30am** Garden tour with FareShare garden program manager Sharni Jansen
- 11:45am** Bees and beekeeping in the urban environment with Nic Dowse
- 12:15pm** Turning food waste into fertiliser with Aaron Moynes
- 12:30pm** Garden tour with FareShare garden program manager Sharni Jansen
- 12:45pm** Sweet potatoes and novel crops with Dr Chris Williams
- 1:00pm** Accessing disused urban sites for the creation of community gardens with Merrin Layden
- 1:20pm** Worm farming explained with Helena Buxton
- 1:30pm** Garden tour with FareShare garden program manager Sharni Jansen
- 1:45am** Bees and beekeeping in the urban environment with Nic Dowse
- 2:00pm** Urban agriculture and food waste avoidance in Yarra City Council with Eloise Lobsey
- 2:30pm** Garden tour with FareShare garden program manager Sharni Jansen
- 2:45pm** Sweet potatoes and novel crops with Dr Chris Williams
- 3:30pm** Garden tour with FareShare garden program manager Sharni Jansen
- 4:30pm** Gates close

These notes can be downloaded from the Open Gardens Victoria website
www.opengardensvictoria.org.au

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