



COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME PROJECT EVALUATION REPORT



This project is funded by the Waste Authority
through the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account

Contract number:	775
Organisation:	Lake Monger Community Garden Inc
Project Title:	Lake Monger Community Garden Composting Project
Grant Amount:	\$2,000 excl GST (LMCG not registered for GST)

LAKE MONGER COMMUNITY GARDEN
GIVING WASTE A SECOND CHANCE
TURNING KITCHEN SCRAPS INTO RICH GARDEN COMPOST

Waste to Wonderful
Community Composting Hub

Nearly half of the waste that goes in the bin is organic matter, the majority of which consists of food scraps.

At the rubbish tip food scraps decompose under anaerobic (no oxygen) conditions and release the greenhouse gas methane.

We turn kitchen waste from local residents into compost for our community garden!

By contributing YOU will help to:

- Reduce rubbish going to landfill
- Decrease greenhouse gas emissions
- Create locally-sourced nutrient-rich compost
- Improve soil & reduce water use
- Minimise fertiliser use

Wonderful!

Get Involved!
What and How to Contribute

To avoid pests and odours only add waste listed in the green box:

YES!
Fruit & vegetable waste
Teabags, tea leaves and coffee grinds
Eggshells
Shredded non-glossy paper & cardboard

NO!
Meat, fish, bones & fat
Pet poo or pet food
Oils, fats, greases
Plastic, foam, timber, polystyrene

Kitchen waste into Bins #1 + 2
Make sure it's no bigger than finger-sized

Bring us your scraps to make your waste wonderful! Everyone is welcome to contribute.

WWW.CAMBRIDGE.WA.GOV.AU/COMMUNITYGETINVOLVED/COMMUNITY-GARDENS
#TeamofCambridge @LakeMongerCommunityGarden

THE GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
WASTE AUTHORITY
WA... TOO GOOD TO WASTE
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ORGANISATION & PROJECT DESCRIPTION

LMCG is a community garden fairly recently established on an area close to Lake Monger.

It is intended for people who do not have any growing space at home (a very prevalent problem in the medium density, multi-storey buildings common to the area) or who wish to engage in the social and environmental aspects of a community garden.

It was founded with the intention to engage the community in better waste disposal methods than landfill, which is also a large problem in the unit complexes along Herdsman Parade.

One of the ways that the Garden wishes to deliver better waste solutions to the local community is to provide an easy-to-understand, accessible composting programme. This area is full of medium density buildings that offer no solutions for food waste other than bins that go to landfill, and due to the demographics inhabiting these complexes, there is also a degree of ignorance of the better options for waste.

There is currently only one waste disposal opportunity (worm farms) run by a local lady in Drew Street, a small scale operation that whilst well-supported, is limited by her available time and physical boundaries. This may well be the only other viable option for people wishing to dispose of their waste in an environmentally productive way.

The actual composting hardware is in place (bins, bays, and signage giving step by step instructions on the mechanics of composting) and we are now putting in place a simple but effective local advertising campaign for the programme. Some members of the garden are strata residents and hold positions on their strata Committees, better enabling them to advertise the composting option throughout the complexes.

At a later stage we will establish worm farms so that food waste can be diverted to that also. During the establishment of the programme, there was an engagement with Mount Hawthorn Primary who recently brought the kids to the garden and have shown an interest in a tutorial for the kids on the composting, and more regular visits where the children may have their own garden bed.

Bold Park Community School has also expressed an interest in collaboration, with children encouraged to dispose of lunch leftovers in the compost bins of the garden (we abut the boundary fence of the school and it would be very easy for the kids to come and compost their scraps).

All in all, we hope to increase the diversion of rotting, smelly waste into a productive disposal method that will benefit the garden and the community both. Currently, food waste is a problem in the complexes at the Glendalough end of the Herdsman Parade, as residents dump it with no regard to bin types, proper wrapping, vermin etc.

We hope that this small project may be the first tiny step in changing habits in these complexes, as people cannot change when there are no other alternatives. Eventually (and perhaps ambitiously) we would like there to be a change in waste culture in the area, powered by the availability of composting and worm farms.



EVALUATION / RESULTS - DATA

What kind(s) of project data/information did you collect?

Approximately 7 garden members were actively involved in the building of the compost bays, buying and installation of the bins, writing of the grant application and project management.

The bays and bins now take all the compost produced by the garden itself. 3 bins are also filling with brown/green layers and the food scraps brought by members of the garden and going forward, the school/local community. A bin is to be used outside the perimeter on an experimental basis at first and if successful, ongoing alongside open sessions where members are present and people can get their waste into the bays as well.

At this stage (22 May 2019) we are a week away from the sign being erected, and the presence of the project will then be rolled out to the larger community, so we don't yet have any figures on the response or the traffic to the programme that it will produce. The project however has produced a great reaction from organisations such as schools and is building interaction even at this early stage. We have also had passersby showing an interest, and they have been invited in to discuss the project.

Please explain how you recorded / measured your results, and include all the data you've collected, whatever it may be!

Measurement of members involvement was a simple matter of head-counting for each stage, such as building the bays, buying the bins, transporting them to the garden, other associated hardware, and the grant application and posting on social media. Care was taken to not count a head twice for being involved in more than one activity associated with the programme.

Estimation of the material building up in bays and bins was also a simple matter of measuring by eye, but the members do not feel confident in simply guesstimating at this stage what the amount of material channelled into composting will be once the community has become aware. We do anticipate that a large amount of material will be generated by the school. As compost breaks down at different rates, we will be estimating intake at the beginning of the process (ie how many bins are filled with what at point of drop).

As it stands at date of writing (22 May 2019) we have three large timber bays which were established in October 18, one of which is full, one of which is nearly full, and one awaiting filling. These were all full but some of the material was diverted to the other 4 large lidded compost bins (all of which are about 2/3 full) since placement in March 19 (the compost in there is fairly fresh and has only just begun to break down).

This is in addition to two compost bins which were donated to the garden a couple of years ago, both approx 4/5 full as material composts.



Was your project successful in the way you expected?

SO FAR - YES

Our stages for this project are:

Stage one: evaluation of the needs in the area- consultation with local schools and residents.

The community response so far implies that the project will be successful in both providing an environmental waste solution for the surrounding population, and engaging them. 5 classes from Mount Hawthorn Primary have so far visited (year 2) and have been invited back (and have shown great enthusiasm for the idea). More information about stage one was reported in the previous paragraph.

Stage two: building the composting bays and purchasing composting bins and equipment

Three compost bays have now been built with room to build more if we need to. We have purchased 4 large black compost bins, 3 of which will stay inside the garden area initially and 1 will be outside the fence in the open area. This bin will need to be chained to the fence due to its location and high incidence of vandalism and theft in the area.

We have also purchased tools needed to actually do our part of the composting, wheelbarrows, garden forks, rakes, shovels etc.

Stage three: arranging and installing bold colourful signage for the composting station

The sign has been delivered to the garden. We have not been able to erect it as yet due to the fact that the community garden is over an old tip and there is the possibility of contamination in the ground if we dig too deep. (That's why we have to grow everything edible only in garden beds where the roots cannot go into contaminated soil). We have just received a report from the local shire about this and instructions on how to proceed. Also we need to consider the likelihood of vandalism ie graffiti to the sign so that has caused us to rethink the exact location.

Stage four: prepare to commence public collection on a regular basis, discussion with the school about the commencement date as we do about the school and it will mean that it will bring more adults into the school proximity that are not known to the school or the garden

Arrangements are being made for local school children and their parents to be involved in dropping off food scraps. A book will be used for collection. Discussion with the school will be done next week as we only just received a date today for a community activity that we will be able to use to promote the garden.

Stage five: media advertisement through an article and advertisement in local community paper

We are arranging a community event for this and expect to have local newspaper coverage. We now have a date for this, it will be Thursday 20th June 2019.

We will be in attendance in the garden, Bunnings were delighted to agree to provide us with seedlings and other bits that we may need and hopefully the store Manager will be able to attend.



A class of year 2 students from MT Hawthorn Primary School with parents and teachers and possibly the Deputy Principal will be in attendance. The students will be the first to start using the new community compost bin and will also be planting the seedlings that Bunnings provide in the beds. We will arrange for a local reporter or photographer to attend for the news article.

Mt Hawthorn Primary School is within walking distance of the garden and after a hands on interactive visit to our garden a few weeks ago for all year 2 students the school have been offered a free garden bed for year 2 students. They can also assist us with the other 5 community beds that we will be planting. The school has decided to fully embrace working with us as a trial this year and see where it takes us for the following year. The school will be involved in regularly dropping off food scraps, making the compost, helping us to get a worm farm up and running and of course growing and harvesting their own veggies.

Stage six: assess the amount of waste collected and the number of attendees- through a drop off record book

This book record system will commence from 20th June 2019

Stage seven: 6 months later to review the outcome-to-date, its success and or any problems we have faced in regards to collection ie vandalism, needles in bins, how many bins are now required and where to from here. Consultation with the local school will be included in this

Overall: The nature of this project is to be a developing, ongoing process which entails some difficulty in evaluating its success at this early point. We certainly have succeeded in getting the mechanics enabling the composting established and look forward to a wonderful relationship with our local community through this project.

Do you feel your project made a positive difference in your community and why?

Absolutely! The relationship which has developed with MH Primary is evolving well, and discussion is under way with heads of departments in the school for future plans. It could be that next year the school is now highly motivated to fully embrace the composting idea and builds its own composting station at the school. That would be a wonderful outcome for everyone

We also think that we will get a positive response from the strata residents around the area, especially those wanting to compost but who simply have no opportunity. 2/3 of the residences have absolutely no outside space whatsoever other than atrium gardens which would be subject to vandalism and theft.

We also take part in the Dept of Agriculture's TPP Monitoring programme, which can only be of benefit to the local community with an already established interest in gardening, as the spread of this highly destructive pest can be accurately charted across the metropolitan area.

Tomato potato psyllid (TPP) is a tiny sap-sucking insect that feeds on tomato, potato, capsicum, chilli, goji berry, tamarillo, eggplant and sweet potato. TPP can affect plant growth, reduce crop yield and spread a serious plant disease known as 'zebra chip' in potato, caused by the *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum* (CLso) bacterium.



How many people in total do you think your project has reached/affected?

At this early stage of the game, the project has affected the children, parents and teachers of Mount Hawthorn Primary, the garden members themselves, and has garnered interest from quite a few of the parents of Bold Park Community School as well as general passersby.

Many people talk to us as they walk by with their dogs and are interested to know what is happening. At least 3 members have had chats with several passersby each, so those reported to the project team numbers about 10 known interactions so far. We have the staff at Bunnings talking about it and discussion and interest at the local church.

We foresee a sharp expansion in our reach when we receive coverage from the local newspaper, we will be placing an advertisement and will be soliciting some article coverage from the local Post. We also are known to an extent to local community Facebook Groups (the Wembley Buy Nothing Project, and the Wembley/Floreat/Churchlands Community Noticeboard, etc.

LESSONS LEARNT

What lessons were learned through the project – what worked and didn't work?

What, if anything, would you do differently if you were to do the project again?

One thing which we feel may not work well is the placing of some of the compost bins outside of our perimeter fence, for community members to drop off their scraps, given the notoriety of the adjoining carpark and toilet block for shady characters hanging around, theft and vandalism, but it is risk we are initially prepared to take. We will be affixing the outside bin/s to the railing in the first instance. It is something that we have no control over and whether it works or not is entirely in the hands of fate.

If it turns out to be a wrong decision, we will adjust the system (which may restrict some members of the community) to have open times when people can come into the garden whilst members are there to drop their material off. This will require a posted schedule and members to commit to being present to give access.

Did you encounter any problems/challenges in carrying out the project?

We had no issues in the buying and setting up of the composting bays and bins, nor acquiring the hardware. However, we did find that the signage was a complex process: we visited Joondanna Garden and Transition Town Vincent's sign was examined and we merged them to some extent to create a sign that would work for us. Installation requires further manual work (although not time consuming) from members.

We underestimated the time that was required to administer the process from start to finish, due to the work schedules of involved members, and were obliged to apply for an extension. Initially the project was a more or less 50/50 split for composting bays and a chicken coop, but when it came to the crunch members felt they could not commit to the ongoing care of live animals, given the core members tend to be the ones doing all the tasks.

A variation of funds was submitted to the Waste Authority for this reason, in order that we could widen the scope of the composting in place of the chooks.



What advice would you give to other groups considering undertaking similar projects?

We would probably advise other groups to ensure that mid-project changes (such as the chickens) do not occur, as we found it absorbed time and effort.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT / PROMOTION

Does your organisation (or project) have a website or Facebook page?

We do have a general garden Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/LakeMongerCommunityGarden/>

and have also a dedicated page for the composting project:

<https://www.facebook.com/Lake-Monger-Community-Garden-Composting-Project/>

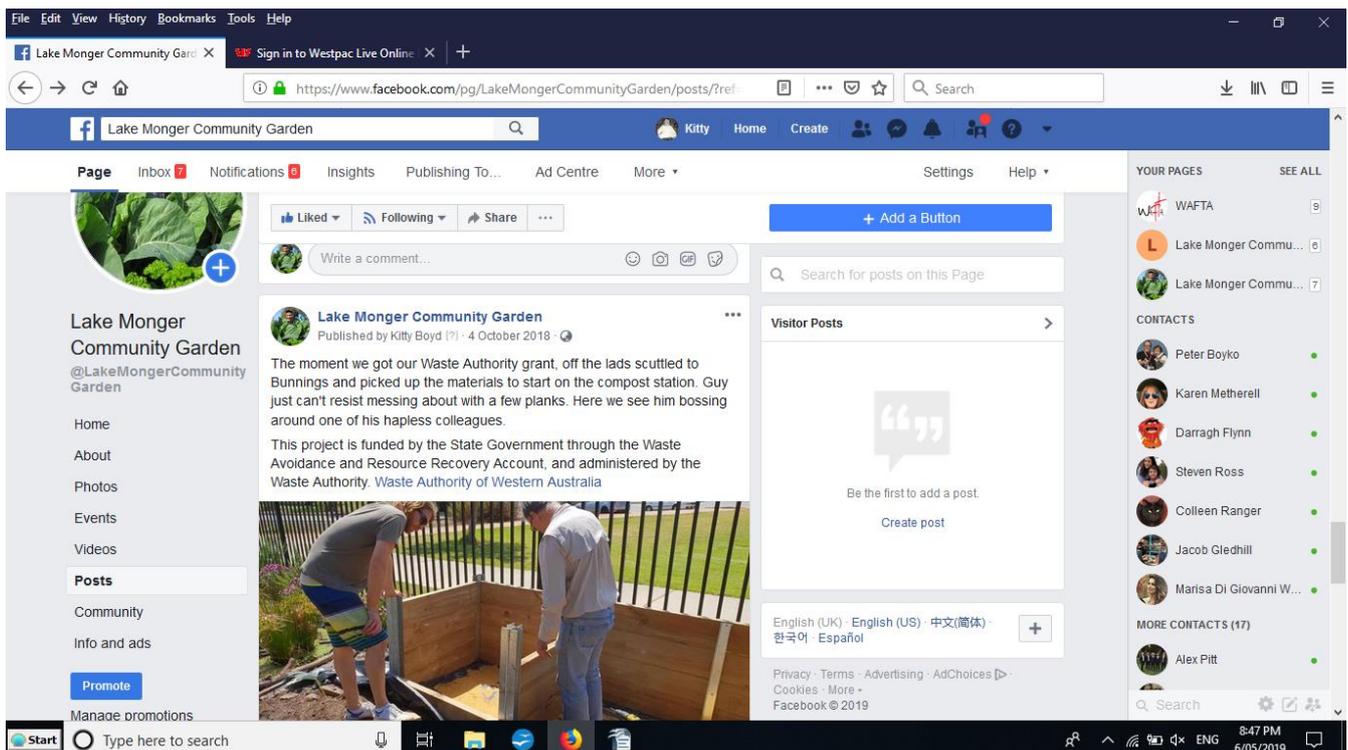
We are considering setting up a simple, user-friendly Webpage for the garden.

How did you acknowledge the Community Grants Scheme funding you received?

We tagged the Waste Authority on Facebook posts recording the work progressing the garden (compost bays being constructed) on both pages.

The Waste Authority logo is also displayed on our signage for the project (which is placed high up for good visibility).

If the project is active enough and we decide to issue a newsletter, the WGA logo will also be a header on that document.



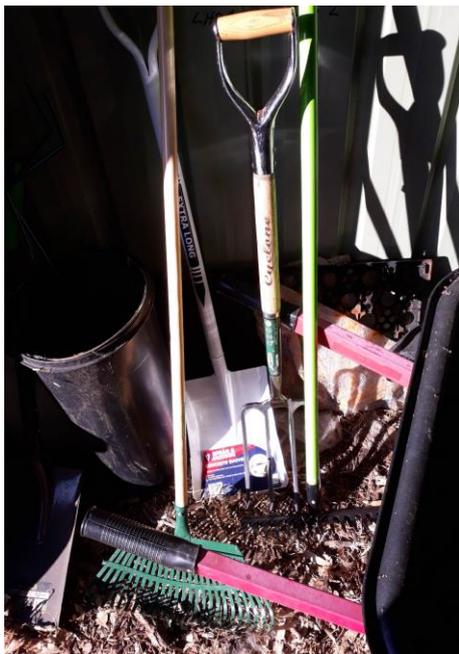


The screenshot shows a Facebook post from the 'Lake Monger Community Garden' page. The post is published by Kitty Boyd on 3 April. The text of the post reads: "Signage is on order (courtesy of the waste grants authority) and stickers and bins received. We can soon begin the programme for community composting... Keep an eye for the 'open bin' schedule, what not to compost and who is participating. #WasteAuthorityWA". The post has 91 people reached and 8 engagements. The left sidebar shows the page name and navigation options. The right sidebar lists 'YOUR PAGES' including WAFTA and 'CONTACTS' including Peter Boyko, Steven Ross, and others. The bottom of the browser window shows the system tray with the date 6/05/2019 and time 8:42 PM.

The screenshot shows a Facebook post from the 'Lake Monger Community Garden' page. The post is published by Kitty Boyd on 16 January. The text of the post reads: "Our compost bays are filling up rapidly and we now need to start the wheels turning for the full programme to get underway. We were kindly funded by the Waste Authority Grants scheme #WasteAuthorityWA 😊". Below the text is a photograph of several wooden compost bays filled with organic waste. The post has 91 people reached and 8 engagements. The left sidebar shows the page name and navigation options. The right sidebar lists 'YOUR PAGES' including WAFTA and 'CONTACTS' including Karen Metherell, Peter Boyko, and others. The bottom of the browser window shows the system tray with the date 6/05/2019 and time 8:44 PM.

Did you purchase any capital equipment with your grant money? (this includes things like sheds and large pieces of equipment) If so, what did you buy?

We bought the materials used to construct our 3 compost bays (timber, braces), plastic Dalek-style compost bins, a wheelbarrow for transporting compost, pitchforks and a gyrotator tool for turning the mulch with minimum effort (please see pics attached).





Were there any promotional / media opportunities for the project?

Did you produce any promotional material for the project? (flyers, brochures even screen prints of online promotion – Facebook posts etc)

Not as yet, but we intend to produce an A5 flyer to distribute in the medium density living in the area, and A4 posters for their noticeboards: one member is on the strata committee of a large complex and in a good position to push the project to those residents, and has a good relationship with the large complex next door also.

We also intend to put an advert in the local paper when we are ready to receive visitors.

VARIATIONS & EXTENSIONS

Were you able to complete your project in the approved timeframe?

NO

If there were variations or extensions, what were the cause(s)?

Key members had some pressures on their time that were unexpected (increase in FiFo work, family and personal matters) and the signage took longer than expected to order. We therefore applied for an extension.

We also applied for a variation (which also added to our timeframe) when the general membership decided mid-way that they were not able to commit to the care of chickens at this stage, plus it was obvious that the three compost bays would not be enough to drive a community composting programme: they were almost filled with just the waste produced by the garden and its membership.

It was therefore decided that the far more sensible option would be to extend the scope of composting and leave the chickens for a time when the second parcel of land granted to the garden (which contains far more shade) would be enclosed and secure from opportunist theft and/or cruelty.

FUTURE PROJECTS

Did any opportunities or ideas arise during the project? Do you now have ideas for other future projects?

Not ideas, exactly, but an opportunity to develop a relationship with Mount Hawthorn Primary which arose when they visited the garden has arisen.

We will now have a bed for the kids and they will learn about composting when we spread the compost. We can save their compost for when they can arrange a supervised visit for a couple of classes and give them a tutorial whilst they spread the compost.

PROJECT PHOTOS

The new LMCG Composting sign which will be erected in the next couple of weeks.



The compost bays being constructed







Bins purchased



The Lake Monger Community Garden is located at the north end of Lake Monger, between the Dodd Street car park and Powis Street. (next to Bold Park Community School)

