Rich boost for growing community garden

By Hamish Hastie

The Willetton community garden will be a showcase for best practice sustainable gardening in Perth after the Willetton community garden association received a $5200 grant from the waste authority.

The money was awarded to the garden so it could improve its facilities and spread knowledge and build skills for sustainability in homes, recreation and leisure facilities and local businesses.

Willetton community garden association spokeswoman Noni Walker said they would buy a mulcher, establish composting bays, build a worm farm and hold sustainable gardening workshops.

“We’re keen to look at a whole best practice list of things we can try out ourselves and show to other people,” she said.

“The composting system will have a range of features so people can see what suits them best at home, people will have the opportunity to come here and see what’s available and then they can do that at home.”

The garden joined five other community groups who received grants under the waste authority’s community grant scheme.

Member for Riverton Mike Nahan congratulated the association on receiving the grant, which would help the fledgling group improve its facilities.

As of 2013-14, 45 per cent of metropolitan municipal waste was reported as diverted from landfill through recycling against the 2015 target of 50 per cent.

Anyone interested in joining the garden could email willettongarden@gmail.com.

$1m upgrade to beat congestion

The state government has funded further work to improve traffic flow with construction about to begin on one of Perth’s busiest intersections in Cannington.

Transport Minister Dean Nalder last week announced a $998,000 contract for Main Roads contractor Downer Mouchel to improve the intersection of Albany Highway and Liege Street.

The work involved widening the southern approach to Liege Street to accommodate a double right turn on to Albany Highway eastbound.

Mr Nalder said the works would improve traffic flow on Liege Street by moving more vehicles through the intersection. “This will improve the level of driver safety, decrease the frustration of motorists and hopefully reduce the number of rear-end and right turn crashes,” he said.

The intersection was ranked 25 on the Main Roads WA metropolitan crash database and it recorded 154 crashes during the five years to December 31, 2013.

The work, now underway and managed by Main Roads, would take about five weeks.

Canning chief executive Lyn Russell said the city supported the project.

“The first stage of construction on upgrades to the intersection were completed in late 2014, the second stage of construction commenced in late May 2015 and will be completed within five to six weeks,” she said.
WHERE
Willetton Community Garden is getting started on Glenmoy Avenue, Willetton (opposite Rentney Way). Parking is available next to garden at the Rostrata Avenue shops.

WHAT
Community gardens may be communal / shared gardens, or allotment gardens - our garden will combine the two styles. The garden in Willetton has the potential to grow vegetables, herbs, indigenous plants and an orchard. We are already building great community connections through the enthusiastic and friendly group of local people who are members of the Willetton Community Garden Association.

WHO
Anyone who is interested is invited to be part of the Community Garden – you don’t even have to live in Willetton!

contacts: willettongarden@gmail.com Rob McKenzie ph 0427373170

www.facebook.com/WillettonCommunityGarden

Individuals / families can be involved in planning the garden or register your interest to hear when garden beds are available or news of garden activities.

We are keen to hear from community agencies and organisations who are interested in designing or participating in activities in the garden when it is developed.

There are great opportunities for business, government and NGO organisations – let us know how you would like to be involved!

WHEN
The garden is being built NOW with our sheds, storage and compost bays looking great!
Contact us for days and times to join the Association members at the garden or come along to regular meetings or busy bees on third Sunday of each month.

We gratefully acknowledge support from the Rostrata Primary School P&C Association Department of Local Government and Communities, City of Canning, Lotterywest, WA Waste Authority, Rotary Club of Willetton, Hon Sue Ellery MP, Hon Mike Nahan MP, Hon Dennis Jensen MP, Trav’s Trees and Willetton Bunnings.

Supported by Community Garden grant scheme

Government of Western Australia
Department of Local Government and Communities

WASTE AUTHORITY
For you.  For nature.  For life.

City of Canning

lotterywest
supported
The Ultimate Worm Farming Workshop

Turning a broken down fridge into a worm farm

* reduce your household rubbish output
* reduce water consumption in the garden
* nourish your plants
* save money!

If you're not in on the big secret yet, we're talking about worm farming, otherwise known as vermiculture. The output from a worm farm (known as worm castings) is recognised by soil scientists as one of the most nutrient-dense soil improvers available on the planet (even better than the man-made fertilisers you can buy).

We've called this the ultimate worm farming workshop coz we'll show you how to use THREE different methods to get the job done. Pick the one that suits your household and lifestyle. Best of all, a worm farm can usually be constructed easily (very easily) from materials you may already have in your shed (or stuff you can easily pickup at kerbside collection).

Method 1 - Using a broken down fridge to build a worm farm
Method 2 - use polystyrene foam boxes to build a worm farm
Method 3 - commercial worm farms, slater farms and other variants

Location & Contact
Willetton Community Garden, Glenmoy Avenue, Willetton
willettongarden@gmail.com
Phone: 0427 373 170

Workshop 1
Time: 11am start
Duration: Approx 2 hours (including tea & snacks)
Date: May 27 (Friday morning)

Workshop 2 (re-run of above)
Time: 3pm start
Duration: Approx 2 hours (including tea & snacks)
Date: May 29 (Sunday afternoon)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compost Ingredients</th>
<th>Don't add</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Green (high in nitrogen)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Any cooked food (e.g. bread) or grease/oils</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Weeds (no seed heads)</td>
<td>• Seed heads</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Vegetable food scraps</td>
<td>• Fruit fly infected fruit</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Banana peel and apple cores</td>
<td>• Diseased plants</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Algae</td>
<td>• Plants recently sprayed with herbicide or fungicides</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Citrus (in very minute amounts)</td>
<td>• Pernicious weeds (e.g. kikuyu, oxalis)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Fresh grass clippings</td>
<td><strong>Brown (high in carbon)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Spent garden plants</td>
<td>• Ash, charcoal and saw dust (small amounts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Coffee grounds and tea leaves</td>
<td>• Hay Straw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Feathers</td>
<td>• Eggshells crushed</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Fresh green leaves</td>
<td>• Sawdust (small amounts and untreated)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Manure (activators)</strong></td>
<td>• Dry leaves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Sheep (low)</td>
<td>• Cow (low)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Blood and Bone (medium)</td>
<td>• Horse (medium)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Chicken (highest)</td>
<td>• Worm castings or worm leachate</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Other compost activators – comfrey, borage, yarrow, mature compost</td>
<td>• Carnivorous animal faeces (e.g. dogs and cats)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Meat or fish</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Horse manure (just after the horse has been wormed)</td>
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