



Garden News, June 2009

GROCOTT'S ORGANIC COMMUNITY GARDEN

In October, an opening day was held at Grocott's Organic Community Garden, situated in the Middlemarch railway precinct and named after the first station master. Twenty Middlemarch people arrived for a cup of tea on a rather cold drab morning, soon replaced by brilliant sunshine. As the morning moved on, visitors from the train popped their heads over the fence and decided to join us. Although we are not a tourist attraction, it is pleasant to have extra interested people and share garden gossip from here and elsewhere. With the train coming and going there is a lot of laughing, waving and tooting and we are right there enjoying it all.

From this day on, six volunteers have been coming to the garden on a Wednesday morning when they are able to. In return for their labour they take home a vegetable supply for the week. We have also been supplying weekly boxes of mixed organic vegetables to seven households for a donation. Our school children, who are rotated each week, arrive on Wednesdays and are learning to grow their own food. Next spring there will be a special learning area for them with a nursery of native plants for stream and river initiatives, plus farm shelter trees.

Since January we have taken extra vege boxes to the Working for Families Food Bank at Presbyterian Support Services. And we are thrilled at having won 1st prize at the Strath Taieri A&P Show for a basket of mixed vegetables. This is a high point on which to close the garden for the winter.

Next spring if you are interested to come along please do so. If you would like to have a weekly vege box from November onwards ring Dawn 464 3696 or Patricia 464 3321 during September and tell us what you would like us to grow. This season we grew pumpkins, courgettes, three types of lettuce, herbs, pak choi, NZ spinach, silver and red beet, beetroot, potatoes, collies, broccoli and leeks, but unfortunately our carrots and corn were a flop!

Our thanks to everyone who has helped make this project possible and we look forward to seeing you next year.

This flyer is kindly sponsored by Strath Taieri Lions

