The garden

- Planning for the Corowa Tree of Life Community Garden commenced in 2012 with a group of interested people coming together. At this stage there were many ideas and visions for establishing a community garden in Corowa, food security and building a sense of community were two key motivators.

- A steering committee was formed and a planning session looked potential locations and developed a vision and action plan.

- Land was made available in a central position by the Uniting Church – on an old tennis court. A MOU was developed between the Church and the steering group. The Tree of Life name and logo was inspired by the ‘Tree of Life’ stain glass window in the Church.

- From here a public meeting was called and committee of management formed, the group became an Incorporated Association and obtained public liability insurance.

- Work commenced on the garden in early 2014.

What’s happening

- The garden is established - the curving garden beds were designed by a local artist who also provided a central sculpture.

- The toilets have been renovated courtesy of the Church and a shipping container houses tools.

- Community group such as the men’s Shed are utilising the garden

- A monthly community meal has commenced
Corowa ‘Tree Of Life’
Community Garden
Hume Murray Community Gardening Collective

Key learnings

- Developing an agreed vision and action plan assisted development, this planning takes time.
- Finding a suitable location can be difficult, things become a lot easier once this is agreed,
- Encouraging groups like the Men’s shed to enjoy the gardens builds community ownership and participation

Plans for the future

- Encourage more community participation via individual membership and use by local groups / organisations
- Continue and potentially expand the community meal program

Useful resources

To become a member or for more information email Corowa Tree Of Life Community Garden’s Amber Murphy at amberm@intereach.com.au, phone on (02) 6044 2800 or via Facebook at facebook.com/Treeoflifecommunitygardencorowa

Sustainable Gardening Australia has a community garden manual at sgaonline.org.au/community/community-gardens-manual

Check out the Castlemaine Growing Abundance Project at cch.org.au/2014/12/growing-abundance-project-inc/ or the UK Incredible Edible Network: incredibleediblenetwork.org.uk

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