The garden

- The Yackandandah Community Garden (YCN) was created after a successful application for funds from Sustainable Gardening Australia.
- YCN is auspiced by the Yackandandah Community Education Network (YCEN).
- There were challenges finding the right spot for the garden, eventually a site between the swimming pool and creek on Williams St was found.
- A community forum was held to find out what people wanted from the garden – about 80 members of the community attended.
- Beechworth Correctional Centre provided labour to build the garden beds, many community workshops and working bees assisted.

What’s happening

- Focus is on education – developing skills to grow food.
- Six large garden beds grow food that the community can access via a produce table and weekly produce swaps.
- Those who take home produce are asked to make a donation via the donation box.
- Average of one workshop per month – currently focused on gardening and art.
- Pizza oven.
- Run and supported by volunteers.
Key learnings

The funding from SGA provided a project manager which meant the community could get on with building the garden.

Holding the community forum provided guidance for the garden design – the community wanted:

- A place to grow food;
- A place to gather and eat; and,
- Some ornamental plants

Some members of community enjoy the garden simply for socialising

The absence of fences and gates means residents and visitors can wander in and out as they please – this has been a positive as people choose to spend time in the space.

Being located next door to the town swimming pool has been positive with parents dropping into the community garden on their way to or from the pool in summer.

Plans for the future

- An outdoor kitchen will soon be installed to provide opportunities for food preserving workshops and to use the space for events
- The YCG volunteers are looking at ways to involve more community groups – the Cubs recently visited and planted seedlings.
- Potential to include seeds on the produce table

Useful resources

To become a member or for more information email yackandandahcg@gmail.com or check out the blog yackandandahcg.blogspot.com.au

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

Check out the Circles of Learning program at circlesoflearning.org.au