

Project Name: Warracknabeal Community Garden
Year: 2015
Lead Agencies: Rural Northwest Health, Yarriambiack Shire
Partners: Woodbine, Community Action Research Group, Men's Shed, Local Schools, Rotary Club

Project Description: *Grow, Nurture, Thrive*

Background:

Rural Northwest Health in conjunction with the Community Action Research Group led by a PhD candidate from La Trobe Rural Health School identified the opportunities community gardens provide to improve the health and wellbeing of communities.



Rural Northwest Health endorsed the recommendations from the Community Action Research Group and as a priority committed to the building of such spaces in the towns of Hopetoun, Beulah Warracknabeal. With the support of Yarriambiack Shire, project partners aimed to create interactive edible gardens designed, built and managed by local residents.

The newly established Warracknabeal Community Garden is situated on vacant land in the main street of Warracknabeal. In two years, the garden has developed into a vibrant and thriving space with fruit trees and large raised vegetable beds. Paths, seating and tables at the front of the garden invite people to wander in and relax. A 'blackboard' wall at the garden entrance keeps the community informed of upcoming activities and events.

Community members, groups and school students have generously donated their time and plants for the garden. Others have assisted with installation of a rainwater tank and construction of a storage shed. A garden committee of 15 members currently oversees the development of the garden. Their working bees held on Saturday mornings regularly see local people venture in to see what is happening.. and then volunteer with planting and weeding.

Fresh seasonal vegetables grown on site (such as summer tomatoes, lettuces and pac choy) are freely available for locals. The garden also hosts a variety of activities including composting and propagation workshops and children's flower pot painting. With its central location, paths and raised beds the garden is easily accessible for older people and those with physical disabilities.



This dynamic public garden continues to evolve. With a vision to **grow, nurture and thrive** many exciting, new projects are well underway including a children's garden, sculptures and wall mural.

