



CITTA-CHAT

Spring edition | Newsletter for members of Cittaslow Goolwa | 2 September 2020

CITTASLOW GOOLWA UPDATES:

WHAT'S RESUMED, WHAT HAS NOT, AND WHAT IS STILL HAPPENING BEHIND THE SCENES DURING COVID 19

Like every organisation across the globe, we have had to adapt and reorganise our program according to the latest advice about outbreaks, restrictions and strategies to help keep our community safe. The Management Committee and groups such as the Cittaslow Environment Group have been able to continue to meet via Zoom while other activities have been in abeyance. Here is an update about what Cittaslow Goolwa has planned during Spring 2020.

Sadly, two of our most popular events have had to be cancelled or postponed due to the difficulty in managing social distancing:

-  **Smoke Off**, the annual festival of all kinds of smoked foods, has been cancelled for 2020 but all being well will return on Sunday 7th November 2021.
-  **At the Wharf**, the monthly celebration of local food, wine, music and dancing on Signal Point deck and lawns, will **not** resume on the October long weekend as planned. It is hoped that the need to restrict social gatherings will reduce as the summer season progresses so we will be able to resume these events on the last Friday evenings of each month before the end of the year.

On a brighter note, a good number of Cittaslow's regular activities have been able to adapt to the changing circumstances in recent weeks. Below is a summary of highlights and in the following pages you will find more details about activities and information about how to get involved.

-  **Cittaslow Farmers Market** has returned to Jaralde Park each 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month
-  **Cittaslow Corner** doors will be open again from Thursday 27th August after a prolonged winter break
-  **Community Garden** volunteers have continued to work the garden beds and maintain the grounds in smaller groups throughout but have now also resumed Wednesday morning tea and meetings

- ✓ The periodic clean-ups and maintenance at **Jekejeri Park** and the **Randell Road 'Adopt a Road' Clean-ups** continue
- ✓ Our **Education** monitor 'Iain Langusch' continues to work on environmental projects with local school students
- ✓ Cittaslow **Environment Group** has continued to meet, mostly via Zoom
- ✓ Monthly **Food and Wine** gatherings have resumed at the RSL
- ✓ **'How To' sessions** are gradually being re-introduced within the current restrictions, beginning with the well-subscribed 'Biochar' workshop.

Members will receive information about developments and upcoming activities via email so keep checking our updates.

Vogalonga Down Unda

Sunday 4th October 2020

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Cittaslow Goolwa is supporting the inaugural 'Vogalonga Down Unda', the first of its kind in Australia.

We encourage members to find out more about this exciting event by visiting the website (www.vogalongadownunda.net.au) and considering offering your time as a volunteer. Help needed includes packing participant bags, helping with registrations on the day, coordinating boat parking and boat launching, setting up and taking down marquees, Covid-Safe monitoring and hygiene and so on.

For more information and to register your interest please call:

Tony Trimboli Mob. 0422 656 956 (before 1st September)

Mallee Bower Mob. 0413 147 203 (after 1st September)



ASA team in Venice Vogalonga 2017

SO... WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING?

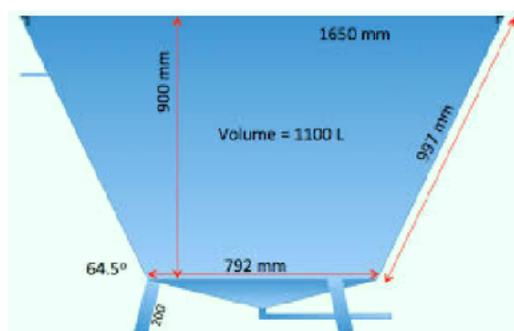
'HOW TO' Session - held on Saturday 25th July at The O'Brien's place in Currency Creek Road. Goolwa North

Topic: Make and use **Biochar**

What is Biochar?

Biochar is a type of charcoal produced by burning wood and other materials in the absence of oxygen. This process, called pyrolysis, uses natural gases found in the wood etc rather than oxygen from the surrounding air. The fire burns at between 500 and 900°C. The result is that up to 70% of the carbon in the fuel is retained.

This charcoal was once a common source of fuel and was used in furnaces for metal smelting. The 'How To' session showed how this valuable resource can be used to store carbon in the soil, for up to 1,000 years, helping develop the quality of the soil at the same time. Up to 10% of a soil plot can be substituted with biochar and a combination of 10% biochar, 10% compost and 80% sand or gravel makes a fantastic potting mix for growing seedlings.



How To:

The Session was led by a team of volunteers from Macclesfield (Maccy Biochar www.maccybiochar.com) who have set out to improve sequestration of carbon in their district by collecting dead wood and turning it into biochar, which is then sold, often enriched with worm tea. They brought their kiln, made from sheet steel and capable of making about 150 litres of biochar at a time. The kiln is of a type called Kon Tiki, like an inverted four-sided cone with handles that allow two people to manoeuvre it on and off an ordinary trailer

A small fire was started in the bottom of the kiln which was then gradually loaded with dry eucalyptus sticks as each batch started to burn well. The strategy was to keep a flame 'cap' burning across the whole of the kiln, to stop oxygen getting into the process. As the fuel burnt down it was steadily packed and broken down into smaller pieces of charcoal, using a long-handled shovel. This process continued for two hours, until the kiln was filled with red-hot coals.

Once the kiln was full, the fire was put out (quenched) with buckets of compost tea (wheelbarrow load of compost soaking in water for a week prior). The kiln was completely filled with quench water to put out the fire, then the water was drained through a hole in the bottom of the kiln. At this point the biochar was ready to be used, albeit still warm to touch. Participants took home bags of the fresh biochar to try and Maccy Biochar subsequently provided more *15 kg) bags for those who had missed out.



Details:

25 people attended at a cost of \$10/head. Morning tea was provided. Biochar cost was \$10 bag on the day or \$18/15 kg enriched with worm tea. The Community Garden is in the process of buying a kiln for use by Cittaslow members. The Victor Harbor Environment Centre is looking to run a subsequent session in September. Details on 'How To' from Angela Nesci (0438 321 674) or Antonio Trimboli (0422 656 956).



CITTASLOW STALL @ THE FARMERS MARKET...

With some trepidation we gathered our goodies from the Garden and Cittaslow Corner and held our first stall at the Farmers Market on the 26th April 2020.

Even though the weather was very trying, everyone was keen to be out and about after the lockdown.

There were many happy smiling faces even with the social distancing rules.

The produce was well received and we decided this had been a good decision.

Since then our range of goods has expanded and we are being well supported by the Goolwa community. The Garden volunteers have been value adding to the garden produce - ensuring no waste of any fruit & vegetables. We even have a range of dried herbs available. In the coming months there will be an opportunity to include dried fruit on the stall.

We have used the stall as an educational opportunity around the Climate Emergency Declaration, Waste Management and alternatives to plastic, vegetable growing and healthy eating. We have kept up to date with the Covid-19 regulations on social distancing and provide hand sanitiser for the public by having our volunteers offering it at various points around the Market.

With the Corner being closed, the Market has become the first point of contact for Cittaslow. Consequently we have had several new members join and we have new volunteers at the Garden.

Ange & Angela



EDUCATION

Well it has been a long time since I reported on Education and if I never hear “unprecedented” again for a while, that would be good! Throughout the pandemic, I have kept my association with Investigator College. Most of the time, however, I have not been working directly indoors with the students, but in the nursery I am able to observe appropriate distancing and I really enjoy the work, The School even allowed me to work in the nursery during the school holidays when the chance to get out of my house was too good to resist. Since the start of the pandemic, I have propagated over 1500 native plants (plus another 300 at home). As I write we are now allowed to do field trips (previously not permitted) and many of the assessments for the students involve field work. I hope this easing of restrictions will persist.

From the start of this term (3 wks ago), volunteers are allowed on the Goolwa PS campus with the usual conditions of distancing etc. I am absolutely delighted with the Dune Garden. The plantings we did last year have thrived and it looks a picture. The weeds have also been growing well and that was a task for wk 1. The students have done a reasonable job in maintaining the vegetable garden, although some of their plantings needed subdividing when they planted whole punnets of seedlings in the one spot.

Iain Langusch

(Education Liaison)



Goolwa PS Dune Garden.

All these plants were only planted last year inc. *Allocasuarina verticillate*, *Acacia dodonaefolia* and *Carpobrotus roseii* (propagated by yr2 students)



ENVIRONMENT GROUP

Even though Covid restrictions limited our ability to meet as a group, we did manage to meet via Zoom with varying degrees of success. However, members of the group have still been active on a number of projects. We completed a very successful clean-up of **Randell Rd** on Hindmarsh Island. We have "owned" this road as part of the *Kesab* community involvement program. We were joined by members of the *Islanders Social Club* and were able to extend our clean-up all the way from the bridge to the new entrance at Excelsior Parade. As this section of Randell Rd had not been cleaned previously, the amount of litter collected was huge and included no less than 7 discarded car tyres.

Members have also been very active in lobbying the Council over their proposed action in support of their Climate Emergency Declaration.

The Council have also been contacted over their policy on cats as well the vexed issue of genetically modified crops.

We have continued to work in **Jekejeri Park** and now 150 local shrubs and grasses have been planted. One of the conditions from Council when agreeing to cease the use of Glyphosphate was that we had to be responsible for weed control. Thanks to Olaf Hansen and his Whipper Snipper and an organic herbicide Slasher we have managed to keep on top of the weeds. Our plantings have all thrived and it is pleasing to see new growth on some of the Quandongs (see photo) and 6 Quandong seedlings have also been planted to replace some of those killed by the native creeper.

Iain Langusch

for the Environment Group



New growth on a Quandong



Rehab site

Cittaslow - Hindmarsh Island Social group

Randell road cleanup



Jekejeri Park



Other News...

Cittaslow Corner

Cittaslow Corner is open once again after a long closure due to Covid 19. Current hours are **11am-2pm Thursday until Monday**. The Corner closes, however, on *Farmers Market* days (when you can find us in the market at the Cittaslow Stall) - *2nd and 4th Sundays each month*. Pop in to stock up on jams, chutneys, fresh biscuits, honey, olive oil and other produce. You will also find gifts, candles and **handcrafted aromatherapy, self-care and pampering products** - all locally produced of course. Our range of sustainable storage and cleaning products is also expanding.



If you'd like to volunteer at Cittaslow Corner we would love to hear from you. Please contact Karen Ross on 0438 660 653 or email: karenrosswalks@gmail.com

Cittaslow members granted life membership

Cittaslow Goolwa has granted life membership to Gaynor Jones and Judith Jones.

Back in 2007, Judith and Gaynor were part of a group of like-minded Cittaslow members with a dream to create a Community Garden. Thirteen years later the garden has thrived due to the hard work of a dedicated group of volunteers. Today the garden boasts 26 beds maintained by Cittaslow members and a further 14 beds maintained by volunteers. The garden also has 22 fruit trees. Produce from the garden is shared with the Goolwa Kindy/Childcare Centre, various "Grow Free" tables around town and has recently been sold at Cittaslow's own stall at Cittaslow's Farmer's Market.

Life membership is well deserved for the continuing dedication of these two ladies. These awards will be acknowledged and affirmed at the Annual General Meeting in November.

Iain Langusch
For the Community Garden



Updates from Cittaslow Goolwa Management Committee

We welcome a new member to the Committee: Julie Jordan has been co-opted to the Committee by a motion agreed on by email, to be ratified at the next Management Meeting. Julie joins the following current members:

PRESIDENT: Christine Putland

VICE PRESIDENTS: Iain Langusch and Karen Ross.

SECRETARY: Ange Toone

TREASURER: Michael Keen

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Jane Williams, Angela Nesci, Julie Jordan

On Saturday 29th August 2020 Cittaslow Australasia, the national network of Cittaslow, held its Annual General Meeting by Zoom. In attendance were committee members past and present representing the three Australian Cittaslow towns: Yea (VIC), Katoomba (NSW) and Goolwa (SA), as well as aspiring members from Echuca/Moama (VIC). At this meeting existing members from Goolwa, Lyn Clarke (Australasian President), John Clarke (Australasian Secretary) and Vanessa Mulhall (Australasian committee member) indicated their intention to stand down from the Australasian committee (as did Edward Booth, in his absence). Christine Putland and Jane Williams were present as representatives of the current Cittaslow Goolwa Management Committee.

The meeting elected Christine Putland as the new President of Cittaslow Australasia, while Jane Williams was elected as Secretary.

Newsletter of Cittaslow Goolwa Inc.

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