

STILL CREEK LANDCARE CAN YOUR GARDEN HELP?

(Photo courtesy of Dean Ingwersen)

I had an idea recently on how our gardens can do more, a lot more, while giving you more pleasure, increasing your knowledge and at the same time helping to save Threatened Species in our area.

After reading an Article 'Why You Should Let Nature Take Over Your Lawn' from Popular Mechanics I realized how much more we could get from our gardens if we thought more about what we want the garden to do. You get more satisfaction from your garden when the garden is designed to do more than just be a garden for plants, people and pets.

With focus on endangered species, both plant and animal, here is how your garden can help.

1. Look up what animals or plants are endangered and may fit well with your property.
2. Learn as much about the Animals and Plants that your land could support.

3. Look at your property in relation to the surrounding land. Is there bush nearby, a water course or plant corridors used as the paths of smaller birds and animals.
4. With the knowledge gained visualize what you think you can achieve, decide on the plantings and proceed with a bit more excitement and confidence.

I've chosen to focus on the Regent Honeyeater as it's recently been added the Critically Endangered list and I remember seeing it in my garden. When I next plant I'm simply going for plants that will grow in my gardens conditions and are known as a food source for the honeyeater. Who knows, maybe I'll see a pair in the not too distant future.

Do yourself a favor and do some research. You may be surprised by what species fit your property and pips your interest. Maybe some Glossy Black

Cockatoos for your trees, a Spiny Crayfish for your creek or a Shrub for the garden?

As a first stop for endangered species try the local council. If you're more adventurous try www.environment.nsw.gov.au and research for yourself, it's a great resource on the needs and habits of the species. The more information you gather, the more it helps guide your decisions.

If you do decide to proceed in supporting Endangered Species and you live in the Hornsby Council's rural area, or Hills Shire along Old Northern Road why don't you apply for **Free Plants** from Still Creek Landcare's 'Trees for Weeds' program.

If you would like help or further information on caring for your land contact Nick on 9653 2056, via email StillCreekLandcare@iinet.net.au or visit Still Creek Landcare at <http://www.stillcreeklandcare.com.au> and on Facebook.

WARRAH FARM SHOP

'FERVENT ENTHUSIASM' is probably a good way to describe the mood of the past month here at Warrah Farm. We have begun our transition to the preparation phase for Spring, which included welcoming new faces to the team. Young farmers with a great passion for organic and biodynamic market gardening, Cameron and Steve are excited to take over the farming reigns. Rob, our Farm Manager of the past 6 years, is now able to focus his attention on building greater opportunities for our clients, residents and school children living with disabilities to have increased engagement with the farm and the nursery. Our vision is to optimise the opportunities for them to experience the therapeutic benefits of gardening and farming.

Our modern lifestyles take us further away from nature and food production than we should be. Therapeutic gardening and farming

not only builds self-esteem by teaching invaluable life skills, it creates meaning and structure, and imparts a sense of belonging to a productive community. Contact with the soil and soil bacteria releases serotonin, with its many health and wellbeing benefits. And then there is the dopamine high that comes with the harvest.

Currently, the last of the Warrah citrus is being harvested, with delicious and juicy oranges still for sale in the Farm Shop. We are harvesting leeks, kale, salad greens and chard, while also getting the ground ready for the spring planting. We are definitely keen to say goodbye to the cooler months, and embrace the warmth. Spring is a great time for all the new life we get to observe and enjoy on the farm: insects, bird life, different veggies and wonderful flowers.

Our Farm Shop is open to the public six days a week with a full range of organic and biodynamic fruit and vegetables, as well as groceries, sourdough bread and fresh meat.

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