

Growing Together

SHARING STORIES... LOCAL ACTION ON FOOD SECURITY

Determinant of Food Security:
Supply and access to food

Sub-determinant:
Skills and knowledge
Social inclusion

Location & year:
Ravenswood, Northern Tasmania commenced 2012 until Dec 2014

Story tellers:

- Jenny Gee Project Coordinator 2012-14
- Lyn Best Project Coordinator current



Summary

Growing Together is a project with three main focuses:

1. Establishing a community Food CoOp within the Neighbourhood House to provide fresh locally grown produce to our community
2. A series of "Pop Up BBQs" that feature healthy vegetarian food. Seeds and seedling tubes given to the community during these events to start learning about growing your own. These street events in a variety of locations within the community.
3. Neighbourhood growing; by encouraging people to develop vegetable patches in their own back yards with some help from us and surrounding neighbours.



Benefits and achievements

Nearly 1600 people have used the Food CoOp since it was started. By running it through the Neighborhood House community members seeking assistance in relation to food relief have sought help from a number of support services offered through the Neighborhood house.

So far 6 "Pop up BBQs" have been held. At each event activities to help children and families learn about growing vegetables have been run with volunteers from the community run Urban Farm Tasmania.

19 gardens have been created so far in Ravenswood, Waverly and St Leonards. 4 community members who are willing to pass on their skills and support community members with their garden are called "garden champions". They are a valuable and trusted community resource that will help keep the momentum going around growing your own produce that has been started through this project.

Challenges

The amount of produce being donated to the Food CoOp is gradually increasing however it is seasonal and supply is lower in the Winter. We are looking at ways to make supply sustainable all year round.

Initially we got people planting in up-cycled polystyrene vegetable boxes but we found people preferred larger planter boxes and traditional dug ground garden beds.



Getting neighbors to meet each other has been of the unintended benefits of the project, particularly people new to the area.

Jenny Project Coordinator
Community House

Promotion

Going out and connecting directly to people through the “Pop Up BBQ’s” in the local streets has been a really good way to promote the project and get the community members involved.

The smell of onions cooking really helps bring people out of their homes. Project Coordinator
Community House



Funding

Growing Together was funded through a Food for All Tasmanians Fund Grant 2012. Partnerships have been formed with Second Bite, Ravenswood Child and Family Centre, local primary schools, a local bakery and Urban Farm Tasmania and the Community Housing providers. This support from food supplies, land through to assisting helping engage community members has been invaluable.

The University Department of Rural Health (UDRH) are assisting with evaluation.

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Information was compiled by **Population Health Services (DHHS)** in partnership with this initiative and the Department of Premier and Cabinet.