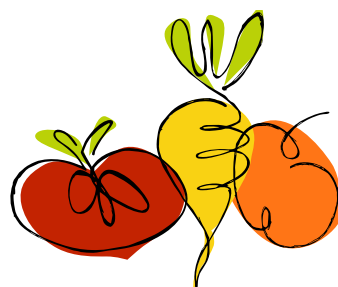




20  
24

ANNUAL  
REPORT



THE CAPE  
COMMUNITY  
FARM

CAPE PATERSON,  
VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA



# OUR MISSION

At the Cape Community Farm, we aim to strengthen our community by nurturing a shared passion for sustainable food cultivation, fostering a deep connection to the physical environment, and cultivating a culture of inclusive learning, knowledge sharing, volunteering, and respectful communication. We aspire to be a living example of a thriving, connected, and sustainable community, with the hope of inspiring and motivating others to join us on the path to a more sustainable way of life.

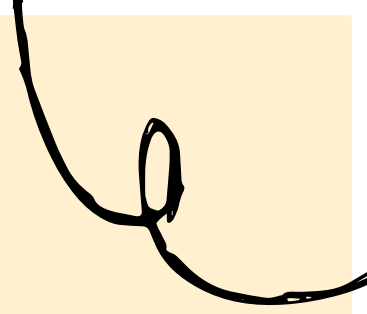


# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge we are on the traditional land of the Yallock Bullock clan of the Boon-Wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation. We respect Elders past, present and emerging.



# FROM THE FARM COMMITTEE



Welcome to The Cape Community Farm's second annual report.

Let's start the report with a huge shout out to all the volunteers, members and workers who have contributed their valuable time, experience and laughter over the last 12 months. It truly is stating the obvious, but The Farm wouldn't be where it is today without all of your wonderful efforts, so gratitude to each and every one of you.

The last 12 months have seen some wonderful events scheduled at The Farm, including four workshops created in conjunction with the Bass Coast Shire and BCAL - the Garden Gems project. Two of these workshops have already been delivered and were well attended, with a further two to run in October and November.

The farm community truly appreciates our talented and hardworking farmer, Adrian James. Adrian has had such a busy year, which you will discover as you read about his endeavours and achievements not only in my words here, but also via the images sprinkled throughout this Annual Report.

During the course of 2024, our farmer has hosted many school groups, with an expanded program having been developed for primary and secondary year students, plus there's a brand new one for corporate groups.

The monthly members' days have continued to be a great success, with many members turning up to lend a hand before taking on some knowledge from Adrian, and then sharing a delicious home cooked and often home grown lunch.

The Cape Community Farm hosted its first fundraiser of the year to bring our members together on a wintery Sunday afternoon. We had 62 attendees at the Cape Paterson Tavern for a trivia afternoon, and it seems like everyone had a great time. It was very competitive right to the end, with the team on table 8 prevailing. The winners enjoyed a meal at the Cape Tavern as their prize. We raised \$651.44, which will go towards equipping the new farm building, the Pod. Huge thank you to everyone involved in getting this event up and running.

We now have several special interest groups: heirloom vegies, fruit trees, propagating, and our latest group is The Capiary who will be caring for our hive of bees.

The Farm's plant nursery continues to expand, as does the skills and knowledge of the propagating team. It's expected that this aspect of The Farm's business model will see tube stock heading out for planting in the local area in the not too distant future.

On that note, it has been fantastic to see a building rising from the gravel adjacent to the hothouse, complete with power and solar panels. After consultation with farm members, this building has

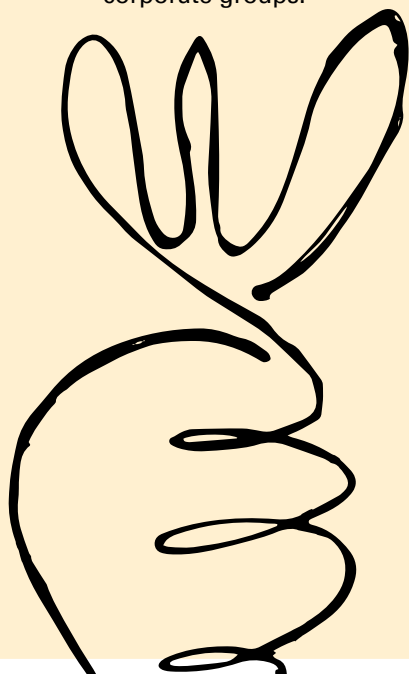
been named The Pod. It will be a wonderful asset, serving as a multifunction space fitted out with a very workable office where Adrian can operate; a large space where the business of propagating plants can be comfortably achieved and where small workshops can be hosted. There is also a very special room where seeds can be properly stored for future use.

This last year has also seen the launch of our website [capecommunityfarm.org.au](http://capecommunityfarm.org.au). Special thanks to the small hardworking team who got this up and running. The website will continue to grow with online sales and ticketing to be added.

The committee also would like to thank the Cape Board, for their ongoing support and vision for The Farm. It is such an exciting, unique and cutting edge project, which simply would not exist if it was not for the Board's belief that there must be a better way forward, as well as their determination to bring those visions into the real world as a working model for people to engage with and learn from.

Lastly, a big thank you to my fellow committee members - it has been a huge 12 months, and together, we have achieved so much. Let's see what the next 12 months has in store for us.

**Robyn Shallard**  
Vice President  
The Cape Community Farm



# FROM THE FARMER

It has once again been a great privilege to work alongside the incredible people who dedicate their time and energy at The Farm, as well as our remarkable Committee of Management: Robyn Shallard, Mike Wiles, Heather Allen, Kate Keech, Brendan Condon, Anthony Newman, Jutta Hau, Kath Brackett, and San Muller who recently stepped down from the committee.

As The Cape Community Farm marks its second year of operation, it's a fitting time to reflect on all we have achieved and to look ahead to the exciting opportunities on the horizon. This year has been about building on the strong foundation laid in our first year, consolidating our farm practices and procedures, and creating a framework for maximising the potential of our amazing Farm in the years to come.

A highlight this year was our participation in The Bass Coast Shire Garden Gems initiative, which allowed us to offer four workshops

to the broader community. These workshops were a valuable way to gauge interest and engagement with this type of programming, and they provided us with helpful insights for future offerings.

Another new initiative was the Trivia Afternoon, a fantastic event organised by our dedicated committee. About 65 members and their families came together for an afternoon filled with fun and laughter, showcasing the wonderful community spirit at The Farm. We also doubled the number of students who visited for educational experiences and tours compared to last year, and we will continue to expand our school program. Our goal is to offer a broader array of educational opportunities for students of all ages throughout the year.

Our Farm Groups have been thriving, with members regularly contributing to the care of our fruit trees, cultivating heirloom vegetables, managing bees, and

growing native plants. Your efforts and dedication have brought an incredible sense of engagement to The Farm – thank you for all that you do!

A true milestone this year has been the completion of 'The Pod'. This facility, now with access to power, will significantly boost the productive capacity of our Nursery and enable us to host even more activities and events. It will also provide much-needed comfort for our volunteers, especially during Monthly Members Days.

Thank you once again for being part of the amazing community that sustains our Community Farm. I look forward to working with you all as we enter the next exciting chapter in the growth of The Cape Community Farm!

Best regards  
**Adrian James**  
(AKA "The Farmer")







# FROM THE TREASURER

The Farm's Financial focus for our 2nd year has been on providing value for money for members while also consolidating our financial position.

We had several successful events including a trivia afternoon and Open days/ BBQ) fundraising a combined \$2½ k.

We are developing a very productive nursery, producing seedlings for members & the community at a significant discount on retail prices. When this value is combined with the produce sales, together they have generated almost \$9k of income.

Membership/ plot subscriptions remain our biggest income source at over \$12k, and we're always working on ensuring this continues to be value for money, through discounts and benefits.

School tours are providing good community engagement, educating future leaders as well as becoming a significant income source- over \$6k.

We have had some success with grants – thanks to Bass coast Shire for a \$1.3k grant for our fruit tree irrigation system.

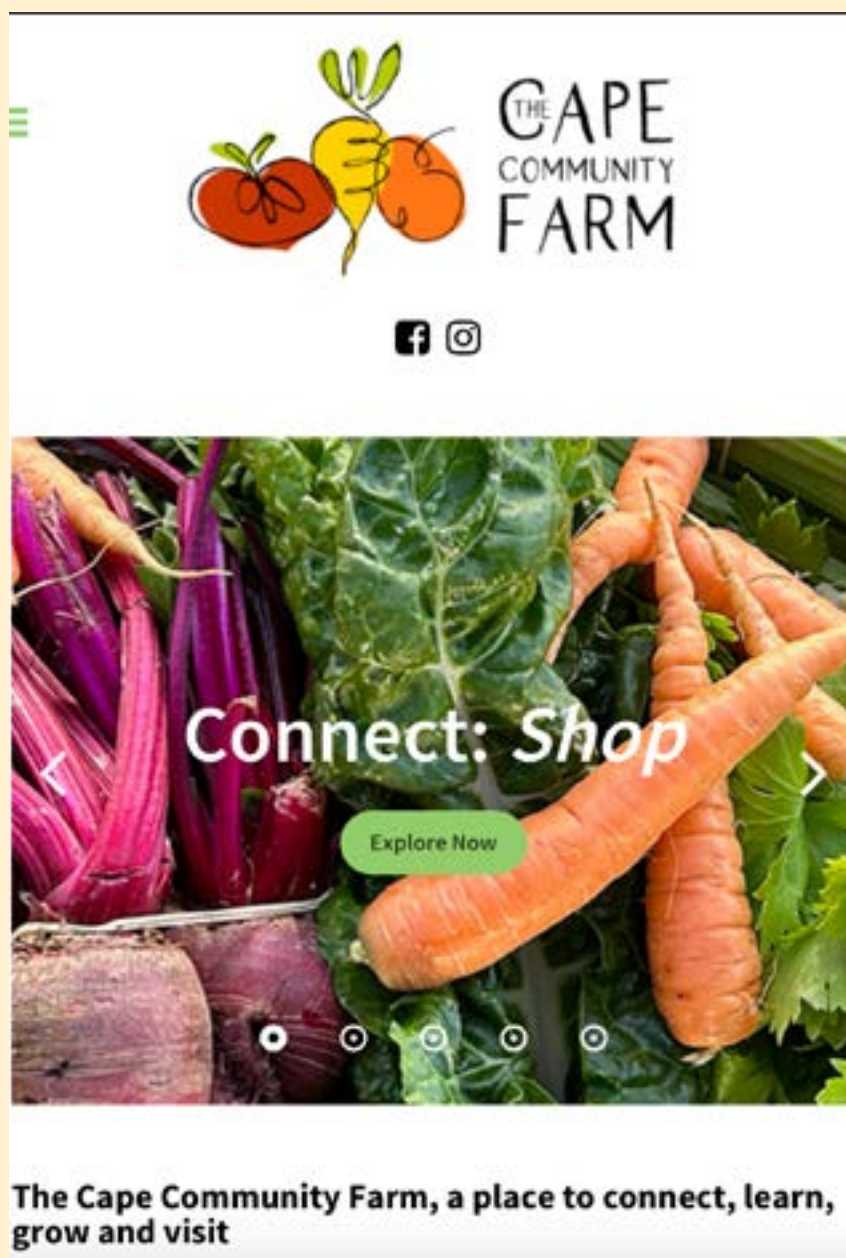
ResetTubs provided more value for members – a one-step solution that makes it simple to fertilise beds, costing less than retail & without the disposable plastic packaging, as well as generating income of \$2k.

Having such a productive Farm also requires investment in the 'smelly stuff' – outgoings for Chicken

manure & fertilisers along with Seeds & hardware supplies was \$14k for the year.

Overall, the year saw a healthy surplus of \$16k. Please refer to our AGM pack for full financial statements.

**Mike Wiles**  
Treasurer



# KEY METRICS

## PRODUCE



**3,500kg**

Produce grown in common plots



**1,600kg**

Produce donated to charity



**\$9k**

Saturday market sales/  
honesty box

## MEMBERSHIPS



**80**

Members



**130**

Plots allocated to members

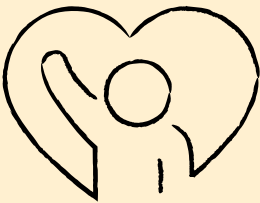


**1,400kg**

Estimate of produce grown by members



**VOLUNTEERING**

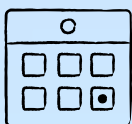


**2,820 hrs**  
annually  
**70.5 wks**  
equivalent full time  
employee

**Key volunteering contributions**

|                           |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| • Weekly volunteering     | 100 hours per month |
| • Committee               | 45 hours per month  |
| • Marketing/promotions    | 25 hours per month  |
| • Monthly working bee     | 50 hours per month  |
| • Farm events             | 2.5 hours per month |
| • Special interest groups | 10 hours per month  |
| • Miscellaneous           | 2.5 hours per month |





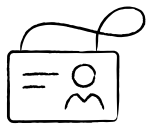
## EVENTS

| Members Days | Workshops                                |
|--------------|------------------------------------------|
| November 23  | Installing Irrigation Systems            |
| December 23  | Christmas In the Farm                    |
| January 24   | Sheltering your garden from extreme heat |
| February 24  | Training Tomatoes                        |
| March 24     | Setting up for Autumn                    |
| April 24     | Sharing Success                          |
| May 24       | Healthy Soils                            |
| June 24      | Winter Fruit Pruning                     |
| July 24      | Worm Farming                             |
| August 24    | Setting up for Spring                    |
| September 24 | Observe and learn                        |
| October 24   | Preparation for Open Day                 |
| November 24  | New Plants from Old: Propagation         |

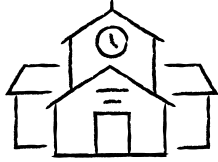
| Public Days | Workshops (Garden Gems)                |
|-------------|----------------------------------------|
| April       | Sustainable Garden Design              |
| May         | Healthy Soils                          |
| October     | Managing Pests, diseases and disorders |
| November    | New Plants from Old: Plant Propagation |

| Public Events                   |
|---------------------------------|
| Sustainable House Open Day 2024 |
| Spring Open Day 2024            |





## TOURS & PROGRAMS



**13**

Number of schools visited



**536**

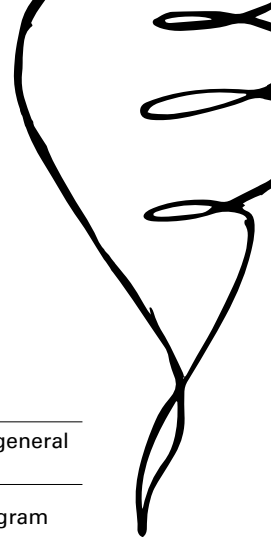
Number of students participated

### Schools participating in tours

Ava Maria College  
Bass Coast College  
Bass Home School  
Drouin Secondary  
Emerald Secondary College  
Fintona College  
John Paul College  
Kooweerup SC  
Leongatha College  
McKinnon College  
Melbourne Grammar  
Woodleigh College  
Yarram College

### Visits from other groups and delegations

|                                                |                                        |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Annie from Walgett Aboriginal Health Service   | Farm production and general management |
| Lisa Wangman: Bass Coast Landcare              | Organise schools' program              |
| Chris Grallert: Green City Farms USA           | International urban farming            |
| Kingston City Council                          | Local planning scheme                  |
| Narara Ecovillage                              | Best practice management               |
| Bass Coast Shire: Climate and Environment Team | Introduction to The Cape for team      |
| Bass Coast Adult Learning                      | Horticulture training visit            |
| Warragul Garden Club                           | Farm production and management         |
| VIC Government Ministerial Delegation          | Delegation of ministers: Food Security |
| Kosciusko Estate: Developer                    | Eco Village design and implementation  |
| Bass Coast Shire Resilient Communities         | Resilient Communities team visit       |
| Witchcliffe Ecovillage Western Australia       | Eco Village Design                     |
| Design Matters                                 | Sustainable Communities                |
| Ecumenical Principals Association              | Sustainability Education               |



## PROJECTS



**Projects  
completed**

- The Pod
- Website launch
- Power to farm
- Expansion of school and corporate programs
- Production of membership cards
- Tree Project- 2000 tube stock grown by special interest farm group for Fish Creek Landcare



**Projects  
to complete**

- Farm house building
- Online shop
- Expansion and further development of school programs
- Fit out of The Pod
- Introduction of event ticketing system



## NURSERY

- Full range of annual vegetable seedlings available seasonally in tubes
- Annual flower seedlings available in tubes
- Herbs available in small pots
- Indigenous natives available in tubes
- Australian natives available in 6 inch pots

# PROJECT TEAM REPORT

The Cape project team are very pleased to see another year of successful food production and community engagement at The Cape Community Farm. The water efficient and wind adapted design of the farm has proven itself with production of large volumes of fresh food on a site within the salt spray zone of Bass Strait, a site that would be viewed by many as not optimal for food production. The farm has produced very well over the past year with many novice food growers achieving great results, including leafy greens, root vegetables, herbs and a wide variety of different food types.

We have been very pleased to see the regular donations of food by the farm to Mitchell House who take this food and incorporate it into meals for people in the Bass Coast community who need support. We are also very happy to see other initiatives underway including the activation of the nursery site which is starting to produce a wide range of locally indigenous habitat plants and landscape plants.

The Tree Project was a self-organised farm member initiative that saw over 2000 locally indigenous plants germinated and propagated from a diverse range of species grown by farm members, and then delivered to Fish Creek Landcare who used these plants to replant forest cover on a formerly degraded site.

The Cape Community Farm also propagated and grew all the Manna Gums for the Cape community-led KOALA project, which builds habitat for the small population of rare and genetically intact endemic Strzelecki Koalas that call Cape Paterson home. With projects like these the community farm is starting to have a positive environmental and social impact well beyond the borders of the farm.

With The Pod building completed in 2024, the Farm is soon to have an all-weather high quality indoor space that can be an engine house of social interaction and farm production – whether it is seeding

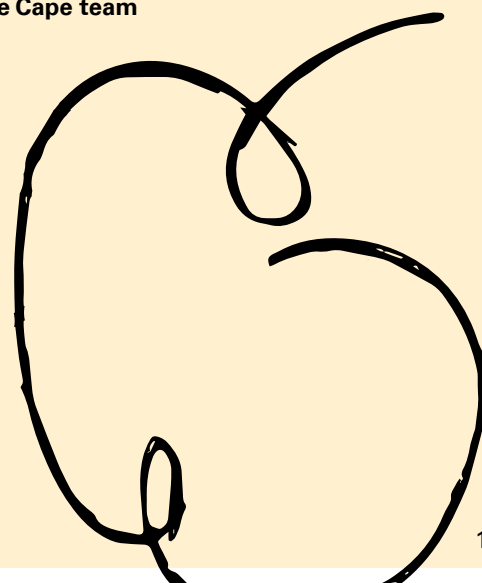
trays and propagating plants, or having a social gathering or other type of activity. The establishment of beekeeping is another string to the many bows of the farm. Electricity has also been connected to the farm in 2024 which allows for reliable power to buildings, pumps and other infrastructure.

2024 was a solid year of education engagement at the Farm, with many schools and professional groups and other visitors coming to the farm, from across Victoria and Australia and beyond. The project team have been very happy to see a highly organised and motivated committee meeting regularly and overseeing the governance of the farm, as well as the great work of our skilled and dedicated farmer AJ, who has been very positive, patient and open to share his depth of skills in food production and horticulture to whoever visits the farm.

Perhaps our favourite element of the farm is the quiet, reflective and therapeutic space that the farm has become. It is always fascinating to walk around the farm on a quiet day and to observe nature, and to see the different and diverse food plants being produced by members, and to have many informal conversations with fellow gardeners and residents and friends, or anyone who happens to walk into the farm on a given day.

Thanks to all who have contributed in the past 12 months and we can't wait to see how the farm develops over coming years.

Best regards  
**The Cape team**





Website:  
**[capecommunityfarm.org.au](http://capecommunityfarm.org.au)**



Facebook:  
**[www.facebook.com/thecapecommunityfarm](https://www.facebook.com/thecapecommunityfarm)**



Visit us at:  
**Sunlight Boulevard, Cape Paterson**



Email committee:  
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