

MEDIA STATEMENT



Wednesday, 21 September 2016

Garden cultivates connections with the community

The Bunbury Community Garden continues to spread its roots with user groups and residents digging in to help the plot grow into a valuable asset.

College Row Community School, Community First, PCYC and Bubs n' Grubs - Investing in Our Youth have all staked claim to their own patch of fertile soil following a call for expressions of interest from groups and individuals.

Upcoming events at the productive patch, including the Loose Parts Play on 29 September and a Spinning Flowers Workshop during Mental Health Week in October, will also help the garden cultivate more relationships within the community.

The garden, which is located behind the Withers Library, will also benefit from infrastructure upgrades with work to begin soon on a gazebo and retaining wall using funds from the State Government's Community Gardens Grants.

Toilet facilities will also be built on site for the use of community gardeners, with \$55,000 in project funding provided through the Withers Action Plan and endorsed by the Withers Advisory Committee.

Community Development Officer Elizabeth Larkin said the garden was about more than growing fresh produce.

"The garden is designed to be a hub where people from all walks of life can come together in a relaxed and social setting and do something that benefits the wider community," Ms Larkin said.

A committee is now in place to help maximise usage of the garden, which has produced prolific crops of tomatoes, corn, carrots and Asian vegetables.

The community garden was first established in February 2014 as a partnership between the City of Bunbury, South West Development Commission and the local community.

Raised garden beds were built and fencing installed prior to the first community planting and open day on March 7, 2015. More than 80 people turned out to plant everything from vegetable seedlings to fruit trees.

ENDS

Jamie Tatham, Communications Officer
T: 9792 7136 **T:** 0447 936 037 **E:** jtatham@bunbury.wa.gov.au

4 Stephen Street, Bunbury WA 6230 - PO Box 21 Bunbury WA 6231
TTY: 13 36 77 **F:** (08) 9792 7184 **W:** www.bunbury.wa.gov.au