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Dear members of The Community Plate,

As we approach the end of Spring, we would like to share some local food system news and events with you...



Gather
& Grow.



We held our Gather & Grow event in October to officially launch "The Community

Plate Food Strategy", celebrate becoming one of nine [VicHealth Local Partnerships for Food First](#), and spark momentum for community-led action over the next 3 years.

Key words our community highlighted as significant on the day included 'Inspiration, Learning, Community, Connection & Action'.

Catch up here on the flavours, spirit and event outcomes...



THE
COMMUNITY
PLATE

Inspiration
Learning
Community
Connection
Action

Gather &
Grow
21st October
2025

In late October, The Community Plate hosted the Gather & Grow event at the Frankston Social Enterprise & Innovation Hub to officially launch The Community Plate Food Strategy, celebrate becoming one of nine VicHealth Local partnerships for Food First, and spark momentum for community-led action. The event welcomed 59 attendees from across the region, representing diverse sectors of the local food system.

The morning featured inspiring presentations, interactive activities, and guided discussions. Attendees connected with organisations such as VicHealth and Sustain, explored local food initiatives, and learned about innovative models like Bendigo Food Share and Pocket City Farms. The event also introduced three new Action Group opportunities, with 22 people signing up on the spot to get involved.

HIGHLIGHTS Feedback from participants revealed strong enthusiasm and appreciation:

- **Inspiration & Learning:** Attendees were inspired by passionate speakers and gained insights into urban agriculture, food literacy, and community-driven solutions.
- **Networking & Connection:** Networking was a standout feature, with many valuing the chance to meet others working across different areas of the food system.
- **Inclusive & Well-Organised:** The event was praised for its inclusive, interactive format and comfortable, well-structured environment.
- **Community Spirit:** A strong sense of shared values and local pride was evident throughout the day.

EVALUATION

- **Most liked aspects:** Passionate presentations (x8), networking (x8), inspiring speakers (x3), learning about local organisations (x3), and the sense of community.
- **New learnings:** Urban agriculture models, social enterprise efforts, and local food system insights.
- **Suggestions for improvement:** More time for networking and discussion (x12), zero-waste catering, improved parking, and more celebration of local success stories.

NEXT STEPS The momentum continues with the launch of three Action Groups, kicking off in late November:

- Urban Agriculture in Schools
- Urban Agriculture in Community & Neighbourhoods
- Community Food Innovation

These groups will build on the energy of the event and help drive collaborative, local grassroots action across the region.

A heartfelt thank you from The Community Plate to everyone who contributed to bringing this event together - your time, energy, and commitment made Gather & Grow a true community success.



Would you like to be part of the action? We invite you to join one or more of our three Action Groups, springing off in late November... See details below!



Action updates.



LAUNCHING ACTION GROUPS!

Three Action Groups will be kicking off in late November to work collectively, guide The Community Plate Local Food Strategy, and ultimately to strengthen our local food system.

To be a part of the action, link into one of these Action Groups!

Community Food Innovation Action Group:

This Action Group is designed to support the creation of food-related social enterprises and sustainable economic models and is being led by the **Frankston Social Enterprise & Innovation Hub**. This group aims to improve food access, but also create jobs, reduce waste, and build local resilience.

[Sign up HERE](#)

MEETING: Wednesday 26th November 10 - 11am,
Frankston Social Enterprise Hub.

This Action Group is designed to create, support, and strengthen urban agriculture initiatives throughout our communities and neighbourhoods. How can we better grow and share food at home, with our neighbours, in community spaces? Think sharing seeds, sowing circles, rescuing fruit, free produce stands, community gardens, food swaps and community farms. Be part of this action!

[Sign up HERE](#)

MEETING: Thursday 27th November 9.30 - 11am,
Good Shepherd Wallaroo Community House
Hastings.

Urban Agriculture in SCHOOLS Action Group:

This Action Group is designed to create, support, and strengthen urban agriculture initiatives within school communities. How can we better access, grow and share fresh food at school and within our school communities? Think school gardens, food forests, school markets, food swaps, strengthening integration with the curriculum. Be part of this action!

[Sign up HERE](#)

MEETING: Thursday 27th November 1.pm - 2.30pm, Good Shepherd Wallaroo Community House Hastings.

If you would like to be involved but can't make the meeting, email thecommunityplate@gmail.com and we'll let you know about the next one!



Food
Forests.



schools with a special interest group of passionate local stakeholders and [Regenerating Farms](#).

Our second co-design workshop took place at Benton Rise Farm, complete with the soundtrack of clucking chickens and bleating goats - a perfect setting for big ideas! Here's what we achieved:

- Created a shared vision for the School Food Forest Pilot
- Refined the Pilot Proposal
- Felt united in the potential to spark real change

Next up? We're currently gathering [Expressions of Interest](#), offering one local secondary school the chance to be the first food forest pilot!

Together, we're planting the seeds for a regenerative, nourishing, resilient future. **For more information please contact thecommunityplate@gmail.com**



INFO

VicHealth Sponsorships

VicHealth offers sponsorship funding of up to \$5,000 per event for one-off events such as conferences, festivals, open days, and community activities.

Sponsorship applications are open all year.



MORNINGTON
PENINSULA
Shire

INFO

Morrington Peninsula Shire Community Support Grants

To support community groups and organisations to deliver key initiatives, programs and activities within the Shire.

Maximum amount of \$5,000 per application.

Open all year, unless funds are exhausted.

If you'd like to chat about any local opportunities, please contact us at thecommunityplate@gmail.com or **PHONE/TEXT 0481 453 158

Events
& News.



Celebrating the Power in the Soil - with Dr. Mary Cole @ Down's Community Farm
Saturday 6th December 10am - 12.30pm



“Celebrating the power in the soil” will open your eyes to all the life occurring within our soils and explain how we can support and protect them to help people, wildlife and the environment flourish.

TICKETS

Free, bookings essential.

Peninsula Health's Early Learning Food Network
25th November 2-3pm
Mornington Community Health



Do you work in an Early Childhood Service in the Frankston or Mornington Peninsula community?

You're invited to join Peninsula Health's Early Learning Food Network! Open to all early childhood staff - spots are limited!

BOOKINGS

My Smart Garden

Mornington Peninsula Shire have joined My Smart Garden, to make sustainable gardens easy!

My Smart Garden provides information to help you grow food, shelter your home from the sun and wind, create homes for native plants and animals, use water wisely and reduce waste. Visit My Smart Garden to learn more.

[INFO](#)

Food From Home

As Spring comes to an end, it's time to add some colour to your patch! Some colourful plant options include chamomile, petunias or marigolds. These attract helpful bugs, like ladybugs, while also repelling unwanted bugs, like cabbage moths.

Visit Food From Home's Growing Guides to find out more about what to plant this month!

[READ MORE](#)

Farm My School! **Saturday 22nd November - Colac**

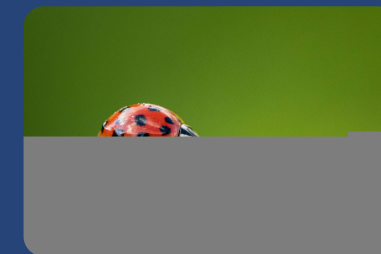
Travel a bit further afield and be part of building a farm in a day!

In 24 hours, with the power of volunteers, students, families, and local supporters, Colac Secondary College and Farm My School will be transforming underutilised school grounds into a thriving regenerative farm — a living classroom that grows food, knowledge, and connection!

[READ MORE](#)

Good Bugs & Garden Pests in a Changing World **Saturday 22nd November - Online \$33**

Join Sustainable Gardening Australia for an inspiring session on designing gardens that engage every sense. Learn how to weave sight, sound, smell, touch, and taste into your garden to create beautiful, inclusive spaces that restore wellbeing and invite deeper connection with nature.

[BOOKINGS](#)

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Would you like to share your news? We would love to share it for you?

We share news, events, stories, notices, grants and opportunities within our local food system through our events webpage, social media and newsletters.

If you have news you'd like to contribute, please connect with us via:

thecommunityplate@gmail.com



Please share through your networks, and we look forward to connecting again for more local updates!

Our best,

The Community Plate

[JOIN THE COLLECTIVE](#)





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