



NEWSLETTER July 2026

*Local Ideas. Shared Action. Real Change.
...Join the Collective.*

Dear The Community Plate Collective,

It's always inspiring to share what's unfolding across our region. From the launch of the Grow Free Cart Toolkit to Action Group gatherings, food systems collaborations, and grassroots projects, there are countless examples of people coming together to strengthen food security and community wellbeing across Frankston and the Mornington Peninsula.

Thank you to everyone contributing their skills, enthusiasm, knowledge, and time. Every conversation, partnership, and shared effort helps build a more connected and resilient food future. If you're yet to get involved and would like to learn more, we'd love to hear from you.

We hope you enjoy this edition of our July newsletter and take pride in the collective impact we're creating across our region.

FIRST UP! You're invited to the Grow Free Cart Toolkit Launch!

Be part of an exciting new initiative designed to increase food sharing, neighbourly connection, and access to fresh produce across Frankston City. (Mornington Peninsula launch coming soon!)

Come along to discover the Grow Free Cart concept, hear stories from existing projects, and learn practical ways to establish a cart in your neighbourhood, workplace, school, or community space.

On the day, we'll learn:

- What a Grow Free Cart is
- How to create your own cart or collaborate with others to make one
- The vision behind the Grow Free Cart Movement and how to be part of it

Enjoy a relaxed morning tea, meet others passionate about community-led change, and be inspired by the possibilities that can grow from small acts of generosity.

RESERVE YOUR PLACE and help foster a thriving and resilient local food landscape.

Hosted by The Community Plate Urban Agriculture in Community Action Group.

Grow Free Cart Toolkit Launch



- ✓ What is a Grow Free Cart?
- ✓ Explore our easy-to-use Toolkit
- ✓ Learn how to host or support a cart
- ✓ Join us for morning tea to kickstart the movement
- ✓ Connect with like-minded passionate community members

All Welcome

Thurs
30th July
10.00 - 11.30am

REGISTER HERE



Together we can make fresh food more accessible, reduce waste, and build stronger community connections.

Orwil St Community House Frankston
https://events.humanitix.com/tcp_growfree

Urban Agriculture in Schools



Help shape the future of food education and urban agriculture in our local schools. Whether you're a teacher, parent, community member, gardener, or simply interested in creating healthier food environments for young people, we welcome your perspective. Together we'll:

- Launch a local Grow Free Cart movement
- Help design a Mid-Week Fruit & Veg Box
- Hear updates from the School Food Forest Pilot

WHEN: Wed 12th August 10.30-11.30am

WHERE: Online **RSVP/Info:** Louise –
lsingleton@phcn.vic.gov.au

Urban Agriculture in Community

Fresh food production starts close to home. This Action Group brings together residents, growers, organisations, and food advocates interested in expanding opportunities for community food growing and sharing throughout the region. Together we'll:

- Grow a local Grow Free Cart movement
- Co-design a Fruit Rescue Program

WHEN: Wed 22nd July (TBC)

WHERE: In-person

Info/RSVP: Louise:
lsingleton@phcn.vic.gov.au



Community Food Innovation Action Group

Help shape new pathways for getting locally produced food into the hands of more people. This Action Group is ideal for producers, local businesses, social enterprises, community leaders, innovators, and anyone interested in strengthening the local food economy. Current areas of interest include:

- Exploring community pop-up market models
- Food hubs, distribution networks and local logistics
- Mapping our local food system

WHEN: Thursday 23 July 11am-12noon

WHERE: Online and in-person

Info/RSVP: Zara – hi@fseh.org.au

Led by the Frankston Social Enterprise and Innovation Hub.



Victorian Food Policy Forum

We were delighted to represent The Community Plate at Sustain's Victorian Food Policy Forum and share our story.

The energy, passion and commitment in the room reinforced the importance of working together to create a fairer, more resilient food future for all Victorians.

Read the forum report and key recommendations here: <https://sustain.org.au/victorian-food-policy-forum-melbourne/>



Image credit: Marcelo Paternoster

Judy's Crop Share & Swap

One of the most Mornington Peninsula Permaculture Networks most popular social gatherings in Bittern is back in July.

Bring along anything you'd like to share, swap or gift from your garden, kitchen or home.

Whether you have a basket full of produce or simply want to connect with community, everyone is welcome.

REGISTER: <https://events.humanitix.com/crop-share-in-bittern>



Wild & Kind Wednesdays

Join the [Permaculture Education Institute](https://www.permacultureinstitute.org/) every Wednesday in July, for a special live conversation series hosted online by Morag Gamble. Explore how we can cultivate resilient communities, regenerative cultures, ecological wisdom, and hopeful futures in a rapidly changing world.

This five-part online series brings together internationally respected educators, designers, growers, activists and storytellers for rich, podcast-style conversations with live audience participation.

TICKETS: <https://events.humanitix.com/wild-kind-july>



HOST	1 JULY	8 JULY
MORAG GAMBLE	LOOBY MACNAMARA	AFSHAN OMAR
15 JULY	22 JULY	29 JULY
PIPPA CHAPMAN	JOHN SEED & ERIKA ALIGNO	BUTTONS MIRA

Weekly conversations with guests
WILD & KIND WEDNESDAYS
Hosted by the Permaculture Education Institute

Grants



Frankston Grant Finder

Free access to start searching through grants
<https://grantguru.com/au/frankston>

Mornington Peninsula Grant Finder

Free access to start searching through grants
<https://grantguru.com/au/morningtonpeninsulashire>

Growing Guides

There are so many existing great guides to help us make the most of our gardens and growing seasons. Explore some of our favourite guides here:

Deep Green Permaculture - July Guide

<https://deepgreenpermaculture.com/2023/07/03/july-vegetable-and-herb-gardening-calendar-for-temperate-climate-australia/>

Diggers Seeds to Sow Now - Cool Region

<https://www.diggers.com.au/pages/seeds-to-sow-cool-region>

Food From Home Winter Growing Guides

<https://foodfromhome.org/monthly-growing-guides/>



Connect and Share



Share your local food system news and events via our **Events Page:** www.communityplate.org.au/events

Newsletter additions to: thecommunityplate@gmail.com

Follow us: [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#)

Subscribe: <https://communityplate.org.au/join-us/>

Unsubscribe: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TCP> **Unsubscribe**