

RIG Network wishes you Season's Greetings and the very best for the holidays

This is our last newsletter for the year - **thank you** to everyone who has contributed to RIG Network's research, submissions, website and workshops this year!

We're looking forward to working with you in 2010 on some exciting new initiatives. We'd love to hear from you about the sorts of projects, information resources and other initiatives you'd like to see RIG participants work together on in 2010.

Its shaping up to be a 'good time for gardens' now, with 'Everybody's Business', the Community Stores report recommendations strongly supporting local food production and COAG's Food Security Strategy for Remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities looking likely to include support for food gardens in the strategy.

We'll be working on updating the RIG website over summer and have some great new resources for you to check out, along with new forum topics that it would be great to hear from you on too.

What's new! RIG Network website - www.remoteindigenousgardens.net

Check out new guides now available from Greening Australia: ALEP Learning Guides for Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management students

www.greeningaustralia.org.au/index.php?nodeId=156

The Aboriginal Landcare Education Program (ALEP) is developing the Green Cadets – Grinwan Geing learning guides. They are for Certificate 2 level units in the Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management training package.

Recognise Plants (2009) Greening Australia (NT) Ltd

Install Micro-irrigation Systems (2009) Greening Australia (NT) Ltd

Plant Trees and Shrubs (2009) Greening Australia (NT) Ltd

We've received some great new gardening resources for top end community gardens that we'll be getting up on the site asap in 2010 and that you can receive now direct by email if you'd like copy for holiday gardening...

They include:

Growing Food for Healthy Communities - A Workbook for Aboriginal Communities, compiled by Joshua Byrne and Martin Anda, Murdoch University.

This booklet provides practical information for communities interested in growing their

own fresh fruit and vegetables for better nutrition. It's presented as an illustrated workbook and was co-produced with a video that demonstrates the techniques in the booklet. Its a great resource.

Produced as part of an educational package made possible through financial support of ATSIIC and the National Health and Medical Research Council, Murdoch University has kindly provided copyright approval for the material to be used by RIG Network. Many thanks to Rachel, RIG, and Yvette from Josh Byrne & Associates!

Club Veg - Cooktown Veg Planting guide, kindly provided by the Cooktown District Community Centre

David from 'Club Veg', got in touch with us after our recent Hope Vale workshop to share a great planting guide developed specifically for the Cooktown district and to tell us about Club Veg that is run by the Cooktown District Community Centre. They support a range of innovative older persons gardens and run the district gardening club who meet monthly to share seeds, cuttings and other information relevant to food gardens in that region. Cooktown also has a great local produce market and is closeby to Hope Vale and Wujal Wujal - so great garden and market connections look set to get underway there.

New discussion forum topics - we're keen to hear from you!

We've set up some new topics that we'd love your input to.....they include:

CDEP Gardens - News and Ideas

Permaculture Connections - Cairns and Cooktown areas

Nurseries - happening 'hubs' in remote communities

Tell us what you think! - RIG website and new projects 2010

Garden stories and discussion - share your gardens stories, suggestions and tips for the wet season...

RIG Network Community Workshops

In November, RIG visited Hope Vale and Wujal Wujal in Queensland for a series of meetings and community workshops to discuss local food gardens - what happening, and what people would like to get growing! We learnt about some great CDEP market gardens, garden backyard blitzes, bush food gardens and Cooktown's 'Club Veg' gardening club who are keen to link up with community gardeners. We're writing up some of those stories to share on the website soon.

In early December, RIG joined with Tim West from the Northern Territory Horticultural Association, to co-host a community workshop about food gardens in Maningrida.

Michael Rotumah, Government Business Manager for Maningrida, organised a great get together that included local Elders and gardeners, along with local program leaders and a representative from Indigenous Community Volunteers who look set to do some great work in Maningrida. The workshop generated some great ideas and linkages that we'll be following up in the New Year.

The Outback Business Network's Local Produce Network

The Outback Business Network is a great initiative based in Alice Springs that works with nine regional centres across remote Australia to link businesses and work on market development projects and programs. The centres are: Barkly, NT; Central Australia, NT; Far West NSW; Pilbara WA; MidWest/Gascoyne WA; Far North SA; Kalgoorlie-Boulder WA; Central West Qld; and North West Qld in Mount Isa.

The Outback Business Network hold regular tele-linkups meetings between the regions for interested people who want to connect with others working in their sector. RIG Network will join the next Local Produce Network tele-linkup early in the new year.

One of their key industry clusters is the Local Produce Network. You can find out more information and join this network by visiting:

Desert Knowledge Australia Local Produce Network

http://www.desertknowledge.com.au/dka/index.cfm?attributes.fuseaction=bn_bush

Climate change, food security, and growing food wherever we live.....Some further holiday reading, with Copenhagen reminding us of changes and challenges ahead (and why we do what we do!), we thought you might enjoy this great article about local food production for sustainable communities sent to us through the network. Its from Ecos, Dec-Jan 2010 edition.

http://www.ecosmagazine.com/view/dsp_download.cfm?article_id=EC152p18.pdf&jid=ec091216&xhtml=b0e76ff8-033e-41e6-8050-5b2964e2556e&issue_id=152&issue_year=2010&direct=1

With best wishes for safe and happy holidays,

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