

Community gardeners invited to share ideas

ROTORUA COMMUNITY gardeners are invited to an informal gathering to share information and explore opportunities to collaborate.

The gathering is being held from 1.30pm on Monday 7 March at the Mokoia Community Association on Vaughan Road.

It's a chance for people to network, share ideas and information and look at opportunities to work together.

The event is being run by Rotorua Lakes Council which helps local groups establish community gardens, or maara kai, around the district.

There are currently six gardens on council land and others on marae, church, education and private land.

The reasons for establishing community gardens vary – from providing food for the community to providing food for foodbanks. Others are about organic food and permaculture and others are simply about creating a community hub – a place where people can meet.

Community gardens are seen as a way to help strengthen neighbourhoods and there is increasing interest from local communities. The council receives about one inquiry a month and provides advice and support.

Funding is available through the Neighbourhood Matching Fund and council staff give advice about how to set up a community garden, finding sites, discounts for supplies to get started and how to link with other community gardeners.



Calendar of Events - 1st to 31st March

Download your free booklet for full events details on www.envirohub.org.nz



Sustainable Home & Gardens

Trail 1 - 31 March

Visit community gardens, open homes, permaculture gardens & new eco-buildings. See map: www.envirohub.org.nz.

Rotorua Green Drinks

The Blue Baths, Government Gardens

1 March - 5pm to 6.30pm

Talk about the development of Rotorua's cycling infrastructure. Gold coin donation.

Sustainable Gardening Open Day

2 Devon Street, Glenholme

Every Wednesday / 9.30am to 3pm

St Chads supports people with disabilities to learn new skills. Produce for sale. Info: 07 3478515.

Menz Shed Open Day

16, Te Ngae Road Victoria -

2 March & 16th March - 10am to 12pm

Look around our menz shed and see some of their recycling projects, past and present. Info: rotoruaenzshed@xtra.co.nz.

Rotorua Lakes Council Children's Day 2016

Around Government Gardens & Kuirau Park -

5 March - 10am to 3pm

Fun, activities, crafts, story time, music, art & much more! More info: www.rotoruanz.com.

Art, Stories and Music and Other Such Adventures

Redwoods, Long Mile Road - 6 March - 1pm to 4pm

Scavenger hunt, music, bucket drumming, storytelling, bivouac building, planting seeds to take home. Info: www.rotoruanz.com.

Rotorua Community Garden/Maara Kai Gathering

Mokoia Community Association, Vaughan Road

7 March - 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Community gardeners meeting: share information, knowledge & resources for maara kai. RSVP: carole.parker@rotorualc.nz.

Koutu Playcentre Childrens Open Day - Clothes & Toys Swap

35 Taharangi St - 8 March - 9.45am to 12pm

Morning tea. Bring along clothes and/or toys to swap. Info: jess8060@hotmail.com.

Fruit Trees & Berries Talk

147 Sala St. - 8 March - 5.30pm to 7pm

Talk at Palmers: planting and up keeping tips & tricks. Info: 07-347 7505.

Exploring Sun Salutations

Arawa Bowling Club, 64 Lytton St, Glenholme

12 March - 9.30am to 3.30pm

Exploring eco-consciousness through yoga. Tickets: www.iyta.org.nz.

Mount Tarawera Wilding Conifer Trip

Mount Tarawera - 19 March - 8.30am to 5pm

Talk about the historical & ecological values of the mountain. Handpulling wilding conifer seedlings to assist the Ruawahia Wilding Conifer Project. Info: sgoodwin@actrix.co.nz or 362 8865.

Rotorua Walking Festival

Neil Hunt Park, Tarawera Road -

19 & 20 March - 8am to 4pm

A two day walking event with walks of 10, 21 or 42 kms in the Whakarewarewa Forest & through geothermal, stream and park areas.

Bookings: www.rotoruawalkingfestival.org.nz - \$40.

Tiaki Early Learning Centre Open Day

Umukaria Rd, Hinemoa Point - 20 March - 9am to 11am

Natural setting providing a stimulating & inspiring learning environment. Info: info@tiakielc.com.

Foraging for Edible Weeds Green Smoothie Workshop

Janet's Mosaic Cottage & Art Studio 374

Clayton Road 20 March - 10am to 1pm

Learn about edible weeds & transform them into green smoothies. Info: www.juliasedibleweeds.com - \$40.

Healthy Families Food Network

Waikite Clubrooms, Bellevue Road,

Te Koutu 23 March - 6pm to 8pm

If you are involved in any area of the food system please join us to explore a sustainable and healthy local food system. RSVP to: jasminej@tearawawhanauora.org.nz.

Community Weed Attack!

Okataina Scenic Reserve -

23 March - 8.30am to 3pm

Support DOC Rangers in tackling invasive weeds in the Okataina Scenic Reserve. Tools & training supplied. Transport from Rotorua DOC office. Info: cabbott@doc.govt.nz.

Pukorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre Presentation

Rotorua Arts Village - 30 March -

7.30pm to 9pm

Presentation of the Miranda Shorebird centre and its activities with supper to follow. Info: heather.pearson@rotorualc.nz or 027 531 7186.

Autumn Harvest Envirofest

Rotorua Youth Centre, 6 Te Ngae Rd -

1 April - 11.30am to 9pm

Seed & produce swap, entertainment, healthy living talk, gardening, compost & worm farm workshops. Obstacle course & free hun & movie screening!

Programme: www.envirohub.org.nz - Info: 07-343 1012.

Pickling, preserving and chutney workshop

Te Roro O Te Rangi Marae,

22 Ariariterangi Street,

Ohinemutu 2 April - 9am to 12pm

Transform surplus vegetables into preserves & sugar free pickles & chutneys. Bring along some glass jars.

RSVP by the 30th March: 027 259 5665 - Koha appreciated.

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Rotorua Lakes Council is working with residents to build stronger communities. If your street, neighbourhood or local group is coming together to hold an activity or improve the neighbourhood you may qualify for funding through council's Neighbourhood Matching Fund.

Examples of projects that could qualify for funding include maara kai or community gardens, tidying up a stream or lake area, cleaning a street or revitalising play and picnic areas. The community must match the funding with volunteer labour, donated materials or professional advice or catch donations.

Funding of up to \$5000 is available throughout the year on a monthly basis. For large projects, funding of up to \$35,000 is available three times a year.

You can find out more about the Rotorua Lakes Council Neighbourhood Matching Fund by visiting the website (rotorualakescouncil.nz), picking up a pamphlet at council's customer centre or phoning Carole Parker on 351-8118.





CELEBRATE CHILDREN'S DAY

Saturday 5 March 2016

10am - 3pm

Free family fun!

Enjoy a fun day of free activities including crafts, music, games, story time, puppets, face painting, swimming and much more!

Follow the treasure map from Government Gardens District to Kuirau Park, collect five or more stamps and go in the draw for some fantastic prizes.

Keep an eye out along the Green Corridor for the pirate handing out spot prizes for fancy dress and decorated bikes!



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For more information
rotorualakescouncil.nz

Continue the fun

Redwoods Children's Day

Sunday 6 March 2016, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

Free fun activities for toddlers and under 10's with family and friends. Look for the flag you made on the treasure hunt and enjoy art, stories and other adventures. Rain or shine.

