

# Closing the gaps, Wynyard

## Community Food Collaboration

SHARING STORIES... LOCAL ACTION ON FOOD SECURITY

Determinant of  
Food Security:  
Supply and access to food

Sub-determinant:  
Skill development

Where and when:  
North West Environment  
Centre (NWEC), Wynyard,  
North West Tasmania, 2013

Story tellers:  
Robin Krabbe, President,  
NWEC  
Antoinette Schrammeyer,  
Project Coordinator (2013-4.

### Summary

*Closing the gaps* is about increasing access and supply to food in the local community and connecting local producers to consumers.

The project focuses on engaging socially isolated and low income members of the community through the benefits of community gardening.

Actions so far have included hands-on learning to improve confidence and skills in growing, cooking and preserving fruit and vegetables, and nutrition promotion.

“People here are just hungry for learning about growing food. It is so good to be able to have free workshops on just that.”  
Community volunteer,  
March 2013



### Benefits and achievements

*Closing the gaps* has been able to attract a diverse group of people from the local community, all wanting to learn more about growing food through the sharing and exchanging of ideas. Links have also been made with community groups and schools.

The next exciting phase of the project is to establish a market/community garden in partnership with the Wynyard High School (using their grounds) and Mission Australia (Job Services Network provider). By the end of 2014 locally grown fresh fruit and vegetables will be available.

NWEC are also working with Youth and Family Focus to help disadvantaged community members “foodscope” their backyards, and introducing them to our Community Exchange Network Tasmania (CENTs). This is an internet-based trading network which allows members to buy and sell goods and services, skills without the need for money.

## Challenges

The biggest challenge has been to reach people experiencing disadvantage in the community. One successful avenue was through the Smith Family liaison officer at Table Cape Primary School. The aim is to get more families involved by creating a safe, trusting learning place for community members to come to.

The inclement weather has also been a challenge, but it has not stopped people from attending the workshops!

“Your workshops are great and I always learn something.”  
Community member,  
August 2013



## Promotion

*Closing the gaps* has been promoted through local radio, print media, and using project posters in local shop windows and notice boards throughout the municipality, in medical clinics, school newsletters, North West Environment Centre, and sent out to local networks.

All avenues of promotion have attracted the attention of the community.

“Many thanks for arranging yet another good workshop.”  
Community member, July 2013



“We have had mums, who have encouraged their children to grow food at the garden, and returned to harvest some of the results. This is great.” Antoinette, WCFC Project Coordinator

## Funding

Funding was received through a *Food for All Tasmanians Grants Program* in 2012. The funding has made it possible to employ a project coordinator, and to invite along guest facilitators, and produce workshop materials. Lunches and refreshments have been provided by volunteers.

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