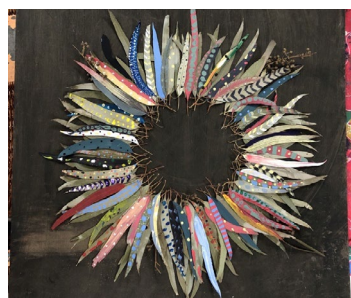
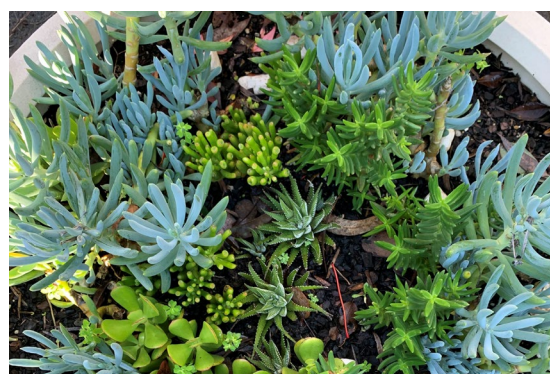


# Cheerio Newsletter



May - June 2021



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# CEO Report

Dr Josh Fergeus,  
Chief Executive Officer

It's winter again at KHG. This means ensuring we are all dressed appropriately for the chilly weather outside, as the work never stops. It's doubly important to be rugged up this year as when the sniffles inevitably turn up it'll mean a trip to the COVID-19 testing station!

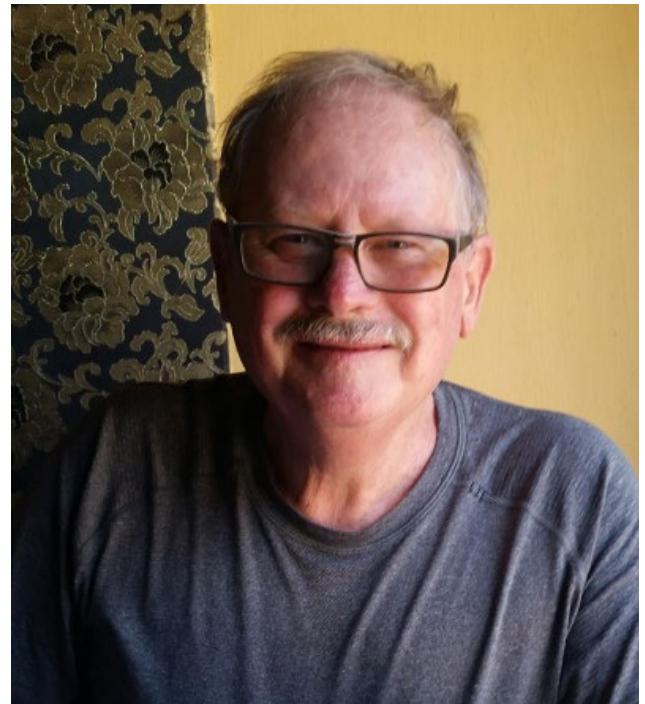
We bid farewell to Xi Ma this month as she moves into an exciting new role. It's been wonderful for KHG to benefit from her skills

and dedication for the last three years. Her move has been an important catalyst to a restructure to our Client Services and Clinical Services roles. The restructure is currently in progress and will be in place from July for the new financial year.

As we near the end of financial year I'd like to thank you for your support. If you can, please contribute to our EOFY fundraising campaign. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible and details can be found on the next page. It may not seem like a lot, but your donations make all the difference to whether or not we can invest in improvements and upgrades to support our programs.

## Farewell from KHG

After 13 years of service on the Committee of Management, we say thanks and farewell to Joady Barnes. Prior to Joady's long involvement with KHG, he worked for various disability agencies advocating for and empowering clients to access employment and training. Joady has been an active and long-serving member of the KHG Committee of Management as well as holding other roles which encompassed his love of gardening and his passion for empowering people. Everyone at KHG is grateful to Joady for his incredible contribution and we hope to see he and wife Margie visiting often in the future. As well as welcoming our new staff we're also



Joady Barnes, KHG Committee of Management member

saying farewell to some who are leaving KHG to undertake new adventures. Many thanks and good luck for the future to Xi Ma, Bee Cooper, Dwij Jeetun, Amy Piesse and Harriet Muse.

# Can you support KHG this financial year?



The past year has brought many challenges to our local community, but thanks to your support we have continued to deliver essential services to those who need it. Our staff, participants and volunteers have all experienced the therapeutic benefits of gardening throughout multiple lockdowns.

However, a recent state-wide lockdown has meant that we need your support now, more than ever. Which is why we are reaching out to our supporters to ask for your help...

## **Are you able to make a tax-deductible donation to Kevin Heinze Grow this financial year?**

There are several ways you can make a tax-deductible donation to Kevin Heinze Grow:

1. Direct bank transfer to Kevin Heinze Grow:  
BSB: 633 000  
Account number: 146 052 337
2. Visit our website: [kevinheinzegrow.org.au/support-us/donate/](https://www.kevinheinzegrow.org.au/support-us/donate/)
3. Call us on (03) 9848 3695 to make a donation over the phone.

All donations over \$2 are tax-deductible. If you donate before the end of financial year (30th June), you will receive a tax deduction for the 2020 - 2021 financial year. Your support will help us weather the costs of future lockdowns, as well as expand our services and upgrade our facilities so we can continue to deliver therapeutic horticulture services to our growing community.

# Client Services

Anita Mitchell,  
Manager - Client Services

It's been a busy few months here at KHG, as always! As an essential service, our programs remained open to participants during Victoria's most recent lockdown in May. Although the lockdown required reinforced mask-wearing and decreased numbers indoors, we were all grateful to spend time out in the garden with each other.

In the core gardening program, participants have been busy propagating a variety of plants in preparation for the upcoming Spring Fair.

The core program will soon start potting up the recently propagated plants so they can begin their slow growth during winter. Even though the Spring Fair is more than four months away, we are already looking forward to the big day as it is something that was greatly missed during 2020. Our bi-annual fairs are a great opportunity for our staff, participants, students and volunteers to come together with the local community. We have our fingers crossed that our fair in October will go ahead as planned – stay tuned for details in the coming months.

In addition to the core program's gardening activities, our wonderful trainers and support workers have been running a variety of innovative and creative activities to keep participants engaged during the cold winter months. Earlier in June, Occupational Therapist Peter introduced a trolley licencing system to assist participants using our fantastic new trolleys donated by the



KHG trolley licence holders: Sophie, Holly, Michael L, Victor, Michael V and Kenny



Art and craft projects in the core program for Reconciliation Week

Rotary Club of Manningham. Participants who received their individualised licences learnt how to safely transport plants from the holding bays to the nursery using the new, heavier trolleys.

Jack, one of our trainers, held a customer service workshop for participants wanting to learn more about handling customer enquiries and sales in the nursery. To celebrate Reconciliation Week from 27th May – 3rd of June 2021, support worker Jess ran

an arts and crafts activity involving materials found in the garden. It is wonderful to see our staff and students continue to adapt and develop our programs to meet the interests and needs of our participants.

Last but not least, we would like to extend a big welcome to new participants Chloe, Ben, Peter, Matt and Max at Doncaster and Lachlan at Peppertree Place. Please say hello and make them feel welcome if you see them around!

## Radio – Inner FM

Who listens to the radio? If you do, you many have heard KHG on 96.5 Inner FM's Midweek Mornings program over the last few months. KHG has had a regular monthly stint on the program talking about what to plant, what's happening in our nurseries and a whole bunch of stuff we're excited about

at KHG. Our Trainer Ian Robertson gave a great run-down of his latest favourite natives on the May broadcast. Tune in for the next time we're on air with the Lucy Derum and Taras from the Grow on the Go team – Weds 30th June at 9.45am.

# Luke's UNO Table

The table is made out of recycled timber and features a smooth surface, slots for UNO cards to sit up (so you don't have to hold them) along with a special UNO card deck storage area. Well done Luke!

KHG Doncaster participant Luke has just finished building a fantastic "UNO" Table with the help and guidance of our staff member, Jack!



Luke and Jack playing a game of UNO using Luke's specially modified UNO table, complete with a card deck holder!



Conor bringing some colour to the surroundings at KHG Doncaster

# Nursery News

*Lilli Johnston,  
Lead Trainer - Doncaster*

Lockdown again – nothing new! The latest lockdown has given us time to order our nurseries, and with winter hitting us full throttle last week we decided to take the gardening indoors and start a propagation blitz. This propagation blitz will ensure we have enough stock for the Spring Fair in October if all goes to plan!

During the less wintry days, a lot of participants have been working on their own garden beds – using ‘garden time’ to grow and maintain what interests them. They have had a lot of fun constructing irrigation hoops

over their beds to secure netting to stop pests eating their veg. The construction of these beds, along with painting and naming their plots, has led to some lovely creative expression!

Participants have also been busy colouring-in bees. We have attached the colourful laminated bees to stakes and they will be placed on plants in our nursery to bring some much-needed vibrancy during these grey months.



Recently prepped area in the Doncaster nursery for our new marquee

We have also been prepping the Doncaster nursery for a new marquee structure coming soon! This marquee will become another undercover work area that can be utilised during winter. The participants worked seriously hard preparing this space – we had to relocate at least ten rows of plants, remove the coarse gravel in between these aisles, and lay down granitic sand as the new

foundation of the marquee. Lots and lots of wheelbarrowing...

Heaps happening behind the scenes here as usual, participants once again have been a source of inspiration as they continue to rock up when it's bucketing down with rain and 12 degrees, raincoat in hand!

# Elizabeth's Garden

We are always thrilled to hear about garden success stories from our loyal nursery customers! Several years ago, local Doncaster East resident Elizabeth, visited the KHG Doncaster nursery and brought with her a photograph of her garden – in need of some new plantings.

Apparently, Elizabeth received some good advice on plant selection from program participants who were working in the nursery that day! The plants she purchased are now thriving and she was pleased to share with us

some photos of the garden she loves! Thanks for sharing your story with us Elizabeth.

Elizabeth writes: *“Here are some photos of my garden that was created with your team’s advice. It certainly brought out my inner gardener. I came into Kevin Heinze and I was greeted by some lovely workers and I asked them for help to create my garden. They happily showed me a variety of plants and advised where they should go based on the image I showed them. So glad I took their advice and this is the result...my garden.”*



We'd love to hear your garden success stories featuring plants from KHG nurseries. Please send stories and photos to [isabella@kevinheinzegrow.org.au](mailto:isabella@kevinheinzegrow.org.au) and we'll include a selection of the best in our newsletter and in our social media pages.





Noe, Lucy D and Tarus in front of the big purple GOTG van

# Grow on the Go

We recently welcomed Lucy Derum as our new Grow on the Go Coordinator!

Lucy takes over the reigns (and keys to the big purple van) from the wonderful Chris Norris who worked brilliantly with Victor, Shannon F and Kasey during what was a tough year for all! Lucy brings a wealth of experience, knowledge and great energy to the Grow on the Go Coordinator role and has quickly become an integral part of the KHG Team.

Along with this year's Grow on the Go

Participants John, Taras and Noe, Lucy has been out and about on Mondays and Fridays whipping and snipping, mowing, weeding and maintaining gardens from Manningham to Whitehorse to Boroondara.

If you know a garden that needs some Grow on the Go TLC, please get in touch for a quote from Lucy and the team:

[info@kevinheinzegrow.org.au](mailto:info@kevinheinzegrow.org.au)



John, Noe, Casper and Tarus

# KHG Site Updates

Samantha Dunn,  
Chief Operating Officer

It has been great to see the installation of speed humps at our Doncaster site, making it so much safer for KHG and all the groups onsite. A long time in the making, we're very thankful to Manningham Council for their technical assistance regarding the installation of the speed humps. We're pleased to report that they are having a great effect on reducing the speed of vehicles travelling on the access way. There is a lot of pedestrian crossover between our nursery and the gardens so it's wonderful to see higher levels of traffic control and calming measures in place.

Thanks also must go to Moreland City Council and their Back to Earth initiative for



Big thumbs up from Victor for the new speed humps at KHG Doncaster

their donation of 5 cubic metres of glorious compost made from local household green and food waste. The compost has been put to good use at Peppertree Place providing a nourishing feed for our food and flower gardens. It's a fabulous winter activity for participants, shovelling and wheelbarrowing from one end of the garden to the other. The beds look great and are ready and rejuvenated for our next crops.



Alan and Ian distributing fresh compost into the gardens at Peppertree Place

# Welcome to KHG!

Welcome to all our fantastic new staff – it's great to have you on board! Some incredibly talented and wonderfully caring people have joined our amazing team of staff and here they are... An enormous KHG welcome to:

Angharad Neal-Williams  
Ruben Ayers  
Jack Hassell  
Jess Anstee  
Jess Rasic  
Lauren Kearney  
Fina Po

Lisa Sharpe  
Melissa Jenkinson  
Emma Formica  
Casper Sela  
Tom  
Skye-Lee Harvey  
Liam Ballantyne  
James McCoy

We're also delighted to welcome Masters of Social Work students Stefani and Felipe from The University of Melbourne.



Top left to right: Jack, Angharad, Jess R, Casper, Ruben, Lauren, Felipe and Stefani

# Volunteering at KHG



*Brendan, one of our wonderful volunteers who recently joined the team at KHG Doncaster*

In addition to having many of our dedicated volunteers return, KHG has also welcomed six new volunteers since the start of 2021; Brendan, Susan, Jenny, Heather, Varnia and Nicole. They have been providing invaluable participant support and garden maintenance and we are so grateful to have them join the team.

We have also been pleased to have many community members express interest in volunteering at KHG.

We are currently reviewing our volunteer waitlist and hope to engage some more volunteers very soon, as soon as restrictions allow!

## WE LOVE TREES!

**Supporting Rotary Environmental Planting Scheme**  
9:30am - 1pm Saturday 3 July 2021 (please note the date has changed due to the recent lockdown)  
Glenoura, Victoria  
To register, please contact Georgia Tracy at [georgia@kevinheinzegrow.org.au](mailto:georgia@kevinheinzegrow.org.au)

Join in a great morning of tree planting and a free BBQ to follow!

Rotary and Landcare volunteers need help to plant another 2500 trees in the Glenaroua area of Victoria, approx 105km from Melbourne (a comfortable 1.5hour drive from Melbourne). The Group will meet at 9:30am at 1000 Lancefield Pyalong Road,



Nulla Vale.

BYO gloves, boots (preferably waterproof), jackets, raincoats, and enthusiasm! Planting will be followed by a BBQ lunch provided by the Rotary Club of Kilmore.

Please let Georgia Tracy know ASAP if you're interested in taking part in this awesome effort by emailing: [georgia@kevinheinzegrow.org.au](mailto:georgia@kevinheinzegrow.org.au)

# Thanks to our funders!

## Rotary Club of Manningham

KHG staff and participants at Doncaster are thrilled with our brand new nursery trolleys which we've been able to purchase thanks to a generous donation from our good friends at the Rotary Club of Manningham. These trolleys are the workhorses of our horticulture and nursery operations and they make it so much easier to transport plants around the site. Occupational Therapist Peter recently introduced a trolley licence system to assist participants using the new donated trolleys.

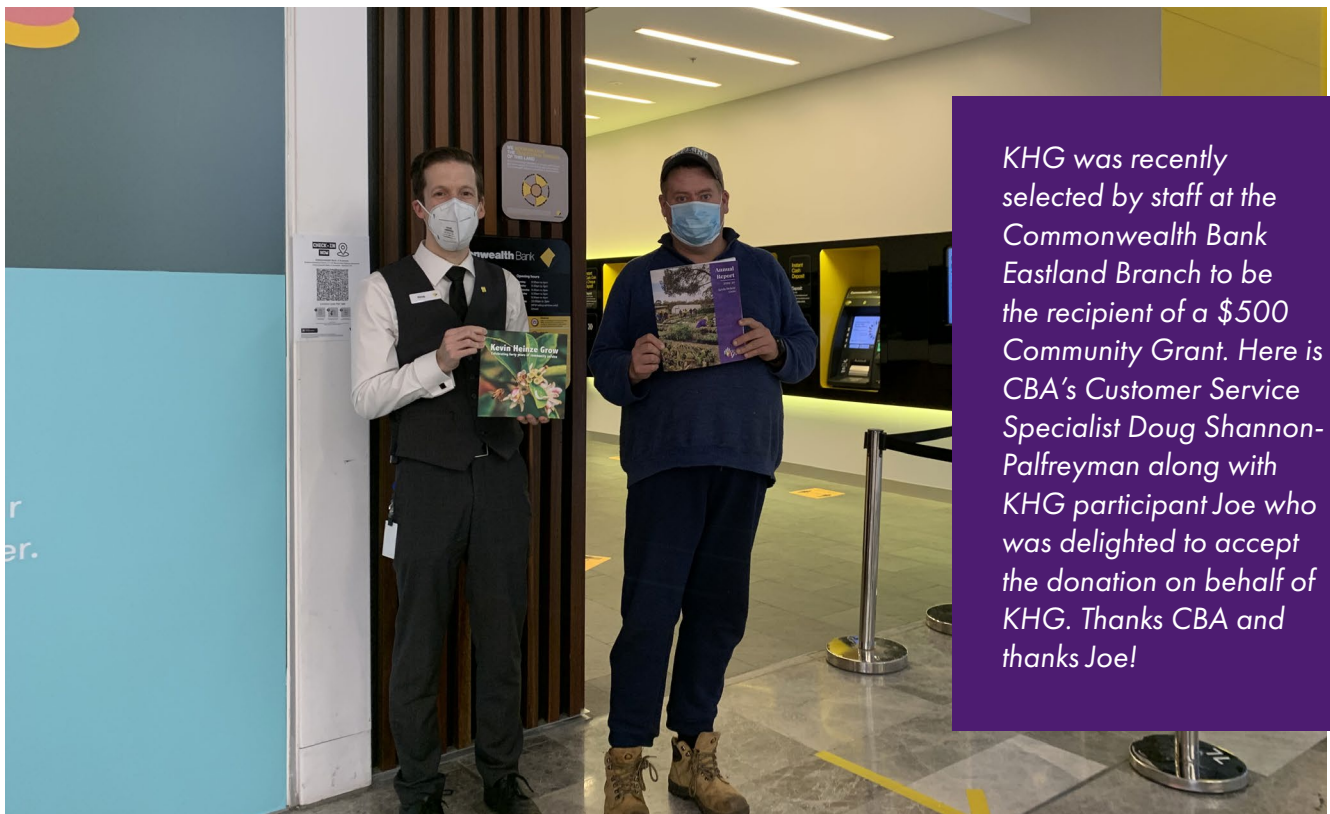


## Rotary Club of Moreland & Rotary Club of Coburg

KHG staff and participants at our Coburg site would like to say a huge thank you to the local Rotary Clubs of Moreland and Coburg who have kindly contributed funds for the purchase of two propagation mats for our

*Kathy Monley from the Rotary Club of Manningham with Jack and Michael V in the KHG Doncaster nursery*

Peppertree Place hothouse. The timing is just right for our propagation work as seedlings will be kept at the perfect temperature to encourage strong root development during the cold winter months ahead.



*KHG was recently selected by staff at the Commonwealth Bank Eastland Branch to be the recipient of a \$500 Community Grant. Here is CBA's Customer Service Specialist Doug Shannon-Palfreyman along with KHG participant Joe who was delighted to accept the donation on behalf of KHG. Thanks CBA and thanks Joe!*



Lucy and Julian working together on a garden bed at KHG Doncaster

# KHG Information Evening

In May we held the first of our two Zoom Information Sessions for the year where we talked to future participants, families, schools and support coordinators and anyone else interested in KHG and our programs.

Having delivered these events online in 2020 (due to Covid-19 restrictions) we decided it

was a great way to tell people about all that's on offer at KHG. Our next Online Information Session will be held at 7pm on Monday 11th October 2021. If you or someone you know would like to attend, please email [isabella@kevinheinzegrow.org.au](mailto:isabella@kevinheinzegrow.org.au) and you will be sent the meeting link.



## Dates for the Diary

### **Tree Planting Day**

Saturday 3rd July 2021

Glenaroua, Victoria

To register, please contact Georgia T at

[georgia@kevinheinzegrow.org.au](mailto:georgia@kevinheinzegrow.org.au)

### **KHG Information Session**

7pm Monday 11 October 2021

Online via Zoom

To register, please contact Isabella at

[isabella@kevinheinzegrow.org.au](mailto:isabella@kevinheinzegrow.org.au)

### **Spring Fair**

Saturday 16th October 2021

39 Wetherby Road, Doncaster

No RSVP required