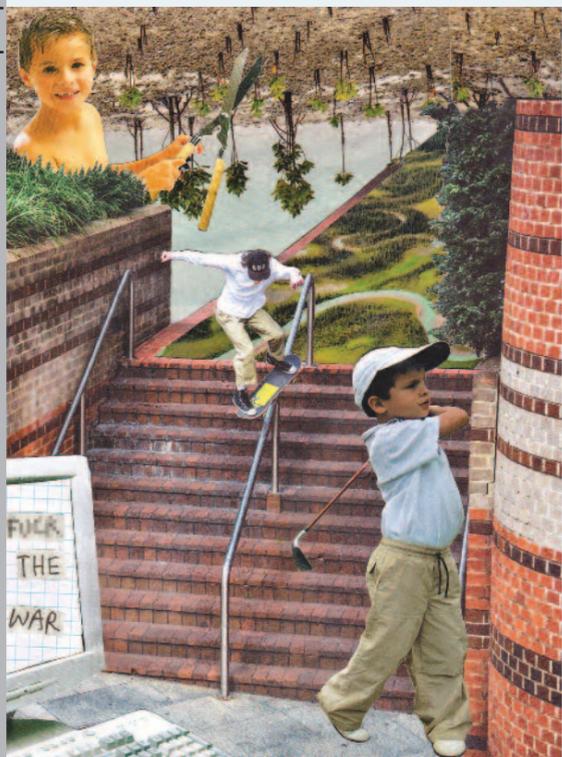




A cut above the rest

Monty Crosbie shuns CTRL+V for a more hands-on approach



About six months ago I cut up a skateboard magazine that I had in my room and that's how it started. I just cut out a skateboarder and pasted him down onto a backdrop, and added some stuff. Then I just kept doing them. Yeah, collage is a really good media to use.

I use a little X-ACTO knife and I've just started to do more at school, so that's good. I've sold quite a lot of collages through Karuna at the Smokey Horse. Also there's a skate shop in Canberra in Civic, called Church Neighbourhood Goods. They just recently bought a collage from me and they're going to display it in their store.

When I sell an original I email the buyer a scan also to go with it. Most people use Photoshop these days but I find collage a lot more personal, and I feel like it's more interesting to look at rather than just something that you could do on a computer.



The hot weather autumn garden

Bronwyn Richards weathers the heat

When autumn is exceptionally warm and dry, as it is predicted to be, and it follows a very hot summer, the stress on your vegetable plants begins to tell. The plants we grow in our cool-climate zone, although hardy, will show the effects of the very hot dry weather by behaving uncharacteristically.

For example Leafy greens bolt to seed, broccoli and broccolini, and other brassica just can't help themselves and join right in. These plants need extra support in the hot weather.

Some of the secrets to supporting your favourite vegetables is about taking steps to manage watering. Watering in the evening is the most efficient as this gives soil time to "absorb" moisture.

Deep watering for maturing plants and hand watering of seedlings is essential for their survival too. Fertilising should also aim to support plant growth. The magnesium and potassium ratio is important to plant robustness, magnesium especially so.

Epsom salts is an easy way to supply magnesium (in the form of magnesium sulphate). It can be applied via watering to leaves and roots. Two tablespoons in a standard watering can will do the trick and act a little like a "plant de-stressor".

Further, using shade cloth over new plantings or tender vegetables, when the edible parts start to sprout, can also be helpful. Just make sure the cloth allows for plenty of airflow around the plant. However, do also recognise that the current extreme heat is challenging and that everyone who is growing anything is finding it tough!

Of course there are other steps that can be taken which will pay off in the longer term. There are approaches to vegetable growing which focus on biodiversity and use that to conserve resources such as water and allow you to grow vegetables more efficiently while building soil health and microbial activity.

It is healthy soil with a proper balance of nutrients and microbial and worm action that is the key to ensuring your vegetables thrive as our weather shows more extremes of moisture and temperature in the coming years. As prin-

FEEDING THE TUM IN AUTUMN

cipal gardener of our village farm, I have been applying bio intensive polyculture principles for nearly ten years, and over this time I have also developed specific cold climate plant combinations that are extremely beneficial. This allows Wynlen House to grow over three tonne of vegetables a year, from a very small market garden, (1000m²) in all weathers, while conserving water, building soil health and producing a large range of vegetables. Wynlen House is teaching this technique for the first time in March and April this year on-farm in Braidwood.

For more information visit: www.wynlenhouse.com.



Wynlen House Urban Micro Farm

Summer workshops in Braidwood

- All Season Cool Climate Organic Vegetable Growing: 24th February
- How to Grow Organic Garlic (For small commercial growers): 10th February
- Bio Intensive Polyculture (Grow more with Less): March 10th, repeated April 14th
- Raising Table Poultry: 19th May

Online short Courses: Enrol anytime

Poultry Nutrition:

- Make your own layer ration
- Make your own waterfowl ration
- Make your own turkey ration

For more information call 48421128 or visit <https://www.wynlenhouse.com/learn-at-wynlen-house.html>



Wynlen House

