

## Position Description: Internship Muddy Creek Gardens (voluntary)



### About Muddy Creek Gardens:

Muddy Creek Gardens is an organic practice market garden approximately 1.5 acre in size. The farm was established in 2020. Muddy Creek Gardens Produces a wide range of vegetables, herbs, and flowers. This produce is sold locally at our weekly farmers market stall and to a restaurant provider. The garden is bordered by native bushland and the beautiful muddy creek runs through the property.

**Location:** Belgrave south- 45 mins southeast of Naarm (Melbourne) in the foothills of Corhanwarrabul (Mt Dandenong). This role will require some travel for deliveries in the Yarra valley and Dandenong ranges and some weekend travel to Mulgrave Farmers Market and Berwick farmers market.

### What's in it for you!

Successful applicants would undergo their internship and come out the other side having been introduced to each aspect of running a small scale diverse organic market garden. This role is highly varied and offers the opportunity to learn a wide range of skills in an evolving and dynamic environment. These include soil preparation, harvesting, pest and disease management, crop planting, crop planning, seedling production, harvesting, post harvesting, packing orders, marketing, retailing produce, record keeping and farm business administration. This advertised position may lead to further career development with Muddy Creek Gardens and or act as valued experience for other farming/land management opportunities. Immerse yourself in the market garden lifestyle and be introduced to a network of passionate agroecological market gardeners and their farms around the Melbourne region. Through this opportunity you will be encouraged to take notes and at the end of each week we will sit down and discuss these and pass on the knowledge we have acquired so far on our farming journey. Successful applicants will be provided with a copy of the 'Living soils handbook' by Jesse Frost and many other materials on the topic of organic small scale farming. We will work through a knowledge checklist that is reviewed each week making sure you are introduced to the tools, knowledge and details of how to run a small scale organic farm. :) Work alongside an experienced market gardener who will guide you through each task day by day.

**Hours:** The Internship is Three 8 hour days per week. Which days can be negotiated with successful applicants according to their needs

**This is a voluntary position:** Though a contribution of \$500 per fortnight is provided along with a weekly box of organic vegetables. This goes towards your time that you have taken out of your normal working week to take on this learning opportunity.



### **Commencement date:**

Internships are 3 months long

Spring internship: From September 23- mid 23 December  
(some flexibility available)

Summer internship: January 5th- April 5th (some flexibility available)

### **Responsibilities and tasks**

**Harvesting and preparing crops for sale:** - Picking carrots, salad mix, beetroot, tomatoes, Zucchini's and over 40 more varieties of mighty veg. Washing and packing harvests for sale. These tasks will be carried out with training and supervision in a collaborative fashion.

**Working with the land:** - Cultivating soil, spreading compost, broad forking, planting, weeding, fertilizing, watering, and managing crops for weather changes, pests and diseases. These tasks will be carried out with training and supervision in a collaborative fashion.

**Delivering produce/picking up seedlings:** - Using the farm vehicles to drop off vegetables in the Dandenong ranges and Yarra ranges area. Picking up vegetable seedlings from a local organic seedling supplier. These tasks will be carried out with training and supervision in a collaborative fashion.

**Assisting at farmers market stalls:** - Attending Farmers Market stalls once per month, packing vehicles with stock, setting up the stall, retailing vegetables and packing down the stall. Applicants would ideally be able to engage authentically with farmers market customers and share the benefits and values of organic/ regenerative farming. These tasks will be carried out with training and supervision in a collaborative fashion.

### **Desirable qualifications**

- Training in organic farming, regenerative farming, or similar fields
- Training in Land management, environmental sciences, sustainability, or horticulture.



## Desirable Work experience and skills

- Prior experience working in the field or organic or regenerative farming
- Experience with outdoor work in the field of horticulture, gardening, landscaping and or bushland management.
- Retail experience, preferably in fresh produce context.
- Manual driver's license required

## Desired Personal qualities and behavioral traits:

- A passion for high quality nutrient dense organically grown food.
  - Successful applicants would have a deep interest in building healthy biological and minerally balanced soils for optimal plant health.
  - Ability to learn new tasks and work in a fast-paced environment.
  - Be able and prepared to work in highly variable weather conditions.
  - Physically capable of performing manual tasks.
  - Enthusiastic, hardworking, and reliable
  - A clear communicator
  - To be able to enjoy the varied and rewarding lifestyle of market gardening.
- Ability to follow detailed instructions and use initiative when required.
- Great people skills and ability to have authentic discussions about the benefits of organics with customers
  - Interest in supporting the wider movement of regenerative/organic agroecological farming

### To Apply:

Please send a 300–500-word cover letter and CV to

[Muddycreekgardens@gmail.com](mailto:Muddycreekgardens@gmail.com)

Feel free to call Ryan on 0403523962 to discuss.