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garden is off to a fabulous start with access to nutrient rich class-A recycled water and mulch which are two key ingredients for establishing healthy fruit trees.

Some of the tasty varieties planted in the recent planting season included pears, feijoas, mulberry, macadamia nut, avocados, guavas, loquats, pomegranate, pumpkins, red mulberry and apples.

Additional to the orchard, Phillip Island Landcare has set up a bush tucker garden and indigenous demonstration site, which was planted by primary school students during recent world environment day activities.

The key to this fruitful community project has been put down to the collaboration with partners, local businesses and the community all working together for shared learning to achieve shared goals.

PICO would like to extend a big fruity thanks to everyone that attended the orchard open day on January 18. The open day provided lots of discussion and ideas shared by

enthusiastic community members over a yummy BBQ cooked from local produce.

The winter planting season is looking promising! with secured funding from the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal the orchard will be able to plant another 65 trees. Some of the varieties will include nectarines, peaches, apricots, blueberries, tamarillos, garlic, black currant, walnuts and even some potatoes.

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FRUITY BEGINNINGS

The Phillip Island Community Orchard is sprouting with new life on a vacant parcel of land in the centre of Phillip Island.

Initiated and managed by a group of keen gardeners, the Phillip Island Community Orchard (PICO) group is a dedicated bunch of volunteers who are the enthusiastic force turning an otherwise vacant block into a food rich space for people to enjoy.

The Phillip Island Community Orchard is a community-run project that aims to share, inspire, educate and engage with the local community, connecting individuals and organisations to enhance the liveability of this unique place.

What sets it apart from other community gardens is the orchard design, access to Class-A recycled water and its ability to grow larger trees and crops that are too big for many residential yards.

With a long term commitment, the site provided by Westernport Water has enormous potential. Community orchard members will have access to a wonderful outdoor space that will ultimately be filled with edible home grown food.

Cultivated together by volunteers, workers, local students and organisations, PICO plans to be a shared orchard and garden where people collectively share the workload and the fruits of their labour.

Gardening, as a community, brings people together in a friendly environment where they can interact and keep active and at the same time grow their favourite fruit and vegetables. Reusing and repurposing as many things as possible, the

