



Mark - Growing community through giving

What was your goal and what did you achieve?

This year I wanted to get some wood and metal sheets that that would have been thrown out but instead I was planning to make raised garden beds out of them.

Also a change table I was going to make into a Grow Free cart where you put the stuff that's grown in the raised garden beds and whenever someone from the neighbourhood wants to grab something from there they can, and if they have excess of something they can put it on there, so it is free trade of food if you have excess to avoid waste.

There are a few Grow Free carts across the state. I didn't need to get in touch with anyone first, you just need to make them and go onto the website and say there's a Grow Free cart here.

I started off with collecting supplies so wood

planks, metal sheets, etc and then with my scout group we've made two garden beds so far and we filled them up, and the Joeys from my Scout group have started planting stuff in them and the Venturers have helped starting building one and then afterwards the Joeys are going to help paint it and put some decorations on it like trees or plants.

Have you had any challenges?

I would have continued on last year's project - the regrowth of a water basin - but the council just hasn't been talking to me or replying to my emails, so I thought, forget about them, and I'll just do this.

Your biggest success so far?

Controlling the joeys and scouts to build and grow and plant everything out without any hiccups, because Scouts are really rebellious and Joeys are just little kids so they don't always know how to do it. Being a leader.

Next steps?

Well now we're going to be building a couple more raised garden beds and then we'll be growing our own produce and putting it on the Grow Free cart. The Joeys, Cubs and that will still help water it and also we've got some trellises that we're going to put up above so that tomatoes or beans can start climbing up it.

What have you enjoyed most so far?

Seeing so many people helping and so many people being excited about helping the environment and growing stuff.

Your advice to other students?

Try and get a group together or maybe your school because you're never going to be able to do it all by yourself. If you go to some businesses - I went to Bunnings - they were happy to help me, giving me some stuff to help like some soil and some extra wood.



This case study was transcribed from an interview. These are Mark's words and opinions.

Since this interview, Mark launched his Grow Free Cart. You can get updates on what's available at your local Grow Free Cart on Facebook.