

CRACE COMMUNITY GARDEN

CRACE, ACT

- Community Gardens
- Detailed Landscape Design
- Environmental & Socially Directed Project
- Shade & Arbor Structures Design
- Stone Wall Seating Design

SPACELAB designed the Crace Community Garden as part of the Crace Stage 2B2 landscape works. The Crace Community Garden is the first community garden to be designed into a new estate in Canberra and sets a precedent for future environmentally and socially directed projects. It is managed as part of the Canberra Organic Growers Society (COGS). The garden has been embraced by the local community and is currently full.

Large raised garden beds were designed on a grid pattern to provide easy access for users, with watering facilities being centrally located. Garden beds were designed at varying heights to allow users of varying physical capabilities and ages to enjoy the community garden.

Productive plantings were incorporated in shrub beds both within and around the community garden. Species included Rosemary, Bay Laurels, Lavender, Thyme, Blueberries, Camellia's (tea variety), and Pomegranates.

Hard landscape elements included a shade structure, stone seating walls, picnic furniture and arbor entry features. Vermin proof fencing has been provided around the outside of the whole garden.

To achieve success in this project **SPACELAB** had to:

- Consider how community gardens operate and how they are used by members;
- Develop an aesthetically pleasing community garden that goes against the traditional views that community gardens are "messy";
- Provide amenity for members that extends beyond the traditional view that community gardens are for growing only food, they can also grow the community;
- Provide detailed design responses to provide adequate drainage, access, entries, movement, sun exposure and amenity for surrounding residents.

