

PROPERTY #3: THE FARM NEXT DOOR, NORLANE

RESIDENTS' STORY

"A year abroad in 2017 working on organic farms was where I discovered the importance of local food systems and well connected communities. So when I returned home, I was eager to see what was happening in urban farming in Geelong – not much. **The Farm Next Door (TFND)** emerged as a response to the lack of access to naturally grown produce and food growing knowledge and resources in North Geelong.

Since its inception in April 2018 the project has evolved organically, growing and distributing over 2 tonnes of produce in its first season while connecting people from across Norlane and Geelong.



Norlane site



Regular working bees held to improve soil

TFND aims to be an accessible and (financially) sustainable urban farm which provides local employment, community events and natural produce to catalyse community sufficiency.

TFND is grounded in the permaculture ethics of **Earth Care**, **People Care** and **Fair Share**, which are reflected in the low-cost, low energy retrofits that have been made to the existing house. We can't wait to share it with you!" – Lachie



Turning in green crop



A visit to this property will demonstrate how Lachie, TFND members and the 3214 Norlane residents are building community resilience and enabling their neighbourhood to become a more connected and sustainable place to live.



View from back porch

SUSTAINABILITY FEATURES

Category	Features
Key attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Farm Next Door - urban farm, community development project • Weekly food market on Saturday mornings • Low cost, removable retrofitted improvements to rented house
Property type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rental, share house, retrofit • Small weatherboard home in urban location, 3214
Era & size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year built: 1953 Size: 75m2 # Bedrooms: 2 # Bathrooms: 1
Recycled materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reject bath tubs used as wicking beds • Bricks, timber & loads of scavenged, upcycled materials
Energy efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LED lights • Blinds and drapes added to reduce heat loss • Lean-to sunroom adds outdoor N-facing living space & seedling sunroom • J-rocket oven
Heating/cooling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wood – efficient rocket heater • Passive cooling, cross ventilation
Water saving & harvesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storm water retention, drip irrigation, water tanks • Water-wise, permeable driveway & paths
Garden & Outdoors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large productive edible garden - front and back yards & verge • Raised & wicking garden beds • Orchard & shade trees • Chickens & aquaponics • Community hub, weekly veggie market held on site
Waste Mgt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composting • Worm farm

EXPERT/PRODUCTS ONSITE ON SHD

- Christy, Jenna, Cameron, Joel, Tom and Lachie will be sharing their knowledge and experience on community building, market gardening, rocket stoves, low-cost retrofitting & permaculture.
- Fresh vegetables will be for sale – BYO bag!

THE FARM NEXT DOOR - OBJECTIVES

1. Helping provide access to affordable fresh fruit and vegetables
2. Providing opportunities for people to engage in meaningful work
3. Increasing social connections and sense of belonging
4. Catalysing the transition to a relocalised and resilient Norlane.



LIKE TO GET INVOLVED?

- Work bees: Tuesday 2pm-5pm at 26 Forster St, Norlane
- Market: Saturdays 9am-noon at 26 Forster St, Norlane

For more information contact Lachie Chomley: lachiechomley1@gmail.com

Follow them on Facebook page at [/farmnextdoor/](https://www.facebook.com/farmnextdoor/)