

December 3 2016

Season's greetings Swappers, hope to see many of you at our last swap for 2016 next Saturday. Thanks to Jane and Bruce for organising the November one.

With some warmer weather at last vegies and herbs are starting to bolt, but at least tomato seedlings are surviving being planted out. When sick of the sight of yet more lettuce salad, try throwing on petals of calendula, borage, nasturtium... to brighten them up. The Chough family at my place are behaving like chooks and scattering the pea straw and mulch spread to help seedlings along. I'm pretty chuffed with my kohlrabi, which I like to eat sliced raw, a bit like apple. The first feed of broad beans I reckon as one of the great joys of the year. Sweet peas have scattered themselves all over the various garden beds, and I'm enjoying the colour and perfume. The birds are hungry so the ghastly job of netting fruit trees and berries is nearly finished. It looks to be a bumper crop of red and black currants, ready for swaps early next year.



Courtesy of Cathy Thesing, this article reinforces the mantra to be a “locavore” and eat local – what can be more local than our swap?!

<https://theconversation.com/10-tips-for-eating-locally-and-cutting-the-energy-used-to-produce-your-food-67060>

**“Garden: One of a vast number of free outdoor restaurants operated by charity-minded amateurs in an effort to provide healthful, balanced meals for insects, birds and animals.”**

Henry Beard and Roy McKie, *Gardener's Dictionary*

Best wishes to you all for a happy and safe Christmas and New Year - Helen