

## News for Produce Swappers May 2016

Last month of autumn and rain at last! What a difference it makes – self-sown seedlings of herbs, lettuce, rocket and mizuna popping up, rhubarb lifting tired stalks, lemons ripened...

I managed to scrounge some cow manure from a neighbour's paddock and get it spread before the rain but otherwise am way behind the 8-ball with pruning, cutting back and planting.

Garlic and shallots should be in by now, and peas and broad beans - which can be staggered. Time to get in Brassicas for winter crops, and a green manure crop in overworked or spare spaces: a cheap way is to select a handful of different seeds from a produce store – eg broad (fava) beans, lupins, vetch, field pea, oats, wheat.

Having our annual week away in the beautiful Kosciuszko National Park was still worth the delays though.



I wonder what bounty will arrive on Saturday. I'll bring some pomegranates – fewer than usual this year, but bigger and heavier, full of red jewels. Also parsley seedlings and whatever else is feral.

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Look forward to seeing you on Saturday for swapping at 10 – I hope the chooks are laying this month!

Cheers – Helen

PS if anyone likes little furry critters you may be interested in a Newham Landcare talk on gliders - see attached flier. Kylie's delightful blog is at <https://lifeontheverge.net/about/>

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