



## Earlwood Farm - Egg Producer Co-op

Encourage your chickens incorporate as an egg producing co-op. Co-ops have **voluntary and open membership**. So if you get new chickens for the coop, the co-op should prevent any violent reorganisation of the pecking order. Co-ops encourage **education, training and information sharing**. Thus your chickens can share their knowledge of which food scraps are tastiest, how to find the best bugs and where is best to hide the eggs. These are just some of the benefits. Look online for more information and have a chat to your chickens about this great small business opportunity.

Did you know agriculture accounts for approximately 15% of Australia's carbon emissions? That's not to mention all the trains, planes and automobiles that bring the food to your local grocery store.

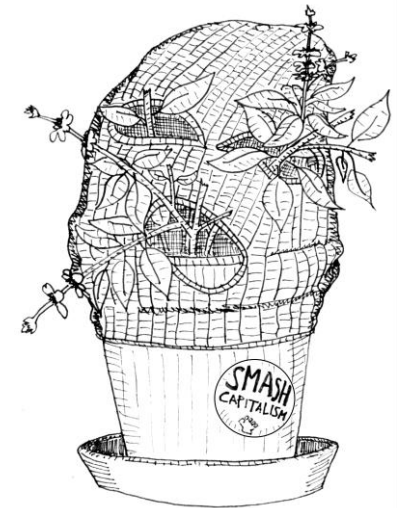
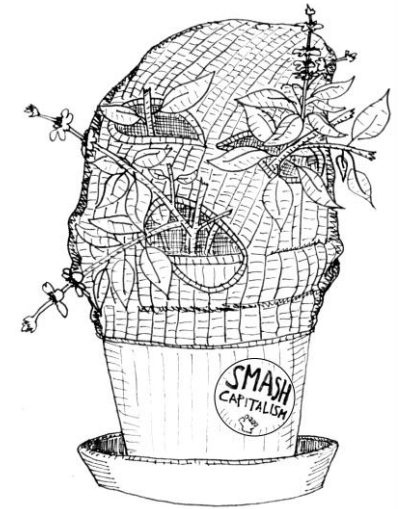
This pamphlet encourages your participation in a long tradition of gardening or farming for national benefit. During the two world wars, Canada, Germany, Britain and America had the *Victory Gardens*: private and public growing spaces that aided the war effort by feeding the population and building national spirit. In the 1920s and 30s Victoria had the *Better Farming Train*. Wending its way through the hills and dales of the great southern state, the train was a travelling exhibition, teaching the good citizens in each town up-to-date farming techniques to improve their yield for the good of the nation. But the 1.2 square kilometres of Erskineville has the same potential as all the victory gardens and farming trains combined.

CREDITS: Photos and text by Jennifer Hamilton. This work is proudly supported by PACT Theatre, Tiny Stadiums.

The idea originated in the great paddocks of Earlwood Farm ([www.earlwoodfarm.com](http://www.earlwoodfarm.com))



## The Renegade Pot Plant #2



The home decoration,  
parenting and small  
business idea special!

# The Renegade Pot Plant #2

Welcome to the second edition of The Renegade Pot Plant: a radical weekly pamphlet encouraging you to imagine a new army of terracotta warriors. This week we give you some reasons to knit a balaclava for your basil plant; we explore what to do when plants rebel from the pot; and offer you a business model to help your chickens independently manage their coop.

## Why does your basil need a balaclava?

We think that this Christmas could be an ideal time to introduce a new decoration to your front porch: a balaclava-clad basil plant, in the tradition of the jack-o-lantern. Knitting a balaclava to put on your basil ties into recent trends in guerrilla knitting, (e.g. a signpost stocking), except this one has a radical political purpose. When you put a balaclava on your basil, you show your neighbours that you're part of the revolution. Why not reveal your political colours and brighten up your home at the same time?



## What to do when your plants rebel from their pots?

Long time weed advocate and artist, Diego Bonetto, has done much to improve the social status of these plant-world outcasts in recent years. "They love me, I love them," he said recently in [goodfood.com.au](http://goodfood.com.au). What is inspiring about Diego's loving and reciprocal relationship with weeds is that he didn't care for them as seedlings, raise them as young plants or fertilise them in old age. He has found love for the plants that have just arrived uninvited on his doorstep; plants that laze around in his courtyard all day.

We all have something to learn from Diego, but here I want to address another equally complex human-plant relationship—the rebel plant—and explore what to do if your beloved potted plant actually escapes. The two examples on the left, mint and tomato, are particularly prone to such deviant behaviour. Our advice is that you do absolutely nothing but monitor their progress and write a letter to the local authorities thanking them for not spraying them with weed kill.

If a plant escapes the pot it means it has understood your ambitions to have food plants take over the suburb and it is responding to your directive. Well done! Renegade Pot Plants should always break out of the pot.

**(Top Image: Mint in Bricks, Erskineville; Bottom Image: Tomato in Fence, Erskineville)**