

Our first “*Working Bee*”

A working bee is a community gathering where people come together to complete a task or project. It's a phrase commonly used in Australia and New Zealand, and we adopted it for our first annual Fall Cleaning.

The promise of a communal spaghetti meal was enough to bring most of us out on a Saturday morning to tackle a new concept: not Spring Cleaning but Fall Cleaning. But not, of course, falling off a chair or a ladder, although someone announced they had a new supply of fun children's band aids, if required.

We started off with a little planning and soon the core group had chosen their special tasks: the terrace had to be cleaned and the furniture stacked and covered for the winter. Inside chairs needed freshening with a clean or dust. The freezer had to be defrosted, involving various opinions and systems, but in the end, the food must come out, and the ice melted, somehow. The cellar had to be cleaned and sorted, and new hope of another life uplifted some abandoned chairs.



Dusting, small vacuuming of fabrics on chairs and sofas. A white dirt eraser sponge, commonly known as the Magic Eraser, was applied very successfully to marks on the painted walls. Ladder work was involved for cleaning tops of shelves, removing cobwebs, and wiping our many window ledges.

Glasses were sorted and the snack cupboard reviewed and cleaned out. Spiders were



encouraged to take an outside vacation and the other spaghetti of electric cables untwisted and re-aligned. Even our old speakers found a new home.



By 2 o'clock the table was set, the spaghetti al dente, the salad and bread all ready, and we enjoyed pleasant chats

around the big table. Finally, the clean up after the meal and a round of task summaries and thanks to all the helpers for a Fall Clean well cleaned. See you this time next year?



Missing David, the photographer, Mike and Christoph