

Community Garden and Specialist Garden Meeting

Dee Why Civic Centre, 14 November 2019, 6:30pm

Minutes

PROMOTION AND ATTRACTING NEW MEMBERS

- Word of mouth.
- Social media / Facebook!
- Bringing people into the garden is the best way to attract new members, as reported by Baringa Bush. Their Spring Fair attracts 300-400 people and generates three to five new members each year. The fair provides an opportunity to celebrate the garden as well as PR. The fair is waste free (nothing left over at the end). Keep a tight schedule such as 11am until 2pm. Attractions include sausage sizzle, animal petting zoo, guessing competition (number of potatoes to be dug up) etc.
- Reach out to the community, e.g. Sharewaste brings local people into the garden.
- Link up with businesses that you can promote and sponsors e.g. RSL, rotary clubs, the animal petting zoo was sponsored by a local estate agent.
- Tree Planting Day at Curl Curl was successful, free for volunteers including presentations and talks on feral cats.
- Judy has held stalls and marquees at Council run events. Stalls are free whereas marquees are about \$130 for 2.2sqm and by invitation. The time will be allocated e.g. set up at 8am and remove between 4 and 5pm. Freshy Community Garden hire a free marquee from a local bank (need an account). (Discuss with Council before ordering marquee from elsewhere).
- There is an event in Manly every two weeks.
- Also see how Council can help in the Agenda, page 2.

CONNECTING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

If children are working at the garden, check with your insurance company, and any OHS requirements, also check 'Working with Children Check'. A garden group member will need to be in attendance.

- Scouts and the Duke of Edinburgh are required to do volunteer hours.
- Government's sustainability curriculum for 3 to 5 year olds and similar.
<https://cpl.asn.au/sites/default/files/journal/Sustainability%20Curriculum-Framework.pdf>
- 'Circles of Learning' – voluntary groups that take 3-5 year old children who do not attend preschool.
<http://www.circlesoflearning.org.au/>
- Horticulture students may be required to undertake volunteer work? Contact Ryde TAFF to discuss or put a notice up and see if anyone is interested in your project?
<https://www.nsi.tafensw.edu.au/careersandlearningpathways/industryareas/horticulture/default.aspx>

HOW KIMBRIKI ECO HOUSE CAN HELP

- Kimbriki Eco House and Garden provide a range of courses, materials and events relating to gardening and sustainably.
- Contact Peter Rutherford or Rachael Kernaghan to organise compost and worm farm workshops at your garden or at Kimbriki.

- Attend DIY wicking bed workshops. Wicking beds consist of a container that will hold water, with gravel in the base and plants in pots on top (self-watering). Voucher system at \$25pp. Groups can sell tickets to their members. Peter can offer a discount to Northern Beaches garden groups.
<http://www.ecohouseandgarden.com.au/>
Organise an outing to the Eco House, Peter and Rachael will show your group around.

COMPOST

- Sharewaste and Drop & Swap, War on Waste.
<https://sharewaste.com/>
<https://inthecove.com.au/events/foodfaith-crop-swap-sydney-community-garden-day/>
- War on Waste – Fabulous program on ABC TV, episodes available from the link below:
<https://www.abc.net.au/tv/programs/war-on-waste/>
- National Centre for Low Carbon Living have a programme that enables people to track volumes of waste and the resulting savings in carbon emissions.
<http://www.lowcarbonlivingcrc.com.au/research/all-projects>

HOW TO BUILD RAISED GARDEN BEDS

- Curly used second hand hardwood and roofing sheets (clip-lock). Need an angle grinder to cut roofing sheets and something to cover the sharp edges for safety. Freshy purchased used water tanks from New Leaf Nursery at \$150 each. Garden beds need to be covered by a net to protect plants from possums etc.
- Bunnings sell and donate various sized raised garden beds.

MISCELLANEOUS

- There is a turkey spotting app. to report brush turkeys.
- Mount Tomah Botanic Garden has bins with solar panels that will squash rubbish, no need for manual lever.
- The Specialist Gardens can talk to Judy Wilson (North Head Sanctuary) regarding tree name tags.
- Possibility of the community garden groups forming a collective group for a range of benefits.
- Notice boards at the garden with our events and use libraries etc.
- Leah will investigate possible new garden at Fairlight.

OUTCOMES

Please note that Council is the facilitator of the meetings. We would like the groups to let us know how you would like to run the meetings and what topics you would like to cover:

- We will aim to hold two meetings a year (aim at start and end of Daylight Saving Time (after 7 October to before 7 April).
- Invitations will be sent to all garden groups, whether they are on Council owned or managed land or land owned by other agencies.
- Groups will nominate topics for discussion and Council will collate and provide an agenda?
- The November meeting lasted for two hours. Should we start earlier, and would you like time to socialise and network?
- Would you prefer to workshop and idea rather than discussion, such as how to form a collective group?
- Jenny Cronan will organise separate webpages for the community garden groups and the specialist garden groups and write an introductory page including a map showing the locations of the gardens.
<https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/parks-and-trails/gardens>
- We will organise separate meetings for the community garden group and specialist garden groups in the future.

- The groups could consider holding an annual garden trail involving all garden groups with events at each garden? If so, Council could support this only; the groups would need to organise it?