

Opening Hours

Monday to Saturday - 7am to 7pm

Sunday - 2pm - 7pm (daylight saving) and 12 noon - 5pm (non-daylight saving)

Noise

Please keep noise to a minimum as we are in a residential area.

Visitors

The garden is only open to fully paid up members. You can bring guests in from time to time but they are not allowed to participate in gardening activities for insurance purposes.

Pets are not allowed in the garden, unless it is a guide dog accompanying a person with Vision Impairment.

Food and Drink

Food and drink are allowed in the garden, however, alcoholic beverages are not allowed unless by explicit prior arrangement with the Management Committee.

Smoking

Smoking is prohibited within the garden.

Meetings

BCG Management Committee meetings are held every two (2) months starting in February and on the first Thursday of the month at 7pm in the Toone Room at Manly West Primary School. All members are welcome.

Communal Beds

All members of the garden share equal responsibility for ensuring communal areas of the garden are clean and tidy at all times by sweeping, raking, weeding and other activities as required.

Every quarter the Bed Planning Sub Committee meets to review past planting and recommend new planting in the community bed to ensure appropriate crop rotation and to incorporate members' suggestions.

The final plan is displayed on the notice board.

The Bed Planning Sub Committee is responsible for ensuring the agreed plan is adhered to and work delegated accordingly to implement that plan.

Member Beds

Members must ensure their beds are used for the purpose of growing fruit and vegetables, and that the bed is regularly maintained.

Members must ensure their plants and structures do not unreasonably cast shadow on anyone else's bed.

If a member is unable to continue to use their bed on a regular basis they must advise the Membership Officer.

Pest Management

Pests must be minimised by rotating crops, use nets for tomatoes, promptly harvesting fruit and vegetables and suppressing weeds. Natural pesticides and fertilisers must be used.

Tomatoes

Where members fail to net their tomato plants once fruit has set they will be reminded by the BCG Management Committee to net their beds.

If the tomatoes remain un-netted 2 weeks from that contact, the tomato plants will have to be removed and the relevant member will be advised.

Social Media

The garden has a website and Instagram and Facebook accounts to communicate with members and external parties.

Photos of the garden and links to relevant gardening articles can be forwarded to the Management Committee Communications Officer for posting to social media.

Security

The garden has combination locks for the front gate, chicken coop and garden shed with the passkey available to all members of the garden.

The passkey must not be shared with any person who is not a member of the garden.

The garden should be locked at all times when unoccupied. When you leave the garden, please ensure that, if you are the last person to leave, it is secured by the combination lock, the hens have been put back in their coop, and that all tools are put away and the garden left tidy.

Safety Guidelines

BCG have developed safety guidelines for members when working in the garden and this is available on the garden's website.

Tools

Members must treat community tools and facilities with respect. Any tool must be returned to its correct place in a clean and functional state. All damage, breakages, theft or loss must be promptly reported to the Management Committee.

Toilet

There is a toilet in the garden shed and must be left clean and tidy.

Watering System

The entire garden is on a timed drip-irrigation watering system. The hours of irrigation are varied according to weather conditions and seasons. However, each bed can be adjusted by turning the main tap on each bed. If you require more watering than is provided, you can water by hand.

Compost bins

Any organic or vegetable matter is to be placed in the bins. Weeds are placed in white bags for regular removal by Council. Meat or Dairy waste is definitely not allowed, nor Citrus or onions as the worms do not like these.

Chickens

BCG has at any time up to 5 chickens. There is an online roster for cleaning the chicken coop and topping up the water and feed pellets. Garden

greens from communal areas can be picked to feed to the chickens.

This is the link to the roster:

<https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/1578701/false#/invitation>

Native bees

The native bee hive is located on the western fence. Please top up their water if necessary.

Worm farm

The management of the worm farm is a community responsibility. Worm wee and castings are for use in all beds.

Working Bees

Working bees are held on the last Saturday of each month from 9am. Morning tea is shared. A list of jobs is posted on the day with the focus being on communal areas. All members are encouraged to attend.

Fundraising

The garden runs bi-annual Bunnings BBQ and cake stall events for the purpose of raising funds for the ongoing operation of and improvements to the BCG. All members are encouraged to participate.



Balgowlah Community Garden

Information for new members

- ❖ Hours
- ❖ Community Responsibility
- ❖ Private bed management and expectations
- ❖ Areas of special attention - chickens, worms and compost
- ❖ Communication
- ❖ Meetings and fundraising