



# Balgowlah Community Garden Inc.

## Rules & Policies

The garden is designed to promote healthy exercise, community engagement, and the consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables. The Garden has rules in place to ensure that the garden is a safe and secure place in which to operate, to ensure sustainability of the garden for the members, and to integrate with minimal impact on the neighbourhood.

### **Availability**

Any resident of Northern Beaches Council is able to join the garden as a general member, or leaseholder of a bed. However, only one bed is allowed per household unless there is no waiting list for beds.

### **Access to and security of the Garden**

The garden is secured by a combination lock, with the passkey available to all members of the garden. The passkey will be changed on a regular basis. You must not share this passkey 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.

### **Opening Hours**

The opening hours vary by season. The current hours are posted on the website, and also on a notice by the front gate. If you are unsure of the opening hours please email us at <mailto:balgowlahcg@gmail.com> for guidance. You must ensure that you do not enter the garden before the allowed opening time, and that you have physically vacated the premises by closing time. Give yourself adequate time to clean up and pack away all tools and equipment.

### **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.

### **Unaccompanied Minors**

Although children under 18 are welcome and encouraged to become members of the garden, they are only allowed in the garden if accompanied by a responsible adult.

### **Food and Drink**

You are allowed to bring into the garden, and to consume, food and drink. However, alcoholic beverages are not allowed in the garden unless by explicit prior arrangement with the Management Committee.

### **Refuse Collection**

As there is no general council refuse collection, you must ensure that you remove all non-compostable waste and take it home with you.

### **Pets**

You are not allowed to bring dogs into the garden, unless it is a guide dog accompanying a person with Vision Impairment.

### **Smoking**

Smoking is prohibited within the garden.

### **Upkeep of Communal Areas**

All members of the garden share equal responsibility for ensuring communal areas of the garden are clean and tidy at all times. Therefore you should contribute at all times to the general upkeep of the garden by tidying, sweeping, raking, weeding and other activities as required. As a general principle, leave the Garden in a better state than you found it.

Although the Management Committee will generally favour donations of plants and shrubs for the communal areas of the garden, you should not plant anything outside of your own bed without asking someone first.

Planting in the shared communal beds is loosely planned and rotated by the Management Committee. Although you are welcome and encouraged to share in the planting, maintenance and harvesting activities, you should seek guidance before doing so.

### **Upkeep of your bed**

You must ensure your plants and structures do not unreasonably cast shadow on anyone else's bed. You should discourage pests by rotating crops, promptly harvesting fruit and vegetables and suppressing weeds. Where possible you should grow produce and tackle pests with natural pesticides and fertilisers. Pesticides may be used only if they are contained in hand-held spray bottles and are readily available in retail outlets and ordinarily used for domestic purposes (i.e. home gardening).

At all times you should ensure your bed is used for the purpose of growing primarily fruit and vegetables, and that the bed is regularly maintained. The Management Committee have adopted a "use it or lose it" policy, which means that you may lose the right to keep your own bed if you fail to maintain it.

### **Share of equipment and facilities**

You 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. Communal areas, including the toilet, should be left clean and tidy. If necessary a roster will be established to ensure cleanliness.

### **Dealings with other members**

You must respect the rights and opportunities of other gardeners. Any dispute should be settled through calm discussion and goodwill, according to the rules of the Balgowlah Community Garden. If necessary you can raise a matter with the Management Committee for resolution, in which case any decision made must be accepted.

### **Membership Fees**

At all times you must ensure that you have paid any fees or other monies owed to the Management Committee. You are not allowed access to the garden if you have not paid your fees. After a set period, determined by the Management Committee but typically one month after they are due, your membership of the garden may be terminated.