

Members' Guidelines

These guidelines are designed to define a common direction and shared values for the TLC Garden.

- 1.** The TLC Garden will provide opportunities for:
 - growing organic vegetables, herbs, fruits and flowers
 - sharing gardening knowledge with each other and the community
 - learning the principles of organic gardening and permaculture
 - teaching residents, through public workshops, about recycling resources, reduction of water and waste, composting and other techniques associated with sustainable living
 - hosting events for the wider community such as art groups, gardening groups and cultural groups
 - meeting and socialising with other like minded people
 - welcoming all members of the local community.
- 2.** The garden is managed by a committee of members democratically elected at the Annual General Meeting each year. In addition there are a number of teams working on specific aspects of the garden. These teams are:
 - Communications, Events and Workshops
 - Planting and Communal Gardens
 - Design
 - IT and Website
 - Legal and Administration
 - Funding and Sponsorship.
- 3.** Gardeners are responsible for cultivating a friendly garden atmosphere. This is a shared community space, so please be respectful of your fellow community members.
- 4.** Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate in all the joys of gardening.
- 5.** Kids are strongly encouraged to participate but please give them friendly garden reminders if necessary; new shoots are very fragile.
- 6.** Organic gardening and permaculture methods are used in the garden, with healthy soils, companion planting, biodiversity and crop rotations encouraging plant health and natural pest and disease control. Chemical pesticides and fertilisers will not be part of this approach and are not to be used.
- 7.** Efficient water use is important in the garden and techniques such as hand watering and mulching are strongly encouraged. Sydney Water restrictions must be complied with.
- 8.** Members can either work in communal gardens together with others or have their own individual plot if these are available. Please sign in and out when you work in the garden.
- 9.** A family membership entitles the family to one vote at meetings of the TLC Garden & to one plot if available. If individuals within the family want a separate vote or to have their own separate plot, they should join as individual members
- 10.** Produce from communal gardens will be shared with those helping to maintain them. Produce from individual plots belongs to the members working those plots and should not be taken without permission.
- 11.** If there is a waiting list for plots, the next available plot will be allocated by the TLC Management Committee to the member who has been on the list the longest and who has been active at Garden Working Bees.
- 12.** Members with individual plots are encouraged to keep them well maintained and to respect neighbouring gardeners e.g. by not overshadowing their plots or allowing plantings to encroach.
- 13.** Individual plots are not to be sub-let to another person. The TLC Garden Management Committee reserves the right to review allocation of any plots that are not regularly used and maintained.
- 14.** All members are expected to participate in regular working bees to maintain the communal areas of the garden.
- 15.** Any disputes should be resolved amicably, but if this is not possible they should be referred to the TLC Management Committee whose decision is final.
- 16.** Safety is important in the garden and should be considered at all times. Please keep yourself and others safe. No electrical or motorised equipment is to be used without the express permission of one of the Management Committee. If you see a potential danger or experience a 'near miss', inform a committee member who will make a record for future action.
- 17.** Parents should be responsible for their children at all times. Take particular care near the Pacific Highway.
- 18.** Language used should be suitable for a family environment and never abusive, threatening or rude.
- 19.** Unless a specific social occasion has been arranged, alcohol is not to be consumed at the garden and smoking is strongly discouraged.
- 20.** Shared tools and equipment should be returned to the tool shed and maintained in good order. If you are last on site please lock the shed.

Be involved and be part of the true spirit of community cooperation, pride and achievement.