

Ballina Community Gardens Inc.

New Member Welcome Pack

Welcome to our community garden, we hope you enjoy your experience here. We strive to make the gardens a happy and peaceful place to visit and garden.

We currently have 12 large community garden beds, as well as smaller picking gardens, a fruit grove and chickens. Rental plots for private use are also available.

Our garden is community focused and we strive to operate in an environmentally sustainable way using recycled materials wherever possible.

Our AGM & Committee elections are held in December each year. Their names are listed on the board above the sign-in desk. If you have any questions please approach one of our committee members.

Monthly Committee meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm at the garden. The meetings tend to run for approximately one hour. All members are welcome to attend.

Working bees are held on Tuesdays and Sundays generally between the hours of 9am and noon. All members are welcome. These working bee periods are when most gardening in the community plots and other maintenance is done.

Payments can be made electronically using the following bank details. Please write your name in the reference field for our records.

Account Name: Ballina Community Gardens BSB: 484-799 Accnt: 602434652

Community Garden Guidelines

You are welcome to bring along visitors to tour our gardens but anyone working in the gardens needs to become a member (for insurance purposes).

All members and visitors should "sign in". The attendance book is located in the Clubhouse during the working bees. This helps us with making grant applications.

When you become a member you will be provided with the front gate and container combinations (these are for members use only). The clubhouse and toilets are locked during the week, open during working bees.

Everyone is welcome. All members are expected to treat each other with respect and tolerance. If you have any concerns regarding the behaviour of other members or visitors please take these concerns to one of the committee members.

Important reminders:

- **Tools** are kept in the shed. Please ensure all tools you have used are cleaned and put away before you leave. Tools and garden supplies are not to be removed from the garden.
- If unfamiliar with **equipment** please ensure you ask someone how to use the equipment correctly.
- Only **certified organic** fertilisers and pest controls are to be used in garden plots.
- **First aid** kit are kept in the tool shed and the clubhouse. If an injury occurs please fill in an 'incident report' (copies are kept in the first aid kit) after having first applied first aid. Please give a copy of the incident report to one of the committee members.
- **Harvesting from the community plots** is invited on the basis of an "honesty system" of labour exchange, where members are expected to contribute to the common areas of the garden in some way, such as planting, weeding or maintenance. Excess produce is donated to the local 'meal centre'.
- Members with **private plots** are asked to keep their plants from invading neighbouring plots or pathways, and also to keep their plots and adjacent pathways weed free. Private plot holders are to supply their own materials (such as seeds & seedlings, soil additives, mulch and fertilisers) for their plots. No invasive species, such as mints, are to be planted in private plots. When finished with your plot, we ask that the plot be returned mulched and clear of all plants and other materials.
- If you are the last to leave the garden, please ensure the taps are turned off and the **water main** at the gate is turned off (outside front gate).

Things you can do to assist the running of the garden:

- Join the "Greenkeeper Team" who care for our lawns and edges.
- Assist the Bunnings BBQ Fundraising Team.
- Work as a general maintenance all-rounder, maintenance on building upkeep, repairs to the raised garden beds and worm farms, painting, cleaning, sharpening and maintaining our tools.
- Learn to care for the worms, use the mulcher and look after the compost area.
- Learn how to order seeds and maintain the inventory, seed raising shade house, make seed raising mix.
- Be an onsite first aid officer and keep regular checks on our first aid kit audit and replenish items as needed.
- Share your office skills and help clean and organise the shed.
- Set up a small team to take responsibility for an area or activity in the garden that needs attention.
- If you have "trade skills" you may be able to assist with our 'wish list' of projects, which includes:
 - a covered outdoor kitchen and pizza oven.
 - a dry storage shed for mulch and manure.
 - a better organised bulk storage area for sand and bark chip/macca mulch.

- a children's play area (shade sail and sand pit).
- pallet garden display planters.

To keep in touch with what's on:

- Check your email and our Facebook page for updates on working bees and social day activities.
- Check out our website for documents and forms and other information:
www.ballinacommunitygardens.com.au
- Read the noticeboards at the garden.

For GARDEN SECURITY/DAMAGE REPORTS PHONE

PRESIDENT: Margie 0418 157 717

or

SECRETARY: Simon 0400 148 692

EMERGENCY NUMBERS:

To contact

AMBULANCE, POLICE, FIRE dial 000 on landline or 112 from mobiles

POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE dial 13 11 26