

COMMUNITY GARDEN RULES AND GUIDELINES

1. MEMBERSHIP

Any member of the community (individual or family/group), who becomes a member of **Friends of Royal Park**, is eligible to take up a plot, provided that they adhere to the rules and guidelines in this document.

2. FEES

Friends of Royal Park membership:	\$10-00 individual \$15-00 family/group
Community Garden Plot fee	\$40-00
Bond for key (refunded when returned)	\$5-00

*(July 2009 – June 2010)

Fees are paid annually, and should be paid at the FORP Annual General Meeting (usually July/August each year), or to the Treasurer at:
Friends of Royal Park, PO Box 701, Buninyong, VIC 3357

New members will be charged on a pro-rata basis (eg a member taking up a plot in December will only be charged half the plot fee)

(Money collected from fees will be used for garden tools and supplies, maintenance, social gatherings for the gardeners and other community garden costs as agreed by the FORP committee)

*Fees will be reviewed by The FORP committee on an annual basis

3. APPLYING FOR A PLOT

An application form must be completed and signed. The form is a written agreement to abide by the Rules and Guidelines

4. ALLOCATION OF PLOTS

Allocation of plots will be based upon a 'First come, First served basis'. If no plots are available at the time of application, the applicants name will go on a waiting list and they will be advised when a plot becomes available. Allocation of plots will also be on a 'One plot per membership basis'.

Plot sizes are normally 4 x 3 metres (200mm high) for individuals, but other sizes can be built for groups or gardeners with special needs.

Plots are allocated to the member named on the application form. Plots are not transferable without the permission of the FORP committee. Members cannot give their plot to another individual/family or group. If a member no longer wishes to maintain their plot, they must advise the FORP committee in writing and return their key (and their bond money will be refunded). Plot fees cannot be refunded. The plot will then be reallocated to someone on the waiting list.

5. KEYS

Community Garden members will be given a key (on receipt of the bond money) for access to the building and tank water supply. Members must not give the key to another person, or have the key copied (without permission from the FORP committee). If a member loses their key, the FORP committee must be informed immediately, and pay for a replacement.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES OF GARDENERS FOR THEIR PLOTS

6.1 General maintenance of plots

Gardeners are responsible for the care and maintenance of their individual plots throughout the year, and should ensure that the area around their plot is free from weeds, rubbish and any items which may be obstructing the pathways.

Mulching of garden plots (to control weed growth), and composting of green waste is strongly encouraged.

If a gardener is unable to maintain a plot due to illness or other exceptional circumstances, they must discuss their situation with the FORP committee.

6.2 Attendance at working bees

As a member of the Community Garden, plot holders are expected to join in with working bees (to help maintain the communal areas) and other social events whenever possible.

6.3 Plot boundary fences

Gardeners who want a boundary fence around their plot may do so using wire mesh to a height of no more than one (1) metre. Solid fences which may shade adjacent plots are not allowed.

6.4 Building and other materials

Permanent structures must not be built on garden plots, without consultation with the FORP committee. We encourage 'individual expression', through artworks etc, but it must be sanctioned by the committee (who have the right to discuss any *reasonable* objections with other plot holders).

6.5 Types of plants

Community Garden plots are for growing vegetables, small fruits, herbs and flowers. Trees and large permanent shrubs are not suitable for garden plots because they can block light to other plots. The committee reserves the right to ban plants that may be invasive or are potential weeds.

6.6 Climbing plants

Climbing plants (beans, peas, tomatoes etc) should be grown using stakes, with consideration for adjacent gardeners.

6.7 Soil

Gardeners are responsible for improving the condition of the soil in their plot. It is important that the nutrients are put back into the soil after every season as plants use up nutrients in the soil as they grow. This can be done by adding compost, manure and mulch. Soil must not be removed from the plots.

7. CONTROL OF GARDEN PESTS

Members must not use any chemicals or sprays to control pests. Virtually all Community gardens throughout the world use alternative (organic) methods. Chemicals can contaminate a neighbours plot, and could be a serious health risk to them. The FORP committee can provide advice on the safe control of garden pests.

8. ANIMALS

Dogs, cats and other pets must be kept away from the Community Garden area. This is primarily a food growing area, and such animals can be a health risk. We appreciate that the area is not fenced (at present), but we must discourage pet owners from bringing their animals into garden area.

9. WATER MANAGEMENT

Gardeners are required to adhere to any water restrictions that are currently in place. Water will normally be available from the tank(s) next to the Community Garden. Watering should be done with the watering cans provided. Gardeners must accept that we cannot guarantee water supply (rainfall and damage to infrastructure is beyond our control). Water supply should be distributed equally and fairly between plotheolders (and will be monitored by the committee).

10. TOOLS

Tools, wheelbarrows and watering cans are provided for use by members of the Community Garden. These must always be returned to the store after use, and must not be removed from the Community Garden.

11. SALE OF PRODUCE

Garden plots are available for personal use only, and the produce should be for the members and their families and friends. The use of garden plots for growing plants commercially is not permitted.

12. GENERAL CONDUCT

The general rule is to be considerate to other gardeners and respect their plots and way of gardening.

Children are welcome in the Community Garden, but should behave responsibly and be supervised by adults.

Gardeners and visitors must not remove any plants or equipment from another gardener's plot without permission. Likewise, plants and equipment must not be removed from other areas in the Community Garden without the approval of the FORP committee.

13. DEALING WITH ANY PROBLEMS OR CONCERNS

Dealing with garden related issues is the responsibility of the FORP committee. If members have any concerns about the garden or other gardeners, they should contact the FORP committee.

The committee reserves the right to review terms of membership at any stage.

14. SECURITY

The Community Garden is currently unfenced, and the FORP committee cannot be held responsible for any theft, damage or other illegal activity to the garden plots.

Please report any such activity to the FORP committee (and police if a serious incident) immediately.