



Maribyrnong Edible Garden New Member Guidelines

The Maribyrnong Edible Garden was incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 2012 (Vic) on the 11th June 2014 and is governed by its Association Rules (Constitution) prepared by PILCH Connect. These Guidelines outline important areas for new members to be aware of – a full version of the Association Rules can be found on the Maribyrnong Edible Garden website.

1. THE COMMITTEE

Under the Constitution, the Committee is delegated responsibility for governance and to set joining fees and annual subscriptions fees.

The MEG Committee is made up of six positions: Chairperson, Deputy President, Secretary, Treasurer and two Ordinary Committee Members.

The Committee member's term of office is from AGM to AGM.

2. MEMBERSHIP

2.1 Members may be:

- General member with a plot.
- Social member

2.2 Application for Membership

A person can apply to join MEG by applying to the Secretary, taking a garden tour with a committee member, completing an application form and paying the membership fee. The Committee can accept or reject membership applications.

Residents of the City of Maribyrnong shall be given priority for plots as they become available. There is a limit of 10 plot rentals for people applying from outside the municipality, these plots are available at the discretion of the Committee.

A designated Committee member is delegated responsibility for receiving and providing membership applications.

The committee formally endorses a membership application at the meeting immediately proceeding the lodgement of the membership application.

The Secretary must maintain a Members' Register.

2.3 All members shall:

- pay the annual social membership fee and plot fee as determined by the committee
- abide by the rules of Maribyrnong Edible Garden as determined by the committee from time to time e.g. safety, plot use, opening hours etc
- notify the secretary of any change of address, including email and phone number
- contribute to the operation of MEG through the agreed number of working bees as determined by the committee and/or participation in other shared garden tasks agreed with the committee, as well as relevant committees and/or working parties
- ensure that any companion animals are on leash while in the garden
- make sure that the garden remains a non smoking area
- leave all vehicles outside the garden, unless unloading.

2.4 Membership may be terminated

- if a member does not pay the annual membership and/or plot fee
- if a member's plot remains untended for more than four months

2.5 Membership Fees

Fees will be reviewed from time to time at the Committees discretion.

As of 1/1/2019 Membership Fees are:

- \$20 Annual Social Membership Fee per plot (payable 1st July)
- \$120 Large Plot
- \$60 Small Plot
- 6 monthly fees available.

Discounts - 50% discount available on Plot Fees to health care card holders, seniors, pensioners and full time students.

Incentives Available For New Members - Half fees available Nov. to April and Full Fees available May to Oct.

2.6 New Member Orientation

A Committee Member will be responsible for providing an orientation for new members including a tour of MEG, an explanation of policies, membership expectations re: working bees etc. This is a critical part of new member orientation to MEG ways of working and all new members must attend a tour.

3. PLOT ALLOCATION, MAINTENANCE AND CARE

3.1 Plot members shall:

- maintain their plot in a safe condition
- maintain the surrounding one metre area free of weeds and rubbish
- use plot produce for non commercial purposes
- make sure that any structures are safe, do not interfere with other members' enjoyment of the garden and do not damage the wicking bed system
- make sure that any noxious weeds (as determined by DSE, DPI and local government) and invasive/weedy or diseased plants are removed from plots and **not** put into the MEG compost bins or weed juice bins
- garden sustainably, using organic gardening principles
- use water wise gardening practices and comply with any water restrictions
- notify the secretary if their plot will be untended for more than four consecutive months
- if they no longer require their plot, return their plot to its original condition – weed free, healthy soil, structures removed

3.2 Plot Allocation

One person is entitled to one plot.

In the case of couples, both individuals are entitled to a plot on payment of full fees where available.

Where a member requests a second plot he/she may be granted a second plot on the understanding this is reviewable at the end of the growing season subject to demand from new applicants and negotiated with the plot tenant.

3.3 Vacant Plots

Once a plot is vacated the Committee will organise for the plot to be cleared of all weeds and covered with full plastic covering until such time as a new member is allocated the plot.

3.3.1 Use of Vacant Plots

In the situation where a member requests the use of a second 'vacant' plot, the member may be assigned the plot on a temporary basis by the committee on the understanding that:

- They will be required to forfeit the plot when a new member requires the plot
- Assume all costs associated with plot.

Alternatively a vacant plot may be used as a communal plot on a temporary basis until such time as new members require the plot.

3.4 Communal Plots and Orchard

All members are encouraged to assist in the upkeep of communal plots and orchards.

- Communal plots and orchard are to be shared by all members who contribute to their development and maintenance.
- All produce from the plot is to be shared with other members and members are expected to be fair when taking produce from these areas (no more than five pieces of fruit at a time is recommended)

4. USE OF MEG TOOLS, MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT

All members shall:

- check that no MEG tools, equipment and machinery are left in garden beds or in shared areas
- take care to clean tools, machinery and equipment after use and store them neatly in the shed
- report any damaged, worn or unsafe tools, machinery and equipment to the committee
- coil/store hoses safely after use

5. USE OF SHARED SPACES

All members must:

- lock the gates and sheds before they leave the garden
- consider other members when using shared areas and produce
- leave the kitchen, oven and toilet areas clean and tidy after use
- not remove MEG property including soil plants, tools, machinery or equipment without the permission of the committee.

6. GRIEVANCES

In situations where disputes arise members shall follow the grievance procedures as set down in the constitution of Maribyrnong Edible Garden Incorporated.

7. INSECTICIDES AND PESTICIDES

MEG is committed to organic principles and environmental sustainability and does not support the use of insecticides, pesticides or some herbicides on plots.

8. WORKING BEES

Attendance at 6 working bees per year is a membership participation requirement of MEG. Where members are unable to meet the membership participation requirement they may:

- Agree to pay an additional \$100 per annum in lieu of active participation
- Make arrangements to undertake alternative forms of participation.

9. VISITORS TO MEG

Visitors to MEG should be accompanied by a member and respect MEG rules and operations.

In situations where unaccompanied visitors visit MEG to water members gardens by arrangement, the member should email megcommittee@gmail.com to notify Committee of the visitor prior to the visit.

10. SWAP BINS

Unused or unwanted produce can be placed in a plastic container in the covered area outside the tool shed and made available to the membership for their personal use.

MEG takes not responsibility for the quality of the produce placed in the Swap Bins.

11. COMPOSTING

MEG strongly endorses the use of composting and encourages all member to use and support the composting system and to follow simple rules when placing green waste in the compost area.