



MIRAMAR PRISON COMMUNITY GARDEN

Welcome Booklet



Introduction and Guidelines for Good Practice

Hello and welcome to the Miramar Prison Garden! We're glad to have you as a member!

This unique and beautiful community garden is located on the northern end of the Miramar Peninsula and provides the opportunity for members to grow vegetables, herbs and flowers for personal use.

The Miramar Prison Garden is a place where local people can come together as a community, to not only grow produce but also participate in or experience a range of cultural, social and educational activities.

The purpose of the Miramar Prison Garden is to preserve and celebrate the former Wellington Prison gardens on Mt Crawford, and to contribute to the long-term regeneration and beautification of this area of Wellington.

Our initial aims are to secure the site, generate support, raise funds and acquire tools and materials necessary for maintaining a community garden, orchard, nursery, composting facility and small recreational art park, which will contribute to the wellbeing of the local Miramar community.

This garden is unique among Wellington's community gardens because of its long history. Prisoners have been on Mount Crawford since the 1880s. People who were imprisoned at Wellington Prison, later named Mount Crawford Prison, cultivated extensive gardens that provided food for themselves, with excess donated to Wellington Zoo. It was formerly much more extensive than the .44 hectares that we have today. They also had a dairy and award-winning pigs. The retaining walls, greenhouse, pond and terraces would have all been built by prison labor. Mount Crawford Prison closed permanently in 2011.

Our garden is also regularly used for film and photo shoots. We are also proud to be connected with the various ecological restoration groups that contribute to this being a 'Predator Free Peninsula'.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Contacts:

Patricia Abraham (finance)	021 304 884	pabrahamtwins@gmail.com
Milan Magan (trustee)	022 428 6390	milan.magan@gmail.com
Elsa Piquemal (trustee)	021 088 05624	elsapiquemal@gmail.com
Deb Seddon (finance)	027 240 7163	debzsed@gmail.com
Jeff Zais (trustee)	027 232 9853	jeff.zais@stanfordalumni.org
Patty Zais (garden)	021 0231 9569	patzais@yahoo.com

General garden communication: miramarprisongarden@gmail.com

Social Media:

We mainly use our Facebook page (facebook.com/MiramarPrisonGarden) for engaging with the wider community, posting photos and announcing events

We have a Whatsapp group for gardeners to keep in touch and share anything garden-related. Let us know if you want to be added in.

We plan on starting a YouTube channel for instructional videos soon. Let us know if you have any social media savvy and want to be involved.

Banking:

BNZ account

Miramar Prison Community Garden
02-0506-0242250-000

The following guidelines are intended to get everyone working together successfully. Please feel free to ask questions or for help at any time.

ANNUAL FEES AND MEMBERSHIP

The cost per plot is \$50 per year, to be paid via bank transfer by June 30th of each year. You will receive a reminder closer to the time. Reach out to Milan Magan, Elsa Piquemal or Jeff Zais if you have any questions or difficulties with the suggested payment.

Please include the name of your garden area (Puriri Tree garden, Kauri Tree garden, or Terrace garden), the letter and number for your plot in your payment details.

Funds collected are used for garden supplies, maintenance costs, educational workshops and social gatherings for the gardeners and other costs as determined. Our expenses are kept low because of the volunteer help from the garden community. Major expense categories are paying for insurance, electricity, plumbing supplies etc.

Plots are individual and allocated to the person or persons named in the Community Garden contract. Plots are not transferable without the permission of the Community Garden leadership. Gardeners cannot give their plot to another person. If a gardener no longer wishes to maintain their plot, they must advise the leadership and the plot will be reallocated to the next person on the waiting list.

If you take a vacation or must be gone for an extended time, it is your responsibility to find someone else to maintain, harvest and water your plot or seedlings. Please notify someone from the leadership team in writing, of the name and phone number of this person (if they are not already a member) and dates you're gone. Please do not communicate the lock code.

CHANGE IN CIRCUMSTANCES

Please notify the Community Garden leadership as soon as possible if:

- there is any change in your address, telephone number or emergency contact number,
- you are moving, or if you are no longer able to attend to your garden plot so that it may be promptly reassigned.

APPLYING FOR A GARDEN PLOT

Gardeners wishing to apply for a garden plot must complete and sign an application form and Memorandum of Understanding. They must read the Miramar Prison Community Garden Guidelines.

ALLOCATION OF PLOTS

If no plots are available at the time of applying, the applicant's name will go on a waiting list and they will be advised when a plot becomes available. Allocation of plots will be based on the date of application.

USE OF THE GREENHOUSE – NURSERY

You are welcome to use the greenhouse and nursery and all the materials and tools provided. Please be mindful of the fact we have other members, who also have space needs. Some gardeners choose to label their seedlings with their name to ensure they don't get planted out.

You will be given the combination to the lock and we ask you not to share it with anyone. Gardeners must lock the greenhouse if it is not in use and when they exit the garden. When you leave, please check all the gardening tools, hoses, and watering cans are not left outside before locking the greenhouse.

If someone else is present at the garden at the same time as you leave, please make them aware of your departure so they can lock when they are done.

We ask you to label the belongings, projects, seedlings and any other items you will leave in the greenhouse. Our community relies on communication – so speak up to the garden leadership or wider garden community if you have questions, ideas, or comments. Inside of the garden greenhouse there is a blackboard with important notices, and a Notebook where all volunteers and members can log their hours and leave comments.

You will be responsible for watering and monitoring your seedlings and cleaning them up when you are done.

We have a kitchen with a tap, though it is not safe to drink from it. We encourage you to bring your own drinking water. You can make yourself a cup of tea or coffee and enjoy the shade of Puriri Tree. Some members like to store coffee and other treats in the kitchenette. Feel free to replace what you use.

GARDEN TOOLS, NETTING AND OTHER MATERIALS

Communal tools are kept securely locked in the greenhouse.

We have a range of gardening tools and gloves you can use. Please remove soil from the tools before returning them to the shed. A bottle of food grade oil and paper towels or rags are at your disposal for oiling them occasionally.

Most gardeners like to cover their plots with netting when they are first planted. The netting keeps the birds from digging up the seeds and seedlings. There is netting and pegs, chicken wire, bamboo stakes and all sorts of material you can use in the greenhouse. They are to be returned clean to their designated area.

If any garden equipment is missing, gardeners should report this in the communication notebook, or call the garden leadership as soon as possible.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Whenever possible, take your own rubbish and recycling home.

We don't have a regularly scheduled rubbish pick up. However, we have an allocated space for general and found rubbish (glass, metal, broken items).

As we don't have a regularly scheduled rubbish pick up, members are invited to please take a bag home when it is full. There is also a designated bin for metal recycling (nails, bits and pieces).

We use Wellington City Council bags for recyclable waste: paper, aluminum cans and plastic 2, 3 and 5. There is also a separate bin for glass. Once these are full, feel free to take one home and add it to your own recycling.

COMPOST

Please contribute to our compost by placing only organic (compostable) waste in the compost pile.

We are a part of the ShareWaste Programme, that uses digital mapping to connect individuals with leftover food scraps to nearby. As well as being a drop-off site for the general, we get a load of finished compost from the WCC about once a year. We are lucky that local arborists regularly deliver wood chips for mulching and paths.

We are working towards having a designated compost area in each garden.

Please follow the signs 'FEED ME', 'CURING', 'BLACK GOLD' to put your discarded healthy plant materials. Cover with wood mulch and refill the wood mulch buckets if needed. Cow and horse manure is regularly added to the compost pile. Please remove the plastic stickers off your fruits and vegetables.

Compost is meant to be turned often. If you would like to help with turning the compost please let us know.

All diseased plant material, weeds seeds and invasive weeds can be placed in the Weed compost pile, located north of the Spiral garden.

- FEED ME: drop off your food scraps or healthy plant material and cover with wood mulch. Cut up large plants into smaller pieces.
- CURING: compost curing, do not add scraps or plant / manure.
- BLACK GOLD: compost ready to use for your plot ☺

WORKING BEES and EVENTS

Regular Working Bees are scheduled for the last Sunday of the month from 10.00 to 12.00. These are mainly attended by people who are awaiting an allocated plot, or enthusiastic members of the public.

We often have special events such as lunches, lectures and workshops. We usually publicize these through our Facebook page.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF GARDENERS FOR THEIR OWN PLOTS

Most of our plots are assigned to members. You may not pick crops from other plots without the permission of their owner.

Gardeners are responsible for the care and maintenance of their individual plots throughout the year. It is the responsibility of gardeners to maintain their plot and the area around their plot, keeping it free of rubbish and weeds. Doing so decreases slug and snail habitat. Mulching of garden plots and pathways is strongly encouraged to control weed growth.

If you are not planning to grow all year-long, consider covering bare soil with a cover crop or greencrop (lupin, mustard) or mulch (wood chip, grass clippings, pine needles, straw mulch etc). This has a range of benefits, including keeping

weeds down, preserves soil structure, prevents nutrients being washed out of the soil, and compaction.

It's OK to think outside the box but if you would like to plant outside of your plot, you need to first discuss with leadership.

Gardeners who wish to grow large plants such as vines or trees in their plots must advise garden leadership before plots are allocated. If you want to plant large shrubs are not suitable for garden plots because they may block sun to other plots. However, it may be possible to allocate a plot that does not shade or affect nearby plots. Please be considerate that whatever you grow doesn't shade out your neighbors.

Gardeners are responsible for improving the condition of the soil in their plot. It is important that nutrients are put back into the soil after every season as plants use up the nutrients in the soil as they grow. This can be done by adding manure, compost and mulch.

MAINTENANCE OF COMMUNAL PLOTS AND SHARED AREAS

All gardeners are expected to take responsibility for the care, maintenance and development of common garden beds and shared areas in the Community Garden. We encourage 'active gardening' in the garden. This includes:

- Removing troublesome weeds (such as hemlock) along the border of garden plots and pathways adjacent to garden beds
- Sweeping and weeding pathways and/or stairways,
- Picking up and disposing of any rubbish around the garden
- Participating in at least one Working Bee/ Clean Up Day per year. This does not necessarily mean heavy labour.

We have a number of communal plots where both the garden work and the garden bounty are shared. Plots marked 4CGM (For Community Garden Members) means that they are shared by everyone. There is a strawberry patch and a flower cutting garden that is shared, and we are developing foraging areas. The fruit trees are shared by all members.

Please only take one piece of large fruit per person per visit so that everyone has a chance to sample. It can be tricky to know when fruit is ripe. If you have questions about ripeness, please ask some of the more experienced garden members for help.

Visitors are not allowed to collect fruit, herbs or other items on their own.

CONTROL OF GARDEN PESTS

Please, no toxic chemicals for pests and weeds are to be used in the Community Gardens. Gardeners can use safe, environmentally friendly products. One snail can produce 500 snails so if you aren't adverse, please squash them. White cabbage butterflies and their green caterpillars are not native and should also be dispatched.

WATERING YOUR PLOT

Hoses and watering cans are at your disposal in the greenhouse. Hoses should be hand held and should not be left running unattended.

Water is available:

- from the tap inside the greenhouse (on your right as you enter),
- from the tap at the back of the greenhouse,
- from the tap by the fence on the northern side of the Puriri Garden,
- from the water tanks located by the greenhouse, in the Terrace and Spiral Gardens.

After watering, turn off the faucet and coil the hose neatly and return to the designated area in the greenhouse.

Overwatering your plot makes your produce not as nutrient-dense, fruit that is not as healthy, speeds up the decomposition of your wooden frame. It also causes fungal diseases, including powdery mildew.

Why not save yourself the time and effort of watering, and instead try mulching (with grass, leaf litter, newspaper, cardboard, cocoa husk etc). It minimizes water loss, keeps the soil cool, replenishes nutrients and stops weeds from growing. Experts recommend watering deeply once a week.

SECURITY AND THEFT

We do have issues with theft of vegetables and plants. We recommend personalizing your plot in some way, such as adding a sign with your name on it, or netting. This can deter people from helping themselves.

As the garden is remote, it attracts the odd theft. In 2021 the greenhouse was broken into twice and many pieces of valuable garden equipment were stolen. We recommend keeping your valuables safe while in the garden, and lockers have been provided for this purpose. You are welcome to use these, and use

your own padlock. Please report thefts to the garden management as we do make Police Reports.

From time to time, boy racers and others do burn-outs and smash up cars on the prison grounds. If you see this occurring, we recommend noting license plate numbers and calling 111.

GENERAL CONDUCT IN THE GARDEN

We spent time writing a Code of Conduct for new members, encouraging gardeners to respect the gardens as community spaces. Gardeners and visitors must not remove any plants or equipment from another gardener's plot without the gardener's permission. If you would like cuttings, or seeds, please ask. Likewise, plants and equipment must not be removed from other areas in the Community Gardens without the approval of the leadership.

WELCOMING VISITORS

Anyone who comes to visit, explore and appreciate the garden are also a part of the community: foragers, trappers, rangers, bird-watchers, e-bikers, mount-bikers, dog walkers or just curious passersby. We appreciate your help in making visitors feel welcome by welcoming them, having a chat, asking them to sign the guest book if they're interested, and directing them to printed resources about the history of the garden. We all have a role to play in sharing this wonderful garden with anyone who is interested.

Thank you for reading this document. If you have any questions let us know, we'd be happy to chat.

A very warm welcome and thank you for joining this garden and keeping it alive. We look forward to working with you.



MIRAMAR PRISON COMMUNITY GARDEN

miramarprisongarden@gmail.com

1 Main Road
Maupuia
Wellington 6022

Miramar Prison Garden Code of Conduct

We have set a few ground rules about our shared environment just to make sure everybody's on the same page. The Miramar Prison Garden is about engaging with people and the community. We are committed to being a welcoming safe and pleasant place for all volunteers and members, regardless of their background, race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, age or disability.

Discrimination, harassment, threatening, rude or disrespectful behaviour towards volunteers or members is not tolerated. If you observe or experience this behaviour, please verbally report to the garden leadership, or email miramarprisongarden@gmail.com. If you yourself are engaging in this behaviour, you will be asked to leave the garden and not return.

Prohibited Activities

The following activities are prohibited at the Miramar Prison Garden:

- Smoking (including vaping)
- Using illicit drugs
- Harassment or discrimination against any volunteers or gardeners
- Planting invasive species
- Use of poisons and non-organic products
- Wilful damage or removal of property

Thank you,

Miramar Prison Garden Board of Trustees