



## **Bells Reach Community Garden Rules**

### **1. Management**

Responsibility and authority for managing the garden rests with the Caloundra Community Gardens Association, here after referred to as 'the Committee'.

### **2. Eligibility**

Individuals and families living within the Sunshine Coast Regional Council catchment, organisations or companies based within the Sunshine Coast Regional Council area; and any other individuals, organisations or companies with an interest in the Bells Reach Community Garden (BRCG) are eligible to become members.

### **3. Application for a plot**

Members of the Community can apply for a plot by completing an application form and returning it to the Committee secretary via post or email.

### **4. Plot allocation**

Allocation of plots will be based on:

- The applicant's address (preference may be given to Bells Reach residents)
- Date of application
- Physical needs of the applicant

If no plots are available, the applicant's name will be placed on a waiting list and they will be notified when a plot becomes available. Community members on the waiting list will be encouraged to use the shared plots until a private plot becomes available.

### **5. Individual plot holders**

Individual plots can be used by any (reasonable) number of individuals or family groups, however one individual must be nominated as the Plot Representative. The Plot Representative will take responsibility for fee payment and will be the point of contact if there are any issues with the plot.

### **6. Communal plot users**

Communal plots are available to anybody from the public. Money that is donated to the donation box will be used for plants in these plots.

### **7. Fees**

Plot Hire \$40 per 6 months

Membership \$20 (one off fee)

Fees to be paid into the BRCG Trust Fund.

### **8. Access to the BRCG and shed**

Following the full payment of fees, all BRCG Members will be issued a key. This key will give the member access to the shed. Only one key will be issued per individual plot holder. Once a plot is forfeited the key must be returned. Loss of a key will incur a replacement fee of \$15 from the plot holder. Keys will be managed by a Key Register. Garden-owned tools for the use of Members will be stored in the shed and must not be removed from the garden at any time. The shed must not be used for the storage of personal gardening items.

### **9. Forfeiture of plots**

Plots are allocated to the persons named on the BRCG Application Form (in the case of a shared plot, this will be the Plot Representative). Plot Holding Members cannot give their plots to another person without the permission of the Committee. If a plot holder no longer wishes to maintain their plot. The plot or space within



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a communal plot will be reallocated to a person on the waiting list. If a plot holder/s is unable to tend a plot due to illness, travel, work or emergency for one (1) month or more, they must advise a member of the Committee. If a plot has been unused for three (3) months and the Committee has not been contacted, the plot holder will be advised in writing that their plot has been forfeited.

### **10. Responsibilities of plot holders**

**General maintenance** – It is the responsibility of the whole garden Community to care for and maintain plots and the area around plots, keeping the garden free of weeds and rubbish and ensuring there is nothing obstructing the pathways. Mulching of plots is strongly recommended to control weed growth. Pesticides or similar chemical sprays cannot be used if they will impact surrounding garden beds.

**Climbing plants** – Members are encouraged to use stakes for climbing plants such as tomatoes and beans. A general height limit of 1 meter applies to prevent blocking the sun to surrounding plots and to keep the garden looking tidy.

**Building and other materials** – Permanent structures must not be built on garden plots or on vacant areas of BRCG land. The garden space cannot be used for the storage of building or other materials.

**Types of plants** – Garden plots are intended for growing fruit, vegetables, herbs and companion plants which may include some flowers. Trees and large permanent shrubs are not suitable because they may block the sun to other plots.

**Soil** – Members are responsible for improving the condition of the soil in their own plot. It is important that nutrients are put back into the soil after every season as plants use up the nutrients as they grow. This can be done by adding manure, compost and mulch. When a plot is handed back (or forfeited), under no circumstances is any soil to be removed (unless replaced with higher quality soil).

### **11. Maintenance of common areas and assets**

All Members of the BRCG Community are expected to share responsibility for the care of common areas in the garden. There are many simple ways of contributing to the communal nature of the garden which do not necessarily mean heavy labour. The Committee encourages the following common area activities at BRCG:

- Removing weeds along the border of garden plots and pathways adjacent to garden beds.
- Picking-up and disposing of any rubbish around the garden. Please use the public bins provided.
- Participating in at least one Working Bee/Clean-Up Day per year. The Committee will inform Members of the dates of these Working Bees/Clean- Up Days.

### **12. Task groups**

Members are encouraged to volunteer for the following task groups by contacting the Committee:

**Fruit tree watering and maintenance** - keep a roster of the watering of fruit trees and vines and monitor the health of the trees. The group will ensure that fruit trees and vines are pruned and that excess fruit does not rot on the ground.

**Compost maintenance** - manage the health of the compost bays. The group will report to the Committee if the bays/bins are not being effectively used and will give guidance on how compost can be used effectively.

**General maintenance** - make small repairs around the property and take responsibility for the shed and the property stored in the shed.

**Communal plots** – coordinate activities in the communal plots, such as planting and maintenance.

### **13. Waste management**

Any suitable plant matter or easily decomposed waste may also be placed in the compost bins. All other rubbish, e.g. wood, plastic bags, tin cans or polystyrene foam must be put in the rubbish bins provided or taken home and recycled. Members are encouraged to chop or break-up any plant matter into small pieces as



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this will assist with the composting process. Do not put meat, fish, chicken, onion, citrus or dairy products in the compost bins.

### **14. Water management**

All Members are asked to use responsible and sustainable watering practices in the garden. Hoses should be hand held and should not be left running unattended. The use of watering cans is strongly encouraged.

### **15. Control of garden pests**

Members can use safe, environmentally friendly products such as white oil, garlic, chili or rhubarb sprays or simply remove pests by hand. Good soil quality and healthy plants will reduce pests. Members are encouraged to investigate more information about organic pest control.

### **16. Garden tools**

Members must provide their own small tools, e.g. hand trowels. Larger Community Garden tools will be kept securely locked in the shed. These tools are for the use of BRCG Members only. All communal equipment should be locked in the shed after use and if anything is missing, it should be reported to the Committee as soon as possible.

### **17. General conduct in the garden**

Members and visitors should respect the garden as a community space and must not remove any plants or equipment from another gardener's plot without that person's permission. Wilful damage to any area of the BRCG is prohibited. The responsible consumption of alcohol at organised community events is permitted however the use of illicit substances will not be tolerated.

### **18. Dealing with issues in BRCG**

Dealing with garden related issues is the responsibility of the Committee. If Members have any concerns about the garden or other Members, they are to contact the Committee who will address the issue according to the Constitution.

### **19. Change in circumstances**

Members must advise the Committee of:

- Any change to address or telephone number
- Consequent lack of eligibility to keep their plot
- The inability to tend their plot for one (1) month or more

### **20. Other matters**

**Animals** – Dogs, cats and other pets must be kept on a leash and contained where their owner is working to prevent annoyance to other gardeners. All animal faeces must be collected by the owner and placed in the rubbish bin – **not the compost bins.**

**Garden security** – Unless there are other Members working, gardeners must lock the shed.

**Visitors to the BRCG** – BRCG is a community area and plot holders are encouraged to welcome visitors who wish to both look around and speak with Members. Children are welcome in the garden but they must be supervised by adults at all times

**Sale of garden produce** – The use of plots for growing plants and/or produce commercially is not permitted, however the swapping and sharing of produce is encouraged.

**Community events** – BRCG is a not-for profit organisation. Community Members are encouraged to participate in and make suggestions for events or activities, and are welcome to contact the Committee with any ideas.