



*An activity of the Mt Colah Uniting Church*

# Charter

## Acknowledgment

All persons using the Mt Colah Neighbourhood Garden acknowledge the below and agree to adhere to the Garden Rules and Code of Conduct stipulated within this Charter.

In doing so, they also acknowledge that they are using the garden at their own risk, that any violation of the Garden Rules or Code of Conduct may result in their being banned from using the garden and that use of the site as the Mt Colah Neighbourhood Garden may be terminated by the Church at any time.

It is the responsibility of each person using the garden to manage their own behaviour in line with the conduct and responsibilities stipulated and to treat their fellow gardeners with courtesy and respect. Should any disputes or disagreements among persons using the garden be unable to be resolved directly, these will be referred to the Garden Operating Group and Mt Colah Uniting Church Council for resolution. All persons using the garden are furthermore required to abide by the decisions taken by the by these bodies at all times. There are three levels of supervision across all garden activities – the Garden Operating Group, Garden Co-ordinator and the Mt Colah Uniting Church Council who are the ultimate decision maker in all matters.

All persons using the Garden are also required to acknowledge that they have received a copy of this Charter and that if they have not understood any of the information contained herein that they have sought clarification from a member of the Garden Operating Group.

## Garden Philosophy

Gardening will be conducted on a “shared plots, shared work, shared produce” basis. No individual plots will be available and all beds in the Garden will be considered shared, as will the tools and materials available for use in the shed. Tools and materials provided will be maintained in good working order at all times.

All persons using the garden are to work together collaboratively to agree plants to be sown and harvested and implement appropriate crop rotation across the garden beds available under the guidance and oversight of the Garden Co-ordinator. Sowing/harvesting rosters will be available to manage this and current status of the garden beds, plantings made and work undertaken should be communicated using a whiteboard available in the shed.

All garden produce is to be shared equitably and kindly amongst those using the garden and members of the Church under the “shared work, shared produce” philosophy. Garden produce will also be shared freely with those of need in the community who may benefit from enjoyment of the garden and its produce but who may not be able to actively participate in the garden due to infirmity or disability.

## Garden Rules & Code of Conduct

Participants of the Mt Colah Neighbourhood Garden acknowledge and undertake to abide by the below Garden Rules and Code of Conduct:

- Acknowledge that the Garden site is used at each individual’s own risk and that the Garden site is owned by the Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (NSW) and that use of the site as the Mt Colah Neighbourhood Garden may be terminated at any time and at the discretion of Mt Colah Uniting Church Council
- No representations will be made on behalf of the Garden unless permission is especially provided by the Church Council



- Acknowledge that the Mt Colah Uniting Church Council can deny use of the Garden to any individual at any time if their conduct in the Garden is determined not to be in line with the polity and ethos of the Uniting Church and in contravention of the conduct expectations stipulated in this document
- The supervision of children on the Garden site remains the responsibility of the attending parent or caregiver **AT ALL TIMES** and without exception (children are defined as any person under the age of 18). Persons under the age of 18 will be denied access unless attended by a parent or caregiver
- Treat the Garden site with respect, maintaining a clean and tidy state at all times. No rubbish is to be left in the garden and the consumption of cigarettes, alcohol and drugs is strictly prohibited on the garden and church grounds
- Access the Garden only during open times. Variations to opening times (eg. For funerals and weddings) are communicated via the website ([www.mtcolahneighbourhoodgarden.org](http://www.mtcolahneighbourhoodgarden.org)), Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/mtcolahneighbourhoodgarden/>) and on the noticeboard in the shed
- Record garden attendance on the Site Attendance Log at all times, including disclosure of all minors under your supervision in the Garden
- No animals other than ability assistance animals are to be brought onto the Garden site
- Garden on a “shared plots, shared work, shared produce” basis with distribution of produce to be managed equitably and with consideration to those of need in the community
- Uphold sustainability principles wherever possible including participating in composting, recycling, efficient water use and use of recycled and freecycled materials wherever possible
- Make every effort to remedy gardening related issues using natural means (ie naturally occurring substances, companion planting, etc.). Chemical based or synthetic solutions can only be undertaken after approval by the Garden Operating Group and should be of the lowest possible toxicity with usage not exceeding the manufacturer’s specified dosages. As chemical use in the garden cannot be precluded, garden participants furthermore have a responsibility to ensure all produce harvested is well washed before being consumed
- Undertake to compost responsibly with only garden waste composted in open compost bins. Food scraps should be composted in the vermin-proof Aerobin immediately to the right of the shed
- Complete maintenance request, hazard identification and incident report forms as needed to ensure the site is safe and functional at all times
- Acknowledge that in the event that personal equipment is brought onto site for use in the Garden, Garden participants retain full responsibility for the care of their personal equipment (eg. Tools) and any such equipment is for their personal use only and is not to be shared with other Garden participants
- Demonstrate respect and kindness to all other Garden participants, working collaboratively in a caring and harmonious manner without prejudice or discrimination
- Abide by decisions taken by the Garden Operating Group and participate constructively in decisions regarding garden plantings, harvesting, crop rotation, etc.
- Ensure any opinions offered on gardening best practice or preferred methods are well researched and factually supported
- Abide by democratic decisions, affording all Garden participants the opportunity to be heard and express their opinion without fear of personal criticism
- Refer any conflicts with other Garden participants to the Garden Operating Group for resolution if unable to be resolved amicably between the affected parties

