

Wentworthville Community Garden Secretary's Report 2012 Annual General Meeting

2012 have proved to be even more successful than 2011.

- Our membership has continued to increase from previous years as more people find out about the Garden and current members introduce friends, relatives and neighbours to the benefits of a community garden
- The profile of the Garden has continued to increase within the local community as displayed by the attendance of more than 750 people at our most successful Open Day so far.
- Thanks to everyone who helped make this day a success and to the other members of the Open Day Planning Team - Liz, Kevin and John.

During 2012 I have written many letters on behalf of the S355 Committee to Holroyd City Council (HCC) to request capital improvements for the Garden. We have continued to receive outstanding support from Council with our requests being presented and approved for funding. So far HCC have approved the:

- installation of the side gate to improve access to the tennis court parking area and toilet facilities
- connection to the electricity
- submission of a funding request (for underground water tanks to harvest water) to the State Government's Community Building Partnerships Program (with half of the funds coming from HCC if the submission is successful).

We are currently awaiting notice of our request for funding to install a water pump for the existing water tank.

Another great outcome in 2012 was achieved with our win in the Community Gardens section of the Sydney Royal Flower and Garden Show. Thanks to all gardeners who grew something for the display, offered suggestions and especially to Brad, Therese and Mitchell who helped to assemble the display in the early hours of the morning at the Flower and Garden Pavilion.

- Planning is underway for our entry for 2013 – a wide variety of interestingly shaped and coloured vegetables, flowers and herbs are needed to give us the selection to make our entry special.

The newsletter has continued to be an effective way of informing all members of Committee decisions and coming events. Thanks to Brad for continuing to collate the newsletter and preparing it for distribution.

During 2012 I have continued to establish new and maintain existing partnerships with other organisations as well as Council. The organisations that have assisted the Garden in a variety of ways are:

- Community Greening – advertising of our Open Day in their newsletter and donation of a raffle prize
- Alive 90.5 community radio for the Hills, Holroyd and Parramatta areas – participation in a live radio program – thanks to Dianne, Helen K and Kevin for their presentations
- The Hills Holroyd Parramatta Migrant Resource Centre – provide support to our Chinese gardening group
- Parramatta Advertiser – a recent article about the Garden and
- Family Health magazine - publish an article in their January 2013 edition.

At Council I have continued to develop contacts with the Media, Environmental, Engineering and Risk Management Units as well as establish contacts within the Marketing Unit.

During the past two year many things have been achieved by the current Committee. I thank them for their dedication, thoughtfulness and care that they display when we are required to make decisions that will affect the Garden as a whole.

Our Garden is a success because of all the people involved and what we all bring to this place I call the Garden – stay interested, stay involved. We all contribute in so many different ways to make this place special.

Robyn Main
Secretary / Contact Person
8 December 2012