



Miranda Community Garden (MCG)

10th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday 15th March 2020



Miranda Community Garden

- Established in early 2010 on a vacant block of church land adjacent to our church
- Founder and champion: Brian Gutherson
- Some issues: access, insurance, keys, possible vandalism, WHS, maybe untidy, approval required from Sutherland Shire Council



Miranda Community Garden site in 2009



Miranda Community Garden

Aim: to build community by

- connecting with people of similar interests;
- sharing gardening knowledge and ideas;
- having fun and helping each other;
- growing fresh vegetables and fruit
- improving our environment.

Everyone is welcome to join.



How do we run the MCG?

- Shared plots, shared work, shared produce
- Members are required to sign an agreement and sign on
- Now have ~30 members
- Gardening Saturday & Wednesday

Grants

- Four grants to date (total \$24,777):
 - \$2000 *Second Chance (2010)*
 - \$5000 *Uniting Church Seed Fund (2010)*
- Sutherland Shire Council Grants (\$17,777 in total: \$3080 in 2013, \$7540 in 2014, \$5947 in 2016 and \$1210 in 2018).
- Bunnings (Caringbah) - equipment and supplies





April 2010



July 2010

November 2010 (Insights)





June 2014



Developing Community (1)

- Inviting surrounding community in:
 - websites, Facebook, signs and flyers
 - visits by local pre-schools
 - Open Day, Street Stalls, Farmers Market, etc
 - Bunnings BBQs, Beekeepers, Orchid Show, etc
 - “stickybeaks”
- The community at the MCG:
 - church and non-church members
 - friendship and support
 - MCG members support church events such as the fete, concerts and harvest festival





Developing Community (2)

- Links from the MCG community outwards:
 - Other groups and organisations e.g. Lionesses, U3A, Gymea Community Aid/ Migrant Resource Centre, Healthy Minds Expo, Hammondcare
 - Sutherland Shire Council e.g. Community Directory
 - Scarecrows – Bates Drive School
 - Local newspaper e.g. photos and stories
 - Participation in Uniting Earth Web and Community Garden Network
 - Support the establishment of new community gardens (Menai CG, Cronulla CG, Gymea CG, and potential CGs at Grays Point and at Revesby Uniting Church)

Waist-High “Happy Garden”

Opening 2019



Benefits & Opportunities

Personal:

- Sharing and developing of gardening and related skills
- Social interaction and friendship
- Good for physical and mental health

Church:

- Highly visible presence in the community
- “Non-threatening” point of contact with un-churched or other-churched
- Demonstration of concern and care for Creation
- Additional opportunities to promote our church in the wider community

- All of which contributes to building a healthy community.

Before and After

