



# Mentone Community Garden Club Inc.

A place where you can grow vegetables, flowers & herbs for your own use.  
A place to enjoy a healthy outdoor activity & environment.  
A place to have friendly communication with other people who have similar interests.

## Strategic Plan 2023 - 2025

### Background

The Garden Club was originally called the Mordialloc Community Garden Club and was formed through a public meeting held by the old City of Mordialloc on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 1980. Expressions of interest were called for to create a community garden on disused land at Remo and Venice Streets, Mentone. The site was originally a State Electricity Commission depot and a vacant house block. The club was formed, and the first plots allocated on 25th February 1981.

To recognise its location, the club changed its name to the Mentone Community Garden Club in 2009 and on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2021 the club celebrated its 40th anniversary.

The Club boasts a multicultural membership of over 100 active members, several of whom have been members since the club was established. A waiting list has been established in the last few years due to the growing interest in the benefits of eating and sharing home grown produce. It takes approximately 12 –18 months for a plot to be allocated to a person on the waiting list.

The Club acknowledges the original custodians of the land the Bunurong Peoples of the Kulin nation and the Club appreciates the continuing support of City of Kingston.



## Vision

To maintain a sustainable Community Garden that promotes a healthy lifestyle by growing produce, supporting, and educating members and encouraging community engagement.



## Purposes

- To provide a garden space to grow and share vegetables and other produce on the land in Venice St Mentone, where possible using organic gardening methods
- To provide information and education relating to gardening for members of the club and the wider community
- To encourage social and community activities for networking, friendship, and enjoyment in a pleasant outdoor environment.

## Values

- Respect, kindness, and mutual assistance
- Inclusiveness
- Sustainability
- Recycling and replenishing.

## Current Garden Club Operation

### Target Community

The Community Garden serves residents and rate payers of the City of Kingston.

### Resources

The garden is supported by a combination of fees, grants, donations, and fundraising efforts. Partnerships have been established with local businesses, government agencies, and non-profit organisations who provide a range of materials and equipment.

### Organisation

The garden is divided into 95 plots. The current policy is for new members to have only one single plot and a bond is required on joining (as well as an annual pro rata plot fee), to encourage relinquishing members to clean up their plot ready for handover to the next member. Plots are planted with a variety of fruits, vegetables, herbs, and flowers. Individual plot holders maintain their plots, including soil preparation, planting, weeding, mulching, and clearing.

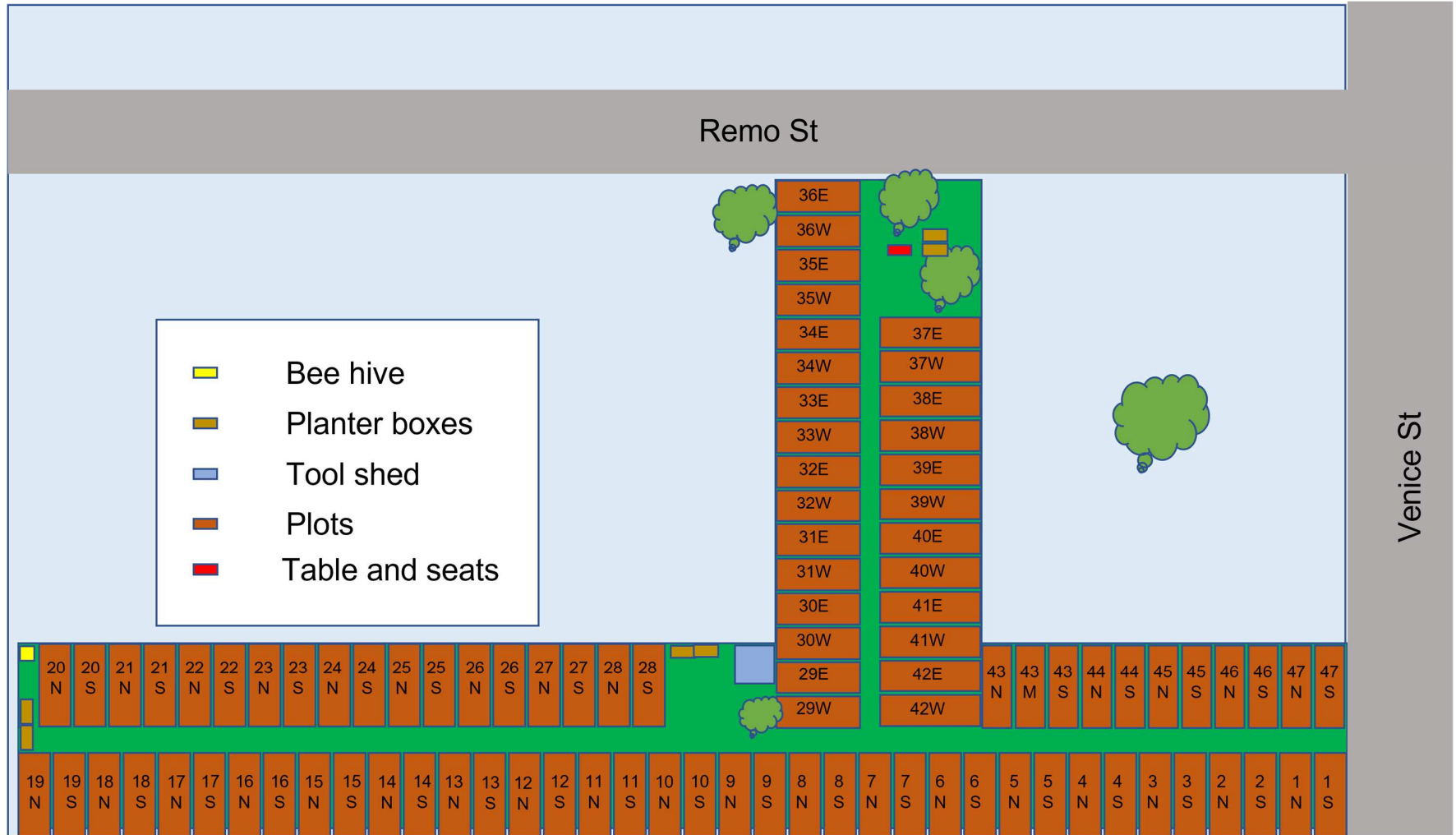
There is a communal tool-shed in the garden with tools and equipment available for use by all members. Recent additions to the garden have been a beehive and planter boxes. The latter are for communal use with a focus on common as well as more unusual herbs and plants.

### Implementation

The garden is managed by a committee of members who are approved at the annual AGM by club members. Committee positions include President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer and general members.



# Schematic Plan of the Garden





## Strategic Priorities /Where do we want to go?

The Garden Club Committee has identified eight strategic priority areas with specific activities or projects allocated across a three-year period.

The eight priority areas are:

- Health and Safety
- Site Development
- Maintenance
- Finance
- Communication
- Education
- Community Development
- Social

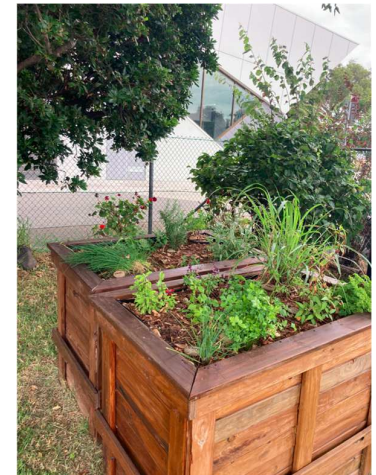
Many of the projects were suggested by members who completed a survey in 2021.

The results from this survey indicated the following interest areas for future consideration:

- Raised plots
- Communal gardening
- Vertical gardening
- Communal mulching
- Group sourcing for organic fertiliser
- More infrastructure such as gazebo and seating
- Social events
- Tours of other gardens

It is anticipated surveys will be conducted every 3 years seeking input from members on the Garden's development needs. The next survey is scheduled for 2024.

The Strategic Plan is reviewed annually by the Garden Club Committee and supported by an action plan developed and implemented for the current calendar year.



## Mentone Garden Club – Strategic Priorities 2023 – 2025

Strategic Priority Areas	Year 2023	Year 2024	Year 2025
<b>Health and Safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and implement health and safety policy and procedures for the garden club.</li> <li>• Maintain first aid kit and AED equipment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biannual review of hazards and risk assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biannual review of hazards and risk assessment</li> </ul>
<b>Site Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remo St fence and gate (council grant for 50%)</li> <li>• New storage shed.</li> <li>• Finish establishing planter boxes and consider one as a pollinator garden and another for indigenous plants and herbs.</li> <li>• Communal seating and tables (largely funded as an in-kind project).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renewal of fences</li> <li>• Double width gate near carpark – skips and deliveries.</li> <li>• Are communal compost areas required?</li> <li>• Encourage a greater sense of community by offering a range of gardening methods: communal garden beds, vertical gardens, raised garden beds, shared plots.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore the cost and benefit of a communal greenhouse.</li> <li>• Investigate/explore the creation of a children’s garden.</li> </ul>
<b>Maintenance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Twice yearly working bees</li> <li>• Mini working bees as required.</li> <li>• Review and replace tools and equipment.</li> <li>• Bee maintenance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Twice yearly working bees</li> <li>• Mini working bees as required.</li> <li>• Review and replace tools and equipment.</li> <li>• Bee maintenance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Twice yearly working bees</li> <li>• Mini working bees as required.</li> <li>• Review and replace tools and equipment.</li> <li>• Bee maintenance.</li> </ul>

Strategic Priority Areas	Year 2023	Year 2024	Year 2025
<b>Finance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply for Council grant for Remo gate renewal.</li> <li>• Develop and monitor annual budget.</li> <li>• Fee review_– do fees need to increase in 2024 in line with fixed costs, expenses, and proposed projects?</li> <li>• Is a grant/fund raising required to support further infrastructure projects?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply for Council grant for priority project.</li> <li>• Develop and monitor annual budget.</li> <li>• Fee review_– do fees need to increase in 2025 in line with fixed costs, expenses, and proposed projects?</li> <li>• Is a grant/fund raising required to support further infrastructure projects?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply for Council grant for priority project.</li> <li>• Develop and monitor annual budget.</li> <li>• Fee review_– do fees need to increase in 2026 in line with fixed costs, expenses, and proposed projects?</li> <li>• Is a grant/fund raising required to support further infrastructure projects?</li> </ul>
<b>Communication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Website</li> <li>• Email</li> <li>• Newsletter – 3-4 times a year on website</li> <li>• Trial private Facebook page</li> <li>• Review current database and establish better membership data collection and distribution to Committee.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Website</li> <li>• Email</li> <li>• Newsletter – 3-4 times a year on website</li> <li>• Facebook</li> <li>• Review communication tools for effectiveness</li> <li>• Survey members on garden development needs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Website</li> <li>• Email</li> <li>• Newsletter – 3-4 times a year on website</li> <li>• Facebook</li> <li>• Follow up on outcomes of review of communication tools and member survey.</li> </ul>

Strategic Priority Areas	Year 2023	Year 2024	Year 2025
<b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orientation/induction to gardening for new and inexperienced members.</li> <li>• Guest speakers</li> <li>• Workshops.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mentoring for inexperienced gardeners</li> <li>• Invite Kingston Council staff to provide information sessions.</li> <li>• Set up a club seed bank/library.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community education –provide information for gardeners wanting to grow veggies in their own homes.</li> </ul>
<b>Community Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage with Council community representatives.</li> <li>• Annual seed and seedling swap at the garden.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan for 2025 Open Day</li> <li>• Annual seed and seedling swap at the garden</li> <li>• Develop links with other community gardens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open day</li> <li>• Annual seed and seedling swap at the garden</li> <li>• Access to garden by school children, those with disabilities and the elderly</li> </ul>
<b>Social</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spring and summer social get-togethers</li> <li>• Member’s produce swaps.</li> <li>• Support group for members to maintain their plot.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tours of other community gardens</li> <li>• Member’s produce swaps.</li> <li>• Explore options to celebrate Garden’s 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tours of other community gardens</li> <li>• Member’s produce swaps.</li> <li>• Preparations for the Garden’s 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary.</li> </ul>