



Riccarton West Community Garden

May 2017

The Garden over this past year has been a positive place in the community and its impact has been vast.

The overall day-to-day running of the garden is overseen by Nick and Loretta Te Paa with the help of a small but dedicated team. There are presently 4 allotment holders. Vegetables are made available to the community from the garden three times per week. Some sort of payment whether monetary, in seeds/fertiliser or in time is encouraged. A number of people from the newly built and tenanted HNZ homes have been supported with vegetables from the garden and some have provided help. Vegetables are given freely to the elderly and those in need. The garden is a place where a number just stop by and chat, some new to the community, some migrants find English a challenge yet they make the effort to connect.

In April 2016 it was decided by the stakeholders to build a fence that may curb the stealing of vegetables and equipment. The materials for the fence were supplied by Bunnings, and funding received for the garden paid for gates. There has been minimal stealing from the garden since the fence was erected. University Students helped decorate the fence.

The Oak Development Trust has continued to oversee the activities of the garden and received funding over the year of \$1400 from COGS and \$2500 from the Halswell-Hornby-Riccarton Community Board on the gardens' behalf. A number of businesses and individuals have supported the garden over the year including Bunnings Tower Junction, Oderings, Terra Viva, Mitre 10 Mega Hornby.



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The Community garden grew plants to give out the Community Fun Day in Harrington Park in October. In November vegetables were flown in to the marae at Kaikoura following the devastating earthquake to help with the many meals the marae was supplying.



Preserves made from produce from the garden have been included in the Welcome Pack the Community Development Worker has given out to all new people in the area. Most of the newly built Housing NZ Developments have been visited and welcome packs given to each tenant.



Visits to the garden throughout the year have been enjoyed by the local Mainly Music/playgroup and the Plunket Chinese playgroup. University students have been involved in working bees as part of their programme and this has provided much needed work to maintain the productivity of the garden.



The inaugural Riccarton West Community Garden Christmas Dinner was held in December. This was a dinner for invited guests who have supported the garden over the year or have been given vegetables, many of these were the elderly. The meal was made from vegetables from fresh vegetables from the garden. Around 70 attended and plans are underway for the Community Garden Christmas Dinner 2017 which will focus on celebrating and honouring the elderly in our community.



The Garden generously gave vegetables to support the Oak Development Trust's Summer Camp at Waipara where a number from the local community attended.

It has been lovely recently for the Garden and those who give so generously of their time and energy to receive the 2017 Community Pride award from the Halswell-Hornby-Riccarton Community Board in conjunction with the Christchurch Beautifying Association.

