



Annual Report
Performance Report
31 March 2016

Merivale Community Garden Incorporated

Officers:

Philip Pennycuik – Chairman

Deb McCarty - Garden Coordinator

David Harricks – Garden Development Manager

Janie De Malmanche - Secretary

Bruce Carlson – Treasurer

Committee Members:

Noel Peterson

Rachel Palmer

Mark Elison

Jeff Ingham

Ingrid Mare' Raath

Elizabeth Shennen

Stephen Wilson

David Tank - Chair (resigned)

Bank:

Kiwi Bank

17 Grey Street, Tauranga 3110

Registered Charity: Number CC53396

Certificate of Incorporation

Number: 2622912

Website <http://themerivalecommunitygarden.co.nz/>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/182565235200268/>.

Merivale Community Garden

Vision – The Merivale Garden to be the heart of the community.

A place where people can come and learn how to plant and harvest food.

Merivale Community Garden will be:

For everyone living in Merivale and beyond

Able to donate produce to charities.

The Merivale Community Garden Incorporated Society has been established to help alleviate poverty and grow the community. It is a safe place where people can come and learn how to plant, harvest and prepare healthy food. The garden also provides fruit and vegetables freely to individuals and families within the community and also supports the food bank and food rescue.

The garden is managed by a group of committed volunteers led by Deb McCarthy, a sickness beneficiary. Deb is the garden coordinator, as part of her role she oversees people completing their community service hours in the garden. She is passionate about inspiring people to take a love of gardening and basic gardening knowledge back to their whanau.

This comment from a probation officer sums up Deb's work:

"I went to the garden to have a look - you're doing a great job Deb McCarthy. Amazing how offenders on community work sentences actually love their punishment, gaining a love for gardening, then when finished their sentence they set up their own gardens at home and spend time in them instead of causing trouble! Keep it up, Deb and the team..." John McCarthy, 25.12.12.

The garden has recently become an incorporated society. We are committed to growing the garden and providing education to reach more people in the community. This year our aim is to provide monthly education workshops and work with 5 families in the area to grow and maintain their own vegetable gardens.

Due to the location of the garden it primarily serves the people in the suburb of Merivale; however people beyond Merivale are welcomed to the garden and garden produce. The garden is for everyone and anyone who needs food and/or is interested in learning about planting, harvesting and preparing nutritious food from the garden.

Merivale community is one of 10% the most economically deprived communities in NZ, with unemployment within the community at around 40%. Consequently for many people living in the community; poor health and nutrition are significant issues.

Anyone who is interested in the garden is always welcomed on to the garden and they can be involved as little or as much as they want. People are also invited to take food from the garden as needed and anonymously if they choose.

The garden is now registered with Food Rescue and has become a distribution point for food.

The garden works closely with Corrections, people carrying out Community Service and Periodic Detention are supervised to work in the garden.

The garden also works closely with Merivale Community Centre - supplying food as able for their various events or for individuals and families as needed.

THE MERIVALE COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Story So Far...

Thursday January 12th 2012 - House Fire

It all started with the unfortunate house fire on the Corner of Fraser St & Alverstoke Rd, one man was seriously burnt and the Housing NZ house had to be removed.



John (GM Merivale Community Centre) and Housing NZ wanted to avoid this land becoming dumping ground. Housing NZ agreed the land could be used for a community garden.

John asked Deb to coordinate the garden. At the time Deb was keen to learn how to feed her grandchildren with very little \$\$\$ and was learning about gardening through the kindy, their worm farm and compost system. Deb made a deal with herself that she would make it as cool as she could so the community could keep the land as a garden. Deb has since, voluntarily, put her heart and soul (and her own \$\$\$) into the development of a fertile garden.



5th of May 2012 – Site preparation begins.



Debris left over from the house needed to be removed and the soil needed a lot of work to become suitable for gardening. Many people from the community came to help. E.g. soil had to be sifted to remove the remaining



house rubble.

26th of May 2012 - The gardening begins!

Wal and Vicky from the Matua Community Garden plotted out first 9 gardens according to gardening principles, and Steve helped with the landscaping.



The community continued the hard work preparing the plots.

June 2012 - Corrections partners with the Garden

Deb approached Corrections to see if they could help with the on-going development of the garden. From here a beautiful relationship between Corrections and Community Garden began to bloom. And so did the garden with the PD boys and girls working hard alongside Deb on the garden every Saturday, 9am -4pm, for 9 months.



The garden has since become an agent for "Community Service", with Deb able to supervise community service workers while they do their hours with the garden. All have put their heart and soul into the garden, Deb feels she has been very lucky with the placements she has had.



"I went to the garden to have a look - you're doing a great job [Deb McCarthy](#). Amazing how offenders on community work sentences are actually loving their punishment, gaining a love for gardening, then when finished their sentence they set up their own gardens at home and spend time in them instead of causing trouble! Keep it up, Deb and the team..." John Mc Carthy, 25.12.12.

December 2012 - The Grand Opening!

A lot of work went into preparing the garden for grand opening day.





And after 6 months of hard work the garden was officially blessed and opened.





2013 – Additions to the Garden

The shelter was built by the PD boys with the help of a builder who had been through community service. Funding for most of the materials came from Te Puni Kokori, and Avalon, topped up by Deb.



8th of November 2013 - The Pizza Oven Workshop!



Regan Prior ran a pizza oven-making workshop, which was a lot of fun. In 2015 there will be healthy cooking workshops with Stephen Wilson and a Sicilian Chef using the oven and garden produce.

2014 - On-going Development of the Garden

August 2014 - Working Bee



August 2014 - First Core Group Meeting



First Core Group meeting to work towards continued growth and sustainability.

October - November 2014 - Theft and Vandalism

For the first time Nick and Deb came to the garden to find tagging and vandalism, things stolen e.g. wheelbarrow, children's picnic table, herb plants and vegetables pulled out long before they are ready : (. Please can everyone keep an eye out on the garden, this is very disheartening, as a lot of voluntary work has gone into the garden. The garden is for everyone in the community, and to have a few spoil it is such a shame.

April 15, 2015 - Merivale Community Garden Incorporated

A core group established the garden as an Incorporated Society this will allow the garden access to a broad range of funding. The garden is also able to distribute food on behalf of Food Rescue.

June 2015 - TCC Community Match Fund

Our first successful application as an incorporated society was received towards the installation of an irrigation system and a series of garden workshops.

The Garden Today



Deb travels 40min each way on her scooter to work in the garden Mondays, Wednesday and Saturdays, working alongside volunteers and community service workers. Nick works in the garden every Wednesday and Saturday, and occasionally on Mondays. Kevin and Calvin are also busy helping out in the garden regularly, while many others come and go providing support and assistance as they are able.



Produce (when it is ready) is freely available to the community and it is hoped that people help themselves as needed while respecting that the produce in the garden is for everyone, in return it is hoped that people will give back to the garden in whatever small way they can e.g. a little time or seedlings.

Next year the team are hoping to develop the garden and gardening skills further to help ensure everyone in the community has access to fresh fruit and veges :)

How the garden grows...

Permaculture principles are used in the garden as they are cheap and they work. Permaculture: "Consciously designed landscapes which mimic the patterns and relationships found in nature, while yielding an abundance of food, fibre and energy for provision of local needs..." (Bill Mollison from Permaculture: A Designers Manual).

There is a busy worm farm and compost is made in the garden for the garden.



There are many bees working hard on pollination with two beehives in the garden.



Some gardens have been grown on fish guts. Deb grows seedlings at home, buys them when she can, and some are donated. In Deb's travels she talks to everyone she meets encouraging them to use the garden.

If you have got any ideas on how to develop the garden or would like to find out more about how you can be involved do have a chat with Deb.

**A Massive Thank You To Everyone Who has Helped
Make the Garden What it is Today**

PD Boys and Girls **Community Service Workers**
Department of Corrections - \$2000 per year towards the garden
The Merivale Community **Regular Volunteers**
Kingfisher Plumbing provided the first **hose**
Austral Bricks **BOP Cobbles**
Carboline provided 1000's of dollars' worth of **paint**
Dave and Noel have shared their knowledge and passion for all things greens.
Te Puni Kokori **Arohanui Adult Education**
Avalon donated artwork **Aquinas Collage** donated artwork and the scarecrow
Deb's sister Chrissy developed, designed and funded the website and stationary.
Revital **Tauranga Girls Collage** **Good Neighbour**
Generosity from **many people** over the years – e.g. one lady off the street gave Deb an
envelope of \$100 worth of Mitre 10 vouchers.
Fish'n'chip shop on Dive Cres – donated fish guts – Deb leaves a couple of bins with lids
on them, and leaves note and he will bring them around.
Warehouse Fraser Cove for Fruit Trees and seedlings.
Mega 10 Mega have given the garden an account which Deb pays, always give discount.
Janice at the end of Wairoa Road has provided cow manure.
U Save Variety **Acorn Foundation** **Daltons**
Labour Party **Van – EnviroEd**



If anyone has not been included on this list do let us know it has not been
 deliberate. Please know your support and assistance has been greatly
 appreciated.

MERIVALE COMMUNITY GARDEN

CHAIR REPORT

MERIVALE COMMUNITY GARDEN INCORPORATED was incorporated under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908 on the 15th day of April 2015. Sincere thanks to David Tank for guiding us through this process.

Since becoming an incorporated society the garden has gone through a year growth and development. Some of the key achievements include:

- 7 Committee Meetings since the initial meeting in March 2015 to where it was agreed to become an incorporated society
- The garden has expanded in productive land area, with new crops being trialled
- Deb has facilitated several successful workshops at the garden
- The first mentored garden is well underway
- Becoming an incorporated society has also allowed the garden to register with Good Neighbour Trust. They are able to provide assistance to the garden, and Deb provides assistance in the redistribution of food that would otherwise go to landfill to those in need
- We received funding from the Tauranga City Council Community Development Match Fund to enable the facilitation of the three workshops, and purchase of materials and equipment required for irrigation.
- We have also been successful in an application for 2017 funding towards operations costs. Rachel is supporting the committee to identify further avenues of sustainable funding and support for the garden.
- Currently we are in the process of applying to the charities commission, for charitable organisation status
- There has also been time to reflect on the purposes of the garden and structures needed to support the on-going development of the garden. This has led to a review of the constitution and refinement of the rules guiding the operation of the garden which will be reviewed at this AGM.

We are all looking forward to a year of consolidation and further development. Major projects include redesign of the gardens to optimise productivity and ease of use by all; the installation of the irrigation system in spring; more successful funding applications and more mentored gardens throughout the community.

Phil Pennycuick

Chair Merivale Community Garden

MERIVALE COMMUNITY GARDEN

COORDINATORS REPORT FOR 2016

The AGM for the garden is to be held on the 29th May 2016 1pm at the garden cnr Fraser Street and Alverstoke Rd Merivale Tauranga.

The garden has been incorporated since 15th April 2015. Since then we have, along with the usual crops started a garden next door. It is not opened to the public; the produce goes into the box on the fence of the main garden, for the community. It also allows us to grow crops we would not normally.

The garden's big initiative this year is mentored gardens in back yards. For this project we are seeking sponsorship. The first garden has been completed. Doctor Luke Bradford 5th Ave Family Practice is sponsoring the first 2. I am working with local organisations to find the families that want the gardens. I would also like to work with other community gardens, in the hope they think it is a worthy project and like to take it on for the area they are, there has been some very good feedback since the articles were written.

The garden is having a makeover, during the cooler months. We will still plant 3 gardens in the basics of what the community use, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, silver beet and spinach. The gardens will be redone, smaller and all the same size. We will end up with more garden space, all with wheelchair access.

The garden applied for a grant from the Tauranga City Council Match it fund. We applied for funds for irrigation and workshops. Rocket oven workshop and cooking health workshops. The total \$2060.97. The garden has to match that with labour. We have had two workshops. We have had a lot of bad weather, which has held up the workshops. The irrigation system will be put in when the makeover is complete. All the material for the makeover we hope to get for free. Once garden beds are redone, it will be so much easier to set jobs for the voluntaries to do. David Harricks is building a large sign to put up on the shed wall: Jobs to be done etc.

We also applied and received funding in April 2016 from Bay Trust for \$1500 funding towards the 2016/17 operational costs. We are also applying to the Lion Foundation for Cooking gear, a computer and printer.

I am very happy to finish off this report, letting you know how the garden has evolved in the community, it is well used, well respected and more and more people are coming to help

Deb McCarthy

Coordinator Merivale Community Garden

Merivale Community Garden Incorporated
Statement of Receipts and Payments
as at 31 March 2016

	Note	2016	2015
Income			
Tauranga City Council	4	2,060	
Donations	8	450	
Workshop Koha		85	
Total Income		2,595	0
 Expenditure			
Operating payments:			
<i>Garden operating costs</i>			
Seeds & Miscellaneous		150	
<i>Workshops</i>			
Workshop costs	7	410	
Workshop convener Koha		25	
 Sponsored garden	9	350	
 Funding towards operations costs			
Irrigation System	6	1,060	
Total Expenditure		1,995	0
 Cash Surplus		600	0
 Bank Accounts and Cash	5	600	

Merivale Community Garden Incorporated
Statement of Resources and Commitments
as at 31 March 2016

	Note	2016	2015
Resources			
Kiwi Bank	5	600	
Irrigation System	6	1,060	
		1,661	0
Commitments			
2017 workshops	7	601	
Irrigation installation match	6	1,060	
		1,661	0

Merivale Community Garden
31 March 2016
Notes to the Performance Report

Basis of Preparation

Merivale Community Garden is permitted by law and has elected to apply tier 4 *Standard Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting – Cash (Not-for Profit) (PBE SFR-C (NFP))*

All transactions are reported in the statement of receipts and payments and related notes to the performance report on a cash basis.

1. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Merivale Community Garden is not registered for GST

The performance report is prepared on a GST-inclusive basis.

2. Related Party Transactions

There have been no related party transactions (2015 Nil)

3. Events after Balance Date

There have been no significant events after balance date; (2015 Nil).

4. Tauranga City Council Match Fund

The garden successfully applied for a grant from the Tauranga City Council *Match It* fund for irrigation and workshops. Total \$2060.97. The garden has to match that with voluntary labour.

5. Bank

Kiwi Bank

17 Grey Street, Tauranga 3110

6. Irrigation System

At the moment the garden relies on volunteers to water the garden regularly during the hot summer months using hoses. A well planned irrigation system ensures more effective use of water getting to where needed, when needed. The timer system allows watering in the early morning or evening, when volunteers are not around or during in the heat of the day and holiday periods when it can be hard to find people to water the garden as needed.

An efficient and effective irrigation system will ensure the garden produces year round enabling planning for thirsty summer crops.

The irrigation system will be put in when the makeover is complete. Fifty percent of the funding is from the *Match It* funding, the remaining material and labour for the makeover will be supplied through donations and our generous volunteers.

7. 2017 Workshops

Tauranga City Council *Matching Fund* funded 3 workshops

We have held two workshops

a) Easy Pizzas and the Pizza Oven

Steve Wilson ran a successful demonstration of easy pizza production using the Pizza Oven at the garden. Since this workshop community groups have utilised the pizza oven for their gatherings and meetings.

b) Building a Rocket Oven was very successful. Thank you Regan.

The garden has been funded for one more workshop in 2017 which will be healthy cooking. Diabetes is a significant problem in Merivale. Many people can no longer cook from scratch, and rely on pre-made meals. This workshop will be aimed at giving people with very little money the skills and passion to prepare cheap healthy meals based on food grown in the community garden.

The emphasis being; how to increase taste without increasing sugar and salt e.g. using rosemary instead of salt. Olives to make olive oil and pickling, or persevered lemons, using wild Fennel etc.

8. Donations

The garden's big initiative this year is mentored gardens in back yards. For this project we are seeking sponsorship. The first garden has been completed. Doctor Luke Bradford 5th Ave Family Practice is sponsoring the first 2.

"Bring a Punnet" Great success during the year with the community regularly donating punnets of seedlings for the garden. A special thanks to Gate Pa New World for their generous donations of seedlings over the year.

9. Sponsored Gardens

Gardens are coming to the backyard

Merivale Community Gardens is branching out – into local residents' own backyards.

Merivale Community Gardens coordinator Deb McCarthy says the community garden has been available for four years, and people respect it and use it, so the "next step is to take it to their backyards."

But it's not a set-up and leave sort of project, says Deb. Each backyard garden gets a mentor assigned to come back to the garden on a regular basis, "at least once a month," says Deb, to see how the family and the garden are growing.

The first garden, installed last Sunday, went to Gee Sammons and her 10-year-old son Rawiri, as a project they can work on and maintain together.

Gee says it was a "very emotional" time for her when their garden was installed. "Seeing my son grow like that... I saw a different side of him."

Their garden "looks really good" with a nectarine tree, herbs, berries, beetroot, rhubarb, carrots, rocket ettuce, spring onion and more, says Gee.

She's very thankful for all the effort everyone has put into their garden.

"I'd like to thank everyone, from the bottom of our hearts we'd really, really like to thank everyone."

The gardens, which are funded by members of the community, will receive raised garden beds, good soil,



Gee and Rawiri, 10, Sammons, and Merivale Community Garden trustee David Harricks. Photo: Tracy Hardy

a compost bin, a worm farm, tools, a fruit tree, and vegetables and seeds to last four seasons. The families will be taught how to harvest seeds for replanting come next season, and the project is about recycling, too, says Deb.

"The wood surrounds for this garden we're doing on Sunday we found on the side of the road; we're going to paint them up."

"You've got to use your initiative; that's part of the gardener's philosophy, reuse where you possibly can."

The first garden, planted on March 6, is sponsored by Dr Luke Bradford of Fifth Avenue Doctors.

Luke, a gardener himself, says Deb is one of his patients and he thought it was a great idea because it's a great way to help the community eat healthier.

"It's cheaper to go to Pizza Hut and buy a \$5 family pizza than it is to go to the supermarket and buy fruit and veg, which is absurd."

Luke is excited for the Sammons family to learn how to sustain their own garden.

"If they can grow their own fruit and vegetables and get interested in it and enjoy the benefits of healthy eating, then that's phenomenal."

"I hope they get into it and enjoy it and enjoy the vegetables. I'm delighted with it going ahead."

And if they can keep it up, Luke thinks it could be a great thing for the community. If we can move as a community to encourage families with help like this, to get into growing their own food, then that's fantastic."

Deb says the project is aiming to get three gardens in backyards in Merivale, one in Gate Pa, and one in Greerton.

To be considered for the backyards gardens project, or if you are interested in sponsoring or mentoring, email: debmccarthy@slingshot.co.nz

Cayla-Fay Saunders