

## Community Gardens

Residents have approached me requesting Community Gardens for the City of Canterbury. I believe there is sufficient interest to make this a viable project.

Riverwood Estate currently runs a successful community garden, as does Canterbury PS and there are Community Gardens throughout Sydney like Randwick, Hurstville, Marrickville, Sutherland, Randwick, Rockdale, City of Sydney (which has 10). Kogarah and Woollahra are planning gardens.

Residencies in places like Campsie have very little garden space. Community Gardens offer them space where they can meet, socialize, share knowledge, grow produce and develop sustainable practices.

“Community gardens are a unique form of open space whereby people can learn, recreate, socialise and demonstrate sustainable principles within a garden setting. Community gardening is a valuable community recreational activity that contributes to health and well-being, positive social interaction, community development, environmental education, sustainable principles, protection and use of public open space.” ([www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au](http://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au))

I believe community gardens encourage a sense of community pride and belonging. People learn to communicate and share with people from different backgrounds. Like Men’s Sheds this is an opportunity for people who don’t have the space at home to practice a hobby they love while developing friendships and a sense of community.

They also offer a venue for Canterbury’s workshops on composting, and no dig gardening.

I hope you will support this proposal which will not be a financial strain for Council and can offer the community a tremendous opportunity for socialization, recreation, education and a source of healthy food and physical activity.