

## **Matai Community Garden Group meeting 7 May 2015**

In attendance: Yvonne, Jake, Heather, Holly, Hannah Zwartz, Emma.

**Lease** – need to determine if Public Liability Insurance is needed and if not how to get it removed from the lease agreement. Jake will look into this further.

### **Garden planning with Hannah**

Decision has been made to have raised beds and a potato patch that is not in a raised bed. One old sandpit available for free, plus two made from iron and timber (iron available from Yvonne and timber to be acquired).

Timber - Treated timber should not be in contact with earth, can use polythene lining to minimize the contact with the soil.

Height of beds – beds don't need to be full with compost/soil, can add in lupins etc to bulk it up.

Bed layout – Hannah advises running north to south for even sun:shade. 1.3m is measure used at school garden, we could have larger – 1.8m soil space plus edging will make it 2.1m across. Gap between needs to be 90cm for wheelbarrow/wheelchair etc, but don't need this on all sides, just one side of each.

Potato patch in corner – no dig potato patch laid on top of grass – requires straw, mulch, seed potatoes etc (you tube video: no dig potatoes). 4m x 3m with space around edges for wheelbarrow.

Top bank – sunny spot, needs to suppress the grass (carpet to edge).

Carpet to suppress grass in raised beds and between then add wood chip between beds. Council could possibly supply wood chip for free (Johnny). Electra may be able to provide for free, or \$70 for 5 cubic metres.

Mitre 10 – Hannah will enquire on our behalf about discount for wood for raised beds.

Seating area – need to consider a seating area for future

Fruit trees – should we be including them in the garden or other places on the reserve.

Fence line – sunflowers (in tyres), passion fruit, beans etc (in pots and containers), pumpkins

Rain tanks – against arts centre. Plus water supply from neighbours. Rain barrels.

Compost bins – start making asap in order to have ready for next spring. Bio-digesters, pallet bins. Shady area under tree by fences could be a possibility. Also need to have it accessible for dropping off materials. Rain barrels could be used for liquid fertilizer.

Raised beds – Do we need to have corner posts for stability. Could use sleepers as corner posts. Need to establish what to plant – easy care, large producers, fast growers.

Media release – need image to accompany story, seeking goods that we require.

**Need to do:**

- Estimate the amount of materials required
- Figure out if the grass is kikuyu or other kind
- Hannah advise on what would be best types of plants and best varieties to plant
- Hannah to help with media release – take photo this weekend
- Yvonne to put together drawing, Hannah can add detail
- Acknowledge members who have signed up (Emma and Holly)
- Sort lease (Jake)