

# The Mulch Pit

*Information to help you get to know The Mulch Pit Community Food Garden.*

*...hosted by Nightcliff Uniting Church and open to everyone!*

## who, what, where, when and how...

### What is permaculture?

The Mulch Pit is designed and operates according to permaculture principles...an Australian innovation. Our job is to work out together what it means at The Mulch Pit.  
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### When can I garden?

Learn more about when to participate in The Mulch Pit.  
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### Where is The Mulch Pit?

21 Cummins Street, Nightcliff

The Mulch Pit is near the corner of Valder Crescent and Cummins Street, between Nightcliff Uniting Church and the council oval.

### How do I get started?

Check out the website for weekly working bee Pit Plans. Saturday morning is the best time to rock up to the garden, meet other Plotters and maybe even get your hands dirty. See below for plot rental info.

### Our Vision -

**The Mulch Pit is a place for growing food and fun.**

It's a permaculture garden based on 3 major principles -

1. Care for the earth
2. Care for people
3. Enough for all.

### Essential Elements

Good ethics are as important in a community garden as good soil. Read more about The Mulch Pit ethics.

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Large - \$40/ 6 months

Medium - \$30/6 months

50% discount for concession card holders.

## Welcome to The Mulch Pit

*The Mulch Pit is a community food garden based on permaculture principles. Everyone is welcome and there are lots of ways to be involved.*

It's very easy to get involved in The Mulch Pit - just come any Friday evening and get stuck in. In addition to the individual container gardens - the plots that are available for individuals and groups to rent - there are fruit trees and compost heaps and all manner of beautiful projects to get involved in.

### Plotters, Schemers and Friends

If you're keen to get started on a container garden plot, there are two sizes priced accordingly. The rental terms runs from April to September & from October to March each year.

Your annual fee makes you a "plotter" and a "schemer." You grow your own and participate in

consensus decision-making and the development of the whole garden.

Friends of The Mulch Pit are welcome too if you just want to participate in the "scheming". (\$25.00/year) This support is very much appreciated.

All of us together are responsible for the whole garden, such as helping others with their plots if they need it and maintaining the community areas. The idea is to grow community as well as food!

### Working Bees

Working Bees (Friday Frenzies) are held from 5pm until dusk on the 2nd and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays of each month, and occasionally at other times. Come along to help keep the garden in shape (weeding, repairing pathways, planting common areas, working with compost, etc.), share information and enjoy each other's sweaty company.

### Cooking Evenings

Learn how to cook the tropical vegies that grow abundantly in the Mulch Pit at our monthly cooking evenings: We gather in the outdoor kitchen on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month from 5.30 to cook and eat: a delightful way to relax after a busy week. See the website for details of upcoming Friday evening events

### Love & Feed our Chooks

Our chooks are always up for a few scraps or weeds just toss them into the yard any time. Barrow in lawn clippings and watch as it magically turns into beautiful topsoil over a few

weeks: .Consider joining the chook feeding roster: and take a few eggs for your efforts. (contact Penny 0431666300 )

### Join the Team..... to Plot and scheme!

We welcome new energy and ideas to our small but dedicated team of volunteers who make the garden happen. Please join us for our monthly planning meetings (3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month from 6-7pm at the outdoor kitchen)

### Guidelines

The Mulch Pit is about maximum freedom and maximum responsibility, so with that in mind here are a few simple things to consider.

Please be chemical free.

Please throw away rubbish. Please recycle!

Please be aware of your neighbor's need for sunshine.

The garden is irrigated automatically through the dry times: but you may need to hand water as well. Keep an eye on your plot: this is the key to vegie success! If you notice leaks or blockages please contact Penny (0431666300)

Keep all dogs under control.

Please park in the church parking lot or along Valder Crescent. There is space for loading and unloading near the garden.

# What is permaculture?

*“a philosophy and approach to land use which weaves together microclimates, annual and perennial plants, animals, soils, water management, and human needs into intricately connected productive communities.”*

Bill Mollison & Reny Mia Slay, *Introduction to Permaculture*

## When to garden...

Plotters are welcome to garden any time, with consideration to neighbours and other groups that use the space.

The church toilets are available every Friday evening from 4pm til dusk, Saturday mornings during the Op-Shop, and at other designated times, which are

subject to change (check the notice board).

## Assistance and Advice

Check out - The Mulch Pit website at [themulchpit.net](http://themulchpit.net), Working Bees other plotters, The NUC Community resource library, and visits to other community gardens. Add us to your Facebook Friends.

**What microclimates do we have here and can we create? Which plants work best here? What about chooks? How shall we build up the soil? How can we use water wisely? How can this garden feed people...with food and community?**

**The Mulch Pit is an organic garden in keeping with permaculture principles...no added chemicals.**

## The Elemental Ethics of The Mulch Pit

The Mulch Pit ethics are based on practices that correspond to the five essential earth elements.

### Hospitality

Earth - Yellow

The Mulch Pit is inviting, inclusive, safe and respectful.

### Discernment

Fire - Red

The Mulch Pit operates by a consensus decision-making process.

### Sustainability

Wood – Green

The Mulch Pit incorporates sustainable practices, maximizing local resource use and on-site recycling.

### Connectivity

Metal - White

The Mulch Pit is a community space and community events are integral to the design.

### Spaciousness

Water - Blue

The Mulch Pit is open for all of the community and is always in process, guided by fun, art, creativity and beauty.

[www.themulchpit.net](http://www.themulchpit.net)

**"There is enough for all. The earth is a generous mother; she will provide in plentiful abundance food for all her children if they will but cultivate her soil in justice and in peace."**