



**East Brunswick Community Garden
New Jersey, USA**



Media Release

22 April 2010

An internet search for news coverage of the opening of an East Brunswick community garden in the USA has led to the formation and signing of a sister garden resolution with another community garden in Brunswick East some 16,737km away; just in time to celebrate Earth Day on April 22.

The founders of the East Brunswick Community Garden in New Jersey, USA, decided that a connection through a shared name and values was enough of a reason to make contact with the Merri Corner Community Garden in Brunswick East, Melbourne, Australia.

"I was on the internet looking for info on our garden and stumbled upon the Merri Corner Community Garden. I was stunned there could be another East Brunswick all the way around the world with a group of crazy people with the same idea we had!" explained David Moskowitz, one of the founders.

The community garden project was first proposed in 2002 and, with the help of mayor David Stahl and the Parks and Water departments, the East Brunswick community garden was opened in May of 2009. The garden is located on a farm that is designated as 'Open Space' and was designed and is now managed by the independent, non-profit organization "Friends of the East Brunswick Environmental Commission". Materials needed for the garden were generously donated by local merchants. The 80 plot garden grew to over 100 enthusiastic gardeners during the first growing season. This year, the garden's second, it has grown to include 170 plots and more families have signed up to the waiting list. The meeting of gardeners across the globe has inspired new ideas for the development and expansion of the garden even further. Inspired by the Merri Corner garden plans, the NJ garden will dedicate some space for a shared community area and plant communal fruit trees.

The founders of the NJ garden believe that the most important part of a community garden is that it is a 'community of gardeners,' rather than a place to grow vegetables. "Through the connection with the Australian garden we can help spread the word about the importance of supporting community gardens and community-based agriculture." Produce from the garden will be donated to a local senior citizens centre and various social and arts events have been planned by the gardens management committee.

Brunswick East's Merri Corner Community Garden have just signed a lease with Moreland Council for their land on the corner of Harrison and Donald Street and hope to raise enough funds in the next few months to see their dream become a reality. This serendipitous meeting with the New Jersey gardeners has inspired a catalogue of great ideas for future cultural exchanges with their American counterparts.

"We've been sharing our ideas and goals for our respective gardens and the potential for trans-Pacific activities," said Rich Ploeg, of the MCCG. "We've already started up a shared Facebook page and are now talking about connecting our kids as internet pen pals".

"The sister garden resolution really encapsulates our shared vision and ideals. Our aim is to establish a global garden community founded in the common goal of fostering environmental consciousness through the shared experience of cultivating organic, locally grown produce. How apt to be formalising our partnership on World Earth Day, a movement that is all about raising environmental awareness on a global scale."

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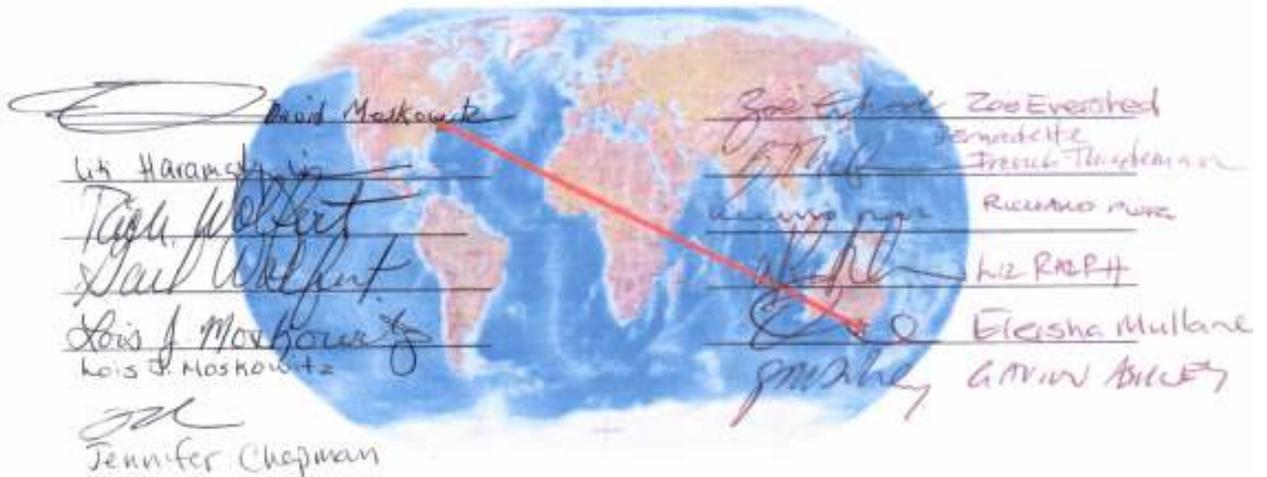
*A Resolution
East Brunswick Community Gardening Across The World*

This Resolution joins the *East Brunswick Community Garden in East Brunswick, New Jersey, United States of America* with the *Merri Corner Community Garden in East Brunswick, Melbourne, Australia* in a gardening partnership based on a shared passion for gardening, community service, volunteerism and environmental awareness. Although separated by 10,400 miles (16,737 kilometers) and two oceans our gardens are linked by the Earth we share, a strong commitment to locally grown produce, the desire to develop a greener community and a desire to foster a unique gardening friendship. By linking our East Brunswick community gardens across the world, we hope to share ideas, interests, successes and failures, and forge lasting friendships. We also hope that joining our gardens and gardeners will raise awareness in our communities and across a broader front, about the importance of community gardening and a shared gardening experience. Linking our two East Brunswick gardens through this seemingly small step, can help promote community gardening, community service, volunteerism and environmental awareness that could not be achieved by our individual organizations. With this resolution, we therefore bind our gardens together and pledge to develop a *joint gardening community* based in our shared ideals and interests.

So, be it resolved on this day on April 16, 2010, that the East Brunswick Community Garden in East Brunswick, New Jersey, United States of America and the Merri Corner Community Garden in East Brunswick, Melbourne, Australia join each other in a partnership of shared gardening interests and friendship, separated by vast distances but connected by our common goals and ideals.

East Brunswick Community Garden
East Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey

Merri Corner Community Garden
East Brunswick, Melbourne, Australia



Joining Our Gardens and Gardeners Across the World