

Garden Managers Report to the AGM, MCG 9th August 2014

This is my report for the last month and my final report as the Garden Manager

After speaking with Steve last week we had an extraordinarily productive working bee on Saturday 2nd. August. I would like to thank those (Mary, Don D., Ewen S., Ian and Moira Heath, Russell, Harley, Marg, and Steve of course and many others) who attended the last working bee before the AGM to put up the wire onto the outside enclosure of the "Communal Area". Also Sandra, Helen and others who had a "Secret Women's Business" (Planning for Fair) meeting during the construction jumped in before their meeting.

It was a pretty smooth construction effort.

The "Communal Area" is looking good. The Hazelnuts grown by Jocelyn have been planted out. The potatoes and other crops are doing OK since the netting to keep the ducks at bay has been erected. The Garlic is coming along well and should produce a good cash crop for the next Eater Fair.

The main garden plots area has been ravaged by ducks, so the only practical solution is individual netting.

The trailer donated by the Bangalay Growers Group has been registered and needs a home. It needs to be stored somewhere securely. Ewen was to discuss this with Jocelyn as to whether it could be stored at their place. There is a cover for the trailer that is going to be loaned to the Men's Shed although it will remain the property of the MCG. There was also a cash gift from BGG to us as well.

The Turnip, our Clivus Multrum self composting toilet, is coming along rapidly. Not only will it be a really functional toilet, but a great piece of art. Much thanks to Rod (Panda) Hayes and a few willing hands including Rod and Don Davidson collecting trees from my place and getting them in the ground (ably assisted yet again by Richard & tractor) courtesy of the ANU. The latter stages we owe a big thank you to Russell Law for his assistance to Rod.

A sincere thanks goes to Judith Carroll for her tireless fundraising applications and to Neil Brown for his previous website updates. I hope Neil will undertake our website again. Thank you to Sharon Adlam for her undertaking the website and her maintenance of it.

My involvement with the MCG started in Jan/Feb. 2010 along with Ewen, Jocelyn, Bill Powell, Sandra Worth and Claire Stephenson when the idea was floated. We have come a long way since then. We were granted the land by the ANU. Bill Powell (KCC Board member) was instrumental along with Steve in enabling this land to be used for the MCG. I, for one, am extremely grateful to the ANU for their contribution to our community to grow food together. The first AGM was in November 2010.

I feel we have enabled the ANU to meet part of their charter (education) through this project. I have to thank Steve and Richard for their instruction of my TAFE students in the art of fencing and installing strainers in 2011. Also students helped me build the first garden beds at the MCG in 2011 and helped in the fencing of the "Communal Area" in 2013 under the expert guidance of Steve, Richard and Scott.

I hope we can continue to grow food together in a harmonious way provide any excess food to those who cannot grow their own and distribute whatever is left over to charitable organisations. These were my ideals when this started.

My aspirations are that this Community Garden will continue to serve our community as a meeting point to share information and ideas on not only growing things together but as a venue for companionship and understanding between the whole community.

A big thank you to my neighbour, Paul Byrnes for the construction of the roof over the container. Thanks to many members over the years for their untiring work to make this Community project happen. There are far too many to list here. You know who you are.

This brings me to a point where I would like to encourage the MCG to be less reliant on Steve for his help (except where heavy machinery is required). This is your community garden and after looking at what we have achieved in a few years, you are capable of almost anything to better our community.

I do sincerely hope the "Communal Area" becomes a place where people can gather, relax, feed the chooks and sit at the "Bus Stop" to contemplate, rather than becoming too much like a market garden. Space is precious, and how we use that space is important to make it pleasant and relaxing.

Andy Warhol once said: I think having land and not ruining it is the most beautiful art that anybody could ever want to own.

Lastly I wish to thank Steve, Robin and their staff (Richard and Scott) for the amazing contribution to our project. Without them this would not be here.

I do hope you get the water pipe donated by Terry Snow in the ground to enable the "Communal Area" to be watered efficiently.

Thank you again Steve and Robin.

Malcolm Salmon
Vice President
and Garden Manager