**Murramarang Community Garden**

**MINUTES**

**MCG COMMITTEE**

**Sunday August 28, 2022**

**10.30am–at the garden**

**Chair:** Klas Johansson

1. **Present:** Klas Johansson,Harley Delves, Cathy Delves, Judith Carroll, Neil Brown Sybille Davidson, Don Davidson, Richard Lake, Robyn Johansson, Rob Evans
2. **Apologies:** Ewen Sussman, John Hudson
3. **Business arising from Minutes of previous meeting: - 22 May 2022.**
* Don reported that he has pruned the raspberries and loganberries.
* He said that it is almost time he will spray the figs with Confidor. Rob has volunteered to assist Don in spraying poison in areas infested with kikuyu, especially in the windbreak, etc.
* Don reported that the “drowning” tubs are working well in disposing of weeds such as kikuyu, commelina, mint and hydrocotle. A reminder that the tub lids MUST be screwed on tightly to stop them being blown away across the paddocks.
* Beric and Lyn have taken over the rat baiting and are investigating poison that will not result in bi-kill of raptors etc,
* All other matters proposed in the Minutes have been resolved. Klas will deliver a detailed report on our garden activities in his President’s report, to be delivered at the General Meeting to be held on Sept. 10.

There being no other business arising, it was moved that the Minutes be accepted:

**Moved:** Judith

**Seconded:** Sybille

**All in Favour:** Carried

1. **Treasurers Report – Robyn**

Robyn tabled the MCG Quarterly Financial Report (attached). After discussion it was moved that the Financial Report be accepted:

**Moved:** Judith

**Seconded:** Neil

**All in favour:** Carried

1. **Presidents Report – Klas**
* Klas noted that he will provide a detailed *Presidents Report* at the forthcoming AGM and GM, scheduled for 10 Sept.
* He explained that the half-sized water tanks scattered throughout the garden are to be filled with soil ready for ginger to be planted in the coming weeks.
* The half-size large water tank provided by Don are to partly filled with rubble, then soil and the degraded wood chip that is covering the “paths and alleyways” between our communal beds. Those will be covered with new woodchip, after any weeds are removed.
* He reported that a plumber has installed guttering and downpipes to the container shed and the tea shed. Leonie, who donated the large fibreglass tank, has offered a room-sized piece of wool carpet that will be laid on top of the roadbed on which the tanks will be placed. We must prepare the ground on which the tanks will stand.
* Klas reported that the driveway repair has been successful, and he thanked those who assisted in undertaking the work (Harley, Rob and Don).
* ANU will be installing 2 large concrete water tanks (replicating the one tank already there) ...our entrance road will have to be slightly relocated to allow room for the new tanks.
* He reported on the “plot re-build project” (for which MCG received State Government funding), which is still progressing. He and our Treasurer, Robyn are considering a new grant application to further progress this work.
* Klas reiterated that ALL new members *must* fill out and sign a membership form before they are given a plot and that this form *must* be forwarded to our Treasurer, Robyn, for inclusion in our database. Gardeners are not covered by our PLI unless they have signed the form.
* Klas proposed that we purchase at least one KELSO brand wheelbarrow, as well as one smaller, lighter barrow.

**Moved:** Klas

**Seconded:** Neil

1. **Any other business**
2. Don reported that new wire guards are required to protect crops from marauding birds, especially the resident bower bird. He asked for and it was agreed that new wire netting be purchased for this purpose.

Don proposed that he would not be nominating for a further term as Vice President. Because of on-going health issues. However, after discussion it was agreed that others would take on some of his roles, such as spraying and plot building to alleviate the pressure on him of the work he does. Because of the invaluable input Don provides to Klas and to the Executive and Management Committees, on so many issues, Don was asked to reconsider this decision. The loss of Don’s foresight and decision making would be sorely felt by us all.

**Moved** that wire netting be purchased: Don

**Seconded**: Klas

ii)  **Co-Garden Managers’ Reports** – Sybille/Harley

1. **Sybille Davidson**

Sybille provided a verbal report to the committee on several matters that are of concern and have been or will be attended to. The destruction of crops by the resident male bower bird and his harem of several females has been significant. The only way to persuade him to move is by regularly dismantling his bower (usually to be found adjacent to the small green shed, on the southern boundary).

In addition, Don has constructed several wire cages that can be easily placed over plots...the newer version will have both ends enclosed.

Sybille reported on the new pumpkin bed in the outer area adjacent to the citrus orchard, that uses a *Permaculture* method of cultivation. Layers of decomposing material from our compost system of bins are all UNDER the newspaper layer. (it's really a compost heap on a bed!) Comfrey is just one of many components that also include coffee grounds, wet hessian coffee sacks and newspaper.

A video was circulated earlier this year showing how to construct such a bed.

1. **Harley Delves**

Our community garden continues to host intellectually disabled adults housed in Ulladulla, who are bussed to our garden twice a week. They bring their packed morning tea, and we join them in our sheltered morning tea area. Garden beds have been built for them and filled with topsoil. They have planted a variety of crops including strawberries, garlic, onions, spinach, peas, and beans. They really enjoy working in their plots.

Thanks to Judith and Neil and Richard for their time and commitment to this project.

It has been a notable year with a very cold winter and what seemed like continuous wet days. Thanks to our lawn mowing gardeners Doug, Klas Neil and John and anyone else I missed! It has been a case of sneaking in between rain showers to start mowers and whipper snipers while the sun was shining.

Because of the wet conditions the muddy holes in front of the access gate soon increased in size with the volume of traffic. Yes, eventually someone got their car bogged in one of the holes. A big thank you to the gardeners who organised a group to get a load of gravel to fill some of the holes to allow access again.

At this time of year, we are harvesting our Seville oranges which make wonderful marmalade. Many thanks to the keen cooks!
The Merry Street Restaurant is open again after a mid-winter break and continue to buy fresh herbs and veggies from our garden. This year they have paid us $300 as at end of August.

I’d like to thank all those gardeners that have been diligently turning up on Saturday mornings to weed and plant and prepare beds in the cold and damp weather.

**Moved** that the 2 reports be accepted: Sybille

**Seconded**: Robyn

**The meeting closed at 12.25 AM**