**Murramarang Community Garden**

**MINUTES**

**MCG Management Committee Meeting**

**Sunday October 22, 2023**

**10.30am–at the garden**

**Chair:** Klas Johansson

1.Klas welcomed attendees to the meeting.

2**. Apologies:** John Hudson, Jasmin Adluck, Rob Evans.

3.**Present:** Klas Johansson, Robyn Johansson, John Tapsell, Judith Carroll, Neil Brown, Sybille Davidson, Don Davidson, Cathy Delves, Harley Delves, Cate Wikner, Richard Lake.

4. It was moved that the Minutes of the last General Meeting, held on Saturday 30 August, be accepted.

**Moved:** Klas

**Seconded:** Judith

**All in favour:** Carried

5**.Presidents Report:** Klas Johansson

Klas commenced by reporting on a recent meeting with Shane Paul, the Manager of ***ANUKCC,*** to discuss the possibility of ANU introducing water restrictions, given the lack of significant rain and the depletion of the dam water during the recent Bundle Hill fire.

Klas noted that it was amazing how quickly we have moved from being waterlogged earlier this year to being water deprived! He emphasised that the dam water we use is the *only* water source for ANU, the cattle on agistment, and the MCG. He emphasised the importance of MCG becoming “water resilient” and discussed ways in which we could do this.

He suggested applying for a grant to purchase 2 large capacity poly water tanks that could, initially, be partly filled by a local water carrier then topped up by rainwater.

John Tapsell suggested that gal tanks would be preferable, given the flammable grassland surrounding our site.

It was agreed that at this stage applying for a grant was a good idea...Robyn is currently preparing a grant for water tanks, available through the *NSW Govt. Community Building Partnerships Program.*

It is due 27th October (next Friday).

Sybille suggested another solution to increasing the area for rainwater capture would be to install another container parallel to our existing one, with a roof between the two.

Don cautioned that we’d have to see if ANU would be agreeable to MCG extending our roofed area.

Klas noted that Shane had offered a 1500 litre poly water tank to us...Klas and Don will look at the tank and if it is suitable arrange for Scott to deliver it to our site. It would be installed adjacent to our other tanks at the rear of the container shed, using a timber frame filled with road base as per the other 2 tanks.

Harley commented that it was preferable to use fine sand under the tanks rather than road base.

Klas reported that the “bed raising” project still had areas that required completion...e.g., more road base is required on paths between plots.

It was agreed that a load of road base be delivered to the site to be stored outside the fence and moved inside when required.

Klas suggested that we think about applying for another grant to improve our solar and battery storage capacity that was insufficient to meet our present needs. Judith noted that our present PV roof panels and 2 lead acid batteries were installed by Andrew Coman in May 2015. Since then the efficiency of PV panels and batteries has improved significantly.

It was agreed that MCG would pay an electrician to prepare a specification and quote for the renewal of our present solar panels/battery system. (Subsequent to the meeting Andrew Coman reminded us that we had asked him to do this some time ago and that he was prepared to go ahead with the specification he had previously commenced).

Klas tabled 2 copies of the *ANU Fire Plan.* He noted that we *must* adhere to ANU policy and that we display copies of the Fire Plan in the tea shed and in one of the other sheds.

It was moved that Klas’ report be accepted

**Moved**: Don

**Seconded:** Neil

**Carried**

6.**Treasurers Report – Robyn**

Robyn presented the Financial Report. MCG currently have $6263 in our account. The Financial Report is attached. It was moved that the report be accepted.

**Moved:** Judith

**Seconded:** Cate

**Carried**

7. **Other Business**

Judith reintroduced a proposal that we trial a *Sunday Working Bee* to be held once a month to enable those who can’t attend on Saturday to fulfil their obligations as members to attend a working bee at least once a month. After discussion it was agreed that this option be offered from next month onward.

**Moved:** Judith

**Seconded**: Klas

**Carried**

The galvanized tank, donated by John Tapsell has arrived at the garden site and has been bolted together by Don.

Klas, and others will cut the large tank sideways to make 2 tanks than can be used to grow flowers as pollinators and to sell at the regular Murramarang Markets. Cornelia offered to undertake this project...as well as attracting pollinators the flowers would add positively to the appearance of the garden.

It was moved that the two tanks be installed in the previously agreed positions.

**Moved**: Robyn

**Seconded**: Neil

**Carried**

Robyn reported that she has approached *Bunnings Ulladulla* about joining the roster of community groups holding a weekend fundraising BBQ. It’s possible to raise between $500- $700 (minus costs) per session. We have agreed to go ahead with a trial BBQ on Saturday November 28. Marg, Neil, Richard and Judith have experience with other community groups who regularly participate and will investigate costs, etc.

Robyn moved that we hold one Bunnings BBQ on November 28.

**Moved:** Robyn

**Seconded:** Cathy

**Carried.**

Don noted that the fences on the northern perimeter are “caving in”, caused by cattle rubbing against them. He and others will look at ways of repairing the fences.

Don also noted that he has painted the white coloured water tank in a darker green to impede the growth of algae caused by sun penetration. It appears to have been successful.

Don also noted that, along with Cate, he had found the main entry gate unlocked, as well as the door on the mulberry enclosure and the toilet door “flapping in the wind”. They has both found water taps left turned on, on one occasion resulting in the loss of a substantial amount of water. After discussion it was decided that we would, once again, implore members to turn off all water taps BEFORE turning off the main taps.

It was also agreed that we would investigate the installation of security cameras on the site, especially in consideration of the storage of our valuable equipment. We would also install security signs at the main gate, the gate to our site and the sheds. A motion was put that the security cameras and signs be purchase and installed.

**Moved:** Judith

**Seconded:** Klas

**Carried**

Klas suggested that we purchase another 250 kg of *Ocean to Earth* fish fertilizer. It can be collected in our trailer and decanted into the plastic buckets that he has sourced. He moved that we purchase the Ocean to Earth fertilizer asap.

**Moved:** Klas

**Seconded:** Neil

**Carried.**

Klas noted that the trailer will require re-wiring before it can be used again. He has purchased new LED lights and will ask Rob to assist him in installing them on the trailer.

Cathy and Harley let us know that Ray Nolan recently delivered 20kg of honey, collected from our hives.

It was decided that we hold a “honey bottling” working bee on ***Wednesday 1 November at 11am.*** All members will be invited to participate and will be encouraged to bring a small, clean jar to be filled with honey and taken home.

All other jars have been supplied by a local Apiarist, Bob Sneddon. Bob has also loaned us a “honey bucket” equipped with a “honey gate”, making it easier for us to bottle the honey. We have attractive labels for the jars that we will sell at markets.

Bob will attend the working bee to give us his expert advice!

**The meeting closed at 12.05**