**Murramarang Community Garden**

**MINUTES**

**MCG COMMITTEE**

**Friday 17 December 2021**

**4PM–at the garden**

**Chair:** Klas Johansson

1. **Present:** Harley Delves, Cathy Delves, Judith Carroll, Neil Brown Sybille Davidson, Don Davidson, Richard Lake, John Hudson, Rob Evans, Robyn Johansson.
2. **Apologies:** No apologies
3. **Business arising from Minutes of previous meeting:**

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

**Moved:** Judith

**Seconded:** Robyn

**All in Favour:** carried

1. **Presidents Report**

Klas commented that it’s been a while since everyone from MCG got together, so it was great for us to meet at the *Merry Street Restaurant* for a meal a few weeks ago. He thanked Cathy and Harley for organising the event.

He reported that the last market, held in November, was quiet although our first garlic sales were very successful, and he congratulated Harley on the great success of this year’s garlic crop.

Klas reported on our relationship with ANU and changes that may occur in 2022. Firstly, the Campus Manager, Shane Paul, has told him that instead of cutting the pastures mechanically, ANU Administration has agreed to Shane’s proposal that cattle, sheep, or goats shall be reintroduced under a leasing agreement reached with a farmer. The entry gate must therefore be kept closed at all times.

Secondly, in answer to our query about the mud holes at the gate to our site, Shane has not been given funding for this as a stand-alone project. Instead, he’ll tie it to another project on site. Resurfacing of that area of road will require SCC approval and ANU will take care of this.

*Covid restrictions* – are we to follow ACT or NSW restrictions? Shane will follow this up. In the meantime, we’ll continue to include a note about Covid-safe practices to be observed at the garden site.

*The ride-on Mower* - it has exhibited intermittent problems for some time. The battery range is OK and it appears that its electronics are faulty. It is still under warranty so Klas will take it to Ken Matthews for rectification of the problem. This may take some time because of the approaching holiday season.

*Plot re-build* – we have 65 plots of 2/3 planks high. Renovation of 26 is required and the most difficult have been completed. There are 39 left to do and we have materials for 20.

**Moved that the Presidents Report be accepted:**

**Moved:** Judith

**Seconded:** John

**All in favour**: Carried

**5. Garden Managers Report**

**1**. **Harley** –

1. I, along with 3 others (Richard, Neil, Judith) host a group of disabled adults that visit the garden on Tuesday and Friday morning. After morning tea, they tend their plots, taking produce to by used in their café (Cup n Cake n Co.) in Ulladulla and to use in their home cooking.

2. Every Thursday I harvest herbs to be sold to Merry Street Restaurant - $10 for 5 punnets of herbs.

3. I also collect veggie scraps from Merry Street Takeaway to feed to our worms. Acidic scraps such as citrus and onions are deposited in a compost bin in the outer area.

4. For many years MCG has participated in local markets such as Murramarang Market. Produce sold at these markets have provided a valuable source of income for MCG.

5. Before the bushfires of 2020, Apiarist Col Keating would extract honey from the hives we have on loan and give it to us to distribute and to sell. There has been little honey since then and we hope that the regeneration of the bushland will improve the yield of the hives in the future.

6. As Co-Garden Manager I have enjoyed introducing new members to the site.

7. Earlier this year our abundant Seville Orange and Cumquat fruit was used by our members to make jam that was subsequently sold at local markets.

8. We also sold garlic at the markets and to local restaurants. I’m pleased that it was an excellent crop this year – good quality and large size. I think we still require 2 or 3 new plots held aside for the garlic crops.

9. I think we should cut the corner off the asparagus bed to make vehicular access easier.

**2.** **Sybille’s** report is attached to these Minutes. She added to her report by commenting that members often seek information on what crops to plant and when to do so. She will attempt to provide this information through the Wednesday weekly email to members.

**Moved that the Garden Managers’ Reports be accepted**:

**Moved**: Don

**Seconded:** Ewen

**All in favour:** Carried

1. **Treasurers Report**

Robyn and Richard have finally been able to meet in person to hand over the Treasurers records.

Robyn reported that we currently have $8,707.40 in our account. This includes the final payments from the grants that have been acquitted (Veolia Mulwaree, Commonwealth Govt. through Fiona Phillips, and SCC). Spending of the $5000 grant from the Commonwealth Govt. (via Fiona Phillips) is to be considered in relation to the principles and priorities discussed in “The Way Ahead” Document.

Robyn suggested that it would be appropriate to invite Fiona Phillips, Federal MP for Gilmore, to the garden site to view how we had invested the grant money, received through her office, on garden infrastructure. This proposition was agreed to as an appropriate way to thank Ms Phillips.

Robyn has bought a *Square Reader* to use on our market stalls for the purchase of vegetables, etc. She will also use it to collect annual fees in January/February at Saturday working bees. We will no longer accept cash for the payment of fees (members can still pay by Direct Debit).

She and Klas have established a *final* electronic version of our membership list (originally established by Neil). This Master List is to be updated by the Treasurer ONLY.

Robyn has provided a detailed Financial Statement and Treasurers report that is an attachment to these Minutes.

**Moved that the Treasurers Report be accepted**:

**Moved**: Ewen

**Seconded:** Neil

**All in favour**: Carried

1. **Any other business.**

Klas spoke to the previously circulated *MCG status and way ahead – 2021* document. He acknowledged the work previously undertaken by Don that formed the basis of the current document. The aim of the new document is to outline the current status of the garden and to identify aspects of infrastructure and equipment that need attention. It is aimed to serve as an orientation for committee members and as a focus for discussions and decisions.

Led by Klas, the committee moved through the summary of questions raised by the “Way Ahead” document. Firstly, Klas will acquire 160 litre drums to drown weeds in water as an attempt to diversify our management of our composting system. Another method mentioned by Don is “solarization” of weeds to kill seeds. There was general agreement that compost collection points could be located throughout the site although some felt that this would present just another problem of managing many composting sites.

*Agreed by unanimous vote.*

ANU will allow us to store bulk deliveries of soil outside of our designated site. There is an obvious problem with a truck and dog attempting to manoeuvre into the garden site itself. We may obtain a large tarp that can be slung across the soil heap to smother weed growth.

*Agreed by unanimous vote.*

It was agreed that we will purchase a good quality builders’ barrow plus another smaller and lighter barrow.

Agreed *by unanimous vote.*

The question was raised; …”do we need an infrastructure and equipment manager?”

*Agreed by unanimous vote.*

The “potting shed” will be repurposed for the storage of equipment

*Agreed by unanimous vote.*

**The meeting closed at 6pm**.

A date will be set for further discussion of this important document.