

# Murramarang Community Garden

## MINUTES

### MCG MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Friday 23 April 2021

2PM—at the garden

**Chair:** Neil Brown

1. **Present:** Harley Delves, Cathy Delves, Judith Carroll, Don Davidson, Barbara White, Richard Lake, Klas Johansson, Robyn Johansson, Judy Cook, Ewen Sussman
2. **Apologies:** There were no apologies.

#### 3. Business arising from Minutes of previous meeting:

Judith reported that because of Covid restrictions in 2020 our planned celebratory gathering marking 10 years of successful gardening by MCG was postponed until later in 2021.

There being no other business arising, it was put that the Minutes of 3 December 2020 be accepted.

**Moved:** Judith

**Seconded:** Neil

**All in Favour:** carried

#### 4. Garden Managers Report – a scanned copy of Harley's report is attached.

#### 5. Treasurers Report

Richard reported that we currently have a balance of \$9968.00 in the bank, with \$3000 being funding from the successful *Veolia Mulwaree Trust* grant. Therefore, we have \$6968.00 available for allocation to approved garden projects.

#### 6. Other Business

- (i) Judith provided a brief summary of negotiations to date with ANU regarding a new *Premises Licence* and *Site Guidelines*. ANU conceded on point 2 of the *Site Guidelines* document, agreeing to a change in hours of access to our garden site. We are now permitted 7 days access between the hours of 08.00 – 19.30 or Sunset (whichever comes first).

She has arranged for Harley, as MCG Vice President, to be the signatory to the documents, replacing our President, Ewen Sussman. She will witness Harley initialling each page of each document x 2 and signing 2 copies of the *Premises Licence*. The documents will be mailed by Judith to the specified ANU legal representative by Registered Mail on Monday 26 April.

The ANU *Premises Licence* and *Site Guidelines* documents will be Appendix 1 and 2 respectively of our Constitution and Plan of Management.

*Discussion:* Ewen commented that MCG had done well to finally negotiate an agreement with ANU, given the range of communication problems with ANU we experienced during the latter period of the COVID 19 “lockdown” of the site in 2020. Judith agreed that now the documents pertaining to our tenancy of the site have been finalised we can move forward in the responsible way that we have done over the past 10.4 years.

Judith was thanked for the work she has undertaken during the COVID rostered access to the site and for her negotiations with ANU over the *Premises Licence* and *Site Guidelines*.

(ii) Robyn provided the committee with an update on current and future grant applications she has already prepared for submission or is in the process of preparing.

Robyn prepared a spreadsheet of the grants under discussion (attached). She also reported on the grant of \$4000 we recently received from *Veolia Mulwaree Trust* – the grant, entitled “Mowbility” is for the improvement of garden infrastructure and maintenance. There was discussion about the security of tools and equipment stored at the garden with several security measures suggested, including the installation of CCTV cameras. This discussion is ongoing.

Judith proposed a vote of thanks to Robyn and Klas for the work they have undertaken in seeking funding sources for MCG.

*“That the committee thank Robyn and Klas for the excellent work they have undertaken in seeking and gaining grants for the improvement of important MCG infrastructure”*

**Moved:** Judith

**Seconded:** Ewen

**All in Favour:** carried

(iii) Klas proposed a motion: *That the MCG Management Committee adopt a new and consistent approach for dealing with prunings and weeds unsuitable for the compost bays.*

*Discussion:* Barbara agreed, noting that the build-up of weeds now exceeded the capacity of the current compost bays. Several extra “weed bins” have been established around the site to deal with the problem. Klas discussed the possibility of “drowning” weeds in the equivalent of 44-gallon drums (260 litres) of water that could then be used as nutrient-rich fertilizer. Klas volunteered to investigate the purchase of 260 litre plastic barrels from a source he has in Sydney.

Klas stressed that signage on the compost bays and weed disposal units needed to be unambiguous and clearly marked.

**Moved:** Klas

**Seconded:** Barbara

**All in Favour:** carried

(iv) Don reported on the progress he has made on the MCG WHS policy. He previously forwarded a draft of the new policy to all on the committee. Don “walked us through” the policy draft and a few changes were adopted after discussion. The new document will be Appendix 3 of the *MCG Constitution and Plan of Management*.

Don was thanked for the considerable work he has undertaken in ensuring that our policy is “fit for purpose”. Neil will post the new WHS Policy on our website.

Don proposed a motion that: *The MCG MHS Policy be adopted*

**Moved:** Don

**Seconded:** Neil

**All in favour:** carried

(v) Don informed the meeting of options to consider for the repair of the *Fig Enclosure*...these options were circulated to the committee prior to this meeting. In summary, the 2 options are:

- a. Polypropylene mesh
- b. Wire mesh

After discussion it was decided that we use the poly mesh because of a considerable cost advantage. We have a bit of time to undertake this work since the figs don’t fruit in the winter months.

(vi) Judith raised the necessity for MCG to have a FORWARD BUDGET as per our Constitutional requirements.

She referred to the Dept. Fair Trading requirement for all Incorporated Societies (such as MCG) to prepare a *Forward Budget* at the commencement of each year that is circulated to all members. This is a lawful requirement. We have failed to do this for a number of years.

As Secretary it is Judith’s responsibility to ensure that we conform to Fair Trading laws for Incorporated Societies.

She will liaise with Richard to rectify the situation. In the meantime, Klas and Robyn have assisted the Treasurer in installing requisite software on his computer so that financial statements can be produced.

**The meeting closed at 3.45 PM**