**Minutes**

**Committee Meeting, 8 June 2013**

**10AM at garden site**

**Chair:** Ewan Sussman

**Present:** Malcolm Salmon, Sandra Worth, John Nelson, Robynne Murphy, Judith Carroll, Cettina Borg-Musin

**1. Apologies**: Luci Somers, Sybille Davidson

**2. Business arising from Minutes 2 March/11 May 2013:**

Judith: action on Ewen’s suggestion of “swop” whiteboard to be affixed to side of container wall – agreed that this will proceed. There was no other business arising from the Minutes.

**3. Reports:**

**Treasurers Report:** Sandra Worth reported that the MCG has $7,604.68 in the bank. Expenditure since the last report has been $34.95 for a sprinkler. We have 71 financial members with no one on the waiting list. Sandra forwarded the Treasurer’s Report subsequent to the meeting - attached.

**Garden Manager’s report – Malcolm Salmon (**attached).

The following issues were discussed, arising from Malcolm’s report:

* Glyphosate *must* be stored securely in a locked metal cabinet in a locked shed, apart from all other fertilizers that are also stored in the shed – it was agreed that “Sandra’s Shed” would be used for this purpose and that John will investigate whether such a cabinet can be obtained from the Kioloa Tip.
* Agreed that a “child friendly” play area will be established along northern boundary of new area.
* There will be 4 gates installed in the new area – 2 small/pedestrian and 2 vehicular.
* Self-composting toilet will be installed in the N/E corner of the existing site because the slope in that location can accommodate the fall required for a ramp to allow disabled access. After discussion it was agreed that the purchase of the toilet ($5400) would go ahead whether or not our FRRR grant (short-listed this week for funding) is successful. Planning for the installation of the toilet could proceed now, with excavation etc. to be undertaken with a mechanical digger/excavator (Malcolm to arrange).
* Further discussion about the crops to be planted in the new garden areas – a survey (drafted by Robynne) was sent to the membership in May inviting feedback about the crops suggested by the Committee – we have received 6 responses endorsing these crops plus a few others. The design of the new plots will involve ground height beds (not raised) that will be enriched with our usual veggie mix soil from Soilco plus compost. Pumpkins, watermelons, zucchini etc. will require large areas and Malcolm will prepare a rough plan of possible crop plantings, inviting input from all gardeners.
* Malcolm suggested that water-loving crops should be planted on the northern side of the area. Robynne inquired about the rotation of crops and Malcolm provided examples of how this would work on our site. The issue of excess crops from our enlarged area was discussed with a consensus view that any excess should be distributed to charity groups within our region. The question of the distribution of communal crops was raised and it was agreed that the Garden Manager would be responsible for the allocation of these vegetables/fruit, keeping in mind that those who do the work will be first in line.
* Further discussion of excess produce with the suggestion that a Farmers Market could function in this way with any profit (after expenses) to be donated to a local charity. Malcolm cautioned that it would be several years before our fruit trees produce a viable crop and that our garlic was always intended to be a cash crop.
* Malcolm has suggested a visit to Sage Community Garden at Moruya on Sunday 23rd June – agreed that this is a good idea that will be advertised to membership – car-pooling?

**Correspondence:** Judith -The quarterly edition of the Victorian Horticultural Society magazine will be placed in “Sandra’s Shed”. There was no other correspondence apart from 6 email responses from members about crops for our new area and these have been forwarded to the Committee as they were received.

**4. General Business**

* *Evaluation of Easter Fair*

As Coordinator of the 2013 Cettina presented a short report on her observations/ideas about the Fair.

She felt that overall the Fair was a great success, with almost $3000 raised, however, there are some areas that she feels could be improved/changed. These are:

Cakes and preserves were under priced

There were not enough plants for sale

There were too many tables for public use – one would suffice

Raffle tickets should be sold before the day of the Fair (as we have done in previous years)

John Nelson and Malcolm Salmon referred to John’s previously circulated critique of the organisation of the Fair.

Points for discussion focussed on the following:

John felt there should be more discussion with *all* members about how the Fair should be run – he suggested that a “template” be made that others can easily follow in the future. Although there was an ad-hoc organising committee consisting of Cettina (Coordinator), Sandra, Luci and Judith, John felt that this informal structure was not allowable under our constitution (PoM) and that a formally appointed sub-committee of the Management Committee should take its place.

He put forward a motion that dealt with future organisation/decision making for the Easter Fair. The motion is as follows:

1. That the Management Committee establish an Easter Fair sub-committee comprised of three members who are charged with the responsibility to enact the following process:
   1. Prepare a draft template for the running of future Easter Fairs.
   2. Submit the draft template to the Management Committee within three weeks.
2. That, if necessary, the Management Committee review & amend the draft template prior to having it submitted to an early General Meeting of members for their input & vote.
3. That the Management Committee amend the template in accordance with the vote of the members & adopt the template as agreed policy.
4. That the adopted template form part of the documentation made available to the next incoming Management Committee.

After lengthy discussion it was agreed that points 1 and 4 of the motion be adopted. Members of the new committee are: Sandra Worth, John Nelson and Cettina Borg-Musin

Robynne commented that organisation of the 2013 Fair was good and we should just look at what worked and build on that.

Sandra believed that John’s idea of coming up with a plan, or template, was a good one.

Malcolm believed that the BBQ organisation was “appalling” and he suggested ways that it could be improved.

John reported on feedback from Chris Loius about a problem she had with a child who was reluctant to get off on the Jumping Castle – John suggested that timed music could signify the length of time a child could jump, however, Cettina pointed out that APRA requires royalties to be paid for any music played at public events. Cettina believed that the number of kids jumping at any one time was relatively small so she can’t see a problem in allowing them to “overstay” their time.

*Our Neighbourhood* Australia Post Community grant proposal – Judith

Judith outlined the proposal and spoke of her plans to work with the newly established Murramarang Playgroup. Briefly, her application would seek funds to purchase play equipment such as an elevated cubby house, a lockable storage shed, materials for a sand pit, materials and soil for 2 garden plots and fencing. The Playgroup meets on Tuesday at 10 – 12am and the pre-school children would be supervised by parents whilst on the garden site. Any garden members who wished to do so could participate in Playgroup activities.

* Discussion then followed. Sandra feels that we don’t have the “manpower” to support this grant, she also thought it might be more practical for the Playgroup to apply for the funding and the Community Garden to support them, rather than the other way around. John outlined reservations and problems he had with the proposal. These included a concern that the children/parents were not members of the garden and would therefore not be covered by insurance. He also felt that having another group on the site would contravene our agreement with ANU. He then went on to outline many community projects that “the guys” were committed to, including the extension of the Kioloa footpath, the Men’s’ Shed project, etc., noting that these priorities would leave little “man-power” for this project. Judith noted that funding would include the labour required to build the cubby house, sand pit and storage shed. She also envisaged that Playgroup parents would be actively involved in this work, thereby bringing a new group of people (young parents and their children) to participate in our activities. She noted that most of our current members are retirees with very few younger members of our community participating in our activities. She saw this as a shortcoming of the present makeup of MCG, especially since our PoM states - *everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate, facilitating the development of an inclusive, caring and diverse community*

Ewen suggested that Judith undertake further discussion with the Playgroup to ascertain the numbers of children and their parents who may be involved in this project. It was noted that the extension of our garden site was a priority at this time.

**5 Any other business**

Oyster cage – John believes that the $500 being sought for the cage is good value. Malcolm reported that the rat bating activity has been extremely successful and suggested that we wait to see whether we really need to purchase this equipment. Sandra cautioned that if we do need to purchase the *Clivus Multram* self-composting toilet we would have very few funds remaining. She suggested we wait to see whether the FRRR funding application to purchase the toilet is successful before we commit to any more expenditure.

The Committee unanimously agreed to reimburse Sandra for the replacement cost for her compost bins should they be stolen.

Robynne requested that Committee meetings be held at a time other than Saturday morning since Luci Somers, a member of our committee, often has work commitments at this time, thereby precluding her attendance. Although it was suggested that Luci could submit a written report of her thoughts it was generally agreed that this is totally inadequate since most decision making is the outcome of discussion amongst members. Judith supported Robynne’s request, however a decision was not reached at this meeting.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 11.45AM