

## Minutes

### Committee Meeting, 30 August 2014

10.30AM at garden site

**Chair:** Ewen Sussman

**Present:** Judith Carroll, Sybille Davidson, Neil Brown, Jocelyn Sussman, and Harley Delves

**Apologies:** Doug Howarth

#### **Business arising from Minutes 17 August 2014:**

Election of Garden Manager – Harley and Jocelyn appointed as joint GM – unanimous support from Committee.

**Moved that the Minutes be accepted:** Judith Carroll

**Seconded:** Neil Brown

#### **Reports:**

Submission for funding

Correspondence: Judith reported two items of correspondence:

- Letter from Mollmook Golf Club advising of award of \$1000 under the “Clubs NSW Community Award Programme”, administered by SCC. Ewen received our award at an event held at Milton Ulladulla Bowling Club.
- Submission for funding of \$2000 for supply of roadbed for access road and paths in new communal area, through the SCC Community Grants Scheme tabled prior to lodgement on 31 August.

#### **General Items of Business:**

- **Rodent Control** – concern was voiced about the damage to crops by rodents – rats/mice running from the compost bin area and evidence of gnaw marks on vegetable crops, especially broccoli and cauliflower. Steve is to be approached about the brand of rat poison he provided previously so that supplies can be purchased ASAP. The existing drums will be used to contain baits.
- **Citrus Orchard options** – Harley agreed that the citrus orchard is not thriving at present, however he believes that recent remediation through weeding/mulching may result in improvements during the spring growing period. He suggested that we drill a borehole to test the level of groundwater. He proposed that another 10 or so citrus trees be planted in another area – after a walk around the new site it was agreed that the area adjacent to the western gate was inappropriate for citrus because it is too low and boggy. Harley suggested another site running from the eastern access gate to the small gate adjacent to the children’s swings as his preferred site. undertake this task. Harley estimated that the purchase of the trees would total \$400 (10x \$40 each).
- **Shade Trees for parking area** – All agreed that there is a need to plant shade trees for cars on the southern boundary of the garden, around 15 meters from the fence - Steve has agreed to this plan and suggested that the newly planted trees will need to be fenced to prevent damage/destruction by cattle. Botryoides and Casuarina were suggested as suitable species. Sybille will approach the Milton Ulladulla Landcare Nursery about the supply of these trees.
- **Installation of irrigation system for Hot House** - It was agreed that the water tank we have on site could be moved into position beside the Hot House, to be filled with our existing hoses and perhaps a drip-feed irrigation system installed, equipped with a timer. Agreed that we need to consult with an irrigation expert about the best way to advance this plan.
- **Bush Tucker Plantings** – Jocelyn spoke about her desire to plant bush tucker plants in appropriate areas of the new site. Sybille visited Kiama Community Garden and was impressed by the rain forest bush tucker plants that are planted there. She volunteered to approach Joe

Carter from the Kiama CG to visit our garden and speak with us about appropriate plants for our site. Jocelyn will approach Judith Caton, through ANU – Judith has recently published a book about bush tucker plants and may be willing to visit our site – it was agreed that involving ANU in this way was desirable.

- **Shade House options** – Agreed that the Shade House may not be required – the Hot House is more necessary for our needs.
- **Composting** – Robynne Murphy is to be approached about her willingness to oversee the composting system. The committee was reminded that the “Berkley Method” of composting was favoured by Malcolm and he provided an informative demonstration of the method, accompanied by notes that are available on the website.

#### **Any Other Business:**

- Jocelyn – now is the time to plant asparagus – the plants in plot # ?, relinquished by Merry Street Restaurant, could be moved to the area designated on our plan for the new communal area – agreed that this can occur once the bed has been weeded of kikuyu grass.
- Website – Neil has volunteered to resume responsibility for the website. He suggested that he hold a short workshop for MCG members so that everyone can navigate the site with ease. The website will focus on MCG initiatives and local vegetable/fruit growing approaches. Malcolm Salmon recently reiterated his desire for the website to act as an effective means of communication with the membership.
- Sybille has spoken with Steve about planting “Cane Grass” as a windbreak on the western boundary of the new site – this species can be cut and harvested to use as mulch and is non-invasive – committee agreed that Sybille could investigate how we can obtain this plant.
- Neil suggested that the kikuyu grass growing at the base of garden beds be controlled with Glyphosate rather than by whipper snipping. It was agreed that this method of weed control was more efficient than the present method, although the committee is aware that some gardeners object to this weed killer being used. The Secretary will inform members of this proposal and request that people who object to the use of glypho as a means of weed control around their plots inform us ASAP.
- Jocelyn suggested that MCG members would be interested in visiting a small subsistence farm, owned by Robyn Miller, on the outskirts of Milton. It was agreed that a Sunday visit would be informative and Jocelyn volunteered to contact Robyn re arranging a future visit.

**Meeting closed at 12pm**