

Minutes

General Meeting MCG

Saturday 17 November 2012, 10AM

Garden Site - ANU Coastal Campus, Murramarang Rd. Kioloa

Chair: Ewen Sussman

1. Present:

There were approximately 23 MCG members present

2. Apologies: Cettina Borg-Musin, Craig Borg-Musin, Mary Stanwix, Penny Tyrell, Glenda Mobbs, Tanya Evers, Robert Sutherland

3. Business arising from Minutes, General Meeting 15 September, 2012

John Nelson enquired about our resolution to donate surplus crops to local people in need. Sharon Adlam will follow-up on this matter ASAP.

4. Reports

- **President's report:** Ewen Sussman – Ewen commented that it was a reflection of our remarkable growth over only two years that our membership now totals 75 with 60 active gardeners. Collectively, MCG around 25 different types of vegetable and over 12 varieties of herbs.

Construction in progress or completed includes:

Container storage shed, “Sandra’s shed with security window and door, propagation shed, shade house, compost bins, worm farm, manure and seaweed solutions.

He thanked all of those members who have worked so hard to bring these items of infrastructure to fruition, especially Steve, Malcolm and Leon.

We recently won another grant of over \$3000 from the Commonwealth Government for the purchase of a self-propelling lawn mower, a brush cutter and a generator. He thanked Judith Carroll for her work in applying for our grants and Malcolm for obtaining a very good price for the equipment (and thanks to *New Bay Mowers*, Batemans Bay for supplying our new equipment at such a competitive price). Malcolm will instruct people in the proper use of the equipment.

In outlining our future plans, Ewen mentioned the installation of a self-composting toilet, a seed bank and seedling supply of vegetables for the use of all gardeners. He also spoke of the generosity of ANU, and Steve van Berkout in particular, for his offer to extend our garden to the NW for a large communal garden in which we can plant slow growing crops and trees such as Hazelnut trees, asparagus and rhubarb.

Finally, Ewen commented on the importance of remembering the original aims, objectives and principles that shaped the establishment of the garden. The *community* aspect of the garden, whereby we grow food together and share in both the toil and spoils of our efforts should be the focus of our endeavours.

- **Finance:** Sandra Worth –Sandra presented her report on our financial position (*Appendix A*)
- **Garden Managers Report:** Malcolm Salmon.

Malcolm commenced his report by thanking the committee and all garden members for their assistance in furthering the development of the garden. A self-composting toilet is next on our agenda and he has consulted with Bill Powell on the construction of a DIY model, similar to that built by Bill on his own property. It appears that we won't have to destroy as many of the wind break plants growing in the NE corner as we had previously thought. Malcolm will instruct gardeners in the use of our new equipment when requested to do so.

Gardeners are urged to pick ripe vegetables, such as tomatoes, to militate against widespread fruit fly infestation. Only biologically sustainable products such as DIPEL are to be used on crops, especially tomatoes – products such as Derris Dust is *not* to be used. Steve will provide gardeners with a list of “kosher” pesticides.

Malcolm was congratulated and thanked for the considerable effort involved in the role of Garden Manager.

Bill Powell is a member of the ANU Kioloa Coastal Campus Advisory Board as well as being a founding member of MCG - he addressed the meeting on behalf of the KCC Board.

He reminded us of the vision of Joy London in gifting the property to ANU and suggested that this act of generosity was a model for what we can do at MCG – the community spirit that underpins the garden was an important focus in our establishment and he suggested that it was crucial that we always keep these values in mind as we develop and move forward. Of concern to him was the loss of spaces between beds, since this restricts the free movement of gardeners around the garden space. He commended Steve's plan to extend our garden space to accommodate more communal beds for the cultivation of slow growing crops such as asparagus, rhubarb and nut trees and commented that a market stall, held on the ANU property was something we could plan for, with the profits from garden produce returning to the MCG. He suggested that local producers could be invited to participate in our market days, since we have no fresh food markets in our vicinity.

Steve Tedding van Berkhouwt, ANU KCC Manager addressed the meeting in a similar vain. He stressed the importance of remembering and respecting the extraordinary gift of the property to ANU by Joy London.

He sees MCG as exemplifying that same spirit of community mindedness whereby members of the garden grow food together for their own use and to share with others.

He, too, is disappointed to see the space between beds in use by individual gardeners. Steve said that he is keen to assist us in the expansion of the garden to accommodate larger communal beds of slow growing vegetables that generally take up a lot of space.

He emphasised the used of only biologically sustainable products in the control of pests such as fruit fly.

- **Funding:**, Judith Carroll. The recent grant of \$3,047.00 to MCG from the *Volunteer Grants Program of the Dept. of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs* used to purchase our new items of equipment, is a welcome addition to our finances.

We were successful in attracting grants totalling \$7,900 in 2011 and over \$3000 in 2012, a total of \$10,947. Judith is planning to submit an application for funding to the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FFRRR) in the new year.

Judith stressed the importance of MCG adhering to our “Vision Statement” – *Growing Food Together* and being mindful of the aim of sharing our expertise, labour and produce in a community minded spirit, since this was the underlying basis of all the grants for which she has applied. She is reluctant to sign off on *Acquittal Reports* for these grants if we move away from these aims.

5. General Business

Amendments to Murramarang Community Garden Inc. Plan of Management FY 2010/2014.

Vigorous discussion ensued as the proposed amendments to *MCG PoM* were debated. All amendments were ratified by majority vote.

The new PoM, reflecting all endorsed changes, is posted on the Murramarang Community Garden website.

Appendix A

Treasurer's Report

Murramarang Community Garden Inc.

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The current balance at the bank is \$4186.53.

Since the last meeting we have received \$5 membership, \$10 plot rental, GST refunds of \$279 and a grant of \$3047 from DFACS.

Expenditure has been \$26.75 for a new garbage bin and \$3895 to New Bay Mowers for the new equipment + fuel tank and whippersnapper cord.

Sandra Worth: Treasurer

The meeting closed at 11.45AM.

