

Murramarang Community Garden

MINUTES

MCG COMMITTEE

Saturday 27 February 2016
9 AM at 16 Sanderling Pl.

Chair: Ewen Sussman

1. Present: Jocelyn Sussman, Harley Delves, Neil Brown, Judith Carroll

2. Apologies: Sybille Davidson, Doug Howarth

3. Reports:

Treasurers Report

1. Doug Howarth - report pending Doug's return from holiday (report will be posted on website).
2. Co-Garden Managers report – (attached as separate doc).

4. Business arising from Minutes 4.7.15 – Fifth dot point – this crop failed and Harley is in the process of propagating lucerne ready for re-potting and eventual planting. All other business attended to as noted in Minutes and are referred to in Co-Garden Managers report.

5. General Business

1. *Garlic* – the 2015 garlic crop has all been sold, at markets and to restaurants in our local area (including Milton), for a profit of \$450. It was not a good year for garlic because of excess rain around the time for harvesting – many bulbs split with the skin peeling from cloves. Harley reported that there are over 100 varieties available in Australia so it's not an easy matter choosing the best variety for our site. Jocelyn, Harley and Ewen are to attend a *Garlic Growers Meeting* on Monday 29 Feb. in Braidwood to learn more about growing this crop. This is a newly established group of growers who are willing to share useful information about growing a successful crop.

Harley and Jocelyn have purchased over 5kg of garlic from growers in Braidwood and Victoria, ready for plating later in the year.

2. Discussion of the possibility of reconstructing several “3 board” relinquished plots into “2 board” plots. It was agreed that this plan could go ahead because of the need to use excess sleepers to raise some “1 board” plots for the provision of better drip irrigation. Discussion ensued about the need to raise all plots in the communal area to facilitate better drip irrigation and weed control. The following motion pertaining to communal beds was proposed by Jocelyn, seconded by Harley and passed unanimously:

Where necessary, “3 board” relinquished plots will be reconstructed into “2 board” plots, enabling “1 board” plot, currently used as communal plots, to be raised to

provide better drainage. All beds in the communal areas will eventually be raised to facilitate drip irrigation and better weed control.

Communal beds will only be established after consultation with Co-Garden Managers, since location, length, height, width and spacing are of critical importance.

3. *New raised beds for strawberries* – our crop of strawberries, although moderately prolific, have suffered from a lack of drainage. The original location is particularly boggy. Harley has already constructed a new raised bed further to the west of the existing beds and plans another adjacent to this. All existing plants will be transplanted to the new raised beds. Some runners have been planted in relinquished or unused plots in the “inner” garden area.

4. The new solar powered electricity system has been successfully installed by local company, *Lumen Solar* and will facilitate the eventual use of automatic irrigation for plots in the communal area and an automatic spray system for the Hot House. Jocelyn and many other gardeners are keen to have the Hot House fully operation so that we can successfully raise our own seedlings and cuttings. Judith is in the process of applying for 2 grants to offset funding for this plan.

5. Beehive? - Col Keating has offered a Beehive to MCG – it was agreed that MCG would accept this generous gift since the bees will enhance the pollination of crops. The hive will be located near the Hazelnuts on the western boundary of the communal area.

6. Markets – it was noted that our traditional Easter Fair has been cancelled for 2016 because of the difficulty in both organising and running such events with so few people able or willing to assist. Instead, it was agreed that MCG would sell produce at the local Murramarang Markets *when we have excess crops available and enough members are willing to harvest, pack and sell crops*. Some on the committee felt that perhaps we were “overdoing” our participation in the Murramarang Markets and others felt that we have it “just about right”. It was agreed that we would continue to participate in the local market, taking into account those issues raised above.

Meeting closed at 11.45am.