

Notes re informal MCG Committee Meeting, 10 Jan 2015
Approx. 11.30 a.m. at garden site

Chair: Ewen Sussman

Present: Jocelyn Sussman, Harley Delves, Cathy Delves, Sybille Davidson, Bob, Don Davidson, Marie O'Connell (left early)

Apologies/absentees: Judith Carroll, Neil Brown, Doug Howarth
In Judith's absence these notes were recorded in aftermath in lieu of Minutes. No Minutes from meeting of Nov 2014 were read.

Jocelyn called the meeting at short notice – no agenda provided but primarily to discuss arrangements for the pending Market day 13th January - to be held in ANU's old canteen dining room.

Correspondence: No correspondence items were reported.

Reports: No reports were read.

Business discussed: During discussion the following points emerged:

Murramarang Market 13th Jan: Subject to confirmation with Mary Stanwix it was decided to run a raffle for a dozen bottles of wine as well as one for a basket of veggies. Further veggies needed – to go to Jocelyn.
Markets for fundraising: Discussion ensued about lack of membership support as volunteers for regular markets & whether MCG can sustain commitment to such on-going events beyond the usual annual ones.

Points Made:

- Noted that the load always falls on the shoulders of a few who carry the burden each time.
- We need to bear in mind that the MCG Plan of Management – sets out that the prime purpose is to grow food together and any surpluses to be distributed in the community.
- It may not always be possible to raise funds via grants and therefore it is in our interest to keep up a presence at these regular Murramarang Market events.
- Some crops always saleable and can be relied on to raise funds. We need to target the right prices for our quality produce otherwise not worthwhile e.g. do not under-price onions just because they are cheap in Coles. People are prepared to pay for locally grown organic produce.
- Our produce being sold must be first rate and not infested (e.g. with fruit fly in particular). We need to be sure of having this under control before we market our produce.

- Ideally to run market stalls we need to plan ahead re what we can grow and provide.

Other Business and future expenses were discussed:

- Noted that a number of beds now overgrown with weeds and/or unharvested rotting fruit. Some members need to be advised re conditions of membership and holding a bed – letters to go out.
- Maybe we should purchase a new mower, even a second-hand one (less attractive for stealing) – possibly ride-on. Agreed this should be investigated. Harley offered to keep a mower at his garage. However if ride-on then need to be housed at the ANU shed.
- Discussed area for a test plot for growing lucerne – involves allocation of a bed devoted to this perennial crop (good compost material) – possibly north of the strawberry bed.
- The **Bana Grass** ready to be planted out - usable as windbreaks and for mulching material if regularly harvested. **Potential sites:** * can be used as a windbreak on the northern perimeter of outer garden. * shade the worm farms from western afternoon sun – a short row on SW corner of container shed; * also margin edge of toilet. Agreed that urgently needed as shade for worm farm – as a start.
- **Reciprocal visit:** Future possible reciprocal visit with Kiama Community Garden. Autumn? Later in year? Once we're more organized.
- **VIP visit?** Also some suggestion that Costa (ABC's Gardening Australia) might be interested to visit our MCGarden – BUT we need to be a bit further set up before such a visit is desirable.

Meeting closed approx 1.15 pm