

Minutes MCG Committee Meeting, 22 Nov 2014
10.30AM at garden site

Chair: Ewen Sussman

Present: Doug Howarth, Jocelyn Sussman, Harley Delves, Sybille Davidson,

Apologies: Judith Carroll, Neil Brown,
In Judith's absence Sybille took Minutes.

Jocelyn read minutes 22 August 2014.

Moved that the Minutes be accepted: Jocelyn Seconded: Sybille Davidson; Carried

Reports:

Jocelyn read the Manager's report – attached.

Harley reported that the original citrus orchard is still a work in progress but, except for one small one, these trees are showing signs of recovery and putting on growth since the added micronutrients and mulching. The new line of citrus trees in the outer area now has 8 trees including the 2 mandarins just planted.

Acceptance of Managers' reports moved and carried.

Doug, Treasurer, reported that there is currently \$5,973 in the bank, after all toilet construction costs and with no debts outstanding. New membership fees are due in January. We also anticipate running some fund-raising events over the summer period, as well as Easter.
Acceptance of Treasurer's report moved and carried.

Correspondence: No correspondence items were reported.

Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

- **Rodent Control** – discussed and agreed that the rodent control procedures should be carried out regularly as an on-going maintenance issue. Since this was introduced the problem is greatly reduced. The rat bait, "Tomcat", is effective and is stored in the locked shed - to be used by placing in the drums near the compost area and around the garden.
- **Shade Trees for parking area** – Discussed and agreed that this is a project for a later time.
- **Potential irrigation system for the Hot House** – Discussed and agreed that as a start the water tank should be installed alongside on proper, solid foundation stumps with cross members and bearers. Following this there are issues to be considered with

relying on automatic timers.

- **Bush tucker plants.** Some trial ones, Illawarra plum, Bolwarra, being introduced now along with windbreak and in shelter of windbreak. Macadamia nuts were discussed as another possibility.
- **Road access to the Garden:** There being no result on Judith's last grant application to cover costs of road access improvements, the funding for this was discussed. Given our current funds available and anticipated fund-raising activities, it was proposed and agreed that we obtain 2 quotes from known local road building businesses for improvements on the road. Then, as a start, we could dedicate \$4,000 of our current funds to go ahead with works on the worst section of the approach road. It was also noted that Malcolm Salmon reported possible availability of free gravel suitable for road base, from Wollongong. However freight would have to be paid for.
- **Composting:** There are 2 "lasagna" piles just underway but these could do with additional material, before topping off with (maybe) timber sections and dated signage added; we need to indicate decomposition time needed. Further manure and carbon matter can be collected for further piles to be layered. Ideally this should be a routine procedure for maintaining a constant supply.
- **"Cane Grass"** - Use as a windbreak not yet discussed with Steve who has been away – for further discussion.
- **Farm visit:** Jocelyn has contacted Robyn Miller re arranging a future visit to her remarkable **subsistence farm** – for later discussion.

General Items of Business:

- **Water main repair:** Harley pointed out that the recent water main tap repair involved Steve purchasing parts and fittings. We should offer to cover these costs. Agreed that we need to arrange some kind of lever tool to allow easier manipulation of tap handle, especially as there is water leakage pooling in the access hole.
- **Further fruiting trees** – A number of suggestions were discussed and Harley will investigate the availability of Pecans – which it was agreed might be a useful cash crop without too many problems. Also Hass avocados – certain varieties a possibility.
- **Garlic Harvest** – Merry St restaurant have indicated interest in purchasing some of our garlic. Noted that the garlic harvest this year has been disappointing with generally smaller bulbs. To be discussed further.

- **Fund-raising events** – the possibilities for various stalls were discussed. Agreed to go ahead with planning for a stall at the Murramarang Mkt, Kioloa hall, on 13th Dec – Alwyn and Jocelyn organising. Judith is likely to organise a stall at the Kioloa Fair after New Year. Further market on 17th Jan could be a goer for fund-raising. Cettina has agreed to organize an Easter one.
- **Insurance cover:** Doug advised that in order to book the table for the Kioloa Fair we need to have our insurance cover up-to-date. He is looking into this.
- **Soil supply** The need for a further soil delivery was raised; agreed that we will use up our current heap before ordering another supply. The previous veggie mix has been good so we should go with the same supplier. In the meantime we could investigate quotes for a loading amount. Noted that previous cost was in vicinity of \$1700 for 35 tonnes. It is recognized that raised beds using additional soil is often needed in outer area for some crops, but it is not really needed for others.
- **Furrow watering** – merits of this technique for growing cucurbits were discussed.
- **Thank-you event.** A date for a thank-you event for Malcolm and for Rod is yet to be determined. Co-ordination of all people concerned not achieved.
- **Installation of further water lines from dam was raised.** No information yet on when this might happen. It is needed to facilitate watering in the new areas.

Meeting closed at 1.15 pm after a walking tour of the access road to inspect and agree on the priority section for road-base work.