**Murramarang Community Garden**

**MINUTES**

**MCG COMMITTEE**

**Friday 4 December 2020**

**4PM–at the garden**

**Chair:** Neil Brown

1. **Present:** Harley Delves, Cathy Delves, Judith Carroll, Don Davidson, Barbara White, Richard Lake, Klas Johansson, Robyn Johansson, Judy Cook, Ewen Sussman
2. **Apologies:** There were no apologies.

**3. Business arising from Minutes of previous meeting:**

1. *Memorial garden for Malcolm Salmon*: Neil, assisted by Klas, Don and Harley has all but completed the dry-stone wall…the garden is now ready for filling with soil after drainage pipes were installed by Harley. Judith will contact Malcolm’s partner, Noel Boycott with details of the garden.
2. Klas and Robyn have obtained quotes for a ride-on electric mower. Prices have fallen considerably since our last quotes were obtained. Robyn has submitted a grant application to FRRR to fund the purchase of an electric ride-on mower.
3. One of our worm farms was stolen in September. No further information about this has emerged.
4. Our 10th Anniversary celebration will occur in the new year – perhaps a dinner at the local Merry Street Restaurant (they buy our herbs). A committee has been established to plan this event (Leonie, Marie and Niree).

There being no other business arising, it was moved that the Minutes be accepted:

**Moved:** Judith

**Seconded:** Neil

**All in Favour:** carried

**4. Garden Managers Report –** a scanned copy of Harley’s report is attached.

**5. Treasurers Report**

Richard reported that we currently have a balance of $in the bank (by email).

**6. Other Business**

(i) Harley proposed the following motion:

*That a General Meeting be held in the near future to vote on a proposal to raise annual fees from January 2021 as follows:*

*Membership Fee – to be raised from $5 Per Annum to $10 PA*

*Plot Rental Fee – to be raised from $25 PA to $30 PA*

*Discussion*: Ewen commented that MCG has not raised fees for over 10 years since our inception, however, our costs have risen and our ability to raise funds through market sales has diminished because of Covid restrictions. Klas pointed to the need to canvas members about the need to raise fees. Neil commented that as an Incorporated organisation we are required to provide evidence of expenditure. Judith proposed that we hold a General Meeting on **Saturday 12 De**c at 4PM at the garden. We will accept emailed votes on the motion.

**Moved**: Harley

**Seconded**: Judith

**All in favour:** carried

(ii) Klas proposed the following motion:

*That a small orchard of pomegranate trees be established at the garden*

Discussion: Klas and Robyn have two pomegranate trees that they will donate to the garden. Once a suitable site is selected a raised bed will be constructed for the trees. Everyone at the meeting agreed that these trees would be a great addition to our fruit trees.

**Moved:** Judith

**Seconded:** Ewen

(iii) Don proposed a motion: *That the northern windbreak be pruned sufficiently to allow for spraying of invasive kikuyu.*

Discussion: Barbara agreed that spraying the thicket of kikuyu was essential; the windbreak plants themselves require a good pruning in any case.

**Moved:** Barbara

**Seconded:** Neil

(iv) Don proposed: *That an inventory be taken to determine how many of the plot sleepers require replacement.*

Discussion: Don has been spraying around the perimeter of all of the beds to control kikuyu runners…in the process he has noticed that many of the plots have rotting sleepers that will need to be replaced/repaired in the near future. It was pointed out by Klas and Neil that an essential step would be the provision of an Income and Expenditure Statement from Richard to the committee so that we can see just how many sleepers etc. we have purchased in the year from January to December.

**Moved:** Don

**Seconded:** Neil

**All in favour:** carried

1. Neil proposed: *That left over granite from the dry-stone wall be used to construct a low stone wall around the garden bed at the entrance gate.*

**Moved:** Neil

**Seconded**: Don

**All in favour**: carried

1. Judy proposed: *That if plots are not maintained over an extended period, resulting in weed infestation of neighbouring plots, the Garden Manager will discuss options with the plot holder.*

*Discussion*: Lively discussion ensued, with Cathy pointing out that if plot holders have been ill, they are unable to control weeds in their plots. It was argued that in this case, garden members should be encouraged to let us know of their circumstances.

Judy was concerned about the number of unattended, weed infested plots there are at the moment; she said that it was impossible for just a few to weed all of these plots, as well as tending our own and communal plots. At the moment thistle and dandelion seeds are carried by the wind all over the site causing a *huge* amount of work for other gardeners.

She, and Barbara, thought that people who consistently ignore the weekly email request for people to be aware of weeds quickly spreading from their plot to those of their neighbours should expect consequences. This could include these plots being declared vacant and offered to people on the plot rental waiting list or weeded and then used to raise communal crops.

Others thought that it was the role of the Garden Manager to contact people whose plots are left unattended for months, negotiating a solution with them directly.

Judy’s original motion was put to the meeting for a vote.

**Moved:** Judy

**Seconded:** Barbara

**All in favour:** Carried

**The meeting closed at 4.53PM**