



Murramarang Community Garden

Growing Food Together

Minutes

Committee Meeting

2 March 2013

10 AM at garden site

Chair: Malcolm Salmon

Present: Malcolm Salmon, Sandra Worth, Judith Carroll, Luci Somers, Robynne Murphy, Sybille Davidson

Apologies: Ewen Sussman, John Nelson

Sharon Adlam has resigned from the Committee, due to pressure of other commitments.

Business arising from Minutes 27 October 2012: There was no business arising.

Moved that the Minutes be accepted: Robynne Murphy

Seconded: Sandra Worth

Reports:

Treasurers Report: Sandra Worth indicated that we have 58 financial members with fees outstanding for 9 beds (as of 2 March 2013). Treasurer's Report attached.

Garden Managers Report: Malcolm Salmon - attached

Correspondence: Magazine *Gardeners Gazette* received from Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria. Circulated, then to be left in "Sandra's Shed" for general reading.

General Items of Business:

- *Luci Somers* – Ways of putting the "community" back into the MCG. Luci led the discussion on this issue by commenting that she has observed that most people come to the garden to "do their own thing" rather than working along side of each other growing food – the concept of growing/food/together, whilst projected as our "mantra" doesn't really happen, from what she can see. Luci proposed that we consider adopting a focus on a common goal of growing *together*. Robynne agreed with Luci, saying that the communal aspects of MCG were important to her, more so than anything else about the garden. After general discussion it was agreed that many people enjoyed "pottering" in their own plots but there was scope for expanding our communal areas, especially since Steve is to extend our fenced area to the north and west of our current boundary, allowing for slow growing communal crops such as asparagus to be planted. Robynne suggested that a "Pumpkin Harvest" might be a good way for people to work together. Sandra commented that as gardeners see that crops such as pumpkins are available from the communal plots they might cease growing these kinds of "invasive" vegetables in their own plots.

Sybille suggested that as gardeners developed expertise in growing vegetables there would be greater diversification of varieties that can then be shared with others.

It was agreed that the use of the newly constructed propagation shed was a priority – Malcolm and possibly Jocelyn to discuss running a workshop on propagating from seeds and cuttings. Malcolm to follow up.

General discussion about growing flowers, rather than vegetables in plots. Many were in favour of letting people grow what they like in their own plots, including flowers, however Judith commented that apart from “companion planting” of flowers to repel garden pests, our primary focus should be on *growing food together* – she has emphasised this aspect of MCG objectives in all of Grant Applications.

- *Swop Board* – Judith passed on Ewen’s wish that we put up one of the spare white boards to enable people to swop with others (kind of veggie/name/tel #). He would also like to see our plan proceed to collect surplus vegetables for distribution to those in need in our community and the “Swop Board” was a way of seeing what surplus crops we have available. Malcolm agreed that he would see to this.
- *Sybille – Rodent Control* – Sybille is concerned about the damage to crops by rodents – she has noticed rats/mice running from the compost bin area and has evidence of gnaw marks on her vegetables, especially tomatoes. Others have the same problem. Discussion centered on re-designing our compost bins so that they enclosed, precluding rodents from entering. Malcolm suggested using 44gallon drums to make rotating bins (tumbling method of composting) and Sandra invited Sybille to look at her 2 x 44 gallon compost bins that she says work very well. Sybille will investigate further.
- *Judith – additional communal herb bed/s.* Judith proposed that we add another herb bed to the two we are left with after the re-allocation of the two beds we previously used for growing herbs. She felt that we could grow a greater range of herbs other than the few are able to grow presently. Some committee members considered that we have ample herbs growing and others agreed with Judith that a wider variety would be beneficial. Judith passed on Neil’s offer to leave the rhubarb he has growing in the plot he is relinquishing for communal use.
- *Judith - FRRR Funding opportunity.* Judith is currently working on a grant application for funding for a self-composting toilet – Malcolm is to provide an invoice from *Clivus Multrum* that can be submitted with the application that is due on 2 April 2013.
- *Judith/Ewen Plot Allocation* – There was a marked difference of opinion amongst committee members as to what the PoM actually says about this issue. Judith has discussed the issue with Ewen who referred to the amended PoM, ratified by a majority vote of the membership at the 2012 General Meeting where it is stated that one plot per individual or two plots per household is permissible from January 2013. Several people, including Sandra and Malcolm disputed this reading of the PoM, instead believing that these plots were to be relinquished by the end of 2014. Judith urged members to refer to the PoM, available on the Homepage of the MCG website.
- *Sandra, Luci and Judith - Easter Fair* – Planning is well advanced for the Easter Fair to be held at Bawley shops on Easter Saturday, 30 March. The reports prepared by John Nelson and Cettina in response to the 2012 Fair were tabled and the committee was assured that Cettina, as Fair Coordinator has taken these evaluations into consideration.

Meeting closed at 11.30am