**Murramarang Community Garden**

**MINUTES**

**General Meeting**

**Saturday 17 August 2019**

**10.30 AM at the garden.**

**Chair:** Marg Hamon

Marg opened the meeting and thanked those in attendance.

**1. Present:** Jocelyn Sussman, Ewen Sussman, Harley Delves, Neil Brown, Judith Carroll, Sybille Davidson, Don Davidson, Marg Hamon, Marie O’Connell, John Tapsell, Cathy Delves, Richard Lake, Don Davidson, Graham Bevis, George Lemann, Judy Cook, Leonie Coombes, Niree Creed, Cecelia Spence, Caroline Parish.

**2. Apologies:** Maggie Mance, Renee Anderson, Noel Barwick, Barbara White, Peter White, Mary Stanwix, Kathy Jacka, Stephen Ford, Bev Ford, Doug Howarth, Sue Clelland, Elizabeth Begg.

**3. Business arising from Minutes** of previous meeting: it was noted that all matters have been addressed or are ongoing.

Moved: Marg

Seconded: Neil

Carried

**4. Reports:**

***Presidents Report*** *(attached and on website)*

Moved that the report be accepted: Don

Seconded: Cathy

Carried

***Treasurers Report*** *(attached and on website).*

Moved that the report be accepted: Ewen

Seconded: John

Carried

***Garden Managers Report*** *(attached and on website) –*

Harley Delves spoke to his report and answered questions that were raised by the meeting. Those present accepted this report.

**Moved**: Richard

**Seconded:** Jocelyn

Carried

**5. General Business**

1. Sybille spoke to her motion regarding the weekly use of the whiteboard to inform gardeners of jobs that are required, both at working bees and during the week. After discussion it was agreed that the large whiteboard in the tea shed would be more suitable than the board near the entry gate, although a notice there could direct gardeners to the large board for a detailed summary of “jobs to be done”. Niree pointed out that the weekly email already does this job and perhaps a copy could be posted on the board.

George suggested that pens could be kept in a container on top of the fridge. Judy volunteered to keep the whiteboard up to date for the next month, and then someone else could take over the job.

Judy suggested that it could be open to all to write on the board if they notice a job to be done, although Harley cautioned that it would be a good idea to check *how* and *why* the job should be done, first.

**Motion**: That the whiteboard in the tea shed is updated by a volunteer on a weekly basis informing gardeners of jobs to be done at the working bee and during the week.

**Moved :** Sybille

**Seconded**: Judith

Carried

1. Sybille proposed that a roster of volunteers take over the task of rat baiting, a job for which she has been responsible for many years. She demonstrated how the baits should be placed and where they are kept. After discussion it was agreed that rat baiting would be listed every 3 months on the Saturday working bee “jobs to be done” list on the whiteboard in the tea shed. A volunteer will need to keep track of this task (write date on box as baits are laid and also write the next baiting date on whiteboard).

Sybille emphasised that it is IMPORTANT for gloves to be worn when handling baits.

**Motion:** That a 3 monthly roster be established for rat baiting.

**Moved:** Sybille

**Seconded:** Don

Carried

1. Sybille proposed that all communal beds be alphabetized (based on a plan formulated by Barbara). *All* beds from the communal asparagus beds near the back gate to the communal beds beside the compost bins are to be included, not forgetting the communal beds at the back of the tea shed and the orchards.

She pointed out that this would make it easier for the “jobs to be done” list on the whiteboard to specify beds that require weeding, planting, watering etc. Marie volunteered to undertake this task, although others thought that it would be an easy Saturday morning job for individual gardeners to “whack on” a few letters, if there were paint and brushes available on the tea-shed table.

**Motion:** That all communal beds be marked with letters of the alphabet.

**Moved:** Sybille

**Seconded:** Neil

Carried

1. Neil spoke briefly to his proposal that we purchase smaller width planks for edging communal beds, rather than the heavy sleepers we have used previously. He mentioned the greater ease in lifting and securing the smaller planks, the considerable cost savings and greater flexibility as factors in making this change. He pointed to similar garden edging used in other, similar vegetable gardens such as Sage at Moruya and Milkhaus in Milton.

It was agreed that this matter would be discussed at the next Management Committee Meetings.

1. Judith – October 2020 will mark 10 years since the inauguration of the Murramarang Community Garden. A public meeting, chaired by Ewen, discussed the proposal and voted to establish a community garden on a site offered by Steven Berkhout, Manager of the ANU Coastal Campus at Kioloa.

An Executive Committee was elected and work began on writing a Plan of Management and planning the layout of the site. Construction of the garden commenced in January 2011.

Judith proposed that we consider establishing a committee to plan a celebration of 10 years of outstanding achievement for MCG.

Niree, Leonie and Marie have volunteered to be on the committee and will liaise later in 2020 – it was agreed that a celebration in January/February 2021 was preferable to October 2020.

**Motion:** that we establish a planning committee to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Murramarang Community Garden.

**Moved:** Judith

**Seconded:** Marie

Carried

**Meeting closed at 11. 20am**.