

Murramarang Community Garden

Growing food together

Minutes

Meeting of Committee

11 August 2012 at 10.30am

Chair: Ewen Sussman

1. **Apologies:** Sandra Worth, Doug Howarth
2. **Business arising from minutes** 12/05/2012 – there was no business arising.
3. **Reports:**
 - *Treasurer* – Sandra WothIn her absence, Judith delivered a brief report on Sandra's behalf, as follows:

Balance of **\$7067.76**

Outstanding invoices:

\$1238.85 – Johnson's Timber for sleepers and battens

\$212.00 – Milton Hardware for shadecloth

Adjusted balance: **\$5616.91**

- *Garden Managers Report* – Malcolm Salmon
- Malcolm noted that there are currently 60 plots allocated and we now have 71 members, with two more people joining today. The number of plots were increased by 6 to a *maximum* of 60 – these fit in a row of 4 in front of *Centre Bed 11* to *South Bed 10*, with 2 plots constructed closer to the storage container and adjacent to the children's play area. He feels that we have probably reached our full quota of plots, without encroaching on common areas, including the children's playground.
- He reported that the Shade House and Hot House are near completion.
- Truckloads of mulch still need to be collected from the Tip and deposited inside the gate for windbreak mulching.
- *Secretary's Report - Fundraising and membership* – Judith Carroll

Judith reported that the current membership has reached 71 – she and Sandra have recently reconciled the membership database with the receipt book and they are confident that the current Membership List (Aug. 2012) is accurate.

She has submitted a grant application for Commonwealth funding available to volunteer organisations, Australia-wide. We have sought funding for the purchase of a lawn mower, brush cutter and generator.

3. General Business:

- *Location of Self-Composting Toilet* – After discussion, led by Malcolm, it was agreed that the position originally designated for the location of the toilet in the N/E corner of the site should remain. Sharon voiced concern over the destruction of several thriving windbreak plants currently in that location; however, she agreed after discussion that this was the best location for the toilet. Several people voiced concern about the toilet being located closer to our common or “social” areas and preferred the location in the designated position.
- *Use of leftover sleepers for communal plot edging* – Malcolm explained that he ordered the extra sleepers for the construction of benches for the shade house and hothouse, so there would be no sleepers left over. He suggested that scrap timber from the Tip and elsewhere could suffice as garden edging.
- *Windbreak maintenance* – Sybille reported on the on-going task of maintaining the windbreak, stressing that much more mulch was required in order to suppress weeds and conserve moisture. She noted that the plants that have survived, especially in the harsh conditions prevalent in the S/W break are indigenous to the ANU site. She suggested that some plants may have died because of the wind-drift of herbicide and Malcolm reiterated that spraying should *never* occur when there was even a hint of wind.
- *Other Business* – Jocelyn has struck several cuttings of Hazelnut trees and will donate these to the garden – she believes that they will grow well. Her donation was welcomed.

John Nelson again raised the issue of fly-blown vegetables left unharvested for long periods – he suggested that a list of such plots should be compiled by Malcolm and posted on the website, with a caution that infested plants would be removed within a designated time-frame, in order to protect the plants of fellow gardeners from infestation. After discussion it was agreed that more thought would be given to this proposal.

John also raised the issue of publicity for the garden and suggested that regular stories about the garden could be published in the Canberra press, as well as in the local paper. Judith pointed out that these days many people used the net to locate information, so the website was also an important way for MCG to communicate to the local and broader community. John is to consider if he and Helen might take on the role of publicity for MCG.

John also raised the issue of providing surplus produce to the Ulladulla Soup Kitchen or other, similar, local organisations. It was agreed that this would be an excellent idea and several people will follow-up on this suggestion.

- **AGM – Saturday 15 September at 10AM at the garden site, followed by a General Meeting.**

Meeting closed at 11.32PM