

Murramarang Community Garden Inc.

MINUTES

General Meeting

Saturday 2 September 2017

10.30 AM at the garden.

Chair: Ewen Sussman

1. Present: Jocelyn Sussman, Harley Delves, Neil Brown, Judith Carroll, Sybille Davidson, Marg Hamon, Doug Howarth, John Tapsell, Diana Knight, Cathy Delves, Helen Nelson, Richard Lake, Don Davidson, Ewen Sussman, Rob Mobbs.

2. Apologies: Maggie Mance, Mary Stanwix, Rene Anderson, Marie O'Connell.

Moved: Harley

Seconded: Judith

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

4. Reports:

Presidents Report (on website)

Treasurers Report (on website).

Garden Managers Report (on website)

5. General Business

1. Mulcher Hire.

John Tapsell will hire a mulcher **Saturday 9 September** to mulch the pruned vegetation from the north windbreak, plus any other pruning we may undertake on that day.

2. Irrigation of communal area.

A new irrigation system for the large communal area is essential and Harley has already undertaken substantial work on the installation of water pipes, posts and taps.

The purchase of 10 -12-metre hoses will be costly, Harley says and will be funded by a recent grant from ClubsNSW for the provision of beds, soil and hoses for our LWB visitors.

Harley has arranged for local contractor Gary Wallington to backhoe the main trench and to backfill after pipes are laid. This will occur in the coming weeks - volunteers are asked to assist on the day.

There will be a large cleared area around each tap to allow for hoses to be wound back and for a container containing sprinklers.

The meeting thanked Harley for the work that he has undertaken already in

preparation for the new irrigation system.

3. *Harley submitted costing for the provision of 1 plot as follows:*

\$215.48 per plot (GST included), (\$196 ex GST), comprising:

- **\$99** for Ecowood planks – 6 @ \$16.50 per plank.
- **\$61.98** for soil (1.15 cubic meters @ \$53.90 per cubic mts.
- **\$5.00** for fittings (screws etc.
- **\$49.50** for hose and sprinklers

If we constructed 10 plots over the next 12 months it would cost \$1000 in planks, \$50 in fittings (screws etc.) and around \$400 for hoses and sprinklers.

A recent grant of \$2000 from ClubsNSW (for the provision of at least 3 raised plots, soil, hoses and sprinklers for our Life Without Barriers visitors) will substantially contribute towards this capital cost.

Discussion ensued about the *low rental cost per plot at \$25 PA*, however, it was acknowledged that the initial cost of a plot is spread over a number of years - also we wish to keep the cost down to ensure that everyone in our community is able to participate. This is why the Committee is keen to continue our fund raising efforts (participation in Murramarang Markets, for example) so that real costs don't have to be passed on to members.

4. *Don Davidson has designed a permanent framework for the fig orchard.*

This framework to support netting is to prevent birds from destroying fruit. Don has commenced costing a range of materials, from timber to more permanent steel tubing, and will liaise with the Garden Managers and Committee about the best materials to use for this project. It was agreed that this is a priority, as trees will be fruiting during the summer months.

5. *Barbara White submitted a written plea for gardeners to observe the protocol for composting i.e.*

1. ALL material must be cut into small pieces before placing in MARKED compost bin – a spade is provided for this purpose, otherwise use secateurs.
2. Don't place weeds, such as Kikuyu in bins – throw over fence or better still, take them home for disposal in your own bin.
3. Please, **NO PLASTIC PUNNETS IN COMPOST BINS.**

Barbara also reminded gardeners to close the main gate when arriving and leaving the site – *SHUT THE GATE MATE.*

Meeting closed at 11.45am.