

15 Aug 2015

Minutes MCG General Meeting, 15 Aug 2015
Meeting opened at 10.45 at the Garden

Chair: Ewen Sussman

Present: Cettina Borg-Musin, Doug Howarth, Deirdre Macpherson, Marie O'Connell, Helen Nelson, Renee Anderson, Malcolm Salmon, Tina Barber, Marg Hamon, Cathy Delves, Harley Delves, Jocelyn Sussman, Ewen Sussman, Sybille Davidson, Carolyn Parish

Apologies: Judith Carroll, Neil Brown, Don Davidson, Maggie Mance, Barbara White, Peter White

In Judith's absence Sybille took Minutes.

Minutes of General Meeting held 8 August 2014 as set out on MCG website were proposed for acceptance.

Moved that the Minutes be accepted: Marie; **seconded:** Cathy; carried

Reports from President, Treasurer and Garden Managers were already presented and accepted during the AGM.

Correspondence:

We received a letter from the Agricultural Society regarding our level of Insurance; this will be investigated.

Harley also received a letter from an outdoor education group enquiring whether MCG might allow for a student group of 15-16 yr-old Year 9 students to come and volunteer and learn on-the-job gardening from us over 5 days in February next year - as part of their "conservation" style education program; this is some time off but in general the meeting thought no problem – we will just need to be sure of enough people on deck during the whole week.

No other correspondence items were reported.

Business Arising from Previous Minutes: None

General Items of Business:

- **Insurance cover:** There was some discussion about whether MCG's insurance cover is adequate for when we are present as part of events outside of the Garden. When we are part of approved markets we are usually covered by their insurance. Agreed that we need to further investigate adequacy of our insurance cover for e.g. fund-raising outside the B Pt shops. Nor do we have insurance on

our equipment – previously considered and decided it is too expensive.

- **Proposed new mower to be purchased** -for edges and mulching up prunings and garden stems for compost. We have had quotes and decided on a model at Matthews in Ud. Harley will purchase next week as Neil is on sick leave. It will need to be stored somewhere secure as vulnerable to theft. Several suggestions and offers about storage. More convenient if it could be locked on site using a large chain and padlock. For further committee discussion.

Additional items were listed for the Agenda as follows:

- Fund-raising events – Agreed to go ahead with planning for a stall at the next Murramarang Mkt, in the Kioloa Hall on Oct long weekend. Jocelyn has arranged that MCG will be “doing” the sausage sizzle stall, but generally agreed that MCG should also be allowed to do a second stall for produce. This will entail of course a second fee. Discussion about need to have enough produce or garden seedlings ready for selling. Suggested quick to grow vegies: radishes, carrots, kale, bok-choy, spinach, beetroot, peas, beans. Harley is planning to have tomato seedlings ready; we can also pot up strawberry runners. Tina will experiment making kale chips – they might be a saleable item.
- Discussion around whether MCG also should sell produce at the Gaia Thursday Mkts in Udulla. As desirable as this might appear, any extra markets all rests on having enough people to do the work involved. Certainly doubtful that we could do it every Thursday.
- This led to general discussion about need for more people to volunteer their time and effort for these things. Suggested that maybe we could recruit extra help by targeting young mothers of small children. Some suggestions for greater publicity via local Sport and Rec magazine and even the MUd Times. Need for someone to do this – Tina and Helen agreed to write some material for publicising the MCG project. Even letterboxing suggested as a good way to recruit help with tasks.
- Once we have an additional irrigation line and additional tap outlets it is envisaged that we will then be able to set up a hot-house watering system with a timer. Maybe by next Autumn.
- We are allowed (from Stephen van der Berkhout) to harvest lots of the top-soil left in piles along the new driveway – will be very

useful for topping up various areas for garden projects. Of course weed content will have to be processed out as we work it. Will need addition of dolemite or lime for some drops. Suggestions of shoveling it into trailers and utes as we are able. We could possibly also ask for help from the road builder Garry Wallington – even for moving our sawdust delivery around when we get it.

Other Business:

Further projects under discussion:

- Harley flagged it would be good to add roadbase and gravel to our parking area which is also subject to being boggy in parts.
- If we plant shade trees out in car park we would need to have good tree guards to protect them from livestock and roos. Maybe the Mens Shed people could build us some solid guards.
- Sybille moved that we should set up a watering roster. Keeping up adequate watering is an increasing load on a few, especially as we have a lot of garlic to keep thriving and there are also new beds and plantings in all far flung areas of the communal section. However agreed at this stage that we give the watering task better prominence on future working bees.
- Sybille wants to progress her proposal to build a raised herb garden bed in tiers just inside entrance gate – will allow easy access to herbs and also camouflage the compost bins at the entrance way. A raised bed will allow for some herbs to be higher up in drier soil and allow others on the southern side of tier to be more shaded. Some bolting together of sleepers needed - Harley will help. Some invasive herb species such as mint and comfrey and horseradish will be confined to containers such as recycled laundry tubs.
- Helen flagged a proposal for someone (Vicki Sansom) from Bunnings to visit us at the MCG re mutual interests. Jocelyn to investigate.

Meeting closed at 11.45 am