



**Murramarang Community Garden**  
*Growing Food Together*

MINUTES

MCG COMMITTEE

Friday 16 January 2015

11 AM at garden site

**Chair:** Ewen Sussman

**Present:** Jocelyn Sussman, Harley and Cathy Delves, Sybille Davidson, Tina Barber, Carolyn Parish, Bob Colhoun, Helen Nelson, Neil Brown, Judith Carroll, Deirdre McPherson.

**Apologies:** Doug Howarth, Robynne Murphy, Marg Hamon, Maggie Mance, Cettina Borg-Musin, Roger and Eve Jenkins, Barbara and Peter White, Mary Stanwix, Marie O'Connell.

**Reports:**

- *Murramarang Market* – 17 January; ANU – Jocelyn outlined the organisational aspects of the newly initiated Murramarang Markets and all agreed that the Market was a positive development to benefit the local community. MCG will participate only when there is enough excess produce to sell or raffle.

Harley and Jocelyn have organised the MCG stall for the 17 January Market. We will raffle a basket of produce and a dozen bottles of excellent red wine, generously donated by Ross Brady. Produce harvested from the communal area and some donated by members will also be sold.

In answer to a question about the whereabouts of the 5 surplus bottles of wine donated by members for the Kioloa Fair raffle (we raffled 12 bottles after receiving 17 donations from members) Judith explained that these bottles will be raffled at the Easter Fair (along with 7 other bottles hopefully donated by our members).

- *Jocelyn and Ewen have investigated the cost of purchasing a ride-on mower*

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Edith and Joy London Foundation, Kioloa Coastal Campus of the ANU. Murramarang Road, **Kioloa** NSW 2539  
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for on-going garden maintenance. After discussion it was agreed that a mower was a necessity, and Judith raised the possibility of an MCG grant application to Veolia for funds to purchase the mower, along with other garden equipment – Bob suggested that instead of outlaying funds we could approach ANU about hiring their ride-on mower (and driver) since their equipment was “top of the range” and outside of our financial capabilities. It was agreed that Steve should be approached re this possibility and in the meantime Jocelyn and Ewen would continue with their investigations of costs for both new and second hand models.

- *Discussion about the necessity of making the access road to the garden weatherproof* – Sybille noted that it was agreed at the last meeting that this was a budget priority. Judith noted that Malcolm Salmon has contacted people in Wollongong about a donation of roadbed (BHP?) – Judith is to write to these contacts to determine the basis of the donation and in the meantime she, and others, will obtain quotes for haulage. Carolyn Parish is to contact a local contractor, Gary Waddingham, to obtain a quote for the preparation and construction of the road. Judith is to provide information about the amount of roadbed required, based on a previous grant application.
- *Harley outlined the work that has been undertaken to prepare beds in the communal areas for further crops* – he has prepared several beds for planting garlic – the sale of garlic is a major fund raiser for MCG and he feels that we should expand the areas already set-aside for garlic and has purchased good quality garlic for sowing in late March/early April. A clover crop has been sown in the “old” garlic bed and a cover crop will be sown shortly in the new garlic beds (prepared by Harley and Bob). These, and all new beds will have furrows for watering, rather than sprinklers and hand watering using hoses that have been used in the past. He recommends furrow watering for most crops to alleviate the prevalence of mildew related disease. Bob is to test the ph level of the soil and lime will be added if necessary. Harley believes that we do not need to add additional soil to the new plots as the soil is excellent, and we do not need to build up the beds using edging, etc. (except for potato crops) - He noted that the purchase of “veggie mix” soil has been a major item of expenditure in the past and that this money could be used to finance other priorities

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- *Neil Brown suggested that future large grant applications could focus on sustainability measures for the site.* For example, the Veolia grant could perhaps be for the purchase and installation of solar panels and a generator to enable the use of power tools on the site and for a water pump attached to the rainwater tank. In addition he believed the site would be suitable for a wind generator. He will investigate these ideas for the future. In the meantime, Judith will proceed with a grant application to Veolia for funding for access roads to and within the garden.

**Meeting closed at 12.15 pm** after a walking tour of the access road to inspect and agree on the priority section for road-base work.