

# **2011 Annual General Meeting**

## **Vera Street Community Garden Inc.**

**At the Hall of the Toowong State School, St Osyth St**

**Date: Sunday 22 May, 2011 Start time: 3.17pm Finish time: 3.53pm**

### **Minutes**

**Attendance:** Jonathan Roberts, Kelly Greenop Peter Matic, Judy Haines, Chris Tiffin, Yvonne Li, Lyn DeLange, Naja Burton, Roberta Burton, Ruth Brown, Jane Bell, Cathy Renkin, Ann Bermingham, Mim Hume Adamson, Gillian O'Brien, Kumiko Suzuki, Xanthe Burton, Anne Barry

**Apologies:** Raj Gupta, Andrew Fraser, Scott Emerson, Leanne Woo

#### **Welcome (Judy)**

- Judy welcomed members and committee members

#### **Attendance/Proxy votes/Apologies: as per attendance sheet (Judy)**

- Andrew Fraser has sent a \$50 personal cheque donation to the community garden and a letter of apology for his absence.

#### **Approval of Minutes from last AGM (Judy)**

- Ann Bermingham moved that they be accepted as a true and accurate record of the 2010 AGM
- Kelly Greenop seconded
- All agreed to endorse the minutes
- Motion was carried

#### **Business Arising from previous AGM (Judy)**

- None

#### **Receive and endorse the correspondence (Jonathan)**

- Only significant correspondence related to insurance and invitation to apply for flood grants.

#### **Convenor's Report (Judy)**

I feel slightly presumptuous writing this report since I seem to have been an absentee convenor for most of the 12 months of my tenure. I was actually absent for my appointment at the 2010 AGM, though I had agreed to accepting the position with the warning that I had several travel plans for the year! However one good thing about being on the executive of the Vera St Community Garden is that you are so ably and happily supported by the executive who move in to take up roles as they are needed so that the "burden of office" is slight! I feel moved to thank and commend Anne Barry,

my co-convenor, who competently dealt with the various crises that arose during the year and seemed to be present at most of the significant events of the garden. Thanks to Kelly, our treasurer and Jonathan, our secretary who proved to be a powerful and active duo in management. Thanks to Ann, our membership secretary, who took on and organised the often messy task of membership and email group management with persistence and skill. With a team like this the administration of the garden hums along with no one carrying too heavy a load.

There have been other people doing special roles over the year. Ruth, who is our unofficial liaison person with the SMRT academy, has faithfully turned up each Wednesday of term organised and prepared to host the students in their community service work in the garden. Great outcomes have ensued as anyone who has strolled up into the budding arboretum at the side and back can see. Jane has been a regular assistant in this work and offered up her lumberjack husband, Richard to lop down many of the weed trees so work could proceed. Cathy has looked after the native plantings in the designated bed and the arboretum and is our resident native expert. Ruth capitalised on the temporary relocation of Milton school to the Academy to provide their youngest ones with hands-on experience in the garden. I remember one Wednesday, when a sudden cloudburst threatened to prevent the session, Ruth, determined not to disappoint the little ones, loaded up the wheelbarrow with a mountain of friendly worms and set off over the flooded creek to take the mountain to Mohammed, so to speak. As it happened the skies cleared and so the kids came back with us to the garden and it was a treat to see the accompanying mums, flinging off their bling-encrusted sandals to paddle the youngsters through the creek. One of these Wednesdays we unexpectedly hosted a Channel 9 network team who came to film the SMRT students mentoring the Milton primary students in the garden as a feature on how communities were adapting to the floods. It doesn't seem to have appeared in their programming yet – but keep your eyes open...

In the Sunday noon time heat you can always count on seeing Helen and Lynn mowing the grass, mulching the rubbish, turning the compost, weeding, preparing beds – you name it they do it. We have watched with delight as their plantings on the seemingly hostile slope at the back of the garden have grown and blossomed beyond all expectation adding a beautiful backdrop to the garden as well as holding the soil and suppressing noxious weeds. Every part of our garden shows the benefit of their weekly labour in collecting horse manure to fertilise the soil. I would like to encourage members to join these excursions which provide such an essential (and free) source of fertility to everything we do. I would also like acknowledge Janet's adroitness in directing a large quantity of waste tree material our way so that we now have a veritable mountain of wood mulch which is perfect for the arboretum area, amongst others.

All these people I thank for their enthusiasm and activity.

I would also like to welcome here all members -our valued long-term ones and the many new members and encourage everyone to put forward their ideas, stand for positions on the committee, and enjoy their gardening in this very democratic community.

Thanks to Anne for first-hand accounts of the filming of the Great South East and the fallen trees saga over the Christmas break.

On-going projects in the garden are the continuing establishment of the slopes around the side where we hope to gradually get rid of weeds and establish more of the native trees which we bought with the Q150 grant and further development of the large bush

tucker bed. A further plan is to employ some form of labelling system for the plants to make for easier identification and education for school groups.

The shed project, for which we hold grant money in a separate account, is on the back burner, despite Ruth's best efforts. Whether we should use some of the money to make a ground area in a spirit of optimistic anticipation has been raised.

We are always open to new ideas and I encourage everyone here to continue to be creative in our thinking about our use of this valued area.

Thank you once again to everyone who has contributed to the Vera St Community Garden over the last twelve months.

#### **Receive the statement of income and expenditure (Judy and Kelly)**

- Kelly first asked all members to thank Judy for being Convenor for the year
- Moved that members accept the statement of income and expenditure.
- Cathy seconds the motion.
- Mim asked about the history of obtaining grant money to build the proposed shed on the community garden site.
- Kelly explained that the garden has applied twice to the gaming fund but have not been successful.
- Hamish asked if we do a community build shed.
- Kelly explained that she was investigating the idea of having University of Queensland architecture students design and maybe build the shed.
- Kelly proposes that a special meeting be called to discuss the shed.

#### **Receive the auditor's report on the financial affairs of the association (Kelly)**

- Kelly reported that the auditor has approved the finances for the community garden for last financial year.

#### **Present the audited statement to the meeting for adoption (Kelly)**

- Kelly moves that the report be accepted.
- Mim seconded.
- Cathy asks that we thank the auditor.
- Kelly reported that he has been given a pumpkin to say thanks.

#### **Elect members of the management committee (Peter Matic chaired this session)**

- All members of the committee stood down
- Peter Matic stepped up to chair

1. Convenor
  - a. Jonathan nominates Judy
  - b. Jane seconds
  - c. Judy re-elected
2. Co-convenor
  - a. Jonathan nominates Gillian
  - b. Anne seconds
  - c. Gillian is elected
3. Treasurer
  - a. Ruth nominates Kelly
  - b. Judy seconds

- c. Kelly is elected
4. Secretary
  - a. Ruth nominates Jonathan
  - b. Cathy seconds
  - c. Jonathan is elected

**Discussion about other unelected roles**

Membership secretary

- Ann agreed to continue in this role

Web site editor

- Kelly will continue with help from Mim

**Appoint an Auditor**

- Kelly moves that we appoint Martin Wild
- Anne seconded
- Kelly to ask Martin

**Date of next AGM**

- 27 May 2012

**Any other business**

- None

**Meeting closed at 3.53pm**