

## Canberra City Farm: MEETING MINUTES

<b>Date:</b>	15 February 2015	
<b>Location:</b>	Canberra City Farm	
<b>Time meeting commenced:</b>	2.00pm	
<b>People present:</b>	Jodie Pipkorn Melissa Fellows Gilles Rohan Virginia Proust Linda Ayliffe Mark Spain Ali Goward Jacqui Pinkava Kerry Wright Barry	Walter Steensby Cindy Steensby Carole Ayliffe Keith Colls Chris Curtis Conor Harrington Walter Jehne Ronis Chapman Michele Smith Didi Sommer
<b>Apologies:</b>		
<b>Chairperson:</b>	Mark Spain	
<b>Proxies:</b>		



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### Matters/Actions Arising from the previous Meeting

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
1. NIL	

### Agenda Items

*Welcome and check-in:* Points noted included:

- Bungendore farmers market has a rich community and is keen to support local growers.
- There has been a breakthrough in water management and how much water plants need.
- Soil workshop was wonderful.
- Fair food documentary happened this week and related to this is the book 'Third Plate', which is about eating what the soil needs, not just about eating locally. For example, eating lentils and beans.
- There has been weeding happening at the garden this week and people popping in.
- Bungendore markets was held in Bungendore again today and had a tremendous vibe, good stall holders and good numbers. It includes a food/produce swap and any scale of swap is welcomed, for example, a few zucchinis can be swapped with other foods.
- So much good stuff going on around permaculture and there is a growing vibe of people investing in alternative technologies, people care, swaps, buy nothing, etc. There is more environment and people connections being made.
- Food has a beautiful power to bring people together.
- There are synergies and connections happening in this area, between Slow Foods and COGS, etc., and there are lots of overlapping memberships. Publicity and getting the word out is happening. Grateful for a local food movement.
- Jacqui has items for recycling.
- Wednesday 11 March Julian Cribb is talking at politics in the pub.
- Warrigal greens are growing well and it is a demonstration of how able it is to grow in this climate.

### Action Items

- N/A

### *Committee update*

- Jerrabomberra site
  - The site is 2 hectares.
  - Jodie and Keith met with ACT Government and they noted they have an MoU with the Bee Keepers Association.
  - We have to provide them with certainty that we can manage the site and we are in the process of finalising MoUs to demonstrate that we have the community support and ability to take it on.
  - In the next month we will hopefully get a yes or no answer.
  - The permit would be for 3 years with a possible extension.
- The Turner Garden now has a first aid kit. If anyone uses anything please email [canberracityfarm@gmail.com](mailto:canberracityfarm@gmail.com) so that stocks can be replenished.
- The Committee talked about establishing a task list at the garden to support people in knowing what needs doing at the garden. Anyone can add to this list or do the activities noted on this list.
- Water – Canberra City Farm are not the lease-holders of the land and only have a permit, so we cannot apply for mains water. Peter Wilson has been talking to people he knows in TAMS and it is looking like we will need to re-think demonstrating things on the site without mains water. This creates new options, like having the main gardens elsewhere that can be toured (we could explore linking more closely with COGS gardens for this).
- Each sub-group has been reporting back to the Committee regularly. BIG thanks to all the facilitators of these groups. Each group has identified resources and plans, and in the last meeting all were approved by the Committee.
- Signs for the site have been discussed and are coming.

### *Review each sub-group*

- Propagation + Gardening team:
  - There was a wicking bed workshop in December.
  - Soils workshop was done a few weeks ago and measured soil properties. Everyone learnt how to identify soils.
  - The main stumbling block for this sub-group is water and until we sort that we will have to plan for a limited water supply, with limited in-ground plants and ones that don't need much water. This includes using mainly wicking beds, as all water is used in wicking beds as it captures the water and it doesn't run off. This summer has been wet and so we have been lucky.
  - One idea is we could use distributed gardens that show the different techniques and have people growing at home rather than at the garden.
  - Consideration has been given to propagation for the Harvest Festival and other stalls. It was agreed that it was too late to grow for the Harvest Festival.
- Education and Learning team:
  - A number of workshops have happened.
  - The group has been trying to get it a bit more proactive and what types of displays we want at the garden.
  - We sent a survey with the newsletter asking people what types of workshops they are interested in. Please fill out this if you haven't already, as the information will inform our priorities of what we will do next.
  - We have a nice list of ideas for workshops and displays, but we now need people's help for creating displays and getting things done.
  - Jodie is enthusiastic to kick off a compost display within the next month, particularly as this is a practical need for many of the nearby apartments to tap into. It was noted a letterbox drop could be done to communicate to those nearby once the compost facility is established.



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- It was noted that education about broadacre application of regenerative agriculture would be good. We could promote the principles on a small scale.
- Marketing + Sponsorship team:
  - Signs were discussed and plans are underway to get better signage around the site.
  - Sponsorship for shipping containers has been progressed and we will hopefully hear back if we are successful with Beyond Bank this week.
  - Greening Australia has murals that could be good to consider for the containers.
  - There is now a poster and flyer template for anyone organising workshops to use.
- Design + Construction team:
  - Water is a key priority and Peter Wilson is chasing this.
  - We discussed moving the existing tank and had an offer to do this on this coming Wednesday.
  - Peter I who was the facilitator of this group is doing an organic farming course at the Riverina Tafe in Albury, so the group is looking for another facilitator.
  - It was noted CCF could look at buying our own water trailer.
- People and Fun team:
  - Pop-luck events have been created to bring people together, to have more activity happening on the site and to do activities in the garden some of the time. These will occur during the day on the first Wednesday of every month to engage the fun-employed people, senior citizens and others in a picnic. There will also be one on the evening of Wednesday 25 February, Melissa will do Friday's (date to be confirmed) and the first one will be on Saturday 21 February at noon.
  - The pizza oven is being progressed.
  - Turner Bowling Club was contacted about CCF using it as a workshop space and we were advised that we can sell food at their venue but can't consume it, or any food that we bring, on the site.
  - It was noted that we need a better communication system to support volunteers in knowing what is coming up at the garden and what needs doing in the garden. A whiteboard with tasks will be located inside the garden and signage outside about what is coming up. This should also be in a Googledoc, on the web and on facebook.



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#### *Discussion about guiding principles for the garden*

- Don't focus on labels, but on principles.
- COGS – the organic approach works and can be highly productive. It is as good or better than other system. It is about feeding the soil, not the plants, and not using herbicides and fungicides. It is practical, with good land use and no chemical run-off, only organic matter ends up downstream. Some people sneak in roundup or some others, but generally the gardens make progress in spite of some damage.
- We need to be more specific than organic, as it is not sufficient. We are land managers. We have to be able to substantiate our claims, not just go on labels.
- Water quality coming in/out of property.
- Organic is a brand name and marketing tool, but this should be distinguished from the original intent of organic, which was to treat the whole garden as a living organism. There is an ecosystem within the garden and your garden is within a larger ecosystem.
- Organics is about avoiding chemicals, but all things are chemicals. Things allowed under organics can be as destructive as any chemical and we need to understand how these impact the system.
- We need to be more active, and go into regenerative gardening, healing the landscape.
- Permaculture and organics are brand names.
- The measure is really important.
- Overseas places have closed systems with minimal transport – like the A-map?? system in France. Distances in Europe are quite different to Australia though, so we could look to

places like Russia for demonstrations to see how a large number of individuals grow food and the different distribution networks for this.

- 87% of food globally is grown in gardens and eaten locally. However this is not included in the commercial statistics.
- Rather than a brand, CCF should have principles. Putting a label on what we are doing can be a negative and keeping it open is a key. Interfaith.
- Key potential principles:
  - Do no harm.
  - Feed the soil, not the plants, without chemicals.
  - Build cooperation and connections amongst gardeners so that we can rely and support on each other.
  - Compliance and enforcement is part of the system.
  - Nutritional integrity of food.
  - Evidence, logic, nature, common sense.
  - Biological agriculture – health and life of the soil.
  - First question to ask: how will what you are going to do increase or decrease the function of, or damage, the soil or landscape?
  - Heal the harm we have done. Don't assume biology looks after itself.
  - We as humans have to regard ourselves as just as important as the fungi – we are fully dependent on it.
  - Profitability and financial viability in production of food is key. Yield is another consideration.
  - Need regenerative, not just sustainable.
  - Regeneration = maximising free input from sun and biology. Negative entropy = energy increases as captured from sun, etc.
  - Stored solar energy. Accept limits. Reduce inputs. Increase yields = improve soil and how we do things.
  - Cycles – avoid limits and have it as a continuous system. Plateau is part of the system.
  - Food and solutions with integrity.
  - Evidence based agriculture. COGS = evidence providing.



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#### *Other business*

- There is a film on at 7pm at ANU on Wednesday 25 February about Transition.

#### *Actions:*

1. JODIE to put survey on the website.
2. MICHELE, VIRGINIA, ALI, KEITH, JODIE to meet about establishing a compost display at the garden within the next month.
3. JODIE to make sure dates of pot luck events on get involved calendar.
4. MARK to send email around to relevant people to organise communication signs.
5. ALI, MARK, RONIS to construct signs – whiteboard inside, upcoming events signs outside.
6. ALI to donate a cupboard for inside the container to store volunteer documents.
7. JODIE to email Ali the task list that has been started.
8. JODIE, KEITH, WALTER, BARRY, WALTER, GILLES to establish first draft of CCF principles ready to present at the next meeting.

**Next meeting date: Sunday 15 March 2015**

**Time meeting closed: 4.20pm.**