

Canberra City Farm: MEETING MINUTES

Date:	19 June 2016	
Location:	The Ruc, Turner Bowls Club, Turner	
Time meeting commenced:	1.30pm	
People present:	Danny O'Brien Jodie Pipkorn Stefanie Lekkas Andrew Michihito Alec Thornton Debbie Reynolds Michele Smith Micah	Linda Ayliffe Carole Ayliffe Cindy Steensby Walter Steensby Paul Lau Mark Spain Gilles Rohan Virginia Prouse
Apologies:	Peter Wilson, Arian McVeigh, Keith Colls	
Chairperson:	Jodie Pipkorn	
Proxies:		



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Matters/Actions Arising from the previous Meeting

ACTION	STATUS
1. MARK and Stefanie to engage with Questacon people and progress human cut-out to idea.	Underway. Plywood and design being formed.
2. DANNY to draft a site safety briefing document for Dairy Road.	Still to do
3. GALINA to photograph and film Turner Garden for history if it doesn't continue.	Underway.
4. KEITH to write up policy of food sharing.	Underway
5. ALEC to bring students down and look after the garden.	
6. LINDA to let everyone know when the Yacons are being harvested.	Still to come
7. JODIE to create a google list for car pools.	COMPLETE
8. JODIE to send journalist name to Galina.	COMPLETE

Agenda Items

Check in – name and your favourite memory, funny story or something you liked about the Turner Garden:

- Danny – Making the cob oven by hand and then getting home and seeing his concrete mixer sitting there. Young Lachlan doing the fencing. The garden evolving over time.
- Andrew – Picking the harvest and enjoying pizzas.
- Stefanie – Stopping kids throwing clay at each other as the cob oven was being made. Making pizzas.
- Alec – Using the push mower.
- Linda – Pizza oven was rewarding. Mexican gerkin plant was a surprise, as she didn't think it would grow that well and having the wicking beds work really well. The visit from the blue tongue lizard, and the wildlife and birds that came to the garden. It was hard work at times with the water carting.
- Debbie – Carting stuff. Loved the pizza oven making. Look forward to Dairy Road.
- Michele – Best thing about Turner is learning about starting a garden, as she is keen to start one in Ainslie, particularly learning about engaging the community.

- Mark – How a clapped out bit of grass and the energy can create a whole eco-system in that space. This community and what we did at Floriade and then to kick it off in Turner, is a success. It is not reliant on one person – it's a gift economy and like a rainforest one thing stops and another starts. CCF is a lovely group of people that can make a beautiful space. There is so much well-being, calmness and connection that can be enjoyed with the simplicity of picking grapes. Creating gardens and spaces that allow this is key.
- Carole – Pizza oven was great as a focal point, it was worth the effort. Amazed how quickly things grew from a bare piece of earth to pumpkins coming up in the compost, to marketable potatoes/pumpkins. With a bit of compost and attention to the soil, things grow.
- Virginia – The general creativity of the group has been infectious. Creating signs out of strips of fabric was enjoyable to do. Looking forward to getting more involved with Dairy Road.
- Gilles – Turner had the ghost of Floriade, but Turner in it's own right has grown and developed. It is an achievement we can all be proud of and sets us up well for Dairy Road.
- Cindy – Enjoyed Turner open days, bringing sun ovens along and having people come through. Only one oven worked on the day, but having brownies and watching the kids waiting for the brownies to cook was fun. They were more dough than cooked brownie, but dealing with the public and connecting with people was great.
- Walter – There are many memories. Pizza oven was great and the pizza oven brought the people together. It became visually rich, with an interesting collection of things that are quite attractive. Dairy Road has the potential for many, many more activities, demonstration projects and other organisations that could get involved. It enlarges the prospects of getting involvement. Turner was a proof of concept. Enjoyed getting to know a good bunch of people. It is a rich organism.
- Micah – Only been involved recently, but it has been really inspirational and hospitable, and he has already learnt lots.
- Paul – Pizza oven building. Looking forward to getting involved with Dairy Road and the work there is to do. Looking forward to making stuff – lots of pallet furniture.
- Jodie – The funny thing is water was the issue and due to rain it has meant this meeting couldn't be at the garden. Bringing people together has been a real success, we have learnt lots throughout the process and we have demonstrated we do what we say we are going to do or commit to – our original agreement was to finish up in October.



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Review of achievements and key themes:

- In reviewing the website and activities undertaken, there was progress made every month and lots achieved – refer to website.
- Water/rain played a theme, we either had too much and it rained out the wicking bed workshop, or not enough, which was the key challenge of this site not working ideally.
- Rain and pizza.
- People bring different things. Everyone's welcome and all ideas are welcome. Different ideas are good.
- Aquaponics. This struggled a lot with the power and logistics of Jules having to travel in. In the end the transformer was overloaded due to heat, but it was worth testing this system. At Dairy Road we have the option to place it in a better spot.
- Sourcing and the gift economy. We put out a request that we wanted paint and got it, we asked for mesh for a growing medium and got the pool fencing, we needed shade and found shade options. The flexibility of design enabled this.
- We evolved a flat space into a comfortable environment for both people and animals to start flowing in. Blue tongue lizards turned up, beneficial insects/people turned up and pests were taken care of.

Lessons learnt for future projects:

- Brown snakes near the chook area at Dairy Road will be a challenge.
- We need to look at where the sun is and use permaculture principles, as the Turner Garden would have ideally been located slightly further south.
- Water is the key item that needs to be considered and planned around. It is the major cost. We need to make sure to mulch and monitor what we use.
- Maintaining a good supply of willing hands is a necessity. Having attractants like social/cultural type activities is a key, along with a pizza oven and making wine.
- Move the monthly meeting out to Dairy Road.
- We have proved we can do it.
- Fence. Making the site accessible needs to be considered. At Dairy Road having 1-2 buildings to secure infrastructure may be all that is needed, so the rest can be made more inviting.
- Dairy Road needs an information pack for new members to make sure they are aware of when things are on.



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Check out – what is one thing that you are excited about with CCF or want to say to complete the day

- Looking forward to monthly meetings at Dairy Road.
- Look forward to sinking teeth into Dairy Road.
- Looking forward to seeing the Dairy Road site.
- Looking forward to bringing the students to the Dairy Road site and participating – this will be fantastic.
- Dairy Road is daunting and lots of work.
- Have a trailer and soil that can be used to help.
- Thank you Jodie for your efforts.
- Keen for future workshops.
- Daunted until we planted the feijoas, as this was quite easy to do and the weeding wasn't hard – so we shouldn't be daunted. Encouraged by that and realising there are endless opportunities. It was noted that we should all remember to ask for help if feeling daunted, as there are lots of people willing to help if they know that help is needed.
- Rewarding to do bits. All doable and the serenity is wonderful.
- Optimistic and looking forward to it. We have lots to be proud of – Floriade, Turner and we are on the way with Dairy Road.
- Looking forward learning more about what to do and when, and the local food economy is important.
- CCF has great capabilities and so lets develop them.
- Congratulations to everyone for all that has been achieved. Excited about the Dairy Road site, which has a history of it being neglected and now has a new life.
- There is so much possibility for Dairy Road, particularly in providing the opportunity to bring government, business and the community together to create a demonstration of what a sustainable system looks like.

Actions:

ACTION	STATUS
N/A	

Next meeting date: Sunday 17 July 2016.

Time meeting closed: 3.10pm.