

Canberra City Farm: 2017 PLANNING SESSION MINUTES

Date:	Tuesday 24 January 2017	
Location:	Dairy Road	
Time meeting commenced:	7:00pm	
People present:	Danny O'Brien Micah Wood Keith Colls Jodie Pipkorn Cindy Steensby Arian McVeigh George Prasad Gary Shapcott John Carr	Walter Steensby Trish McEwan Gilles Rohan John Mills Peter James Lyn James Linda Ayliffe Stefanie Lekkas
Apologies:	Mark Spain, Cid Riley	
Chairperson:	Keith Colls	



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Matters/Actions Arising from the previous Meeting

ACTION	STATUS
1. N/A	

Agenda Items

Achievements – update from Keith

- Now we have left Turner, we can now focus on the Dairy Road site.
- Key items progressed up to now have been developing the demonstration gardens, looking after the fruit trees (pruning and weeding), maintaining the vineyard that has lots of fruit but still needs weeding, getting the feijoa's in, and maintaining the home orchard that has bits of pruning. All of this requires people, money and resources, such as water (we need to plan for this) and nutrients (whatever you take out you need to put back).
- At the moment we have people working at the cross – potatoes, red currants, yakons. We have started the demonstration backyard and put in some green manure near the home orchard, but we are doing this with few volunteers.
- Keith ran the Four Seasons Workshops last year in order to recruit volunteers to the site and engage those new to gardening. To some extent it has worked, but there are still not as many volunteers as we need.
- It is great to have Peter and Lyn along doing their bit, Christine Vincent has put up her hand to do the progression gardening/sequencing, and Linda does everything. We have some of the core group, but enough for the whole site. The decision we need to make is where to focus our energy.
 - Option 1: One extreme is to focus on one area only.
 - Are we better to abandon the rest of the elements or not?
 - It would be a shame for the good work to go backwards.
 - Option 2: Scatter efforts over the place.
 - This may support production, but reduce the demonstration/working bees efforts.

Key aims for the site in 2017 – everyone's ideas

- Set up demonstrations around the red container area – minimum is what was in Turner.
- Focus on education facilities and demonstrations.

- Establish 'The hub' – pizza oven – and allotment gardeners around the hub. Create the oasis and a meeting place to bring others to – bring kids.
- Maintain the trees that are there – feijoas, grapes, etc. – picking grapes gets people engaged and encourages people in.
- Ensure to make fun activities.
- Maintain and progress value-add – target those plants that add lots of value – yakons, grapes and feijoas.
- Establish the 'adopt-a-tree' – we want names against each tree.
- Progress a seed savers specific space – needs lots of work to start off and need to determine how many people it will take to do that. Seeds are delicate so needs to be a time/weather dependent issue. Suggestion was made that seed savers group collaborate with propagation group.
- Maintain the feijoas and then the home orchard.
- Establish the demonstration plots connected to The Hub and paths.
- Maintenance mode for everything else and as resources become available we upgrade other items.
- Mechanical help would be good – get brush cutter, etc. Be clever on how we do things.
- Use what we have, but be opportunistic rather than putting in lots of energy.
- Establish the food forest, husband resources and build fertility for soil and community. Focus on how to engage people further.
- Tidy up the little house and each time we come out bring out some fresh water and food.
- OUTCOME: Everyone agreed the focus for 2017 should be on The Hub followed by maintaining other areas where people have particular interests.



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Plan of attack for establishing The Hub:

1. Need more detailed view of that section. Turner design can be used as a starting point of what was demonstrated – do a Friday session in the next couple of weeks (Keith, Linda, Danny and Jodie).
2. Pizza oven workshop – organise this for early March (Linda).
3. Keith will look after Feijoas.
4. Weeding – orchards, etc. to continue.
5. Walter will sort allotments.
6. Arian will sort seed saving.
7. 4 March compost workshop.
8. Peter/Lyn will continue home orchard maintenance and progress the establishment of a food forest in the orchard.
9. The little house upgrade will be progressed by SEE-Change.

Other items to progress, or possibly progress, in 2017:

- CCF Open Day – all agreed to aim for Spring. This can include a Pizza Oven opening, with a pizza bake off. Lyn is keen to challenge at least Danny and any other pizza makers to a competition.
- Workshops – Global Worming workshops (particularly brewing), wicking bed workshop, pizza oven workshop, compost workshop and others. Refer to googledoc of timings.
- All agreed not to do Floriade or an Urban Agriculture Conference.
- Mentoring – all agreed this was a great idea and would progress this as needed.
- Farmer connector – Micah
 - 8 people have been planning this and agreed that we could not get footing and a food box scheme off the ground. We need a product to sell.
 - We need a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) initiative. One farmer doing the food box with CCF helping with the delivery and logistics.

- It is proposed we have 20 food boxes each 3 months. \$25 fortnight. CCF identify the farmer, advertise, facilitate pickups, farm tours, etc. The farmer assembles boxes and lead the farm tour.
- Micah and the group will provide more details shortly.
- Homegrown – George
 - Proposes to move the shipping container with a commercial kitchen currently located at the pop-up west side container village.
 - The commercial kitchen space is available for people to access when needed.
 - It is a 40ft shipping container, fully kitted out, gas cooking, 2 double door fridges, range hood, etc. Power and 240 vault. Connection of a grease trap, water and power need to be worked out.
 - Lots of people are wanting to do jams, cakes, etc. Luie at Pialligo is hungry to do something and may be interested to manage an enterprise in the kitchen. Bee keepers want a commercial kitchen. People newly migrated to Canberra do not know what markets are there and this could be another way to engage them.
 - In-principle everyone agreed this was a great idea and we would aim to get it moved by April.
- Creative design competition – Arian
 - This would establish cultural materials for CCF at low financial risk. It would be interactive and something to run into the first semester of this year at Universities. It could also be a spring open day activity.
- Politics of food security – Gary
 - It is important how CCF is perceived by the community and by the ACT Government. We should not just see CCF as a lifestyle choice.
 - The political issue of food security is important. We need to get land in the city locked in for urban ag.
 - CCF should make a statement and have land put aside for urban ag. Once covered and gone, the land is gone! We should not be distracted and the reasons for doing what we do is for food security.
 - Keith suggested looking at the Sustainable Food Trust in the UK – they come from a health and obesity angle, with a focus on food security.
 - The round table website Gary has established aims to get the discussion started: www.roundtable.website.
- Refer to draft calendar:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GqbLzJD1I3o2NAWRqtCpCm9S-8rjNvz0qF50FjWNM-8/edit>



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Revenue streams

- Enterprises on the site
 - Global worming – buy seasol/worm juice from Cid.
 - Goterra – has offered to donate a greenhouse.
 - Microgreens
 - Kitchen
- Products to sell:
 - Produce – depends on what we have
 - Prunings – could be progressed if someone is keen
 - Worm juice – Danny will follow up with Cid
 - Seedlings – sell into schools – Peter/Lyn managing this
 - Value adding outputs – Trish coordinating this
 - Seeds – Arian coordinating this
 - Tractor hire – Danny is managing this
 - Snake bite bag – could be progressed if someone is keen

- Services to sell:
 - Workshops
 - Tours
 - Expertise / mentoring.
 - Crowd funding – need to have a clear specific thing.
 - Grants – everyone to keep an eye out for these and let the Committee know.
- What support do enterprises need?
 - Brew juice – Danny to talk to Cid
 - Greenhouse – Jodie to chase Goterra
 - Teaching teachers and better utilise schools
 - Stalls
 - Mailing list – Jodie and Cindy to establish this
 - Groups of people we could engage with – CWA, Rotary, COGS, COTA, Lions, Communities at Work. Arian, Keith and Jodie to initiate discussions.
- How to encourage other enterprises?
 - Speak to Canberra Innovation.
 - Send a specific ask of other groups to communicate to their networks.
- How to encourage more volunteers?
 - Pizza oven
 - Plots
 - Direct volunteers clearly
 - Barter system
 - Make volunteering requests – Monday and Thursday working bees, Sunday monthly working bees. Let them know what is happening on what days and do a follow-up email of what was achieved.



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ACTION	STATUS
1. DANNY to follow up with Cid about worm juice	
2. JODIE set up ideas page on website.	
3. JODIE to set up the contacts list, including emailing everyone to confirm which lists they would like to be on.	
4. CINDY to send out a weekly email giving updates to everyone about what has happened in the previous week and what is happening in the following week.	
5. KEITH, DANNY, LINDA and JODIE to establish a Friday session to design The Hub in detail and invite others to join the discussion.	
6. LINDA to organise pizza oven workshop in early March.	
7. KEITH to look after Feijoas.	
8. WALTER to sort allotments.	
9. ARIAN to sort seed saving.	
10. PETER/LYN to continue home orchard maintenance and establish food forest.	
11. JODIE to contact SEE-Change and confirm timing for house improvements.	
12. MICAH to provide more details about the CCF CSA.	
13. CCF COMMITTEE to work out with George logistics to move container.	
14. GARY to organise a discussion of how we want to be perceived by the wider community and the ACT Govt and how we could try to promote that perception. But after the HUB is completed	

15. JODIE to follow up with Goterra about greenhouse.	
16. ARIAN, KEITH and JODIE to initiate discussions with other groups of possibly interested people including CWA, Rotary, COGS, COTA, Lions, Communities at Work.	
17. CCF COMMITTEE to speak to Canberra Innovation and send a specific ask of other groups to communicate to their networks about new enterprises.	

Next meeting date: Sunday 19 February 2016.
Time meeting closed: 9.10pm.



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