

Canberra City Farm: GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Date:	Sunday 16 December 2018
Location:	Dairy Road
Time meeting commenced:	1:30pm
People present:	26 people
Apologies:	
Chairperson:	Keith Colls

Matters/Actions Arising from the previous Meeting

N/A

Keith (President) noted thanks to everyone – volunteers and the Committee – for another great effort and great year.

Treasurers Report - Danny

- Our funds are looking positive, with around \$50K to support our work.
- We received funds this year through a grant to upgrade the allotment gardens, through the enterprises and through selling wicking beds.

Membership Report – Linda

- We have around 130 members, with many joining following the discount on compost for members.

Communications – Jodie

- This year we hit over 1,000 people on the newsletter list and Stef has been doing a brilliant job on the facebook posts.

Things people are looking forward to pursuing /improving in 2019 at the Farm were:

- Planning and enterprises.
- Financial viability.
- Continuing the Monday working bee.
- Using the produce from the Farm.
- Regular monthly education workshops similar to what we did a few years ago.
- Establishing a propagation planning schedule and roadmap.
- Financial viability and social enterprises.
- Canberra City Farm community gardens in suburbs.
- Community Gardens and City Farm Network conference in April.
- Improving the composting set up for people to bring scraps to.
- Strengthening the outreach to apartment dwellers.
- Providing education/information about what's appropriate and easy to grow in Canberra, how to grow it, etc. Including fruit trees.
- Having more regular tours of the Farm.
- Using fruits to make vinegar and preserving.
- Promoting wicking beds and inspiring people.
- Using weeds and herbs as medicine.
- Creating and enjoying a peaceful place.
- Learning about farming and marketing farm produce.
- Establishing a Farm-gate that sells produce from the Farm.
- Educating through recipes and direct people to recipes through the website.
- Targeting our marketing at the educated and those who value good responsible food.
- Supporting volunteers more.
- Exploring restaurant relationships and strengthening them.



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- Adding colour to the plants – such as beans.
- Demonstrate hemp and use it as a barometer of soil quality.
- Continuing to grow our relationships with schools – we had the first school excursion group through this year and the kids loved fresh asparagus, many tasting it for the first time.
- Getting the kitchen up and running again, and growing/building more partnerships.
- There was great commitment from all those running the farm this year and nurturing this going forwards is key.
- Connecting with all groups – including biodynamic groups, youth and young people.
- Killing chickens for food and having more animals on site.
- Maintaining plot holders, as they are a great mix.
- Learning about food, particularly seasonal.
- Filling the 3 vacant plots and the 2 special-use plots.
- Creating a City Farm wine label.
- Supporting/growing the value-add, which is really important, including with ferments.
- Seeing the changes this year are wonderful and it will be great to see what next!
- Timing is important, especially when people are free. Having regular openings and scheduled days being opened would be good.
- Establishing pot-luck picnic and talk or planting activities.
- Establishing a marketing plan – what and when do we want people to know about things – weekly? And do a regular ‘post a recipe’.
- Continuing the construction working bees.
- Establishing composting toilets.
- Encouraging more participation on open days.
- Challenges over the next year will be having more than 1 working bee and having it on a weekend, while managing burnout of volunteers.
- Having a working bee at Linda’s house.
- Learning from CERES in Melbourne and establishing a paid work force to support volunteers through big grants in the \$100Ks.
- Securing grants and building capacity.
- Considering establishing partnerships with the Alexander Maconochie Centre prison or other organisations to get help from prisoners or others.



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Other Business

- NIL

Next meeting date: Sunday 19 January 2019.

Time meeting closed: 2.30pm.