

**Maribyrnong Edible Garden  
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting - 26th August 2023  
MEG, 98 Hortsense Street, Maribyrnong.**

**Attendance:** Mikkel B, Desley P, Michael Cleary, Brett P, Kevin J, Richard P, Michael Collin, Lurine L, Julie McQ, Joel B, Peter S, John U, Kerry T, Elizabeth D, Harry K, Linda V, Dan V, Andrew N, Khandra W, Elliot R, Shuk L, Rachel W, Tom L, Dominic C, Joan K, Chris K, Edward B, Elliot R

**Apologies:** Sara Coward, David Toms, Jan Steinke, Trish Weerdenburg, Geoff Lethbridge, Nazli Eryildirm

Item	Decisions
<p><b>1. <u>Welcome &amp; Acknowledgement of Country.</u></b></p> <p>Meeting opened 10.44am</p> <p>Mikkel Blomley welcomed everyone and acknowledged traditional custodians of the land and waters on which we live and have our beautiful gardens, the Wurundjeri people, members of the Kulin nation and that we pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging.</p>	<p>28 members in attendance - quorum of 10% of members met</p>
<p><b>2. <u>Apologies:</u></b></p> <p>Sara C, David T, Jan S, Nazli E, Geoff L, Trish W</p>	<p><b>Received and noted.</b></p>
<p><b>3. <u>Minutes of the last AGM</u></b></p> <p><b>Resolution:</b> The minutes of the previous AGM held on 1/10/22 be accepted  <b>Moved:</b> Elizabeth Drozd  <b>Seconded:</b> Peter Sibly</p>	<p><b>Resolution carried</b></p>
<p><b>4. <u>Reports</u></b></p> <p><b><u>4.1 Presidents Report - Mikkel Blomley</u></b></p> <p>Mikkel opened his report acknowledging the loss of Vince Inchincoli who passed away 3 days prior to the meeting. He will forever be in our thoughts and prayers.</p> <p>Mikkel opened his address with a warm welcome to all MEG members who turned up today.</p> <p>Mikkel gave a sincere thank you to all of the MEG members who have contributed to the garden this year. Special mentions go to David Toms for driving the compost works, Tom Lucio for making so many things happen in the garden, Peter for the work in the orchard, Richard Paulin for fixing the taps, doors and countless other jobs and Joe for the sausages.</p> <p>Mikkel thanked Chris Karapalidis for his hard work as Treasurer for a few years and to Desley Paulin for taking over in the last 2 months.</p> <p>Mikkel said the committee (Desley, Michael, Chris, Brett and Kevin) this year achieved plenty. A lot of work was done on compliance issues like chasing up unpaid plot fees, working bee attendance has improved due to following up on the penalties which has resulted in a better cash flow hence getting more jobs completed.</p> <p>A special thanks to the committee members who worked with him during the year.  <u>Brett P</u> - Shopped and cooked countless BBQ's and worked on multiple admin projects.  <u>Kevin J</u> - Followed up on all new membership enquiry correspondence, showed new members around the garden and fully inducted them into the MEG guidelines.  <u>Michael C</u> (on the previous committee with Mikkel) - has been a strong, efficient and very capable secretary.</p>	

<p><u>Desley</u> - She has put a vast amount of work and countless hours pursuing the best interests of the garden. Focusing on the grant application which has been a nightmare.</p> <p>A few achievements this year includes sourcing 3 cubic meters of soil for the Rhubarb and peoples gardens, new compost lids, new signage / message boards, an actual street address and spotlights for security.</p> <p>Mikkel acknowledged the challenges we have faced, the floods were a disaster to the wider Maribyrnong area which drastically affected the garden and a fruit fly infestation.</p> <p>Mikkel said “In conclusion, let us embrace the spirit of collegiate camaraderie, collaboration and growth as we proceed with the AGM”.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> that the President’s report be accepted.  <b>Moved:</b> Mike Collin, <b>Seconded:</b> Joel Ballarin</p>	<p><b>Resolution carried</b></p>
<p><b><u>4.2 Treasurer’s Report - Desley Paulin (acting Treasurer)</u></b></p> <p>Last 12 months we recorded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- \$21,076.38 Income (\$7,476.38 income, \$13,000 grants)</li> <li>- \$5,097.06 Expenditures</li> <li>- \$15,979.32 Net</li> <li>- As of 26th July 2023 we have \$25,475.53 in the MEG account</li> </ul> <p>Desley P made the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chris Karapalidis stepped down as treasurer 2 months ago due to time restraints to effectively continuing his job and that she (Desley) has stepped in to continue the good work done</li> <li>• Peter S questioned the \$10,000 grant money and how the remaining \$10,00 is going. Desley said she will address everyone about this after the elections take place</li> <li>• Julie McQueen asked why the CAV fee is so high. Michael C explained that is the fee to lodge the financial status of the garden for two years.</li> <li>• We have all but 2 plot fees paid up at time of meeting.</li> <li>• The MEG banking system was solely handled by internet banking for the first time doing away with cheques.</li> <li>• A Powerpass from Bunnings was set up to give us a better way of paying for things we need and also to get a discount!</li> <li>• Overall there was little in the way of spending due to the WGNF grant holdup and the expectation that it would be dominating our “major projects” effort.</li> <li>• Non working bee attendees were held accountable this year.</li> <li>• All MEG members need to attend at least 6x working bee’s per year. If you are unable to make them please let the committee know.</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolution:</b> That the Treasurer’s Report for 2022/23 financial year be accepted  <b>Moved:</b> Mikkel Blomley  <b>Seconded:</b> Brett Pappas</p>	<p><b>Resolution carried</b></p>
<p><b><u>4.3 Works Report – Mikkel Blomley</u></b></p> <p>Included in the Presidents report</p>	
<p><b><u>5. Election of Committee – Mikkel B + Julie McQueen (Returning Officer).</u></b></p> <p><b>Declaration of proxies:</b> 3 proxies have been received for members who are unable to attend the meeting.</p> <p>Mikkel declared all committee positions vacant and called for nominations for a new committee for the next 12 months.</p>	<p><b>noted</b></p>

<p>The following nominations were received and accepted for the MEG Committee for 2023/24 financial year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mikkel Blomley</li> <li>● Brett Pappas</li> <li>● Shuk Yin Liew</li> <li>● Kevin Jackman</li> <li>● David Toms</li> <li>● Julie McQueen</li> <li>● Desley Paulin</li> </ul> <p>Desley Paulin withdrew her nomination. As the number of nominations equalled the number of vacancies, no vote was required.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> that the 6 nominated members form the new committee of management.  <b>Moved:</b> Joel Ballarin, <b>Seconded</b> Peter Sibly</p>	<p><b>Resolution carried</b></p>
<p><b><u>6. General Business</u></b></p> <p><b><u>6.1 Orchard Project</u></b></p> <p>Desley presented her report.</p> <p>In 2022 we applied for a \$20,000 grant to erect a permanent structure to cover the orchard. We had a quote for a structure that was just under \$20,000 (total grant funding). An application was lodged to the West Gate Tunnel grant under assurance from the builder that a permit will not be required. The Council supported our project.</p> <p>As we moved forward with this process we were hit by several roadblocks. The most devastating one was that we indeed had to have a permit for this structure.</p> <p>Unfortunately to obtain a permit for the structure supplied we would need to get expensive official drawings and the design would need to be altered for council to issue a permit. This then put the price at nearly \$30,000 which we didn't have the funds to do.</p> <p>It was agreed by Council, West Gate Grant and the committee to pursue different ideas to spend the grant money that would benefit the garden and the members. After countless hours of work Desley applied for a new grant for the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Disability ramp at the entrance to the garden</li> <li>2. Run and connect power to the tool shed</li> <li>3. Resurface all the concrete walkways</li> <li>4. Erect a gazebo for additional comfort out of the elements.</li> </ol> <p>We are currently in a situation where the Council and WGNF can not see eye to eye and this is slowing things down. Members were angry that MEG was caught between two big organisations. The power imbalance is clear. Members were concerned about the work required of a volunteer committee and the stress created.</p> <p>Members offered two views - continue or return the money. The Committee will consider the feedback and make a decision, acknowledging the work that has already been undertaken.</p> <p>Members thanked Desley for her report.  Motion to accept the report. <b>Moved:</b> Shuk Lin Yiew <b>Seconded:</b> Mike Collin</p> <p><b><u>6.2 Other projects</u></b></p> <p>Beekeeping handover - Dan Vandenburg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Dan is moving to Queensland and looking to find a replacement</li> <li>● Elliot Roberts has agreed to take over</li> </ul>	<p><b>Resolution carried</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Another person is encouraged to assist Elliot</li> </ul>	
<p><b>7. Other matters</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. John Upsher (3 points to make)       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1. Questioned the \$400 spent on fertilizer as the Rhubarb and Asparagus is not looking great and insufficient materials may be getting used.           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1.1. Mikkel said he bought Blood and Bone fertiliser and then asked John what he thought was the best fertiliser for Rhubarb / Asparagus?</li> </ol> </li> <li>1.2. Concerned about the walkways being cluttered and asked for nothing to be placed besides the members' plots.           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.2.1. Committee acknowledged action was needed and that all plots should be able to get a wheelbarrow down the aisles.</li> </ol> </li> <li>1.3. What is happening with the IBU plots as they look like they have been taken over by gorilla gardeners           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.3.1. The Committee acknowledged this and said they will be used as communal plots going forward. They need the irrigation pipes fixed</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Harry Kerr said the rhubarb needs to be cut back in order for it to grow better</li> <li>3. Andrew Nelson asked if there was a way to improve the walkways       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1. A lot of members spoke about different efforts the garden has tried to fix this. The removal of the carpet was a great success.</li> <li>3.2. It was asked if we use mulch would that improve matters? General response was no as the weeds will grow through quickly</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. Peter Sibly wished to thank Dan for his work with the bees and Desley for her hardwork and determination handling grants.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>7.2 Acknowledgement of Outgoing Committee</b></p> <p>Special thanks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michael Cleary - Secretary</li> <li>• Desley Paulin - Vice President / Sustainability officer / Treasurer</li> <li>• Chris Karapalidis - Treasurer</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Meeting closed at: 11.50am</b></p>	