

Your local voice



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Minutes of General Meeting Wednesday 26 October 2016

Opening of Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7.34pm. The Chair welcomed members and guests

Apologies: John Milne, Shelby Schofield

Guests: Carolyn Le Couteur

20 people attended the meeting.

PRESENTATION

Cedric Bryant – Gardening expert

Mr Bryant gave the meeting a rundown of his experience:

- He designed gardens for about 30 years. Designing about 800 in total. They ranged in size from 10m x 2m to 4 acres.
- He did the whole main street of Yass once the bypass went through.
- He also designed the gardens at the National Film and Sound Archive.
- Prior to this he had a nursery and herb garden in Yass.
- His mother started a nursery in England.
- He has been in Australia since 1964.
- He writes for the Canberra City News.
- He was a garden writer for the Canberra Times until they got rid of all their contributing writers.

It is very important to rid the home garden of chemicals and sprays.

- The Great Barrier Reef is being affected. The coral is being replaced by seaweed.
- In Canberra, feed the plants not the soil. Do not broadcast chemicals.
- When there are storms the chemicals are washed into the storm water drains and this causes blue-green algae in Lake Burley Griffin.

Certified Organic AS6000

- We need to ensure that the chemicals and fertilisers we use are **Certified** organic not just organic.
- Certified organic chook poo does not come from battery hens.

There are several certified organic products that can be used. These include:

Maxicrop Seaweed

- This company was started in 1940 in Norway.
- The Norwegian seaweed is better than Australian seaweed because the water is deeper.

Q. Can it be used for things other than crops?

A. It can be used on any plants.

Nutrog Seamungus

- It comes in liquid or pellet form.
- It is made in South Australia.
- It is a combination of seaweed and chook poo.

Yates Nature's Way

- Certified 100% organic

Eco

- All very good products.
- All certified organic.
- The range includes a fungicide.

Multi guard snail bait

- Uses bran and iron.
- Safe for animals.

Plant specific fertilisers e.g. Rose, Citrus, Azalea

- They all contain Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium (N, P and K).
- You can use any complete fertilisers as they are all very similar.
- You do not need specific plant fertilisers.

Reducing chemicals world wide

- It takes a long time to eliminate chemicals in Australia compared to the UK and the EU.
- Holland grows 65% of the world's ornamental shrubs is going chemical free by 2020.

Effects of chemicals in Australia

- Neonicotinoids are killing bees and frogs.
- The health of bees and frogs are an indication of climate change.
- Chemical going into the soil affect worms, slaters and ants.
- Slaters break down particles in the soil such as wood.

Snail pellets (Defender – green pellets, Baysol – Blue pellets)

- These kill dogs.
- They also kill geckos and blue tongue lizards.

Fruit and vegetables

- When buying them wash them thoroughly.
- This includes bagged lettuce which says it is already washed.

Always follow manufacturer's instructions when using chemicals.

Q. Can Eco oil be used on black scale?

A. Check on Google but the bottle says so. If you taste scale it is sweet. It sucks the sugar out of plants. Ants will get rid of scale. If you kill the scale you will kill the ants. Lady birds love aphids. If you kill the aphids you are killing the ladybirds.

Q. Any suggestions for getting rid of European wasps and encouraging Fig wasps?

A. Things that kill European wasps also kill beneficial wasps and bees. European wasps are getting worse and worse. Phillip Bradbury is an expert and knows the best way to get rid of them.

Q. Is the government going to deal with the wasps?

A. They put you onto Phillip Bradbury.

Q. Do you have any tips for dealing humanely with possums?

A. You cannot touch them. Do not feed them. You can try Deter or Poss Off. If you relocate them you will be fined if you are caught.

Q. I have a large Golden Elm which showed some signs of Elm disease. I had it injected but it is not organic. Is there anything organic that can be used?

A. Not to my knowledge.

Mildew on roses

- Use one part full cream milk to eight parts water.
- Spray under the leaves and on the soil.
- It will probably need to be repeated in ten days.

Suggestion for a climbing rose – Zepherine Drouhin

- It is fragrant
- Cerise pink

A small bottle of Maxicrop was given to everyone who attended the meeting.

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting of 28 September 2016

Motion: That the Minutes of the previous meeting be approved as circulated.

Moved: Chris Wilson

Seconded: Trevor Wilson

Motion carried.

Business arising from the minutes of the meeting of 28 September 2016

- Nil

Treasurer's Report

- \$3459.15 Main Account
- \$3028.94 Fetherston Garden Account
-

Motion: That the Treasurer's Report be approved.

Moved: Chris Wilson

Seconded: Janice Paull

Motion carried.

General Business

Election Update

- The following people were elected as Members for Murrumbidgee:
 - Jeremy Hanson (Lib)
 - Guilia Jones (Lib)
 - Carolyn Le Couteur (Greens)
 - Chris Steele (ALP)
 - Bec Cody (ALP)
- All Members will be sent an open invitation to talk for five minutes at any of our meetings
- WCCC committee is compiling a list of election promises from all parties.

Meeting Venue

- From February 2017 the meetings will move back to the Raiders Club.
- They will be held in the downstairs room which is quieter.

Dog Park

- WCCC told the ACT Government that they did not support any of the three sites offered.
- WCCC suggested Eucumbene Drive below Waragamba Avenue.

Deed of Grant

- Each year the Community Councils sign a Deed of Grant with the ACT Government.
- The funding runs from 1 July to 30 June annually.
- The funding is usually paid in December/January (in arrears).
- The Community Councils asked for the Grant to be paid earlier but the Government took the opportunity to change the Grant.
- Six out of seven Community Councils did not agree with the changes including WCCC and wrote to the Government suggesting some changes.
- The Government has changed the Deed and the changes are being evaluated.

Next meeting

- The ACT public housing renewal taskforce are coming to speak.

Q. What are you going to do with the list of election promises? It could be circulated to all WCCC members on the email list. It could also be given to Members as they come and talk to us.

A. We are still compiling the list. It will be put on the website and on Facebook.

The meeting closed at 8.34pm

Next Meeting Wednesday 30 November 2016
St Jude's Primary School hall
Mulley Street, Holder