

Cooroy Community Gardens meeting minutes

Where: Cooroy Community Gardens site & Cooroy RSL

When: Sunday 1 October 2017

Attendees: Wendy Strathearn; Caroline Whittle-Herbert; Phillip McManus; Val Wilson; Vic Bateman; Tim Peek

Apologies: N/a

Discussion: As follows

Phil explained the history of the original community gardens and the establishment of them by people who were visionary and motivated. He said the original intention was:

- Have their own facility
- Income producing
- own the gardens
- have an open garden
- connection for the whole community through the gardens

Phil showed us around the garden and told us of the businesses in the community who have helped with donations and help:

- Bonnel landscape supplies
- transport
- Bunnings

Wendy:

- community garden should be about community
- should have a village atmosphere
- be of service to the community

Caroline:

- community gardens should be a service to people
- should be developed with Permaculture principals such as Dan has explained
- a place of learning

Phil:

- it would be good to re-establish links to the community

Val:

- It would be good to have a space to sit and think

Wendy:

- First we need a core group, a steering committee

Tim

- 12 month lease to start
- gives us time to prepare for the future
- we can't make any permanent structures until we are approved to start a new lease
- I have started the process by negotiating for available grants
- The next grant round will be in February and it will take us until then to get prepared

Vic:

- We need to start a Sunday garden clean-up

Wendy:

- We need the document for the lease of the gardens
- We need to get the water sorted out
- Need to speak with a pump company for advice and support
- Electric pump is in the stores

Tim:

- We may have free access to town water from the Council

Phil:

- Grants would be available to buy irrigation equipment
- We would be able to get access for water in the meantime via Badminton

Vic:

- Volunteered to follow up with the badminton group for access to:
 - Water
 - Electricity

Caroline:

- We need to have a vision to promote the Community Gardens

Val:

- Maybe we should call them the Village Gardens

Wendy:

- It would be good to develop a village atmosphere
- My vision is to have a place that is lush, inviting, inspiring and productive

Caroline:

- The gardens must be:
 - Educational
 - Family oriented
 - Environmentally conscious
 - Healthy

Wendy:

- The gardens to encompass the fact that 'soil health exceeds everything'

Phil:

- Showed the original plans for the current gardens including the plans for a meeting centre.

Caroline:

- Made suggestion that any new buildings be made in a simple way with natural materials
- Told of the traditional buildings that her and Giles made in Africa

Vic:

- We need a steering committee set up
- Decisions to be made

Actions:

- Tim to contact Kylie Finnigan at Noosa Council regarding the signed document for the lease of the gardens
- Vic to contact badminton regarding access to water and electricity