

**MINUTES OF A WORKSHOP ON DEVELOPING A PLAN FOR THE
TAROONA NEIGHBOURHOOD GARDEN**

2-4pm, Sunday, 31 October 2010

Taroona Community Hall

Present:

Jill Hickie, Ruth Butler, Philip Pepe, Terri Kelly, Marian Fitzgerald, Georgie Seddon, Deirdre Brown, Lyn Long, John Hurn, Attracta Gaskell, Nel Smith, Tina Curtis, Cawley Farrell, Ian Johnson, Sonya Enkelmann.

Apologies: Gwen Smit

Facilitator: Tim O'Loughlin

1. Session purpose: to work on site design and planning for the future of TNG.
2. History of garden (Tim)
3. Tim provided a PowerPoint presentation which outlined the history of TNG. TNG has 52 beds now
4. Other community gardens: (Tim)
5. The presentation also considered other community gardens eg Kingston Meds Shed Garden, Taroona High School and Cygnet Community Garden.
6. Composting: (John)
John outlined the purpose and design of the compost bays using the large site plan erected on the wall for reference.

He has obtained quotes for installing farm gates which will back onto the 4 compost/delivery bays to assist in improving the efficiency of delivery of materials. The gates have been quoted at \$320/gate but with digging in of the posts the cost increased to \$620/gate ie overall cost of \$1240.

It was suggested that volunteer labor /working bee would be better for putting the posts in which would reduce the cost to \$640 for the gates. Sonya offered her husband (Andrew) to assist in doing this.

Questions were asked what can and can't go in the veg matter bay.

Currently twitch and seed heads are removed. Twitch treatment discussed ie soaking them in a bucket, drying them and chopping them up. *General agreement that soaking them in an enclosed and lidded bucket or bin good approach. Must be securely lidded to prevent mosquito infestations.*

7. Worm Farm: (Deirdre)

Deidre reported on the worm farming process. All seems to be going well. Takes about a year to fill a bay

Lime is used to control the vinegar fly. Also mentioned that autumn leaves and dry veg matter is helping in the control of the flies as well.

Suggested that worm farm site is too hot and it should be relocated to be a shady spot on the other side of the shed. But also contrary this suggested that its current location is easy for access and delivery of kitchen waste. Yet to be resolved.

8. Bed Design and Safety (Tim)

Tim provided some images of alternative bed designs as some of the current beds have cutting hazards with the metal and edges and also trip hazards with the timber corners. Suggested that hose piping or PVC pipe Sikaflexed on the metal edges was one way of overcoming the cutting hazard. Also suggested that posts dug into the inside corners of beds would allow the tin sheets to be secured could alleviate the tripping hazards and allow the removal of the outer posts. *Action - Individuals to experiment.*

9. Community beds (Tim)

Tim showed a plan of current planting layout of the two community beds divided into 4 patches.

Sonya stated that as a new member she didn't know what to do about taking produce from these beds.

Suggested a section needs to go on the website "FAQs (Frequently asked questions) eg How much compost can you take? Who plants the community beds? Collecting produce from the community beds. Suggested green flags need to be erected saying "harvest me" or "eat me".

Discussion has about the need for block planting and rotational planting. *Agreed that block planting will lead to much greater productivity, and also easier to manage. Also educational signs needed about what rotational planting means.*

From this discussion suggested that it would good to have workshops each time a block planting is carried out.

Ruth also suggested that the cost of the seed for the community beds be funded by TNG.

Suggested that the block planting community beds also become a demonstration garden.

10. Hothouse (Marion)

Experimental section.

Marion outlined the role of the hothouse. It has two sections: one is divided into 17 sections for people who want to grow lots and have their own section; the other is for people who want to use the greenhouse a little bit. They should use the shared areas, which are labelled as "anyone" areas.

Seedbank is found in drawer in the shed.

Seed raising medium has been purchased for growing seedlings. Old mix is to be thrown in the compost bins.

Nel suggested Horticultural Supplies sell a cheap seed raising medium.

Question asked about if it is in the right location. Agreed yes.

Needs a sign encouraging people to water in there regularly, as the plants dry out easily.

11. Experimental beds (Marion)

Marion outlined that she has established some experimental beds on the northern fenceline— recycled pallet beds for shallow-rooted crops, and easy access beds for children, the elderly, or possibly, for associate members to have a dabble. (Both involve heavily mulched fruit trees, in the hope that moisture retention and weed suppression will be improved.). Salad, radishes and spring onions flowers and herbs are being grown in these beds.

Suggested that these beds could be for associate members to get a taste of gardening.

12. Border Beds

Discussion had about the *southern fenceline border bed* and the weedy state of the raspberries and strawberries. Do they need weeding and mulching? *Suggested this could be done very gently as otherwise the roots will be disturbed now they are actively growing.*

Potatoes have been planted on outer *southern boundary bed*.

Roadside bed

Nel has planted weeded the herbs and planted some strawberries.

Discussion about where and what to plant in the plants already planted in this area. No resolution.

13. The Garden Plan (Jill)

A workshop session was then facilitated by Jill to determine what structures, and ideas should be implemented in the new garden design. The outcome of this session is summarized in the attached table.

The core ideas that were identified in the garden survey were listed . The group then went through the process of identifying and listing further ideas.

Participants then identified (through the use of coloured sticky dots) which ideas they supported or did not support. An assessment of this process led to ranking and prioritization of each issue with consideration of implementation and location within the garden. The outcome of the process is outlined in the attached table.

PRIORITISATION OF IDEAS FOR THE GARDEN

PRIORITY	IDEA	Timing	How?	Who?	Garden location
1	Community hub area to including:	Now (within 3 months)	A planning meeting to be held at the garden soon to work through what is needed, why we need it A working group will then bring these options together and report back.	Working group: Terry, Marian, Georgie, Tim, Ruth (and anyone else who volunteers)	Central focus area where we currently meet May include consideration of an extension area
	Shelter from shade and/or rain				
	Rustic long table and bench seats (3)				
	Wood-fired pizza oven and/or BBQ (4)				
	Watertank for harvesting water and reuse (2) (harvesting water from any roof but maybe located closer to the shed)				
	Shade on sandpit (5)				
	Extension of the garden (no score)				
3	Signage including:				
	Entry signs	Now	Place ad in TCA looking for volunteer for naming sign.	Jill	Main entrance on shed
	Sign at side gate produced by Possums	Now	Organise production of sign by Possums for side gate.	Lyn	Side gate
	Art sign promoting garden	Soon	Someone to talk with	?	Main entrance

PRIORITY	IDEA	Timing	How?	Who?	Garden location
			Rosie McKeand		
	Clay Herb signs	Now	Ruth to organise	Ruth	Herb garden plots
	"Harvesting" signs	Needed now			
	"Community beds" signs	Needed now			
3	Artwork and/or sculptures	Longer term	Idea of promoting as part of the Seaside Festival Further discussion required	?	Everywhere!
3	Mandala garden	Short term	Investigation of options	Nel and Tina	
4	Public toilet at possums playground (TCA and Hall committee to pursue)				
5	Bike rack	Med term	No discussion		Rear of shed
	Other ideas that were given low score				
	Quality furniture (see bench above)				
	Beautiful garden (Flowers etc)				Everywhere

PRIORITY	IDEA	Timing	How?	Who?	Garden location
	Child friendly garden beds	Happening now	Construction	Marian	Perimeter beds
	Herb garden (s)		Already underway		
	Drinking fountain				
	Dog bowl		Do it now.		
	Chickens		Not favoured at all.		
	Gold fish		Not favoured at all.		
	Improved design and management of parking area		Bigger issue to do with overall reserve management by Council		