

## **CHUM CREEK LANDCARE – AGM MINUTES- 17/7/19**

**PRESENT-** Committee - Evelyn, Michael, Phil, Ken, Mark, Susi, Nella. Other members – 16.

### **PRESIDENTS REPORT-** Evelyn

Chum Creek Land care Committee continues to organise social and informative events. A major highlight for our year was the barbeque held at Ken and Beth Bagley's place in February. We had an excellent attendance, great food and lots of opportunity to socialize. From that event we heard some ideas about what people would like in the way of workshops or activities. One idea was about no-dig gardens and wicking beds and so we hope you enjoy the speaker on these topics tonight. Another successful event was organized with our facilitator, Anne Fitzpatrick, and the Northern Yarra Landcare Network – a Deer Forum last month. I will talk more about the follow up from the forum later. Anne also organized a visit to the Edible Forest in Dixon's Creek and the excellent Back to the Billabong event in Yarra Glen which some of our members attended.

#### Volunteers

We continued to have student volunteers from Billanook School who are available to do projects on properties like weeding, clearing up for the fire season, and wood stacking. A group of the students put in a good day's work on Ken and Mary's property trying to get rid of thistles and debris to reduce the fire hazard. If you would like to have a group of the students help you with a task that you never seem to get around to in September or November please contact Phill Hipwell who is in charge of volunteers.

#### Ainsworth/Chum Adopt a Road Project

This area is a wider road verge area which has become rather weed infested. We approached VicRoads and found out about the Adopt-A-Road program and finally have permission to clean up and plant this area as well as have litter clean up activities from Heath Road to Lowes Road. We met with shire staff from the Bushlands team who had kindly treated the blackberries. We plan to start work clearing out the blackberries so that native plants might be released. We will let people know if you would like to be involved. For the record I have seen platypus on a number of occasions in Chum Creek near this spot.

#### Bird Pamphlet

After lots of discussion and looking at various bird pamphlet examples, Michael, Tom and Brad have been working on this pamphlet which will cover about 80-100 mainly native birds in the Chum Creek Healesville area. We felt this project would be a useful resource for residents as many of us enjoy the birds around our properties and the information will hopefully increase our appreciation of birds. We would like to have an activity with Chum Creek primary school around this theme in the spring and also potentially a bird walk for members. We are working on this project in conjunction with Birdlife Yarra Valley.

#### Grants

Thanks to Michael we have received three grants- two from Melbourne Water and one from the Port Phillip and Westernport Catch Management Area. The first is a small grant of \$500 which helps to pay for our insurance and meetings. The other two grants totalling \$4000 was to pay for our workshops but mostly to have the data from our creek surveys to be digitised on to a GIS map. This would be a good way of recording the information we collected on significant trees, endangered species, weed infestations and creek stability. Currently this work is being done by Healesville Plants and hopefully will be available in the spring. Michael spent quite a bit of time last summer ground truthing the data we had previously collected.

#### Membership

We currently have 68 members from 43 households. If you know of any-one who has moved away please let us know as we don't want to be paying unnecessary insurance cover for them.

#### Communications

Michael has once again produced four excellent newsletters and hopefully people attended some of the events he let us know about. If you would like to contribute an article for the newsletter please let Michael know.

#### Future Plans

Following up from the Deer Forum is important. What we learned that day is that probably the professional shooter route is the best way to go because most of our properties are below 32 hectares in size and therefore a public place permit is required. Getting this is onerous for volunteer shooters. A number of members have said they would be willing to pay to employ a professional shooter. Ideally it is best if one has a number of adjoining properties involved. There are still lots of details to be worked out and it would be best to organize another meeting to specifically deal with where we would like to proceed. We will take names of people who are interested in being involved in a culling program in Chum Creek.

As I mentioned before we hope to have activities around the Bird pamphlet and Anne is interested in running a Gardens for Wildlife workshop in Yarra Glen. This has been a very popular program for people with smaller properties.

#### Acknowledgements

Once again I would like to thank all the committee members for their efforts this year. Attending meetings, planning and helping make decisions are important in directing our work. A number of members, Nella, Mark and Michael attended extra meetings on the Chum Creek Fuel Management Plan, Melbourne Water's Healthy Waterway strategy and Healesville's Safer Together plan. Again thanks to Michael for his work on our grants, newsletters and field work. Susi has kept our finances in order and Phil has coordinated our volunteer program. Nella has relieved me of minute taking which was much appreciated. Again thanks to Ken and Beth for hosting and organizing our barbeque.

I would like to encourage people to join our committee. We have about 6 meetings a year and certainly if there is a project that you could see which would be worthwhile in Chum Creek we would encourage you to be involved.

Previous minutes approved Phil, seconded Michael

#### **TREASURERS REPORT- Susi**



### Treasurer's Report AGM 17th July 2019

Chum Creek Landcare Group  
c/- 490 Chum Creek Rd,  
Healesville. 3777.

President: Evelyn Feller  
Membership: 68 members from 43 households

Number of committee meetings held for the Year 2018/2019

Balance b/f 1/7/18		\$10,294.57	
Income			
Grants – Melbourne Water	\$4,345.00		
Grant - Port Phillip	\$500.00		
Bank Interest	\$42.78		
Total credits		\$4,887.78	
			\$15,182.35
Expenses			
Accounting Fees	\$165.00		
Catering	\$98.43		
Membership/subscriptions	\$501.90		
Less expenses		\$765.33	
			\$14,417.02
Transfer of money into a Term Deposit		\$8,000.00	
Balance as per BB 30/6/19			\$6,417.02
Term Deposit	\$8,000.00		
interest on reinvestment at 2.10%	\$74.10		
Term Deposit /review date 29/9/19			\$8,074.10

I have made an examination of the financial records of the above Chum Creek Landcare Group and find this receipts/payments table is properly drawn up and presents a correct view of the financial standing of the group.

President Evelyn Feller Treasurer Blaise  
Date 16/7/19

**LANDCARE FACILITATOR-** Anne Fitzpatrick

Gardens for Wildlife and Junior Landcare.

**RETURNING OFFICER-** Anne

Nominations for President, Treasurer and Committee members opened. All previous office holders and committee members nominated, seconded and reinstated, plus a new committee member welcomed, Brad.

**SPEAKERS-** Peter and Silvia from Telopea Mountain Permaculture & Nursery Monbulk

**WICKING BEDS-**

- needs a flat site, protect environment from excess nutrients, set away from Pine trees and Gums, no good for fruit trees, shallow root zone plants only.

- Cut IBC in half for 2, use ACQ treated pine or "Sienna" from Bunnings, wooden fruit bins won't last, old water tanks are good, "E Wood" (from Close the loop) also good but \$\$

**NO DIG GARDENS -**

- 3 sleeper height is good or higher if you are older!!
- If treated pine, line with heavy plastic
- Make them portable
- "Key Hole" design is good for access to all areas (reach no further than 60cm from any edge)
- Brick or stone surrounds work too
- Start with 6 layers of newspaper, straw, manure, straw, manure...
- Plant close to avoid weeds and plant into the last layer of straw in a small pocket of soil.
- Plant tomatoes when they are pot bound and starving after Cup day Nov
- A compost pit or tower can be placed in the middle of the No Dig Garden to encourage worm activity.
- A worm tower can be made from a pipe and placed in the garden. Needs holes in the pipe and a lid, and buried half way up.
- Always mix mushroom mulch with your own soil. 12:1 carbon to nitrogen.

**FRUIT TREES-** - auger a hole 1m deep 60cm wide. Biscuit of straw at the bottom, 2 shovelfuls of manure, then soil. Roots won't touch manure until later.

- Design your plantings well. Think of tree requirements before you plant- sun, moisture, wind, shape, pollination....
- Airflow through trees is better than chemicals for pest and fungal controls.
- Espalier worth thinking about.