



**Warrnambool
Community
Garden**

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

Contents

Convenor's report to members	Page 3
AGM 2023 Agenda	Page 6
AGM 2022 Minutes	Page 7
2024 Balance sheet	Page 9
2024 Profit and loss	Page10
Appendix: Proposed changes to constitution	Page11

Images

Cover: Children taking part in a Sprouts Club Kids in the Kitchen session.

Page 3

- Members working on the renovated all abilities nursery gardening area.
- Some of the work on the frog pond.
- Sheridan Rose, Heather Ryan, Jimmy Buscombe and part of the new mural.
- Dave Mitchell, Wayne Saunders and Ngawan Sherpa with our new mower.
- Elder Robbie Lowe Sr telling a story with art.

Page 4

- Laden table at Kids in the Kitchen Sprouts Club session.
- Maggie Dwyer, Keith Fisher and Marg Kenna at the Bunnings BBQ.
- Courtney Mathew after receiving Warrnambool's Young Citizen of the Year Award.
- Our new shed under construction.
- Participants enjoying a plant cutting workshop.

Page 5

- A visiting group of students explore the herb patch.
- An October open day snapshot.
- Site managers Gilles Gundermann and Dave Mitchell working on the Sprouts area.
- Some new chooks arrived during the year.
- Perry and Rose Cho celebrate a \$6,000 surprise with Heather Ryan

Convenor's report 2024



It's been another year of amazing effort from our members, volunteers, partner organisations and broader community. This report touches on some highlights, but for a detailed look browse through our newsletters at wcg3280.org.au/about/resources

Projects have left a physical mark on the garden

Every year there is a lot to report. Some years much of this is not obvious, but in 2024 there have been a lot of things that have left a visible mark in many positive ways.



For much of the year there has been a renovation of our all-abilities gardening area, now complete and with many design improvements for usability. The original area was built in 2009 and was falling apart. We thank the A.L Lane Foundation, Fletcher Jones Family Foundations and Perry and Rose Cho for their amazing support.

Member Attila Gaal has been working steadily on a complete redesign of our pond to make it a better environment for frogs and limit invasion by kikuyu grass. Work continues, but the pond looks very different. It's been a labour of love but a huge effort by Attila with help from others.



A community grant from Warrnambool Racing Club has helped install blinds on the west end of the HUB veranda. This is a trial but has proved very popular. In the same area, paths in the herb garden and HUB area have been resurfaced from our own funds.

A Regional Development Victoria grant has allowed us to build a bigger shed and purchase a tractor. The shed is now up, and the tractor will be finalised soon. As well as manual handling there are many other ways these improvements will help the community into the future.



The Sprouts Club children's garden had a serious extension. Using funding from a range of sources and amazing support from Perry and Rose Cho the concept plan by Kirsty Williams has been completed with some additions. An amazing mural now adorns the garden pavilion and water tank by Jimmy Buscombe and Sheridan Rose.

Late in 2023 Warrnambool Garden Equipment Repairs owner Wayne Saunders donated a new ride-on mower to the garden. Our old mower was starting to need more repairs from wear and tear. One more example of the amazing community support we receive.



Peek Whurrong Elder Robbie Lowe Sr has completed new artwork on the reflection seat. His story tells of the atrocities in the former wetland we overlook.



Events and news that are not quite so visible

A Warrnambool City Council healthy eating grant has seen the Sprouts Club run monthly kids cooking classes for free. These sessions have been extremely popular and booked out almost every month. We're hopeful that this 12-month pilot program can be sustainable into the future. The broader Sprouts Club activities have gone from strength to strength, with two sessions now running most Wednesdays.



A Bunnings BBQ in April raised quite a bit of money towards our running costs. Community support with donations of food and drink was amazing and we remain thankful for this continued generosity.

Deputy Convenor Courtney Mathew was recognised as Warrnambool's Young Citizen of the Year in February. Courtney had an amazing year as a leader in 2023 including setting up of Fruit Rescue and has continued with even more great work this year.



With the Japanese Miura Friendship Garden right next door there's been speculation for years we would get more involved with it. This year there were opportunities to combine with the Miura Matsuri in May supported with Multicultural Victoria funding, and our open day. We have been involved in discussions with the council around increasing the profile and use of the friendship garden.

In October we had our first open day since well before COVID. An estimated 500 people came through the gates. It was great to see many people who helped the garden get started in the early days, but even more wonderful was the sheer number of families.

Both the garden and I were recognised in the 2024 Wannon Volunteer Awards. It was great recognition for the garden especially and followed on from being a finalist in the Victorian 2023 Volunteer Awards for volunteering innovation.



We moved to a corporate not-for-profit Google account with more cloud storage and email accounts with our domain name (e.g. convenor@wccg3280.org.au)

Incursions, excursions and joint projects

We continued to share our message with many groups as they visited or we visited them. We hosted Deakin University business students for project work. School groups came in for activities including St Joseph's Primary, Kings College, East Warrnambool Primary, and Hawkesdale P-12.



Members have spoken at groups including Probus Clubs, Bunnings Garden Club, Archie Graham Community Centre, Warrnambool Library and the Volunteer Expo. Many groups have come through for tours, activities or discussions on ways we can help each other including councils *Green Futures Now* and men's parenting group, Worn Gundidj Nursery, Department of Justice, Department of Regional Development, Wellways, Western District Food Share, Repair Café, Port Fairy Garden Club and others.



Workshops and public education

We have continued running a broad range of workshops and really need a volunteer coordinator to streamline this. Included were candle making, growing plants from cuttings and seeds, permaculture, landscape painting, composting, preserves, home irrigation systems, wicking beds, garden tool maintenance, making flower frogs and growing orchids.

Garden leaders

We have people showing leadership in all sorts of ways, large and small. This is especially true in mentoring, guiding and supporting others. If you have helped anyone in any way this year, I thank you. Amongst this a few people need special mention.



Our 2024 committee was Courtney Mathew (deputy convenor), Sabine Schreiber (secretary), David Baker (treasurer), general committee members Christine Morriss, Sue McCallum, Geoff Rollinson and Gilles Gundermann and me. Heather Ryan filled a vacancy after the AGM. Sincere thanks to all committee members this year, especially those on the executive and those who led teams on site. Some committee members have indicated they will not run again for 2025, and we will be sad to lose Sabine, David, Christine, Sue and Heather. At the same time, we are excited to have some new people coming on board.



There are other leaders in the garden apart from the committee. Again, I urge you to browse the newsletters for more detail, and look for names like Dave Mitchell, Gilles Gundermann, Heather Ryan, Courtney Mathew, Kate O'Brien, Bruce Campbell, Geoff Rollinson, Keith Fisher and Terry Lowen amongst many others.

Moving into 2025

Running alongside the multiple projects, incursions, excursions... has been *business as usual*. The weekly, monthly and seasonal patterns of the garden continue. Some of the projects and other work enhance this, but it is about people coming together to do things with a common theme around gardening, sustainability and the environment. These patterns will continue into the future.



Some projects are ongoing including the second part of the quarry redevelopment – the gully and toilets. A group led by Bruce Campbell has started looking at rejuvenating the market.

If the proposed constitutional changes are accepted, there will be work in adding tax deductibility to our charitable status. The financials show a deficit the last couple of years. This will need to be addressed and the market may be part of this.



While I will stand for a committee position in 2025, after six years as convenor it's time for a fresh face. I've found my time as convenor very rewarding and thank everyone I have worked with for this. I hope I have done the job in a reasonable way, although that is something for others to judge. I love this community and this place and look forward to its progress into the future.

Rob Porter - Convenor 2024



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Agenda

Annual General Meeting

Warrnambool Community Garden

Tuesday 12th November 2024

5.30pm at the HUB Building

1. Welcome and acknowledgements
2. Present:
3. Apologies:
4. Business:
 - 4.1 Confirm the minutes of the previous annual general meeting and of any special general meeting held since then.
 - 4.2 Receive and consider:
 - (i) the annual report on the activities during the preceding year; and
 - (ii) the financial statements for the preceding financial year submitted by the committee in accordance with Part 7 of the Act.
 - 4.3 Confirm or vary the amounts of the annual subscription.
 - 4.4 Proposed resolution: To approve and adopt the new Association Rules as presented.
 - 4.5 Election of committee members and office bearers.
5. Close meeting
6. Next meeting



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Minutes

Annual General Meeting

Warrnambool Community Garden

Tuesday 14th November 2023

7pm at the HUB Building

1. Welcome and acknowledgements

2. Present

Rob Porter, Sabine Schreiber, Christine Morriss, David Mitchell, Geoff Rollinson, Dallas Smoother, Heather Ryan, Courtney Mathew, Terry Lowen, Gilles Gundermann, Adele Kenneally, Brian Cook, Denise Dalton, David Baker.

3. Apologies

Maggie Dwyer, Julie Eagles, Helen Potts, Lisa McLeod, Peter Jackman, Sue McCallum, Leolie Rentsch,

Moved: Terry Lowen, **Seconded:** Geoff Rollinson, **Carried.**

4. Business:

4.1 Confirm the minutes of the previous annual general meeting and of any special general meeting held since then.

Moved: Courtney Mathew, **Seconded:** Terry Lowen, **Carried.**

4.2 Receive and consider:

- (i) the annual report of the Convenor on the activities during the preceding year (attached): The convenor, Rob Porter, presented the annual report, still buzzing from the amazing success of the quarry's first event in the amphitheatre 3 days prior. Rob provided a summary of the many activities of the previous year, the maintenance of paths, edges, and roads, the sprouts club, the market, the grants and awards received, the workshops, tours and educational events held, and the connections to community fostered.

Moved: Brian Cook, **Seconded:** Geoff Rollinson, **Carried.**

(ii) the financial statements for the preceding financial year were submitted by the committee in accordance with Part 7 of the Act (included as part of the annual report attached).

Moved: Gilles Gundermann, **seconded:** Brian Cook, **Carried.**

4.3 Election of committee members and office bearers:

2023-2024 committee: Convenor: Rob Porter; Deputy Convenor: Courtney Mathew; Treasurer: David Baker; Secretary: Sabine Schreiber; General Committee Members: Geoff Rollinson, Suzanne McCallum, Christine Morriss, Gilles Gundermann.

One casual vacancy still to be filled.

(i) Confirmed the amounts of the annual subscriptions and plot fees to remain at the 2022-2023 rates, noting that the Membership renewal dates have been amended to align with the financial year and WCG Policies and Guidelines (October 2023) have been updated accordingly. This means that membership fees for 2023-2024 will be pro rata from November 2023 to 30 June 2024, with fees for 2024-2025 being invoiced in June 2024 for 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

Motion: the AGM endorses the change to fee timelines, including a partial fee from November 2023 to June 2024. **Moved:** David Baker, **Seconded:** Gilles Gundermann, **Carried.**

4.4 Other business: Nil

5 Meeting closed: 7:35pm

6 Next meeting: Tuesday; 12 November 2024

Balance Sheet

Warrnambool Community Garden Inc

As at 30 June 2024

Cash Basis

	30 JUNE 2024	30 JUNE 2023	30 JUNE 2022
Assets			
Bank			
Card Account	1,172.03	1,208.60	1,039.59
Community Working Account	1,512.65	3,422.72	22,718.80
Investment Account	321,768.98	235,927.17	98,715.55
Total Bank	324,453.66	240,558.49	122,473.94
Current Assets			
Market float	250.00	250.00	250.00
Total Current Assets	250.00	250.00	250.00
Total Assets	324,703.66	240,808.49	122,723.94
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Grant income c/forward	261,235.95	174,393.43	42,791.68
GST	(503.50)	(2,757.13)	(199.00)
PAYG Withholdings Payable	2,002.00	1,764.00	1,780.00
Rounding	-	(0.25)	-
SWCE Solar Loan	6,000.00	7,000.00	8,000.00
Total Current Liabilities	268,734.45	180,400.05	52,372.68
Total Liabilities	268,734.45	180,400.05	52,372.68
Net Assets	55,969.21	60,408.44	70,351.26
Equity			
Current Year Earnings	(4,439.23)	(9,942.82)	4,175.29
Retained Earnings	60,408.44	70,351.26	66,175.97
Total Equity	55,969.21	60,408.44	70,351.26

Profit and Loss

Warrnambool Community Garden Inc

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Cash Basis

	2024	2023	2022
Trading Income			
Contra	2,424.40	(2,424.40)	-
Gifts & Donations	5,652.94	2,083.80	2,288.09
Grants	125,176.27	177,303.82	8,991.18
Interest Income	7,731.05	3,949.91	185.49
Key issue	(145.23)	110.45	2,320.03
Membership Fee	2,487.01	4,115.67	4,660.92
Other Revenue	2,372.62	210.00	10,199.92
Rental - Hub	902.72	819.10	150.00
Rental - Plot	2,115.00	4,279.08	4,361.82
Sales	32,225.62	35,546.21	43,431.42
Solar Tariff	489.96	481.53	782.53
Total Trading Income	181,432.36	226,475.17	77,371.40
Cost of Sales			
Cost of Goods Sold	8,494.03	11,765.78	13,508.19
Total Cost of Sales	8,494.03	11,765.78	13,508.19
Gross Profit	172,938.33	214,709.39	63,863.21
Other Income			
Grant income brought forward	(86,842.52)	(131,601.75)	43,222.56
Music support	(168.76)	(66.36)	632.98
Total Other Income	(87,011.28)	(131,668.11)	43,855.54
Operating Expenses			
Advertising	49.89	-	-
Bank Fees	63.96	8.00	-
Cleaning	-	50.67	347.25
Consulting & Accounting	-	-	54.64
Freight & Courier	69.55	-	18.00
General Expenses	2,018.78	2,604.06	5,589.57
Grant Expenditure	41,636.37	46,529.98	52,213.74
Insurance	2,892.13	2,254.77	1,770.95
Light, Power, Heating	1,012.35	918.86	577.53
Office Expenses	1,774.58	1,788.05	2,026.48
Printing & Stationery	-	-	22.73
Rent	258.21	245.04	245.04
Repairs and Maintenance	5,365.37	8,027.84	8,358.15
Stripe Fees	5.08	-	-
Subscriptions	691.54	1,112.52	574.52
Superannuation	3,344.49	2,758.48	2,835.00
Telephone & Internet	249.06	163.68	163.68
Wages and Salaries	30,934.66	26,522.15	28,947.20
Write off/adjustments	0.26	-	(201.02)
Total Operating Expenses	90,366.28	92,984.10	103,543.46
Net Profit	(4,439.23)	(9,942.82)	4,175.29

Appendix: Proposed constitution changes

Why we are asking you to approve the changes in our constitution:

Warrnambool Community Garden is now registered as a charity. Our constitution does not reflect this nor is it specific about our charitable purposes. Linked to being a charity is the possibility of tax deductibility for donations and other financial benefits. To access this our constitution must clearly state that we have open membership and, if we wind up at any stage, that our remaining assets are transferred to legally accepted organisations. We've updated some membership fee clauses to allow us to use improved invoicing based on new technology. We've included reference to privacy laws with respect to the membership register.

Changes to be considered:

1. Insert new point 2: **Warrnambool Community Garden's purpose is to advance mental health and prevent or alleviate social isolation by providing a place where people can come together and share activities and projects. Examples include:**
2. Point 6 is replaced by: **The Association has open membership, and anyone can apply to join the Association as a member.**
3. Point 8 and 9 are deleted, as the content is now covered by new point 8: **A person can join the association by:**
 - a. **completing the membership form, which will be tabled at a committee meeting**
 - b. **paying the appropriate membership fee (if any), and**
 - c. **the Secretary entering the person's name, address, type of membership and date they became a member on the members register.**

The Association must inform the person when their membership has started, and if they have to pay any annual subscription fee, which will be renewed annually. Fees (if any) should be paid within 28 days of invoicing.

4. Point 11 last sentence is replaced by: **This includes members who do not give notification but do not renew their membership when renewals are due.**
5. Point 15 has reference to privacy laws added: *"A member may, subject to rules 15 to 17, inspect the rules of the Association, general meeting minutes, relevant documents (as defined in the Act) and the members register (modified to meet privacy laws) at a reasonable time".*
6. Last sentence of Point 19 is deleted.
7. The winding up clause (point 65) is replaced by: **If the Association has DGR status when it is wound up or if DGR status is revoked (whichever occurs first), any surplus of the following assets shall be transferred to another organisation, fund, authority or institution with similar objects to which income tax deductible gifts can be made:**
 - **gifts of money or property for the principal purpose of the organisation**
 - **contributions made in relation to an eligible fundraising event held for the principal purpose of the organisation, and**
 - **money received by the organisation because of such gifts and contributions**
8. Clause 65 is amended to: **If the Association is wound up and does not have DGR status, any surplus assets must not be distributed to the members or former members of the Association, and (subject to the Act and any Court order) must be distributed to another organisation or organisations with similar purpose, so long as that other organisation or organisations are not carried on for the profit or gain of its members.**