



WARRNAMBOOL COMMUNITY GARDEN

ANNUAL REPORT

2021



2021 CONVENOR'S REPORT TO MEMBERS

I present the Convenor's Report for 2021 to members with a mixture of relief that the worst of COVID's impacts should be behind us and pride in what our members have achieved despite the impacts of the epidemic over the last 20 months.

A number of major initiatives have advanced WCG's development and allowed us to further fulfil our purpose. Some have carried on from previous years, some have run just in this year, and some have started this year and will continue into the future. At the same time the Garden has continued to provide an outlet for members and the broader community through COVID lockdowns and restrictions, even while many other organisations were unable to operate. A combination of being a food producer and having almost all of our activities outdoors allowed this to happen. Nevertheless, we have been impacted and it has been gratifying to see how adaptable our members have been. For the most part the descriptions below barely skim the surface in describing what has been happening – looking back through our monthly newsletters will give much more detail - see [our website](#) to find these.

Finishing 2020:

Our Garden year runs from November to November (when we have our Annual General Meeting), although financial reporting is July 1 to June 30. This puts Christmas 2020 in our current year. It was pleasing to be able to provide a space where a number of other organisations could have their Christmas get together – some had not met for nearly a year. These included WET (Water for East Timor), Warrnambool Orchid Club, Warrnambool Gem Club, and Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare.



The Market:

The Garden Market has continued to provide a number of very positive outcomes for our organisation. It is a major gateway for the wider community to connect with WCG, especially during the summer months with the atmosphere created by music and the ambience of the location. It is an outlet for the products of several WCG communal activities that members and volunteers enjoy doing. The income from the market is helping fulfil WCG's aim to be financially self-sufficient including being able to employ a part time Site Manager. We are proud to have supported several new

small-scale local enterprises from start-up. It is also very pleasing (and part of our purpose for existing) to increase wider community awareness of seasonal food production. We are now in our fourth "summer season", and we definitely have regular customers looking for our produce and enjoying the site. From spring 2020 to spring 2021 we have greatly increased the number and variety of seedlings, cuttings and other plants for sale. The peak of these sales happens when produce is at its lowest in spring, so this is a great outcome. We are lucky to have lots of space to grow produce, but the logistics behind raising thousands of plants is proving complex. With overlapping participants, the "Growing Green Thumbs" in the hothouse and the Herb Group and have been the main drivers behind this huge increase in plant production. They should be proud of their achievements.



New and continuing projects – Communication:

Three grants received either late last year or early this year have resulted in an overlapping series of developments. These have essentially been based around information and communication, both for members and the broader public. A **Let's Stay Connected** grant from the state government has resulted in the development of a WCG App. The intention of this is to provide a social media platform without many of the downsides of the apps of giant companies. The grant included developing short videos about different aspects of the Garden – see our [YouTube channel](#). At the same time a Warrnambool City Council **Community Development Grant** has allowed us to look at what areas of our site and operations we want to highlight in a revamp of signage. When complete, these projects will take advantage of modern communications such as utilising QR codes to link to rich information like videos. Finally support from the **Fletcher Jones Family Foundations** (wonderful long term supporters of WCG) will enable these signs to be highly aesthetic and connected to many aspects of local culture including indigenous heritage. Final products from these grants are planned to be in place in early 2022.

New and continuing projects – Master Planning:

Work for the communication projects led to discussion about what is important around our site and current mapping of the site. This in turn has led to a master planning project that considers our future infrastructure needs. The master plan will also help inform future needs of groups working week to week within the organisation such as those involved with propagation, herbs, the market and education to name a few.



New and continuing projects – After School Program 2022:

Another project that has started in the latter part of this year is preparation for a 2022 after school program. This will be based around some wicking bed infrastructure, and will be coordinated by a member who has been helping a local school implement a Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden. We hope that this can be a stimulus to encourage children into gardening and connecting to the nature. The infrastructure for this is being funded from a Wannon Water education grant and also some of our own funds.

New and continuing projects – The Quarry

Last year I reported that pictures did not do justice to the developments in the quarry. This year we think they certainly do. Earthworks shifted from the walls to creating the amphitheatre. Many of the plantings in the walls from 2020 have shown terrific growth and more were done earlier this year. The amphitheatre is now shaped and a final layer of topsoil has gone on. Native weeping grass will soon be sown. Water is connected. I feel we are almost within touching distance of our first quarry event.



The quarry early 2020



The quarry November 2021



Major Burglary:

Garden-wise the worst event for our organisation in the last year had nothing to do with COVID. Around December 1st then again on December 13th 2020 our maintenance shed was broken in to. Almost all of our powered gardening and maintenance tools were stolen – a loss of something around \$6000. Perhaps worse than the burglaries was a lack of support from City Council officers to get a more secure shipping container on site. In the end delays from the council officers and issues with getting the insurance claim cleared (it eventually was) meant that we did not end up buying new equipment until August. On the positive side, we had wonderful community support with second hand equipment and cash donated. Several members, including Site Manager Dave, were very generous in using their own equipment on site for much of the year. There was also a positive in being able to actually plan tool purchases deliberately.

Financial Management:

The report for the financial year 2020-2021 is later in this report. New Treasurer Dave Baker came on board at the last AGM. There has been a lot of behind the scenes work going on throughout the year. We have had our first ever external financial review and were very happy with the overall result. We have moved to a new accounting package which allows more than just the Treasurer to input data. Our membership records have been carefully followed up by the Convenor and a number of lapsed memberships moved off the books. We moved from paper to online interaction with the tax department, which showed up a number of discrepancies that have now been sorted out. As recommended by the financial reviewer, we have also rationalised what has been previously listed as assets - businesses and not-for-profits do this differently in modern accounting. This resulted in a large write-down in the financial report but has no effect on the actual funds of the organisation.

Workshops and Tours:

We ran a limited number of workshops and tours this year, with the merry-go-round of COVID restrictions resulting in many postponements and cancellations. The events we have run were all very successful. We look forward to being able to run a more reliable calendar of events as the country opens up in 2022. Bookings by presenters have started coming in.



Specific Acknowledgements:

There are many people who deserve acknowledgement for their role in the success that the Garden's 2021 year has been. I won't even try to name them all but I will pick out a representative few. Some of these people do great work on site every week to keep the place running. Others work behind the scenes helping with governance, seeking grants, and doing the thankless adminstrivia that all modern organisations must deal with.

I would like to acknowledge our committee of Julie Eagles (Deputy Convenor), Christine Morriss (Secretary), David Baker (Treasurer), Matt Simpson, Lisa McLeod, Terry Lowen, Amanda Power and Geoff Rollinson.

The teams growing communal produce led by Keith Fisher and Terry Lowen have established a loyal following of customers. Heather Ryan and Dianne Membrey lead the separate but overlapping Growing Green Thumbs and Herb Group teams growing seedlings, herbs and cuttings – the products they grow have

become exceedingly popular with the wider public. Christine Morriss led the chook crew for most of this year – children visiting WCG love this area and many members enjoy the lovely eggs from our chooks.

Julie Eagles and Lisa McLeod led our efforts in finding and successfully applying for grants to help the Garden continue to develop. Their knowledge and expertise has provided funding for much of the new development we see happening on the ground. Bruce Campbell, Dave Mitchell and Geoff Rollinson have continued to move the quarry redevelopment forward. Their patience in dealing with various government bureaucracies seems to be boundless, while their resolve to get the “right result” on the ground is admirable. Contractor Tim Bligh has also been a great help in getting the quarry shaping right. OHS Officer, Maggie Dwyer has continued to lead on site safety checks, our new member inductions and keeping our OHS records up to date.

I think all members appreciate our friendly Site Manager Dave Mitchell. His support, work and coordination keep everyone heading in the same direction on the ground. I cannot emphasise enough the degree to which a Site Manager not only gets work done but also facilitates the work of others. Our “mutual obligation” volunteers also deserve recognition and their hard work enables at least a doubling of the productivity Dave could achieve alone.

Further Recognition of WCG:

In closing, I would like to introduce another development that we believe will have far reaching consequences for WCG. By way of a lead-in I would ask you to consider the following description.

Its purposes are advanced principally by

- ***Providing a physical location.***
- ***Supporting individuals to work on projects or undertake other activities in the company of others at that location.***

Sound like us? This is one of the key descriptors for a new category that defines some charities in Australia. The category is “community sheds”, although they don’t have to be a shed or even have one! The committee endorsed lodgement of an application for charitable status under this category in August, and in late September we were advised that we were successful. The big implication for WCG will be if the ATO gives us “Deductible Gift Recipient” status. This would mean that donations to the Garden would be tax deductible.

Best Wishes:

Well done once again to everyone for a very successful 2021 at Warrnambool Community Garden. With the promised relaxation in COVID restrictions in 2022, it is promising to be another great year at our Garden and in our wider community. Please enjoy a happy and safe festive season, whatever that may mean to you.

Kind regards,
Rob Porter, Convenor 2021.



Dianne searching for more cuttings?



Geoff and Bruce – pH testing indeed!



Some people just get carried away

AGENDA

Annual General Meeting
Warrnambool Community Garden Inc.
Tuesday 9 th November 2021
7 p.m. HUB Building, and via Zoom

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 of the Convenor on the activities of the Association during the preceding year; and
 - (ii) the financial statements of the Association for the preceding financial year submitted by the Committee in accordance with Part 7 of the Act.
 5. Election of Committee members.
 6. Confirm or vary the amounts of the annual subscription.
 7. Close meeting.
 - 7.1. Next meeting.
-



MINUTES – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

Tuesday November 10th, 2020. 7pm HUB Building, and via Zoom, with extension to November 17th at 7pm to finalise financials

1. Welcome and acknowledgements.
2. **PRESENT:** Rob Porter, Christine Morriss, Terry Lowen, Bruce Cairns, Heather Ryan, Keith Fisher, Peter Jackman, Lisa McLeod, Di Pettigrew, Wilma Trew, Denise Dalton, Jenny Miller, Deb Burns, David Baker, Amanda Power, Eleanor Dwyer, John Coxon, Julie Eagles, Maggie Dwyer, Geoff Rollinson.
3. **APOLOGIES:** Tina Reilly, Shev Oliver and Bianca Prziovska-Kibeiks, David Stockdale.
4. **MINUTES: Motion** moved that the 2019 AGM minutes be confirmed. Moved Lisa McLeod, seconded Heather Ryan. Carried.

5. ANNUAL REPORTING

5.1 The Annual Report of the Committee to Members for 2019-2020 was tabled (had been previously emailed to all members). The Convenor spoke to the report briefly. Report is appended to these minutes. MOTION: That the report of the committee for 2019-2020 be accepted. Moved Rob Porter, seconded Amanda Power. Carried.

5.2 The report for the financial year 2019-2020 was not ready for this meeting. There were computer corruption issues during year. Computer eventually replaced, but data is still being rebuilt. Members present made the decision to defer this section of the meeting and reconvene for this alone in 1 week's time – November 17th at 7 p.m.

- Reconvened meeting: Summary data (see attached report for details): Profit and Loss – income \$153,954.54, expenses \$261,720.06, net income \$7753.07 Balance sheet – assets \$303,539.45, liabilities \$147,951.65. **Motion:** That the WCG financials for the 2019-2020 financial year as presented be accepted. Moved Rob Porter, seconded Julie Eagle. Carried.

6. ELECT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Nominations were received as follows:

- Convenor: Rob Porter Nominated by Harry Harris
- Deputy Convenor: Julie Eagles Nominated by Bruce Campbell
- Secretary: Christine Morriss Nominated by Rob Porter
- Treasurer: David Baker Nominated by Rob Porter
- Committee Person: Matt Simpson Nominated by Rob Porter
- Committee Person: Lisa McLeod Nominated by Julie Eagles
- Committee Person: Terry Lowen Nominated by Christine Morriss
- Committee Person: Amanda Power Nominated by Julie Eagles
- Committee Person: Geoff Rollinson Nominated by Julie Eagles

Motion: That as the number of nominees is the same as the number of positions, all nominees are duly elected. Moved Heather Ryan, seconded Bruce Cairns. Carried.

7. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Motion: That annual subscriptions and other fees remain the same as last year, with the exception that “youth membership” be removed. Moved Terry Lowen, seconded Heather Ryan. Carried.

Membership types	Fee #
Adult	\$27.50
Adult Concession*	\$22.00
Family (entitles two adults to be entered on the membership register)	\$44.00
Family Concession*	\$33.00
Not-for-Profit organisation with annual revenue <\$500,000	\$66.00
Commercial organisation or Not-for-Profit organisation with annual revenue >\$500,000	\$132.00
Individual Garden Plot – standard size is 4m x 4m but variations occur.	\$88.00
Key deposit (paid once and available to all members)	\$22.00
Friend of the Garden (Just to keep in touch & receive electronic correspondence only; no voting rights)	\$12.10

*holder of Commonwealth concession card or full-time student. (applicant to provide concession/student card)
fees are inclusive of GST if applicable.

8. **NEXT MEETING:** Next AGM Tuesday November 9th, 2021, 7:00pm.

2020-2021 FINANCIAL YEAR REPORTS

Balance Sheet

Warrnambool Community Garden Inc

As at 30 June 2021

30 JUN 2021

Assets

Bank

Card Account	395.94
Investment Account	128,530.06
South West Credit Union	48,776.50
Total Bank	177,702.50

Current Assets

Accounts Receivable	1,122.00
Total Current Assets	1,122.00

Total Assets 178,824.50

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Grant income c/forward	86,014.24
GST	6,285.00
Key Deposit	1,943.30
Market Music	257.83
PAYG Withholdings Payable	8,726.00
SWCE Solar Loan	8,000.00
Total Current Liabilities	111,226.37

Total Liabilities 111,226.37

Net Assets 67,598.13

Equity

Current Year Earnings	(132,927.87)
Retained Earnings	200,526.00
Total Equity	67,598.13



Hub floor resurfacing



WCG looking southeast from the Hilton path



Planting in the quarry wall early 2021

Profit and Loss

Warrnambool Community Garden Inc For the year ended 30 June 2021

2021

Trading Income

Gifts & Donations	6,170.70
Grants	56,818.18
Interest Income	479.69
Membership Fee	3,195.35
Other Revenue	7,816.00
Rental - Hub	181.82
Rental - Plot	3,622.28
Sales	29,115.80
Solar Tariff	314.78
Total Trading Income	107,714.60

Cost of Sales

Cost of Goods Sold	3,845.07
Total Cost of Sales	3,845.07

Gross Profit

103,869.53

Other Income

Grant income previous financial year	(11,358.87)
Total Other Income	(11,358.87)

Operating Expenses

Advertising	146.10
Bank Fees	29.09
Cleaning	1,395.39
Consulting & Accounting	407.73
General Expenses	532.05
Grant Expenditure	67,868.96
Insurance	440.79
Light, Power, Heating	769.34
Office Expenses	1,538.97
Rent	235.34
Repairs and Maintenance	4,673.38
Subscriptions	787.00
Superannuation	2,940.00
Telephone & Internet	94.62
Wages and Salaries	29,275.37
Write off/adjustments	114,304.40
Total Operating Expenses	225,438.53

Net Profit

(132,927.87)
