



MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

saturday 17th june 2006 @ 7.30pm @ the lodge

Chair Sean
Assistant Chair Julia
Minutes Cinnamon

1. **Present** ... Sean, Cinnamon, Phil R., Mark, Lesley, Phil S., Meredith, Bob, Jeremy, Simon, Sarah, Dale, Jolanda, Peter, Glen, Alison, Elke, Hardy, Veronica, Dawn, Ted, Mal, Julia, Chelsea, Luc, Amy, Jerry
2. **Apologies** ... Amanda, Bindi, Brony, Carole, Kathy, Michelle, Ollie (& Arinya), Sandra, Susanna, Trish, Willow, Damien, Stefanie,
3. **Welcomes** ... None
4. **Coming Together** ... Cinnamon invited everyone to turn to the person next to them and tell a short story about something good that has happened @ MM in the last year, ensuring everyone had a turn.
5. **Appreciations** ...
Cinnamon ... Everyone who came to the Gemini Party looking absolutely gorgeous, Bindi and Chelsea for all their work setting up and packing up, and the Geminis for getting it together to hold a rockin' party!!
Phil S. ... Hats off to everyone who organised and worked on the Gemini Party, the Leos are lagging a bit!
Cinnamon ... Cinnamon is standing down as Secretary, and would like to thank everyone for their participation and adherence to strict processes, we have had 33 productive months!
Chelsea ... Cinnamon for her work as Secretary, it's been huge
Chelsea ... Mark, Phil S. and Ollie for help in resolving the water problem at the Old House
Julia ... Bindi & Simon for working hard to do lots of cleaning to make the Lodge look good
Jeremy ... Everyone who has helped work on the house, especially Simon & Jerry, appreciating being in community
Simon ... Mark for documenting Co-Op life in pictures, especially the house, and also for his work on the water system, which goes under-appreciated
Bob ... Glen for keeping the electrons flowing around the Co-Op
6. **Concerns**
Mark ... The water system is struggling a bit at present, the pump is busted, everyone needs to be careful with water, and give serious and urgent consideration to maximising use of rainwater
Chelsea ... If possible, avoid toilet flushing and wee outside
7. **Short Notices**
Jeremy ... Happy hour next Fri 23rd Jun @ 5.00pm @ Jeremy & Julia's house
Julia ... A Night Café will be held on Sat 8th Jul @ 7.00pm @ Café to raise funds for Besilau, there will be music and an open mic session, soup will be provided, donations of cakes welcome
Sarah ... Seeking volunteers for the next Café roster
8. **Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2005 Annual General Meeting**
Motion That the Minutes of the 2005 Annual General Meeting be confirmed
Move & Sec Bob, Dale
Carried
9. **Directors' Report to the AGM (Sean O'Sullivan)**
10. **Acceptance of Directors' Report**
Motion That the Directors' Report be accepted
Move & Sec Elke, Peter
Carried
11. **Appreciation for Directors and Presentations**
Motion That the meeting thank the Directors for their work over the past year

Move & Sec Phil R., Meredith, All
Carried

12. **Treasurer's Report to the AGM (Alison Fisher)**

13. **Adjournment of the AGM and Convening of a Statutory Directors' Meeting**

12.1 **Acceptance of Treasurer's Report and Audited Financial Report** (circulated to all members)

Motion In the opinion of the Directors of Moora Moora Co-operative Community Limited:

- i) The profit and loss account for the year ended 31st March 2006 is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the profit and loss of Moora Moora Co-operative Community Limited and
- ii) The balance sheet as at 31st March 2006 is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of Moora Moora Co-operative Community Limited as at the end of the financial year.

Move & Sec

Julia, Bob
Carried

14. **Closing of the Statutory Director's Meeting and Reconvening of AGM**

15. **Nomination and Appointments of Directors for 2006-2007 (7 Directors required)**

Motion That Cinnamon Evans be appointed as a Director of Moora Moora Co-operative Community Limited for the year 2006-2007

Move & Sec Dawn, Elke
Carried

Motion That Glen Morris be appointed as a Director of Moora Moora Co-operative Community Limited for the year 2006-2007

Move & Sec Alison, Phil R.
Carried

Motion That Julia Shub be appointed as a Director of Moora Moora Co-operative Community Limited for the year 2006-2007

Move & Sec Alison, Vron
Carried

Motion That Sarah Morton be appointed as a Director of Moora Moora Co-operative Community Limited for the year 2006-2007

Move & Sec Phil R., Mark
Carried

Motion That Sean O'Sullivan be appointed as a Director of Moora Moora Co-operative Community Limited for the year 2006-2007

Move & Sec Alison, Dale
Carried

Motion That Simon Woodland be appointed as a Director of Moora Moora Co-operative Community Limited for the year 2006-2007

Move & Sec Phil R., Phil S.
Carried

Motion That Veronica Curmi be appointed as a Director of Moora Moora Co-operative Community Limited for the year 2006-2007

Move & Sec Julia, Dale
Carried

16. **Nomination and Appointment of Secretary and Assistant Secretary for 2006-2007**

Motion That Sarah Morton be appointed as Secretary of Moora Moora Co-operative Community Limited for the year 2006-2007

Move & Sec Alison, Vron
Carried

Motion That Dale Howard be appointed as Assistant Secretary of Moora Moora Co-operative Community Limited for the year 2006-2007

Move & Sec Hardy, Bob
Carried

17. **Nomination and Appointment of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer for 2006-2007**
Motion That Alison Fisher be appointed as Treasurer of Moora Moora Co-operative Community Limited for the year 2006-2007
Move & Sec Peter, Mal
Carried
- Motion That Jolanda Rich be appointed as Assistant Treasurer of Moora Moora Co-operative Community Limited for the year 2006-2007
Move & Sec Alison, Dale
Carried
18. **Nomination and Appointment of Land Manager for 2006-2007**
Motion That Veronica Curmi be appointed as Land Manager of Moora Moora Co-operative Community Limited for the year 2006-2007
Move & Sec Hardy, Julia
Carried
19. **Nomination and Appointment of Works Coordinator for 2006-2007**
Motion That Julia Shub be appointed as Works Coordinator of Moora Moora Co-operative Community Limited for the year 2006-2007
Move & Sec Chelsea, Hardy
Carried
20. **Nomination and Appointment of Learning Centre Coordinator for 2006-2007**
Motion That Simon Woodland be appointed as Learning Centre Coordinator of Moora Moora Co-operative Community Limited for the year 2006-2007
Move & Sec Sarah, Bob
Carried
21. **Nomination and Appointment of WWOOF Coordinator for 2006-2007**
As no nominations were received, this matter was referred to the Jul Pre-DM.
22. **Appreciation for Office Bearers**
Motion That the meeting thank the Office Bearers for their work over the past year
Move & Sec All
Carried
23. **Reports from Other Committees & Officials, Working Groups, Clusters**
Committees & Officials
Community Development Fund
Finance Committee
Financial Assistance Committee
Land Management Committee & Land Manager
Learning Centre Committee & Learning Centre Coordinator
Membership Committee
Social Committee
Works Committee & Works Coordinator
Caretaker
WWOOF Coordinator
- Working Groups
Café
Energy & Water
Festival
Other
- Clusters
Forest Edge
Karingal
Mudburra
Nyora
Wombat Hollow
Yanginanook

24. **Acceptance of Reports**
Motion That the reports presented are accepted
Move & Sec Julia, Sarah
 Carried
25. **Committee & Working Group Appointments**
Committees & Officials
 (Directors underlined, convenor* of first meeting starred)
 Finance Committee ... Alison*, Bob, Jolanda, Julia
 Financial Assistance Committee ... Alison*, Hardy, Meredith, Ted
 Land Management Committee ... Amy, Bernadette, Bindi, Hardy, Jerry, Luc, Simon, Veronica*
 Learning Centre Committee ... Bob, Sarah, Simon*
 Membership Committee ... Dawn, Meredith, Sean*, Ted
 Social Committee ... Cinnamon, Dale, Jo, Lesley, Phil R. *, Tessa
 Works Committee ... Bob, Bernadette, Bindi, Julia, Phil S.
 WWOOF Coordinator ... To be appointed
 Insurance ... Glen
 Policy Manual Update ... Denise
 Fire Officer ... To be appointed
Working Groups
 Café ... Dawn, Sarah
 Community Development Fund ... Amy, Dale*, Dawn, Julia, Peter, Sandra, Sean, Ted
 Energy & Water ... Glen*, Mark, Ollie, Simon, Ted, Veronica
26. **Appointment of Chair & Assistant Chair for the 2007 AGM**
Motion That Sean O’Sullivan be appointed as Chair for the 2007 AGM
Move & Sec Alison, Mark
 Carried
- Motion That Cinnamon Evans be appointed as Assistant Chair for the 2007 AGM
Move & Sec Peter, Phil R.
 Carried
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Director’s Report

The positions of directors over the 2005/2006 year have been filled by Veronica Curmi, Cinnamon Evans, Glen Morris, Sean O’Sullivan, Bob Rich, Julia Shub and Phillip Smith. The directors have attempted to serve the community to the best of their ability. Attendance at regular and extra meetings has been high and they have shared the roles of chair and assistant chair of meetings.

The tradition of having preliminary ‘pre-directors’ meetings prior to the Co-op directors meetings has been continued and has been modified as a result of ongoing experience. In particular the directors have tried to minimize the number of ‘between meeting’ decisions and to ensure that even these decisions are based upon face-to-face discussions between directors where possible. The directors have also adopted the practice of having regular meetings with the co-op’s office-bearers and ‘managers’ as a way to explore concerns and observations. Also, during the year several people arranged to attend the pre-directors meeting so that they could express and discuss their own concerns and issues.

Several events stand out from the last twelve months. The news that our former insurance policy would not be renewed created concern amongst all members and residents, and especially amongst the directors who recognised their legal and personal responsibilities. The resulting decisions about new insurance arrangements, internally and externally, were negotiated good will and understanding by everybody. We appreciate Glen’s work and willingness to take over the role as our insurance liaison person. We also appreciate Denise’s many years of work in the same role.

A group of members and residents are to be thanked for their work in putting together another Moora Moora festival in February of 2006. This was made easier by the continued support of our neighbours and the Mount Toolebewong Landcare Group, as well as by lots of input from members and residents during the period of the festival set up and tidy up and on the day of the festival itself.

The year also saw several arrivals and departures. These will be reported in more detail in the report of the Membership Committee, however we wish to acknowledge the departure of Petra Henn to Germany - hopefully temporarily - as a result of poor health, and also the decision by Mal and Carole Eden to move to Healesville in December as part of their retirement plans. Carole and Mal have been members of Moora Moora for many years and have contributed over that time an enormous amount of energy, wisdom and compassion. Moora Moora is a better place because of their contributions. The recent influx of new members is beginning to have a physical impact with new building at Karingal and especially at Wombat Hollow, and with renovation energy by Petra and Amanda at Mudburra.

Although sometimes informal and ad hoc, what has become a long-term project to improve co-op facilities that we all share has continued. Work to upgrade the Lodge as a resource suitable for commercial use by the Learning Centre has continued, thanks to the Works Committee and to Bindi and Simon as caretakers. Also Mark and his team of 'mudlarks' have continued to develop and maintain the co-op water system with success punctuated by frustrations and minor disasters.

With some controversy the directors encouraged the employment of a paid mediator to help facilitate a process to resolve some strongly held differences between two members. This continues as we end the year. Also during the year we completed arrangements to establish a source of finance from the Melany Credit Union. It remains to be seen if this initiative will help us to reduce the effects of the 'joining and leaving' issues that the co-op has been attempting to resolve for several years.

The directors believe that we pass on to the next group of directors a spirit of co-operation and respect amongst all members and residents as well as an overall picture of gradual improvement in the co-op's assets and facilities. However we can identify some issues and challenges that may present themselves to the next directors and the members and residents. Some of these are: ...

- Continued exploration and clarification of the role that the directors and the co-op, as an organisation, should and can play in helping members and residents to reduce the effects of personal challenges and interpersonal differences.
- The development of more effective ways to manage the processes of project planning, budgeting and implementation across the entire twelve month period rather than primarily at the beginning and end of each financial year.
- Improving our processes for effective, democratic and consensual decision making within the co-op and within committees and clusters.
- Giving committees more independence and responsibility while at the same time making their operation more open and accountable.
- Despite the amount of effort by individuals and groups, our water and power services continue to be a source of frustration due to their unreliability and complexity. What can we do to reduce these frustrations?

As a group the directors have an interesting challenge. Legally they are responsible for the actions and decisions of the co-op, for its financial health etc. Yet they also recognize that within Moora Moora they act in a sense as servants of the members and residents. Their job is to facilitate good decision-making that includes and respects all members and residents, on each and every matter. It is a challenge for the directors to try and find the right balance between making decisions on the community's behalf, or to pass every decision on to the community via its meetings. Should the directors make decisions about the apparently simple and easy issues so that the community can focus on more complex issues, or should every decision be made by the community? The directors try to negotiate a sometimes tricky middle path, and sometimes they get it wrong.

In closing the directors would like to express their appreciation for the support given to them and the community by all members and residents during the year, for the creativity and good spirit that everybody has exhibited. Our special thanks to the members and residents who have taken on administrative and leadership roles.

- Cinnamon and Sarah for their work as secretaries.
- Alison and Jolanda for their work as treasurers.
- Chelsea and the Works Committee
- Veronica, Bernadette and the Land Management Committee
- Simon and the Learning Centre Committee
- Jolanda for her work as the Wwoof coordinator
- Bindi and Simon as the Lodge caretakers.
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And to everybody who participated in the co-op in the many varied ways that are possible.

We encourage all members and residents to continue to participate and to join committees, working parties etc at this annual general meeting.

Sean,
Director.

Treasurer's Report

We have in our financial statements distributed by email and paper versions, a profit and loss statement and balance sheet as at 31st March 2006.

The general financial position continues to be sound with adequate but not excessive reserves.

I would like to thank Jolanda again for her continued support and efficient manner in dealing with the role of Assistant Treasurer. The role handles all monies to be banked (and may I reiterate that all monies go to Jol both cash and cheques), dealing with petty cash and reimbursement of small expenses, collection of rent and other monies. Jolanda also organises money for the Festival. Thanks Jol.

I would also like to thank Cinnamon for her work on the budget. We worked closely on a new format, and presentation of this at the budget meeting. I think the process this year was a more positive experience and will help the community prioritise work and projects to be undertaken. The quarterly review has also helped committees and members in general to take an interest in how the Co-Op fares financially. This is also a very positive step for us all.

I am also appreciative of the new laptop, as are my kids. This together with enhanced software will enable information to be transmitted more efficiently. I hope to be able to email Calls/Dues notices in the near future.

A general thank you to everyone who has supported me in this role.

Alison,
Treasurer.

Audited Financial Report

See attached.

Boundary Walk Group

Jeremy gave a verbal report to the meeting.
No written report was provided.

Cafe Coordinator's Report

Dear Mooramoorsans,

I am able to report another quite successful year in the operation of our Café. It has run regularly and has been very well attended. We had very few 'serve yourself' occasions.

One of the improvements we have been able to make is the drawing up of a roster which allowed us to plan ahead much more consistently, and I am very grateful to those who assisted by going on the roster.

We are also looking forward to making some much-needed improvements to the building, and the major project for this year will be the renovation of the floor. We hope that this will be the first step of many more improvements that are still needed.

I wish again to thank all those who participated in running the Café, and also of course, those who supported it by just turning up on Saturday mornings to add to the fellowship. I also thank Sarah for helping with the setting up of the roster.

Dawn,
Café Coordinator.

Caretaker's Report

The year got off to a roaring start with the removal of that nasty asbestos and replacement of the boilers in the basement with a remarkably efficient (and shiny) new Boiler. Solar hot water panels on the roof are also making a welcome contribution. We carefully monitored gas usage throughout the year, eagerly awaiting a dramatic reduction. It never happened. Somehow, the configuration of the new boiler and solar panels with the existing gas storage hws seemed unable to translate the boiler and solar heat into a gas saving. That is until the gas hws suffered a mysterious meltdown (for reasons yet to be determined). So, we are now running the boiler most nights, according to demand for hot water and space heating. We expect this will provide a perfectly satisfactory and significantly more 'sustainable' source of hot water and heating. Time will tell just how much heat the solar panels bring in come summer. Everyone is reminded to please keep the front door closed to take full advantage of the small but significant amount of heat from the radiators. Every little bit helps to keep the condensation and mold off the walls through the winter.

We continue to enjoy sharing the space with (most of) the many and varied visitors and Wwoofs. We particularly cherish the interactions Freya and Ochre have with friendly folk from all over the world. We'll miss it when we move north.

We can report no major breakages or losses of equipment although the glass cover to the gas stove has been badly scorched by some clumsy Wwoofs. It will now serve as a visible reminder to us all to raise the lid whenever the oven or top-plate burners are in operation. The kitchen pots (especially the large soup pots) enjoy regular outings to unknown destinations, staying for various lengths of time. However, they have so far been consistently returned. Apart from the inconvenience of finding them AWOL when wanted, they seem to be being 'borrowed' responsibly.

The larger of the two gas fridges finally packed it in during the course of the year. We have obtained a second hand replacement which we hope we can restore to working order by salvaging the best parts from the two of them. Meanwhile we seem to get by sharing the smaller white fridge, especially as the Wwoof season draws to a close.

The boot room appears to exert an extraordinary gravitational attraction on footwear of all shapes and sizes. If you've lost some, please see Bindi or check the bottom of the Wwoof Clothing Cupboard. If you'd like to donate excess apparel to this cupboard please let us know so we can stash it away appropriately and avoid clutter around the front door that never goes anywhere.

Thanks again to everyone whose efforts make our work as caretakers that bit easier. We continue to enjoy this opportunity to live like sardines 'in the thick of it' while we build our somewhat more spacious (and hopefully warmer) home. We hope to continue shacking up here until its ready for us. No doubt it will be quite clear (from the developments at Wombat Hollow and the stature of our children) when our days here are drawing to a close.

Simon, Bindi, Freya & Ochre,
Caretakers.

Community Development Fund Committee Report

At our last AGM, the CDF had just made it's first payment to a community development project in Besilau, East Timor. Since the excitement of that act and the accompanying ceremony the year has seen a decreasing series of fundraising events and a falling away of awareness of our relationship with Besilau in the minds of most of our community. This was only to be expected, especially with the Festival focussing so much of our energies. Now, with the onset of winter here and renewed social strife in Timor, the committee hopes to stoke the coals again. This is, after all, an important relationship for ourselves as well as Besilau. It is one way in which we may be less inward looking and may see ourselves in the context of world community. It helps us hold an image of ourselves as a community and hopefully to nurture what is valuable in community, such as mutual respect and collaboration despite personal differences.

The \$2,500 we sent to Besilau last year was for a soccer pitch, the more affordable of several projects suggested by the representatives of that village. As yet we believe little progress has been made, reportedly due to problems of access for earth moving equipment. We are now due to make the first of five annual payments of AU\$1,000 towards further projects but await both clarification of what projects the people of Besilau would like assistance with and confirmation of progress on the previous project. We hope to establish more direct communication with the village to both improve our relationship and facilitate such practical decisions.

Peter and Sandra's planned visit to the village this coming August will give the people of Besilau a far greater idea of who we are and we will no doubt gain a much more personal picture of them from Peter and Sandra's reports and photos. We expect it will make a huge difference to our mutual sense of relationship and, we hope, ease of communication in future. We were pleased to again welcome an official from the Aileu district administration to our property last month. Peter, Sandra and Sean have been our main points of contact with the Friends of Aileu, through which this visit was organised. We must thank the Friends of Aileu (Mooreland & Hume councils) for facilitating the practical aspects of our relationship with Besilau and supplying our coffee stocks at cost.

We are not lacking funds but do not want to become complacent. Ongoing fundraising events are also opportunities for awareness-raising within Moora Moora and the wider community of Healesville. Since the last AGM we have raised nearly \$700, not including the Co-op's annual contribution of \$200. About \$300 of that was from a popular Night Café organised by Dale & Julia and greatly supported by contributions of food and musical performances from many of our community. Ted and Dawn have been steadfast in their pursuit of Timorese coffee sales which have raised over \$300. Some of those sales were from a car-boot sale in Healesville run by Michelle and Julia which also raised about \$170 from bric-a-brac. Expenses were drawn from the fund of \$130 for the framing of the agreement documents between our two communities. At end of financial year, the fund total sat at \$2,859 plus about \$130 coffee float and stock.

Last year's committee consisted of Michelle, Dale, Sandra, Peter, Sean, Julia, Ted & Dawn. All are keen to continue this year and welcome involvement from any and all. The next fundraising event will be another Night Café on Saturday 8th July. Other ideas for the year are a games night, dinner, film nights and ongoing coffee sales. Please come forward with your ideas and enthusiasm and continue to provide your support.

Dale,
For Community Development Fund Committee.

Energy and Water Working Group Report

Members: Simon, Ollie, Mark, Vron, Ted & Glen

Meetings: Informal timing

Obsessions:

- Water pump maintenance occupied a lot of time and thoughts
- Underground pipes and their future placement
- Lodge PV system upgrade was approved by the June 2006 DM
- Electrical safety upgrade to the Lodge was a major achievement
- Various wiring improvement that have allowed 24V DC to be brought into the Lodge

Glen,

Festival Organising Committee

The Festival Sub-committee acknowledges that a huge amount of work went into the organisation of such an event. Thanks to Bindi and also to Norm, Bernadette and Mary for volunteering their time and efforts. Overall, there were many positives to the day. These included the spirit of the day, the 800 plus participants, the entertainment events, particularly the Maori group.

Landcare activities that promote sustainable living included:

- Living in Community, Feral Animal trapping, bushfire awareness, permaculture, Earth walk, Biodiversity Tour, Renewable Energy Tour, Frog Bog demonstration, Ace Trailer, Mt. Toolebewong Landcare tent, HEWI display, Badger Creek Junior Landcare Display, Healesville Primary environmental education display.
- Community groups such as CFA, DSE- Fire Management, Shire of Yarra Ranges Environment Department provided educational information. Feedback from DSE-Fire Management reported that they were pleased with the amount of inquiries and interest in the operations. Feedback from ACE Trailer commented that their display was well attended. The kids' activity at the bowl and the various displays were just great.
- There were many positive displays and activities that were enjoyed by over 800 people. This needs to be put into perspective with the weather, and the confusion as to where some events were being hosted.

Issues for improvement:

- Explicit activities relating to Landcare and sustainable land usage.
- More awareness of where things were on the day - spruiker needed for whole day, so no activities or displays are overlooked. The MC needs to have more detailed information of events and information on cards for regular updates.
- A minute taker so that meetings follow through cohesively each time. This also will allow for additional irregular committee members who have specific responsibilities to understand the big picture of the Action Plan.
- The same people on the committee and a spread of people who have specific interests e.g. Moora Moora, Landcare, Mt. Toolebewong rep, etc. to be involved from the beginning, not co-opted.
- A clear finance process - a generic form for all reimbursements and costs. Limit ad hoc collection and payment of monies.
- A clear aim for the day that is at the top of all minutes - clear, concise, and explicit.
- Clear expectations of roles on the day and expectations of intended usage of profits.
- Publicity to be more local and specific to the aims of the Festival.
- List of volunteers and their jobs required for the day.
- Checklists for all concerned so everyone knows their tasks and are interdependent.

Suggestions for profit disbursement:

- Some money to be used for promoting the activities of the Mt Toolebewong Landcare Group to local people
- Repeat the Festival Fund concept as seed funding for local group environmental and community development projects

Norm, Bindi, Mary, Bernadette
For the Festival Organising Committee

Financial Assistance Committee Report

We are pleased to report that the FAC has had an interesting and busy year. We have not met on a regular basis, but rather met to consider issues and items as they arose.

There is little demand on the Loans Scheme at this time, with Kathy's loan the only one drawn down on the fund.

Among the items that we considered during the year were...

- ◆ The possible setting up of a Moora Moora Credit Union (we decided against doing this at this time).
- ◆ The possibility of an alternative source of finance through Australian Ethical Investments. This arose when AEI showed some interest in us. While there were some similarities with our Maleny account, they were offering something more as a line of credit and the actual costs involved were somewhat uncertain. We responded by providing them with the details of our Maleny plan against the day when they might like to offer something similar (with perhaps a more friendly interest rate).

Ted,
For the Financial Assistance Committee.

Full Moon Facilitation Group

Jeremy and Chelsea gave a verbal reports to the meeting.
No written report was provided.

Land Management Committee Reports

The committee met monthly for most of last year. Members of the Committee: Tim, Vron, Hardy, Simon, Bindi and Bernadette. Other people also attended occasionally.

Focus of meetings:

- Weed strategy
- WFP reviews and plans for second stage
- Mulcher usage
- WOOF work
- Hay cutting and costs
- Budget
- Removal of fallen trees at old house
- Water and usage of horticulture area - community supported agriculture
- Fencing - appropriate types and removal/replacements
- Land manager work and reports

Bernadette,
For the Land Management Committee.

Discussions are continuing on the Whole Farm Plan mainly around the Old House site and the new farm boundary near Wombat Hollow. The next implementation from the plan is the fence line that was approved at the last DM, which incorporates Bindi's research on modern fencing techniques using no treated pine.

Mulcher hire has been an alternative to burning off and people have put the mulch to good use.

Bernadette and Bindi have been attending the Mt. Toolbewong Landcare Group meetings with Bernadette attending the 3 Strategic Planning meetings looking at the future management of issues such as pest plants and

animals on the mountain. Werner, the deer hunter is still shooting regularly, and through his actions damage from deer is greatly reduced on Moora Moora.

We are continuing to liaise with animal owners via the Land Use Management Plans again with an emphasis on weed control.

We are very excited at the prospect of the Community Supported Agriculture Project on Moora Moora.

Veronica,
For the Land Management Committee.

Land Manager's Report

We had a terrific harvest of hay this year and a great day was had by all who helped with the hay carting. Next year there will be a few more procedures set in place to make the day safer and more efficient.

My ongoing work with the Wwoofs this year included mainly weeding and fencing and also the completion of the first shelterbelt with many of the plants being well established already.

Hopefully we have seen the end of the deer poaching but if anyone has any concerns ring me anytime.

People are treating the tractor and the booking system well and if anyone wants to learn how to drive it, let me know.

Veronica,
Land Manager,
For Land Management Committee.

Learning Centre Committee Report and Learning Centre Coordinator's Report

This year's Learning Centre Committee consisted of Kathy (minutes), Bob (convenor), Simon (LC Co-ordinator), Sarah, Glen and Amanda. The committee invites new members to join us for the year ahead. Simon would like to continue as LC Coordinator, with the blessing of the co-op.

Learning Centre Activities for the year (April 05 - March 06) are summarised below:

Our guests this year included

Hong Kong Steiner School visitors
Friends of the Earth
Graeme George's Permaculture Group
Peter's Monash Students - 'Ecotourism'
Simon's 'Earthkeepers'
Victoria Uni post-grad students

We are pleased to see the following projects progressing or completed:

This year in the lodge:
Eastern Bathroom renovation significantly underway
Boiler completed
Internet connection and computer installed

Thank you to all those who have been instrumental in these projects.

We look forward to seeing the following projects progress in the next year:

Ongoing projects:
Meeting the council's fire safety requirements
Certification of the Lodge kitchen

Completion of the eastern bathroom renovation

A big thank-you to all those who served on the Committee, and to the Co-Op as a whole, for facilitating the broad range of learning experiences we've hosted this year. We look forward to a strong and exciting future for the Learning Centre in the years to come.

Simon,
Learning Centre Co-Ordinator,
For Learning Centre Committee.

Membership Committee Report

Good evening Moora Moora,

Well this was my first year on the Membership Committee and I enjoyed sharing the committee with Sean, Jolanda, Ted, Dawn and Brony. We all got along well and had pleasant meetings.

There have been many things to celebrate, such as the Membership of Amanda, and the NMR of Jo and Jerry residing in Mal and Carole's, Sam and Marty in Russell's house, Luc and Amy in Bernadette's and Steph and Damian in Klaus and Julee's house. We warmly welcome them all. We also had the pleasure of having Ellise at Petra's for a short while, Grace staying with Amanda, and the pleasure of watching Russell's health getting stronger from a distance as he has been staying in Brunswick and visiting periodically. He will be back in November. It has been also sad to see Petra's health not be able to sustain her to live in her house as soon as she bought it, but we all can still contact her in Germany at her parents house.

Ken and the kids left but still reside in Healesville and Mal and Carole also left for Healesville and all can be contacted still. I have yet to ask Phil Smith re: Lindens whereabouts, but we know that she is not around as much!

Membership also have a couple of proposals in store for future DM's but I wont spoil the surprise for you all! One new initiative is that all prospective NMR must (please) pass their applications through the Membership Committee. This is not for Membership to scrutinise or choose NMRs, it is done out of respect for the Secretary who has had some issues regarding being sent applications that had not been properly approved by clusters, or the due process prior to NMR had not been followed.

We have had lots of interested e-mails from all sorts of interested people, which leads us to the concern regarding future and almost current shortage of available houses. This is to be discussed in a future Community Meeting.

One small reminder from Membership to all people of Moora Moora is that if you have friends come to visit, please accompany them on walks around the place in respect of the privacy of residents.

So, who wants to join us next year huh? I (Chelsea) am resigning due to family commitments but will be glad to join in in the future, so please help the co-op be dynamic and functioning by joining some or one of the committees.

Thanks for your time.

Chelsea,
For Membership Committee.

Social Committee Report

The social committee has included Lesley, Phillip Ross, Dale, Tessa, Willow, Kathy and Petra. Many others have assisted with the social events organised. These events have been restricted this year to the annual traditional gatherings: Footy Grand Final, Co-op Birthday, Christmas, New Years and Easter. These were run in the usual slick and efficient manner and were well supported and enjoyed. The social life of the community is blossoming these days, with other events such as the weekly café, monthly full moon dinners and women's gatherings and Gemini Parties.

Dale,
For Social Committee.

Works Committee Report and Works Coordinator's Report

This years' hard working and thinking works committee consisted of: Bernadette, Phil Smith, Bob, Bindi and myself. Thanks everyone.

So, lots has been achieved this year and please don't be offended if I don't mention your pet projects, but all efforts to work together to maintain our common assets has been appreciated.

The festival was an event that spurred lots of action around the place, so we saw lots of slashing and blackberrying at this time. The Lodge has had many upgrades large and small and lots more planned for the following year to meet the Councils new expectations.

The Old House is going well thanks to the outstanding tenants and all other willing workers - with a new bath, cedar lining, carpet, insulation, shed, and future improvements planned. The Octagon hasn't changed much but there are plans for new curtains.

The Lodge has a new bathroom that looks beautiful and has required much of Phil Smith and Meredith's time. Constant maintenance on the Lodge gardens has kept them beautiful, and the kids playground area has been reconstructed by Jerry and Vron's consistency. The new boiler in the Lodge has been heating the place efficiently and will save the co-op lots of money in gas next WWOOF season.

The roads have been well maintained, and although there are some potholes present, I bet no-one's bottomed out in them lately.

Just a reminder to let caterers know if you're not going to be at Work Day to avoid over or under catering, and everyone please consider joining the Committee. I am resigning due to family commitments but would like to do this job one day again in the future.

Thanks,

Chelsea,
Works Coordinator,
For Works Committee.

WWOOF Coordinator's Report

During the 2005 WWOOF season, we had 38 WWOOFs from Holland, Germany, Korea, France, Australia, Sweden, Finland, Canada, Japan, Britain and Hong Kong.

The Co-op benefited from 68.5 days of work from them. In addition, there were 66 days of work benefiting residents' projects.

It's been nice to meet so many energetic young people and learn a little about their various countries and customs. I have enjoyed being the WWOOF mother for a year.

The main problem has been matching supply and demand. There seems no automatic way of doing this. Many requests could not be satisfied. Sometimes, volunteers say they will come, and aren't there, or are delayed. Some made arrangements for 3 days running and never came.

Once they are here, there is the problem of the weather. When this is unpleasant, members and residents don't want WWOOFs. It would be good to have an ongoing opportunity for indoor work for such days, but what?

Also, when school holidays come along, it is hard to find work for WWOOFs. It costs the Co-op plenty of money to keep them in food and other supplies on days off, so having to have extra off days is not a good idea.

With several houses being built or about to be started, the WWOOF scheme is a terrific resource. Therefore, we need to create work opportunities for cold, rainy days, and then the system will work well.

Now, all we need is a new WWOOF Coordinator. I'll be happy to show the new person the ropes. We do have a good system, as long as we can organise a regular supply of work.

Happy WWOOFing.

Jolanda,
Wwoof Coordinator.

Forest Edge Cluster Report

The Forest 'Cutting' Edge Newspaper...

News Headlines	The first Cluster to install Hydro Power! Phil Ross finally finishes and sells his Warburton House Jerry sells Jo on ebay to a phantom bidder Luc and Amy push Bernadette out into the cold
In Finance	Jai's toothfairy takes out a loan
Sport	Alison's 'dance of death' with the snake Neesa's pony land obsession Sean, 'to push-bike or not to push-bike'
Entertainment	Mel and Carol on 'scrabble, D&D and general town bliss'
Business	Bronwyn trades flowers for funerals
Life	Dale's school leadership status
Gossip	That's it, we don't gossip down here...no really!

Jo (written) and Phil (spoken),
For Forest Edge Cluster.

Karingal Cluster Report

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls. I would like to tell you a tale of a kingdom far away called Karingalania. A land of grassy slopes, tall trees, wrecked car and beautiful maidens. This country is home to many wise and generous royals who rule with an iron rake and ceramic teapot. Queen Bummo, King Jezza, Princess Debby-j and the little prince have welcomed Queen Stephie, King Cupcake, Prince Bay Bay and princess lishie into the Gottwald castle. They now rule over a burgen forest, a lime tree, some raspberries and a bossy wombat. The

other new royals in Karingalania are Queen Sammy, King Marty and the wee prince sir jazzy. They are holding court in Castle Freeman and surrounding lands.

Our tale is of great deeds and heroic adventures, merriment and action. Pay heed to the great glass house erection, when many a brave knight and lady risked sure death travelling to the kingdom of Chirnside Parkia to capture the building and toil to resurrect it. Dreaming of Mango trees under glass.

There have been woes and gnashing of teeth, whence water pumps have shittance of themselves and hawks have eaten heads clean off chooks.

There has been much rejoicing and throwing hats in the air to see the new Shub Palace gaining walls, moat and drawbridge.

Her Majesty and I are pleased to observe the interest in Leanne's house by a young Lady and her Lady in waiting. We delight in beautiful trees, wildlife, cluster meals and wonderful neighbours.

Jeremy,
For Karingal Cluster.

Mudburra Cluster Report

Well its been a year of comings and goings blessings and losses for Mudburra. The highlight of the year Petra (and Sol) and Amanda's (and Ethan and Eli) votings in, on consecutive months. Ken and the boys moved out and their antics and friendship (not necessarily in that order) are missed but we suspect they are doing quite well in their new abode and it seems to suit them.

Amanda and Ethan and Eli have settled in with a flurry of activity. The boys seem to be settled in their new quarters complete with porthole, courtesy of Phil Smith, whose ute we are getting used to seeing outside Amanda's place (and no, its nothing sinister, even though he came running looking for KY jelly one day). Yes, they have well and truly begun to make the old Wyatt House their own with a little bit of help from their friends. Amanda tends her joint venture chooks (with Craig and Jacqueline) and is trying her winter survival soups out on lucky Mudburrians, and has planting plans for increased self-sufficiency. The boys are good PR merchants, with regular visits to the goat barn bearing neighbourly goods and services.

Petra and Sol also settled in easily, making plenty of friends and bringing light and warmth and chooks to their home and to the cluster. Petra's ailing health, however, meant that we lost their presence not too long after, with them moving down the mountain to the Tate's. More recently they had a lovely going away before they headed off to Germany for a warmer few months and time with family. We hear that Sol should be back in the country around now (at the Tate's) and Petra has hopes and plans to follow after another health check-up.

Life goes on for the other inhabitants of the cluster. Willow and Tayla seem to have had a pretty hectic year, with Willow starting and completing her TAFE study and it seems she has no shortage of work. Tayla is busy growing up. Glen and Sarah have been similarly busy since returning from their overseas trip and are looking forward to a comparatively slow winter season with plenty of skiing. Occasionally we see Craig and Jacqueline tending Alpacas, weeds and/or family visitors. Brony is occasionally spotted on the Mudburra green but we suspect she prefers the balmy weather on the Gold Coast, not to mention the company. Generally whenever we see Neesa she's in the company of her horse, of course. However since the success of the BronBronJanga sale we do see them a bit more and it's good to see her looking relaxed and enjoying being at home. Joan and Dennis make the odd visit and always bring a little bit of social glue to apply to the cluster, usually in the form of drinks and dinner, and its always good to see them both. Joan is excited to be going to Europe very shortly with a friend. The Alpaca's meanwhile tough it out in the paddock and that strange sound they make is probably them having a good chuckle at all our comings and goings.

Sarah & Glen,
For Mudburra Cluster.

Nyora Cluster Report

*When we get out of the glass bottles of our ego,
And when we escape like squirrels turning in the cages of our personality and get into the forests
again,
We shall shiver with cold and fright but things will happen to us so that we don't know ourselves.
Cool, unlying life will rush in, and passion will make our bodies taut with power,
We shall stamp our feet with new power and old things will fall down,
We shall laugh, and institutions will curl up like burnt paper.
(DH Lawrence)*

This year Nyora got broadband, thanks to Ted and Glen's hard work. Ted and Dawn discovered a Lyrebird had built a nest in a treefern against the south wall of Peter and Sandra's extension, and Ted and Dawn have video footage of the Lyrebird chick that was raised in the nest. Ted and Dawn are still working on their bathroom.

Cinnamon is still playing Dungeons and Dragons on Friday nights, and co-hosted the Gemini Party again. Phil S. built some new steps leading down to Cinnamon's house.

*This sorrow belongs to us all, and I have learned it is not something to fear. For in the depths of our
shared pain we also experience our shared caring ... and our common capacity to act.
The pain we feel is the cracking of the shell that encloses our power to respond. Something precious
can be born in times like these. In our shared pain we labour together to bring it to birth ...
Obviously the work of healing our world and ourselves is not a separate or passing chapter in our lives.
The changes that are necessary won't come about simply because we stop eating meat, or simply
because, on occasion, we meet or march or donate or lobby. It will take everything we are, and it will
take all of us, and in forms we cannot yet even begin to imagine ...
I look out into the world and see a deep night of unthinkable cruelty and blindness. Undaunted,
however, I look within the human heart and find something of love there, something that cares and
shines out into the dark universe like a bright beacon.
And in the shining of that light within, I feel the dreams and prayers of all beings. In the shining of
that beacon I feel all of our hopes for a better future. In the shining of the human heartlight there is a
strength to do what must be done.
Each moment is an undiscovered country.
(Darryl Reaney, Music of the Mind)*

Peter and Sandra got a new grandson this year. They are continuing working on their extension and are planning to retrofit double glazing soon. Both look forward to retirement (maybe) in the coming year.

Susanna completed her apprenticeship this year, releasing her from hours of hard labour. Susanna and Zac got a new boot room on their house.

*For I have learned to look on nature, not as in the hour of thoughtless youth;
But hearing oftentimes the still, sad music of humanity,
Nor harsh nor grating, though of ample power to chasten and subdue
And I have felt a presence that disturbs me with the joy of elevated thoughts;
A sense sublime of something far more deeply interfused,
Whose dwelling is the light of setting suns, and the round ocean and the living air,
And the blue sky, and in the mind of man;
A motion and a spirit, that impels all thinking things, all objects of all thought,
And rolls through all things.
Therefore am I still a lover of the meadows and the woods, and mountains;
And of all that we behold from this green earth;
Of all the mighty world of eye, and ear,--both what they half create, and what perceive;
Well pleased to recognise in nature and the language of the sense,
The anchor of my purest thoughts, the nurse, the guide, the guardian of my heart, and soul
Of all my moral being.
(Wordsworth, 1798)*

Cinnamon, Dawn, Peter & Ted,
For Nyora Cluster.

Wombat Hollow Cluster Report

The nine ancient pine trees are being converted into a Woodland Den, which will hopefully stand there as long as the originals. That's not all the Woodlands are growing: Freya and Ochre are a couple of delightful presences who live up our cluster. And Simon has produced enough pumpkins to feed the cows (unintentionally), and still have a wheelbarrowful.

Next door, the newly named Moss family, being a conglomeration of Morris and Morton, are on the starting blocks and ready to fly. And the newest news is that Ollie has got his packet of money as compensation for being the six million dollar man, and so the McOliver house is happening too. Of course, there too, buildings are not the only things being grown. Arinja is now a skilled conversationalist, and is looking forward to the promise of what Chelsea is developing. Martin, Sam and Jasper are keen to build at Wombat Hollow too, and we enjoy their company, like their way of thinking and hope it will happen.

Meanwhile, Linden is at Uni and has set up house with James in the Big Smoke. We do see the little yellow Barina from time to time though. And Tessa is a delightful young Elven Princess who seems to be enjoying life. Phil and Meredith have expanded Wombat Hollow into Thomas Street, Healesville, where you will find them every spare moment. I don't know how Phil can do that, with the boat still waiting...

Jolanda is still every kid's grandmother. If you want some fun and exercise, join her and the littlies on their regular walks. As for me, I have a problem: more work coming in than I want to do. This is one reason I'll be taking a holiday from being a Director in the coming year. Natalie is doing fine, at the moment coaching her father in MYOB use from time to time. Robert and his family are considering a move to North Queensland, while Anina is busy doing her postdoc at Harvard – when she gets the time. She seems to spend a lot of time travelling to various places where people at conferences want to listen to her talk about her research.

All in all, 2005-2006 has been a good year for Wombat Hollow. We are looking forward to the next one being even better.

☺

Bob,
For Wombat Hollow Cluster.

Yanginanook Cluster Report

Cluster in General:

We are probably the most laid - back cluster on the mountain. In the last 12 months, we managed just one cluster dinner and a very brief quarter - workday of 2 hours, for ragwort eradication. What that probably means is, everything is moving and progressing smoothly, albeit occasionally slowly. Yanginanook's "work in progress", the new generator shed, is nearing completion, thanks to Michelle's effort; almost all of the required wiring for this project is also finished.

The Households:

Michelle, Dale and Jake:

After their epic journeys to some of our asian neighbours, which took Dale and Jake to Lao (as the locals are quite adamant to call their country), with Michelle joining the boys in Vietnam and then Dale travelling Cambodia on his own, the family has now knuckled under to lots of work and - maybe - a bit of play.

Michelle, so she admits, is never home - pumping iron with her well - heeled clients, whipping them into shape. She's just about to move into her new studio in the Cock's multi - million dollar Healesville development sprawl. She calls it her Vitality Room, accommodating up to 12 sweating bodies. It will open some time in July. As she concedes, a lot of things have happened to her since last October, when this new career move took shape. Also, she is very happy with the painting of the skate area, which was begun during the Moora Moora Festival. Dale has settled back into his routine after his long service stint and disappears on a regular basis into the Dungeons, presumably to fight Dragons. We don't follow him there.

The not so young and not so short Jake is doing well in year 11; he is also back playing footy again - no fiddly soccer finesse for him!

The Gunther Residence:

Lesley has taken on the position of principal at her Don Valley school and seems quite pleased with that promotion. Mark, during last summer, took off two and a half months from work and got very nearly used to the leisurely lifestyle. He tended his very productive garden which, among lots of other things, left him with about 25 big pumpkins - much to the joy of a few lucky recipients of his usual generosity. He also re-worked the electricals of their house.

To stick with the clock-wise direction, here the Brosow Household, Elke & Hardy:

Probably the least change occurred here: We're both retired now and value our leisure time - such that is granted to us with so many interests on the mountain, what with the vineyard, the walled garden, the fruit trees and general upkeep of a large area of steep mountain side around the house. The pizza oven was lit only once this summer!

We also experienced sad times with the loss of our good friend and mentor Werner Pelz, known to some of us up here. He ran, among other groups elsewhere, a discussion group in Healesville for many years after his retirement from his position as lecturer in sociology at LaTrobe University, and we were members of this group for nearly nine years. He is sorely missed!

Last year we went on an extended holiday, escaping Victoria's winter to Fraser Island and other places along the eastern seaboard and enjoyed that very much; this year we intend to escape again, this time to the Northwest, the Bungle Bungles and places to the left and right, like Broome and Darwin, Kakadu and beyond, as far as our limited resources (money) will take us. The way petrol prices, and eventually its availability are going, this may well be the last major journey we shall undertake. Meanwhile, there is always another batch of wine to make....

Kathy and the kids (Jasmine and Stephanie)

The requirements of a very anti - social work pattern let us see very little of Kathy, but improvements have been made on the home front: David Liersch, the previous house owner, has been paid out and Kathy is now on the Maleny Wagon. A few months ago she received her Occupancy Permit, and to the discerning eye there has been quite a bit of landscaping around the house. The kids, when on the mountain, play very well with the kids next door, Max and Kathleen, and are doing well at school. Occasionally, when the wind blows favourably, the tickling of the ivories can be heard wafting across the cluster.... On the sporting front, Jasmine plays soccer (with Max next door), while Kathy is the goalie in the women's team and only today saved five goals! Stephanie has started the cello at school, delighted that Kathleen is into the violin!

Last (but certainly not least) The Curmi / O'Donnell Family

Veronica is notching up another successful year as Land Manager, and also as a Director. While Tim checked out the colour of pastures in the Bega district for six eventful weeks and found them wanting, Veronica kept the home fires burning. Maxim is now the fastest cross - country runner in his age group in the Yarra Valley District; his next goal is the State Competition, and if one listens to him, he is already sniffing National Title Air! Young Kathleen enjoys her riding and practises violin and piano and is definitely one of the sunshine kids of the mountain.

Hardy,
For Yanginanook Cluster.
