Canterbury Community Gardens Association (Inc.)

Annual General Meeting 2019

Thursday 20th August 2020

New Brighton Community Gardens

136 Shaw Avenue

A warm welcome to the C.C.G.A Annual General Meeting was given by the AGM’s facilitator, Lin Klenner and by the CCGA Chair, Catherine O’Neill.

Beverages and nibbles were partaken by those who were present.

Due to Covid-19 Alert Level 2, there was a sign in sheet, a QR code, appropriate social distancing and hand sanitiser.

Due to lovely weather the meeting was held outside.

Present: Peggy Kelly, (CCGA Patron), Hayley Guglietta, Cathy Allden (Richmond CG). Annette Walker, Bernadette Lord (Linwood Resource Centre), Debbie Nelson (Kaiapoi CG) Sarah Butterworth (FRN) ,Niki Jones (U.C. Te Waitutuu),Tina Bond (Springston Secret Garden), Heather Davies, Jo Zervos (CCC) Paul Cragg (Sumner Food Forest) Chessa Crow, Roz Rolls ( FRN, Gardens in Schools), Robyn Kilty (Beverley Rose Garden), Tupou Tira (Philipstown Community Hub), Dave Dimmock, Nancy Dimmock, Melissa Robson-Williams, Helen Hadler (Rolleston CG), Di Madgin( River Rd Garden), Chris Fisher (NBCA Trust), Michael Reynolds (Roimata Community Food), Zane Crofts (Edible Streets), Rachel Vogan (CCGA, FRN), Amanda O’Carroll (CCGA), Lin Klenner, Catherine O’Neill, Steve, Jasmine, (New Brighton CG)

Apologies: Sue Ellen Sandilands (Lyttelton CG), Sue Carlin-Wright (Kirwee CG), Ruth Wood (Lincoln Envirotown), Heather (Avonside hub)

Debbie moved, Hayley seconded

Carried

Minutes of the previous AGM: That the minutes of the 2019 AGM, held on August 29th, and matters arising from the minutes are a true and correct record of that meeting.

Matters arising: none were brought to the attention of the meeting

Catherine moved, Annette seconded

Carried

Chair’s Report: Please see Annual report below

As outgoing Chair, there were a lot of challenges faced by many within this final year of Catherine’s Chairmanship. These were handled by the CCGA’s enduring and enthusiastic contingent of Canterbury Community Gardens encompassed by the words “The circular design was to signify inclusiveness, sustainability and regeneration.” describing the #We Too design for the GrowŌtautāhi Show which was cancelled due to a global pandemic.

“This highlighted the need for a stronger message that community gardens are vital to the ongoing health and well-being in communities.”

In which a few of the Committee members took a “PeoplePoint Presentation” to the Christchurch City Council’s Draft Annual Plan to emphasize.

Continuing on from the Chairs report was

**A message from the C.C.G.A. Patron, Peggy Kelly**:

Please see below for the Patron’s message, read by Cathy Allden on behalf of Peggy Kelly. **Consolation, Hope and Solidarity (and food!)**

Consolidating on the facts that Christchurch is about to reach the 10th anniversary(?) of the September 4th 2010 7.2M Greendale fault {erroneously Darfield} earthquake, and just edging on 6 months of randomness called 2020. Gardening can soothe a tumultuous time, by being in a Community Garden.

**Financial Report**: For the financial year ending March 31st 2020, the accounts stood at $6,931.00. Largest outlay: $1000.00 for GrowO Show display.

It was under the auspices of Tier 4 that the accounts were deemed not necessary to audit.

Signed by Treasurer and Chair as a true and correct record.

Election of Officers:

Nominations received:

for Chair: Catherine O’Neill (declined) Cathy Allden, Annette Walker

It was proposed that Cathy Allden would take the position of Chair – there being no opposition from Annette or the floor, Cathy Allden is now the new Chair.

for Treasurer: Debbie Nelson, unopposed

for Secretary: Hayley Guglietta, Amanda O’Carroll. Decided that the Secretary position to be co-authored by both the nominees, until such time that the nominees resign their position.

Election of Committee Members:

*\*From the Constitution (Canterbury Community Gardens Association)*

*The Quorum for the Committee is 7 members not including officers, 4 to be from Community Gardens.*

Those already on the Committee were asked to stand, which they did, and an audience member asked a few on the spot questions of why and what did they do? Those incumbent committee members answered with aplomb that the questioner put their name forward to join the committee.

The Committee attempts to represent the 38 Community Garden-based entities, to provide and promote.

The incumbent committee members are:

Zane Crofts, Robyn Kilty, Niki Jones, Rachel Vogan, Di Madgin

New Committee members are:

Lin Klenner, Bernadette Lord, Catherine O’Neill, Melissa Robson-Williams and Tupou Tira (Paolo)

**Salutation to Peggy Kelly** given by Robyn Kilty.

“A wonderful person. A light, bright and shining light, longstanding mutual friends.” Robyn presented Peggy with a basket of goodies from the committee’s Community Gardens. “Total surprise, beautiful.”



And met her again as “**The Original Community Gardener”**

Peggy gave her reply: 1988, collecting for CORSO, the place, Packe Street, was a building site, an overpriced pot of tired slapiglossis, a friendly botanic gardener.

He brought another pot of salpiglossis, cheaper one, to her door.

He was rather deaf, and couldn’t hear the rain on the roof but could see the raindrops against the pine-trees. Buildings went up and weatherboard villas came down. To keep the rain falling on deaf ears, these two Packe Street residents knocked on all the doors in the street.

Everyone said “Yes” to the garden.

As Peggy said, “The thing is, is to have fallen in love…”

Rachel Vogan presented a bouquet of flowers to Di Madgin, to acknowledge her presence and wise words on the occasional robust Committee meetings.

Di noted that Cavalo Nero seemed to be in her bouquet.

General Business:

Di Madgin enjoys the vibrant and active committee meetings. She is holding a talk for the U3A, Sumner about Community Gardens and she would like some digital photos of the Community Gardens.

Di would like some help with maintenance of River Road Garden.

Any offers could be addressed to New Brighton or Richmond C.Gs

Rachel Vogan: the Grow Otautahi Show is set to be 2nd -3rd week March 2021.

Cathy Allden: a donation from KiwiCare, of bright coloured and pastel coloured FlowerMix seed was distributed. In return for the donation, Cathy suggested that tagging Kiwicare in a Facebook post would be acceptable.

Lin Klenner: UC marketing students are promoting FRN.

Workshop: **Inspiring and Enabling Energy at the Community Gardens**

The participants were split into 3 groups and gave themselves to answering these 5 questions;

* What did we learn from lockdown?
* How is your garden impacting on the Community?
* Where could a capacity builder help your garden grow?
* Which further projects are you working on?
* Tell us one of your most uplifting, or funny stories that have come from your garden

to be collated & brought to the next committee meeting, form a basis of discussion and purpose for the following CCGA year.

*& Pizza Eating*. The Secretary would like to thank New Brighton CG volunteers Steve and Jasmine for the time they spent making the delicious sourdough pizzas, cakes and assorted goodies for the participants.

Next Meeting: date to be confirmed, August 2021

AGM Closed: formally closed 2.30pm

**Canterbury Community Gardens Association ( Inc )**

**Annual Report**

**September 2019 - August 2020**

          Our Vision

" Strengthen and nurture existing community gardens and support new initiatives, in order to build strong communities and encourage these by respecting and fostering human and environment diversity "

The purpose of the Community Gardens Association is to support community gardens and promote the good they provide. Our committee has had 10 very well attended meetings over the year filled with great energy, good company and food.

Hayley has been looking after our website and producing the informative News line.  Cathy and Hayley from Richmond and other Community Gardens volunteers supported a working bee at the Al Noor Mosque in October resetting garden beds and planting. This event was followed up with a harvest picnic at the Mosque in March this year. Community gardens provided produce and we found time to connect with our wider community and help build stronger connections.

We were asked to exhibit at the new GROW garden festival in the Botanic gardens which was established to celebrate our garden city and stimulate discussion about food resilience, water and healthy eating. Our exhibit was called ' We Too' - 'we are all in this together'. A living space visually highlighting the wonders and agelessness of community gardening. The circular design was to signify inclusiveness, sustainability and regeneration. Rachel organized generous donations to help us all grow 800 plants. As the COVID -19 pandemic spread around the world and level restrictions where put in place in New Zealand, the festival was cancelled.

At level 4 restrictions community gardens closed. We sought to get essential service status for gardens tho’ unsuccessful. This highlighted the need for a stronger message that community gardens are vital to the ongoing health and well-being in communities. A group of people from gardens around New Zealand organized a survey sent to 200 community gardens. The results of this are being collated and will help form an Aotearoa Community Gardens Alliance. Orion Power Company donated 300 pairs of gloves to the CCGA to share around gardens.

We sent a submission to the Christchurch City Council's annual plan and presented a well-received people power point presentation to our councillors.

Last year the CCGA applied for funding from the CCC to employ a Network manager to build capacity within our garden network. Disappointingly, this was put on hold and is being looked at again on 27 August.2020

Community gardens are such diverse places. Having a point of connection and shared commitment to help each other out creates a community ecosystem of people and skills and resources that makes everyone stronger together. The importance of local food resilience and mental and social well-being is more important than ever before.  People have forever worked together in groups to survive, so even when things are tough, being part of a community and being ' in this together ' creates a collective strength. We are at our best and strongest when we work together.

Thank you to our dedicated committee and all of you who manage and help keep community gardens growing. This is my final report and I wish the new Chairperson all the best, I am here to help with anything you need.

Thank you all for your support

Catherine O'Neill

From Peggy Kelly, Patron.

Consolation, Hope and Solidarity (and food!)

In the last ten years the people of Christchurch, Canterbury and of New Zealand as a whole have had to endure and overcome the effects of an extraordinary series of traumatic events - two earthquakes, a fire, an appalling massacre, a volcanic eruption and now the pandemic. Dealing with these events has taken a depth of individual fortitude and team-effort not often called for.

Thinking about it takes me back to a couple of lines in a children's hymn (written in 1868) that we used to sing in Ireland when I was growing up there after the War:

"In this world of darkness so let us shine -

 You in your small corner and I in mine".

Next year will be a tough time for many people. Job loss, inadequate income, isolation and anxiety will touch most of us in one way or another.

Community Gardens as places of consolation, friendship and food production will be needed more than ever.

While we can shine our cheery lights anywhere, gardeners know that a shared garden provides particular opportunities. Here, helping each other and taking our time, we can cultivate hope and solidarity and sometimes even empathy, fun and contentment (as well as food!). Between the fruit trees, vegetables, herbs and flower beds there are many 'small corners' in a garden where even the shyest person can shine happily and usefully.

The nature of these opportunities and what supports them is what we will explore at the 2020 AGM.

Peggy Kelly