

Minutes

Woden SEE-Change Meeting

7pm Tuesday, 22 May 2018

Chair Leigh

1. Welcome & Apologies

Richard, Amar, Julie, Leigh, Audrey, Diana, Warwick, Chris, Phil, Lucia, Sylvia and Sarah

2. Minutes and business arising

Minutes accepted by Sylvia, and seconded by Audrey

Update of LESS (Low Energy Super Shed) – Leigh

The roof has been raised from 2.1m to 2.4m, and under-roof insulation added. Leigh has fitted perspex into the windows and plywood into the southern sliding door, so the 'windy' shed is now 'wind' proof - still. Leigh has written a blurb for the website. Planning for fluorescent lights, now sourcing light fittings. Two there already, need four more, and Jodie possibly has two single fittings.

Double glazed doors and windows are to be installed. Need double or triple glazed door for the north side to create a break out area toward the pizza oven. This is considered a bit tricky because of potential smoke and wind from prevailing north westerly winds.

New ply sliding door is self-locking with no key, so now Leigh has purchased a lock for \$110 and will install the new lock. At the moment it is unlocked. Further discussion with group and Leigh might return the new door lock and install a lock with a combination, so accessible for others, and no key needed, as too easy to lose.

Fundraising – Leigh and Amar

Amar will look at the zero emissions grant application, due 19 June. Leigh will put together the spreadsheet with new costs. Looking at \$20,000. Amar suggested we can also put up a project,

which might be funded through SEE-Change Inc. using unallocated local group funding. Need to follow this up a bit more.

We could use the SEE-Change possibility for funding the water (hot & cold) for the demonstration (LESS) building, which we had taken off the agenda for the time being due to cost and complications.

We are aiming at a public access Passive House as there are no other public structures of this type in Canberra. The idea is that everyone can have frequent access to it.

Whilst applying for a grant with the ACT Government's Community Zero Emissions and looking to SEE-Change Inc for alternative funding, we have put other fundraising options on the back burner.

ACT for Bees – Julie

A Bee Friendly Canberra: foundation of biodiversity. Last Sunday May 20th was the inaugural World Bee Day. Mick Gentleman launched it at the Slovenian Embassy who had collaborated with other embassies, community groups and businesses to celebrate this special day. Shane Rattenbury launched the ACT for Bees 'Love Food? Love Bees! Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture' a free online school curriculum which aligns with Yr 9/10 geography curriculum. The Slovenian Govt had worked for 3 years to bring all 193 nations to agree on World Bee Day and bring the world's attention to the importance of bees and protecting them. The Swedish and Swiss embassies were also involved along with Parliament House.

May 11th the ACT Legislative Assembly discussed the importance of bees with 5 Ministers taking part. ANU for Bees; working on master plan to create bee friendly forage.

Bee Friendly Canberra: The ACT Government, local business and community can do small changes to be more Bee Friendly including the ACT Government promoting Bee friendly practices for the sake of biodiversity, public health, water and soil health: ACT Government and Land Developers planting for year round

forage to create pollinator corridors, the Government issue of free plants to new home owners contains a certain % of local native flowering plants to support local biodiversity: where all schools maintain a school kitchen garden which provides an easy link for teachers to integrate 'sustainability' across all year levels: clear and accurate labelling of 'Bee Friendly Plants' which have not been treated with pesticides and where the public are educated to minimise pesticide/ herbicide use.

The national harmonisation of pesticide regulation is an ongoing process with implications for the ACT which has basic regulation. Training, licencing, record keeping and off label use are areas of concern.

Love Food? Love Bees! was written in collaboration with Cool Australia who provide free online curriculum focused on sustainability. They have 80,000 educators on their email list. They are definitely worth checking out and sharing with educators you know.

The group suggested contacting the project officer for Vision 20/20, a SEE-Change project, to ask about their school curriculum materials on sustainability. These were done a few years ago and may be able to link with the bee curriculum materials. Julie will follow this up.

Australian Association for Environmental Educator - A²,E²
www.coolaustralia.org

Waste ACT – proposed new recycling freight depot at Fyshwick, feasibility study is out, waste to energy. Need to have an informed discussion. ACT is looking to introduce bins, which take food waste.

There are two community sessions scheduled, can we expose this to a larger audience? Idea to organise a Panel discussion with ACT Government representatives, experts in the field and Amar as an expert facilitator. Perhaps approach and combine with the Woden Valley Community Council. It was agreed as a good idea but we would need a couple of months to organise a good panel event. Amar to send link for feasibility study. Talking to ACT

Waste in person at one of their information sessions - Wednesday 30 May at 5.30pm or Thursday 31 May at 8am.

Website update – Leigh/Phil, Leigh has written update on LESS and will send to Edwina. Audrey committed us to review our Woden webpage on the SEE-Change site at each committee meetings to decide if one of the group should draft an update, particularly about the Super Shed (LESS). Audrey took us through the website as it is now. Our page just has the LESS flyer, so we are considering putting up the Minutes from our monthly meeting once everyone has given the go ahead they are happy with them. Audrey will draft an introduction on the Woden Group as per previous text on our webpage. Leigh has this in a word document.

Potential OBFTs - follow up with Harley, one coming up in May in Wright.

3. **Treasurer's report** – Leigh

Balance is \$1,073.73

Request \$5,000 from CCF, CBA - \$500 and Canberra Loves 40 has some money as well. Need to ask Jodie to put some money into the account.

4. **Upcoming events**

2 June, World Environment Day dinner

4 June, Parliament of Youth at ANU

7.30pm, 21 June, public talk with Dave Southgate, Weston Creek Community Centre. One family's journey to Fossil Fuel Freedom, check SEE-Change Inc website.

30 June, OBFT in Franklin

5. **Other discussion/calendar**

ACT Beekeeper association was going to donate \$20 – 30,000 because they were interested in LESS as a meeting place, but have determined the shed is too small, so have withdrawn their offer.

90 second pitch. The Event was held on 30 April at the Canberra Environment Centre. Community groups who are working

towards a sustainable future for Canberra each had 90 seconds to provide an update on their current and upcoming activities. There was time after the presentations for networking and conversations.

Amar presented the work that we are doing as a group on the Super Shed. It was well received and there were questions around what the shed would be used for.

Other groups present were slow foods, magic kitchen, seed savers, 365 org, Canberra Repair cage, SEE Change Inc, SEE Change Belconnen group, co-housing Canberra amongst other groups.

There were a couple of people interested in helping out at the shed at the event. Amar referred them to our page on the SEE Change website to get in touch.

Passion Mission with Les Robinson organised by SEE-Change was discussed as an excellent event.

Permaculture Festival/Convergence report – Sarah

Festival drew 3,800 to attend on a day when the mercury only reached 12C. Considered very successful. Costa attended dressed a garden gnome which is the mascot for his children's program. David Holmgren's book *Retrofitting Suburbia* was launched, and supplies sold out. Charles Massy, author of *Call of the Reed Warbler*, spoke to David's book. Comment is that the two being published separately but close to one another gives a working plan for the future covering cities and suburbia as well as the rural agriculture sector. Both books have been well received.

The Convergence at Green Hills was successful. Key note speakers were very interesting beginning with Maryam Issa from RAW (Resilient, Aspiring Women) in Melbourne. She told her story as a Somalian refugee to Brighton in Melbourne. She now has a garden which is open to the public two days a week welcoming the community and others, teaching about productive gardens, working together, healing, creating communities. Very inspiring.

Bruce Pascoe, author of *Black Emu* and Charlie Massy talked to his book *Call of the Reed Warbler*. Permaculture has now been in

existence for 40 years and the philosophy is growing stronger and stronger.

It was wonderful to Costa available as the Convergence MC, as well as David Holmgren to hand at all times.

OBFTs visited – Wallaroo - Leigh and Waramanga – Sylvia

Wallaroo – Passiv straw bale house, windows and doors open and inside temperature was very comfortable. Cavernous house, huge amount of work in 2 and a half years, average time for home build is normally 8 years.

Warramanga – permaculture garden and retrofitted unsustainable house. The owners have been in the house for 18months and together have created a very comfortable environment, working from a totally non-productive garden, to create a regenerative permaculture food forrest. Turning the house from a freezing 5C in the morning house, with insulation in ceiling, walls and under floor, now raising the morning temperature to 15C, a much more reasonable starting point. Draftproofing, putting in a west facing timber framed sliding door to a home built deck with pergola covered with a deciduous grapevine, and kiwi fruit vines, giving green shade for the summer, and allowing winter sun and warmth in. When they arrive home from work the house is 20C.

Discussion of interesting books, book launches, films or seminars either past or future.

6. Next meeting

19 June, Chair – Audrey at Sarah's